

Memorial Day Service on Sunday

The Van Veen-Van Hemert American Legion Post #89, along with the Howard D. Versteegh VFW Post 5242 and American Legion Auxiliary #89, will host a

Memorial Day service on Sunday, May 25, at 2 p.m. at the Memorial Building. Everyone is invited to attend.

Legion Post 168

On Tuesday, May 13, 12 members gathered for the monthly meeting of the American Legion Baty-Tucker Post 168, called to order by Commander Curt Froyen. Past month’s minutes, membership, finance reports were reviewed and approved. Jack Spaur will be taking over the Club Room committee from Ed McDonald. Dale Mallory gave us an update of the boys’ scouts and its closure.

The placement of grave marker flags on veterans’ graves at Graceland Cemetery is scheduled to start at 9 a.m. on Friday, May 16. Over 1,200 flags are installed. Anyone who wishes to be part of this are welcome.

The Avenue of Flags placement at Graceland Cemetery is scheduled to

start at 7 a.m., Thursday, May 22. Flags will be removed, starting at 3 p.m., Tuesday, May 27. The public is invited to be part of this as we place over 250 flags along the roads through the cemetery.

A discussion was had about the key lock box that they are requiring businesses to install at an expense of over \$500. A key for the business is placed inside this box for the fire department to gain access.

Since our last meeting, we have proudly provided graveside military honors for Tommy Cupples.

Our next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 10, 5 p.m. at the meeting room at the old rec center next to the Legion post.

Meeting adjourned.

Help Iowa Realty Knoxville Fill Randy’s Truck

The Realtors at Iowa Realty Knoxville are gearing up once again to show their love for local pets in need — and they need your help!

Join us Saturday, June 7, from 8- 11 a.m. at the Knoxville Farmers’ Market (south side of the square) as we try to fill Randy’s truck and trailer with food, supplies, and donations for the Marion County Humane Society (MCHS).

This year marks the third annual “Fill Randy’s Truck” supply drive, an effort that began when local Realtor Randy Chambers wanted to honor his beloved rat terrier, Maggie, by helping homeless pets. Though Maggie has passed, her legacy lives on through this event — and this year, her spirited successor, Molly, will be cheering us on as

our official mascot.

The Marion County Humane Society is currently at full capacity and urgently needs pet food, treats, cat litter, cleaning supplies, and funds for spay/neuter services and medical care. A list of needed items is available at: <https://www.marioncountyhmane.org/wish-list-items>

And that’s not all — MCHS will bring along adoptable dogs to meet the public, so come say hello and maybe find your new best friend!

“Our community has been incredibly generous in the past, and we’re hoping to load up even more this year,” said Annie Leonard, Broker/Manager of Iowa Realty Knoxville. “It’s a fun, feel good way to give back — and it really makes a difference.”

Pella City Council briefs

The Pella City Council met in regular session Tuesday night. Here are a few more details about the meeting and what was approved.

Councilors Spencer Carlstone and Dave Hopkins were absent.

Approved an agreement with the Spirit of Pella for the purchase of an ice rink chiller at Caldwell Park. Spirit of Pella is solely responsible for raising \$500,000 for the chiller. Tubes will run under the ice, which, according to Spirit’s Bob Zylstra, should have a life expectancy of 15 years and keep the ice frozen at temps 50 degrees and below. The chiller itself should last 25 years. The City hopes to have the rink installed in summer 2026.

Approved a rezoning request from Federated Fellowship Church. The church plans to expand its parking lot and the rezoning aligns with the comprehensive plan.

Approved a resolution to authorize staff to seek bids for the Lincoln Street

Reconstruction project. This project includes replacement of the sanitary sewer, water main, pavement and removal of pavement/driveway on Lincoln from 100 feet west of Houston to East Third. Estimated cost is \$1,073,594. A public hearing on the project is scheduled for June 17 at 6 p.m.

