



Ponderings from the BATT CAVE

By Al Batt - Writer, Speaker, Storyteller, Humorist

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Echoes from the Loafers' Club Meeting

All the crows that used to hang around the parking lot have disappeared.

I wonder why they left? I don't know. I haven't found the caws.

Driving by Bruce's drive

I have a wonderful neighbor named Bruce. Whenever I pass his drive, thoughts occur to me. I was in an ice cream parlor, waiting in line to get an ice cream cone. It was one of those shops offering many flavors and samples. The guy just ahead of me asked the clerk, "Can I try the vanilla?" He tried the free sample, then bought a mint chocolate chip cone.

I walked outside to eat my butter pecan ice cream cone. The weather was perfect for tackling that task—not too cold for ice cream and not hot enough to rush melting. I was enjoying the moment when the mint-chocolate-chip-ice-cream-cone guy, who had been just ahead of me in line, dropped his cone onto the sidewalk. House sparrows gathered nearby. They were birds experienced in the delight of a fallen and found ice cream cone. They might have been wearing bibs.

The man uttered a discouraging word. That didn't help, so he tossed out a second and a third curse word. That tapestry of obscenities reminded me of a late friend who could cuss with the best of them or the worst of them—depending on your perspective. He had retired early on the money he had put into the swear jar. When people mentioned they hadn't seen him for a while and asked where he'd been, he told them he'd been living under a rock. Since the rock was in Minnesota, it must have been winterized.

I've learned

A rabbit's sock is extremely good luck. Rodin's sculpture "The Thinker" was thinking of a number between one and 10.

My audiologist whispers.

Dance like everyone is looking at their phones because they are.

Researchers at Legacy Healing Center <https://www.legacyhealing.com> analyzed four key healthcare access indicators across all 50 states: the share of adults unable to see a doctor due to cost, emergency room wait times, the number of primary care shortage areas, and the number of practitioners needed to eliminate those shortages. Each factor was weighted to produce a score identifying where accessing care is most difficult. Texas was the state where seeing a doctor was the hardest. Minnesota was the 40th hardest and Iowa was 46th. Hawaii was the easiest.

Bad jokes department

Where does a lizard go after it has lost its tail? The retail store.

If you enjoy politically incorrect jokes, here's one: Benjamin Franklin was a great American president.

Peruvian owls always hunt in pairs. That's because they're Inca hoots.

Nature notes

Why do geese fly in a V-formation? It's because the lead goose is a veteran female named Verna, Vel-

ma or Virginia. Occasionally, a male named Virgil gets to fly at the front just to shut him up. Scientists have determined that the V-shaped formation conserves energy. Each bird flies slightly above the bird in front of it, resulting in a reduction of wind resistance. The birds take turns being at the front, falling back when they tire from acting as a windbreak. This allows the geese to fly long distances before they must stop to rest. A V-formation aids communication and coordination within the group. Fighter pilots often fly in a V-formation for aerodynamic efficiency and tactical advantages. This configuration allows maneuverability, enhanced visibility, and a potential for reduced fuel consumption. Plus, it looks cool.

A murmuration of starlings is a shapeshifting cloud of swirling birds that alternately grows larger and shrinks. An elegant movement of a flock of starlings invites contemplation and creates stunning art in the sky. The

movement of the flock is choreographed collectively by all members of that flock. The fluidity of motion results when one starling changes direction or speed, and each of the other birds in the flock responds to the change nearly simultaneously, as the group responds as one. I reckon the collective noun "murmuration," derives from the sounds made by the wingbeats of many birds in flight. I've had a flock of starlings swoop low over my head with a loud whoosh before twirling away. The wing song made me duck. Maybe it should be called a whoosh of starlings?

Meeting adjourned

The Lakota Tech players wore warm-up shirts during the South Dakota State Girls Basketball Tournament that read, "Be good to people." The shirts were worn to honor the late Tiny Decory who said, "Be good to people, we are struggling and that smile, words of encouragement and kindness are something we can all use."

ANCIENT NEWS

Nora Springs Advertiser – April 1, 1926 – 100 years

Nora Springs is to be complimented on the goodwill that is at this time being manifested by the people in and around the town. There seems to be a feeling that the merchants are on the right track; that they are trying as best they can, to serve the community and serve it well. We hear the above expressed more freely than at any time during the past 10 years since the writer has been connected with the town. This feeling can be fostered or destroyed. It's up to the people who have investments here, the merchants, too, to a large extent, but all have a part.

Rockford Register – April 4, 1951 – 75 years

Russell O. Parker has resigned his position as manager of the local Farmer's Cooperative Elevator. Mr. Parker, in partnership with T. E. Devereaux, Wayne Seed Co. salesman of Clear Lake, have purchased the Dows Iowa Feed & Produce Co., which they will operate.



Nora Springs Advertiser – April 1, 1976 – 50 years

Winners of the Nora Springs Kiwanis Club Bicentennial Essay Contest, high school division—Paul Weitzel—first, Jeff Tolzman—second and Greta Montag—third. Winners in the grade school division were Holly Byington—first, Julie Shanks—second, and Amy O'Rourke—third.

Shell Rock Valley Times – April 5, 2001 – 25 years

Two local banks are expanding. Commercial Federal Bank on Tuesday announced it has signed purchase agreements with First State Bank of Nora Springs and First Security Bank and Trust of Charles City. First State Bank is buying Commercial Federal Bank's Rockwell branch office and First Security Bank is purchasing Commercial Federal's Dumont branch office.

