

# COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

## Fenton, Lone Rock & Swea City



### Iowan traveling Iowa coming to Fenton

When you think of Iowa, what are things that come to mind? Did you know that Iowa has 99 counties and 101 courthouses? Tyler Sullivan from North Liberty, Iowa has been to 97 of the 99 counties, and has been to 1,300 towns and towns across the state. A long distance runner in high school he has run at least a mile in all of these communities and to make it even more memorable he has written at least one poem about each of the counties he's visited. In 2024, he traveled to over 250 Iowa museums and in 2025 he visited an amazing 366 museums and Iowa attractions. That's over 600 in the last two years. On Saturday, April 18, he will be speaking about his experiences and future goals at the Fenton Public Library from 9:30 - 11 a.m. The public is invited and encouraged to attend.

**NORTH Star RESTAURANT & LOUNGE**  
707 MAPLE ST | FENTON | 889-9788  
\*\*CLOSED 1ST SATURDAY EVERY MONTH\*\*

Guest Check 238627

TUESDAY: CHICKEN BUFFET  
WEDNESDAY: TACOS & PIZZA  
THURSDAY: WINGS  
FRIDAY: ALL YOU CAN EAT FISH  
SATURDAY: PRIME RIB

Nightly Dinner Specials



## HOME Sweet HOMESTEAD

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### Swea City Public Library

The Swea City Public Library held a Dr. Seuss's Birthday Party earlier this month. There were 21 children in attendance. They played games, made crafts and took fun photos. Dr. Seuss Day is celebrated annually on March 2, which is the birthday of the

children's author Theodor Seuss Geisel. It is often recognized as National Read Across America Day, a day focused on encouraging children to read, promote a love of reading in children and honor the beloved author's contributions to literature.

### Large-scale solar ordinance becomes law

By Molly Montag  
News Correspondent

Kossuth County now has ordinances outlining the siting, operation and decommissioning of utility-scale solar farms. Supervisors approved the final readings of the ordinance during their meeting on Tuesday, March 24. The regulations apply to solar farms of 10 megawatts or more spanning 30 acres that are generating power for use off site. It does not apply to residential solar panels or those used to help power businesses. The ordinance also established setback distances: 100 feet from a public drainage ditch 500 feet from an occupied residence 100 feet from property lines 60 feet from a county public right-of-way 80 feet from a Highway public right-of-way

**Tax Levy Public Hearing**  
Officials held a public hearing for the proposed 2026-27 tax levy on March 24 at the Kossuth County Courthouse. Board Chairman Carter Nath read the current and proposed tax information to those present. The proposed rates for 2026-27 are a county-wide levy of \$5.81442 per \$1,000 taxable valuation plus another \$1.48901 per \$1,000 taxable valuation for rural residents. The current county-wide tax levy is \$5.91535 per \$1,000 taxable valuation with an additional rural services levy of \$1.53368 per \$1,000 taxable valuation for rural residents. Several people attended the hearing, but no one voiced any questions about the proposed budget. Supervisors received one written objection from a resident of Salix, Iowa, who owned farmland in Seneca Township.

Supervisors have not yet voted on the proposed levy rates. They are expected to vote next month, but have not yet set a date.

**2026 Road Resurfacing Projects**  
Supervisors approved a \$4,793,696 bid from Heartland Asphalt, of Mason City, for road resurfacing projects planned for this year. Officials plan resurfacing on three stretches of road: Nine miles of County Road A43 from U.S. Highway 169 to 210<sup>th</sup> Avenue One mile of 250<sup>th</sup> Avenue, which is on the Kossuth-Hancock county line, from County Road B14 to 340<sup>th</sup> Street. Ten miles of County Road R14 from County Road B14 to State Highway 9. The projects will be paid for by a mix of local, state and federal funding. There is no start date for the projects.

**Power pole work**  
Officials approved a request by Iowa Lakes Electric Cooperative to work in the road right-of-way. Kossuth County Engineer Doug Miller said the cooperative plans to do power pole work in multiple locations throughout its coverage area in the county.

### K-9 Kira From page A1

Being a professional, Kira received the compliments calmly and politely. The easy-going attitude is one of the reasons Cotterill looks forward to bringing her to local schools to show students. "She's very friendly. She's not skittish. She's not an aggressive dog. She's very friendly—as long as you ask permission to approach, she's absolutely fine," he said. "But she is an absolute angel at home with me. It's so funny. She's so relaxed. She loves her chew toys and just getting fussed." That said, Kira is a trained police dog. Members of the public should always ask Cotterill's permission to approach. **Filling the role** Kira takes the place of K-9 Kevin, a German Shepherd who worked alongside former Algona Police Officer Brad Hillyer. The 3-year-old dog left the Algona Police Department with Hillyer in June when the officer took a job with the Hancock County Sheriff's Office. In exchange, Hancock County paid the City of Algona \$15,000 to purchase and train a dog to take Kevin's spot on the force. Kira comes from the same facility in Poland as Kevin. While she will start her work in Algona searching for drugs, Cotterill said Kira will undergo additional training later this year for suspect apprehension.

### AMU PROGRAMMING

- Monday, March 23**  
9:00 a.m. - Presbyterian Church  
7:00 p.m. - NHS Induction Ceremony  
9:00 p.m. - All School Band Concert
- Tuesday, March 24**  
9:00 a.m. - Trinity Lutheran Church  
10:00 a.m. - Grace Church  
7:00 p.m. - 3rd/4th Grade Music Program  
9:00 p.m. - Jazz Concert
- Wednesday, March 25**  
9:00 a.m. - Faith Assembly of God  
10:30 a.m. - Divine Mercy Catholic Church  
11:30 a.m. - Dance Team Spring Show  
7:00 p.m. - 3rd/4th Grade Music Program  
8:00 p.m. - All School Band Concert
- Thursday, March 26**  
9:00 a.m. - First Lutheran Church
- 10:30 a.m. - First United Methodist Church  
2:00 p.m. - Pops Concert  
6:00 p.m. - 3rd/4th Grade Music Program  
8:00 p.m. - Mental Health Awareness Concert
- Friday, March 27**  
9:00 a.m. - 3rd/4th Grade Music Program  
1:00 p.m. - Pops Concert  
2:30 p.m. - Dance Team Spring Show

## Struggling with a Sports Betting Problem?

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