Approved rate increases for sanitary sewer and water services. As discussed during the budget discussions earlier this year, the fees will increase July 1 and be reflected on bills due Aug. 20. The fee increases will help cover the costs to continue to maintain the City’s water and wastewater systems.

Approved the budget amendment. There was a public hearing prior to this, during which no comments were made. The amendment was printed in a previous edition of the Express. This action will not raise taxes, it is just a requirement from the State.

Legislation compromises County 911 funding

Continued from page 1

through surcharges, but they are saving for major communications projects that will cost millions.

“The Marion County 911 board two years ago had \$1.3 million in fund balance,” Anderson said. “After a nearly \$1 million communication project to purchase radios for our public safety agencies, our fund balance is slightly under \$500,000 with the board reserving \$300,000 of that for emergency reserve funds. This leaves approximately \$200,000 available for the service board for operations.”

As demonstrated by the

graph Anderson provided, surcharge revenues that the service board uses for operations is realizing its lowest revenues in over 15 years and revenues continue to trend downward.

“Our service board operates 100 percent off of surcharge dollars and receives no property tax funds from the Board of Supervisors,” Anderson said. “The Marion County 911 Service board has been very financially responsible and remains one of a very small number of boards that still maintain their local 911 sign program without outside financial assistance. Our sign program has in

excess of 17,000 signs, which are a very key piece of allowing the 911 system to function. Key point in this discussion is that the usage of the 911 funds is very restrictive. We are not allowed to use these funds for 911 Telecommunicator salaries or building infrastructure.”

“Homeland Security proposed a change in the split of 911 surcharge revenues that I believe was very reasonable,” Rozenboom added. “But the locals refuse to acknowledge that a shortfall in funding for the state meant that the state could no longer adequately

maintain the 911 system. I fully understand the local PSAPs wanting to maintain their own systems, but without the state’s ability to upgrade, there will be no system. I think this was a good compromise.”

“Without a veto on this line item, it will be very difficult for the Marion County BOS to assist the 911 Board, as recent legislation capped their ability to grow their budgets to keep up with growth and inflation. There clearly won’t be any winners locally if this is signed into law,” Anderson said.

Pleasantville Community News

Pleasantville native earns PhD

Jennifer (Isgrig) Tipton, Pleasantville High School graduate, was conferred the

degree of PhD, Doctor of Philosophy, in Education on May 15 at Iowa State

University. She serves as Program Director at First Scholars Office, Iowa State

University.

Council approves PYI site plan

The Pleasantville City Council approved a site plan submitted by Pleasantville Youth Initiative for its new building at 105 Monroe Street.

This action was taken at Tuesday’s regular city council meeting. PYI had submitted the plan, as well as those for Americans with Disabilities Act compliance. All were approved.

Pleasantville FFA heading into Summer

As the school year winds down, the Pleasantville FFA Chapter has been hard at work wrapping up spring projects and preparing for an exciting summer ahead. Here’s a look at what we’ve been up to!

Greenhouse Class

Our greenhouse class recently held its annual plant sales, and it was a big success! Students were responsible for all aspects of the project, planting, watering, organizing, pricing, and managing customer transactions. They gained valuable hands-on experience in horticulture and business management, and their efforts paid off with a solid profit.

A huge thank you goes out to all the community members who stopped by to support the sale. Your continued encouragement

helps us grow—literally and figuratively!

Soybean Test Plots

The sophomore ag science class has been busy out in the field planting soybean test plots for various seed companies. These plots will allow students to observe and compare different soybean varieties over the growing season, giving them real-world exposure to agricultural research and data collection. We’re excited to see the results later this fall!

Ag Safety Day

On May 8, we hosted Ag Safety Day for local 3rd and 4th grade students. It was a fun and educational event where younger students rotated through 9 different safety stations. Topics included horse safety, germ safety, cattle safety, chicken safety, gun safety, tractor safety,

ATV safety, lawn mower safety, and even a creative drawing station. Students learned important safety tips for life on and around the farm. Thank you to everyone who helped make this event possible!

