

CEMETERY WALK SUCCESS

Dear Editor,

A sincere thanks to all who attended the West Lawn Cemetery walk, anyone who helped in any way, and those that donated to the cemetery 501C3 restoration fund. Thanks also to Fareway for the water and ice to keep the walkers hydrated. We consider it a success with 45 participants plus a team of workers. Ruth Roghair did an amazing job narrating the facts and stories behind these pioneer headstones. Great questions and observations were voiced. Are you going to do this again?

This committee is hoping for a work day in the weeks ahead after we have time to organize and plan a workable schedule of where to start and follow through.

Down the road is a meeting of the history of early pioneers

presented by a descendant for members and invited guests. Would you be interested in joining?

In case you are interested, narration was given on four Civil War Veterans at the walk who deserved recognition. We will attempt to find more.

With grateful appreciation

Heritage Cemetery Committee
Darrel Van Klompenburg
President



Sioux County Capital-Democrat
June 29, 2023

news03

LIBRARY NEWS



Alton Library

No news.

Orange City Library

Dear Readers,

Don't forget to join us on July 6 from 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. at the Orange City Pool. Show your library card and you can swim for free! Don't have a library card yet? Come to the library and register for one.

Stuffed Giraffes (Grades K-2) – Fridays, June 30 and July 14; 10:00 a.m.

Black Out Poetry and Shakes (Grades 5-12) – Wednesday, July 5; 4:00 p.m.

Lego Club (Grades K-2) – Thursday, July 6; 2:00 p.m.

Free Pool Swimming with Library Card – Thursday, July 6, at Orange City Pool; 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Sioux County Conservationist – Tuesday, July 11, at City Hall; 10:30 a.m.

Paper Marbling (Adult) – Tuesday, July 11; 6:00 p.m.

Maker Space (Grades 5-12) – Wednesday, July 12; 4:00 p.m.

Hours:

Monday, Tuesday and Thursday, 9:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Wednesday and Friday, 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.; Saturday, 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Please check the library's social media and website for upcoming education and literacy programs.

Maurice Book Bank

Hours

9-11:30 a.m. weekdays/Saturdays

3:30-6:00 p.m. M-W

We have been super busy at the Book Bank! We have loved getting to meet all of you! We just want to take a moment to say thank you for making us one of Northwest Iowa's premier destinations! Our summer reading program is going on until July 12. We hope that your little ones continue reading! We are looking forward to some more fun events so be sure to follow us on Facebook!

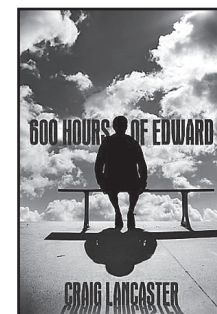
Story Hour: Follow us on Facebook for dates! Lisa Laird is continually creating new and engaging story hours for kids to enjoy! She is the best of the best! Make sure you check it out!

1,000 Books Before Kindergarten: This has been such a huge success! We have so many signed up for this program! Be sure to stop by and sign up your child for this amazing opportunity. Upon signing up-your child will receive a binder!

Book Review: 600 Hours of Edward by Craig Lancaster

Submitted by Gail Marincovich
Orange City Public Library

It's so rare to find a humorous book with all the necessary literary elements—strong writing, characterization, plot, message—to make it an outstanding read. *600 Hours of Edward* is that book. Craig Lancaster has done an incredible job creating the character of Edward, an adult whose life is shaped by OCD and Asperger's syndrome. Edward's voice as narrator never wavers or sounds overdone. As a former educator, I recognized Edward in many of the students I encountered over the years, and I could hear him speaking on every page. If I could, I would invite him over for a glass of Coke (warm, no ice) and talk about life. This book evoked every emotion, and for the first time in quite a while, I was not ready for it to end. Fortunately, there is a sequel—*Edward Adrift*—which will find its way into my hands very soon.



