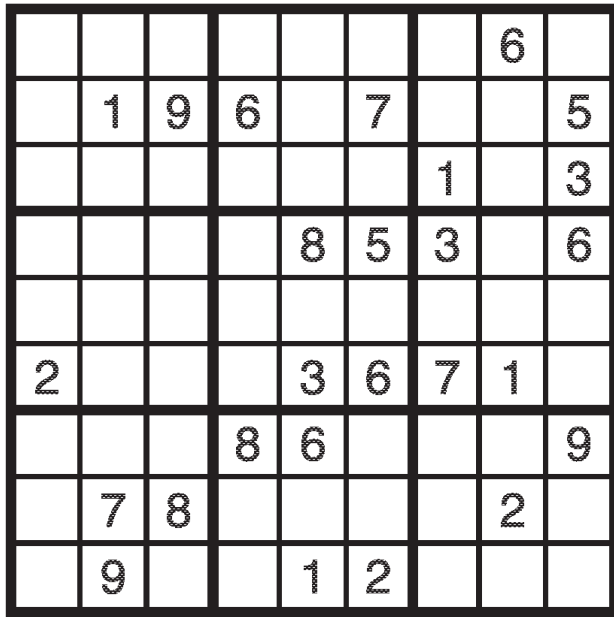
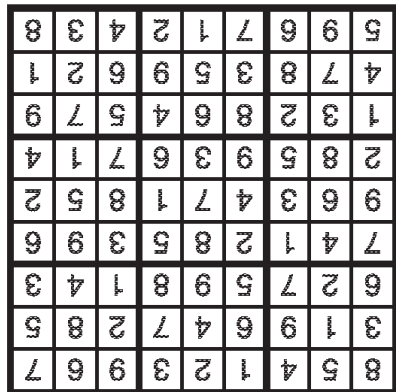


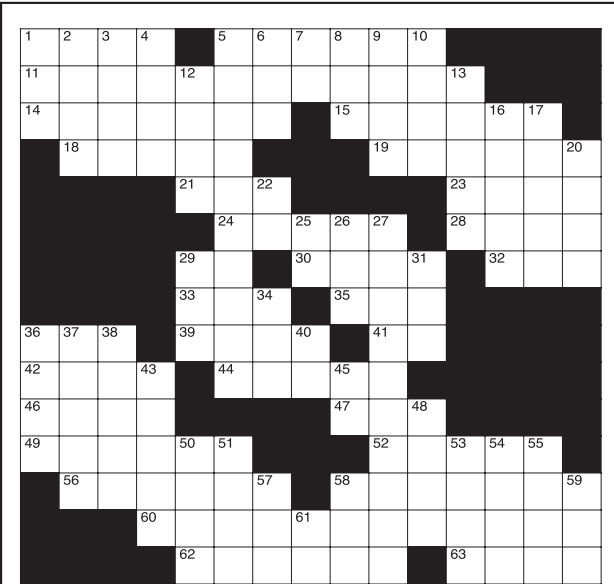
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Level: Intermediate



ANSWER:

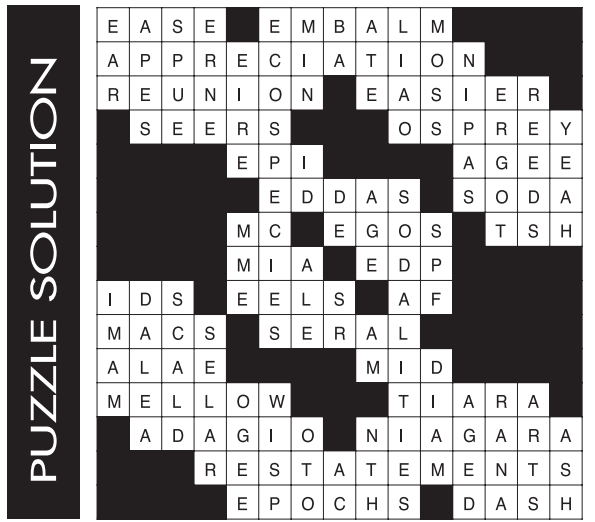


CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Absence of difficulty
- 5. Preserve a dead body
- 11. Gratitude
- 14. The act of coming together again
- 15. More cushy
- 18. Visionaries
- 19. Large fish-eating bird
- 21. Indicates near
- 23. Former CIA and CIA critic
- 24. Icelandic poems
- 28. Pop
- 29. Hammer is one
- 30. Selfs
- 32. Thyroid-stimulating hormone
- 33. Nowhere to be found
- 35. Electronic data processing
- 36. Drivers' licenses and passports are two
- 39. Snake-like fishes
- 41. Air Force
- 42. Popular personal computers
- 44. Stages in ecological succession
- 46. Wings
- 47. In the center
- 49. Pleasantly smooth
- 52. Jeweled headdress
- 56. In slow tempo
- 58. Falls
- 60. Reiterations
- 62. Eras
- 63. Hyphen

