

# To the Editor

Thank you to the Knoxville Public Library for hosting CultureALL's Open Book program on March 27. Open Book is a story-sharing experience where people are "Books" who share "chapters" of their lives followed by a facilitated discussion. Knoxville-area residents heard from Zach Mecham and JJ Kapur, the two Books. The conversation that followed covered topics like traveling, identity, heroes, and things we'd like to let go off. Community residents expressed a sense of community belonging and welcome along with pride in the library and the rich programming. Karen Downing Project Coordinator, Open Book



Pictured from left to right are Tony Briggs (100+ Men Red Rock), Amber Beyer (Awakening Grace Central Iowa Director), Caleb Attema (100+ Men Red Rock), and Jerry Van Wyk (100+ Men Red Rock). (photo submitted)

## Red Rock Men donate to Awakening Grace

100+ Men Red Rock donated \$10,000 to Awakening Grace, one of the organization's 2025 first quarter recipients. Awakening Grace's mission is to support families who have experienced the loss of a child during pregnancy and infancy to grieve bravely, heal gently, and remember boldly. Awakening Grace helps provide support services, care packages, financial assistance, miscarriage support, and other individualized services needed by each family. 100+ Men Red Rock is a group of men committed to giving back to the Lake Red Rock area by financially supporting the charitable organizations that serve the Red Rock region. We hold quarterly meetings to support local causes using a simple model: 100+ participating men x \$100 contribution = \$10,000+ to local charities in the Red Rock region. 2025 marks the group's 10th year of supporting the Red Rock area. Since our founding in 2015, we have been proud to have given \$339,000+ back to Red Rock organizations. The group has big plans to celebrate its 10th anniversary in 2025 and increase its impact.



## Public Safety volunteers recognized

The City of Pella hosted its annual Emergency Services recognition event on Thursday, March 27, at Bos Landen. Firefighters and police reserves were recognized for their years of service to the community. They included:

- Firefighter Austin Vander Linden with 10 years of service
- Firefighter Jim Gosselink with 25 years of service
- Firefighter Greg Stump with 25 years of service
- Police Reserve Glenn Meinders with 30 years of service
- Fire Chief Randy Bogaard with 40 years of service
- Firefighter Joel Braafhart retiring with 45 years of service

The event included a meal and participation from members of the Pella City Council.

## TC to present "The Escape Room"

By Steve Woodhouse

Twin Cedars High School Drama has been working on its spring play, "The Escape Room". Director Mikayla Hirschak says the play focuses on a softball team that is struggling to get along. Sources of the tension are typical challenges teenagers can experience. To help the players strengthen their bond as a team, they visit an escape room. The comedy features seven Saber thespians. Performances are scheduled for March 28-29 at 6:30 p.m. at Twin Cedars High School.

## Radio funding dispute can be solved

The Marion County E911 Board sent a message to Sheriff Jason Sandholdt on March 6 that included an invoice for the balance of radios purchased. Emergency Management Director Jeff Anderson wrote the message on the board's behalf, requesting that the sheriff's office pay the balance from the department's current budget or otherwise make arrangements through the Board of Supervisors or provide a plan of action or provide a reason why "you feel that you don't need to pay it."

The balance owed E911 is reported to be around \$40,000. Sandholdt wrote in a response dated March 26 that the radios were part of his 23-24 budget. Since the money was not spent, he believes the money was returned to the general fund and earmarked for that purpose.

"The BOS will need to be petitioned to pay for it from the money that was returned to them by me from my last year's budget and discussed with the past Board Chair," Sandholdt wrote. The past Board Chair was Mark Raymie, who was not reelected to another term.

The County's budget process does not allow for funds to be carried over for specific projects if the money is not spent. The expense must be specified again in the following year's budget.

County budgets, like any other, provide guidelines for spending plans. If an unbudgeted expense arises, departments can file a budget amendment to make payments without further issue.

As of our print deadline, there have been no budget amendments filed, nor payment made in this matter. We will keep you posted.

**To:** Jason Sandholdt <[jsandholdt@marioncountyiowa.gov](mailto:jsandholdt@marioncountyiowa.gov)>  
**Cc:** Emily Feagins <[efeagins@marioncountyiowa.gov](mailto:efeagins@marioncountyiowa.gov)>  
**Subject:** radio project invoice

Sheriff Sandholdt-

At the 911 Service Board meeting last week, the board directed me to send the invoice (attached) for the radio project to you. The Board requested that you pay the invoice from your current budget; or petition the BOS to seek alternate funding methods; or respond to the 911 Service Board in writing within 30 days with your plan of action or provide a reason why you feel that you don't need to pay it; you may also provide an alternate suggestion in writing for resolution of the invoice.

Service Board (like I said at the next 911 Service Board meeting) and if the Board of Supervisors agree to pay it, I have no issue with that.

1. This was not a budgeted expense in my current 24-25 budget since the money was returned to the general fund from my 23-24 budget and earmarked for this.
2. The BOS will need to be petitioned to pay it from the money that was returned to them by me from my last year's budget and discussed with the past Board Chair.

If further slander happens against me in the media or elsewhere in regards to this by anyone, legal action against the person or entity will likely occur.

Jason

Thank You!

Thank you to our loyal subscribers and readers. We couldn't do this without you! From the Marion County Express staff

Marion County  
**Express**  
Reporting Today's News • Recording Tomorrow's History

### NOTICE OF REQUEST FOR BID PROPOSALS FOR PLEASANT GROVE TOWNSHIP CEMETERY MOWING SERVICES

Sealed bids are invited and will be received by Pleasantville Board of Trustees for the mowing of certain properties of the Township. The selected Bidder will be awarded the contract by action of the Board of Trustees, approving and adopting the contract documents, providing for its enforcement and penalties as provided by law. The Board of Trustees reserves the right to reject any or all Bids, nor is the Board obligated to accept the lowest bid.

The Board reserves the right to waive irregularities and/or informalities in any Bid and to make an award in any manner, consistent with law, deemed in the best interest of the Board of Trustees.

Sealed Bids are to be hand-delivered by the bidder to the Pleasant Grove Township meeting on Monday April 14, 2025

Sealed bids will be opened at the Pleasant Grove Township meeting to be held on April 14, 2025 at 6 pm at the Pleasantville EMS Building, 1012 Hwy 5, Pleasantville, IA 50225, Pleasantville Iowa. Contract/Bid sheets can be obtained by contacting any of the current trustees: Aaron DeMoss at 515-681-8760 , Aubrey Burress at 515-238-9730 or Jocelyn Richards at 515-210-0870.

Complimentary features keep your business on the right path.

When you file with your Block Advisors small business certified tax pro, you'll also receive these services at no charge. Rest easy with our 100% accuracy guarantee and year-round support.

- » **Annualized profit and loss statement**  
Get an accurate view of your business performance and financial standing through professional income statements.
- » **Business entity structure analysis**  
See how analyzing and potentially changing your entity structure could affect your tax situation.

Schedule a free consultation

110 S. 2ND STREET,  
WEST SIDE OF SQUARE  
KNOXVILLE, IA 50138 | 641-842-6912

**Block Advisors**  
by H&R BLOCK