

Quarterly Issues/Programs List For KHBT Quarter 1 - 2020

Issue Description	Program Segment	Date	Time	Duration	Description of Segment
Tourism an important tool to rural Iowa	News	10/2/2020	7, 8, 12, 5	:90	<p>Dakota City, IA – The regional tourism industry president is urging the rural regions of the Iowa to push back against larger city take overs.</p> <p>During the most recent meeting of the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors they heard from the President of the Western Iowa Tourism Region Andy Milam. During the allotted time of the agenda he spoke passionately about the value of tourism in Iowa, especially in the rural areas.</p> <p>He says tourism is important to areas like Humboldt because it creates interest from nonresidents in the area. When a visitor comes to a small city like Humboldt and stays for a short while it can create further interest to return to the area or even a desire to move to the area. Milam says when a city focus a lot on its economic development by doing large scale downtown revitalization projects or building new facilities like a recreation center it can help create further interest. However if nonresidents don't see them they don't serve their full purpose of bringing people in.</p> <p>He says that there are two types of entities in the industry for Iowa. The first is known as a Convention Based Bureau (CBB), which are the larger cities that can host larger events. The second type is the attraction based, which is the smaller more rural areas and Humboldt with attractions like the Frank Gotch statue falls in this category.</p> <p>Milam has two primary concerns he wanted to bring to the supervisors attention. The first is that all of Iowa is bad at promoting tourism. The state currently ranks 42 in the country in tourism, which is really out of 48 states because two don't promote tourism at all. The second issue is that the CBB's are attempting to take over the industry in the state. He says that despite 74 of Iowa's county's being opposed the larger cities are attempting to form a new Iowa tourism organization known as the Iowa Travel Industry Partners (ITIP). Under this group all tourism funds would get controlled and distributed by the larger cities. He says rural Iowa will be the losers under this system.</p> <p>Milam says the eastern region has already approved ITIP but the central and western regions are strongly opposed. He will continue to talk with the states head of tourism and work with local economic developers to improve the value of tourism in the rural communities.</p> <p>The supervisors expressed their appreciation for Milam bringing the issues to their attention and asked he keep them informed going forward.</p>
Sno-Skimmers returning as snowmobile trail groomers	News	10/8/2020	7, 8, 12, 5	:60	<p>Dakota City, IA – The Humboldt County Sno-Skimmers are going to once again provide snowmobile trail grooming in the country right of ways.</p> <p>During a meeting of the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors they were present with an application and permit for the snowmobile trail groomer to work in the county's secondary road right of way for the 2020-21 snowmobile season. The application was presented by Engineer Ben Loots.</p> <p>Loots says that this is the same agreement that the county has done with Sno-Skimmers in the past. He says there has never been any issue between the county and the snowmobile trail groomers before. The recommendation was to approve the application as present.</p> <p>The agreement says that Sno-Skimmers will be required to follow all Iowa Department of Natural Resources rules and regulations. The trailer groomers will also be required to take in "serious regard" to the safety of the traveling public and adjacent property owners. It also sets the terms of the agreement to go into effect on Nov. 1 of 2020 and last until April 30 of 2021.</p> <p>The agreement to work in the country right of ways to provide essential grooming to the snowmobile routes in the county was approved by the board as present.</p>
HHS Volleyball helps raise funds for breast cancer awareness	News	10/15/2020	7, 8, 12, 5	:45	<p>Humboldt, IA – Humboldt County Memorial Hospital is thanking the local high school for their donation in support of breast cancer awareness.</p> <p>In a release from the HCMH Foundation Director Mardi Ratzlaff she says the foundation is thankful for the "generous donation" from the Humboldt High School volleyball team. The \$340 dollars raised by the team went to Humboldt County's Breast Cancer Awareness efforts at the hospital.</p> <p>The funds were raised by the team during the PINK OUT match hosted at the school on Thursday, Oct. 8. The HCMH Foundation wishes the girls continued success this year. They wish the Wildcats luck and thank them for being the "shining stars" that they are.</p>
Purple Thursday supporting domestic violence awareness	News	10/21/2020	7, 8, 12, 5	:60	<p>Des Moines, IA – The Iowa Secretary of State is encouraging all Iowans to join him in helping raise awareness of domestic violence.</p> <p>On Thursday, Oct. 22, Secretary Pate is asking that Iowans join him in participating in "Purple Thursday" to help raise awareness about domestic violence. The day is an annual event where people across the country wear purple in recognition of Domestic Violence Awareness Month.</p> <p>Along with participating in Purple Thursday, Secretary Pate is encouraging Iowans to share the stories of survivors of domestic violence. The goal is to bring the community together to lift the voices of victims and survivors.</p> <p>Last year all 99 Iowa counties experienced at least one domestic violence conviction. Secretary Pate's Office administers the Safe at Home address confidentiality program to help protect survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, trafficking and stalking. The program provides a substitute address on public records and mail forwarding services to keep the information out of the hands of abusers.</p> <p>For more information or to request Safe at Home program materials contact safeathome@iowa.gov or visit safeathome.iowa.gov.</p>

