

Black bear sightings on the rise in Iowa

IOWA DEPT. OF NATURAL RESOURCES

IOWA – Black bears in Iowa?

Yep, it's a thing, and seeing one is likely to become more common.

The Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has been meeting with officials from local conservation boards, police departments, sheriff's offices and dispatchers from counties in northeast Iowa to discuss how to respond when black bears come strolling through later this spring.

"Bears emerge in the spring looking for food, generally feeding on the early greens and don't really care about humans, they're just being a bear," Vince Evelsizer, state furbearer and wetlands biologist with the Iowa DNR, said.

In Iowa, the spike in bear activity occurs in late May and June, which is the breeding season when a few black bears are more likely to disburse from Minnesota and Wisconsin, where populations are much larger and growing. Minnesota has an estimated 16,000 black bears, while Wisconsin's population is around 24,000.

"Black bears are not that far from Iowa's border," Evelsizer said. "We typically have two to five bear sightings each year, which we believe are usually younger males. They are relatively timid, and

just looking for food and/or females. It's new and exciting, but can lead to human-bear conflicts."

Bears have been responsible for destroying beehives and have been found on back decks and in back yards emptying bird feeders. If a bear does show up around the house, he said try to scare it from a safe distance because bears don't like loud noises.

"Use loud noises, like yelling at it, clapping two pieces of two-by-fours loudly, or banging pots and pans," he said.

"Give bears plenty of space to move on and also, take away food attractants," he said. "Do not feed bears as that rewards the bear for coming into town and associate's humans with food. Removing any outdoor pet food dishes, bird feeders, trash cans and grills into secure locations will help to avoid conflicts and encourages the bear to move on."

Meetings were held in Dubuque and Fayette with city and county officials from Winneshiek, Allamakee, Clayton, Fayette and Dubuque counties, connecting officials who will likely be involved in one way or another when a bear appears this spring.

"We don't want to block the bear's travel, or back it into a corner. If a bear climbs a tree to escape onlookers, it can jeopardize the safety of the bear itself – you need to give it plenty of space. Folks can enjoy seeing a bear, but from a safe distance. It's a neat thing, but give it space – as in 100 yards or more," he said.

"It would be nice, in an ideal world, that we would know when a bear is coming through ahead of time, to notify citizens so they can remove any attractants," he said. "Sometimes that happens, thanks to our citizens, area DNR staff and local partners, and that helps us track the bear's location occasionally to keep tabs on its travel."

Iowa has gone from having an occasional visiting bear, to more frequent visiting bears to now having two-to-four bears move in and over-winter. And could see more in the future.

"Sightings are still of individual bears. We haven't documented cubs or a breeding population yet," Evelsizer said.

Students from Drake University modeled habitat across Northeast Iowa favorable to black bears, as part of a capstone project, and determined that with its larger sections of timber, Northeast Iowa could support up to 1,100 black bears.

Black bears are native to Iowa, but had been eliminated by the late 1800s as the state was settled. Since the species was gone, black bears were not listed as a

furbearer species by the Iowa legislature of the day, and currently have no protection in the state.

"The public is keenly interested in bears and we hope to be proactive with education and outreach as the bears move in to the state," he said.

"It's pretty exciting to think about that - there might be a bear in the woods," Evelsizer said. "Some people love bears; some people are scared to death of bears and bear attacks, because of the amount of misinformation out there."

The biggest takeaway, he said, is that between 1900 and 2009, there was only one black bear fatality in Minnesota, none in Wisconsin, and two in Michigan. Bear attacks are extremely rare, and most incidents involved unsecured food sources, he said.

"We encourage Iowans to give black bears space if they see one. It is a large, wild animal. Also, enjoy the sighting and continue to enjoy the outdoors. Residents in Minnesota and Wisconsin have learned to live with bears," he said.

The Iowa DNR is a member of BearWise, a national organization that provides information on living responsibly with black bears around the home, when recreating in the outdoors, and more at www.bearwise.org.



