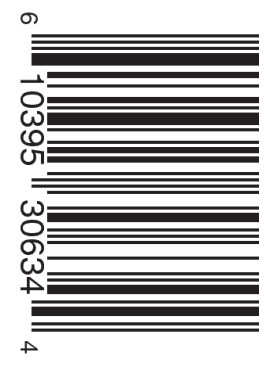


# HUMBOLDT INDEPENDENT



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THE OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF HUMBOLDT COUNTY, IOWA

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TWO SECTIONS



## Federal postal cuts impacting delivery of Independent, Reminder

Federal government cuts to the United States Postal Service, which took effect three weeks ago all across the United States, have greatly impacted timely delivery Humboldt County Newspapers, which publishes the Humboldt Independent Newspaper and the Humboldt Reminder.

We have learned that cuts have impacted our readers, particularly those that live in the surrounding rural communities in our coverage area, where instead of receiving their Reminder in the mail on Wednesdays and the Independent

on Thursdays, customers have complained they have received their newspaper and shopper one to four days later than the listed published date.

We have learned that a Tuesday overnight delivery route that took bundles of papers and reminders to Des Moines and back for processing, which allowed for their return in time to be delivered on the Wednesday and Thursday publish dates, has been permanently eliminated as a result of the cuts directed from Washington, D.C.

We feel our customers' pain

and frustration. We pay the United States Postal Service to deliver our product in a timely manner. It is terribly unfortunate and we understand this is a result of a decision made by the United States government and not by local postal employees, who faithfully perform their jobs day after day.

When contacted by the Independent, a local regional manager offered no comment. Inquiries made to Mark Inglett, manager of strategic communications for the central area, out of Kansas City, MO, received no response before our dead-

line.

Issue your complaints and concerns to the following list below:

-Mark Inglett, manager strategic communications central area, 300 West Pershing Road Room 112, Kansas City, MO 64108. Email: mark.m.inglett@usps.gov or phone 816-374-9111.

-Bobbie from the United States Postal Service Select Business Support Team at 888-707-7266 or email USPSSelect@USPS.gov available Monday through Friday between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 7:15 p.m. Eastern Standard Time.

## Ruling stops quarry operations

By APRIL KELLEY

The fate of the Rutland quarry was decided on Thursday, April 10, by a summary judgment ruling passed down by District Court Judge Angela L. Doyle.

Doyle ruled "Cole Bryant Anderson is permanently enjoined (prohibited) from conducting quarrying operations or making other illegal use of the Real Estate in violation of the zoning ordinance of Humboldt County, Iowa, without first obtaining a special use permit."

Doyle stated in her judgment, "The court finds Anderson has not overcome the

presumption that the zoning ordinance is valid. The Court cannot adjudicate (make the decision) Anderson's claim that as a matter of law the zoning ordinance was not properly enacted."

She continued with, "After a careful examination of the record, the Court concludes that no genuine material questions of fact exist as to whether the Board of Supervisors properly enacted the county zoning ordinance in 1996 and recodified the ordinance in 2015. As a result, the Court finds summary judgment is proper and Humboldt County's Motion for Summary Judgment should be granted."

Humboldt County Attorney Jon Beaty and Attorneys Brian Yung and Stuart Cochrane stated "We appreciate the Court's thoughtful and well-reasoned decision and are pleased with the outcome. This decision confirms the validity of the County's zoning ordinance and the County's enforcement of the ordinance. Because this matter involved ongoing litigation, we will not have further comment at this time."

Anderson or his attorney Ernest Kersten could not be reached for comment at this time.

## Franchise fees chosen over local option sales tax

By APRIL KELLEY

A hearing was held before the regular Dakota City Council to discuss the proposed Tax Levy for fiscal year July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026.

Dakota City Clerk Angelique Berry discussed the city section of the levy letter received by all landowners for this year.

According to Berry, the biggest increase in the city's budget has been the insurance the city carries.

She went on to explain the information presented was not the whole tax levy. She told the audience that the form is confusing because it shows a larger

percentage increase than what is actually happening.

Berry said that the letter that landowners received includes information for county, city, school, college and Hospital amounts which makes it very confusing.

"It's hard because you see little bits of it. There are actually five pieces that get added all together to make your total," Berry said.

The tax levy portion of the meeting was adjourned and the regular meeting was conducted.

chise

The Dakota City Council voted to enact MidAmerican Energy Franchise fees in place of the local option sales tax that was presented at their last meeting.

Accepting the franchise fee means that 100% of the 1% fee charged will go to the city whereas a portion of the local option sales tax goes to the county.

The council members had to choose between the franchise fee or the local option sales tax at last month's meeting but chose to table the decision to gather more information.

Tyler Gartenberg, Franchise Manager with MidAmerican Energy Company (MEC) attended the meeting to answer any questions the supervisor or the public might have.

With or without accepting the franchise fee, the city still needed to sign a franchise agreement with MEC to provide gas and electricity to the City of Dakota City.