Humboldt City Council approves police chief job description	News	10/27/2020	7, 8, 12, 5	:60	<p>Humboldt, IA – The City of Humboldt is looking for a police chief following the approval of the job description.</p> <p>During the most recent meeting of the City Council for the City of Humboldt they were presented with the job description to approve. City Administrator Travis Goedken presented it to council and shares details with KHBT.</p> <p>He says that updating the job description started with looking at the description they used in 2010. One of the biggest changes that were made was taking out the responsibility of monitoring and maintaining traffic lights in the city. The city administrator says this is because it makes sense for the streets department to continue that and because the downtown lights have been replaced with stop signs.</p> <p>The description says that a qualified candidate will need to have a minimum of a two year associate degree in law enforcement or related college degree and five years increasingly responsible managerial experience in municipal law enforcement work; or an equivalent combination in which experience may be substituted for education at the rate of three year of experience of education. They will also need other skills that pertain to the position.</p> <p>Goedken says that they discussed a \$70,000 to \$75,000 salary which depends on the qualifications of the candidate. Council approved the description as present.</p>
ServePro tabbed to clean Humboldt County polling locations following election	News	11/2/2020	7, 8, 12, 5	:60	<p>Dakota City, IA – The Humboldt County Auditor is bringing in a third party cleaning service to have all polling places properly cleaned following the election.</p> <p>During a recent meeting of the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors Auditor Peggy Rice told the board she has found a cleaning service to come in and sanitize all polling places. She says the company ServePro will be going to every polling place in the county on Wednesday, Nov. 4 to perform the service.</p> <p>The auditor told the board she really wanted to make sure they returned to the polling places to peak cleanliness. A lot of cities have been generous enough to allow the county to use locations in the city for no cost. She says "the least we could do" is return it in as good of, if not better, condition than before the election.</p> <p>Rice also says there has been a few changes in polling locations. There is no longer a polling place in Thor and Thor residents will have to come to Dakota City to vote at the VFW. In Bode the polling place is not going to be at City Hall but instead it is now at the community center. In the City of Humboldt those who normally vote at City Hall will go to the community center, located in the old Senior Center.</p> <p>The quote from ServePro for the cleaning and sanitation of the polling locations is for \$1,743.80. The cost for the service will be completely covered by grants received by the Humboldt County Auditors Office.</p> <p>All polling places in Humboldt County will open up at 7 am tomorrow, Tuesday, and be open until 9 pm.</p>
Iowa 4-H Foundation welcomes Humboldt high school senior as newest member	News	11/6/2020	7, 8, 12, 5	:60	<p>Ames, IA - The Iowa 4-H Foundation is welcoming in a new member of their Board of Trustees</p> <p>Aneisha Sritharan is an active 4-H member in Humboldt County and will be serving as a youth trustee, according to a press release from the Iowa 4-H Foundation. The announcement was made during the trustees' annual meeting on October 16th.</p> <p>Sritharan began her journey attending Clover Kids events and has served as the president and secretary of her club. She is a high school senior and plans to attend medical school. She says that the skills she has learned from 4-H are "invaluable and priceless to our future generation." Sritharan will join a 25-member board that provides the "vision and fiscal oversight for the Iowa 4-H Foundation."</p> <p>Emily Saveraid, executive director for the foundation, says she is always excited to welcome new trustees to the team and each bring "different experiences that continue to better the organization."</p> <p>More information about 4-H is available at iowa4hfoundation.org.</p>
Sleiter urges community to do their part in this fight	News	11/12/2020	7, 8, 12, 5	:90	<p>Humboldt, IA – Humboldt County Memorial Hospital's Chief Executive Officer is expressing her appreciation and continuing to encourage the community to do their part.</p> <p>In a press release of HCMH CEO Michelle Sleiter she says that she "personally wanted to take a moment to reach out to our community and help everyone understand the current/critical state of COVID-19 in Humboldt County." The virus continues to impact everyone's lives and is putting a significant strain on the hospital.</p> <p>She says the staff is still fighting every day for the people of Humboldt County but encourages the community to continue to do their part. "Please understand how important this is and the role that you play in helping us slow the spread" Sleiter says. This including wearing a mask or face covering, washing and/or sanitizing hands frequently, staying home when sick and practicing social distancing by limiting the size of groups and activities.</p> <p>Sleiter writes that they are doing their part for every patient and to be there when they are need but they can't do it alone. "Please be mindful of the decisions you make and how this could potentially impact others, especially the most vulnerable."</p> <p>The hospital CEO also provides a special reminder to parents. She asks them to be mindful of the activities their children are participating outside of school. While most children testing positive for COVID-19 are experiencing mild to no symptoms they do know they continue to spread the virus silently. This spread is affecting the most vulnerable.</p> <p>HCMH CEO Michelle Sleiter finishes by saying "on behalf of HCMH and every employee, thank you for your constant support and encouraging words, patience and choosing HMCH to be your healthcare partner. We will continue to fight this fight beside you one day at a time."</p> <p>For more information about COVID-19 in Humboldt County, HCMH services or employment opportunities visit humboldthospital.org.</p>