Register now for Crayon Corner/Gladbrook-Reinbeck preschool

SUN COURIER

GLADBROOK — The Gladbrook-Reinbeck Community School District is excited to again offer preschool in Gladbrook during the 2025-26 school year for students who are 3 or 4 years old by Sept. 15, 2025.

As in previous years, the preschool program is being offered in partnership with Gladbrook's Crayon Corner Learning Center located at 409 Washington Street.

Tuition for next school year will be \$115 per month for the 3-year-old program, while the afternoon Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program (SWVPP) for 4-year-olds is free.

Interested families are invited to scan the QR code (top left) to register your child or use the following link: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeQHH9XLYkbuQQZ5ug1aySXIIWOcJy0j54saX4zY7WV_v-7azA/viewform.

The first day of preschool for the 2025-26 school year is Tuesday, Sept. 2, 2025.

If you have any questions please email or call G-R elementary principal Shaun Lehmann at shaun.lehmann@gr-rebels.net or 319-345-2822.

Legals BOARD OF SUPERVISORS PROCEEDINGS

The Grundy County Board of Supervisors met in a regular session in the Supervisors' room at the Grundy County Courthouse on May 19, 2025, at 9:00 a.m. Chairperson Nederhoff called the meeting to order with the following members present: Vandehaar, Kopsa, and Schildroth. Pabst joined remotely.

The Board opened the meeting by reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion was made by Kopsa and seconded by Schildroth to approve the minutes of the previous meeting. Carried unanimously. Jeff Skalberg, County Engineer, discussed department matters.

Motion was made by Schildroth and seconded by Kopsa to approve utility permit for MidAmerican Energy - Install 215 feet of Overhead Electric at 17885 Grundy Road. Carried unanimously.

Motion was made by Kopsa and seconded by Vandehaar to adopt Resolution #48-2024/2025, setting June 9, 2025, at 9:00 a.m. for a public hearing on a proposed ordinance establishing a Cemetery Commission. Votes on the resolution were as follows: Ayes - Vandehaar, Pabst, Kopsa, Schildroth, and Nederhoff. Nays - none. Resolution adopted. This description is a summary of said resolution, the full text of which may be inspected at the Grundy County Auditor's Office, 706 G Avenue, Grundy Center, Iowa, Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Motion was made by Schildroth and seconded by Pabst to approve payment of the following bills: ACES, maintenance 11,440.00; Adams, Kail, reimb exp 30.00; Advantage FS, diesel 6,484.19; Airgas USA, supplies 384.34; Allen, Erika, reimb exp 30.00; Allendean Seed, supplies 366.00; Alliant Energy, service 2,211.56; Amazon Capital Services, equipment 162.87; Aspro, services 82,324.40; Aureon, service 149.95; Babcock, Chase, med exam exp 300.00; Black Hills Energy, utilities 1,732.61; BMC Aggregates, roadstone 287,795.32; Boiler & Pressure, maintenance 40.00; Brothers Market, supplies 529.80; Brown, Chad, reimb exp 30.00; Bruening Rock Products, roadstone 242,069.85; Business Forms & Systems, supplies 30.67; Camarata, Marty, reimb exp 689.90; Case, Travis, mileage 150.50; Central Iowa Distributing, supplies 1,266.00; Cessford Construction, roadstone 150,204.88; Chemsearch, sundry 296.20; City Laundering, service 507.94; Column Software, publication 449.81; Cooley Pumping, service 562.50; Cost Advisory Services, services 4,450.00; Envirotech Services, supplies 1,485.00; Evans Consoles, equipment 1,092.01; Focus Camera, equipment 1,199.00; GFC Leasing-WI, maintenance 141.15; GNB Bank, bond pmt 969,850.01; GCMU, service 3,801.34; GCMH, grant 140,750.00; Grundy County Engineer, fuel 5,220.84; Grundy County Public Health, services 77.86; Grundy County REC, utilities 1,240.66; Grundy County Sheriff, services 346.56; H L W Engineering Group, services 3,725.00; Hardin County Sheriff, services 180.00; Heart Of Iowa Communications, service 39.98; Heartland Co-Op, diesel 566.18;

PUBLIC NOTICE

Peoples Savings Bank, 414 N. Adams St., Wellsburg, IA 50680 has filed an application with the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation for permission to establish and operate a branch at 103 Center St., Reinbeck, IA, 50680.