Senior Send-Off Celebration

As we say goodbye to the Class of 2025, we’re planning a special Senior Send-Off to celebrate all their hard work and contributions to our chapter. There will be games, snacks, and drinks as we honor our seniors and wish them well on their next chapter. We’re incredibly proud of this group and grateful for the leadership they’ve shown during their time in FFA.

Summer Fair Season Ahead

Even though school is out soon, our FFA members

will stay active throughout the summer. Be on the lookout for Pleasantville FFA students exhibiting livestock and projects at both the Marion County Fair and the Iowa State Fair. During the Marion County Fair we will be hosting a waterball dodgeball tournament in the horse arena on Tuesday, July 15 at 6:30 P.M. We’re excited to see all our members’ hard work showcased and wish them the best of luck in the show ring!

Stay tuned for more updates as we head into summer, and thank you for supporting Pleasantville FFA!

- *Leeah Hartman Pleasantville FFA Chapter Reporter and Emma Ellis Chapter Historian*

Pleasantville Class of 2025 Scholarships

Pleasantville American Legion Post 108 Scholarship

Ava Greene, Colton Metcalf, Emily Roe, and Addie Van Ness

Pleasantville American Legion Post 108 Auxiliary Scholarship

Hope DeMan, and Macie-May Kuhn

Sons of the American Legion Post Legion Scholarship

Colton Metcalf

Pella Rolscreen Foundation’s 2025 Brighter Future Scholarship

Dawson Schrader

Pella Cooperative Electric Scholarship

Colton Metcalf

Professional Educators of Iowa Scholarship

Emily Roe

Iowa Foundation For Agricultural Advancement

Addison Wall

Friends of the FFA Scholarship

Addison Wall Josh Simpson Memorial Scholarship

Colton Metcalf

Phil Sage Memorial Scholarship

Colton Metcalf

Striding 4 Awareness Scholarship

Kyleigh McConnell, and Sophia Rollins

Peoples Bank Scholarship

Dylan Messamaker

Bonita Johnson Memorial Scholarship

Emily Roe

Carroll Worthington Scholarship

Addison Wall

Danielle L. Fee, O.D. Memorial Scholarship

Lauren Furnal

Fine Arts Booster Scholarship

Colby Boza, Grace Fust, Dawson Schrader, Kayleigh Seaman (McKay), and Keria Wysong

Ellis Scholarship for the Arts

Dawson Schrader, Kayleigh Seaman, and Addison Wall

Joyce Van Fleet Memorial Scholarship

Helena Nicewanger

Knoxville Hospitals & Clinics Scholarship

Macie-May Kuhn

Pleasant Grove Volunteer Fire Department and Ladies Auxiliary Scholarship

Emily Roe, and Addison Wall

Pleasantville Education Association Lois Lyon Memorial Scholarship

Emily Roe

Courtney/Cox/Calhoun Community Pitch Tournament Scholarship

Ella Clark, Joelle Johnson, Alexa Keeney, Kyleigh McConnell, and Colton Metcalf

Richard and Berniel Lyon Memorial Scholarship

Ella Clark, Talyn Spaur, and Payton Wieck

Brian Simpson

Scholarship

Hope DeMann

Lu Anne Simpson Memorial Scholarship

Alexa Keeney

Ted Myers Memorial Scholarship

Hope DeMann

Ellis and Roxie Dyer Scholarship

Hope DeMan, Joelle Johnson, Emily Roe, Addie Van Ness, and Addison Wall

Pleasantville Excel Scholarship

Ava Greene, Joelle Johnson, Alexa Keeney, Kayleigh McConnell, and Emily Roe

Knoxville Raceway Scholarship

Colby Boza, Cael Johnson, Alexander McGill, Faith Nelson

Student Recognition American Citizenship Award

Dawson Schrader

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