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Body part
- 2. Mimics
- 3. Expel or eject (variant sp.)
- 4. Sea eagle
- 5. Taxonomic category
- 6. Chinese languages
- 7. Mr. T's "A-Team" character
- 8. Consumed
- 9. Chinese dynasty
- 10. NFL legend Randy
- 12. Ireland
- 13. Palm trees with creeping roots
- 16. Fungal disease
- 17. Tall, slender-leaved plants
- 20. Affirmative! (slang)
- 22. It says who you are
- 25. Atlantic coast state
- 26. Grow older
- 27. Associations
- 29. Woman (French)
- 31. Sunscreen rating
- 34. Brew
- 36. Leader
- 37. Indigo bush genus
- 38. Burn with a hot liquid
- 40. Junior's father
- 43. Mackerel genus
- 45. Morning
- 48. Straight line from side to side (abbr.)
- 50. Type of molding
- 51. Small, thin or twisted bunch
- 53. Worn by exposure to the weather
- 54. Mars crater
- 55. Humanities
- 57. Relating to the ears
- 58. "To the ___ degree"
- 59. Residue when something is burned
- 61. It cools a home



Legals

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE PROPOSED WATER RATE INCREASE

Notice is hereby given that the City of Garwin, Iowa will hold a public hearing to consider a proposed increase in water utility rates. The public hearing will be held on April 6 at 5:30pm at City Hall.

At said time and place, the City Council will receive comments

from any interested person regarding the proposed rate increase. All residents and customers of the water utility are encouraged to attend and be heard. Information regarding the proposed rate adjustments is available for review at City Hall during regular business hours. Published in the Sun Courier Mar 27, 2026