Any person wishing to comment on this application may file his or her comments in writing with the Regional Director of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation at its regional office located at 1100 Walnut Street, Suite 2100, Kansas City, Missouri 64106. Comments by interested parties must be received by the appropriate Regional Director not later than June 21st, 2025. The non-confidential portions of the application are on file in the regional office and are available for public inspection during regular business hours. Photocopies of the non-confidential portion of the application file will be made available upon request.

Published in the Sun Courier Jun 6, 2025

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L80072 #37681

MGMC School District Regular Board Meeting • 05/19/2025 06:00 PM Join Zoom Meeting 85644419649			
Motion seconded by: Kristine Kienzle Voting: Unanimously Approved			
VIII. Reports			
i. School Business Official			
Betsy Spaur shared the account balances and the monthly financial snapshot are looking good. There isn't anything out of the ordinary and things look to be in good standing.			
ii. Administrative Reports			
a. Written communication			
b. Elementary Principal			
Elementary principal shared that they had career day last Wednesday. The Career day was led and organized by 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade teachers and the counselor. This is the third year they have held a career day. There is always a great variety of people that come and share. K-2 get to "touch a truck". The Gladbrook Fire Department, Marshalltown EMS, a farmer with a tractor, and a helicopter came. They got to watch the helicopter take off, and they really enjoyed that. 3-6th grade they got to meet with different career opportunities in different rooms. The spring concert was the first week in May and went very well. Kindergarten kick off Friday May 9th. The preschoolers came in to explore with the kindergarten rooms, and the teachers got to meet the students one on one, so they could get to know their room and teacher. Preschool graduation tomorrow night. 2 groups. Field day is Thursday May 22nd or Friday May 23rd depending on the amounts of rain. Teacher check out will be on Tuesday after Memorial Day.			
c. Secondary Principal			
Secondary Principal, Clyde Tarrence, shared that it's been busy the last few weeks. Graduation on Sunday went well. They started JH baseball, and they practice before the varsity practices. The first game tonight was canceled due to the weather. The GR game is on Thursday. The semester tests start this Wednesday. Some of the BLT goals for JH and HS next year include improving school culture, discipline, atmosphere, and how to deescalate behaviors. Track awards are at 6PM tomorrow night. Softball games start next week.			
iii. Committee Report			
iv. Superintendent Report			
Superintendent, Chris Petersen, wanted to give a special thank you to the board as May is School Board Appreciation month. He shared that they are still looking for a special education teacher, an upper elementary teacher, an industrial tech teacher and an elementary P. E teacher. He said the FY24 audit is available for reading. There was nothing in the audit that we didn't expect, and the findings were better than last year's. There will be a workshop at 5PM on June 10th before the June Board meeting. He shared that he and Mike meet with Sitelogs every week, and they are working with the city on the variances. The property tax reform did not pass, but will more than likely pass next year. SSA passed at 2% but has yet to be signed. We will also be able to apply for the MSA next year for the \$290k in spending authority that we had to turn down this year due to raising the tax levy.			
IX. Consent Agenda			
Motion made by: Doug Dieleman Motion seconded by: Kristine Kienzle Voting: Unanimously Approved			
i. iJag MOU			
ii. Chromebook Bid			

