

Walleye season opens May 3 on Iowa's Great Lakes

The 150th walleye fishing season officially opens May 3 at Spirit Lake, East and West Okoboji lakes.

“A very robust and healthy walleye population was observed this spring during brood stock collection efforts at the Spirit Lake Fish Hatchery,” said Mike Hawkins, Northwest Regional Fisheries Management supervisor for the Iowa Department of Natural Resources.

“In two nights, three crews collected all the necessary fish for this year’s spawning efforts.”

Walleye season opens the first Saturday in May and runs through Feb. 14 each year on Spirit Lake, East Okoboji Lake and West Okoboji Lake. The protected slot limit on walleyes is 19 to 25 inches, with only one walleye over 25 inches allowed per day.

The protected slot limit applies to Spirit Lake, East and West Okoboji Lake, Upper and Lower Gar Lake and Minnewashta Lake. The daily limit is three walleyes with a possession limit of six.

The walleye season will be opening in the Iowa Great Lakes, but the lakes offer great fishing for a variety of other species. Panfish, northern pike, and smallmouth and largemouth bass fishing can be very good as waters warm.

Water levels on the Okoboji chain are just barely above crest level with water flowing over the Lower Gar spillway. Spirit Lake remains a few inches below crest.

For many anglers, this will be their first trip on the water for the season. Checking your safety equipment and making sure your boat is ready ahead

of time can help ease congestion at busy boat ramps.

The Iowa Great Lakes Chamber of Commerce will host the 43rd annual Iowa Great Lakes Walleye Weekend Fishing Contest in conjunction with the opener. For more information on the contest, visit okobojichamber.com/walleye-week-end/.

Anglers are also encouraged to participate in the Midwest Walleye Challenge hosted by the Iowa DNR Fisheries Bureau. Angler catch information from this citizen science data collection effort provides valuable data to help fisheries biologists manage Iowa’s walleye populations.

For more information and to sign up visit anglersatlas.com/event/835/2025-midwest-walleye-challenge-iowa.

Coming in July ...



The new emergency wing of Compass Memorial Healthcare looks more and more like the concept drawing displayed in front of the hospital as it nears completion. The new wing is set to open in July, according to hospital officials. (Winona Whitaker/Hometown Current)

Letters policy

Letters to the editor must be signed with the author’s name and town of residence and should include a phone number for verification purposes. The phone number will not be published.

Form letters and letters from outside our subscription area will generally not be published.

We will not publish letters that we deem libelous or letters that contain claims or assumptions that cannot be verified using reasonable effort, letters

we consider in poor taste or letters we consider offensive to the general readership.

Letters must be less than 500 words and will be edited for grammar, style and spelling.

Only one letter from a single author on the same subject will be published in a 30-day period.

Letters that endorse candidates will be considered ad content and will not be printed. Endorsements of ballot issues will be accepted as letters to the editor.

Letters will run at the discretion of the managing editor based on relevance, timeliness and available space. We do not guarantee that submitted letters will appear in print.

Send letters for The Hometown Current, the Marengo Pioneer Republican, the Poweshiek County Chronicle Republican and the Williamsburg Journal Tribune to Hometown Media Managing Editor Winona Whitaker at winona@hometowncurrent.com.

CLASSIFIEDS

LEGAL NOTICES

April 21, 2025
The Poweshiek County Board of Supervisors met in regular session at 8:30 a.m. Members present: Jason Roudabush, Jacki Bolen, and Jeff Tindle. Also present: Simone Bates, and The Record.
Moved by Roudabush, 2nd by Bolen to approve agenda, 3 ayes. Motion carried.
Moved by Bolen, 2nd by Roudabush to approve April 17, 2025, board minutes, 3 ayes. Motion carried.
Kristin Fantazia, General Assistance Director, met with the board for a weekly update.
David Timms, Kristy Timm joined the meeting to discuss their request for a liquor license for a business they are starting at 199 Marina Drive, Montezuma. Timms stated they are purchasing the building and business and will run as a bar & grill, hoping to be open the week before Memorial Day weekend. Board reviewed the request for a liquor license and agreed everything was in order. The board thanked the Timms for attending the meeting to keep the county informed of their new business.
Moved by Roudabush, 2nd by Bolen to approve liquor license for Buoy’s Inc. d/b/a Buoy’s Bar & Grill, 199 Marina Drive, Montezuma, IA, effective May 6, 2025. 3 ayes. Motion carried.
Lyle Brehm, Engineer, joined the meeting. Brehm advised that work has started on 480th Avenue West Hwy 63 with a soft closure today, allowing people to still get through, but as of next Monday, April 28, there will be a hard closure, not allowing traffic. Bolen inquired about access to Horseshoe Drive, as the only access to this road is off 480th Avenue. Brehm stated access to Horseshoe Drive will not be shut off, and residents will have access either from the west entrance or the east entrance.
Skip Lowe & Josie Beck, North Risk Partners, met with the board to present the FY26 employee insurance benefits renewal and the experience review for July 1, 2024, to March 31, 2025.
Moved by Bolen, 2nd by Roudabush to adjourn at 10:03 a.m.
Melissa Eilander,
Poweshiek County Auditor
Jeff Tindle, Chairman