Gartenberg said, "A franchise agreement is a contract in the form of an ordinance between a utility company and a city. Primarily what the franchise



Taft Elementary Student AnnaBella Wiebke (left) shares a meal with her mother Emily Wiebke (right) at the Lions Club annual pancake meal on Friday April 11. Independent photo by Kylie Portz.

## Supervisors discuss bridges and drainage

By APRIL KELLEY

Bridges and drainage issues consumed the short Board of Supervisors regular meeting on Monday, April 14.

Assistant Humboldt County Engineer Dave Powell requested approval on two contracts and an application to work in the county right-of-way.

The first contract is for project BROS-CO46(88) to Peterson Contractors Inc, to replace the bridge on Iowa Avenue. The bridge is a box culvert-style

bridge.

The second contract is for another box-culvert-style bridge on Texas Avenue. This contract is BROS-CO46(90) and was contracted by Progressive Structures, Inc.

Both projects were approved by the Supervisors.

The Supervisors also approved the application to work in the county right-of-way for Creek Enterprise out of Hudson.

SEE BRIDGES, 2A

## Kiwanis Easter Egg Hunt is Saturday, April 19

The Humboldt-Dakota City Kiwanis Club will be hosting its annual Easter Egg Hunt Saturday, April 19 at the Humboldt High School football field beginning at 10 a.m.

There will be candy and prizes for children in three grade categories: pre-kindergarten, kindergarten and first grade and second and third grade.

There will be a large Easter basket with games and prizes and a new bicycle awarded in each of the grade categories. Children should bring a basket, bucket or sack to collect their candy.

The event has been held annually by the Kiwanis club since 1963. It is made possible by the generous donations of local merchants and businesses. Many of

the prizes may be redeemed at the concession stand after the hunt. Some prizes may require children and their parents to visit the sponsoring business.

There will be a special appearance by the Easter Bunny who will be available for photos with the children. Celebrate the holiday with the Kiwanis club on Saturday, April 19.



Livermore Public Library Director Austina Scott stands in front of one of the bookshelves at the Livermore Public Library. Independent photo by Kylie Portz.

## For the Love of the Library

By KYLIE PORTZ

Under the leadership of Austina Scott, the Livermore Public Library has come to life in the past few years. From painted rock scavenger hunts to Thursday afternoon yoga, the library has become a center of activity for the small Iowa town.

Library Director Austina Scott was born and raised in Livermore, growing up on a farm not too far from the house she lives in now with her two children, Kiana and Domanic. Scott graduated from Humboldt High School and attended college but was unsure about what she wanted to study.

Scott said, "I went to college not knowing what I wanted to do. I just knew I would (have to) figure it out."

After leaving college, Scott began working at Head Start, where she worked for eight years. She ultimately went back to school, attending Buena Vista University, where she was only a few credits away from graduation when she had to drop out due to unforeseen circumstances.

Scott said, "My husband, at the time, was disabled and in a wheelchair, and so I was taking care of him and the kids and going to school full time. I had back problems at the time. I was six months away from my bachelor's degree, but there was just too much compounding against me."

"So, I technically never finished, but I was six months away from a teaching degree. I was studying elementary education. I was going to be a preschool teacher, and I loved what I did. I mean, kids are fun."

Scott's husband, Matthew Reetz, passed on December 26, 2021. Reetz was diagnosed with chronic inflammatory demyelinating polyneuropathy (CIDP). After her husband's passing, Scott needed a change.

It was through chance that Scott found herself taking on the role as Library Director at the Livermore Public Library.

Scott said, "My late husband passed away, so I didn't go



Livermore native Austina Scott is back in her hometown serving as director of the Livermore Public Library. Independent photo by Kylie Portz.

back to the job I had. I just needed something different. When you're used to taking care of people, you're so used to filling your time."

"So, I worked in the Duncombe Public Library when I lived in Duncombe for like 14 years, but I never really saw this as a path. But after I moved back here and my husband passed away, I saw there wasn't much for the kids to do (in Livermore).

SEE SCOTT, 3A

April 2025

### Come Explore Our Fairways!

Your complete guide to area golf courses and all golf related fun!

Featured in:

- The Ankeny Journal
- DISPATCH
- ESTHERVILLE NEWS
- Bancroft Register
- Herald-Press
- JOURNAL
- RECORD-DEMOCRAT
- SUN
- REPORTER/DEMOCRAT
- Observer Times
- Zipcode
- INDEPENDENT
- The Chronicle
- OBSERVER JOURNAL

## See our area golf guide inside

Ready to explore the many golf courses of North Central Iowa this year? Before you begin, plan your tour with our comprehensive golf guide inside this issue of the Humboldt Independent.

Our 12-page guide lists the many courses available for your enjoyment over a 12-county area, along with many advertisers and supporters of this publication, to help guide you along the way, whether it be equipment or even a new golf cart. Membership fees, visitor greens fees and a long list of area tournaments and events are listed in this golf publication. The in-depth list of golf locations and advertisers inside on page 2 will help you get started.

Your complete guide to area golf courses and all golf related fun is featured inside our golf guide. Take a look inside and let us help you plan our summer tour!