

# Quarterly Issues/Programs List

Station: KHK FM

Issues of Importance

Immigration, Elections, Local Emergencies, Sex Abuse, Emergency Services,

Quarter: 1

Education, Healthcare, Transportation, Community Services, Economy, Taxes, Agriculture, Law Enforcement,

Year: 2024

Food, Water Quality, Recreation, Entertainment, Energy,

Issue Description	Name of Program/Segment	Air Date	Air Time	Duration	Narrative of How the Issue was Treated
Immigration	News	1/12/2024	7am, 8am, 12pm, 5pm	3 min	Discussion from evangelical leaders on the subject of Christians and immigration, and how to respond to the current political climate.
Elections	News	1/12/2024	7am, 8am, 12pm, 5pm	1 min	Story on Iowa Caucuses. Different process for Democrats this election cycle.
Local Emergency	News	1/17/2024	7am, 8am, 12pm, 5pm	1 min	Report of a house fire in a local community, displacing one individual - no injuries.
Sex Abuse	News	1/17/2024	7am, 8am, 12pm, 5pm	2 min	A local man is sentenced to prison for have sex with a minor 13-year-old girl. The man is sentenced to 10 years in prison with fines and registration on sex offender registry.
Local Emergency	News	1/17/2024	7am, 8am, 12pm, 5pm	2 min	Another fire damages a farm machinery shed that also has an apartment inside. No injuries in this fire.
Emergency Services	News	1/23/2024	7am, 8am, 12pm, 5pm	3 min	At a Sioux Center City Council meeting, members of the Sioux Center Ambulance Team presented 2023 ambulance and EMT data to council, with a request to hire a third full-time medic, and replace an aging ambulance that has reached it's life expectancy.
Education	News	1/24/2024	7am, 8am, 12pm, 5pm	2 min	Sioux Center Christian School, a private K-8 school with 500 students announces the name of their new Head of School since the current Head of School is stepping down to focus on promoting private education in the state.
Education	News	1/24/2024	7am, 8am, 12pm, 5pm	1 min	Northwest Iowa Community College in nearby Sheldon, Iowa continues to set enrollment records. This is the fifth straight year for the institution to set a Spring record enrollment.

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Education	News	1/25/2024	7am, 8am, 12pm, 5pm	2 min	Dordt University, a private Christian university held a ribbon cutting to celebrate their new online MBA program. Dignitaries from the university as well as the city of Sioux Center were in attendance.
Education	News	1/30/2024	7am, 8am, 12pm, 5pm	2 min	Dordt University ranks in Forbes' top ten list for Master of Education in School Leadership programs. Forbes scored 253 accredited, nonprofit colleges offering an online M.Ed.
Healthcare	News	1/31/2024	7am, 8am, 12pm, 5pm	2 min	A Sioux Center dentist offers free dental services to at-risk children in the Sioux Center Community School District free of charge. Services will include routine cleanings to fillings and extractions.
Transportation	News	1/31/2024	7am, 8am, 12pm, 5pm	2 min	The Sioux County Regional Airport is one of twenty Iowa airports receiving federal dollars to modernize infrastructure. The airport will receive \$123,000 to acquire additional land next to the airport for future development.
Community Services	News	2/1/2024	7am, 8am, 12pm, 5pm	1 min	The Sioux Center Public Library is in the process of remodelling some of its interior to focus more on STEM room for kids, study rooms, enclosed computer room, and expand programming space for larger audiences. Substantial funding has been received, with more on the way - plans are being finalized so final cost estimate was not available.
Economy	News	2/8/2024	7am, 8am, 12pm, 5pm	1 min	The small town of Hull is realizing the re-opening of a convenience store that was destroyed by fire a year earlier. This is important to the local economy.
Education	News	2/8/2024	7am, 8am, 12pm, 5pm	2 min	Northwest Iowa Community College in nearby Sheldon, Iowa announces the launch of a new Information Technology Career Track. The initiative addresses the growing demand for IT and automation skills in the workforce and is made possible by a state grant totalling \$556,000 from the Career Academy Incentive Fund Grant.

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Elections	News	2/8/2024	7am, 8am, 12pm, 5pm	3 min	The wife of a county supervisor from a nearby city was convicted of voter fraud, illegally gathering votes from the local Vietnamese Community for her husband who was running for Congress.
Healthcare	News	2/14/2024	7am, 8am, 12pm, 5pm	3 min	Follow-up story to the Sioux Center dentist providing free dental services to at-risk children in the Sioux Center Community School District. The clinic provided services to thirty children with the help of school staff and the area community action agency, Mid-Sioux Opportunity.
Education	News	2/15/2024	7am, 8am, 12pm, 5pm	4 min	A school administrator in nearby Orange City, Iowa received a prestigious national educator award. Iowa Department of Education Director McKenzie Snow spoke at the event honoring MOC-FV Assistant Vice Principal Grant Hegstad as he receives the Milken Educator Award.
Healthcare	News	2/16/2024	7am, 8am, 12pm, 5pm	2 min	Orange City Area health System is ranked in the top 100 Critical Access Hospitals by the Chartis Center for Rural Health.
Taxes	News	2/16/2024	7am, 8am, 12pm, 5pm	2 min	The Sioux Center City Council, at a city council meeting announced that for the 15th consecutive year, the city is considering another city tax rate decrease.
Economy	News	2/19/2024	7am, 8am, 12pm, 5pm	2 min	The Sioux Center City Council, at a regular city council meeting approved additional land to be developed commercially within the city limits. One of the lots are already being considered by a business looking to locate in the community.
Agriculture	News	2/19/2024	7am, 8am, 12pm, 5pm	2 min	A train derailment in 2018 spilled raw crude oil in a tributary, polluting farm land. A local family who owned land settled a lawsuit with the railroad after their land suffered permanent loss of property value because of the spill.
Law Enforcement	News	2/23/2024	7am, 8am, 12pm, 5pm	4 min	A Sioux County Sheriff's Deputy and his wife are arrested following an investigation of several counts of neglect of a dependent person, mandatory reporter violations, and one false report to law enforcement.

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Law Enforcement	News	2/29/2024	7am, 8am, 12pm, 5pm	2 min	The Sioux County Sheriff's Office has started a program to provide "Go Buckets" for every classroom in the county. "Go Buckets" contain items needed in the event of an emergency lockdown.
Food	News	2/29/2024	7am, 8am, 12pm, 5pm	2 min	A regional foodbank receives a record donation from Perdue Farms and the Feeding America program. 80,000 pounds of frozen chicken breasts were donated and will be distributed to the local foodbanks, including the Hope Food Pantry in Sioux Center.
Water Quality	News	3/1/2024	7am, 8am, 12pm, 5pm	1 min	Four regional communities receive \$500,000 grants from Iowa's Wastewater and Drinking Water Treatment Financial Assistance program to help with water quality projects. Westfield in neighboring Plymouth County is a recipient.
Education	News	3/1/2024	7am, 8am, 12pm, 5pm	2 min	MOC-FV Board of Education have offered a contract to a Sheldon educator to be the new principal at the MOC-FV High School.
Transportation	News	3/5/2024	7am, 8am, 12pm, 5pm	3 min	As another year of the major Highway 75 reconstruction project gears up, plans and dates of construction start are being published, with details on detours and closures as the construction nears a more populated area of the community.
Education	News	3/6/2024	7am, 8am, 12pm, 5pm	2 min	A local high school and middle school were dismissed early after a threat was found inside a school bathroom. Law enforcement immediately responded. A continued police presence was in effect for several days after the threat was found, and no suspect has been identified.
Education	News	3/6/2024	7am, 8am, 12pm, 5pm	2 min	Two administrators at a nearby school district resign after a freshman hazing incident occurred within the high school wrestling team.

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Recreation	News	3/18/2024	7am, 8am, 12pm, 5pm	2 min	Sioux Center Parks and Recreation Director is named the Iowa Sports Field Manager of the Year for his contributions to Iowa's sports turf industry.
Entertainment	News	3/19/2024	7am, 8am, 12pm, 5pm	2 min	US Senator Joni Ernst named the Browns Century Theater the business of the week. The theater is in neighboring Plymouth County, in Le Mars.
Education	News	3/19/2024	7am, 8am, 12pm, 5pm	2 min	A follow-up to the hazing incident with a wrestling team from a neighboring community - the school district is making changes to their extracurricular policies after the incident. Comments were made by the school superintendent and mother of one of the hazing victims.
Education	News	3/19/2024	7am, 8am, 12pm, 5pm	3 min	Sioux Center Christian School breaks ground for an addition that addresses increased enrollment, and current record enrollment. The addition includes a multi-purpose performance, athletic, and gathering space, along with six middle-school classrooms. Public school, other private school, and city officials all attending the ceremony.
Law Enforcement	News	3/19/2024	7am, 8am, 12pm, 5pm	3 min	A vehicle accident caused by a person with a mental health condition injured the elderly driver who needed to be airlifted to a hospital from the scene. Another individual in another vehicle was uncooperative and disruptive, he was found to be under the influence of a controlled substance. Several agencies from two states and three counties assisted with the incident.
Recreation	News	3/20/2024	7am, 8am, 12pm, 5pm	3 min	The annual Orange City Tulip Festival releases the costumes to be worn by the 2024 Tulip Court, as well as the parade marshal for the 83rd annual Dutch heritage festival.
Education	News	3/20/2024	7am, 8am, 12pm, 5pm	2 min	A Rock Valley Principal was named a finalist for the 2024 Iowa Secondary Principal of the Year award sponsored by the School Administrators of Iowa.

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Energy	News	3/25/2024	7am, 8am, 12pm, 5pm	3 min	Siouxland Energy Cooperative, a local Ethanol Production facility in Sioux Center has partnered with Continuum Ag to help promote and obtain premiums for area farmers who get farmers to produce Carbon Intensity Certified Grain.
Agriculture	News	3/26/2024	7am, 8am, 12pm, 5pm	2 min	Iowa State University Extension and Outreach hosts an urgent "Virtual Chat" to discuss a mystery disease in Dairy cows in the Southwest US. They seek to impart what they know about the disease and what the midwest can expect, or do to mitigate it.
Transportation	News	3/26/2024	7am, 8am, 12pm, 5pm	4 min	Highway 75 reconstruction in Sioux Center is gearing up, and the Department of Transportation has listed the detour map for traffic to go around the community during this time. The detour is 25 miles and goes from Highway 18 in the north, east to Sheldon, then south on highway 60 to Highway 10 where traffic will travel back to highway 75.
City Government	News	3/27/2024	7am, 8am, 12pm, 5pm	4 min	The Sioux Center City Council met in a meeting to discuss several topics including new retail, growth of current services, and new recreation venues. Several other discussions occurred, including vacating easements, deciding to pursue backup electrical generation, and speed limits. The Council also approved the FY 2025 tax levy and set a public hearing for the proposed FY 2024/25 city budget.
Public Affairs	InfoTrak Programs	Saturdays	5:30am	30 mins	Topic sheets attached
Local Information	Community Calendar	Daily	Varies - several times daily	90 mins	Club, School, Church, misc. events, classes, ISU Extension offerings, etc.

# EVANGELICAL LEADERS DISCUSS IMMIGRATION

IOWA - - Evangelical pastors and leaders from Iowa, New Hampshire, and South Carolina joined a virtual press call Thursday convened by the Evangelical Immigration Table and World Relief, urging presidential candidates of all parties to commit to be guided by biblical principles as they approach the topic of immigration. A letter was sent to all presidential candidates Thursday, signed by more than 500 Christians across the country, inviting the candidates to take part in a 40-day Bible-reading guide known as the "I Was a Stranger" Challenge, to see what the Bible says about immigration.