April 24, 2025
The Poweshiek County Board of Supervisors met in regular session at 8:30 a.m. Members present: Jason Roudabush, Jacki Bolen, and Jeff Tindle.
Moved by Bolen, 2nd by Roudabush to approve agenda, 3 ayes. Motion carried.
Moved by Roudabush, 2nd by Bolen to approve April 21, 2025 board minutes, 3 ayes. Motion carried.
Moved by Bolen, 2nd by Roudabush to approve April 25, 2025, payroll for \$312,211.55. 3 ayes. Motion carried.
Moved by Roudabush, 2nd by Bolen to approve utility permits #25-161, to Brooklyn Mutual Telephone Coop for work in Section 20, Warren Township, 3 ayes. Motion carried.
J.D. Griffith, Sanitarian/Zoning Administrator, met with the board for a monthly update. Griffith provided the March 2025 sanitarian’s report. Griffith discussed changes made to the draft of the solar ordinance. A discussion was held regarding a nuisance property south of the Malcom I-80 exit, located on the east side. Griffith stated he spoke to the county attorney regarding this property, and in order for the county to pursue clean-up of this property, the county would need to establish a nuisance ordinance. Griffith found an example from Jasper County and will work with the county attorney to get a draft ordinance prepared to discuss further at a later board meeting.
Derek Bates, The Record, joined the meeting.
Lyle Brehm, Engineer, met with the board to present the IDOT FY26 budget and the IDOT county 5-year road plan.
Moved by Bolen, 2nd by Roudabush to approve IDOT FY26 budget and authorize Jeff Tindle, Chairman, to sign. 3 ayes. Motion carried.
Moved by Roudabush, 2nd by Bolen to approve IDOT county 5-year road plan and authorize Jeff Tindle, Chairman, to sign. 3 ayes. Motion carried.
Brehm presented to the board a letter of agreement for the county employees to operate on four 10-hour days from the week after Memorial Day to the Friday preceding Labor Day. (June 2, 2025 to August 29, 2025) The normal work week will be Monday through Thursday from 6:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., including a 30-minute lunch period. Moved by Bolen, 2nd by Roudabush to approve Letter of Agreement and authorize Jeff Tindle, Chairman, to sign. 3 ayes. Motion carried.
Dustin Skagerboe, IDOT representative,

