



Tour of Tables 2026

Ringsted Evening Out Club will be hosting their annual Tour of Tables on Tuesday, May 5, 2026, at the Ringsted Legion with the doors opening at 5:30 p.m.



Entertainment will be Affinity Quartet whose members are all from the Iowa Great Lakes area.

In the fall of 2013, four very different women, with an "affinity" for music and a capella harmony, joined together to form a quartet and called themselves Affinity. They are all members of the Spirit of Harmony Chorus of Sweet Adelines, and have received second place medals in their regional quartet competitions for the past five years.

Collectively, Gaylene Rolling, singing lead, Marcia Klingbeil, singing bass, Mindy Jorgensen, singing tenor, and Judy Weipert, singing baritone, have amassed 170 years as members of the Sweet Adelines International. They are excited to share their love of barbershop harmony with us.

If you would like a ticket to the Tour of Tables, contact Robin Hansen at 712-363-1066.

Ringsted Evening Out Club's Purses with a Purpose Project

The Ringsted Evening Out Club is proud to be announcing a new event teaming up with their annual Tour of Tables night on Tuesday, May 5, 2026.

As a club, they have decided to work with several of our local community service agencies to bring their take on the Purses with a Purpose Project. They will have a table set up for those interested in helping with this project that night to bring gently used, donated purses, items for the purses, or to make a monetary contribution toward the project.

Purses with a Purpose provides women with free basic necessities in order to improve their overall health and quality of life in a fashionable way. Every woman needs a purse, but many are unable to purchase one or are in situations where the needed necessities are not feasible for them to get.

In addition to the purses, here are some suggestions of items needed to fill the purses: Small personal hygiene items, small sewing kits, socks or gloves, fingernail clippers and files, breath mints or gum, small combs and brushes, new lip balm, scrunchies or hair clips.

Think about what is in your purse and help out Purses with a Purpose.

North Kossuth School District approves contracts

By Kim Meyer

The North Kossuth School Board met in special session on Friday, April 10th.

North Union superintendent Travis Schueller spoke about working with both NK and NU negotiations teams for updating work agreements and master contracts. He noted that both teams were great to work with and the two sides came to an agreement very easily.

The board approved issuing work agreements to support staff with a 3% increase to the total package.

The handbook had a few changes in regards to money and wording to make it correct. The district is working on a third tier insurance to be in compliance with the Affordable Care Act.

The North Kossuth Support

Staff Handbook was approved as presented.

The master contract was raised by 3% which created \$69,000 in new monies which is also the same amount as the North Union District. The increase is \$2,000 per individual.

The master contract for the 2026-27 school year was approved.

The Certified Staff Handbook for the 2026-27 school year was approved with one change. The extra hour pay was raised from \$25 to \$30 per hour. It was noted that this amount has not been changed in the past 10 years.

Review for the administration will be held in June. A joint meeting will be held with the North Union School Board in Armstrong as it was in Swea City last year.

The next school board meeting will be held on April 21 for the budget hearing.

New Books at Ringsted Library

- Radar Girls by Sara Ackerman
- Exit Strategy by Lee Child
- James by Percival Everett
- The Girl From Devil's Lake by J. A. Jance
- My Beloved by Jan Karon
- Santa's Holiday Spectacular by Fern Michaels
- The Portrait by Danielle Steel
- Party Pooper by Jeff Kinney (Junior Fiction)
- The Court of the Dead by Rick Riordan
- The Battle of the Bookshops by Poppy Alexander
- Fade Away by Harlan Coben
- The First Time I Saw Him by Laura Dave
- The Watchmaker's Hand by Jeffery Deaver
- We Fell Apart by E. Lockhart
- Otherwise Engaged by Susan Mallery
- Cross & Sampson by James Patterson
- The Locked Ward by Sarah Pekkanen
- Pendergast by Preston & Child
- The Summer That Shaped Us by Lori Wilde.



Spilled Ink

By Clinton J. Davis

Last weekend should be deemed National Buzz Sathoff Day. At the very least the town of Armstrong should recognize that day. For years I have called the Armstrong Spring Cleanup Day, Buzz Day. Terry "Buzz" Sathoff is not known as a city employee but is known as a great scrapper. Getting peoples junk and tearing it apart seems like a hobby to Buzz. Anyone in town who takes junk to the dump day has seen Buzz in his element. He is as happy as a fat kid at pie camp. I have seen Buzz down there for many years cutting wires, grabbing appliances and he doesn't seem to age.