Northwestern College President Greg Christy was on the panel discussing the challenge, and says immigration plays a big role in his community. He says when he came to the college 17 years ago, there was a meeting with legislators to discuss the challenges of immigration, and since then nothing has been done.

He wants to see a president following what the Bible says about caring for strangers.

\* Immigration 1 :09 the community" 1963

\* Christy goes so far as to give a mandate

\* Immigration 2 :11 among us" 1964

\* Immigration 3 :12 far too long" 1965

Joel Kok, Pastor of Covenant Christian Reformed Church in Sioux Center says his church has been serving immigrants since it began 50 years ago. He says overcoming difficult things is hard, but America has done it before - citing the abolition of slavery, and the advice Abraham Lincoln gave at the end of his second inaugural address.

\* Immigration 4 :18 complicated work" 1966

\* South Carolina Baptist Convention Policy Consultant and Senior Director of Church and Community Engagement and Public Affairs at North Greenville University in South Carolina, Dr. Tony Beam, says a Lifeway Research poll shows Christians feel a moral responsibility.

\* Immigration 6 :13 of immigration" 1967

Dr. Kevin McBride, Pastor at Raymond Baptist Church in Raymon New Hampshire says we need to move away from the idea that a wall will solve everything.

\* Immigration 5 :23 same situation" 1968

President and Founder of the National Latino Evangelical Coalition, Rev. Gabriel Salguero says current rhetoric from candidates negatively labelling immigrants doesn't help anyone.

\* Immigration 14 :14 with civility" 1969

Salguero and the panelists agree that the word "evangelical" should not be used as a political term, but a theological one.

\* Immigration 15 :23 teachings" 1970

Still the challenges of immigration remain. Christians struggle with how to honor and respect law while loving and caring for the needs of all immigrants and refugees. Christian leaders across the country hope the presidential candidates will take seriously the "I Was a Stranger" 40-day challenge.

## NORTHWEST IOWA CAUCUS LOCATIONS

SIoux CENTER, IA - - You'll want to bundle up for the Iowa Caucuses Monday night - it's going to be a cold one - but cold won't stop most caucus goers. Republican Party Chair Jeff Kaufmann says he has faith in it's important for caucus goers to know where to go, and by what time they need to be there. Sioux County Democrats issued a News Release instructing their caucus goers to be in line or signed in by 7pm to participate - good advice for both party's caucus goers.

The Democratic caucus is different since Iowa Democrats will be casting their presidential preference by mail this year. Democrat caucus goers will also discuss and adopt resolutions for the county platform, elect delegates to the county convention and elect new members to the County Central Committee.

Republican caucus goers will vote for their party's presidential nominee and elect delegates to attend county conventions. We've provided links for all Caucus locations in this story on our website. Click the News Tab at siouxcountryradio.com and look for this story.



## **BOYDEN RESIDENCE DESTROYED BY FIRE**

BOYDEN, IA - - A fire in Boyden destroyed a house Tuesday evening. The Boyden Fire Department and Boyden Ambulance were dispatched to the location on Webb Street after the call came in at 8:55pm. Mutual assistance was requested from the Hull Fire Department and Sheldon Fire Department.

Authorities report one person was inside the residence when the fire started and was able to safely get outside; they were taken to Orange City Area Health for precautionary reasons.

The home is considered a total loss, and damage was estimated in excess of \$60,000.

The cause of the fire remains under investigation by the Boyden Fire Chief.

**SHELDON MAN SENTENCED IN SEX ABUSE CASE**

1/17/2024

SHELDON, IA - - A Sheldon man has been sentenced to a 10-year prison term for having sex with a 13-year-old. The incident happened over a year ago near Sutherland.

The case arose when then 19-year-old Jose Alfredo Jimenez of Sheldon was charged with Sexual Abuse in the Second Degree - a class B felony.

The O'Brien County deputy ~~who filed the complaint alleges that Jimenez knowingly had sexual intercourse with a 13-year-old victim on a public roadway in O'Brien County.~~

Jimenez originally faced a charge of second-degree sexual abuse, which is a class B felony. If he had been convicted of that charge, he could have faced 25 years in prison. But Jimenez agreed to plead guilty to a lesser charge. The charge was amended to third-degree sexual abuse, which is a class C felony, and therefore only carries a penalty of a 10-year prison sentence. He also needs to pay a ~~\$500~~ fine, comply with sex offender registry requirements, and serve a lifetime special sentence as if on parole after being released from prison. If he were to violate the terms of the sentence, he could be sent back to prison.

**APARTMENT PART IN MACHINE SHED NEAR HOSPERS SUSTAINS SIGNIFICANT DAMAGE IN FIRE**

1/17/2024

HOSPERS, IA - - A machine shed with an apartment inside was damaged in a fire Tuesday afternoon near Hospers.

According to Hospers Fire Chief Jason Overmole, the Hospers Fire Department received the call at 12:40 p.m., and were dispatched to the fire on Nest Avenue, northeast of Hospers.

Light smoke was seen coming from the building with a small area of discolored metal visible as fire fighters approached the scene. Overmole says they used an interior attack, then pulled sheet metal from outside to get at the fire.

No injuries were reported during the fire. Overmole says that an apartment inside the shed sustained significant damage, and that the cause of the fire appears to be electrical.

Granville and Sheldon Fire Departments assisted with the blaze. Firefighters were on the scene for about two hours.

CITY OF SIOUX CENTER  
City Council Meeting  
January 22, 2024  
4:00 PM

**AGENDA**

1. Public Input/Communication
2. Consent Agenda
  - Minutes of January 3, 2024
  - Bills
  - Planning and Zoning Appointments
3. Ambulance Team Report
4. Community Survey Report
5. American Rescue Plan Act Allocation (SC-R-03-24)
6. 2024 Rental Rate and Fee Schedules
7. Annual Funding Requests
8. Other business
9. Adjourn

**FUTURE MEETINGS**

- February 15 4:00 pm
- March 4, 4:00 pm
- March 18, 3:00-6:00 pm, Strategic Planning Workshop
- March 27, 3:30 pm & 4:00 pm

*MISSION: Providing Excellent Quality of Life and Municipal Services for our Growing Community through a Spirit of Progressive Cooperation*

**STIOX CENTER EMT'S REQUEST NEW AMBLANCE AT CITY COUNCIL**

1/23/2024

STIOX CENTER, IA - - The Sioux Center Ambulance Team presented data from 2023 to the Sioux Center City Council Monday. Chief Medic Tracy Foltz noted that as a mostly volunteer team, Sioux Center Ambulance's response time averaged one-and-a-half minutes faster than the national standard of response time of 8:59. The 21 volunteers split four shifts each day in pairs to cover the community's emergency needs. With Sioux Center's growth, and with increased difficulty recruiting more volunteers, Foltz made a request to the council to hire a third full-time medic. In addition, the team operates three ambulances, and one has reached its retirement age of 12 years, so Foltz made a request to the council to purchase a new ambulance, committing to pay half of the \$300,000 needed to purchase one.

The council reviewed data from the community survey that was distributed last fall. The survey is designed to give feedback on city amenities, services, infrastructure, facilities, utilities, and more. Initial results show an overall increase in community approval, however only 448 people took the survey, compared to 703 who completed the survey five years ago. The survey was distributed online and by paper in both English and Spanish. The city will conduct another survey in 2028.

The council approved a resolution that allocates \$1,137,122 received from the American Rescue Plan Act to the city's portion of the highway 75 enhancement project.

The council also approved building permit rates and rental rates for 2024. Changes include a \$25 increase in fees for action at the Board of Adjustment and the Planning and Zoning Board. Other changes include public skate fees and rentals at the All-Season's Center from \$5 to \$6 per person admission and from \$3 to \$4 skate rental per person. Adult public swim fees at the All-Season's Center will increase to \$10. Building rental fees will increase from \$30 to \$40 for the upper lobby, Senior Center, and Multi-Purpose Room at the All-Season's Center. Park shelter house rentals will increase \$25 from last year's rates with an increase in the required deposit from \$100 to \$150. The Open Space Park Shelter House will be rented at a rate of \$225 per day. Reservations for rentals must be made through the All-Season's Center.

Finally, the city council approved annual funding requests to local non-profit organizations. Mid-Sioux will receive \$7,500, Atlas \$1,000, Center for Financial Education \$1,000, and Siouxland Adaptive Sports will receive \$500.

The next city council meeting will be February 15 at 4pm.

**SIoux CENTER CHRISTIAN SCHOOL NAMES NEW HEAD OF SCHOOL**

1/24/2024

SIoux CENTER, IA - - In an email sent to the Sioux Center Christian School community Wednesday, School Board President, Greg Van Dyke, and Search Committee Chair, Lori Walstra announced the selection of Paul Brenner as the institution's next Head of School.

SCCS conducted a nationwide search to fill the position currently held by Josh Bower who is leaving the post to pursue other endeavors related to Christian Education. The board used services of the Center for the Advancement of Christian Education, or CACE, to assist the search committee. The search resulted in four candidates, two of which were selected for interviews. After the first round of interviews, the search committee invited the top candidate to spend two days at Sioux Center Christian where they met with faculty, staff, leadership team, and students, followed by a formal interview with both the search committee and the board of trustees ~~in the evening~~.

Brenner has experience as Head of School, serving at Zion Christian Academy and most recently at Wayne Christian School in North Carolina; he brings over 30 years of educational experience to Sioux Center Christian.

Brenner and his wife, Kim, have two children; Hannah who is married to Jared, and Zach who is a student at Dordt University.

## NWC SETS SPRING ENROLLMENT RECORD FOR FIFTH STRAIGHT YEAR

1/24/2024

ORANGE CITY, Iowa—For the fifth year in a row, Northwestern College has set a spring enrollment record. This year's number is 1,603, up from 1,584 last spring.

This semester a record 639 students are studying in Northwestern's Graduate & Professional Studies (GPS) division, including online master's degree programs in education and counseling, online degree-completion programs in early childhood and nursing, and an on-site master's degree program in physician assistant studies—up from 615 last year. International student enrollment continues to grow, accounting for 5.5% of residential, undergraduate students. Vice President for Enrollment and Marketing, Tamara Fynaardt, says it's gratifying to keep setting enrollment records. She says that in addition to maintaining strong undergraduate enrollment, increasing numbers of adult students are attracted to the Graduate & Professional Studies programs, enabling Northwestern to exceed enrollment targets in that division. She says much credit goes to their standout GPS team, led by Dr. Jill Swisher.

**DORDT UNIVERSITY HOSTS RIBBON CUTTING FOR NEW ONLINE MBA PROGRAM**

1/25/2024

SIoux CENTER, IA - - Dordt University held a ribbon cutting this morning (Thursday morning) to launch its Master's in Business Administration program. The program is 100% online and is designed to equip those called to service in the for-profit and nonprofit sector with the tools of stewardship, servant leadership, and discernment needed to achieve success in business administration management and leadership roles.

In her introductory remarks, Sioux Center Chamber CEO Barb Den Herder expressed her enthusiasm for the program.

\* MBA1 :13 :business sector?" 1969

MBA program Director Dr. Tim Klein reflects on the dark side of the business world, saying the MBA program at Dordt University will train business leaders to focus on their work differently.

\* MBA2 :26 :of their life?" 1970

The typical plan of study takes about two years to complete, with students taking one 7-week course at a time. Some opt for a slower pace, completing the program in four years. The start date for the new online MBA program is August 27.



## DORDT RANKS IN TOP TEN FORBES LIST FOR MASTER OF EDUCATION

1/30/2024

SIoux CENTER, IA - - Dordt University is named in the top ten Master of Education in School Leadership programs for 2024 by Forbes. According to Forbes, Dordt's Master of Education in School Leadership program covers "the latest development in management and leadership theory, delving into school specifics and preparing graduates to lead teams of their fellow educators." The ranking highlighted that Dordt offers notable courses such as collaborative leadership and instructional leadership.

