

2025

THE YEAR IN REVIEW

JANUARY

For Kari (Patten) Etherington, physical therapy was a career she thought she would be with for many years. But after some medical issues and job insecurity, Kari had some choices to make. She made a choice to be a teacher and then was guided into being a minister who now serves Trinity Methodist Church in Webb and First United in Sioux Rapids.

Laurie Tewes, owner of Country Clutter in Sioux Rapids, always dreamt of having her own business and the small white building on Main Street served her well. But a bigger space was desired so she purchased a larger building to house her unique shop.

The Sioux Rapids Flood book is now published with the assistance of Helene Ducas Viall who took it upon herself to compile information about the flood of 2024 within the community of Sioux Rapids.

Keith Stoerber was presented with the 2024 Firemen of the Year Award by the Sioux Rapids Fire Department, as well as being honored for serving the community for 15 years.

FEBRUARY

Cynthia Garthoff was hired to fill the position of library director at the Sioux Rapids Memorial Library. She has experience in library operations, as she was library director at the Early Library and

children’s librarian in the Sac City Library several years ago.

Avery Wilson surpassed the 1,000-point milestone at Spencer. Avery had a big impact on her team and this program during her high school career, while achieving great individual awards.

The coaches records and stats from games played in the ’60s and ’70s were donated to the Historical Association. The books will be on display during the Tall Corn Days Alumni Reunion at the museum along with a special photocopy found in the papers.

Three Girl Scout Troops unanimously voted to donate \$200 per troop to the American Legion in Sioux Rapids. The donation of \$600 went toward the purchase of 18-inch flags that the Girl Scouts help place on veteran’s graves.

MARCH

The Sioux Central individual speech students performed at the District IE contest held at Okoboji Middle School in Milford. There were 31 performances; 27 earned Division I ratings advancing on to state. Those who earned a Division I Rating went on to perform at the state IE contest held in Merville at Woodbury Central.

The new Hometown Pride Committee was established in Sioux Rapids. They are Amber Jessen, Jen Prior, Mike Katschman, Kayla Koenig, Brianna Sontag, Anastasia Makarenko and Ginny Smith. This committee meets to establish long-term improvement goals for Sioux Rapids.

CHICS Club planned or the annual Easter Egg Hunt at Gabrielson Park. Close to 1,200 plastic eggs were filled with candy.

Three speech students from Sioux Central attended the All State festival at UNI in Cedar Falls. The students were Ashley Anderson, Taylor Kragel and Natalie Rusk.

SIoux RAPIDS CITY COUNCIL MEETS

The Sioux Rapids City Council met Wednesday, Dec. 10, for its regular meeting.

Kayla Koenig was present asking the City Council for support in her effort to get funding for her building on Main Street, formerly known as The Office.

Koenig was in need of a letter of support from the city, citing her need for funding through the Iowa Department of Economic Development.

A proposal was brought to the council from Steve Hallengren, who specializes in helping city’s with grants and civil services. It was decided to give Simmering-Cory Inc. out of Storm Lake an opportunity to present a bid to keep the city’s business before any change can take place.

A motion was made to accept the bid for the clinic given by Graves Construction out of Spencer. Members of Sioux Rapids 2000 were present to answer questions about the ongoing repair of the medical office.

Newly-elected Mayor Mike Katschman asked council members which city committee/board they would like to be on in 2026. Jim Wise will stay active on the Landfill Board and Fire Protection Agency.

HIKE THE CANDY CANE FOREST

A new holiday activity for families is being introduced by the naturalists of Buena Vista County Conservation. The naturalists of Buena Vista County invite you to hike the Candy Cane Forest. Choose one of two hikes: short and easy or longer and challenging. Follow the candy canes along the trail to find the different Iowa owls. Hike the Candy Cane forest is a come and go event between 1-4 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 20, at Buena Vista Conservation Park. Meet at the Conservation Office, 377 440th St., in Peterson. This event is free of charge.

50K DONATED TO AMERICAN LEGION IN MEMORY OF DON AND NELLIE MEYER



The Graeber-Rowe American Legion Post in Sioux Rapids is very excited to announce a donation of \$50,000 from Dennis and Bev Meyer in memory of Don and Nellie Meyer.

Don and Nellie were lifelong farmers just south of Sioux Rapids. They spent many hours at the Community Center — playing cards, sharing lunches, and attending family and community gatherings. It was an important place in their lives and in the lives of so many others.

The Graeber-Rowe American Legion Post is so thankful for this donation, as it will allow work to begin while they wait for the FEMA funds. The Legion Post will continue serving Sioux Rapids and area communities due to the generosity of the Meyers.