Nora Springs Rockford Register – April 7, 2011 – 15 years

Thanks to a grant from OmniTel Communications, the efforts of the Rockford Trees Forever Committee will be made a little bit easier with a purchase of a new auger which will be used to dig holes to plant trees. Following flooding in 2008, and in the years since, several areas of Rockford lost a significant amount of trees that provided soil stability, not to mention adding to the beauty of Rockford landscape, and providing shade for Rockford residents and visitors.

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING -- PROPOSED BUDGET Fiscal Year July 1, 2026 - June 30, 2027

County Name: FLOYD COUNTY County Number: 34

The County Board of Supervisors will conduct a public hearing on the proposed Fiscal Year County budget as follows:
Meeting Date: 4/14/2026 Meeting Time: 09:30 AM Meeting Location: Floyd County Courthouse Boardroom

At the public hearing any resident or taxpayer may present objections to, or arguments in favor of, any part of the proposed budget. This notice represents a summary of the supporting detail of revenues and expenditures on file with the County Auditor. A copy of the supporting detail will be furnished upon request. County budgets are subject to protest. If protest petition requirements are met, the State Appeal Board will hold a local hearing. For more information, consult dom.iowa.gov/local-budget-appeals

Average annual percentage changes between "Actual" and "Budget" amounts for "Taxes Levied on Property", "Other County Taxes/ TIF Tax Revenues", and for each of the ten "Expenditure Classes" must be published. Expenditure classes proposing "Budget" amounts, but having no "Actual" amounts, are designated "NEW".

County Website (if available)
<https://www.floydco.iowa.gov/>

County Telephone Number
(641) 257-6131

	Budget 2026/2027	Re-Est 2025/2026	Actual 2024/2025	AVG Annual % CHG	
REVENUES & OTHER FINANCING SOURCES					
Taxes Levied on Property	1	9,368,047	8,902,662	8,781,854	3.28
Less: Uncollected Delinquent Taxes - Levy Year	2	0	0	0	
Less: Credits to Taxpayers	3	307,700	340,652	349,728	
Net Current Property Taxes	4	9,060,347	8,562,010	8,432,126	
Delinquent Property Tax Revenue	5	0	0	504	
Penalties, Interest & Costs on Taxes	6	20,100	20,100	58,713	
Other County Taxes/TIF Tax Revenues	7	1,749,253	1,847,150	2,031,046	-7.20
Intergovernmental	8	6,576,559	5,620,140	6,270,233	
Licenses & Permits	9	67,300	49,300	71,028	
Charges for Service	10	627,950	657,825	620,592	
Use of Money & Property	11	829,800	875,000	1,037,410	
Miscellaneous	12	398,950	417,100	478,323	
Subtotal Revenues	13	19,330,259	18,048,625	18,999,975	
Other Financing Sources:					
General Long-Term Debt Proceeds	14	0	0	0	
Operating Transfers In	15	1,890,986	1,854,373	1,665,094	
Proceeds of Fixed Asset Sales	16	0	0	6,050	
Total Revenues & Other Sources	17	21,221,245	19,902,998	20,671,119	
EXPENDITURES & OTHER FINANCING USES					
Operating:					
Public Safety and Legal Services	18	4,753,971	4,409,146	4,024,913	8.68
Physical Health and Social Services	19	1,495,937	1,493,375	1,264,335	8.77
County Environment and Education	21	1,022,566	954,642	1,010,954	0.57
Roads & Transportation	22	8,357,050	7,636,350	6,961,161	9.57
Government Services to Residents	23	835,392	823,717	807,458	1.72
Administration	24	2,153,727	2,058,046	1,755,417	10.77
Nonprogram Current	25	0	0	0	
Debt Service	26	2,312,750	2,312,900	2,303,100	0.21
Capital Projects	27	1,115,000	2,119,734	1,002,999	5.44
Subtotal Expenditures	28	22,046,393	21,807,910	19,130,337	
Other Financing Uses:					
Operating Transfers Out	29	1,890,986	1,854,373	1,665,094	
Refunded Debt/Payments to Escrow	30	0	0	0	
Total Expenditures & Other Uses	31	23,937,379	23,662,283	20,795,431	
Excess of Revenues & Other Sources over (under) Expenditures & Other Uses	32	-2,716,134	-3,759,285	-124,312	
Beginning Fund Balance - July 1,	33	11,303,063	15,062,348	15,186,660	
Increase (Decrease) in Reserves (GAAP Budgeting)	34	0	0	0	
Fund Balance - Nonspendable	35	0	0	0	
Fund Balance - Restricted	36	6,154,098	7,549,898	10,448,304	
Fund Balance - Committed	37	0	0	0	
Fund Balance - Assigned	38	365,155	359,555	258,955	
Fund Balance - Unassigned	39	2,067,676	3,393,610	4,355,089	
Total Ending Fund Balance - June 30,	40	8,586,929	11,303,063	15,062,348	

Proposed property taxation by type:	Proposed tax rates per \$1,000 taxable valuation:
Countywide Levies*:	
6,913,451	
Rural Only Levies*:	Urban Areas:
2,454,596	6.16384
Special District Levies*:	Rural Areas:
0	9.52306
TIF Tax Revenues:	Any special district tax rates not included.
654,850	
Utility Replacement Excise Tax:	
197,953	

Explanation of any significant items in the budget or additional virtual meeting information:
PERSONNEL COSTS (WAGES, FICA, IPERS, INSURANCE), OPERATIONAL EXPENSES (AMBULANCE SERVICE, COMMUNICATION CENTER, IT INFRASTRUCTURE), AND REQUIRED DEBT SERVICE PAYMENTS.

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