Resident raises concern regarding gun auction

Dear Editor,

At the Sioux County youth Fair, July 8-13, 2023, there will be a \$50/ticket raffle giving away guns, including an AR-15. My opinion is that we don't need any more AR-15s out in public or used in possible shootings in a daycare, church, post office or your home. It is our older youth who are too often found with an AR-15 and then find a way to shoot our younger youth.

I suggest that the person who wins this gun donate it to a secured gun club so that anyone who wants the experience can shoot it safely there.

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SIoux COUNTY SUPERVISORS SHARPEN RURAL PROPERTY RULES

By DOUG CALSBEEK
Co-Editor

ORANGE CITY — That piece of ground that looks ideal for a home in the country is subject to Sioux County zoning and permitting. In a Tuesday, June 27, meeting, the county board of supervisors unanimously passed an amendment to county ordinance to sharpen conditions under which a permit for construction of a home in unincorporated areas of Sioux County.

Zoning and permitting language protects farm ground by limiting the building of non-farm residential dwellings in an agricultural district.

Shane Walter, county zoning administrator, said during the public hearing prior to the approval that approximately 97 percent of the area of Sioux County is agricultural ground. "We are doing our part by protecting the ground we have."

The county planning and zoning commission has been considering the amendment for months after considering an application for construction of a home in February. The nine-member board tabled the application in February, said Walter. Present language did not clearly determine "parameters for conditional uses of land and structures in an agricultural district," according to language introducing the resolution the board considered.

The commission, which meets monthly, then worked to clarify that part of the county ordinance and presented the amended ordinance for approval by the supervisors.

Walter said there were no comments registered in the planning and zoning office.

The amendment clarifies the permitting of a non-farm single-family dwelling on a potential building site. To qualify for a permit

to build, first, the land has no history of agricultural uses in the previous five years and in eight of the last 10 years. Secondly, the site must meet one of three criteria. (Agricultural uses, according to the ordinance, include crop production, agricultural animal husbandry, horticulture, viniculture and viticulture, actively-used pasture and conservation-reserve program ground.):

- At least 75 percent of the site has a non-irrigated land capability class of "3" or greater or a corn-suitability rating of 40 or below. Each of these measures is used to gauge cropping practices in Iowa.

- The site is irregularly shaped that, because of its area, size or shape, has limited potential for agriculture production.

- Seventy-five percent of the site contains slopes greater than nine percent and/or trees covering 75 percent of the site.

Violation of the county zoning ordinance face the possibility of a \$750 fine for a violation and \$1,000 if a repeat violation or imprisonment of not more than 30 days for each offense. The county may also issue a restraining order in the instance of a violation.

The present county zoning ordinance, was adopted in August of 2008, according to language in the article of adoption, "to prevent and to lessen congestion in the streets and highway; to secure safety from fire, flood and panic and other dangers; to protect the public health and general welfare; to provide adequate light and air; to prevent the overcrowding of land; to avoid undue concentration of population; to facilitate the adequate provision of transportation, water, sewer, schools, parks and other public requirements; to conserve the value of buildings and encourage the most appropriate uses of land throughout the county, all in accordance with the Sioux County Comprehensive Land Use Plan."

VIRTUAL "A JOURNEY THROUGH PARKINSON'S DISEASE" PROGRAM OFFERED

AMES — Growing older is the greatest risk factor for acquiring Parkinson's disease and many people live with symptoms for several years before being diagnosed.

Often people in early stages of Parkinson's disease assume their symptoms are part of normal aging or are due to other health problems they may have, such as arthritis. However, early Parkinson's disease symptoms may not be that apparent and may even come and go. Frequently, it is the spouse or other relatives who first notice slight problems with a loved one's movements.

To learn about Parkinson's disease, its effects, and possible treatments, register now to participate in the virtual offering of "A Journey Through Parkinson's Disease," an educational series from

Iowa State University Extension and Outreach, beginning July 13.

The educational series consists of three, 1-hour sessions held once a week. The programs will include interactive lessons, discussions, and activities.

Sessions are scheduled for July 13, July 20, and July 27 from 10 to 11 a.m. on Zoom.