YARD OF THE WEEK WINNER



The Yard of the Week winner has been announced! The home of Deb Roberts, at 107 Seventh St. in Sioux Rapids, is this week’s winner. She will receive \$25 in Chamber Bucks. Keep decorating, Sioux Rapids, you could be next! The contest runs through Dec. 21.

RECEPTION HELD FOR RETIRING MAYOR



Community members gathered at City Hall on Friday to congratulate Jim Wise on his retirement.

Wise has been in civil government for 20 years, first serving on the City Council for eight of those years, then holding the mayor position for the past 12 years.

Wise was instrumental in rebuilding city hall; volunteering many hours of hard work replacing the interior of the building.

Although he is unsure of his plans for the future, it’s a sure bet we will see him within the city limits, rebuilding Wise Antiques, volunteering at the Historical Association and so much more!

Thanks, Jim!

SWORN IN TO SERVE



Three individuals who won the city elections were sworn in at the December City Council meeting Wednesday night, Dec. 10. Left to right: Susan Mathe, Christy Wernimont and Mike Katschman all took the oath of office to serve the city of Sioux Rapids. The three will begin their terms at the January meeting, Jan. 14.

DONATION OF GLOVES TO STUDENTS



The Sioux Central Education Association presented school nurse Marikay Kottke with 45 pairs of waterproof gloves for the elementary students. The gloves were purchased using funds from the ISEA Community Outreach Grant. Students at Sioux Central will be able to have access to warm, dry gloves during the winter months for recess.

SIoux CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL QUIZ BOWL



Sioux Central’s High School quiz bowl team includes members, front row: Dane Nelson, Melia Hoffman and Lauren Holm. Back row: Mr. Thams, Naruto Menchaca, Carter Rose and Westin Hornbaker.

COMING EVENTS

- The Sioux Rapids Model Railroaders will host a Cookie Drive on Dec. 20 from 10 a.m. until the cookies are gone! The railroaders are located at 110 Blake St. in the Snook’s Carpet & Furniture building. Large trays are \$25 and small trays are \$15. All proceeds will go to the train room.
- The Sioux Rapids Community Blood Drive will be held Dec. 30 at First Lutheran Church, 716 First St., in Sioux Rapids.
- Sioux Rapids Food Pantry is open on the third Saturday each month at First Lutheran from 8-10 a.m. Contact Dolly Huffman at 712-260-0447.

DAYS GONE BY

- 10 YEARS AGO
- Siouan Questers celebrated their 60th anniversary of the founding of their get together held at Susie Onken’s home.
- Three senior football cheerleaders were selected to participate in the 2015 Iowa Honor Cheer Squad. They were Claire Blomberg, Emily Drees and Kenzie Keune.

- 20 YEARS AGO
- Dance Attack took third at state during the 2005 Iowa State Dance/Drill Team Championships.

- Two Sioux Central coaches were awarded the 2005 Coaches of the Year honor at the Iowa Association of Track Coaches Banquet; Brad Peter was awarded Class 1A Northwest Iowa Regional Cross Country Coach and Kendall Rachuy was awarded the Class 1A Northwest Iowa Regional Track Coach of the Year.

- 30 YEARS AGO
- “The Rented Christmas,” was presented by the Little Sioux players. Cast members were Amanda Olds, Kathy Leonard, Brian Waldstein, Rebecca Bossow, Rachael Bossow, Deb Olds, Ken Schau, Dana Bossow, Ben Skelton, Austin Smith and Jenny Skelton

- Cale Johnson and Joey Doran took first place honors at a junior varsity wrestling competition. Cale won all three matches and Joey won two of his matches by fall.

- 40 YEARS AGO
- Sioux Rapids was one of the 69 and possibly more state owned liquor stores that are planned to be closed.

- 50 YEARS AGO
- Early one evening, several women prepared the Sioux Rapids mini park for the Christmas holiday season. Mrs. Jack Gidley climbed the ladder and waited for Mrs. Tom Neal to hand her a string of lights for the living Christmas tree.

- 120 YEARS AGO
- Mrs. E.A. Gabrielson experienced quite a surprise while returning on the train from Linn Grove. A strange gentleman wearing a full beard came up behind her and tapping her on the shoulder said, “How do you do, Sis?” Not recognized the gentleman as anyone she ever met she was about to complain to the conductor when the stranger declared his identity. It was John Jensen. Mrs. Gabrielson’s own brother, so completely disguised with a full-grown beard and other changes that she failed to recognize him.



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