



North English Fire Department Receives New Tanker Truck

By Casey Jarmes | The News-Review
NORTH ENGLISH – The North English Volunteer Fire Department received a new tanker truck recently, replacing their old tanker truck, which was cobbled together

er out of a milk truck and a garbage truck. The department spent two years and called forty dealers in three states to try and find a new tanker, eventually finding one nearby in Williamsburg. The truck was built in 2004,

has 16,300 miles, and holds 3,400 gallons. Firefighter Dan Strohman stated that this was the first time in the 49 years he'd been with the department that they'd had a truck actually built to be a tanker.

Grant Ranch Named Small Business of the Week

By Casey Jarmes | The News-Review
SIGOURNEY – On March 9, Grant Ranch Grub & Pub was recognized as Senator Joni Ernst's Small Business of the Week. "Grant Ranch Grub & Pub is a shining example of how Iowa hospitality, family tradition, and entrepreneurial perseverance can be sandwiched together to make a big impact," Ernst said in a press release. "Through exceptional service, Danette Meyer and her team are serving up hometown flavor one plate at a time." "I'm actually very honored, because Keokuk County has a lot of great small businesses to choose

from," said owner Danette Meyer. Grant Ranch Grub & Pub, a bar and grill on the square in Sigourney, was opened by Meyer in 2020. It shares its name with several restaurants owned by Meyer's family in the past, the first being opened by her grandparents Duane and Mary Grant in Marengo. "Business has been wonderful. The community

has been awesome with supporting my dream of owning my own restaurant...It's in the family genes. I'm a third generation, my grandparents started in the 60s, and then my mom also had her own place, and now I have mine, and one of my teenagers is learning the ropes also, and possibly can carry on the tradition," said Meyer.



Ollie Man Pleads Not Guilty To Alleged Altercation With Protester

By Casey Jarmes | The News-Review
SIGOURNEY – For months now, Sigourney resident Mathew Lentz has been standing on the corner of Highway 92 and Main Street, holding a variety of provocative signs. These signs usually criticize President Donald Trump and Sigourney's Republican voters. Often, these signs have contained profanity, something that has angered many in this community. On Jan. 21, the News-Review published a Letter to the Editor sent to us by

George Snakenberg of Ollie titled "Our First Amendment Rights While Protecting the Innocence of Our Youth," which admonished the use of curse words in Lentz's signs. In this letter, Snakenberg wrote "It is my belief that our words are not merely words, but seeds that are being planted in the virgin soil of our children's minds. These seeds will take root and grow into hatred. Most altercations will start out with a certain word."

language displayed on the victim's sign and initiated a verbal altercation with the victim. During the argument, the defendant attempted to rip the sign out of the victim's arms. While doing so, the defendant grabbed the victim's left arm, causing the victim to overextend his arm. The defendant was unable to take the victim's sign and continued to engage in a verbal altercation, disturbing the victim while he was peacefully protesting."

According to a criminal complaint, at around 3:40 p.m. on Dec. 17, Snakenberg "became upset with the

Snakenberg was charged with Disorderly Conduct, a simple misdemeanor. He plead Not Guilty on March 9.

Sigourney School Board Discusses Weight Room Improvements, Replacing Fire Alarms

By Casey Jarmes | The News-Review
SIGOURNEY – The Sigourney Jr/Sr High School has applied for a \$140,000 matching funds grant to expand the weight room, adding 625 square feet and connecting it to the school building. During the March 11 meeting of the Sigourney School Board, High School Principal Shannon Webb stated they could add more equipment and have the weight room open to everyone during study halls. Superintendent Kevin Hatfield explained that the grant would cover around half of the cost of a roughly \$300,000 project. He stated that they had received \$25,000 from a person interested in the wellness benefits and were looking into other grants to help cover the costs. The \$140,000 grant will be decided on in May. Board member Adam Clark stated that the \$300,000 price tag seemed expensive, for the size of the expansion. Also at the Wednesday meeting, Hatfield showed

the board two bids, one from ESCO Group and one from Atwood Electric, to replace the secondary building's fire alarm system. One bid is for \$230,000 and the other is for \$273,663. Replacing the fire alarms was originally planned to be done as part of the infrastructure bond project, which failed to pass in November. Hatfield explained that the system's panels are old and frequently have false alarms or sensors go out. Worse, repairmen struggle to find replacement parts for the old system. Hatfield stated that one repairman might be able to find parts from an old fire alarm system that was taken out of a school, but that he wasn't sure. Board member Steven Seeley stated it would be cheaper and simpler to replace the fire alarms when the ceilings are down during a bigger infrastructure project. Board member Tim Bruns stated he was torn, because it would be terrible if something happened, but he didn't want to

spend more in the event the bond passes. Board member Mike Bensmiller stated that the next bond vote might not pass. Clark stated that the system works currently and suggested trying to get old parts. Bensmiller stated that he didn't want to take a chance with safety. Discussion was tabled.

