

# Riverside's Annual Shoe Drive Tops 1,543 Pairs

The Riverside Community School District celebrates Earth Day annually by collecting shoes for those in need.

This year, the shoe drive collected 1,543 pairs of shoes to benefit individuals both locally and around the world.

Riverside CSD partners with New Visions Homeless Services and Funds2orgs to support this initiative.

Shoes that are not distributed locally through New Visions are sent to Funds2orgs, which works with micro-entrepreneurs in developing countries.

There, the shoes are resold in local markets, providing both affordable footwear and sustainable income opportunities for families working to lift themselves out of poverty.

Jen Perkins has been a driving force behind the district's Earth Day activities since 2016.

Each year, she helps organize the shoe drive as a way to promote environmental awareness and build community engagement.

The event is a testament to the commitment and generosity of Riverside CSD's students, staff, and families.

"The shoe drive has become an annual tradition that we look forward to," said Perkins. "It's incredible



Students haul out the many bags of shoes that they collected during the drive.

to see how the community has embraced this event. It's not just about collecting shoes; it's about teaching our students the value of civic engagement, empathy, and taking care of our planet."

Student volunteers play a hands-on role in their project, giving up recess time to sort, tie, rubber-band, and bag donated shoes in sets of 25.

In the process, they build teamwork and reinforce

core math skills like addition, multiplication, and division while supporting a great cause.

As part of the event, the classroom that collects the most shoes gets to choose a staff member to "kiss" a tree during the district's Kiss-A-Tree Celebration, symbolizing their commitment to environmental care.

To follow this year's journey and view more photos, visit Riverside's Facebook, X, or Instagram pages.

# T-C Students Raise \$9,090 For Kids Heart Challenge

On March 17-21, Tri-Center Elementary participated in the American Heart Association (AHA)'s Kids Heart Challenge (KHC).

The KHC aims to improve student health, character, and raise donations for the American Heart Association.

Students participate in fun learning activities in Physical Education class for the week of the KHC.

Four classrooms won \$25 Amazon gift cards for their classroom by registering for the KHC.

When they reached the total goal of \$6,000, she had to wear a tutu, crown, cape, and rollerskates all day on March 28.

Tri-Center Elementary donated \$9,090.98 to the AHA and has participated in this event every year since 1998.



When the T-C Elementary students reached the halfway point to their goal for the challenge, instructor Mrs. Becky Thomas had to wear a duck costume to school all day on March 25.

## In The News... ...In The Area



**COUNCIL BLUFFS:** The City of Council Bluffs plans to launch a new online customer portal; a permitting, licensing and inspections tool, set to go live on April 22. This user-friendly platform is designed to enhance efficiency, convenience and transparency for contractors, developers, business owners and residents. The new system replaces the current process with a more intuitive and accessible digital solution, allowing users to submit applications online, track permit status in real time, schedule inspections with ease, make payments online and more.

**ATLANTIC:** Members of the Cass Health Board of Trustees voted unanimously to reduce the hospital's tax levy by \$0.75, setting a new rate of \$1.40 per \$1,000 of taxable property valuation, down from the previous rate of \$2.15. "Lowering our tax rate is only possible because of the unwavering support we receive from our community," said Kolton Hewlett, Chief Financial Officer at Cass Health. "Cass County residents consistently choose Cass Health for their care—whether it's a routine check-up in the clinic, cancer treatment, or surgical procedure. By 'shopping local' for healthcare, they're investing in their community hospital."

**GUTHRIE CENTER:** The Guthrie County Conservation Department continues to raise money for their Raccoon River Trail project and recently received a significant grant. Conservation Head Brad Halterman made the announcement at last Tuesday's Board of Supervisors meeting. Halterman says that half million

dollars means that between Guthrie and Greene Counties are halfway to raising the total cost of the project which is \$4.8 million dollars. Halterman says that they are applying for more grants and are actually a finalist for a federal grant. He does say that they must spend the money within four years but it fits within their timeline.

**ADAIR COUNTY:** The Adair County Board of Supervisors discussed the termination of easements for PL566 structures along with County Attorney Melissa Larson. PL566 structures are designed to implement projects for flood prevention and erosion control. Melissa Larson said a memorandum of understanding was signed in 1966 between the Supervisors and the Adair County Soil Conservation District and it was amended in 1995 to have a specific termination date. Larson said essentially everybody has to agree that these easements should terminate in order to terminate them. At this point they need to determine who wants in and who wants out. The Supervisors agreed to pursue terminating the easements.

**FONTANELLE:** The

Nodaway Valley Community School District and the CAM Community School District Boards of Education last Tuesday announced that a contract for the shared superintendent position has been offered to Dr. Pam Stangeland. On Monday, April 7, three finalist candidates participated in interviews with panels consisting of community members, staff, and students from both districts. Final interviews were then conducted by the Nodaway Valley and CAM Boards of Education. Dr. Stangeland's impressive qualifications and leadership experience quickly brought her to the forefront of the selection process.

**RED OAK:** More infrastructure repairs are planned in Montgomery County for the next five years. By unanimous vote last Tuesday morning, the Montgomery County Board of Supervisors approved the county's secondary roads five-year construction plan for fiscal year 2026. County Engineer Karen Albert reported that the five-year plan includes several projects which are planned for next fiscal year, which begins July 1.

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## Death Notice

LEON LAWRENCE  
PUTNAM

Leon Lawrence Putnam of Oakland, Ia. died Wednesday, April 9, 2025 in Council Bluffs, Ia., at the age of 76 years, three months and two days.

Graveside Services with Military Honors will be held on Wednesday, April 16, at 11:00 a.m. at the Oaklawn Cemetery in Oakland.

Rieken Vieth Funeral Home in Oakland is assisting the family with arrangements.