We have always been frequent visitors to Buzz Day. He has always helped family and neighbors take loads to the site. This year we had about six trips with junk from Valley View and my grandmas house. No matter who we have helped out through the years, one thing stays consistent; Buzz Sathoff is always there to help. I talked with his son, Lyle, who told me Buzz had mentioned last year he was done helping during the cleanup day. He reminded his dad of that conversation to which Buzz responded, "Who said that?" If the sun rises in the East and sets in the West, Buzz Sathoff will be by that city shed in the month of April for his day.

Armstrong, Ringsted and the surrounding area had their first taste of summer thunderstorms Monday, April 13th. The entire day had that feel of storms to it. Clouds rolling in, humidity at a high, and the weatherman saying it was a slight chance of thunderstorms in the evening. When the weatherman says it won't come, it usually does. My rain gauge showed nearly three quarters of an inch and most of that came within a half hour down pour.

Hartley and I were walking around town delivering door stickers for a food drive coming up for Cub Scouts when we heard thunder rolling in. We sent Mom and Calvin home from across town to get the truck while we continued to hang post it notes on doors. The timing was perfect. Calvin and Mom showed up when the first rain drops started hitting our heads. We made it home dry and listened to the weather radio the rest of the evening.

Of course when the sirens went off, Calvin was crying and wanted to go to the basement. Like my Grandma Jolene does now and my Grandpa LeRoy did back in the day, I stood on the porch watching the storm come in. I can remember freaking out as a kid when Grandpa wouldn't be in the basement with us. Now I get the opportunity to torment my boys just the same. My neighbor, Craig Merrill, and I had it covered. He watched the North East out his garage door and I watched the South West. We may need some sort of hand signal if we see something in the sky. Either way, we all survived the night. Only downside to the tornado not ripping up my house was the dishes that still needed to be done when I walked back inside.

Algona Republican Roundup draws 150

By Michael Tidemann

About 150 Republicans from a six-county region attended the Republican Roundup Saturday, April 11 at the Wilcox Performing Arts Center in Algona.

Republicans from Winnebago, Kossuth, Palo Alto, Humboldt, Emmet and Hancock counties targeted a liberal Democratic agenda while upholding a banner of God and country.

Emmet County Republican Chair Jim Boyer of Ringsted led off the speakers' entourage, saying Republicans have to turn out this year as they face a "determined" Democrat onslaught. Boyer then introduced Iowa Republican National Committee person and moderator Tamara Scott.

Scott warmly welcomed everyone and thanked them for coming. Scott also underscored the need for Republicans to vote in the June 2 primary, not in just the November general election.

Brenna Bird

"Primaries are where you decide the very best candidates for your party," said Scott who introduced Brenna Bird, Iowa Attorney General. "I am the most targeted attorney general in the country," said Bird, unchanged in the June 2 primary but facing Democrat Nate Willems in November who will also be unchallenged June 2.

Bird said of liberals, "They want to defeat President Trump."

Bird spoke of her efforts and accomplishments, including a recent ruling backing a ban on pornography in schools, her support of law enforcement, doubling the number of prosecutors in her office and opening a cold case unit in the AG's office which recently had a murder conviction on a 36-year-old case. "We will never give up on justice," said Bird. "We're here to uphold our laws. We never give up."

Paul Pate

Paul Pate, Iowa Secretary of State and Commissioner of Elections, is unchallenged in the June 2 primary and in November faces Democrat Ryan Peterman, also primary unchallenged.

Pate said Iowa is one of the top states for voter registration and had a jump start in mandatory voter ID.

"The Democrats don't quite get it," said Pate, adding that people need to have confidence in the integrity of Iowa's elections. "Other states are looking at us," for guidance, Pate said.

Pate had special regard for Iowa's 10,000 poll workers.

"They're the ones that are on site to make sure things are done right," Pate said.

While touting Republican principles, Pate underscored his neutrality in his position.

"I don't get to wear a team jersey. I am the referee," Pate said.

"The Democrats do not like voter ID," said Pate.

"This is going to be a big election year," said Pate, with Democrat gubernatorial candidate and current State Auditor Rob Sand working hard in rural areas.

Mike Naig

Incumbent Iowa Ag Secretary Mike Naig, originally from Cylinder and unchallenged in the primary, in November faces Democrat Chris Jones, also unchallenged in the primary.

Naig had warm regards for Iowa's farmers, saying, "God made Iowa for agriculture. You can't have a strong Iowa without strong agriculture."