MGMC Community School District					
MONTHLY BOARD BILLS					
May 18, 2025					
Vendor Name	Description	Amount	Vendor Name	Description	Amount
BELLE PLAINE COUNTRY CLUB	boys golf meet	90.00	INFOMAX OFFICE SYSTEMS	copier lease	2,684.40
Highland Park Golf Course	boys golf meet	90.00	IOWA COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK	PHONES	1,461.83
Hurts Donut Company	softball fundraiser	2,760.50	IOWA DEPT OF HUMAN SERVICES	non federal share - April 2025	1,438.23
Salsbury House & Gardens	Field trip \$5 per person	110.00	IOWA GIRLS HS ATHLETIC UNION	score sheets and postage	15.00
WATERLOO CENTER FOR THE ARTS	kindergarten field trip	82.00	IOWA REGIONAL UTILITIES ASSOCIATION	WATER	584.89
AHLERS & COONEY, P.C.	DISTRICT GENERAL COUNSEL	110.00	IOWA SPORTS SUPPLY	J/V/V Boys basketball practice jerseys	631.00
ALLIANT ENERGY	ELECTRIC	17,841.07	IOWA SPORTS SUPPLY	Baseball uniforms	2,527.00
ATLANTIC COCA-COLA BOTTLING COMPANY	HS lunchroom cooler drinks	600.61	IOWA SPORTS SUPPLY	softball bases	384.00
ATLANTIC COCA-COLA BOTTLING COMPANY	lunchroom cooler drinks	621.86	IOWA SPORTS SUPPLY	Baseball belts	100.00
AUTISM HELPER INC., THE	Special Education Curriculum	1,298.00	IOWA VALLEY CONTINUING EDUCATION	college classes	69,181.55
B & G HVAC, INC.	HS RTU not cooling	140.00	JOHN DEERE FINANCIAL	switch, disconnect for top term	32.09
B & G HVAC, INC.	charge AC at HS add freon	440.00	JOSTENS	GMG Chenille letters	478.80
BAXTER COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT	shared agreement 2nd semester	39,939.14	KARR, DIANE	mileage/supplies	77.92
BAXTER COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT	JH track meet 4/29/25	120.00	KOSTER, DARLENE	LETRS VOL 2	420.00
BCLUW COMMUNITY SCHOOL	Boys Golf IA Star Conference Meet	90.00	MAPLE HILLS COUNTRY CLUB	Girls Conference Golf 5/12	45.00
BCLUW COMMUNITY SCHOOL	BCLUW golf coed 4/15	120.00	MARTIN BROTHERS	food	3,157.60
BEELER, CHARLES	mileage	107.10	MARTIN BROTHERS	food for HS and elem	2,705.39
BLUUM	ipad/chromebook cases	333.90	MARTIN BROTHERS	food	6,527.87
BMO MASTERCARD	Battling Cage net for HS BB	1,584.70	MENARDS	valve, zinc Y connect shut off	77.48
BMO MASTERCARD	LATE FEE	0.76	MENARDS	hose	21.98
BMO MASTERCARD	Scholastic Book Fair Invoice	1,705.26	MENARDS	pvc pipe, dual metal handle	67.00
BMO MASTERCARD	certified letter	2.04	MENARDS	paint, seal, leaf bags, etc.	193.74
BMO MASTERCARD	icubs tickets	252.00	MENARDS	boys and girls track	180.00
BMO MASTERCARD	Top golf- senior trip	56.00	MESKAWKI SETTLEMENT SCHOOL	Prom Venue Expenses	4,713.00
BMO MASTERCARD	cheesecake factory- senior trip	1,055.59	MIDNIGHT BALLroom	GARBAGE/RECYCLING	550.00
BMO MASTERCARD	spare time- senior trip	567.00	MOLER SANITATION	FFA reimbursements October- May	1,338.39
BMO MASTERCARD	k1 speed- senior trip	778.29	MURTY, ERIN	activity bus batter	199.99
BMO MASTERCARD	DOT PHYSICALS	420.00	NAPA AUTO PARTS	GAS/DIESEL	3,010.62
