



## Briefly . . .

### Columbus Schools Menu - April 1 - 8, 2026

**Thursday, April 2nd:** Breakfast-Breakfast Pizza-Egg/Bacon or Breakfast Sausage Bagel. Lunch-Chicken Patty on WG Bun, Potato Salad, Baked Beans, Assorted Fruit.  
**Friday, April 3rd:** NO SCHOOL~ GOOD FRIDAY  
**Monday, April 6th:** Breakfast-Yogurt and Graham Crackers. Lunch-Taco-Hard Shell, Refried Beans, Spanish Rice, Salsa, Applesauce.  
**Tuesday, April 7th:** Breakfast- Breakfast Pizza-Egg/Bacon or Breakfast Sausage Bagel. Lunch-Assorted Lunch Entrees, Romaine Lettuce w/Ranch, Sidekick, Wheat Roll.  
**Wednesday, April 8th:** Breakfast-Pancakes and Sausage Patty. Lunch-Chili Crispito w/Cheese Sauce, Mixed Vegetables, Tostito Chips, Mixed Fruit.

### Milestone Cafe Menu - March 26 - April 1, 2026

**Thursday, March 26th:** 3oz. Chicken Fettuccine, ½ C Pasta, 1 C Tossed Green Salad, 2tbs Dressing, ½ C Peach Crisp, Breadstick.  
**Friday, March 27th:** 3oz. Loose Meat Sandwich on Bun, ½ C Potato Salad, ½ C Seasoned Peas, ½ C Fruit.  
**Monday, March 30th:** 5oz. Pizza Pasta Casserole, ½ C Corn, ½ C Peas, Cookie.  
**Tuesday, March 31st:** 3oz. Pot Roast, ½ C Roasted Red Potatoes, ½ C Buttered Carrots, Wheat Roll, Frosted Cake.  
**Wednesday, April 1st:** 5oz. Ham & Beans, 1 C Tossed Salad, 2T Dressing, ½ C Peaches, Combread.

### LC Libraries to hold 250th anniversary celebrations

Louisa County Conservation and your Louisa County Libraries invite you to participate in a year of 250th anniversary celebrations! Stop by your local libraries any time to get a passport to Louisa County, featuring checklists of amazing attractions in your own backyard, challenges, and information on upcoming programming! We're looking forward to celebrating our nation's 250th birthday with you, featuring all that Louisa County has to offer.

### Finish the Barn Breakfast set for April 4th

The Barn Committee of the Louisa County fair will serve up a pancake and sausage free will breakfast starting at 8am on Saturday, April 4th. The Community Foundation has given the committee a \$5,000 Challenge Grant to help them raise the funds for the pens, bleachers and other finishing touches – so bring your check books! Bring the kids too – because the Easter Bunny will be AT THE FAIRGROUNDS this year (*NOT Chataqua Park*) with a 10:30 egg hunt start for kids thru 10 years old! There will be an opportunity to take photos with the Easter Bunny too!



### Grief Support Group to meet April 8th

Grief Support Group with Hospice Compassus Chaplain Paul Benevides on Wednesday April 8th at 1:00pm located at Colonial Estates Assisted Living 815 Colonial Lane, Columbus Junction IA 52738. Refreshments will be served.

### Shellbark to meet April 9th in Winfield

Shellbark Club will meet Thursday, April 9th, 2026, at El Mariachi in Winfield at 11:30am.

### Community Social at Colonial Estates

April Community Social. Everyone is welcome to attend. Come say Hello to friends and family and enjoy good conversation and refreshments. Monday April 20th at 2pm-4pm, located at Colonial Estates Assisted Living 815 Colonial Lane, Columbus Junction IA 52738

## LOUISA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

# First required public hearings for FY27 property tax levies conducted by three Louisa County governments

by JIM RUDISILL

The first of two required public hearings on Fiscal Year (FY) 27 property tax levies were conducted during the week of March 22 by three Louisa County local governments that are responsible for some of the largest budgets in the county.

The Louisa County Board of Supervisors led the parade of hearings on March 23 with a rare 6 p.m. gathering, while both the Wapello School Board and the Columbus School Board held their hearings at 5:30 p.m. on March 25.

Although there were no

comments or audience at the two school board hearings, the board of supervisors attracted five local residents and a reporter.

Nearly all the citizens at the supervisors' hearing spoke, leading off with Jim Keldgord, Wapello, who was curious about the public notice's effective tax rate and proposed tax rate.

According to the published hearing notice, the effective Countywide Rate is projected to be slightly over \$7.75 per \$1,000 valuation; while the Rural Additional Rate of a little over \$2.73 would bring the Rural Total Rate

to just over \$10.48 per \$1,000.

Meanwhile, the FY 27 proposed rates are Countywide - about \$7.80; Rural Additional - just over \$2.94; with Rural Total - a little over \$10.74 per \$1,000.

"What's the difference?" Keldgord wondered about the differing rates.

County auditor Susan Schnedler explained the proposed rate was the maximum county asking for FY 27 based on the latest valuation and anticipated county budget.

During other discussions, officials have

indicated a proposed rate can actually slip lower once a final budget proposal is unveiled but cannot increase once it is published.

The effective rate shows what would happen to the tax rate if the county budgeted the same amount of property tax dollars in FY 27 as it did in FY 26, based on the county's latest valuation.

Former legislator Tom Sands, Wapello, who acknowledged helping to develop some of the legislation related to the property tax levy hearing

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# QUILTS OF VALOR presentations



3-22-2026, Verlinda P. was honored to award a Quilt of Valor to Active-duty Coast Guard Preston P. He began his service in 2023 and has served in Alaska and the Middle East. Preston is being wrapped in his Quilt by Dad

(Brandon) and Mom (Desi). His quilt was made by Verlinda P. and was quilted by Joyce S. members of Patriotic Quilters of SE Iowa. Thank you Preston for your service!

**FAST STOP**




**Columbus Community School District**

Make habit of filling up at the Columbus Jct. FAST STOP!

FUEL UP & GIVE BACK!

3¢ PER GALLON will go to the Columbus Wildcats

Columbus Jct. AGRILAND FS FAST STOP  
24303 Hwy 92

Fill up from March 1 - June 30, 2026

Funds will be donated directly to Columbus Community School District

**Questions?**  
Give AGRILAND FS a call at 515-462-5353.



Hope you have a safe and happy Easter!