When Director of the School Leadership Program Dr. Matthew Beimers found out that the School Leadership Program had received this recognition from Forbes, he was humbled and grateful for the commitment of the staff and faculty who support and teach the candidates in the program. He says when they conduct exit interviews with the graduates, certain themes consistently emerge; first is that faith is integral to everything Dordt does; and second, the program provides many hands-on experiences preparing students to sit in school leadership roles when the time comes. Beimers says it doesn't get more real-world than tackling actual leadership challenges in coursework.

Forbes "scored 253 accredited, nonprofit colleges offering online M.Ed. in educational leadership programs in the U.S. using 16 data points. They utilized reliable resources such as Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS), school and program websites, and more to create their rankings.

# LOCAL DENTIST TO PROVIDE FREE CARE FOR CHILDREN

1/31/2024

SIoux CENTER, IA - A Sioux Center dentist wants to improve dental health for children in his community by providing free dental care for one day. Sioux Center Dental, owned and operated by Dr. Trevor Kuiper, will donate their facilities, skills, and staff to provide free dental care to children in need on February 13. Dr. Kuiper says the need is always there, and right now the need in Sioux Center is even greater because fewer dentists are practicing in town. So, Kuiper and his staff have set out to ease the burden for many families in the community.

Dentist1 :10 :period of time" 1977

The state organization, I-Smile, is assisting Kuiper and his staff in organizing this first-time event for Sioux Center Dental. The event is a spinoff of the American Dental Association's National Give Kids a Smile Day, so Kuiper is calling the event "Give Kids a Smile". He says they hope to serve between 25 and 40 kids that day.

Dentist2 :05 :we can" 1978

Sioux Center Dental Registered Dental Hygienist Amanda Van Beek and I-Smile Coordinator Dawn Ericson, also a Registered Dental Hygienist, conducted more than 150 student screenings in Sioux Center schools in preparation for the event. School nurses continue to evaluate and identify dental needs, sending forms home for parents of children identified with those needs. Those forms are starting to trickle in, giving Kuiper and his staff an idea of what treatments are needed. He says they plan to provide basic services, but understands there may be more complex cases that come in.

Dentist4 :28 :as well" 1979

It's clear Sioux Center Dental wants to make a difference. After all, their mission is "Faith, Family, Service", in order of priority according to Dr. Kuiper.

Dentist6 :09 :these 4 walls" 1980

The school is committed to the event as well, providing transportation for the children to the clinic on the day of the event. Sioux Center Dental is currently in contact with Sioux Center Christian School, hoping to get them involved next year. If you want more information on the Give Kids a Smile event, call Sioux Center Dental at 712-722-5155.

## SIoux COUNTY REGIONAL AIRPORT TO RECEIVE FEDERAL DOLLARS

SIoux CENTER, IA - - The Sioux County Regional Airport is one of twenty Iowa airports that will receive federal dollars to modernize infrastructure designed to ensure safe and efficient travel. The funds are administered by the U.S. Department of Transportation through its Airport Infrastructure Grants (AIG) program and made possible through legislation backed by Sen. Chuck Grassley.

The funds invested in Iowa will not only be used to upgrade existing infrastructure but are also meant to improve runway safety, better airport efficiency, and to create local jobs. Some of the new improvements will include the construction of new terminals, improvements of taxiways, and the installation of new lighting systems, among other planned projects throughout the state.

The Sioux County Regional Airport is set to receive more than \$123,000 to acquire nearly 24 acres next to the airport for future development; Sioux Gateway Airport in Sioux City is receiving over \$1 million to repave the taxi lane and purchase equipment to keep the airport in service during cold weather; and the Estherville Municipal Airport is receiving \$360,000 to make repairs on their runway.

## SIoux CENTER LIBRARY RECEIVES SUBSTANTIAL FUNDING FOR PROJECT

SIoux CENTER, IA - - The Sioux Center Public Library is in the process of planning a remodel that, when completed, will offer additional study rooms, a large indoor STEM room for kids, an enclosed computer room, and expanded programming space to accommodate a larger audience and more diverse programs. The library staff is awaiting the final drawings and cost estimates which are due to come in anytime.

While fundraising is ongoing, Library Director Becky Bilby says she's overwhelmed by the responses from the community and beyond, including grants totaling more than \$211,000 from the Roy J. Carver Charitable Trust, Pella Corporation, American State Bank, Sioux Center Kiwanis, and Dordt University. In addition, several area and local businesses and individuals made significant contributions to the project as well.

Bilby says the staff is grateful to be part of a community that comes behind to support the library's vision and mission to "inspire lifelong learning, advance knowledge, and strengthen our communities by bringing diverse people, information, and ideas together."

## NEW CASEY'S IN HULL TO OPEN NEXT WEEK

HULL, IA - - Nearly two years ago, the Casey's General Store in Hull was destroyed by a fire that started in a storeroom behind the kitchen. Last September, one year after the fire, Casey's broke ground at the same location for the new store.

Casey's Director of Communications and Community, Katie Petru, says the new store is almost ready for customers, and an opening date has been set for next week.

The new store totals 3,219 square-feet and will offer a three-gasoline pump island outside, allowing up to six vehicles to fuel at the same time. The fuels offered include the standard 87 with ethanol and a full range of non-ethanol fuel types, from 87 to 91 octane, along with biodiesel. Inside, the new store will have Casey's handmade pizza, breakfast and bakery items, a full-service free-brewed coffee station, and more. The new Hull Casey's will open Thursday, February 15.

## NCC LAUNCHES INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY CAREER TRACK

SIoux CENTER, IA - - Northwest Iowa Community College (NCC) has unveiled a new Information Technology (IT) career track at the NCC Career Academy in Sioux Center. This educational initiative addresses the growing demand for IT and automation skills in the workforce and is made possible by a state grant from the Career Academy Incentive Fund Grant. \$556,000 is dedicated to outfitting a state-of-the-art classroom and computer lab, with essential IT equipment, including servers, switches, and firewalls, which enables hands-on learning experiences which enhances the Career Academy's existing Applied Technology offerings.

Students of the Academy will progress through a designed, college-level curriculum for high school students starting their junior year and prepares them for further education through the second year of the Information Technology Specialist Associate of Applied Science degree program through NCC and/or immediate employment in the Information Technology field. Students leave the program with two industry-recognized certifications and a college diploma.

Northwest Iowa Community College President, Dr. John Hartog, says they've approached the development of the Sioux Center Career Academy with the understanding that it's a long-term journey, not a quick race. He says the state grant has significantly propelled NCC toward goal completion, making the IT Career Track a critical component at the Sioux Center Career Academy. NCC's Career Academy is located in the former AEA building in Sioux Center.

VOTER FRAUD SENTENCING DATE SET FOR WIFE OF WOODBURY COUNTY SUPERVISOR

2/8/2024

The wife of a Woodbury County supervisor who was convicted of voter fraud will be sentenced on April 1st. Kim Phong (Fong) Taylor was found guilty on multiple charges in a scheme to illegally gather votes from the Vietnamese Community for her husband Jeremy. Woodbury County Auditor Pat Gill was one of the witnesses for federal prosecutors. Gill says workers in his office raised a concern about absentee ballots in the 2020 primary election.

[dd0208taylor1]: 17: all the same"

1989

(as said)"There were 135 write ins for Jeremy Taylor as auditor and 150 in that supervisor seat. And what was noticeable, why they called me down is the handwriting was all the same," Gill says. \*\*\*He says there wasn't enough to take action on ~~at~~ that point.

[dd0208taylor2]: 10: about that"

1990

(as said)"And I just kept saying you know it's a get out the vote effort unless one of those voters tells me differently, there's nothing we can do about it," he says. \*\*\*Things changed when a brother and sister came forward and said they were not allowed to legally vote because someone had forged ballots cast in their names. Kim was found guilty of 26 counts of providing false information, 23 counts of fraudulent voting, and three counts of fraudulent registration. She faces a maximum penalty of five years in prison for each count. Jeremy Taylor was named an "unindicted co-conspirator" in the case but hasn't been charged with a crime. Taylor was urged to resign by fellow board of supervisor members but has refused.

**LOCAL DENTIST PROVIDES FREE CARE TO 30 STUDENTS**

2/14/2024

SIOUX CENTER, IA - - Sioux Center Dental, owned and operated by Dr. Trevor Kuiper and his staff, provided free dental services to children in need on Tuesday. Several days of screenings were held at Sioux Center schools to determine the needs and recommendations for the children that would participate in the first "Give Kids a Smile" dental clinic. Kuiper says they served thirty children on Tuesday, providing a number of different dental services.

\* Dentist1 : 16 :as well" 1970

\* Total cost for all the services provided to the children was a little over \$23,000, and Kuiper says it was a big day.

\* Dentist2 : 11 :help" 1971

Help from several volunteers who came from Community Health Partners, Mid-Sioux, and Kinsey Elementary School. He's most appreciative of the interpreting services many of them provided. Looking back at how the day went, Kuiper says it was good.

\* Dentist3 : 32 :mouth hurting" 1972

Reflecting on the day, Kuiper says one thing he may consider doing differently for the next "Give Kids a Smile" clinic, is to schedule the day later in the week. He says the difficult thing for him is most of the kids treated Tuesday need more dental care, and that there are many more children needing dental services that won't get it because either their parents can't get off work to take them to a dentist, or they have financial limitations.



**LOCAL EDUCATOR RECOGNIZED WITH PRETTIGIOUS AWARD**

ORANGE CITY, IA - - Iowa Department of Education Director McKenzie Snow spoke at an afternoon assembly at the Maurice, Orange City, Floyd Valley (MOC-FV) High School Thursday afternoon. Her remarks were centered around encouraging schools and pointing out the good things Iowa schools are doing.

Snow 1 : 06 : comes next"

1976

Ultimately, her presence at MOC-FV was to help celebrate the surprise announcement of a Milken Educator Award, a prestigious award sometimes called the "Oscar of Teaching". Up to 75 schools across the nation will have an award winner, and this year will mark the 3,000<sup>th</sup> Milken Educator award, reaching \$75 million in individual financial prizes spanning the length of the initiative which started in 1987. Milken Educator Awards Senior Vice President Dr. Jane Foley was at the assembly, and says many awards are given to people in occupations other than education.

Foley 1 : 26 : just wrong"

1977

Because of Snow's presence, the school and recipient knew nothing of the pending award. Foley then announced MOC-FV Assistant Principal Grant Hegstad as the recipient. Hegstad is the only Iowan chosen to receive recognition this year, and is the 47<sup>th</sup> Iowan to receive the award, which includes an unrestricted gift of \$25,000.

Hegstad 8 : 54 : thank you" applause out

1978

Hegstad joins former MOC FV High School principal, now Superintendent Russ Adams, who received the award in 2003; he also joins the national Milken Educator Network, a growing group of professionals across diverse roles and disciplines working to shape the future of education, some of whom were present to congratulate him. Hegstad credits his parents and others for where he is today.

Hegstad 3 : 40 : in education"

1979

When asked how he'll spend the cash award, his answer ended thoughtfully.

Hegstad 5 : 29 : because...."

1980

Hegstad commented many times how it's not just one individual that makes a school or a person great, but the work and influence of many.

Hegstad 4 : 19 : now to"

1981

He hopes people see through the award and realize this type of success isn't because of one person, but because of so many that poured their lives into his and many others.