Local schools looking for community members to help out and become a substitute

News
11/16/2020 7, 8, 12, 5

2:00
Humboldt, IA – The Humboldt Community School District is looking for the community to step up in a big way to help fill a big need.

These are trying times for the schools as they work to navigate the uncertain climates caused by COVID-19. The ongoing pandemic has created many shortages and for schools this includes substitutes.

Superintendent of Schools Jim Murray says this is a need for Humboldt CSD and that it is easier for community members to become a sub this year. "We are in dire need of substitutes" he says. This is at all levels from the class room, to bus drivers, cooks, custodians and associates. Murray says that Iowa Governor Kim Reynolds has loosened the restrictions to become a sub. One big one is that someone with 60 hours of college credit or an associate's degree now qualifies an individual to get their sub authorization license.

The superintendent confirms that there is a lot of opportunity for different groups to substitute. He says "Certainly we'd welcome back any retired staff members from the Humboldt Community School District or surrounding districts." The age for someone to be substitute eligible has been lowered from 21 to 20 this year. Para educators can also substitute as teachers this year. Murray says that the governor has also lifted the time restrictions that used to be set at 30 days. He doesn't anticipate subs needing to work for more than 30 days.

Murray says that any subs who walk into the schools will be given opportunity to succeed. "Of course it's a great environment to work in." Subs will get a chance to directly impact the lives of students. "In these COVID times it's kind of all hands on deck" the superintendent says in hopes that members of the community will come in to help them out. He says there is always support from the administrative team and staff to help give substitutes the chance to succeed.

The Humboldt CSD encourages any community who is interested in becoming a substitute for the school year to look into doing so. Murray confirms that recently retired educators can substitute this year without risking their retirement benefits.

The Humboldt and Twin Rivers schools continue to assure that anyone who comes into their halls will be kept safe during these uncertain times. Their number one priority has and always will be the students.

City officials remind community of winter parking ordinance

News
11/19/2020 7, 8, 12, 5

2:00
Humboldt, IA – The snow is approaching and the City of Humboldt is preparing for the winter parking ordinance to go into effect.

On Dec. 1 code of ordinance pertaining winter parking will go into effect in the City of Humboldt. City Administrator Travis Goedken reminds the public that when the ordinance is in effect parking on any city streets is prohibited between the hours of 3-7 am whether it is snowing or not.

Additionally the ordinance allows the city to take extra measures in case the streets need to be car free at any time during the day. Goedken says the city has an "additional provision" where they can call a "snow emergency." He says they try to give as much notice as possible when calling for a snow emergency based on forecasts. When the city calls for a snow emergency parking is prohibited on city streets at all times. In the case of a sudden snow fall that requires an emergency to be called residents are given four hours to move their cars.

