

HISTORY

Reprinted From The Journal-Herald Files



This week's Journal-Herald History photo features the Avoca High School Speech students who participated in state large group speech contest at Abraham Lincoln High School in Council Bluffs during the 1977-78 school year. Front (l. to r.): Tracy Hoover, Carrie Nelsen, Michelle Pash, Marcia Sampson, Scott Van Beck. Middle: Mike Ohm, Loren Holtz, Nancy Woltmann, Lou Ann Zobrist, Jan Taylor, Ellen Wunder, Shari Lippold, Wendy True, coach Mrs. Bornholdt. Back: Roger Kern, Rick Knutson, Rojean Rader, Connie Sampson, Lori Pattee, Denise Jenkins, and Liz Hinz.

5 YEARS AGO APRIL 24, 2020

Classes will not be resuming in the AHSTW Community School facilities for the remainder of the 2019-20 school year.

This final determination came with the Friday, April 17, press conference held by Iowa Governor Kim Reynolds and State Secretary of Education Ann Lebo announcing that all of Iowa's preK-12th grade school districts will remain closed for the remainder of the current school year as the COVID-19 pandemic continues to force changes such as "social distancing" to reduce deaths and a burden on the country's health care system.

Shelby native Alicia Rau has been surviving and sharing her musical talent to help keep hope alive in New York City as the COVID-19 Pandemic continues to take thousands of lives in the Big Apple.

Each evening around 7:00 p.m. she and other NYC musicians go to their windows, point their instruments at the mostly closed down metropolitan area around them and play music for their neighbors and health care providers.

Area fire departments, including Avoca and Walnut, responded to a structure fire east of Harlan on Tuesday.

Volunteer fire & rescue units were called to Iowa Agricultural Bio Fibers located on 900th Street, north of Prairie Rose State Park, at around 9:19 p.m. on Tuesday to fight an intense blaze.

10 YEARS AGO APRIL 23, 2015

A switch to a Standards Based Report Card system at the A-H-S-T Elementary School was approved by a unanimous vote at the directors' April 22 board meeting.

"A Standards-Based Report Card speaks directly to the standards identified and taught through Iowa Core at each grade level," said Elementary Principal Morgan Miller. "Our report cards for K-6 will use a system of Progress Marks (ie. Beginning, Progressing, Mastering, Exceeding) to indicate levels of student progress."

For fourth through sixth grade students this is a shift from the percentage-based letter grading systems (A,B,C,D,F) that has been used at A-H-S-T in the past.

The Pottawattamie County Freedom Rock is at its new home.

Chautauqua Park in Oakland is the final destination.

The park was busy with excited people watching and talking about this project.

People lined the Highway as it was brought in.

This was a job for Scrib's Moving and Heavy Hauling of David City, Ne.

It probably took four to six days of work to get the job done.

15 YEARS AGO APRIL 29, 2010

Avoca's downtown business district continues to get a facelift as the program to make improvements to building façades moves into another busy construction season.

So far, 11 property owners have completed renovations to building fronts, with another three locations to be included in work planned for this summer.

The Avoca American Legion Hall, Carley Drug, and the Exchange Block buildings are all set for façade improvements this year.

The new Nishnabotna River Trail will officially open with a day-long celebration of water recreation being planned for Saturday, June 19.

Organizers are meeting this spring to work out all the details for a special day that could see hundreds, if not thousands, of river enthusiasts taking to the water.

The Avoca community will host event kickoff activities at Edgington Memorial Park, along the banks of the east branch of the West Nishnabotna River, with a dedication ceremony to be held at 9:00 a.m. that morning near the new boat ramp in the park.

A-H-S-T High School students Taylor Becker, Brent Willett and Patty Hall were selected to perform at the Iowa All-State Speech Festival that took place on Monday, March 29.

Only 400 students out of 9,000 were selected to perform at the All-State Festival.

20 YEARS AGO APRIL 28, 2005

A-H-S-T High School seniors Jonathan Schroder, son of Mark and Lyla Schroder of Hancock, and Josh Hockett, son of Jamie and Kristi Hockett of Tennant, are among the top-ranked high school seniors who were named State of Iowa Scholars by the Iowa College Student Aid Commission recently.

