

Red Oak Schools offering summer lunch

Red Oak Community School District is participating in the Summer Food Service Program. Meals will be provided to all children without charge and are the same for all children regardless of race, color, national origin, sex, age or disability, and there will be no discrimination in the course of the meal service. Meals will be provided, at a first come, first serve basis, at the sites and times as follows:

Closed to the public. Open to children attending the Summer Enrichment Program only:

- Inman Elementary through June 28.
- Open to the public for all children 18 and under: Red Oak Jr./Sr. High School through Aug. 9.**

- Breakfast: 7:30 a.m. to 8 a.m.
- Lunch: 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
- Non-congregate meals will be available for pickup on Fridays beginning on June 28, through Aug. 9. Seven days of breakfasts and lunches: 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

In accordance with federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex (including gender identity and sexual orientation), disability, age, or

reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity. Program information may be made available in languages other than English. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication to obtain program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotope, American Sign Language), should contact the responsible state or local agency that administers the program or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339.

To file a program discrimination complaint, a Complainant should complete a Form AD-3027, USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form which can be obtained online at: usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/USDA-OASCR%20P-Complaint-Form-0508-0002-508-11-28-17Fax2Mail.pdf, from any USDA office, by calling (866) 632-9992, or by writing a letter addressed to USDA.

The completed AD-3027 form or letter must be submitted to USDA by mail to the U.S. Department of Agriculture Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410; by fax to (833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; or by email to program.intake@usda.gov.

Iowa State University 2024 dean's list

More than 10,600 Iowa State University students have been recognized for outstanding academic achievement by being named to the spring semester 2024 dean's list.

Students named to the dean's list must earn a grade point average of at least 3.50 on a 4.00 scale while carrying a minimum of 12 credit hours of graded course work.

The following students on the 2024 dean's list are from the area:

- Corning**
- Anjali J. Kathikar, 3, Elementary Education.
 - Norah Leigh Lund, 3, Elementary Education.
 - Blake Anthony Venteicher, 4, Accounting.
- Elliott**
- Maysy M. Wasenius, 2, Pre-Graphic Design.

- Nodaway**
- Sydney Kaye Davies, 4, Marketing.
 - Sarah Shipley, 3, Elementary Education.
- Red Oak**
- Jahaila Jean Baker, 3, Veterinary Medicine.
 - Lainey Taylor Devries, 3, Agricultural Business.
 - Brendan Trey Holt, 3, Mechanical Engineering.
 - Easton Carl Hultman, 4, Agricultural Studies.
 - Haley Marie Plambeck, 4, Dietetics (H SCI).
 - Sophia Barbara Walker, 4, Marketing.
- Stanton**
- Abigail Joan Burke, 3, Sociology.
 - Logan Michael Roberts, 4, Biology.
- Villisca**
- Karsyn Jae Poston, 4, Animal Science.

Lamb named to president's honor roll

Nakia Lamb of Red Oak was named to the president's honor roll at Iowa Western Community College for the fall and spring semesters.

Lamb is graduating from Iowa Western with a 4.0 GPA and a diploma in business administration.

Stronger the Press, Stronger the People

VIEWPOINTS

Norris questions actions of county supervisors chairman

To the Editor:

How many county supervisors does Montgomery County have? One who controls the gavel and four who would like to act as responsible public servants.

"This is a five-member board," said board member Randy Cooper. "Not a one-member board, not a two-member board, it's a five-member board. Can't we discuss civilly as a five-member board of where we want to go with this, if we want to pursue it as a five-

member board, if we want to pursue the ordinance, if we want to not pursue it?"

On Tuesday, June 11, the Chair of the Montgomery County supervisors once again displayed his ill temper. Twenty members of the public attended the meeting, which is an unusually large number. Fifteen attendees used their two-minute public comment time to request the board make the hazardous liquid pipeline issue a discussion item on the next agenda. Instead of respecting his co-board members and allowing

the body to talk through the suggestion, the chair chose to become combative and adversarial. Not only raising his voice and intimidating other board members but doing the same to citizens and engaging in a shouting match after being called out for his behavior. Surely, the other board members do not condone this behavior of the chair. And unfortunately, it is not the first incident. My husband lives by the rule, avoid a fight, avoid a fight, avoid a fight, then ... defend yourself, so he came to my

defense last week.

44 Iowa counties have carbon pipelines proposals. Many are passing ordinances to establish a minimum distance from people's homes & set fees, or resolutions objecting to the use of eminent domain for a private project.

Supervisor Cooper requested the board - the five members - hold a discussion on the issue and was backed down by the chair. Cooper also offered a very reasonable suggestion that each of the supervisors call another county

to research how they are handling the carbon pipeline issue. Once again, the chair backed him down saying what other counties do doesn't have anything to do with us.

With 42 miles of Montgomery County potentially impacted by two Summit CO₂ pipeline routes, we need all five of our supervisors equal participants in discussion, not just the one with the gavel.