The city administrator reminds the community that they are also responsible for keeping their sidewalks clear. "Residents are required to remove snow and ice from their sidewalk within 24 hours after the snow or ice ends" Goedken says. For commercial businesses the limit is 12 hours. The city administrators warns that failure to remove the snow and ice during the allotted time will result in city billing as a result of them providing the service.

For removing snow and ice Goedken says that residents may use salt or ice-melt though warns it harms the concrete sidewalks. For the downtown area he warns against using corrosive materials. "That brand new concrete, it's extremely important that salt not go on that." The city administrator says that concrete going through its first winter is very "susceptible to damage." The concrete needs the time to fully cure. He also requests that the businesses with concrete that was done over a year ago still use sand provided by the city. "Salt is a corrosive environment. We want this sidewalk to last as long as possible."

With the hazardous winter weather approaching with the coming season the City of Humboldt wants to assure they can keep everyone safe. This is why the ask for clear roads to clean and everyone to do their part to assure walking space is clear of ice.

The winter parking ordinance goes into effect on Dec. 1 and will last until March 31, 2021.

Humboldt County follows the governors lead, masks required at all public building

News
11/24/2020 7, 8, 12, 5

:45
Dakota City, IA – Humboldt County is now requiring masks for all who enter the county buildings.

During the meeting of the County's Board of Supervisors on Monday, Nov. 23 they made the official motion. This motion is in accordance with Iowa Governor Kim Reynold's proclamation from Monday, Nov. 16.

As previously reported by KHBT many of the county offices at the courthouse in Dakota City are going to operate by appointment only. These offices include the auditors', assessors' and recorders' offices. The treasurers' office will continue to allow walk in traffic. It is encouraged that any business needing to be done that can be done through a no contract method to be done so.

The current proclamation from the governor is in effect until Dec. 10 and the county supervisors will continue to watch and follow the lead of the state officials.

Humota Movie Theater launches an online fundraiser

News

11/30/2020 7, 8, 12, 5

2:00

Humboldt, IA – Humboldt's local movie theater is asking the community to join in a fundraiser as they look to keep going during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Humota Movie Theater in Downtown Humboldt will begin to host an online auction today, Monday, Nov. 30 as they strive to keep their doors open during these uncertain times. The theaters General Manager Sarah VanOrd talks about the auction with KHBT.

The auction can be found on 32auctions.com/humotatheater. VanOrd says that the theater has over 80 items available for bid. The majority of the items up for bid are donated by some of the local businesses who are looking to support the Humota.

She says she knows times are tough for a lot of people across the board. "We're very grateful that so many people were willing to step up and help us out" the general manager says.

VanOrd says that about a year ago the community fought to revive the local theater and they are very grateful for their efforts. "Of course, we didn't see a pandemic coming" she says. As a whole the theater industry is struggling due to the lack of new content being produced. "Our whole industry is barely staying afloat."

The Humota is a nonprofit. Vanord says they rely heavily on the community to "rally" with them. The local public can help them "weather the storm" so they can "come back stronger than ever" once things return to normal.

The efforts are just about the physical theater itself but also the people who work there. VanOrd says she during "these hard times" it can be very difficult to find a job. "Especially a job you like" when students can balance their school day with employment. "Where you can actually kind of hang out, watch movies, talk about the different films coming out and things like that" says the general manager. She knows the kids that work there enjoy coming to work, especially during the stressful times.

The Humota's online fundraiser opened today and will open until Dec. 14. Check out all the items at 32auctions.com/humotatheater.

West River Meats returning to Rutland in 2021

News

12/3/2020 7, 8, 12, 5

2:00

Rutland, IA – After more than five years a meat locker is returning to Rutland as construction continues to be underway.

In February of 2015 Thul's West River Meats was brought down by a fire. At the time the decision was against rebuilding. Instead they decided to build a catering business and restaurant. West River Meats will be making a comeback and Don Thul talks with KHBT about the revival of the meat locker.

West River Meats will be returning to Rutland as a 60' by 40' extension joins the current 24' by 40' building that houses Thul's West River Catering. Thul says that the extension will consist of the harvest floor, pre-chill cooler and carcass cooler. The part that was West River Catering will be the sausage kitchen and further processing room. There they will make all of their value added products.

