



# Calmar Courier

Community News. Community Service.

Tuesday, July 29, 2025 | Volume 47, Issue 31

Official Paper of Calmar, Fort Atkinson, Waucoma, Winneshiek County and Turkey Valley Community Schools

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## Balk Crowned Fair Princess

Miss Waucoma Deanna Balk has been named the Fayette County Fair Princess 2025. Photo courtesy Unique Memories by Rachel

## County Beats Statewide Jobs Report

By Michael Hohenbrink  
Editor

While the statewide unemployment average inched up to 3.7 percent, Winneshiek County continues to be better than the state rate, clocking in at 3.2 percent.

With the release of the latest figures, most area counties beat the state average as Chickasaw County had 2.9 percent to lead the region with Howard County just behind at three percent.

Fayette County came in at four percent while Allamakee County tied the state's rate of 3.7 percent with Clayton County at 3.9 percent.

Iowa's rate was up from 3.6 percent to 3.7 percent as the national rate was 4.1 percent.

"More Iowans joined the workforce in June, increasing the state's labor force by 3,900, with significant participation increases among women 45 and older," said Beth Townsend, Executive Director of Iowa Workforce Development. "Healthcare and construction accounted for more than 3,700 of the new jobs following a trend for both industries in 2025."

Marshall County had 6.2 percent for the highest in the state while Sioux County had 2.4 percent for the best in the state.

**3.7%**

Unemployment Rate (June 2025)

**-6,800**

Job Growth Over the Past Year

**50,843**

Current Job Openings in Iowa

## Snyder Earns ENP Certification

By Michael Hohenbrink  
Editor

Winneshiek County Emergency Management Coordinator and 911 Communications Center Director Sean Snyder has earned a national certification distinction.

Snyder tested for the NENA (National Emergency Number Association) ENP certification.

"The Emergency Number Professional (ENP) certification is the 'gold standard' for anyone working in the 911 field," said Snyder.

"It is a certification tool which establishes benchmarks of performance which signifies a broad-based competence of the 911 system. I am honored to have earned this certification. Currently there are only 24 other ENPs working in Iowa."



Sean Snyder

## Decorah Wants County Help for Planned Sports Complex Funding

**City Requests \$100K from Board; Fairness Questioned Regarding Other Incorporated Cities**

By Michael Hohenbrink  
Editor

The City of Decorah wants Winneshiek County to make a big contribution for a planned sports complex.

"The Decorah City Council has been working on this quite some time," said Decorah City Manager Travis Goedken as he addressed the Winneshiek County Board of Supervisors Monday morning.

The city has been fundraising for some time now, but Decorah has not quite met the goal.

"We're still short," said Goedken.

He presented a \$100,000 request for just under \$8 million in total costs with "full build out" for everything city officials hope to see.

"This is no doubt this will benefit the entire county," said Goedken.

He called the request to the county a one-time contribution.

The project is out to bid right now with two ball fields and eight pickle ball courts desired.

Supervisor Steve Kelsay asked how much of the proposed complex is in the floodplain.

Goedken said the entire area up to Old Stage Road does lie within the floodplain.

One concern for the board was building this complex where a project, for example a Menards, might otherwise choose to locate, brining in financial revenue for the county.

"Was there ever any thought of partnering with Luther College?" asked Chariman Dan Langreck.

Goedken said this had been considered.

A multi-phase approach is being pursued.

"This does not include in the first phase," said Goedken.

Kelsay questioned the fairness issue with other municipalities in the county also looking to build up their athletic facilities, including pickle ball courts, for example with Fort Atkinson currently working to fundraise for improvements.

"You would be hard pressed not to argue that Decorah is not the lead [tax] generator... in the county," said Goedken.

The board heard Goedken's request but took no action.



## TV FFA Wins Grain Marketing Contest

FORT ATKINSON - Farmers Union Cooperative has announced the area winners of the Grain Marketing Contest with Turkey Valley FFA taking the top spot as Postville took runner up. TV FFA takes home a monetary prize with the school's beating out bigger schools including Monona, Decorah and North Fayette Valley. Farmers Union Cooperative photos



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## Print your favorite memories



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M-F 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.