and Reece McGrew, Manatts representative, met to discuss the road project on Hwy 21 south of the I-80 interchange. Others attending to obtain information were Tom Cheney, Richard Cheney, Don Cranston, Dave King, and Ken Cordes. This project is a 6” PC overlay on Hwy 21 south of Denny’s to the Hwy 85 intersection. Work will begin May 5 with the removal of certain areas, and then milling of the asphalt will start. McGrew stated that once all the pre-work is completed, they expect to start with the pavement overlay at the beginning of June. Once they do a portion, no traffic can be on this area for at least 24 hours. This area will be fenced off to all traffic. During the pre-work, residents should be able to access the road to get to their residence and their farming locations. Questions were asked about feed trucks getting through, as some residents have cattle along this road. McGrew said they would work with residents the best they can to keep that access, and McGrew and Skagerboe said anyone can call them with any questions or to get updates. When the portion of the road is not drivable, Manatts relayed that residents could park their vehicles at the closest gravel road intersection and utilize a provided golf cart to get from the residence to their vehicle. Tindle relayed concerns from Heartland Coop at Guernsey with getting grain trucks in and out, and also trucks hauling materials for their business. McGrew stated they would still be able to have access until the time of laying the pavement. McGrew stated they hope to have the road fully open to through traffic by the beginning of July.
Matt Maschmann, Sheriff, met with the board to discuss the in-car cameras and body cameras. Maschmann obtained a quote to fit the two new deputy cars and deputies with cameras, which was around \$32,000. Sheriff Maschmann stated that the prior sheriff purchased all the cameras outright, so the department is responsible for the upkeep and repair costs of the cameras. Sheriff Maschmann obtained a quote to lease the cameras for 5 years, which all maintenance and repairs would be included in this lease, as well as a replacement after 3 years of all body cameras. The lease would be 5 installment payments. Board stated they would like to see the quotes and information that is contained in the lease agreement, so Sheriff Maschmann will email the information to the board members and will have a follow-up conversation.
Sheriff Maschmann also discussed a portable dispatch. This was something Sheriff Maschmann felt should have been included in the original radio project agreement. This would be stored off-site at the Grinnell tower and would be used if something happened to the dispatch center in Montezuma, and could also be used for any event around the county in conjunction with the EMA trailer. Being connected to the Grinnell tower, all information will be received, and someone will test it once a month.
Sheriff Maschmann relayed that he obtained a quote for a third dispatch unit for the communications center. Sheriff Maschmann is going to present this to the E911 board to see if they would be on board to purchase this additional dispatch unit.
Moved by Roudabush, 2nd by Bolen to approve certificate of appointment for Nathan A. Bardole, Deputy Sheriff, effective July 1, 2025; rate of pay \$37.79 per hour. 3 ayes. Motion carried.
Tylor Nelson, Conservation Director, met with the board to discuss the Conservation Technician II position and job description. Tindle stated that this should all be approved by the Conservation Board before being brought to the Board of Supervisors. Nelson stated he wanted to distinguish between Tech I and Tech II positions, with Tech II having more supervisory responsibilities. Board of Supervisors relayed to Nelson to meet with his board to determine if they want to create this new position or to update the current job description and then follow up with the Board of Supervisors.
Board reviewed the letter drafted in support of Dayton Meat Products’ application for a grant. Moved by Bolen, 2nd by Roudabush to approve a letter of support for Dayton Meat Products’ application to the Rural Innovation Grant Program, Economic Gardening, and authorize Jeff Tindle, Chairman, to sign. 3 ayes. Motion carried.
Board tabled authorizing Jeff Tindle and Melissa Eilander to sign FY24 audit exit documents due to the State Auditor’s Office still reaching out with questions for completion of the audit.
Bolen stated she has a Region 6 meeting on Monday at Noon.

Roudabush stated he has a Poweshiek County Economic Development Collaborative (former Pow I-80) meeting next week on Wednesday. Tindle stated he has a Central Iowa Juvenile Detention meeting tomorrow. Moved by Bolen, 2nd by Roudabush at 11:49 a.m. to adjourn.
Melissa Eilander,
Poweshiek County Auditor
Jeff Tindle, Chairman