Jan Norris
Red Oak

Letters to the Editor

The Red Oak Express supports healthy community discourse and encourages readers to submit a letter to the editor. Letters must be signed and include a phone number for verification purposes. They can be submitted by mail or dropped off at 2012 Commerce Drive, Red Oak, Iowa, 51566, or emailed to news@redoakexpress.com, or entered through our website at redoakexpress.com. Letters should be concise and centered on a single topic. All letters are subject to editing for length, taste, accuracy, liability, or other reasons. The Express is under no obligation to print any letter. If you have questions, contact the Express office at 712-623-2566 or news@redoakexpress.com.

THE TIME CAPSULE | ROY MARSHALL

What became of the children?

The expression "The more things change the more they stay the same," is attributed to a French writer of the 1500s.

This old adage came to mind on June 12, a day when a newspaper and four letters were in our mailbox.

After reading them I sort of regretted the timing of a column, but then again sort of did not.

The article was on the Vail family of "Anywhere, USA."

Briefly, Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Vail, with seven children ranging in age from two to 12, were nomads of the Great Depression.

They also had two goats and two dogs, a total of 13 living beings that traveled from town-to-town in an oil-eating bucket of bolts.

News articles, which I gathered from multiple newspapers, tell us the goats grazed in city parks while children went house-to-house asking for handouts.

Their needs were food, used clothing, a few coins, and probably a toy or two for the toddlers would have been appreciated.

In November of 1938 the Vails spent time in Cass County, driving to Red Oak after wearing out their welcome.

Following a night in the Red Oak jail they were given breakfast and enough gasoline to get them down the road.

Two weeks later, at an average of 11 miles per day, they reached Kansas City.



My columns are submitted on Thursday afternoon and appear in the paper we receive the following Wednesday.

I research, write and rewrite them, so normally do not reread them in the paper. With the Vails I made an exception.

The children haunted me.

They did not go to school. Did they ever learn to read and write? Were their parents literate?

What went through the children's minds as they passed a school at recess time? What, for that matter, were their thoughts as they stood on a porch begging for a pair of worn-out shoes while children their age played in the warmth of a living room?

Was Jesse Vail a lazy malcontent or was he truly a victim of tough times and high unemployment?

We'd like to assume Mrs. Vail was a loving mother, but we don't know.

News reporters, those I read, focused on the novelty of their goats; probably would not have otherwise found the Vails newsworthy, and failed to look any deeper.

The vision of those kids knocking on doors to ask for a loaf of bread was on my mind when I put the paper aside and opened a letter from the Stanton

Child Resource Center.

The SCRC is soliciting toys for the new, 11,000 square foot day care.

Children will be at the OLY June 23 from 3-5 p.m. to greet donors and then open presents.

All toys are to be high quality, washable, durable and safe.

A list of suggested items is on Amazon and the SCRC Facebook page.

While the contrast in needs now compared to then is striking, there are always needs.

A couple of weeks ago we received a letter from the Stanton Foundation, which is raising \$175,000 for improvements to Danny Anderson Park.

For a price I can have my name on an outfield wall.

Some letter recipients may find a toy fundraiser on top of baseball and softball facilities a bit of a load, but area residents are generous.

Wife plans to drop them in a sawbuck (a "Dixie," our well-traveled Cousin Vernon called them), hope the goals are reached, and we'd be surprised if they are not.

I then turned to the other three letters.

One was from USO, which we gave a few dollars to a couple of years ago and now hear from at least once a month.

Another was from St. Jude's. Wife wrote them a modest check at Christmas, but that obviously wasn't enough.

The other letter was a "Keep 'em Flying" plea

from the Commemorative Air Force. I gave to them twice and now they send me note pads, return address stickers, cloth gloves and occasionally a shiny new nickel.

Letters arrive almost daily; Wounded Warriors, Feeding America, No Kids Hungry, Disabled Vets, an animal rights organization, Shriners Hospital, Mayo Clinic, politicians in California and so on. There are also phone calls, email and texts.

We live in an era of welfare, Social Security, Food Stamps, health insurance, Obamacare, Food Pantries, year-around school breakfast and lunches, community gardens, grants galore, benefit dances and auctions and always more is needed.

Our grandparents, in the worst economy in this nation's history, were asked for help in occasional face-to-face encounters.

Because of today's technology we are hit multiple times each day, with the constant in a changing world being that it'll never be enough.

This is reality—each generation wants the best for their children and the bar keeps getting higher—and should not deter from our willingness to share when the cause is worthy.

Now what I'm going to do is attempt to determine whatever became of the Vail children.

Roy Marshall is a local historian and columnist for the Red Oak Express. He can be contacted at news@redoakexpress.com.

DEADLINES

Newspaper Inserts: 9 a.m. Wednesday, 10 business days prior.
Submitted News Items and Letters: 4 p.m. Thursdays.
Public Notices: 4 p.m. Thursdays.
Display & Classified Display Advertising: 4 p.m. Wednesdays.
Classified Line Ads/Garage Sale Ads: 10 a.m. Thursdays.
Obituaries: 9 a.m. Mondays.

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