CARMICHAEL BACK AND NECK CARE	Mileage	182.75	NEW CENTURY FS, INC	BACKGROUND CHECK	122.50
CASTANON, ASHLEY	Spec. Ed Open enrollment out	17,189.15	ONE SOURCE THE BACKGROUND CHECK COMPANY	fix door on shed at baseball field	2,450.00
CEDAR FALLS COMMUNITY SCHOOLS	Volleyball Camp	840.00	OPTIMAL OVERHEAD DOORS & OPENERS, LLC	Life Skills for the 21st Century Texts	489.43
Central College Athletics	supplies	1,694.00	PEARSON	fast bridge subscription	2,074.60
CENTRAL IOWA DISTRIBUTING INC	Supplies for the HS	1,496.00	RENAISSANCE LEARNING, INC.	repair basketball hoops	2,950.00
CENTRAL IOWA DISTRIBUTING INC	head bumper with bristle	142.00	RISER INCORPORATED	basketball hoop repair	550.00
CENTRAL IOWA DISTRIBUTING INC	networking support services- march 2025	1,000.00	RISER INCORPORATED	GARBAGE PICK UP	315.00
CENTRAL RIVERS AEA	Lamination posters- abbe hand	90.00	SANITARY REFUSE AND RECYCLING	PEST CONTROL	186.25
CENTRAL RIVERS AEA	WATER/SEWER	695.84	SCHENDEL PEST CONTROL	notary renewal for A. Claassen	30.00
CITY OF GARWIN	mileage	96.48	SECRETARY OF STATE	April Payment	32,991.94
Dall-Winther, Kacie	lamination for for CKLA books	1,313.30	Sitelogic, Inc.	LETRS VOL 2	42.00
DEMCO, INC.	JH track meet at East Marshall 4/22/25	150.00	SINGLUFF, LUANN	Software annual fees	12,150.00
EAST MARSHALL COMMUNITY SCHOOL	detergent for kitchen	651.00	SOFTWARE UNLIMITED INC	microsoft office	675.00
EMS DETERGENT SERVICES	preschool snacks	122.10	STERLING	April premium installment	18,796.00
FAREWAY STORES, INC. #467	awards	1,057.31	SU Insurance Company	April premium installment	18,796.00
Follett Content Solutions, LLC	Annual fee for frontline	10,524.94	SU Insurance Company	MARCH MINUTES & BILLS	203.87
FRONTLINE TECHNOLOGIES	vehicle maintenance	139.98	TAMA/GRUNDY PUBLISHING	APRIL MONTHLY BILLING	198.02
GLADBROOK AUTO SUPPLY	Training for Autism Spectrum Disorders	1,110.00	TIMBERLINE BILLING SERVICE LLC	FFA apparel for Jr. High FFA Members	298.00
GRANT WOOD AEA	Track meet on 4/10/25	100.00	US CELLULAR	HOT SPOTS	250.53
GRUNDY CENTER COMMUNITY SCHOOL	Co-Ed Track Meet	200.00	VAN WALL EQUIPMENT	mower blade, fuel pump, wiring harness	1,025.37
GRUNDY CENTER COMMUNITY SCHOOL	Supplies for literacy pausing point	15.92	VAN WALL EQUIPMENT	mower repair	988.82
HAND, ABBE	LETRS VOL2	420.00	Wal-Mart	kitchen office supplies	31.09
HAND, ABBE	LETRS PHONE	466.17	Wal-Mart	white board, latch	21.24
HEART OF IOWA TELEPHONE COOP	LETRS VOL 2	420.00	Wal-Mart	kitchen supplies	135.81
HENZE, AMY	diploma	18.22	WENDLING QUARRIES, INC	lime for ball fields	339.38
HERFF JONES, INC.	food/milk	185.61	WINDSTREAM	TELEPHONE	281.23
HILAND DAIRY	sink repairs	141.40	WOODMAN CONTROL S CO	heating water plant	2,200.00
Hobart Service	kitchen repair	683.94			
Hobart Service	food	31.16			
Hometown Foods	lettuce	148.28			
HOMETOWN FOODS	fruit and veggies	300.58			
HOMETOWN FOODS					