BGM COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT April 9th, 2025 BOARD MINUTES
The Regular Board Meeting of the BGM Community School District met in regular session on April 9th, at 7:05 p.m. in the media center of BGM High School. Board President Kelly Kriegel called the meeting to order.
Roll call resulted in board members, Craig Kuntz, Craig Kalinay, Kelly Kriegel, Stacia Brown, and Eric Hodina being present. Kayleen Tomelich and Pat Coleman were absent. Also present was Superintendent Hohensee, Brady Miller, Shane Ehresman, and Mary Sherwood.
Brown read the Mission Statement “In partnership with parent(s) and community, we will provide each student with the essential knowledge, skills, and attitudes to be a lifelong learner, a contributing citizen, and a productive worker in a changing and diverse world.”
Kriegel read the President’s Statement. Kuntz moved to approve the consent agenda items which included additions/deletions, approval of the previous meeting minutes, current bills and additional bills, financial reports, facility use requests. Open enrollment approval of applications for 25-26: Nicolas Avila-(12), Gianni Avila-(7), Malaiiah Avila-(5) from H-LV. Resignations- Tracey Gerard-Summer Pool Manager, Danielle Haines-Para Educator, Liz Hamilton-Para Educator, Courtney Neighbors-Dance. Employment offers- Emily Daugherty-FL Play Director, Kaitlin Kaplin-Math Teacher. The motion was seconded by Hodina, unanimously adopted.
Brown moved to approve the 2025-2026 Certified Staff Contracts. The motion was seconded by Kuntz, Kalinay abstained, unanimously adopted.
Brown moved to approve the 2025-2026 School Calendar. The motion was seconded by Hodina, unanimously adopted.
Kuntz moved to approve the resolution authorizing the redemption of general obligation school bonds, Series 2018 dated May 3, 2018 and levying a tax for fiscal year 2026 for the redemption of general obligation school bonds, series 2018, dated May 3, 2018. The motion was seconded by Brown, unanimously adopted.
Kuntz moved to approve the supply request. The motion was seconded by Brown, unanimously adopted.
Kuntz moved to approve the 2025-2026 budget. The motion was seconded by Brown, unanimously adopted.
Kuntz moved to approve the early retirement plan for certified staff. The motion was seconded by Kalinay, unanimously adopted.
The Board accepted the FY 2024 Audit. Superintendent Hohensee reported:
1. April Schedule.
2. Last day of school remains May 23rd as we have enough hours to cover the weather related dismissals/closures.
3. Budget Timelines. Summer work orders will be on the agenda for approval in May.
4. Graduation Procedures- Who will be attending-Handing out diplomas-ETC.
5. AASA National Conference-ETC. 12-14, 2026, in Nashville. In my contract it is written to allow me to go to a national conference every year. I do not go every year. Next year it is Nashville so I can drive to help reduce travel costs. I do not

plan to go to the National Conf. in 2027. I would plan to go in 2028 in San Diego.
Principal Mary Sherwood Reported:
• Our mid-year assessment data is looking great! We have increased students at benchmark since the beginning of the year. In literacy we went from 77% of students in K-6 at benchmark to 84% of students at benchmark. Math we increased as well from 75% at benchmark in the fall to 80% in the winter. We are in the midst of our deep data dives and making additional plans to interventions and supports for our students. I am very proud of our teachers, staff and students with their hard work and dedication to meeting individual needs for our students.
• We are kicking off our Kids Heart Challenge on Friday, February 7th with an assembly from the American Heart Association. We encourage all students and staff to wear red on wis day with special recognition for our very own 5th grader, Ava Kane, who recently had heart surgery and is fighting hard with her recovery. Kyle Gritsch has several fun incentives planned this year in hopes of meeting our goal of raising \$13,000. Our culminating event and deadline will be Friday, February 21st where all classes will participate in heart healthy activities during their specials time.
• Ms. Chatfield is hosting her annual Family Folk Dance Night on Friday, February 7th from 6:30-7:30. The whole family is coming to join in learning some fun new dances during this event.
• Classes will be celebrating Valentine’s Day on February 14th.
Principal Shane Ehresman Reported:
Summer School opportunities will be available only for students in need of credit recovery. Mr. Kriegel will manage the classes with Franci McClenathan supervising the students. Summer school classes will start on June 9 and end June 27, 2025. At the April Secondary Building Leadership Team (BLT) meeting, we reviewed the BGM Wireless Communication Device and policy proposal along with the governor’s cell phone bill in the Iowa legislature and March 12 SIAC meeting feedback. The BLT decided to pause school board approval until the cell phone bill is signed by the governor. At the May 2025 BGM school board meeting, a proposal to be presented to the school board.
Paraeducators were recognized on Wednesday, April 2 for their service to students and staff. Their primary function is to support teachers and students. Here’s a breakdown of their key roles: Providing one-on-one or small-group instruction to students who need extra help, reinforcing lessons and concepts presented by the teacher, and adapting materials and providing accommodations for students with special needs. Secondary paraeducators include Jessica Egerlon, Liz Hamilton, Franci McClenathan, Allie Morris, Dalton Roberts, Matt Smith, Jake Tibbetts and Dorothy Wedgewood. On Wednesday, March 26, the Brooklyn Kiwanis Club took nine Kiwanis Student of the Month seniors to Des Moines for a tour of the state capitol and lunch. Upcoming Dates:
• Class night will be held on Wednesday, May 14 at 6:30 p.m. in the auditorium.
• Junior High School Prom will be held on Friday, April 25 from 6 - 7:30 p.m.
• Graduation will be held on Sunday, May 18 at 2:00 p.m. in the elementary gym. Similar format to previous years.
• All 7th and 8th grade students who are passing all fourth quarter classes will go to Adventureland on Monday, May 19.
Iowa Statewide Assessment of Student Progress (ISASP) testing was completed on Friday, April 3. Students took the tests during the week of March 18 - March 21 (one test a day). Jeremy Mize was instrumental in test