There is a no fee to participate thanks to sponsorship from Iowa State's Department of Kinesiology and Human Sciences Extension and Outreach.

For more information and/or to register, visit <https://www.extension.iastate.edu/humansciences/parkinsons>.

AFTER IOWA SUPREME COURT REBUKE, KIM REYNOLDS SETTLES OPEN RECORDS LAWSUITS FOR \$175,000

By WILLIAM MORRIS

With permission by the Des Moines Register

STATE — Gov. Kim Reynolds is settling three lawsuits from journalists and others seeking public records after losing a key Iowa Supreme Court case this spring, agreeing to pay \$175,000.

Reynolds' office was sued by journalists Clark Kauffman of the Iowa Capital Dispatch and Laura Belin of the politics blog Bleeding Heartland and others for failing to respond to multiple requests for documents in 2020 and 2021, during the early stages of the COVID pandemic.

After a district court refused to dismiss the case, Reynolds appealed to the Iowa Supreme Court. In April, the unanimous court ruled the lawsuit could continue, finding that open-ended failure to fulfill records requests, or even to affirmatively deny them, violated the state's open records law.

Now, Reynolds is settling the lawsuit and others like it.

The Iowa Appeals Board, which approves settlements for state entities, on Wednesday greenlit a \$135,000 settlement to cover legal fees and costs for Belin and her co-plaintiffs over the objections of State Auditor Rob Sand, who is a member of the board.

According to settlement documents, the deal will dismiss the plaintiffs' claims against the governor, but the district court will keep the case open for an additional year to adjudicate any additional disputes over the production of documents sought in the case.

The board also approved an additional nearly \$40,000 settlement for Suzette Rasmussen, a Utah attorney who had filed two lawsuits against Reynolds and the Iowa Department of Public Health for failing to respond to records requests related to COVID-19 testing contracts.

In a statement Wednesday, Reynolds' spokesperson blamed the unprecedented conditions of the pandemic for the delays, but called them "not acceptable."

"The COVID-19 response put unprecedented demands on the Governor's team to meet the immediate needs of Iowans. As a result, responses to requests were unintentionally delayed, which is not acceptable," Deputy Communications Director Kollin Crompton said. "Our office has assessed our internal processes and we continue to reevaluate the process to improve timeliness."

Auditor Rob Sand: 'Disgusting abuse of power'

Sand, one of three members on the board, said in a statement he was voting against the Belin and Rasmussen settlements.

"These insiders have no shame. They abuse your rights and then want to use your money to pay for having abused you," Sand said. "I will not go along with this disgusting abuse of power."

Sand noted that Iowa law requires officials found to have violated the open records law to pay a civil fine of up to \$2,500, with multiple infractions potentially resulting in an official being removed from office.

Offenders are also required to pay attorney fees. Because the case is settling before the district court could make a determination on the merits, none of these consequences will apply here.

"This is a brazen scam by those whose salaries are paid by taxpayers, to skirt a law requiring their own personal responsibility for the fees and fines for hiding public records and using taxpayer funds instead," he said.

Wednesday's settlements aren't the first Sand has opposed. In March he voted against a \$4 million racial discrimination settlement with former University of Iowa football players, saying he opposed the use of taxpayer funds unless Iowa Athletics Director Gary Barta was fired. (Barta has since announced his retirement.)

The settlements were approved on the votes of State Treasurer Roby Smith and Department of Management Director Kraig Paulsen, the board's two other members.

ACLU praises open records settlement for plaintiffs

The plaintiffs in the journalists' lawsuit were represented by the American Civil Liberties Union of Iowa. ACLU attorney Thomas Story said in a statement his clients were "pleased" with approval of the settlement.

"The agreement specifies that the Governor's Office agreed to a one-year period of judicial oversight over its compliance with Iowa's Open Records Act and payment of reasonable attorney fees and costs incurred during this year-and-a-half-long litigation," Story said.

Story said the ACLU will have additional comment once the settlement is filed and approved by the Polk County court.

The Iowa Attorney General's Office, which represented the state in the case, did not immediately return messages Wednesday seeking comment.