



Nikia Fry founded Wildroots & Blooms in 2021 after several years of working in the floral industry. (Photo courtesy of Nikia Fry)

# Floral

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they’re looking for in the wedding party such as the bridal bouquet, bridesmaid’s bouquet, boutonniere and corsages,” Fry said. “We also do centerpiece for reception tables, or arches for the ceremony.”

Fry estimated that she does about 10-15 weddings per year. She said she looks forward to growing her business once her kids are in school.

“I do funeral work, and I’d like to do more holidays and maybe everyday deliveries,” she said. “I like being by myself, but I do plan to grow.”



An example of one of Nikia Fry’s floral arrangements that she makes for Wildroots & Blooms. (Photo courtesy of Nikia Fry)

Those interested in learning more can check out Fry’s Facebook page under “Wildroots & Blooms,” find her on Instagram, and contact her

at [wildrootsandblooms@gmail.com](mailto:wildrootsandblooms@gmail.com) or 641-919-8106.

Call Andy Hallman at 641-575-0135 or email him at [andy.hallman@southeastiowaunion.com](mailto:andy.hallman@southeastiowaunion.com)

## AMISH COOK

# Organizing is among Gloria’s favorite hobbies

By Gloria Yoder, the Amish Cook

Last week’s chat with you all got me on a roll with this whole organizing thing.

January was the month I had set aside to go through anything and everything in the house or garage that needed organization or sorting. The words of my elementary school teacher rang in my ears, “A place for everything, and everything in its place.”

I never was one who lived up to that statement, but as time went on I saw that it really was the only way to flow as a family with six little ones.

Organizing ranks among the top of my hobbies, but you may not guess it when you walk into my house. You see, this is where we live, it’s not a show piece or a model, it’s the place the children and I call home. The best of memories and the hardest of times have been spent inside these four walls.

Some time ago when I decided it’s the time to downsize on the quantity of items that are stacked and stored in our house, I found myself growing weary of constantly making decisions, “Should this vase be taken to a thrift shop or should it be given away with a bouquet, and if I do keep it for that perfect moment, will I reach the goal before the next time I clean out? Is this sweater Hosanna outgrew ready for the trash or would someone still get good use out of it? Will the boys mind if I trash the tractor with a missing wheel, or will they be heart broken?”

Many times when I was organizing there were little hands, helping me go through my already sorted items. It was time for something new. Anything that I did not actually need or really want in my house was to go into a tote, and when it was full, it would go to the garage. The next tote stood in line, they

were filled and placed out of sight, and to the best of my efforts, out of mind. In the meanwhile the children were told that these totes are going to the garage and we will decide later what we’ll do with everything. I knew that one day the time would come where every item in every tote would be sorted and placed in its assigned spot. Funny how much I tend to dread a duty as such, and when the time is right, I end up enjoying it.

Well, guess what, January first came with all its ambitions of making a wide sweep work on some major organization, and with it came the flu bug, soaking up all my time for over a week. “Must be God has something else in mind,” I told myself.

When the moment finally came to start on cleaning out corners, I was elated. I tackled hard-to-get corners that have been neglected ever since Daniel had passed. The ones that bugged me the most also brought the most satisfaction. Well, guess what? It’s mid-February and it’s still not complete, but we’ll make the best of it and keep on till we’ve reached our goal.

I had hoped to set the month of February aside to get in touch with column readers and do some sewing for my growing children. We’ll see how it goes, seemingly the most important part is to learn to go with the flow even when things don’t turn out the way I had planned. I keep learning that joy is not based on my circumstance, but on our Savior and my willingness to let go of what I had wanted right now.

So back to the project at hand. I now have 20 totes and several barrels lined up in the garage, all sorted. Hosanna’s favorite is of course the one marked “Dolls” which contain extra dolls and doll toys that have been cluttering up her closet

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## LEGAL NOTICES

**JEFFERSON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS’ PROCEEDINGS**  
**February 24, 2025**

At 8:29 A.M., Chair Dimmitt called the regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors to order.

Board members present were: Lee Dimmitt, Chairman; Susie Drish, Vice-Chairman; Joe Ledger, Supervisor.

It was moved by Ledger, seconded by Drish that the minutes for the February 18th, 2025 meeting be approved. All “Ayes”. Motion carried.

Public comments: Connie Boyer discussed the in-kind agreement with the FACC board and the county for mowing the civic center.

Supervisors discussed and considered renewing the current HR contract.

Supervisors met with the County Engineer.