preparation, troubleshooting issues during the testing period, and following up with students for test retakes who were absent during the testing period.
TPRA Grant Update: Two elementary paraeducators will be pursuing a teaching degree using the state’s Teacher & Paraeducator Registered Apprenticeship (TPRA) grant. Aimee Peak (elementary education/special education) and Quincie Smith (elementary education) have been accepted to take online classes at William Penn University in Oskaloosa. The TPRA grant will pay their tuition and books until June 30, 2026. Several other BGM district paraeducators are considering entering the associate degree in education from Iowa Valley Community College.
The board entered close session at 7:46pm.
Roll call resulted in board members, Craig Kuntz, Craig Kalinay, Kelly Kriegel, Stacia Brown, and Eric Hodina being present. Kayleen Tomelich and Pat Coleman were absent. Also present was Superintendent Hohensee, Brady Miller, Shane Ehresman, and Mary Sherwood.
The board entered back into open session at 7:54pm.
Brown moved to approve the 2025-2026 Classified Contracts. The motion was seconded Kuntz, unanimously adopted.
The next regular meeting of the Board of directors will take place Wednesday May 14th, 2025 at 7:00PM.
Kuntz moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:55pm. Hodina seconded.
Brady Miller, Board Secretary
Kelly Kriegel, Board President

BGM COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT April 9th, 2025 Special BOARD MINUTES
The BGM Board met in special session to have a second hearing for the 2026 property tax.
Roll call resulted in board members, Craig Kuntz, Craig Kalinay, Kelly Kriegel, Stacia Brown, and Eric Hodina being present. Kayleen Tomelich and Pat Coleman were absent. Also present was Superintendent Hohensee, Brady Miller, Shane Ehresman, and Mary Sherwood.
Kriegel called the hearing to order. The Board participated in discussions on the proposed tax levy for fiscal year 2025-2026.
The Board participated in discussions on the 2025-2026 School calendar. Discussion closed at 7:03pm.
Brown moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:04pm. Kuntz seconded.
Brady Miller, Board Secretary
Kelly Kriegel, Board President

NOTICE OF PROBATE OF WILL, OF APPOINTMENT OF EXECUTORS, AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS CASE NO. ESPR019976
THE IOWA DISTRICT COURT FOR POWESHIEK COUNTY IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF BETTY M. PRICE, Deceased.
To All Persons Interested in the Estate of Betty M. Price, Deceased, who died on or about April 17, 2025:
You are hereby notified that on April 24, 2025, the Last Will and Testament of Betty M. Price, deceased, bearing date of August 26, 1986, and Codicil, dated September 24, 2008, were admitted to probate in the above-named court and that Linda Lee Ludwig and Christy Marie Pifer have been appointed Executors of the estate. Any action to set aside the will must be brought in the district court of said county within the later to occur of four months from the date of the second publication of this notice or one month from the date of mailing of this notice to all heirs of the decedent and devisees under the will whose identities are reasonably ascertainable, or thereafter be forever barred.

Notice is further given that all persons indebted to the estate are requested to make immediate payment to the undersigned, and creditors having claims against the estate shall file them with the clerk of the above-named district court, as provided by law, duly authenticated, for allowance, and unless so filed by the date to occur of four months from the date of the second publication of this notice or one month from the date of mailing of this notice (unless otherwise allowed or paid) a claim is thereafter forever barred.
Dated April 25, 2025.

Linda Lee Ludwig
Executor of Estate
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Grinnell, IA 50112
Christy Marie Pifer
Executor of Estate
1713 Hobart St
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Thomas M. Buchanan, ICIS#: AT0001162
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Date of second publication the 9th day of May, 2025.

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