L80005 #38843

PUBLIC NOTICES
iowapublicnotices.com

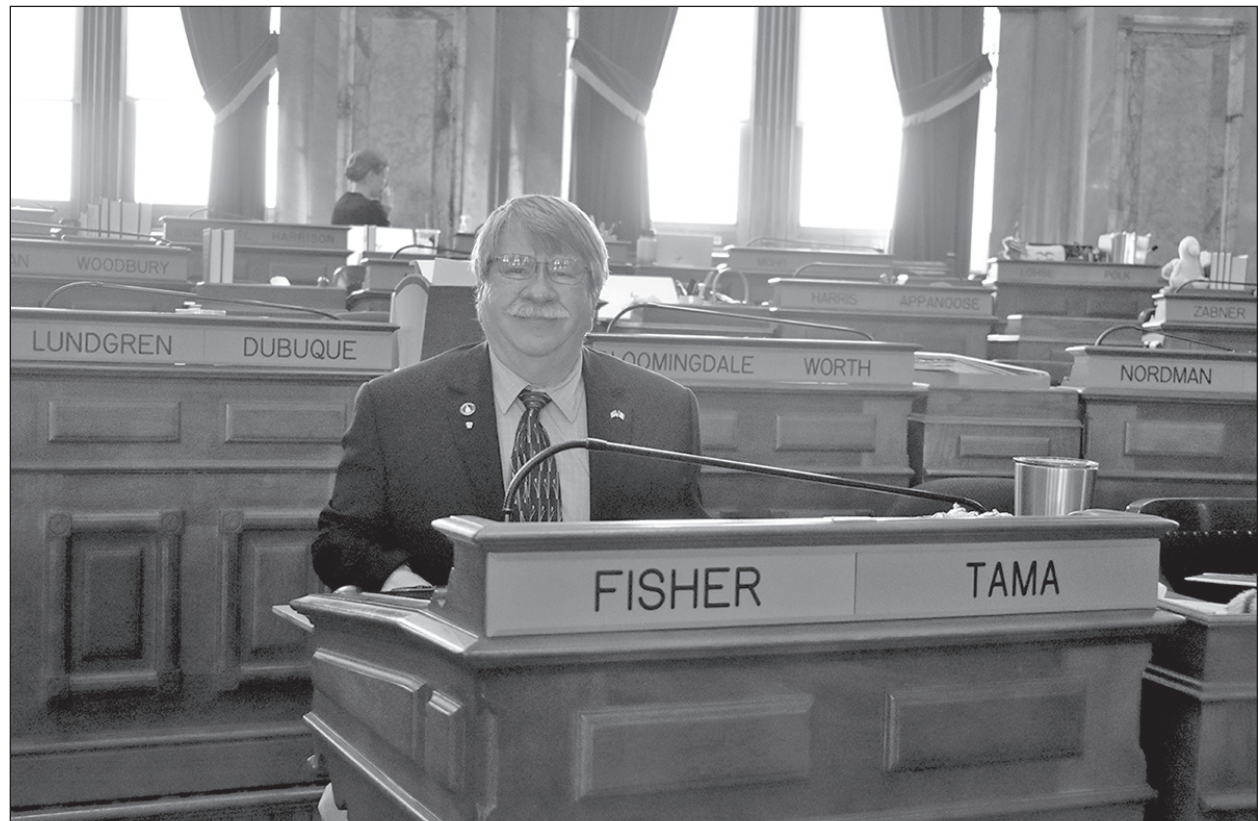


PHOTO BY JONATHAN MEYER

Within the Iowa House of Representatives Chambers, you can find District 53 Representative Dean Fisher sitting at his desk. House District 53 includes all of Poweshiek County and most of Tama County excluding the northeast corner.

Fisher seeks reelection, reflects on legislative work and life at the Capitol

JONATHAN MEYER | CORRESPONDENT

DES MOINES — After more than a decade in the Iowa House of Representatives, Rep. Dean Fisher has no plans of stepping away.

“I am running again in 2026,” Fisher said. “I filed my paperwork.”

Now in his 14th year in office, the Republican lawmaker says his path to the legislature was rooted in both personal inspiration and political motivation.

Fisher pointed to his grandfather, a farmer who served on a rural electric cooperative board, as an early influence.

“That just kind of put in my mind that people can get involved,” he said. “You don’t have to be somebody special to step up and do this kind of work.”

His direct entry into politics came later, in response to the state of national politics.

“In 2009, I was getting fed up... and decided I needed to get involved and try to make a difference,” Fisher said. “In 2011, I found out the seat was open and thought, ‘I’m going to run for the House and see what happens.’”

During his time in office, Fisher highlighted a mix of large-scale legislative efforts and more targeted initiatives he personally championed. One of his most notable accomplishments, he said, was helping pass Iowa’s Safe at Home program — an address confidentiality system designed to protect victims of domestic violence.

“It allows them to use essentially a substitute address for public documents,” Fisher said. “That way, abusers can’t easily track them down.”

The program, now more than a decade old, continues to operate statewide. On a broader scale, Fisher expressed pride in Republican-led efforts to reduce taxes.

“We’ve cut income tax down to 3.8% and eliminated tax on retirement income,” he said. “Keeping the tax burden down has always been a priority.”

He also cited expanded Second Amendment protections and legislation related to gender identity as key policy areas he has supported or helped advance. Beyond passing legislation, Fisher emphasized another role: stopping bills he believes would negatively impact Iowa’s economy.

“There are a lot of proposals that sound good but just aren’t workable,” he said, noting his work in committee to halt certain environmental regulations affecting agriculture.

While some legislative priorities are statewide, others come directly from conversations with constituents.

Fisher pointed to what he described as a growing raccoon population as an example of a hyper-local issue that has gained surprising traction.

“I probably hear about that more than almost anything,” he said. “Farmers are dealing with thousands of dollars in damage, from crops to equipment.”

He also discussed efforts to address wind turbine lights in rural areas, though that proposal has faced resistance in committee. Fisher describes his relationship with constituents as generally strong, particularly among those who share his views. However, he acknowledged the challenges of representing a politically diverse population.

“Sometimes we can agree to disagree and still be respectful,” he said. “Other times, it gets more confrontational.”

He added that once he forms a position on an issue, it rarely shifts significantly.

“I try to make sure I’ve done my homework before I take a stance,” Fisher said. “It would take a lot to move me off that.”

Outside of policy debates, Fisher says much of legislative life is less glamorous than people might expect.