The 2005 Iowa Scholars generally ranked in the upper three percent of their classes and achieved an average

score of 29 on the ACT team.

Carter Symanowicz, son of Bruce and Diana Symanowicz of Avoca, recently received his second degree Black Belt.

Carter has been a student of martial arts since the age of five.

Members of the 2005 A-H-S-T High School Golf teams are Billy Burns, T.C. Watson, Katie Carroll, Jessica Williams, Linsey Brockman, Danny Pattee, Sam Schueman, Evan Kock, Andrew Carroll, Travis Burns, Dean Zornes, Nate Clark, Andrew Burmeister, Ben Bryant, Matt Widrowicz, Nick Hope, Skyler Burmeister, Eric Maassen, Josh Guyer, Adam Beatty and Andrew Sulhoff.

On Tuesday, April 19, the East Pottawattamie Soil and Water Conservation District held a woman landowner's tour for women owning property in East Pottawattamie County.

The day began at Big Grove Country Inn with homemade cinnamon rolls prepared by Penny Wright.

The women were shown examples of conservation practices such as grade stabilization structures, the three different kinds of terraces, waterways, filter strips and the CRP program.

25 YEARS AGO APRIL 28, 2000

The A-H-S-T Community School District is looking for a new head for its administrative team after Superintendent of Schools Todd Wendt announced last week that he is taking the superintendent's position at LeMars, Ia.

Wendt is in his fourth year at A-H-S-T and is a native of northwest Iowa, not far from the LeMars district.

Wendt will officially step down from the A-H-S-T job on June 30 to take over July 1 at LeMars.

65 YEARS AGO APRIL 29, 1960

Lynn Crawford has received an honorable mention in state competition for her work in the school Safety Patrol.

The contest was conducted by the AAA Motor Club of Avoca.

A fire in the Avoca business district last Friday afternoon, that could have been disastrous if it had happened at night was promptly smothered by the Avoca Fire Department.

An "iron clad" shed behind the Kenkel Haberdashery

caught fire and was gutted by the blaze before the fire was put out.

It is believed that an unattended trash fire set the shed afire.

At the Iowa Federation of Music Festival held at Drake University in Des Moines Monday, Avoca had nine students representing the community.

Pupils of Mrs. Ruth Potter of Harlan receiving Superior ratings were Mary Kaven, Jack Cave, and Jaqueline Paulsen; Excellent ratings, Janice Paulsen, Jane Kaven, and Diane Jacobsen.

Janis Sorenson and Katherine Olesen received Superior ratings and are pupils of Mrs. Creighton Kaven.

Carole Doll received a Superior rating with her organ solo.

Carole is a pupil of Mrs. Frank Vierhus.

Miss Delphia Dool, long-time teacher in the Hancock school system, was honored by the AvoHa PTA and a tribute paid her by Ernest Barker, county superintendent of schools, at a recent PTA meeting.

125 YEARS AGO APRIL 26, 1900

R. Frost and family expect to depart for Germany June 1, for a visit with relatives and old friends.

Ernest Stafford and O.S. Marshall of Walnut departed for Oregon yesterday to purchase five car loads of horses.

They expect to return in about two weeks.

Attorney John Fletcher was up from the woods the first of the week and reports them full of violets and daisies.

Mrs. R.S. Hart, Mrs. E.A. Consigny and Mrs. W.A. Maxwell were Omaha visitors Friday and Saturday and attended the play Merchant Of Venice by Henry Irving and Elen Terry.

140 YEARS AGO APRIL 26, 1885

There was not a vacant dwelling house in Avoca, and every business house was occupied, merchants were pushing sales and offering special inducements to buyers.

Miss Susie Grey and Miss Alta Norton opened a dress making shop in the building formerly occupied by Dr. Gothard.

On Tuesday night, sneak thieves went to the residence of C.F. Shaw and stripped the clothesline of a portion of the week's washing.

Public Legal Notice: Avoca City Council Regular Meeting Minutes

Council Meeting, Avoca City Council, April 15, 2025
Mayor Tom Bruck called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM with Deb Calhoon, Robert McCarthy, Drew Becker, Diane Stamp, William Dea present. Motion by Becker, seconded by Dea to approve the agenda. Motion carried 5-0.