## ORANGE CITY AREA HEALTH SYSTEM RANKS AS CRITICAL ACCESS HOSPITAL FROM THE CHARTIS CENTER FOR RURAL HEALTH

ORANGE CITY, IA - - Orange City Area Health System has been ranked in the Top 100 Critical Access Hospitals by the The Chartis Center for Rural Health. Orange City Area Health System CEO Marty Guthmiller says the recognition reflects the efforts of their staff and volunteers in providing quality patient care and experience each day.

National Leader for The Chartis Center for Rural Health, Michael Topchik, says with the current uncertainty for rural healthcare, the Top 100 rural hospitals continue to provide a unique lens where they can identify innovation and inspiration for how to deliver quality care to vulnerable populations.

Now in its 14th year, the INDEX is the industry's most comprehensive and objective assessment of rural hospital performance. Featuring a methodology utilizing publicly available data, the INDEX is leveraged nationwide by rural hospitals, health systems with rural affiliates, hospital associations, and state offices of rural health to measure and monitor performance across a variety of areas impacting hospital operations and finance.

CITY OF SIOUX CENTER  
City Council Meeting  
February 15, 2024  
4:00 PM

AGENDA

1. Public Input/Communication
2. Consent Agenda
- Minutes of January 22, 2023
- Bills
- Finance Reports
- Liquor License Renewal
- Late Harvest Brewery
- Los Tulipanes
- 4 Brothers Bar & Grill
- FCC Wine Gala
3. The Ridge Update and Request
4. Fiscal 2023 Certified Annual Financial Report
5. Consider Police Vehicle Purchase
6. General Fund Budget Review
7. Adopt Plat for 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue & 13<sup>th</sup> Street – Westview First Addition (SC-R-03-24)
8. Set Public Hearings for Sale of Properties
9. Employee Ratification
10. West Branch RNG Consent and Agreement
11. Other business
12. Adjourn

FUTURE MEETINGS

- March 4, 4:00 pm – City Council  
March 6 – Local Leaders Day – Des Moines  
March 18, 3-6pm – Strategic Planning  
March 27, 3:30 pm & 4:00 pm – City Council

MISSION: Providing Excellent Quality of Life and Municipal Services for our  
Growing Community through a Spirit of Progressive Cooperation

## STIOUX CENTER CONSIDERING ANOTHER CITY TAX RATE DECREASE

2/16/2024

STIOUX CENTER, IA - - The City of Sioux Center is looking to decrease the city tax rate in the 2024-25 budget. The City Council is considering lowering the city's portion of the levy rate to \$11.114 per \$1,000 of taxable valuation, about a 2% decrease. The council reviewed the general fund budget at a meeting held yesterday (Thursday).

The general fund includes Police, fire, and ambulance services; Public works including streets, streetlights, airport, and snow removal; Culture and recreation – parks, trails, library, rec facilities, and arts/recreation programs; Economic development; and general government uses such as finance/accounting and elections.

Sioux Center Finance Director Darryl Ten Pas says this is the 15<sup>th</sup> consecutive year the city tax rate has had no change or decreased. Since fiscal year 2008, the city levy rate has decreased by about 20%. He says Sioux Center properties hold and increase their value, add to that the continued growth of residential and commercial development, the city can keep the levy down.”

With the City Levy decrease as well as a decrease in residential rollback, which is set by the state of Iowa, homeowners will likely see no significant change in their residential City property tax bill even though their home value has likely increased. The City's portion of a homeowner's property tax bill is about 33%. The remaining 67% percent goes to the Sioux Center Community School District, Sioux County, and Northwest Iowa Community College.

The next steps in the City budget process include reviewing the utility budget and hosting a public hearing on the property tax levy on March 27. Following that, the council will decide whether to approve the 2024-25 budget in April.

**CITY OF SIOUX CENTER  
City Council Meeting  
February 15, 2024  
4:00 PM**

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## NEW COMMERCIAL AREA OPENING IN SIOUX CENTER

SIOUX CENTER, IA - - A new area for commercial growth is opening in Sioux Center. The Sioux Center City Council approved the plat of Westview First Addition, 14.7 acres for commercial development in southwest Sioux Center, along the new 2nd Ave, SW, between 16th St. SW. and 13th St. SW, north of the Walmart commercial area.

Assistant City Manager, Dennis Dokter says the Westview plat includes four lots of various sizes, one of which is already being considered by a business looking to locate in Sioux Center.

The retail business would potentially build a 20,000-square-foot building on the 1.4-acre lot along 2nd Ave. NW just north of Snap Fitness. Dokter says the other three lots are larger and can be customized, depending on the projects that choose to locate there.

The city purchased the 14.7-acre area as part of a larger parcel nearly 5 years ago, identifying it for commercial development as part of long-term planning.

## FAMILY SETTLES WITH RAIROAD AFTER DOON DERAILMENT

SIoux CITY, IA - - A family that owns land in the Doon area has settled a lawsuit with Burlington Northern SantaFe Railroad for the damage caused to their property after a train derailment. Thirty-three cars carrying crude oil from Alberta, Canada derailed just south of Doon on June 22 of 2018. Ten of those cars leaked a total of 160,000 gallons of crude oil, some of which flowed into the Little Rock River. The railroad reported more than 100,000 gallons were recovered.

The Philip, Kristi, John, and Helen Kooima family from Rock Valley owns land in that area, and sued the railway alleging BNSF was aware that the tracks over which the train was to be operated were not properly maintained, and were unsafe. The suit states BNSF knew of the track's conditions yet allowed trains to travel over them. Documents state the oil caused "catastrophic property and environmental damage."

The suit states the injuries and damages to the Kooimas are the result of BNSF's negligence. The suit also claims the land has been suffering "severe, permanent and disabling damages," which will continue into the future. As a result, there is a permanent loss of property value.

The case was scheduled to go to trial in 2025, but last month, the parties reached a settlement, and the case has been closed. Terms of the settlement were not disclosed.

**SIoux COUNTY DEPUTY FIRED AND CHARGED**

2/23/2024

SIoux COUNTY, IA - A now former Sioux County Sheriff's Deputy and his wife were arrested Thursday on numerous counts including felonies. According to a joint press release from the Sioux County Sheriff and the Sioux County Attorneys offices: Caleb and Jill Haverdink of Maurice were arrested on seven counts of Neglect of a Dependent Person, Class C Felonies; two counts of Mandatory Reporter Violations, Simple Misdemeanors; and one count of False Report to Law Enforcement, a Simple Misdemeanor. These charges are the result of a criminal investigation conducted by the Iowa Division of Criminal Investigation (DCI).

According to the complaint and affidavits, the Haverdink's had prior knowledge of a child in their care committing numerous acts of sexual abuse and sexualized acts against other children and took no meaningful action(s) to mitigate the sexual abuse or protect the children under their care. Their inaction put children under their care at high risk of victimization for sexual abuse.

At the time of the initial complaint, Caleb Haverdink was employed by the Sioux County Sheriff's Office as a deputy sheriff. To avoid any conflict of interest, the Sioux County Sheriff's Office and Sioux County Attorney's Office immediately recused themselves from any part of the investigation and requested assistance from the DCI and the Clay County, Iowa Attorney's Office.

Upon completion of the criminal investigation, an internal investigation was initiated by the Sioux County Sheriff's Office to evaluate if Haverdink's conduct was consistent with the policies and expectations of our employees. To ensure a fair and objective internal investigation, an outside investigator was retained. The investigation concluded Haverdink's conduct was contrary to the mission of the Sioux County Sheriff's Office and his actions were in violation of established policies and procedures. Based upon these findings, Sheriff Van Voorst terminated Haverdink's employment on February 14, 2024.

The press release went on to say that the "Sioux County Sheriff's Office wants to assure the public that their officers are held to the highest standards of integrity and ethical conduct. The charges are deeply troubling and contrary to the values of the Sheriff's Office. Any time an officer exhibits any level of misconduct, it will be dealt with swiftly. As such, Haverdink's employment was terminated based solely upon his off-duty conduct, which was contrary to established policies and that which brought reproach upon himself and our agency. This isolated incident is not representative of the dedicated men and women who serve with the Sioux County Sheriff's Office with honor and integrity every day. It is disappointing when someone from within law enforcement conducts themselves in a manner which brings reproach upon our agency and inhibits their own ability to serve the community".



## **“GO BUCKETS” COMING SOON TO EVERY SIOUX COUNTY SCHOOL CLASSROOM**

SIOUX COUNTY, IA - - A “Go Buckets” initiative for Sioux County Schools, announced in November, has gained serious traction.

In a press release from the Sioux County Sheriff’s Office, since the “Go Bucket” initiative was announced last fall, the School Resource Officers (SRO’s) in Sioux County and Sioux County Community Health Partners have been receiving monetary donations as well as items that were published on a “needs” list.

“Go Buckets” are packed with supplies for emergency preparedness, and the goal is to provide one for each classroom in the county. Th buckets supply students with supplies should they be required to stay in a classroom for a long period of time during an emergency. There are approximately 675 classrooms in Sioux County schools.

The Sioux County School Resource Officers continue to work on this initiative by submitting various grant applications. The completion date of the project has not yet been determined due the grant deadlines and final determinations of those grants. For more information, contact the Sioux County Sheriff’s Office at 712-737-2280.

You can see the list of supplies in this story on our website. Click the News tab at Sioux county radio dot com.

**SIouxLAND FOOD BANK GETS RECORD DONATION**

2/29/2024

The Food Bank of Siouxland got a record-breaking donation today (Thursday) from Perdue Farms and the Feeding America program. Food Bank Director Jacob Wanderscheid says Perdue delivered 80-thousand pounds of frozen chicken breasts.

[dd0229foodbank1] : 14 : get distributed" **1982**

(as said)"This will be the biggest single donation that we received at one time of a greatly needed product in chicken," he says. "Protein is the number one item that gets asked for, and top three of the categories that get distributed." \*\*\*He

says it will fill up their freezer space.

[dd0229foodbank2] : 16 : by Monday" **1983**

(as said)"We did work with Perdue to try to get it in two different shipments so that we could get the first shipment to get into the warehouse. We have room for the second one and we're working with our partners like Hope Food Pantry in Sioux Center distribute this. It should start leaving our warehouse by Monday," Wanderscheid says. \*\*\*Gary

Malenke is the senior vice president of Perdue Farms in Sioux Center and says the Siouxland donation is part of a larger overall effort.

[dd0229foodbank3] : 16 : feed ourselves" **1984**

(as said)"Today is the single largest donation that Perdue has ever made in the history of the company," he says. "Over three-point-three million pounds of product being delivered across the United States today. really kind of in recognition of leap day and you know the need for another day to feed ourselves." \*\*\*The Siouxland area covers 11 counties, and it is estimated that more than 25-thousand residents don't have enough food, including 42 percent of all children.

Four Northwest Iowa communities have received \$500,000 grants from the state of Iowa's Wastewater and Drinking Water Treatment Financial Assistance Program to help with water quality projects.

One of those grants is going to Westfield, in Plymouth County, for a drinking water project. Grants will also go to Holstein, in Ida County, Mallard, in Palo Alto County, and Milford Municipal Utilities, in Dickinson County.

Those grants are given out annually from a fund generated by a tax on metered water in Iowa. In 2023, that fund had \$8 million available for grants, but the Iowa Finance Authority expects only \$7 million to be available for next year's round of grants.

3/1/24

Orange City, Iowa — The MOC-Floyd Valley Board of Education has offered a contract for the position of High School Principal to a Sheldon educator.

Mr. Levi Letsche is currently the head football coach and instructional coach at Sheldon High School, where he previously taught mathematics for six years. Letsche graduated from Northwestern College in 2017 with degrees in mathematics and secondary education. In 2020, he graduated from Northwestern College with his master's in educational leadership and administration.