Naig stood firm on his record in fighting for fair trade, Iowa-grown and raised products and environmental stewardship. He said he wants to make sure the next generation of farmers has the opportunity to succeed.

Naig commented on both Sand and his own opponent.

"Rob Sand has got the Democrats energized," said Naig, adding that Jones does not support Iowa farmers.

Jones, a retired University of Iowa research engineer, wrote The Swine Republic: Struggles with the Truth about Agriculture and Water Quality in which he claimed pork production was a key reason for Iowa's reduced water quality.

Abigail Maas

Abigail Maas, who serves on the Iowa County Board of Supervisors, faces current Lieutenant Gov. Chris Cournoyer in the June 2 State Auditor race. The winner of the primary will face Democrat Taylor Wettach, a Muscatine attorney unopposed in the primary. Maas lives on a six-generation family farm.

"The reason I'm running is for property taxes," said Maas who said \$51 million in taxpayer money went unaccounted for over the past year.

Maas also took to task cities under 2,000 being audited just every eight years.

Maas called for a statewide software system which she said would help with audits.

In the question-and-answer session that followed, Maas said she would commit to ensuring audits, criticizing Minnesota's audit debacle. She said she helped uncover massive fraud in the Iowa County health department.

Iowa House candidates

District 9 Rep. Henry Stone of Forest City, representing Emmet and most of Kossuth County, is unopposed in both the primary and general elections this year, according to the Iowa Secretary of State's Website.

Like the other candidates, Stone targeted Rob Sand as the one to beat in November. "He wasn't doing audits," said Stone of Sand. "He wasn't doing his job."

Stone also warned that if Sand is elected governor he would have control over 16 departments.

"It takes years to undo bureaucratic control," said Stone. Without endorsing any of the five announced Republican candidates for governor, Stone said, "The worst Republican is better than the best Democrat."

"The Democrats are extremely energized," Stone warned.

John Wills, current speaker pro tempore of the Iowa House, represents District 10 and faces no primary or general election opponents, according to the Secretary of State's Website.

Wills offered an extended laundry list of successes, including passing concealed carry without a permit, tax cuts, support for charter schools, police protection, a fetal heartbeat bill, addressing teacher pay, eliminating cell phones in schools, passing several workplace bills and many other accomplishments.

"We have to have a turnout in order to defeat Rob Sand," said Wills.

Iowa District 56 incumbent Rep. Mark Thompson of Belmond is primary unopposed but faces Democrat Kyle Kruse in November.

"We know who the foreigners (terrorists) are" who are fighting against America, said Thompson, adding, "We need to determine who the domestics are." Thompson represents Hancock, Humboldt and Wright counties.

"You're all in the arena because you're here today," said Thompson.

Thompson underscored his success is passing a human trafficking bill creating a life sentence without parole for trafficking minors.

Gubernatorial candidates

Two Republican candidates for governor, Eddie Andrews and Brad Sherman, took much of Saturday's session. The other gubernatorial candidates who did not appear were current Iowa District 4 U.S. Rep. Randy Feenstra, Zach Lahn and Adam Steen.

"We are in a war for the preservation of our nation," said Sherman, who started a church in 1981 in Iowa City. Sherman also called for "restoring the foundation of our nation."

Sherman also called for getting rid of common core.

Sherman represented District 91 in the Iowa House from 2023 to 2025.

Eddie Andrews, who has represented Iowa House District 43 since 2021, noted he was the only Republican to win in a blue district, the Iowa City area.

Andrews called for making Iowa education number one again in the nation, halting eminent domain for carbon pipelines, working to reduce cancer rates and helping economic development.

Andrews and Sherman addressed several issues in a question-and-answer session that followed.

Grassroots campaigns

"I have always been the grassroots candidate," said Andrews, regarding protection for girls' spirits and for life from womb to tomb.

"We need to keep you guys involved," Sherman said to everyone present. "The governor's job is a big picture job." Sherman also said he wanted to address Iowa's soaring cancer rates.

Cutting spending

Sherman called for returning financial responsibility to the local level, adding, "This woke ideology we have in our culture is going to have to go."

Andrews said his experience with corporate clients helps him understand better how to serve the public and provide the best return on investment. He said Iowa does not have a spending issue but a spending

direction issue.

Data centers

As an electrical and computer engineer, Andrews said, "We are missing a huge opportunity by not



Emmet County Republican Chair Jim Boyer opened Saturday's Republican Roundup at the Wilcox Performing Arts Center in Algona.