It was moved by Drish, seconded by Ledger to adopt the following resolution:

**RESOLUTION**

Be It Resolved, by the Jefferson County Board of Supervisors that the following wage rate and classification for Secondary Road Department full time employee shown below be effective March 1, 2025.

| Employee      | Current Title | Pay Rate | Step | Base Wage | Certs   | Lgvtv | Total Rate |         |
|---------------|---------------|----------|------|-----------|---------|-------|------------|---------|
| Dylan Coffman | EO            | \$29.62  | 12   | F         | \$30.37 | 0.25  | 0.00       | \$30.62 |

Passing this 24th day of February, 2025.

Nayes: None

Ayes: Susie Drish, Joe Ledger, Lee Dimmitt

Attest: Christy Conner, Jefferson County Auditor

Lee Dimmitt, Chairman Board of Supervisors

**RESOLUTION**

It is so moved by Lee Dimmitt, seconded by Joe Ledger that the Board of Supervisors of Jefferson County approve the hiring of Rocky Azbill Jr, a certified Paramedic/CCP, for a PRN position, pending completion of the pre-employment process, with an anticipated start date of February 28th, 2025, at the hourly rate of \$30/hr.

Nayes: None

Ayes: Susie Drish, Lee Dimmitt, Joe Ledger

Attest: Christy Conner, Jefferson County Auditor

Lee Dimmitt, Chairman Board of Supervisors

**RESOLUTION**

It is so moved by Joe Ledger, seconded by Lee Dimmitt that the Board of Supervisors of Jefferson County approve the hiring of Elizabeth Beers, a certified RN, for a PRN position, pending completion of the pre-employment process, with an anticipated start date of February 28th, 2025, at the hourly rate of \$30/hr.

Nayes: None

Ayes: Joe Ledger, Lee Dimmitt, Susie Drish

Attest: Christy Conner, Jefferson County Auditor

Lee Dimmitt, Chairman Board of Supervisors

The board met with the Ambulance Director.

At 9:00 a.m. Joe Ledger motioned to go into public hearing on closing Palm Blvd bridge. Susie Drish seconded. All “ayes”. Motion carried.

Public comment: Brent Hoskins discussed concerns as property owner adjacent to bridge.

At 9:10 a.m. Joe Ledger made a motion to close the public hearing. Drish seconded. All “ayes”. Motion carried.

Supervisors discussed and considered closing Palm Blvd. bridge. Ledger motioned to close the bridge. Drish seconded. All “ayes”. Motion carried.

It was moved by Drish, seconded by Ledger to adopt the following resolution:

**RESOLUTION IN THE JEFFERSON COUNTY SHERIFF’S OFFICE**

WHEREAS, Iowa Code section 331.903 states that the number of deputies, assistants, and clerks for each office shall be determined by the board and the number and approval of each appointment shall be adopted by a resolution recorded in the minutes of the board, and

WHEREAS, Jefferson County desires to hire Correctional Officer, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Supervisors of Jefferson County, Iowa, that the Jefferson County Sheriff is authorized to hire Correctional Officer, Addison Knaak.

BE IT ALSO RESOLVED by the Board of Supervisors of Jefferson County, Iowa, that Addison Knaak is hired as a Correctional Officer, in the Jefferson County Sheriff’s Office at a starting salary of \$44,154.81 annually, effective March 3rd, 2025 with a start date of March 3rd, 2025.

Passed and approved this 24th day of February, 2025.

Attest: Christy Conner, Auditor

Lee Dimmitt, Chairman Board of Supervisors

Supervisors discussed and considered an Extension Agreement by and among City of Fairfield, Iowa, Jefferson County, Iowa and Fairfield Community School District. Drish motioned to approve, Ledger seconded. All “Ayes”. Motion carried.

The board discussed and considered the Sunrise Trail Urban Renewal Plan. Ledger made a motion to approve. Ledger withdrew his motion after Drish mentioned waiting until the Conservation board meeting. Ledger motioned to approve Sunrise Trail Urban Renewal Plan contingent upon Jefferson County Conservation accepting the Maasdam Barns under their jurisdiction. Drish seconded. All “ayes”. Motion carried.

Supervisors discussed and considered services with GrassHoppers LLC. Discussion was tabled.

The board discussed and considered appointing Rachel Hillier as the Jefferson County representative on the FACC board. Dimmitt motioned to approve. Drish seconded. All “ayes”. Motion carried.

The supervisors discussed and considered the proposed property tax notice hearing. The date of March 24th at 11:00 a.m. was set for the public hearing. Drish motioned to approve. Dimmitt seconded. All “ayes”. Motion carried.