A few of the Southwest Iowa Relators presented Mayor Bruck with the Proclamation for Fair Housing for the month of April. Mayor Bruck signed the Proclamation.
Motion by Calhoon, seconded by Stamp to approve the consent agenda consisting of:

- Approval of the minutes: March 20, 2025 (both sets) and March 31, 2025.
- Approval of Claims, Payroll, Financials and Bank Reconciliation.
- Approval of the April 2025 ICAP membership renewal
- Appointment of Lori Espeseth to fill vacant seat on the Culture/Recreation Board.

• Setting date of public hearing for the Fiscal Year 2025 Budget Amendment #2 for May 20, 2025.

Additional services are related to the value engineering necessary for the cost reduction measures for the Public Safety Station. Motion by Dea, seconded by McCarthy to approve the agreement with Short Elliot Hendrickson, Inc for additional services. Motion carried 5-0.

Council was given the Contracts and bonds to review for the 2025 Edgington Park Trail Improvements.

Motion by McCarthy, seconded by Calhoon to approve RESOLUTION 25-0415-01: APPROVING CONTRACT AND BONDS regarding the 2025 Edgington Park Trail Improvements. On a roll call: AYES: 5, NAYS: 0.

Council has approved Certified Testing Services, Inc for construction material observation and testing services for the project, including soil, concrete, rebar, masonry and structural steel. Motion by Calhoon, seconded by Stamp to approve RESOLUTION 25-0415-02: APPROVING A SERVICE AGREEMENT WITH CERTIFIED TESTING SERVICES, INC FOR MATERIALS TESTING FOR THE PUBLIC SAFETY STATION PROJECT. On a roll call: AYES: 5, NAYS: 0.

Reports:
EMS - given by EMT Jessica Tooley
Library - given by Librarian Sabrina Lewis
Public Works - given by Mike Chapman
City Administrator - We are in a Severe Water Warning, we have only a few cart shed rentals left and they will be towed as of May 1st, Golf Course Cleanup Day is May 3rd, Sound Camera has caught over 100 violators in a three-week time frame, Public Safety Building groundbreaking is April 21st at 3pm.

Council Comments:
Robert McCarthy - Noticed some of the flower beds were cleaned-plans for the rest of them?
Diane Stamp - Thank you to the volunteers who helped clean up the downtown flowerbeds.

Drew Becker - Inquired about if we are talking with Pottawattamie County about the license plate reader camera.
Tom Bruck - Presented to the council the award (2025 Emerging Leading Award) the City Administrator received at the Spring IMCA Conference.

Tyler Trout presented the council with a signed document requesting the closed session.
Motion by Calhoon, seconded by Dea to close the open session pursuant to Chapter 21.5(4) to evaluate the professional competency of an individual whose appointment, hiring, performance, or discharge is being considered when necessary to prevent needless and irreparable injury to that individual's reputation and that individual requests a closed session at 6:02 PM. Motion carried 5-0.

Motion by McCarthy, seconded by Calhoon to re-open the meeting at 7:13 PM. Motion carried 5-0.

Motion by Dea, seconded by McCarthy to adjourn the meeting at 7:13 PM. Motion carried 5-0.