MOC/FV officials say Letsche was one of five finalists for the Iowa Teacher-of-the-Year Award in 2023. As an instructional coach, Mr. Letsche worked with administrators and principals to deliver professional development, mentoring first or second-year teachers, and modeling instructional strategies for staff.

Letsche replaces Mr. Mike Mulder, who will be the new Superintendent of Schools at MOC-Floyd Valley, after the retirement of Mr. Russ Adams, beginning July 1st, 2024. Letsche will begin his duties at MOC/FV on August 1st, 2024.

Letsche is a three-time all-conference offensive lineman for Northwestern, earning first team all conference honors his senior season in 2016 and in 2022 he was named to the Northwestern College Athletic Hall of Fame. He recently served as an assistant line coach for the 2021 national championship team.

3/1/24

CITY OF SIOUX CENTER  
City Council Meeting  
March 4, 2024  
4:00 PM

AGENDA

1. Public Input/Communication
2. Consent Agenda
  - Minutes of February 15, 2023
  - Bills
  - Finance Reports
  - New Cigarette/Tobacco Permit – R Smoke Plus
  - Liquor License Renewal
  - - Ridge Golf Club
  - - Sioux Center Health
3. New Homestead Report
4. Law Enforcement Mutual Aid 28E Agreement
5. Employee Review
6. Vacate Easement – Van Veldhuizen (SC-R-06-24)
7. Set Public Hearings to Vacate Easements
8. Support of TAP Funds Program Application (SC-R-07-24)
9. Public Hearing - South Ridge Water Main Loop
10. Enterprise Fund Budget Review – Set Public Hearing
11. Other business
12. Adjourn

FUTURE MEETINGS

- March 18, 3-6pm – Strategic Planning  
March 27, 3:30pm & 4:00pm (Staff Reports)  
April 15, 3:30pm (Staff Reports)  
May 6, 3:30pm (Staff Reports)

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## HIGHWAY 75 CONSTRUCTION TO BEGIN - AGAIN

3/5/2024

SIoux CENTER, IA - - The Sioux Center City Council received a report Monday that construction will soon start on the second phase of the Highway 75 reconstruction project. Message boards will be posted indicating a detour to avoid the construction area that begins at 13<sup>th</sup> Street south, moving north with the goal of completing reconstruction at 2<sup>nd</sup> Street south by the end of this year; phase 2 work is scheduled to begin the last week of March - weather permitting. Work to complete phase 1 reconstruction from 20<sup>th</sup> Street south to 13<sup>th</sup> Street south will begin in early April.

In other council news, New Homestead Executive Director, Crystallyn Sterler presented a report highlighting the New Homestead's high-performance status with HUD. The New Homestead remains at capacity with their apartments and homes. Sterler stated concerns over upcoming qualification requirements changes HUD is making, which could affect some residents.

The city council approved a 28E agreement for law enforcement which clarifies working relationships between the various law enforcement agencies in the area. The agreement states that whenever the agencies work together, each department is responsible for their own resources and liability.

The city council approved a resolution of support for the Southeast Bike Trail extension, which assists in the application for an Iowa Transportation Alternatives Program or TAP Grant. The letter of support is a required commitment from the city, providing city approval, written assurance that the city will maintain the trail, and a financial commitment. The Southeast Bike Trail extension runs from the Sioux Center Health and Woodbridge area south to 20<sup>th</sup> Street SE, then west to Highway 75. The estimated cost for the extension is \$1.1 million.

The city council reviewed the fiscal year 2024-25 Enterprise Fund Budget and set a public hearing date of March 27. The next council meeting, for the fiscal year 2024-25 Property Tax Levy.

## WEST SIOUX SCHOOLS DISMISS EARLY DUE TO THREAT

HAWARDEN, Iowa (KTIV) - High school and middle school students in the West Sioux Community School District were dismissed early Tuesday after a student found a threatening note written on one of the toilet paper dispensers in a school bathroom. In a message sent to parents, school officials said that without the ability to verify when the threat was written or its credibility, they chose to err on the side of caution.

The district says the Hawarden Police and the Sioux County Sheriff's Office were notified and responded immediately, and after talking to both agencies, the district decided to dismiss early.

Law enforcement directed all high school students, who were in the auditorium at the time, to leave the building without returning to their lockers or classrooms. The district says middle school students were released directly from their classrooms.

A continued police presence at the West Sioux schools will be in effect for the next couple of days.

**TWO ADMINISTRATORS AT HINTON HIGH SCHOOL RESIGN**

3/6/2024

A western Iowa school district at the center of an assault investigation involving its high school wrestling team is losing two administrators. The Hinton School Board accepted the resignations Tuesday night of middle and high school principal Phil Goetstouwers (goose-TOWERS) and athletic director Brian DeJong (de-young), who is also an elementary school principal. No reasons were given for the resignations that are effective at the end of the school year. The Coralville Police Department launched an investigation after players said older teammates tased them at a hotel during a wrestling tournament last month. A video circulating on social media showed a player being held down on a bed during the attack. A police spokesperson says additional information will likely not be released because all involved are juveniles. The public wasn't allowed to speak at the special meeting, but afterward, one woman who identified herself by only her initials, D-H, says her son was one of seven freshmen targeted.

[dd0306hinton]:04: the answers" 1962

(as said)"There's a lot of people that still need to be held accountable, and we still don't have all the answers," she says. **The woman says** more information will be coming out.

[dd0306hinton2]:09: gets better" 1963

(as said)"A lot of things have been unraveling more and more. It's going to hit the Hinton community hard. It's going to be getting worse before it gets better," She says. **Hinton's head** wrestling coach is still on administrative leave. Parents say he is being allowed to teach math.



## VAN MEETEREN RECOGNIZED AS SPORTS FIELD MANAGER OF THE YEAR

SIoux CENTER, IA - - Sioux Center Parks Director Lee Van Meeteren was named Iowa's Sports Field Manager of the Year, an award recognizing professional ability and contribution to Iowa's sports turf industry. Van Meeteren received the award at the recent Iowa Sports Field Management Association (ISFMA) banquet in Des Moines.

Jeff Lamoureux, ISFMA Executive Director, said that Lee, his staff, and facilities serve as a model of excellence throughout the sports field community and is well-deserving of the recognition. He says Van Meeteren selflessly contributes to the success of the Iowa Sports Field Management Association, serving in several leadership roles, hosting educational workshops in Sioux Center, and even recently being selected for the national Sports Field Management Association board.

Van Meeteren was nominated by former Sioux Center Community Schools athletic director Mark Hulshof and Sioux Center Assistant Parks Director Colton Waring, then selected at the state level.

Waring says Lee is always looking to innovate and make improvements and that he's not afraid to try new things.

Van Meeteren says he didn't get the award by himself, that his whole team deserves credit.

Van Meeteren's work has helped Sioux Center be recognized with 2019 Softball Field of the Year, 2018 Iowa Diamond of the Year, and 2017 Iowa Baseball Field of the Year. He has served 12 years on the state ISFMA board and recently began serving with the national board.

## **ERNST NAMES SMALL BUSINESS OF THE WEEK, BROWNS CENTURY THEATER**

3/19/2024

RED OAK, Iowa – U.S. Senator Joni Ernst, Ranking Member of the Senate Small Business Committee announced the Browns Century Theater of Plymouth County as her Small Business of the Week. Throughout this Congress, Ernst plans to recognize a small business in every one of Iowa's 99 counties.

Ernst says it's clear that a passion for the performing arts runs in the Brown family, and they've channeled their love for music into a successful small business in Le Mars, doing a great job of investing in their local community.

After taking their family band on the road across the United States, Canada, and Europe for 15 years, the Browns returned home to Iowa and purchased the German-American Savings Bank in downtown Le Mars. They transformed the historic building into the Browns Century Theater, a venue that seats 150 people and now includes the Central Event Center for dining, the Inn on Central for visiting guests, and the Gift Shoppe. The theater has hosted 100 shows every year since its opening, featuring the family's music and other artists from across the country. This year, the Browns celebrated the 24th anniversary of performing together and the 9th anniversary of the Browns Century Theater.

**HINTON SCHOOL DISTRICT MAKES CHANGES ARE HAZING INCIDENT WITH WRESTLERS**

A northwest Iowa school district is working to change extracurricular policies after a hazing controversy involving the wrestling team that parents say targeted seven freshmen. Police investigated after a video on social media showed a wrestler from Hinton High School being held down and tasered during the state duals tournament in Coralville in early February. During last night's (Monday) school board meeting Superintendent Ken Slater says the district met with parents to come up with suggestions to improve the district's handbook.

[dd0319hinton1]: 11: all Blackhaws" 1990

(as said)"We believe that, in the end, Hinton will be stronger and safer for all students. Now is the time for us to come together and work for the betterment of all students. We are all Blackhaws," Slater says. \*\*\*Slater says the new changes will likely be finalized this summer. Holly Keegan (key-gan) is one of the parents who met with administrators and told the board she wants to make sure a wrong is made right.

[dd0319hinton2]: 06: what it is" 1991

(as said)"There can be no more blame on the freshman parents, no more saying 'we're making a bigger deal than what it is," Keegan says. \*\*\*The high school principal and athletic director both said earlier this month they are stepping down at the end of the school year. And the school board accepted the resignation of head wrestling coach Casey Crawford last night. Crawford will stay on as a math teacher.

**SIoux CENTER CHRISTIAN SCHOOL BREAKS GROUND**

SIoux CENTER, IA - - Sioux Center Christian School held a groundbreaking for their Blazer Center Campus Expansion project today, part of the Ignite Campaign. The project adds a multi-purpose performance, athletic, and gathering space, along with six middle school classrooms. The initial cost estimate was \$14.7 million and was approved by the Sioux Center Christian School Society, but with increasing construction costs, school officials wanted to find financially efficient solutions to decrease the cost during the planning stages. Those efforts resulted in reducing the original estimate by one-million-dollars to \$13.7 million. The expansion is an effort to address the record and increasing enrollment at the school. Head of School Josh Bower says most of the growth is in the kindergarten through 2<sup>nd</sup> grades.

\*  
Ignite 1 :08 :have today"

1983

\*  
Bower says they have a responsibility to address the issues of using space responsibly.

\*  
Ignite 2 :08 :with them"

1984

School officials also want to meet the needs of the greater community. Bower says one church utilizes their gymnasium each week, and the Catholic Church uses it each Wednesday evening. Continuing that community partnership, Bower says the multi-purpose area, which will have two basketball courts, will be available to the community as well.

Sioux Center Mayor Dale Vander Berg, a graduate of Sioux Center Christian School talked about the value of education in Sioux Center and thanked Sioux Center Community Schools Superintendent Gary McEldowny, Dordt University President Dr. Erik Hoekstra, and Sioux Center Christian School leaders for their commitment to educational partnership within the community.

The project, which also includes new playground equipment, a lobby, a library refresh, and a kitchen remodel, should be complete and ready for use for the 2025/26 school year.

**ACCIDENT NEAR FAIRVIEW SERIOUSLY INJURES ONE PERSON, WHILE ANOTHER IS ARRESTED**

3/19/2024

FAIRVIEW, SD - - A Hudson, South Dakota woman was airlifted to a Sioux Falls hospital after an accident between Beloit, Iowa and Fairview, South Dakota, near Inspiration Hills on the Iowa side of the river on Monday.

According to the Sioux County Sheriff's Office, 71-year-old Sharon Kerschion of Hudson was driving a Buick Century northbound on A54B near 260th Street when a 38-year-old male passenger, who was experiencing a mental health condition, distracted her by grabbing the steering wheel. Kerschion lost control of the vehicle and it entered the west ditch where it came to rest on the D & I railroad tracks.