Committee Reports:

Drish attended the Conference Board meeting. SEMCO did not have a meeting. She attended extension office meeting. Joe Ledger attended the Conference Board meeting, Resilient Action meeting, Grow Fairfield, FFA breakfast, and Business After Hours at Addington Place. Lee Dimmitt attended the Conference Board meeting.

Public Comments: None

It was moved by Drish, seconded by Ledger to allow the claims against the county in the amount of \$51,693.90 and to direct the county auditor to issue checks against the various funds of the county in payment of the claims allowed. All “Ayes”. Motion carried.

Supervisors held a budget work session.

It was moved by Drish, seconded by Ledger to adjourn. All “Aye”. Motion carried.

ATTEST: Christy L. Conner, County Auditor

Lee Dimmitt, Chairman Board of Supervisors

## PUBLIC NOTICE

| COUNTY NAME:<br>JEFFERSON COUNTY   | NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING -PROPOSED PROPERTY TAX LEVY<br>Fiscal Year July 1, 2025 - June 30, 2026 | COUNTY NUMBER:<br>51                         |   |
|--|--|--|---|
| The County Board of Supervisors will conduct a public hearing on the proposed Fiscal Year County tax asking as follows:<br>Meeting Date: 3/24/2025 Meeting Time: 11:00 AM Meeting Location: Jefferson County Courthouse, 1st floor meeting room<br>At the public hearing any resident or taxpayer may present objections to, or arguments in favor of the proposed tax levy. After the hearing of the proposed tax levy, the Board will publish notice and hold a hearing on the proposed county budget. |  |  |   |
| County Website (if available)<br><a href="https://jeffersoncounty.iowa.gov/">https://jeffersoncounty.iowa.gov/</a>   | County Telephone Number<br>(641) 472-2851  |  |   |
| Iowa Department of Management  | Current Year<br>Certified<br>Property Tax<br>FY 2024/2025  | Budget Year<br>Effective Tax<br>FY 2025/2026 | Budget Year<br>Proposed Tax<br>FY 2025/2026 |
| Taxable Valuations-General Services  | 1,034,444,599  | 1,057,364,383                                | 1,057,364,383                               |
| Requested Tax Dollars-Countywide Rates Except Debt Service   | 7,225,896  | 7,225,896                                    | 7,021,872                                   |
| Taxable Valuations-Debt Service  | 1,060,202,913  | 1,083,735,020                                | 1,083,735,020                               |
| Requested Tax Dollars-Debt Service   | 800,962  | 800,962                                      | 785,838                                     |
| Requested Tax Dollars-Countywide Rates   | 8,026,858  | 8,026,858                                    | 7,807,710                                   |
| Tax Rate-Countywide  | 7.74077  | 7.57295                                      | 7.36604                                     |
| Taxable Valuations-Rural Services  | 634,064,489  | 651,294,086                                  | 651,294,086                                 |
| Requested Tax Dollars-Additional Rural Levies  | 959,891  | 959,891                                      | 1,405,883                                   |
| Tax Rate-Rural Additional  | 1.51387  | 1.47382                                      | 2.15860                                     |
| Rural Total  | 9.25464  | 9.04677                                      | 9.52464                                     |
| Tax Rate Comparison-Current VS. Proposed   |  |  |   |
| Residential property with an Actual/Assessed Valuation of \$100,000-\$110,000  | Current Year<br>Certified<br>Property Tax<br>FY 2024/2025  | Budget Year<br>Proposed Tax<br>FY 2025/2026  | Percent<br>Change                           |
| Urban Taxpayer   | 359  | 384  | 6.96  |
| Rural Taxpayer   | 429  | 497  | 15.85                                       |
| Tax Rate Comparison-Current VS. Proposed   |  |  |   |
| Commercial property with an Actual/Assessed Valuation of \$300,000-\$330,000   | Current Year<br>Certified<br>Property Tax<br>FY 2024/2025  | Budget Year<br>Proposed Tax<br>FY 2025/2026  | Percent<br>Change                           |
| Urban Taxpayer   | 1.583  | 1.717  | 8.46  |
| Rural Taxpayer   | 1.892  | 2.221  | 17.39                                       |
| Note: Actual/Assessed Valuation is multiplied by a Rollback Percentage to get to the Taxable Valuation to calculate Property Taxes. Residential and Commercial properties have the same Rollback Percentage at \$150,000 Actual/Assessed Valuation. The Proposed Property taxes assume a 10% increase in property values for the year as a comparison to the current year.<br>Reasons for tax increase if proposed exceeds the current:<br>Maintain fund balance   |  |  |   |

## LEGAL NOTICES

**JEFFERSON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS’ PROCEEDINGS**  
**February 25, 2025**

At 8:35 A.M., Vice-Chair Susie Drish called the meeting of the Board of Supervisors to order.