03-01-25 THRU 03-31-25	CLAIMS	AMOUNT
AFLAC	VOL INS	\$34.44
AGRI LAND FS INC	PROPANE	\$144.86
AMES GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB	SHARPEN REELS	\$1,750.00
AV BUILDING	CAP/CEMENT	\$38.46
AV MUNICIPAL UTILITIES	WATER BILL	\$68.71
AV SEED & CHEMICAL	TORDON	\$21.18
BADGER METER, INC.	HOSING SVC/CELLULAR SVC	\$148.98
BAKER & TAYLOR	MATERIALS	\$82.26
BEELNER'S SERV	DRAIN SPRINKLER SYSTEM	\$1,000.00
BOECKMAN SANDY	RECIPROCAL CARDS	\$75.00
BOMGAARS	MISC ITEMS	\$396.47
COLLEGE SERV	CHILD SUPPORT	\$633.60
COMPUTER SYSTEMS, INC.	QRTLY MONITORING/SERVER/365	\$4,540.00
D & K PRODUCTS	CHEMICALS	\$1,700.00
DANKO	FOAM/BOOTS/BATTERIES	\$5,400.61
DELTA DENTAL	DENTAL PAYABLE	\$212.28
DEMCO	SUPPLIES	\$182.90
DOLLAR GENERAL	WINDOW SUPPLIES	\$5.89
GALE	MATERIALS	\$96.32
GENERAL F&S	FIRE EXTINGUISHER SVC	\$1,251.50
GUARDIAN	LIFE/STD/LTD/AD&D	\$682.20
HANSON ATYS	LGL SVC	\$582.00
HARLAN NEWSPAPERS	PUBLICATION	\$214.68
HARRIS SUSAN	HEALTH PAYABLE REFUND	\$281.73
HIGHWAY SIGNING INC	REFUND	\$1,019.77
HOLTZ SERVICE	REPAIRS/PARTS	\$604.57
I P E R S	IPERS	\$7,373.72
I R S	FED/FICA TAX	\$10,965.74
IA ASSN OF MU	25-26 DUES	\$856.00
IA TREASURER	FEB EXCISE TAX	\$5,182.60
IOWA PRISON IND	GOLF TAGS	\$214.45
JDW MIDWEST LLC	MONTHLY SVC	\$610.00
JENNIFER WYATT	SMALL BUSINESS INCENTIVE	\$625.00
JOURNAL-HERALD	PUBLICATIONS	\$482.22
KEAST FORD	1150 SVC	\$244.17
KIESEL GALE	MONTHLY REPORTING	\$1,000.00
LIL VIKES CHILD CARE CTR	SMALL BUSINESS INCENTIVE	\$625.00
LYNCH DALLAS, PC	LEGAL SVC	\$5,425.00
MARNE ELK HORN	PHONE/INTERNET/CABLE	\$757.79