Kerschion was flown by helicopter from the accident location to Sanford Health in Sioux Falls, for treatment of serious injuries. The passenger was transported by Canton Ambulance to Sanford Health in Sioux Falls for treatment of his mental condition and minor injuries.

~~The Sioux County Sheriff's Office was assisted by the Fairview, SD Fire Department, Canton, SD Ambulance, Sanford ArMed, the Rock Valley Police Department, and the Lyon County Sheriff's Office.~~

The accident remains under investigation.

While investigating the accident, the Sioux County Sheriff's Office arrested 57-year-old William Hargett of Sioux Falls.

According to Sioux County Sheriff Jamie Van Voorst, Hargett, a friend of the occupant in the Buick driven by Kerschion, had been following the vehicle and witnessed the accident. While conducting the accident investigation, Hargett became disruptive with first responders and investigating officers.

Deputies suspected Hargett was under the influence of a controlled substance. A drug K-9 was requested and after a positive indication from the K-9, a THC vape was discovered in Hargett's vehicle.

Hargett was taken to the Sioux County Jail, where deputies allegedly discovered that Hargett introduced THC vapes and prescription medication he was not prescribed into the jail.

Hargett was charged with operating a motor vehicle while intoxicated, unlawful possession of prescription drugs, possession of marijuana, and introducing contraband into a controlled facility. The contraband charge is a class D felony, and Hargett could face up to five years in prison if convicted.

Sheriff Van Voorst says Drug Recognition Experts from the sheriff's office and the Rock Valley Police Department K-9 assisted in the investigation.

## 2024 TULIP FESTIVAL EXTRAVAGANZA REVEALS TULIP COURT COSTUMES, PARADE MARSHAL

3/20/2024

ORANGE CITY, Iowa – The annual Orange City Tulip Festival Extravaganza was held Wednesday, March 20, at Prairie Winds Event Center. The event featured a luncheon and program during which the 2024 Tulip Queen and Court costumes were revealed, and the 2024 parade marshal was introduced.

The Tulip Festival Steering Committee is pleased to honor Mark Van Ommeran as the parade marshal for the 83rd annual event. Mark, a graduate of MOC-FV, and his wife Becky have been part of the Orange City community since 1980. They opened and operated the Audio Video Appliance store for 14 years before selling the business. Mark then transitioned to a new role at the How-to Building Center in Sioux Center, where he dedicated his skills and expertise until his retirement in June of 2022.

Mark's involvement in the Tulip Festival spans nearly four decades, starting in 1983 when he first assisted with sound for the Night Show production of HMS Pinafore and the Dutch Dozen performances. He continued to run sound for these programs until 1996, a total of over 130 Dutch Dozen Shows. Since 1983, he has been a steadfast volunteer for the street sound crew, dedicating countless hours to tasks such as stringing microphone and speaker chords, repairing overhead wiring, and setting up and tearing down each day of the festival. Mark's contributions extend beyond technical support. He is a familiar face as the lead volunteer for parade announcers, a role he has held for the past 20 years.

For more information on Van Ommeran, and to see details on the 2024 Tulip Festival Costumes, see this story by clicking the news tab on our website, [siouxcountyradio.com](http://siouxcountyradio.com)

## ROCK VALLEY PRINCIPAL RECEIVES STATEWIDE RECOGNITION

ROCK VALLEY, IA - - Nicole Roder, high school principal in the Rock Valley Community School District, was a finalist for the 2024 Iowa Secondary Principal of the Year award sponsored by the School Administrators of Iowa. Roder and others in the community worked diligently to pass a bond to build a new high school and is always expressing how proud she is for the hard work her students and staff put in every day.

She is a graduate of the University of Northern Iowa and received her master's degree from Viterbo University. She has been a principal at Rock Valley Schools since the fall of 2009.

Nominated for the award by her peers, Nicole will be recognized by the association at its Annual Conference in August 2024, along with Vinton-Shellsburg High School Principal Matt Kingsbury who was recently selected as the recipient.

SAI, a statewide organization founded in 1987, represents more than 2,000 Iowa educational administrators. SAI's mission is to support, encourage and develop Iowa's educational leaders and learners.

# SIUXLAND ENERGY JOINS PARTNERSHIP TO HELP FARMERS GET PREMIUMS FOR PRODUCING CARBON INTENSITY CERTIFIED GRAIN

Washington, IA - - Siouxland Energy Cooperative of Sioux Center and Continuum Ag of Washington, Iowa, are joining forces to help farmers get potential premiums associated with Carbon Intensity (CI) Certified Grain. Continuum Ag will provide farmers the certification necessary to participate while Siouxland intends to be a buyer for the certified bushels. The goal is to offer premiums for certified grain and capitalize on the pending 45Z Clean Fuel Production Tax Credits, a significant initiative under the Inflation Reduction Act designed to encourage the production of clean transportation fuels, with a focus on reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Continuum Ag Founder and CEO Mitchell Hora, says they're looking forward to working with Siouxland Energy and their farmers to quantify on-farm CI Scores and build potential tax credit markets. Hora says farmers and biofuel manufacturers are each other's key partner to produce low-carbon fuels and the opportunities that creates.

This exploratory partnership is aimed at encouraging farmers to educate themselves, quantify their baseline CI Scores at TopSoil.Ag, and spread awareness of the potential opportunities ahead.

Siouxland Energy Grain Merchandiser Tom Edwards says Siouxland Energy Cooperative is looking forward to working with Continuum Ag to bring their producers to the table to capitalize on the pending 45Z opportunity. He says this is an incredible opportunity for American biofuels and he believes the collaboration can be instrumental as they work with farmers to help meet low carbon goals.



## ISU EXTENSION HOSTING VIRTUAL CHAT ON STRANGE ILLNESS IN DAIRY COWS

3/26/2024

ORANGE CITY, IA - - The Iowa State University Extension and Outreach Dairy Team is hosting a "Virtual Chat" with Dr. Phillip Jardon, to discuss the latest information on the mystery illness affecting dairy cows in the Southwest – tonight at 7 pm.

Knowledge on the illness is growing almost hourly, so this program is on short notice to keep producers and industry consultants informed with the most current, research-based information.

Dr. Jardon graduated from the Iowa State College of Veterinary Medicine. He completed his Master of Preventive Veterinary Medicine (MPVM) and Dairy Production Medicine Residency at UC-Davis.

Jardon has been in private practice and industry for 35 years with particular interest in transition cow diseases. He has worked as a Dairy Technical Consultant with Elanco Animal Health in California for the last eleven years and is currently a Dairy Extension Veterinarian at ISU.

Producers, dairy consultants, and industry reps are encouraged to attend the free virtual chat at 7 pm this evening. No registration is required.

Please click this URL to start or join.

<https://astate.zoom.us/j/4776808475?omn=97940843515>

password: 904903

## HIGHWAY 75 DETOUR TAKES MOTORISTS THROUGH SHELDON

SIoux CENTER, IA - - Many northwest Iowans are scratching their heads when they see the plan for this spring's detour of Highway 75 around Sioux Center — since it goes through Sheldon.

The City of Sioux Center released a detour route that is supposed to go into effect April 3. If you have no reason to stop in Sioux Center and you're heading south from Highway 18 at Perkins Corner, the detour has you instead turn left and go 18 miles to Highway 60 at Sheldon, then take Highway 60 to Highway 10 at Alton and take Highway 10 for nine miles back to Highway 75 at the Million Dollar Corner. Obviously, if your destination is Le Mars or points south, it would make more sense to stay on 60. But otherwise, the detour adds over 25 miles to your trip. Obviously, going north from Highway 10 at the Million Dollar Corner would just reverse the route.

DOT District Engineer Jessica Felix says the City of Sioux Center is in charge of the project.

\*  
Detour 1 1:06 :proposed detour route" 1965

\*  
That's Sioux Center City Manager Scott Wynja, he says they realize most people probably won't follow the signed detour, due either to being familiar with other roads in the area or what their GPS thinks is the best route.

\*  
Detour 2 :41 :in the community" 1966

He says if your destination is Sioux Center, it's a different story, as local traffic — that is, traffic within the part of the road that is detoured — including the entire city of Sioux Center — is fine to use Highway 75 until they are re-routed within Sioux Center.

Paving northbound lanes remains to be completed in Phase One of the project in the Walmart area. For Phase Two, the construction area begins at 13th Street South, moving north. The goal is to complete the reconstruction of the highway up to 2nd Street South by the end of this year.

MISSION: Providing Excellent Quality of Life and Municipal Services for our  
Growing Community through a Spirit of Progressive Cooperation

April 15, 3:30pm (Staff Reports)  
May 6, 3:30pm (Staff Reports)  
June 3, 4:00pm

### FUTURE MEETINGS

1. Public Input/Communication
2. Consent Agenda
  - Minutes of March 4, 2023
  - Bills
  - New Cigarette/Tobacco Permit – R Smoke Plus
  - Liquor License Renewal
  - Terrace View Event Center
  - Season Buffet Inc.
3. Load Control Change Out Approval
4. Electric Generation Discussion
5. Approve Sale of Property – Public Hearing(s) (SC-R-08-24) (SC-R-09-24)
6. Approve Sale of Property- Public Hearing(s) (SC-R-10-24) SC-R-11-24)
7. Approve Development Agreement – (SC-R-12-24)
8. Approve Development Agreement (SC-R-13-24)
9. Approve Development Agreement (SC-R-14-24)
10. Approve Vacating Easements (SC-R-15-24), (SC-R-16-24), (SC-R-17-24)
11. Set Hearing for sale of property – Bio Tech Park
12. Employee Ratification
13. Regional Surface Transportation - *May*
14. Set Public Hearing to Approve Budget
15. Other business
16. Adjourn

### AGENDA

3:35 PM (Staff Reports)  
4:00 PM Council Meeting

CITY OF SIOUX CENTER  
City Council Meeting  
March 27, 2024

*MISSION: Providing Excellent Quality of Life and Municipal Services for our  
Growing Community through a Spirit of Progressive Cooperation*

1. Public Hearing – Proposed Tax Levy for FY25 Budget
2. Adjourn

## **AGENDA**

**CITY OF SIOUX CENTER  
City Council Meeting  
March 27, 2024  
3:30 PM**

**BUSY CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

3/28/2024

SIOUX CENTER, IA - - The Sioux Center City Council approved the proposed Tax Levy for Fiscal Year 2025, then after receiving four staff reports, the Sioux Center City Council tackled a full meeting agenda Wednesday. On the agenda were discussions to dispose certain commercial plots of land to developers for new and expanding businesses in the community. Central Vet Clinic is planning to build a new facility in the Brookview Addition near Scooters. The plan will require selling the south lot and vacating the easement there. The council also approved an economic development agreement in the form of a partial tax rebate on a sliding scale over five years as Central Vet will also be adding employees and services. The Farmer's Coop Society will construct a retail facility that includes the processing and retail sales of specialty meats and cooking accessories, also in the Brookview Addition. A partial tax rebate was approved for that project as they will be paying for a good portion of cement work along the easement with another lot. A developer is planning construction of a Goodwill store on a lot adjacent to Snap Fitness to the north in the Westview First Addition which required a resolution to dispose of property for that development. RJ Mini Golf, an entertainment venue planned for the South Ridge Commercial Park, south of the Terrace View Events Center, also received an economic incentive in the form of a tax rebate on a sliding scale over five years. Representatives hope to be open at the end of summer.

The city council voted to vacate easements in three different properties allowing for two commercial projects in the Bio Tec Park on the north side, and one residential project on the south side of golf course.

