

News

Man killed in Highway 18 collision

One driver one was killed and another injured in a head-on vehicle collision about 11:10 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 18, on Highway 18 about two miles west of Boyden.

Sixty-three-year-old Brian Dean Bouma of Hull was driving a 2003 Chrysler Town & Country west when an eastbound 2005 GMC Yukon driven by Enrique De Leon Martinez of Sioux Center crossed the centerline struck his van west of Jay Avenue, according to the Iowa State Patrol.

Bouma was fatally injured and transported to Oolman Funeral Home in Hull.

De Leon Martinez was transported by the Sheldon Community Ambulance Team to Sanford Sheldon Medical Center.

The collision remains under investigation.



Sioux Center Public Library's new releases shelf faces new challenges with the closure of Baker and Taylor. With that important distributor gone, the library is months behind on acquiring bestsellers and other releases. Photo by Sam Bonner

Library struggles to get new books

LIBRARY

Continued from page A1

As a long time distributor, Baker and Taylor had a robust system allowing libraries to make standing orders on authors and series, sending books a week before release, and giving libraries time to catalog and prepare books beforehand.

For the Sioux Center library, which had over 500 standing orders on authors, the system made it easy to acquire new releases as soon as possible.

“Baker and Taylor, just being the granddaddy of them all, had an amazing interface. There really isn’t anyone else who has that good of an interface,” Bibby said. “They had it set up so neatly on the back end, you can look at what’s coming in and your standing orders.”

Bilby noted that readers in Sioux Center have been gracious and patient with their response, but avid followers of new series and bestsellers have been forced to wait.

“People who follow them closely, want them. They know they come out Tuesday, and they hope to be first on the list,” Bilby said.

Bilby did note that online readers have been unaffected by the closure.

“Hasn’t affected Libby at all. People using that are still getting it ready to go. It’s just physical books,” she said.

Baker and Taylor also provided other services beyond distributing books. The company also processed books for libraries, meaning they would add protection and bar codes to the books for libraries.

“For a lot of libraries this is a, ‘Whoa, we have to go back to square one and figure out how to get these books covered again.’ We don’t notice that, but other libraries do,” Bibby said.

While Sioux Center still processes books in house and isn’t affected in this area, the closure of Baker and Taylor’s interface is another major change.

“Every year when public libraries fill out an annual

report or survey it goes through their offshoot company. That’s going belly-up as well, so the whole state has to figure out how to do their annual reporting,” Bibby said.

The data goes back to 2000 and unless Sioux Center and other libraries go back and download the files, it will all be deleted.

Finding new distributors is a challenge, as each has their own limitations.

“I’m looking at companies who only do kids books, or large print. Baker did it all, that’s what was nice about them,” Bilby said.

Other major distributors such as Ingram Library Services are currently not accepting new orders due to an overwhelming number of requests. Meanwhile, companies like Amazon don’t ship books prior to a release date, making it harder for libraries to offer books the same day.

Backfilling previous orders is a struggle for Sioux Center library as well.

“This started months ago so those books should have been paid for out of last year’s fiscal year’s budget,” Bilby said. “We’re into the next fiscal year and we have to pay for this year’s books and half last year’s books. It’s kind of messy.”

Interlibrary loan is also not a viable solution for patrons as other public libraries are experiencing the same issues. Even the ones that would have a book won’t offer it for a period of time as Bilby explains.

“When we get a new book we hold it back for a few months before we let it go out in interlibrary loan,” Bilby said. “We want our own community to use it and have a chance before it disappears for a while. You usually can get a new book via interlibrary loan.”

The changes have forced the library to completely rework their previous system.

“You kind of feel like you have your process in place, everything flowed smoothly. Now we’re all going oh no,” Bilby said. “Nowwhere do we go?”



Pella Corp. School Staff Member of the Month Award

Congratulations to Megan Haan, a kindergarten teacher at Sioux Center Cristian School, for being selected as the Pella Corp. School Staff Member of the Month for September. The nomination for Haan stated in part, “Mrs. Haan very lovingly and patiently walks alongside each student and helps them to adjust to the new school routine, learning the school routines and expectations of not only her classroom but also the school. She is able to stay calm and patient when things seem to be getting loud and out of control. Every student feels loved in her class as she teaches them and guides them in all aspects of their school day. She is truly one of a kind and a treasure to SCCS.” As the Pella Corp. School Staff Member of the Month recipient, Haan received \$500 to be used toward her classroom, school materials or activities for her students. Pictured with Haan at the Sioux Center Cristian School are Angie Diaz, Alicia Mosinski and Jason Ball representing Pella Corp. The School Staff Member of the Month program recognizes the local school staff members going above and beyond in their daily interactions with students. Schools included are all Sioux Center Public Schools and Sioux Center Christian School. Photo submitted

Sioux Center developing its electrical plan

Construction on new facility to begin spring 2026

Sioux Center Municipal Utilities is making progress toward adding more than 11 megawatts of local standby electric generation, improving the community’s long-term energy security.

The Sioux Center City Council recently reviewed construction concept for the local generation facility. It is to be built just south of Sioux Center’s north electric substation and water tower. Work on the building will start in spring 2026. It will house four Caterpillar generators, scheduled to arrive in 2027.

“Local generation is one way we can strategically invest in reliability and rate stability in Sioux Center as we see the energy market continue to fluctuate with factors ranging from weather to politics,” said Utilities manager Murray Hulstein.

The generation is a partnership between Sioux Center and the city’s wholesale power supplier, Missouri River Energy Services, and the plan is to operate at the rare times when electricity is limited or very expensive on the entire grid. This will reduce the overall cost for MRES to provide energy to all 61 members, which then benefits members like Sioux Center. MRES is primarily funding the \$24 million project.

ect.