Board members present were: Susie Drish, Not present were: Lee Dimmitt and Joe Ledger.

Supervisors held an opioid work session. There being no further business, the opioid work session was adjourned.

ATTEST: Christy L. Conner County Auditor

Lee Dimmitt, Chairman Board of Supervisors

**Pekin School District**  
**Board of Education Meeting- Work Session**  
**Pekin School Media Center**  
**Packwood, IA 52580**  
**February 17, 2025 – 6:03 p.m.**  
**Special Board Meeting**

President J.J. Greiner called the meeting to order and acknowledged a quorum and then led the board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Board members present: Josh Arendt, Kortney Baumberger, Sherry Bemis, J.J. Greiner. Mike Davis joined remotely. Absent: Ray Fear

Also present: Jeff Maeder, Kaye Gilbert, Liz Godwin

**Adoption/Approval of Agenda**

Sherry Bemis moved to move the action item A: Appointment of New Board Member after the action item C: Calendar Adjustments for Weather and approve the amended agenda. Seconded by Josh Arendt. Motion carried 5-0.

**B: Open Enrollment**

Kortney Baumberger moved to approve Open Enrollment B1 and B2 for the 2025-2026 School Year. Seconded by Josh Arendt. Roll call vote: Josh Arendt-aye, Kortney Baumberger-aye, Sherry Bemis-aye, Mike Davis-aye, JJ Greiner-aye. Motion carried 5-0.

Kortney Baumberger moved to approve Open Enrollment B3 for the 2024-2025 School Year. Seconded by Sherry Bemis. Roll call vote: Josh Arendt-aye, Kortney Baumberger-aye, Sherry Bemis-aye, Mike Davis-aye, JJ Greiner-aye. Motion carried 5-0.

**C: Approval of Athletic Waiver**

Sherry Bemis moved to table the

Approval of the Athletic Waiver. Seconded by Kortney Baumberger. Roll call vote: Josh Arendt-aye, Kortney Baumberger-aye, Sherry Bemis-aye, Mike Davis-aye, JJ Greiner-aye. Motion carried 5-0.

**D: Calendar Adjustments for Weather**

Sherry Bemis moved to approve the calendar adjustments for weather. Seconded by Josh Arendt. Motion carried 5-0.

**A: Appointment of New Board Member**

Josh Arendt moved to appoint to JD Olinger to Represent District 1. Seconded by Sherry Bemis. Motion carried 5-0.

Board Secretary Gilbert administered the Oath of Office to JD Olinger as Director of District 1.

Josh Arendt moved to adjourn. Seconded by Sherry Bemis. Motion carried 5-0. The adjournment time was 6:33 p.m.

**Work Session**

President J.J. Greiner called the work-session to order and acknowledged a quorum

**Board members present:** Josh Arendt, Kortney Baumberger, Sherry Bemis, J.J. Greiner, JD Olinger. Mike Davis joined remotely. Absent: Ray Fear

Also present: Jeff Maeder, Kaye Gilbert, Liz Godwin

**Adoption/Approval of Agenda**

Josh Arendt moved to approve the agenda as presented. Seconded by Sherry Bemis. Motion carried 5-0.

**Non-Action Items- Work Session**

**Budget Reduction Plan**

Superintendent Maeder gave a presentation on budget reduction.

**Adjournment**

Sherry Bemis moved to adjourn the work-session. Seconded by Kortney Baumberger. Motion carried 5-0. The adjournment time was 7:26 p.m.

## LEGAL NOTICES

The Pekin Board of Education will have a public hearing prior to a Special Board Meeting. The purpose of the Hearing is to receive input regarding the FY 26 budget. The hearing will be held at a special board meeting to be held at 6:00 P.M. March 24, 2025 in the media center of Pekin Community School, 1062 Birch Avenue, Packwood, IA.

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**WASHINGTON COUNTY SECONDARY ROADS EQUIPMENT OPERATOR**  
(reports to Washington area)

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Individual will operate a variety of equipment including a dump truck, motor grader, end-loader, and tractor in the Washington area. High school graduate with one year experience in operating heavy equipment is required. Must possess a Class B Iowa Commercial Driver's License with air brake, trailer and liquid tank vehicle endorsement or ability to obtain within three (3) months of start date.

**Complete job description & applications available at the Washington County Engineer's Office,**  
**210 West Main Street, Ste. 2, Washington, IA 52353 or**  
**online at [washingtoncounty.iowa.gov/jobs](http://washingtoncounty.iowa.gov/jobs).**  
**Applications due by 4:00 pm on Thursday, March 20, 2025. EOE.**