Residents along 13<sup>th</sup> Ave. SE have voiced concerns over the speed limit on a stretch of that roadway. Most of 13<sup>th</sup> Ave. SE is 45mph, while a half-mile stretch between 9<sup>th</sup> Street SE and East First Street is 55 mph. The council agreed the speed limit should be consistent and discussed steps to make all of 13<sup>th</sup> Ave. SE 45mph.

After consulting with law enforcement, Sioux Center School officials, and after some research, the council decided not to approve a cigarette and tobacco permit to R Smoke Plus, who wants to build a stand-alone smoke shop that sells tobacco products in Sioux Center.

Discussion continued on whether Sioux Center should pursue the construction of a 12 Mega-Watt back-up electric generation plant. Missouri River Energy Services, from which Sioux Center gets its electrical power, has increased the upfront payment which makes the program more economically favorable. MRES will operate the plant that has an engineer's estimate of \$21 million, and Sioux Center will have access to the power in emergency situations. The city council voted to proceed with the process.

Finally, a public hearing has been set to approve the city's fiscal 2024/25 budget. That date is April 15, the next Sioux Center City Council meeting.



Weekly Public Affairs Program

Show # 2024-01

Total running time: 29:30 (with optional exit at 24:00)

Date aired: 1-6-24 Time Aired: \_\_\_\_\_

1. Steve Elk, Senior Automotive Data Analyst at Consumer Reports

Mr. Elk shared results of Consumer Reports' newly-released annual car reliability survey, which found that electric vehicle owners continue to report far more problems with their vehicles than owners of conventional cars or hybrids. He said that on average, EVs from the past three model years had 79 percent more problems than cars powered by internal combustion engines. He outlined the most common problems cited by EV owners, and the potential reasons behind this trend.

Issues covered: Electric Vehicles Consumer Matters

Length: 8:44

2. Mariah M. Kaimin, PhD, epidemiologist, Health Policy Researcher at RAND, a nonprofit research organization

Dr. Kaimin was the lead author of a Rand study that found that spending on mental health services for children and adolescents has risen by more than one-quarter since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, continuing to rise even as the use of telehealth plateaued. She explained why telehealth care for mental health filled a critical need for pediatric patients, but added that it may not be appropriate in some cases.

Issues covered: Mental Health Telehealth Youth Issues

Length: 8:41

3. Annie Korzen, social media personality, humorist, actor, author of "The Book of Annie: Humor, Heart, and Chutzpah from an Accidental Influencer"

Ms. Korzen explained how she accidentally became a viral star on Tik Tok in her 80s, why she enjoys interacting with younger people, and how she uses humor to cope with aging. She explained why she thinks younger people are starting to look to older women for wisdom and life instructions.

Issues covered: Aging Social Media

Length: 5:08



Weekly Public Affairs Program

Show # 2024-02

Total running time: 29:30 (with optional exit at 24:00)

Date aired: 1-13-23 Time Aired: \_\_\_\_\_

1. Annie Grace, recovering alcoholic, author of "This Naked Mind," founder of the This Naked Mind community

Ms. Grace shared her personal experience of overcoming alcohol addiction by asking herself why she drank so much and doing research on the effects of alcohol. She explained how alcohol affects the body and the brain, and how quitting alcohol can restore the natural pleasure system. She also advised people who want to quit alcohol to be compassionate with themselves, and to treat drinking as a habit that can be changed with the right approach.

Issues covered: Alcoholism

Length: 8:48

2. Nusrat Jung, D.Sc., Assistant Professor of Civil Engineering in the Lyles School of Civil Engineering at Purdue University

Prof. Jung led a study of Americans' typical morning grooming routines and found that several volatile chemicals are released when common hair care products are heated with flat irons or hair dryers. She said the chemicals linger in the air after use and may have dangerous effects on health. She recommends the use of a bathroom exhaust fan when using hair care products, and using the products less frequently.

Issues covered: Personal Health, Environment, Consumer Matters

Length: 8:39

3. Eric Gehrle, MD, Executive Medical Director of the American Red Cross

The Red Cross announced this week that they are experiencing an emergency blood shortage, with blood inventory at critically low levels. Dr. Gehrle explained the reasons behind the current shortage and how listeners to sign up to make a blood donation.

Issues covered: Blood Donations, Public Health

Length: 5:03



Weekly Public Affairs Program

Date aired: 1/20/24

Time Aired: \_\_\_\_\_

Total running time: 29:30 (with optional exit at 24:00)

Show # 2024-03

1. Jared Walczak, Vice President of State Projects, Tax Foundation

More and more homeowners are struggling as property values across the nation are rising rapidly, and property taxes are following suit. Mr. Walczak said typical property valuations have risen 30% to 40% over the past three years. He explained that at least some homeowners who are already grappling with high inflation may get a brief reprieve, because property taxes typically take one to three years to catch up to home prices.

Issues covered:  
Property Taxes  
Inflation  
Home Ownership

Length: 8:54

2. Satchin Panda, PhD, Professor in the Regulatory Biology Laboratory at the Salk Institute for Biological Studies

When and what we eat for dinner makes a significant difference in how we sleep. Prof. Panda explained how to determine the optimal time to have dinner. He said the most important factor in the dinner-time calculus is melatonin, the hormone that signals it's time to sleep. He also talked about the effect that highly processed food and carbohydrates have on sleep quality.

Issues covered:  
Personal Health  
Nutrition

Length: 8:29

3. Jas Booth, veteran, Founder of Final Salute, Inc, a non-profit organization that assists female veterans and their children who are struggling with homelessness

Ms. Booth shared her personal story of struggling with homelessness after her military career ended. She said her experience caused her to start Final Salute to help other women vets, especially those with children. She said her organization has helped more than 5,000 women veterans who are homeless or in domestic violence situations.

Issues covered:  
Homelessness  
Veterans' Concerns  
Domestic Violence

Length: 4:43





**Weekly Public Affairs Program**

Date aired: 1-27-24 Time Aired: \_\_\_\_\_

Total running time: 29:30 (with optional exit at 24:00)

Show # 2024-04

1. **Vijay Boyapati**, Bitcoin expert, author of "The Bullish Case for Bitcoin"

Mr. Boyapati explained the basics of what bitcoin is and why many investors have an interest in it. He explained the recent government approval that allows ordinary investors to purchase bitcoin through spot bitcoin exchange traded funds and why it will expose bitcoin to a much bigger retail audience. He also outlined the most common misconceptions about the digital currency.

**Issues covered:**  
**Digital Currencies**  
**Personal Finance**

**Length: 8:58**

2. **Laura Stack**, founder of Johnny's Ambassadors, a Colorado-based organization that aims to educate teens, parents, and communities about the dangers of today's high-THC marijuana

Mrs. Stack why she founded Johnny's Ambassadors, after her 19-year-old son Johnny died by suicide after he became psychotic from using dabs, which are a potent marijuana concentrate. She explained how today's marijuana and THC products are drastically different than that of years ago. She says parents need to cast aside what they think they know about the drug and recognize that marijuana causes brain damage and mental health issues in ways that other substances do not.

**Issues covered:**  
**Substance Abuse**  
**Parenting**

**Length: 8:15**

3. **Penelope Larsen**, researcher and PhD candidate in the School of Exercise Science, Sport & Health at Charles Sturt University, Bathurst, New South Wales, Australia

Hitting the gym at night won't keep you tossing and turning all night, contrary to popular belief. Ms. Larsen led a recent study that found that evening high-intensity cycling didn't ruin sleep and may even reduce appetite. She said study participants also seemed to have more energy when exercise occurred later in the day, which could also debunk the belief that working out first thing in the morning is the optimal time.

**Issues covered:**  
**Personal Health**

**Length: 5:01**



Weekly Public Affairs Program

Date aired: 2/3/24 Time Aired: \_\_\_\_\_

Show # 2024-05 Total running time: 29:30 (with optional exit at 24:00)

1. Rachel Slade, author of "Making It in America: The Almost Impossible Quest to Manufacture in the U.S.A. (And How It Got That Way)"

The US has fallen from the top spot, to now the 10th largest manufacturing economy in the world. Ms. Slade discussed how America can revive manufacturing and why it is so important. She explained why manufacturing is vital for the country's independence, economy and innovation. She also talked about the impact of the great resignation, the resurging role of unions, and the new priority for a work-life balance among workers.

Issues covered: Manufacturing Economy Government

Length: 8:43

2. Gary Taubes, journalist, author of "Rethinking Diabetes: What Science Reveals About Diet, Insulin, and Successful Treatments"

Diabetes affects one out of every nine Americans. Mr. Taubes believes that treatment approaches to diabetes need to change, with renewed focus on diet—particularly, fewer carbohydrates and more fat—over a reliance on insulin. He also criticized the role of the food industry in promoting unhealthy foods and influencing diabetes research. He said that the current diabetes epidemic is driven by overeating and obesity, and that the best way to prevent and treat diabetes is to avoid the poison, not take the antidote.

Issues covered: Personal Health Science

Length: 8:37

2. James Royal, analyst at Bankrate.com

Mr. Royal explained why Chat GPT and other artificial intelligences are very useful tools for financial planning and management. He outlined benefits and drawbacks of using AI for various tasks, like paying down debt, saving money, building a budget, and investing in the stock market. He noted that the key to using AI effectively is to ask the right questions and to understand how the AI's recommendations fit one's own financial goals and circumstances.

Issues covered: Personal Finance Artificial Intelligence

Length: 5:04



Weekly Public Affairs Program

Date aired: 2/10/24 Time Aired: \_\_\_\_\_

Total running time: 29:30 (with optional exit at 24:00)

Show # 2024-06

1. **Marie Buque, PhD, psychologist, author of "Break the Cycle: A Guide to Healing Intergenerational Trauma"**

Many Americans are living with the effects of trauma and long-term stress. Dr. Buque discussed scientific research that suggests that if trauma is not addressed, it can be genetically passed down from generation to generation, and even be transmitted to entire communities. She said most forms of abuse typically begin in childhood. She talked about therapeutic practices than can pass down strength instead of pain, thereby breaking the cycle.

**Issues covered:**  
Mental Health  
Child Abuse

**Length: 8:41**

2. **Greg Hammer, PhD, recently retired professor at Stanford University School of Medicine, pediatric intensive care physician, pediatric anesthesiologist, author of "GAIN Without Pain"**  
Despite the pandemic, US life expectancy has increased slightly in the past 20 years. Dr. Hammer discussed what he terms the tripod of health: sleep, exercise and nutrition, and the latest science behind all three. He also talked about recent research into the longevity effects of intermittent fasting, dietary supplements and mindfulness and meditation.

**Issues covered:**  
Personal Health  
Longevity

**Length: 8:35**

3. **Andreas Groehn, Director of the Berkeley Research Group**  
America's roads are in bad shape and getting more wear than ever. Mr. Groehn discussed ways that road repairs and improvements may be paid for in the future, as a growing number of electric vehicle owners sidestepped the gasoline taxes that currently finance road maintenance.  
**Issues covered:**  
Taxes  
Transportation Infrastructure

**Length: 5:00**



**Weekly Public Affairs Program**

Date aired: 2-17-24 Time Aired: \_\_\_\_\_

Show # 2024-07 Total running time: 29:30 (with optional exit at 24:00)

1. Bridget Freisthler, PhD, Professor in the College of Social Work at Ohio State University

Child abuse and neglect cases have been on the rise since the pandemic and its aftermath. Prof. Freisthler led a study of an alcohol control project in Sacramento. The program's purpose was to reduce alcohol-related problems in two neighborhoods in the city, but it discovered an unexpected byproduct: in one of the neighborhoods, total entries into foster care were reduced by nearly 12%. She discussed factors behind child abuse and why she believes additional research is needed before trying to duplicate the program elsewhere.