In addition, this generation will provide emergency power in an extreme situation in which power supply was cut off to Sioux Center. This 11 megawatts of generation would partially power the town, which has a peak demand of about 27 megawatts. The generators will be equipped with backup batteries and be able to run even if power to them is cut, Electric Department head Ezra Weikert said.

“This facility doesn’t need to be connected to the grid to start,” Weikert said. “With this generation, if we lose power transmission from outside Sioux Center, we would have something we could do to take care of our citizens.”

Briefly

Nonprofits offered foundation grants

Sioux Center Community Foundation is accepting applications for the 2026 Generations Community Endowment Fund grants until Jan. 31. Eligible applicants include nonprofit organizations and units of government in Sioux Center. Applications are available at www.siouxcenter.org/Generations.

For more information contact Cathy Feenstra at 712-722-0761 or cathyf@siouxcenter.org.

Sioux Center library hosts Storytime Jr. for ages 0-3

Sioux Center Public Library hosts Storytime Jr 10-11 a.m. Thursdays, Oct. 23 and Nov. 13. Thematic program using songs and rhymes to

assist the parent/caregiver in reading to their child. Each participant will receive a book which we will read together in class and take home at the end of the series. Activities support the development of language and listening skills for the purpose of encouraging a lifelong interest in reading. Activities and crafts are designed for children ages 0-3, but siblings are welcome to attend.

For the Record

WEATHER			
Date	High	Low	Prec.
10-13	64	50	0
10-14	52	48	.74
10-15	66	58	0
10-16	82	56	0
10-17	71	45	0
10-18	62	36	0
10-19	62	45	0

WIC CLINICS	
Mid-Sioux Opportunity WIC Clinics are held in person. Call 1-800-859-2025 to make an appointment.	
The 2025 clinic dates are: Oct. 20-21, Nov. 17-18 and Dec. 15-16.	
SHIIP INFO	
Senior Health Insurance Information Program	
Questions about Medicare? Call SHIIP at 712-722-8137.	

PARKING	
No parking is allowed 2 a.m.-6 a.m. year round in Sioux Center.	

COURT REPORT	
New lawsuits filed:	
Marlene Weyer a/k/a Marlene Schiefen, Sioux County; Unknown spouse, if any of Marlene Weyer; parties in possession; defendants, vs. U.S. Bank National Association, plaintiff. Plaintiff prays that the mortgage be declared a first and prior lien on the property, superior, and paramount to the interest, liens, and claims of each and all defendants, including all protective advancements made by the Plaintiff for property preservation and other costs between the time of the decree and the time of the Sheriff’s sale. Plaintiff prays that the mortgage be foreclosed. Plaintiff prays for such other and further relief as may be just and equitable in the premises.	
Mark A. Sandbulte, Sioux County, defendant, vs. Credit Acceptance	

Corporation, plaintiff. Plaintiff prays for judgment against defendants in the amount of \$8,766.00, plus interest, the costs of this action, post-judgment interest at the current statutory rate, and for any other relief as the court deems just and equitable in the circumstances.	
Leah Schipper, Sioux Center, defendant, vs. Farmers & Merchants State Bank, Inc., plaintiff. Plaintiff respectfully demands judgment against defendant for the full fair and reasonable amount of Plaintiff’s damages together with interest, reasonable attorney fees, court costs, and all other sums provided by law.	
Criminal cases closed:	
State of Iowa vs. Santos Lopez Morales, Sioux Center, defendant, is convicted of driving while barred, habitual offender, an aggravated misdemeanor, and is sentenced to 360 days in the Sioux County Jail with all but seven days suspended and with credit for any time already served. The defendant is fined	

\$855.00, plus interest and court costs.	
Magistrate Court:	
Gustavo E. Delmazo Hernandez, Sioux Center, driving while license under suspension; driving while license denied, suspended, or canceled; failure to provide proof of financial liability.	
Omar J. Perez Cash, Sioux Center, driving while license under suspension; driving while license denied, suspended, or canceled; failure to provide proof of financial liability; no valid driver’s license.	
Sergio A. Morales Lopez, Sioux Center, speeding.	
Catarina Sales Morales, Sioux Center, no valid driver’s license.	
Jerim E. Agueda Herrera, Sioux Center, speeding.	
Elia J. Eppinga, Sioux Center, speeding.	
Kaden J. VandeBerg, Sioux Center, dark window or windshield.	
Austin J. Rozeboom, Sioux Center, speeding.	
Aaron B. Niz Matias, Sioux Center,	

no valid driver’s license.	
Melanie L. R. VanMaanen, Sioux Center, speeding.	
Harriet J. Cleveringa, Sioux Center, operation without registration card or plate.	
Crystal G. Dykstra, Sioux Center, stopping standing or parking where prohibited.	
Dana R. Dunn, Sioux Center, stopping, standing, or parking where prohibited.	
Lynette F. Nystrom, Sioux Center, failure to obey stop sign and yield right of way.	
Gabino E. Lopez Ramos, Sioux Center, no valid driver’s license.	
Graciela Batrez Munoz, Sioux Center, no valid driver’s license.	
Damon J. Bleeker, Sioux Center, seat belt.	
Reynaldo G. Gaytan Jr., Sioux Center, no valid driver’s license.	
Jerim E. Agueda Herrera, Sioux Center, no valid driver’s license.	
Tristan S. VanRoekel, Sioux Center, speeding.	
Rodney VanRavenswaay, Sioux Center, speeding.	