



Monroe County NEWS

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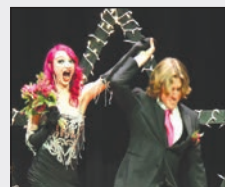
Albia, Iowa

Price \$1.25

One Section

Tuesday, April 25, 2023

**Albia High School
2023 Prom**
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**Albia FFA excels at
State Convention**
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**Albia's Ryan Little
qualifies for
Drake Relays**
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The Bridge is out!



Work is continuing on the bridge replacement project on South Clinton Street in Albia. Pictured a train rolls through the South Albia Cut Sunday, April 23. The bridge, which is just south of Grant Elementary has now been completely removed. This is the first time since 1932 that a train has traveled on the tracks without that bridge above. The street closed in March and is estimated to remain closed until fall as the construction continues.

School Board approves budget with slight tax levy increase

**Krystal Fowler
Reporter**

The Albia School Board met for their regular meeting Monday, April 17.

The board approved the 2023-2024 school budget after opening a public hearing. There were no written or verbal comments on the budget, which the board reviewed during their last meeting.

The property tax levy approved was \$12.55, an increase from the current \$12.46 rate. The board has been discussing the ongoing budget issues the district will face as it loses students.

The board also approved an amendment to the 2022-2023 school budget. The amendment was due to construction projects in the district that might have bills come due before the end of the fiscal year. The amendment would allow those bills to be paid if the district receives them this fiscal year. There were also no written or verbal comments from the public during the public hearing on the budget amendment.

The board also once again discussed new boundaries for school board district directors, but tabled the discussion until their May meeting. The board is currently made up of seven directors elected from seven geographic areas and is considering moving to four geographic areas and three members elected at-large or five geographic areas and two members elected at-large to encourage more people to run for office. They must make a final decision during their May meeting.

The board approved the AEA Master Contract Tentative Agreement for the 2023-2024 school year. The total package increase approved was 5.94 percent or \$103,892.43 and included \$1 per hour increase for secretaries and custodian and a .50¢ per hour increase for staff.

The board also set a special meeting for April 19 to consider the ACEA Master Contract Tentative Agreement for the 2023-2024 school year. During that meeting the board approved the tentative agreement which included updates to the extracurricular salary schedule, lane and step changes and a \$950 increase to the base of the regular and extracurricular salary schedules.

The total package increase comes to 3.97 percent or \$300,251.

The board also approved a contract extension with Oppa Foods during the special meeting. There will be an increase of .2155¢ per meal in the new contract.

During the April 17 meeting Superintendent Kevin Crall said that the district's early retirement policy has allowed the district not only to not have to consider staff reductions to this date but to offer needed raises and benefits to their employees.

The board briefly discussed infrastructure but is expecting to discuss more in depth next month when financial advisor Matt Gillespie attends their meeting.

The board also heard from guest administrator Lori Eads, who currently serves as the junior high/high school assistant principal and athletic director but will be taking over as the junior high/high school principal next year. Eads spoke about how spring sports have been going as well as the upcoming baseball and softball seasons. Eads also spoke about the district's Esports team, who were taking part in post-season play. This is the second year Albia has had an Esports team. Eads also spoke about a recent welding competition that several students had participated in at Indian Hills.

In other business:
• Elementary music teacher Sydni Graham was transferred to a special education position in the 7-12 building.

• The board approved the list of 2023 graduates.

• The board approved the list of policies tabled from the last meeting as well as the ones presented for approval at this meeting.

• The board discussed data from the recent parent/teacher conferences that were held.

• Employment was approved for Laura Smith paraeducator and Britany Miskimins paraeducator. Contracts were approved for Brittany Roberts football cheer sponsor, Jayden Hugen junior high baseball coach, Lori Eads 7-12 principal, and Hunter DeMoss junior high assistant baseball coach.

• Contracts offerings for staff for the 2023-2024 school year and volunteers were also approved.

Board of Supervisors approve bid for roof project

**Krystal Fowler
Reporter**

The Monroe County Supervisors met for their regular meeting on Tuesday, April 11.

The board went over and approved the county's five-year construction program and IDOT 2023-2024 budget for the Secondary Roads Department as presented by Monroe County Engineer Jeremiah Selby.

The board discussed and approved a LOST support resolution. The state legislature has been discussing making changes to LOST and the board wanted to do anything they can to help reduce adverse affects on the county if any changes are made.

The board approved authorizing the county's insurance agent Willene White of Noel Insurance to source and insurance policy for bond of the county's township clerk. White had told the board that a statute had been discovered saying the supervisors "shall" approve bonds for townships. Monroe County Auditor Amanda Harlan said the cost would be \$158 to cover all 12 townships and she

SUPERVISORS
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2023 Albia Prom royalty crowned



2023 Albia Prom Queen Arbjola Maksuti and King Adam Sheffield were crowned Saturday, April 22. (Photo by Jesse Simmons)

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Today
Mostly Sunny
59°/37°

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