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Monona Subway closing after 30 years

By DESTINY KAPLER
Outlook Newspaper

The Monona Subway restaurant will be closing after 30 years of serving the people of Monona.

Owner Todd Balekos says that the closing is due to a few different reasons. For one, Subway is changing a lot of things to stay competitive in the quick-serve restaurant (QSR) market.

“Because it’s a QSR industry, Subway’s come out with some new rules and regulations, which include upgrading equipment, changing all signage—a remodel package,” he said.

Balekos said for a small store like Monona, it’s a bit harder to make those things work, considering the cost to remodel and buy new equipment. He said the sign for the outside of the store alone would cost \$15,000, and the ovens would cost \$6,000 or \$7,000 each, but said he doesn’t resent Subway for doing it, as they’re simply trying to increase their brand.

Another major deciding factor in the closing is Baleko’s lease with Subway is up on June



After announcing its closing, the Subway in Monona no longer has its storefront sign up, though it could potentially be open the next few weeks, depending on inventory and staffing. (Photo courtesy of Todd Balekos)

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Monona Farmer’s Market

Gateway Park

Thurs., July 3

4-7 pm

July 4th

CELEBRATION TIME

Monona Fireworks

Fri., July 4 • at Dusk

Flea Market

Under the bridge in Marquette

July 4–July 6

9 am–4 pm

Emma Big Bear

Marquette Community Center

Sat., July 5

11 am–2 pm

GTSB offers guide to new hands-free driving law

Law goes into effect July 1

By JOHN JENSEN
Mid-America Publishing

DES MOINES — The Iowa Governor’s Traffic Safety Bureau (GTSB) has offered a guide to Iowa’s new hands-free driving law that goes into effect July 1.

According to the GTSB, the new law, which came after years of debate at the statehouse, prohibits drivers from holding their phone or any other electronic device while driving. Fines for violation of the law could be \$100 or more, though officers will be issuing warnings for the first six months that the law is in effect, July 1 – Dec. 31.

The law bans the use of not only cell phones, but also laptops, PDAs, tablets and gaming devices. Under the law, drivers cannot hold their device in any way, cannot manually scroll or interact with their device (even if they are not holding it), cannot

enter an address into GPS while driving, cannot view texts, videos, or social media while driving and cannot call, text or dial unless using hands free or voice commands.

Drivers can legally connect their device to their vehicle’s auxiliary jack and use voice commands, use Bluetooth devices such as speakers or earpieces, use their phone on speaker mode while set in a secure location or place their device in a vehicle mount and use voice commands or single taps.

Iowa is the 31st state to pass legislation banning the use of handheld devices. Laws vary in surrounding states, with Minnesota and Illinois prohibiting all use of handheld devices and Wisconsin banning their use in construction zones. Wisconsin also bans all texting while driving.

For more information, visit drivesmartiowa.com.

Other laws

Other notable laws taking effect July 1 include a ban on the use of cell phones by students during class time. The age that Iowans are allowed to purchase, own and carry a handgun also drops from 21 to 18.

Local governments can no longer ban shooting off fireworks on July 3, July 4 or Dec. 31. Numerous local governments have recently passed ordinances bringing local laws into compliance with the new state legislation.

Gender identity protection will also be removed from the Iowa Civil Rights Act July 1 while state, city and school Diversity Equity and Inclusion (DEI) efforts will be banned.



Allamakee-Clayton Electrical Cooperative hosts Member Appreciation Picnic

By DESTINY KAPLER
Outlook Newspaper; additional information courtesy of Jennifer Achenbach, Manager of Marketing for ACEC

The Allamakee-Clayton Electrical Cooperative (ACEC) hosted their annual Member Appreciation Picnic on June 26 at the Big Four Fairgrounds in Postville for Cooperative members (customers) and their families.

The event featured a free meal, served inside the Fairgrounds’ exhibit hall, and a bouncy house for kids. Several of ACEC’s bucket trucks were on display at the event as well. The ACEC’s Youth Tour representatives, Olivia Enyart and Hayden Palmer, who just returned from a trip to Washing-

ton, D.C., as well as many of the Cooperative’s staff, were present at the event to serve food and chat with members.

ACEC started the Member Appreciation Picnic in 2022 as an opportunity to gather with members for a complimentary meal, games, and activities for kids. It also gives members an opportunity to meet and talk to ACEC’s staff and board of directors.

The Cooperative estimates between 275 and 300 people attended the picnic.

The ACEC’s next event is its annual meeting, on Monday, Sept. 8, from 1:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. at the Allamakee-Clayton Electric Cooperative Headquarters at 229 Highway 51, in Postville.



Two bucket trucks displayed a welcome sign for the Allamakee-Clayton Electrical Cooperative Member Appreciation Picnic at the entrance of the Big Four Fairgrounds. (Destiny Kapler/The Outlook photo)

DEADLINES