Ringsted Council hears nuisance complaints

By Michael Tidemann

The Ringsted City Council at their Monday, April 13 meeting approved one building permit but denied another at 107 Third St. amid a plethora of complaints about the condition of the property.

The council approved a permit for a 16-by-16-foot shed on the west side of the Aaron Waddell residence. City Clerk Sommer Nielsen said Waddell intended to use the shed to store mowers.

An audience question came up as to whether the council could deny the permit if Waddell is currently violating the city nuisance ordinance.

Mayor Dan Jorgensen said he had never seen such a precedent, and Nielsen said current violations could not be a basis for denial. She said it was up to the council to grant the permit. Jorgensen also said if the permit was not granted, Waddell would have no way of putting things away.

Waddell's permit application for a 60-by-60-foot garage also drew fire.

Jorgensen said that structure would have a cement floor and Waddell would have to meet setbacks requirements. He said if Waddell built closer to an adjoining property line he would have to request a variance. "If he meets the requirements, you don't need a variance," Jorgensen said.

After further discussion, Councilmember Blake Cole moved that the council approve the permit application for the smaller structure. Councilmember Julie Laidig seconded his motion and the council approved.

Heather Hammond read off a list of unlicensed and in operable vehicles on

the Waddell property, and the council tabled the application for the larger garage until getting more details about the proposed building.

In other business, the council held a public hearing and adopted the fiscal 2027 budget.

Robin Hansen of the Library Board said the board had applied for a grant to replace a furnace and air conditioners and that the board hoped to also do a fundraiser. She said the board had money in a memorial fund to replace a window leaking air and subsequently fogging over.

Councilmember Cole suggested waiting until the end of the 2027 budget year to replace the window.

Councilmember Laidig questioned local option sales and service tax disbursements. "In all those years that money has gone to the library," said Laidig.

Hansen also announced the library would hold its grand opening Aug. 8, or the Saturday of Danish Days.

In other business, City Superintendent Toby Morris gave the maintenance report. Morris and the council discussed yard waste pickup but a date has not yet been set.

Councilmember Robert Hammond asked about a dead limb on an ash tree in Railroad Park, and Jorgensen said the tree should come down.

Cole asked who was responsible for park maintenance, and Jorgensen suggested the council could take up the chore.

In the middle of the council comments, a tornado warning halted the meeting and the council adjourned.

taking advantage of nuclear energy" which he said was the most efficient form of energy. "It has a much smaller footprint than wind," said Andrews. "We can do a lot better than the wind farms. You're taking good farmland out of production."

Sherman agreed on the nuclear option. "I would like to see Iowa lead the nation in this," Sherman said. He said small reactors are already in place on Navy aircraft carriers and submarines.

Limiting property tax without sacrificing local control

Sherman called for transparency so every citizen can see where money is being spent. "Then the local people will take care of that."

"Transparency is good," Andrews agreed, noting a disconnect between current allowable levies and property taxes. He called for a better property tax system.

Life at conception

Both candidates supported defining life at conception.

Closing statements

Andrews reiterated his support for defining life at conception, preventing mailing of abortion pills and banning Sharia law.

Sherman pledged that he would admit if he ever made a mistake and that he would not try to please everyone. "If you don't have core principles you're just shifting sand," he said, referring offhandedly to Rob Sand. "I will not be bought."

US Senate candidate

Jim Carlin of Sioux City, who served as an Iowa state senator from 2017-2023, and Ashley Hinson of Marion, who currently represents Iowa's second congressional district, will face off in the June 2 primary. The winner of that race will face the winner of the Democratic primary race between Josh Turek and Zach Wahls. The Senate seat is currently held by Joni Ernst who chose not to run for reelection.

Carlin was present for the event

Republican Roundup continued to page 3

Scouting for Food this Saturday

Cub Scout Pack 159 will be collecting non-perishable food items this Saturday morning. Place your items in a bag and on your front step by 9 a.m.

Items may also be dropped off prior to Saturday at these locations: Armstrong Journal, Ringlet in Ringsted, Cargo Express in Bancroft, Dollar General in Swea City.

Neighborhood Forest Tree Pickup

For those who ordered a free tree from Neighborhood Forest through the Ringsted Library, you may pick up your tree on Tuesday, April 21 or Thursday, April 23 from 4:30-5:30 p.m. at the Ringsted Library.

The species of tree you will receive is a Quaking Aspen. The Quaking Aspen is a fast growing tree known for its distinctive leaves that tremble in the wind. It grows about 40-50 feet tall.

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