MATT PARROTT	DISCONNECT NOTICES	\$656.59
MCCARTHY TRENCH	WTR MAIN LEAK	\$605.00
MERTIAN HEALTH	REFUND	\$1,557.00
MIDAMER ENERGY	UTILITY BILL	\$4,984.08
MIDWEST BREATHING AIR LLC	QTRLY SVC	\$642.20
MIDWEST GLASS & GLAZING	TRIP CHARGE	\$521.00
MIDWEST LABS	TESTING	\$89.83
MYRTUE MEDICAL	HEARING TESTS	\$93.00
NAPPA	MISC ITEMS	\$481.03
NISHNA VALLEY PEST CONTRL	PEST CONTROL	\$295.00
OLESEN CHEVY	TIRE RPR	\$55.98
PHYSICIAN'S CLAIMS COMPAY	SEPT-OCT 24 EMS RUNS	\$2,139.09
POTT CO SHERIFF	QTRLY PMT	\$5,304.50
POTT CO SHERIFF-GARNISHMT	GARN - POTT CO	\$444.09
R & S WASTE	TRASH/COLLECTION	\$12,794.13
RATZLAFF LAWN CARE LLC	3 SNOW REMOVAL	\$1,341.00
REGIONAL WATER	FEB USAGE	\$22,045.30
SHORT ELLIOT HENDRICKSON	ENGINEERING SVC	\$8,649.48
SNYDER & ASSOC	ENGINEERING SVC	\$11,508.00
TOOLEY JESSICA	REIMBURSE EYE LENSES SCBA MASK	\$279.09
TOOLEY JUSTIN	REIMBURSE-SCBA GLASSES	\$234.09
TREASURER OF STATE	STATE TAX	\$1,058.28
TROUT TYLER	TUITION REIMBURSEMENT	\$1,500.00
U S POST OFFICE	APRIL 25 UT BILLS	\$504.00
US BANK	MISC ITEMS	\$2,385.57
VERIZON WIRELESS	CELL PHONE	\$320.38
VSP	VISION PAYABLE	\$178.24
WELLMARK	HEALTH	\$11,860.99
WELLS FARGO-COPIER LEASE	COPIER LEASE	\$529.31
DEPOSIT REFUNDS	REFUND DATE 03/31/2025	\$77.74
PAYROLL CHECKS	PAYROLL CHECKS ON 03/05/2025	\$15,851.63
PAYROLL CHECKS	PAYROLL CHECKS ON 03/19/2025	\$17,125.18
CLAIMS TOTAL		\$179,440.86
GENERAL FUND		\$91,876.01
GOLF COURSE FUND		\$9,487.72
AQUATIC CENTER FUND		\$808.71
ROAD USE TAX FUND		\$5,649.17
EMPLOYEE BENEFITS FUND		\$6,265.38
LIBRARY TRUST FUND		\$823.44
DEBT SERVICE FUND		\$516.88
CAP PROJ - PUBLIC SAFETY FUND		\$8,670.12
URBAN RENEWAL CAP PROJ FUND		\$1,957.00
URBAN RENEWAL ADMIN FUND		\$3,673.05
WATER FUND		\$36,798.85
SEWER FUND		\$10,730.92
STORM WATER FUND		\$2,183.61
03-01-25 THRU 03-31-25	REVENUE	\$47,942.20
GENERAL TOTAL		\$47,205.59
GOLF COURSE TOTAL		\$8,703.97
HOTEL/MOTEL TAX TOTAL		\$15,959.44
ROAD USE TAX TOTAL		\$3,490.93
EMPLOYEE BENEFITS TOTAL		\$28,230.15
LOCAL OPTION TAX TOTAL		\$4,066.57
TIP - URBAN RENEWAL #1 TOTAL		\$406.67
LIBRARY TRUST TOTAL		\$840.00
DEBT SERVICE TOTAL		\$739.01
CAP RESERVE TOTAL		\$1,072.51
CAPITAL - MISC		\$5,796.99
EMPLOYEE BENEFITS TOTAL		\$6,265.38
URBAN RENEWAL CAP PROJ TOTAL		\$6,083.27
PERPETUAL CARE TOTAL		\$120.00
LIBRARY TRUST - PERPETUAL TOTAL		\$3.57
WATER TOTAL		\$67,921.59
WATER SINKING FUND TOTAL		\$10,264.16
SEWER TOTAL		\$37,828.50
SEWER SINKING FUND TOTAL		\$8,234.25
STORM WATER TOTAL		\$10,037.52
STORM WATER SINKING FUND TOTAL		\$2,307.92
TOTAL REVENUE		\$309,413.48

ATTEST: Teresa M Hoepner, City Clerk

AHSTW Board Public Hearing Proceedings

AHSTW COMMUNITY SCHOOL
March 26, 2025
Elementary Media Center
Public Hearing

The AHSTW Community School Board of Directors met March 26, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. in the elementary media center for a public hearing. President Long called the meeting to order with Rosmann, Grote Krohn, Kock, Mitchell, and Cordes answering roll call Superintendent Jones represented the Administration. Board Secretary Cook was also present. One guest was present.

Approval of Agenda
A motion was made by Cordes, seconded by Krohn, that the AHSTW

Board of Directors approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried: seven votes - yes.

AHSTW Fiscal Year 2026: School District Budget
No written comments via email or mail regarding the FY2026 Proposed Tax Levy

One member of the public voiced an opinion FY2026 Proposed Tax Levy Adjournment
There being no further business to conduct, the meeting was adjourned at 6:32 p.m.

Board Secretary
Alisha Cook

Elm Crest in Harlan
Independent Living Apartment Homes!



Live 2 months FREE & SAVE up to \$3,000*

- ★ Enjoy Social Community Living!
- ★ Featuring the latest in home design!
- ★ Petersen Wellness Center Membership!
- ★ Live Maintenance Free! -no more snow removal!

Call today to learn more!



Take a fly-thru Video Tour at **ElmCrest.net**

Or call for your personal tour!



ELM CREST
SENIOR LIVING COMMUNITY

712-755-5174

2104 12th St., Harlan, IA 51537

ElmCrest.net

Elm Crest is owned and operated by American Baptist Homes of the Midwest, a not-for-profit provider of senior health care since 1930.