



See page 7

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1, 2026

THE GUTTENBERG PRESS



130TH YEAR | NUMBER 13 \$1.75

SERVING OUR COMMUNITY SINCE 1897

563-252-2421

WWW.GUTTENBERGPRESS.COM

10 SCHILLER STREET | P.O. Box 937 | GUTTENBERG, IOWA 52052



New budget, rezoning issues are city council meeting topics

The Guttenberg city council approved the budget for the coming fiscal year when it met in special session on March 23. The fiscal year begins on July 1.

There were no comments from the public at a hearing on the proposed property tax levy held prior to the budget vote.

In other business, the council approved the second reading of an ordinance that would change the zoning of the former Masonic Temple building from residential to commercial. Prior to the vote, a letter was read from developer Isaac Sweet regarding questions raised by Joan Simon, who spoke at the previous council meeting. Property owner Cathy Hines presented concerns about noise and parking. The proposed ordinance change must pass

one more reading before it receives final approval.

Police Chief Derek Chambers received council permission to purchase a vehicle through online auction, which he said could be substantially less expensive than ordering new at state bid amounts. The council directed that the vehicle auction price not exceed \$85,000 for total expenses.

A pay request for \$16,000 was approved for electrical updates for flood control pumps.

The bid from Logan's Pool Painting to paint and caulk the pool this fall was accepted by the council.

The council okayed a sewer adjustment request for Tony Lake.

The council went into closed session to discuss the sale of city property. When returning to (Continued on Page 2)



Fire Department benefit dance

The annual benefit dance sponsored by the Guttenberg Fire Department was held at Lakeside Ballroom on Saturday, March 28. The evening featured music by Walking Molly, along with drawings for numerous door prizes. Proceeds from the event will be used for fire/extrication equipment. (Press photo by Austin Greve)

With software switch, Guttenberg utility customers need to re-sign up for auto pay

By Audrey Posten

The city of Guttenberg has new accounting software, and staff are reminding customers who previously had auto pay for their utility bills to assure they have re-signed up for auto pay under the new system.

"We had notices out to let people know that, with the new system, they had to re-sign up for auto pay. But we are finding a lot of people had not seen the notices. We switched the utility part in November, and we still have people that haven't caught that they need to re-sign up," said Guttenberg City Manager Jamie Blume.

Through the transition, Blume said the city has not had time to track which customers have or have not switched—and who hasn't paid their bills.

"We're giving customers the benefit of the doubt because we have a lot of things that we're trying to get corrected as well," she said. "We just had a customer come in a couple weeks ago that was on auto pay and figured out, finally, that his bill kept getting bigger and bigger."

If customers have not re-signed up for auto pay since the city switched from postcard to paper bills, Blume said that is a sign they are inactive.

Customers should reach out to the city to re-activate auto pay, or go on the city website, cityofguttenbergia.gov, to sign up themselves.

The city has not yet enacted delinquent notices or penalties. It's been a

learning curve for everyone, acknowledged Blume.

"We don't want to penalize our customers when we're struggling too. We feel their pain," she said. "But we don't want people to have like seven, eight months worth of bills and all of a sudden realize, 'Oh my gosh, this is out of hand,' and get in a bind. We don't want them to all of a sudden have like a \$1,000 bill."

Utility bills from the city include electric, water, sewer and garbage as well as a flat rate for storm sewer. Those with Black Hills Energy natural gas, phone or internet have separate bills for those services.

"But a good chunk of their utilities are all through us, so sometimes they can be pretty big bills," Blume said.

From Yellowstone to Guttenberg, the story of the Wolter Grotto

By Bruce Thein

Tucked away into the park near Guttenberg's fish hatchery stands one of the town's most unusual historical features, a small stone grotto that has puzzled and intrigued residents for nearly a century.

The story of the Wolter Grotto was already making news in town by the spring of 1935. In its May 2, 1935 issue, *The Guttenberg Press* reported on the unique stone memorial being constructed in Ingleside Park by local resident and brewer Rudolph Wolter.

Wolter, assisted by his son Joseph, created the small stone structure using rocks he had gathered over many years. Located in what was then known as (Continued on Page 2)



The Wolter Grotto in Ingleside Park, pictured shortly after its construction in the 1930s. It was built by Rudolph Wolter using stones collected from across the country, including Yellowstone National Park. (Photo courtesy Guttenberg Heritage Society)

Trusted Care for All Ages and Stages – Cornerstone Family Practice

GMHC
Guttenberg Municipal
Hospital & Clinics

An Affiliate of **MERCYONE**
guttenberghospital.org

At Cornerstone Family Practice, we're here for you and your loved ones at every stage of life—from newborn checkups to senior wellness visits.

Your family deserves a team that provides family-centered, compassionate, lifelong care in one trusted place. Ready for expert care at every stage of life?

Schedule your appointment today! Call 563-252-2141