The board approved a 28e agreement with the Sigourney Public Library for librarian services, which will give the school more librarian days at a lower cost than the current services purchased through the AEA. Hatfield brought up controversies other Iowa schools had been embroiled in for allowing students to use their school ID at the public library; he explained that the 28e specified that the librarian will follow all codes relating to school libraries.

The district will have a public hearing on the new tax rate at 4:30 on March 25, at the district office. The board has proposed for this rate to be \$11.49381 per \$1,000 of taxable property.

South English Planning Water Line Overhaul

By Casey Jarmes | The News-Review
SOUTH ENGLISH – For years, South English has had problems with the city's water main system, which frequently has had leaks that went months without being found. The city council is now looking into a massive project to replace nearly all of the city's water lines. During the March 10 meeting, the council spoke with Richard Teed from the engineering firm Garden & Associates, who informed them that they could receive \$900,000 in loan forgiveness SRF funding for this project. He stated that the likelihood of receiving this funding is high, but that it would require spending \$150,000 upfront in design and loan closing costs, paid off over a 20-year low interest Planning and Design Loan.

plus an additional \$10,000. Councilman Cameron Miller stated there had been months where they lost a million gallons from leaks. Mayor Ed Shafranek stated that the two-inch mains were close to fifty years old and that most of the service lines were replaced 23-years-ago.

night they discuss the tax levy. The council approved not increasing employee wages, with Hope Frazier explaining that they lost a bunch of money this year on water, had a big project coming, and also need to redo the roads. She brought up a quote from ION Water for \$1,450 a month, which would do everything they needed for cheaper than giving the two water employees raises. Shafranek stated that, if they approved this, they would need to eliminate the water employee positions and give them 60 day warnings. City Clerk Stephanie Lown asked if ION would do water shutoffs and Hope Frazier said that, worst case scenario, the council could shut off water lines.

Also at the Tuesday meeting, the council discussed increasing the city's water rates. Hope Frazier suggested waiting until they were further along with Gardener & Associates before raising rates. Miller stated they were going to continue losing money no matter what and that they had lost money on water each of the last five years. Shafranek stated there was no way to not raise rates, with the project they were looking at. Councilman Nick Frazier stated the public would be more accepting if they raised rates after the project got going. Hope Frazier noted that a lot of people in town were on fixed incomes. Shafranek stated it was better to raise rates now than to do a huge jump like North English did a few years ago. The council decided to discuss this more during a March 24 special meeting, the same

Nick Frazier brought up the old hotel, which has become less structurally sound after its porch was removed. Councilman Roger Murphy noted that there was a hole in the hotel's foundation, with a six-foot drop into the basement. Shafranek stated they should at least rope the hole off, to keep kids from falling in. The council voted to have their lawyer send a letter to the property owner.

Keota School Board reviews counseling program, discusses community trail project, and approves purchases

By: Katie Phillips | The News-Review
KEOTA – The Keota School Board reviewed the district's counseling program, discussed a potential community trail project and approved several purchases and facility improvements during its meeting Thursday,

March 12. Elementary school counselor Marnie Schrader presented an overview of the district's school counseling program, which serves all 177 elementary students through classroom guidance lessons, small group instruction, and individual counseling ses-

sions. Each grade receives about 20 classroom counseling lessons each year. The program has also hosted nine small groups this school year, each with two to six students, serv-

YOUR CUSTOMERS ARE **READING THIS RIGHT NOW** IS YOUR BUSINESS HERE TOO?
CONTACT KATIE PHILLIPS AT SALES@SIGOURNEYNEWSREVIEW.COM

The News-Review

Only \$0.29 per 4x6

Instant Prints at our Photo Kiosk

The News-Review • 120 E Washington, Sigourney • 641-622-3110