“Most of the day, it’s just work — emails, meetings, discussions,” he said. “It’s not as exciting as people think.”

One of the biggest personal challenges is the daily commute. Fisher travels more than an hour each way to Des Moines during the session.

“It can be tiring,” he said. “But I get to sleep in my own bed every night, and that’s a big advantage.”

During the busiest part of the session, days can stretch well into the evening.

“You might get here at 8 in the morning and not leave until 7:30 at night,” he said.

Fisher said his motivation to continue serving comes from both enjoyment of the work and a belief in the policies being enacted under current Republican leadership.

“With the House, Senate and governor aligned, we’ve been able to get a lot done,” he said. “That’s exciting.”

As Iowa approaches another election cycle, he emphasized the importance of voter participation — particularly in non-presidential years.

“These midterms are every bit as important,” Fisher said. “People need to pay attention.”

Library

CONTINUED | FROM A1

Oltman said the next \$100,000 is technically available but the library “would not have any rainy day funds remaining” if it were to be undertaken now.

In addition to the welcome desk being moved from its former center location in the 1991 addition to nearer the southwest windows, other Chapter 1 improvements included construction of two new storage rooms for programming and library operating supplies, a reconfigured/updated lounge area, relocated shelving, and, the pièce de résistance, replacing the moribund carpet original to the 1991 addition.

The renovated addition looks fresh and inviting and somehow feels — despite the building’s square footage remaining exactly the same — much more spacious. Oltman said others have remarked similarly when viewing the renovated space for the first time.

With Chapter 1 in the books, Chapters 2 and 3 are still in need of funding. Chapter 2: Community Café will include updating the current, one-stall

restroom to be ADA compliant; replacing the current cafe seating (mostly folding chairs) plus three of the five tables; bringing the building up to code by constructing a second restroom in the cafe; and replacing the concrete in the back room in order to enable the cafe sink to be properly plumbed alongside the two restrooms’ plumbing.

Chapter 3 will focus on the children’s library which is located upstairs in the original Carnegie building.

Those interested in donating to the RPL Remodel Project can drop off or mail checks to: The Reinbeck Public Library, 501 Clark Street, Reinbeck, IA 50669. Donations can also be made through Venmo (@ReinbeckPublicLibrary).

Sieh steps into additional role

But the remodel rollout wasn’t the only exciting news Oltman shared with the newspaper on Monday. She also introduced the library’s new director who is set to begin full-time in the role June 1.

Earlier this year, Oltman made the tough, but invigorating decision to write a new chapter for herself by accepting a job with Kyle Rasmussen and

Generational Wealth Partners in downtown Reinbeck. The newspaper will feature a story on Oltman’s new role in an upcoming edition of the Sun Courier.

RPL’s new director, Michelle (née Beichley) Sieh, is a familiar and beloved face to many in the Reinbeck area. Not only has she already been on staff at the library for the past year as the custodian, she also works as an instructional aide at Gladbrook-Reinbeck Elementary School, volunteers as the G-R Community Coordinator for the Cedar Valley Soccer Club, and is a superstar Miracle on Main board member.

A Gladbrook native and G-R Class of 2000 alumna, Sieh and her husband Cable, also a G-R graduate, live just outside of town and have four children — Cameron (college freshman), Elly (senior at G-R), Bennett (sophomore), and Levi (eighth-grader). Sieh holds a journalism degree from North Central University in Minneapolis where she previously worked as the university’s sports information director.

“It was an opportunity that I did not expect,” Sieh told the newspaper when asked about her new role. “But it was surprising and

exciting. I have the biggest shoes to fill that I will ever fill [in Lenah]. The fact that she will not be far away will be instrumental.”

“She is a perfect fit,” RPL board president Marilyn Evans said of Sieh to which Oltman chimed in, “She was already very much part of the library team. Knowing her background and who she is as a person and how she fits into this community, it was a great choice by the board.”

“We had a pool of good applicants, but Michelle was the best choice,” Evans said.

For now, Sieh said she will retain her role as custodian in tandem with the library director position. She has two years to complete her public library director’s endorsement through the State Library of Iowa.

Later that afternoon, while visiting with Oltman inside her new downtown office at Generational Wealth Management, she further elaborated on Sieh stepping into her shoes (ballet or otherwise).

“Michelle doesn’t see her own value sometimes. She’s been behind the scenes for years. We’ll work together everyday (until June 1). The timing is not perfect, but it’s meant to be.”