Issues covered:

Alcohol Abuse  
Child Abuse & Neglect  
Foster Care

Length: 9:27

2. Megan Henly, PhD, Research Assistant Professor in the Institute on Disability at the University of New Hampshire

Older Americans, low-income workers, and people with disabilities are over-represented in rural parts of the US. But enrollment in federal and state programs in these regions tends to be low. Prof. Henly discussed the numerous barriers to getting information about, and enrolling in, programs like Social Security disability and retirement benefits, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program and the Medicaid health insurance program, and what can be done to reduce the problem.

Issues covered:

Government Assistance  
Disabilities  
Rural Concerns  
Aging

Length: 7:46



Weekly Public Affairs Program

Date aired: 12/24/24 Time Aired: \_\_\_\_\_

Total running time: 29:30 (with optional exit at 24:00)

Show # 2024-07

1. **Jeremy Nobel, MD, MPH**, founder of the nonprofit Foundation for Art & Healing, author of "Project UnLonely: Healing Our Crisis of Disconnection"

Dr. Nobel said loneliness has increased dramatically since the pandemic. He outlined the three types of loneliness. He also discussed the negative health consequences—both mental and physical—of loneliness or isolation. He said the answer to loneliness is connection through activities like creative expression and serving other people. He believes it all begins with being aware of loneliness and having the courage to address it.

Length: 9:33

Issues covered:  
Mental Health  
Personal Health

2. **Elizabeth Comen, MD**, Medical Oncologist specializing in breast cancer at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, Assistant Professor of Medicine at Weill Cornell Medical College, author of "All in Her Head: The Truth and Lies Early Medicine Taught Us About Women's Bodies and Why It Matters Today"

Dr. Comen said centuries of medical care often dismissed women's health problems as hysteria, but it is now often termed anxiety. She said 80% of autoimmune diseases are found in women but the illnesses are often not properly diagnosed, and research in the area is woefully lacking. She also said concussions or even strangulations are often not recognized as domestic abuse by emergency room physicians. She offered three tips for women to advocate for themselves.

Length: 7:47

Issues covered:  
Women's Health  
Domestic Abuse  
Mental Health

3. **Stephanie L. Bonne, MD**, Assistant Professor of Surgery, Director of the Hospital Violence Intervention Program at Rutgers New Jersey Medical School

Dr. Bonne led a study of injuries caused by glass-topped tables. She said the furniture causes thousands of injuries each year, many requiring significant surgeries and long hospital stays. She said the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission requires tempered glass for products like doors and car windshields but it is voluntary for horizontal surfaces.

Length: 5:01

Issues covered:  
Home Safety  
Government Regulation  
Consumer Matters



Weekly Public Affairs Program

Date aired: 3/2/24 Time Aired: \_\_\_\_\_

Total running time: 29:30 (with optional exit at 24:00)

Show # 2024-09

1. **James E. Rogers, PhD**, Director of Food Safety Research and Testing, Acting Head of Product Safety Testing at Consumer Reports

Plasticizers--used to make plastic more flexible and more durable--are so widely used that today, they show up inside almost every American's body. Dr. Rogers talked about Consumer Reports' recent tests, which found that nearly all foods contain phthalates and bisphenols, often at very high levels. He talked about the potential health consequences, and offered steps for consumers to try to reduce their exposure.

Length: 8:14

Issues covered:

Food Safety

Personal Health

Consumer Matters

2. **Harvey Miller, PhD**, Professor of Geography at Ohio State University

Prof. Miller led a recent study that examined the circumstances behind who is found at fault when cars hit pedestrians in an urban area. He found that pedestrians were more likely to be blamed when they were crossing busy highways where crosswalks were few and far between in congested downtown areas, where there were more marked intersections with pedestrian crossings, drivers were more likely to be found at fault. He believes that street and highway designs should be re-imagined, to put a greater emphasis pedestrian safety.

Length: 8:54

Issues covered:

Traffic Fatalities

Government

3. **Marilyn Horta, PhD**, Research Scientist in the Social-Cognitive and Affective Development Lab in the Department of Psychology at the University of Florida

Each year, older adults lose more than \$28 billion to financial scams targeting the elderly. Nearly three-quarters of that money is stolen by people the elderly adult knows -- people they trust. Prof. Horta shared results of her study that found that older adults have a harder time overcoming their first impressions of people's trustworthiness when that trust is violated. She offered suggestions for seniors to recognize changes in behavior in relatives or friends who may not have their best interests at heart.

Length: 5:03

Issues covered:

Scams/Crime

Senior Citizens



Weekly Public Affairs Program

Date aired: 3/9/24 Time Aired: \_\_\_\_\_

Show # 2024-10

Total running time: 29:30 (with optional exit at 24:00)

1. **Angela Fagerlin, Ph.D.**, Chair of Population Health Sciences at University of Utah Health, Research Scientist with the VA Salt Lake City Health System's Informatics Decision-Enhancement and Analytic Sciences (IDEAS) Center for Innovation

Dr. Fagerlin was the senior author of a study that found that 60 to 80 percent of people surveyed are not honest with their doctors about information that could be relevant to their health. She explained why people are sometimes reluctant to be truthful with their doctors, and why that can be a dangerous practice.

**Issues covered:** Personal Health

Length: 7:29

2. **Teresa Gil, PhD**, psychotherapist, author of "Women Who Were Sexually Abused As Children: Mothering, Resilience and Protecting the Next Generation"

Dr. Gil estimates that there are approximately 21 million mothers in America who experienced childhood sexual abuse. She discussed how that trauma may affect their own parenting. She talked about the value of strong mother-daughter relationships, spiritual beliefs, and therapy in coping.

**Issues covered:** Sexual Abuse, Parenting, Mental Health

Length: 9:40

3. **Jennifer Emond, PhD**, member of the Cancer Control Research Program at Dartmouth College's Norris Cotton Cancer Center, Assistant Professor in the Department of Biomedical Data Science, Geisel School of Medicine

Advertising works, and Dr. Emond's study found that kids who were exposed to TV ads for high-sugar cereals were more likely to subsequently eat the cereals they had seen advertised. She talked about the effect this may have on diet quality and childhood obesity, and offered suggestions to parents on how to maintain control of TV watching, particularly for small children.

**Issues covered:** Parenting, Obesity, Consumer Matters

Length: 4:51



**Weekly Public Affairs Program**

Date aired: 3/15/24 Time Aired: \_\_\_\_\_

Show # 2024-11 Total running time: 29:30 (with optional exit at 24:00)

1. **David Rein, PhD**, Senior Fellow at the National Opinion Research Center at the University of Chicago

Dr. Rein led a recent study of hearing loss rates, and found that where a person lives and their occupation have a surprising impact. He found that the occupations most associated with hearing loss besides mining were in retail and restaurant settings. Rates of hearing loss are higher among men, non-Hispanic Whites, and residents of rural areas, and increases significantly starting at age 35. He talked about the reasons behind the study's findings, along with the societal stigma of wearing hearing aids.

Issues covered:  
**Personal Health**  
**Aging**

Length: 8:50

2. **Christy Faith**, author of "Homeschool Rising: Shattering Myths, Finding Courage, and Opting Out of the School System"

Ms. Faith is a work-from-home mom who also homeschools her children. She discussed the rapid growth of homeschooling in the aftermath of the pandemic, and the reasons families choose to do it. She talked about the wide array of private and public resources available to homeschoolers, and the biggest challenges families face. She also addressed concerns about socialization for children who are homeschooled.

Issues covered:  
**Education**  
**Parenting**

Length: 8:31

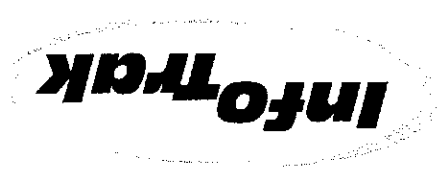
3. **Marcee White, MD**, Board-Certified Pediatrician, Medical Advisor for Safe Kids Worldwide, Medical Director of the Children's National Mobile Health Program

Accidental medicine poisoning sends a child under 6 to the emergency room every nine minutes, and every 12 days, a child dies. Dr. White outlined most common poisoning scenarios and the steps that parents of small children must take to avoid a tragedy.

Issues covered:  
**Child Safety**  
**Parenting**

Length: 5:04





Weekly Public Affairs Program

Date aired: 3/23/24 Time Aired: \_\_\_\_\_

Show # 2024-12 Total running time: 29:30 (with optional exit at 24:00)

1. Michael Redlener, MD, Associate Professor of Emergency Medicine at Icahn School of Medicine of Mount Sinai

Dr. Redlener led a study that found that emergency medical service (EMS) systems are not consistently providing optimal care, based on new national standards of quality, for patients who call 911. He explained the significant differences in EMS care he found in comparing urban, suburban, and rural services. He explained why the unnecessary use of lights and sirens, which he found is common in rural areas, is a dangerous practice.

Issues covered: Emergency Services Public Health Government Length: 8:12

2. Chelsey Goodan, academic tutor and mentor, author of "Underestimated: The Wisdom and Power of Teenage Girls"

Teenage girls struggle with a wide variety of issues. Ms. Goodan outlined the most common things that concern teenage girls, and why they are reluctant to share them with their parents. She offered advice to parents to improve dialogue with their daughters, through listening and asking non-judgmental questions. She also talked about the value of sports in helping girls find their voices and power.

Issues covered: Teenager Concerns Parenting Mental Health Length: 9:12

3. Jeff Ostrowski, Analyst at Bankrate.com

A recent legal settlement may change how Americans buy and sell homes. Mr. Ostrowski explained how the changes may affect commission expenses and home prices. He said the changes will take effect in July 2024, and while there may be a learning curve for consumers, the end result will be greater transparency, and the ability to negotiate with real estate agents to reduce commission costs.

Issues covered: Home Ownership Consumer Matters Legal Issues Length: 4:58



Weekly Public Affairs Program

Date aired: 3/30/24 Time Aired: \_\_\_\_\_

Total running time: 29:30 (with optional exit at 24:00)

Show # 2024-13

1. Charles L. Marohn Jr, land-use planner, municipal engineer, author of "Escaping the Housing Trap: The Strong Towns Response to the Housing Crisis"

Housing costs have risen dramatically in the past few years. Mr. Marohn talked about the tension between housing as a financial product versus basic shelter. He advocated for a new approach that can rapidly produce housing on a local scale in response to local needs. He said that regulations, financial incentives, and cultural expectations often undermine organic efforts of urban renewal, and that approaches should be changed to allow neighborhoods to undergo incremental change over time.

Issues covered:

Housing  
Community Development  
Government

Length: 8:53

2. Sanja Jelic, MD, critical care medicine specialist and sleep researcher at Columbia University Vagelos College of Physicians and Surgeons

Issues covered:  
Personal Health

Obstructive sleep apnea affects about 25% of adults, and it often goes untreated. Dr. Jelic discussed the condition and the most common treatment, CPAP machines. She has led several studies that have determined that, contrary to long-held medical beliefs, the machines do not lower a patient's risk of heart disease, which is about two to three times higher than average. She said obesity is by far the biggest risk factor for sleep apnea. She noted that a recent study said the worldwide estimate of those with sleep apnea totals roughly 1 billion, compared to 1.2 billion with high blood pressure.

Length: 8:30

3. Pam Mueller, graduate student, Department of Psychology, Princeton University

Issues covered:  
Education

Laptops, tablets and other electronic devices are commonplace in today's classrooms. But Ms. Mueller co-authored a study that found that taking notes by typing, rather than writing, interferes with students' ability to process and remember information. Her research indicated that students who take notes with pen and paper recall more material and perform significantly better in class.

Length: 4:51