Five years ago the decision was to not rebuild but Thul says that present circumstances has led to a change in the thought process of the producers and consumers. He says that when the COVID-19 pandemic causes packing plants to shut down it caused a lot of problems. For the producer they struggled to get their livestock to the market. It caused "adverse situations for the consumer due to supply and demand" results in meat prices to double or triple. Thul predicts there will be a "boom" in small locker plants and people getting their meat directly from producers.

Don Thul has 18 years of experience working for Iowa Beef Processor. He says that while the big packaging plants do everything to assure the product is safe, mistakes can happen when a large number of people are involved in the process. "So now what you're going to see is you're going to see the livestock come directly from the farmer to the processor" says Thul. He says West River Meats will have four employees plus himself packaging a product for a specific individual. "So instead of numerous people working on your meat, you're going to have just us five people in the meat locker."

Thul says that the plan was to have West River Meat open by Dec. 15 but they were delayed due to weather. Now he plans to open on or around the first of the year.

Producers who are interested in partnering with West River Meat are encouraged to contact Don Thul at 515-368-3022.

Arrest made following a Monday night police chase

News

12/8/2020

7, 8, 12, 5

:90

Dakota City, IA – The Humboldt County Sheriff's Office releases the details of a police vehicle pursuit that occurred in both Humboldt and Webster Counties.

The information come via a press release:

On December 7, 2020 (Monday), at approximately 8:56 PM, the Fort Dodge Police Department attempted to initiate a traffic stop on a maroon 2003 Hummer H2 in the city limits of Fort Dodge. The vehicle did not stop, and proceeded into northern Webster County. Deputies with the Webster County Sheriff's Office then joined to assist in the pursuit.

The pursuit continued into southwestern Humboldt County. The Humboldt County Sheriff's Office then joined. Two Humboldt County Sheriff's deputies deployed their stop sticks at various locations southwest of Humboldt three times. The Hummer H2 did strike the stop sticks each time, but continued to flee.

The pursuit continued into the city limits of Humboldt on Hwy #169. The Humboldt Police Department joined the pursuit. On Hwy #169 near Oak Ave, a fourth set of stop sticks was deployed by another Humboldt County deputy. The Hummer H2 struck these stop sticks as well.

By now, the driver's side front tire on the Hummer H2 was deflated and was riding on the rim. The pursuit continued through Humboldt and into Dakota City. In the 500 block of 2nd St N in Dakota City, the driver stopped the vehicle and attempted to flee on foot. At 9:25 PM, he was tasered and quickly apprehended. He was subsequently transported to the Humboldt County Memorial Hospital and was treated and released for minor injuries sustained in his capture.

The driver, Troy Habhab, 55, of Dakota City was arrested on numerous charges by the Fort Dodge Police Department relating to the pursuit. In addition, Habhab had an outstanding arrest warrant from Humboldt County stemming from an incident on November 29, 2020 in Dakota City. The arrest Warrant was for driving while license denied or revoked and interference with official acts. The total bond on that warrant is \$1,300 cash only.

Habhab was transported to the Webster County Jail. He will be transferred back to Humboldt County at a later date.

All defendants should be considered innocent until proven guilty.

Humboldt County misses on BUILD grant, will still do impact studies

News

12/15/2020

7, 8, 12, 5

:60

By: Donovan W. Mann – donovanm@977thebolt.com

Dakota City, IA – The Humboldt County Board of Supervisors are approving studies to be done to better the odds of getting grant funding for a potential Murray Bridge project.

As previously reported by KHBT the county applied for federal funding to help fund a project with the bridge located in Avery Township. County Engineer Ben Loots confirms to KHBT that the project was not selected for this year's funding opportunity.

Part of the process was studies needed to be done to get proper conservation and environmental clearances. Loots told the board of supervisors during recent discussions that to have the project done it will be required because they project effects wetlands.

The engineer informed that board that it was recommended to him that they have the studies done whether they get the grant or not. Because the initial study doesn't have an expiration date it can be done now and updated later. The supervisors also pointed out that the cost of the study could be significantly more expensive down the road.

Following the discussions the supervisor agreed that it was best to go ahead and have the studies done.

The grant in question is the Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) grant. Loots says the county will apply again next year after not being selected this year.