

Nora Springs Rockford REGISTER

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HAPPENINGS

Float building skills needed

The Nora Springs Historical Society will be assembling its Buffalo Days/Sesquicentennial parade float on Thursday, June 19 at 10:30 a.m. at the Walker building, next to the Post Office. All help is welcomed!

Blood drives set in Charles City

LifeServe will hold two blood drives in July in Charles City.

The first one is set for July 1 and the second one is on July 31 from 12:30-5:30 p.m. at Messiah Lutheran Church-Fellowship Hall (705 3rd Avenue)

To schedule your life-saving donation appointment, visit lifeserve.info or call 800-287-4903.

Donations with Life-Serve will help save neighbors, friend or family member or a stranger on the street.



Landowners push back on over a half million dollar drainage project in Floyd County

By Barbara Lein



BARBARA LEIN

As work nears completion on what officials have called Floyd County's largest

drainage improvement to date, landowners tied to Drainage District No. 3 are raising concerns over cost, oversight and lingering project issues.

The plan was executed by

Larson Contracting (Forest City) under Engineering firm Bolton & Menk's (headquartered out of Minneapolis with offices in Algona). Some landowners feel the project has lacked oversight, and failed to deliver promised protections.

Disputed Cost and Contractor Selection

Although initial estimates listed construction costs at \$590,000—later ballooning to nearly \$797,500 once engineering, legal services, reclassification and contingency fees were included—officials now

acknowledge the project ledger shows over a half million dollars charged directly to the district's ditch digging and tile work

Questions have also arisen by landowners who report there was no formal public bidding process or written signed contract with Bolton-Menk Engineering on scope of services to be provided them. Dirt work was let for formal bid -dirt contractors responded to the invitation to bid on the project. Complete with bid , performance & maintenance bonds.

Drainage, see Page 2

Iowa landowners outraged at Reynolds' veto of property rights pipeline bill

By Jess Manzour
Iowa Sierra Club

Landowners vow return to Legislature in 2026 to end pipeline projects' abuse of eminent domain for private gain

Iowa landowners and advocates were outraged at Gov. Kim Reynolds' decision on Wednesday to veto their hard-fought bill HF639 that sought to protect private property rights.

Over the past four years, landowners have fought tirelessly to make their concerns heard, pushing hard for the Legislature to enact a ban on the use of eminent domain to seize property against landowners' wishes for private projects like CO2 pipelines. Dozens of "Lobby Day" rallies have been held at the State Capitol from 2022-2025, along with countless events urging Gov. Reynolds to stand with landowners and protect property rights.

The Governor's decision to veto the bill is also a slap in the face to the 78% of Iowans who told the Des Moines Register in 2023 that they oppose the use of eminent domain to seize landowners' property for CO2 pipelines.

Gov. Reynolds' heralded the supposed outpouring of "voices" urging her veto

but made no mention of the years of efforts by landowners over the past three legislative sessions and many attempts to speak directly with her in person that went unanswered for four years — until last week when her office met with a few of the hundreds of Iowa landowners who have spoken out.

Meanwhile, media reports indicate that Gov. Reynolds took many meetings with the proposed bill's opponents over the past weeks, who urged her to veto, including ethanol plants that maintain direct financial partnerships with Summit Carbon Solutions. Summit founder and CEO Bruce Rastetter has gifted Reynolds \$175,000 in campaign donations and in-kind contributions since 2015. Reynolds has also used her authority to stack the deck in favor of Rastetter's Summit pipeline at the Iowa Utilities Commission, the state agency imbued with the power to grant pipeline routing permits and eminent domain authority to private corporations.

For his part, Rastetter has also donated to lawmakers in the Iowa Senate who have blocked legislation from coming to the

Veto, see Page 2

The Week's WEATHER
by National Weather Service Observer John Podgorniak

Date	H	L	Prec.
Tues. June 10	73	43	
Wed. June 11	83	48	
Thurs. June 12	84	58	.46
Fri. June 13	78	48	.78
Sat. June 14	78	63	
Sun. June 15	78	57	.14
Mon. June 16	82	58	1.65



Rottinghaus art show

David Rottinghaus, a Nora Springs native, will be displaying his new original paintings at the Nora Springs Community Center at the Nora Springs City Hall during Buffalo Days on Saturday, June 21, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. He will also have earlier original paintings in display. Patrons will be able to see his transition to Native American and western wildlife art. With the transition to western art, he will be selling his early framed prints at reduced prices.

Nora Springs Buffalo Days and 150th birthday this weekend

Annual Buffalo Days – Fireman's Ball is set this Saturday, June 21, with a full slate of activities in honor of Nora Springs heritage. The event coincides with the Sesquicentennial of the founding of Nora Springs.

The day is sponsored by the Nora Springs Impact Group, a 501(c)3 organization, City of Nora Springs and the Nora Springs Fire Department.

Activities start on Friday with city wide garage sales and the Nora Springs Fire Company Golf Tournament at noon.

On Saturday, there will be a parade at 10:30 a.m. Lineup will be at the Nora Springs Middle School at 10 a.m.

Activities will be at Boulder Park after the parade will include a kid's tractor pull, car/bike show, inflatable games, a buffalo meal from 11 a.m. - 2 p.m., homemade ice cream, craft vendors and Fandazzi Fire shows at 12:30 p.m. and 2 p.m.

A beer garden will start at 11 a.m. at the Nora Springs Fire Barn and they will also have a trivia game

Buffalo Days, see Page 2