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Press photos by Travis Fischer

Above and below: IC School's new playground was installed last fall just before the season turned wintry, so the recent bouts of springlike weather have let the Catholic grade school kids give the new equipment a workout.

— See many more photos with this story at www.charlescitypress.com.

Blessed with better weather

Springlike temps allow IC playground to get the use it missed last fall

By Travis Fischer
tkfischer@charlescitypress.com

Spring has arrived and students at Immaculate Conception Elementary are enjoying the opportunity to use the school's new playground in more comfortable weather.

"It's really fun here," said Ani Ngo during Monday afternoon's recess.

Featuring two zip lines, a climbing spider ball, a new swing set, and plenty of slides, the playground equipment was installed by the Knights of Columbus last fall, just finishing up before the first snowfall of the year.

With spring officially here and the snow, hopefully, done for the school year, the kids are having fun with the various new activity options.

"It's pretty good," said Dewey Chase, who said he enjoys new the zip lines and the swings.



Press photo by Travis Fischer

Dinin' & dancin' at high school Jivin' fundraiser

Soloists pop up to impress the audience on Tuesday as part of the Jivin' With Jazz dinner concert fundraiser held at the Floyd County Fairgrounds by the Charles City High School vocal and instrumental jazz groups.

— See the story and more photos on page 3

Floyd County Proposed FY 2026-27 Property Tax Changes

	FY 2025-26	FY 2026-27	\$ Change	% Change
Taxable valuation General Services	\$1,040,475,039	\$1,104,165,158	\$63,690,119	+6.12%
Property taxes requested Countywide	\$4,949,373	\$5,290,652	\$341,279	+6.90%
Debt service property taxes requested	\$1,617,205	\$1,622,799	\$5,594	+0.35%
Total taxes requested Countywide	\$6,566,578	\$6,913,451	\$346,873	+5.28%
Tax rate per \$1,000 Countywide	\$6.20000	\$6.16384	-\$0.03616	-0.58%
Taxable valuations Rural Services	\$675,168,851	\$730,704,179	\$55,535,328	+8.23%
Property taxes requested rural levy	\$2,336,084	\$2,454,596	\$118,512	+5.07%
Tax rate per \$1,000 rural additional	\$3.46000	\$3.35922	-\$0.10078	-2.91%
Rural taxes (Countywide + Rural)	\$8,902,662	\$9,368,047	\$465,385	+5.23%
Rural tax rate (Countywide + Rural)	\$9.66000	\$9.52306	-\$0.13694	-1.42%

Notes: There are the "maximum tax" figures for Floyd County, meaning the county's final budget can collect fewer tax dollars than the listed fiscal year 2026-27 figures, but not more. Countywide taxes are paid by all owners of taxable property in Floyd County. Rural taxes are additional taxes to pay for county services for property that is outside city limits in the county.

SOURCE: Floyd County Auditor's Office / Press graphic

Corrected county tax numbers ease hearing concerns

Proposed 'max tax' shows rates dropping slightly instead of double-digit increases

By Bob Steenson
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The Floyd County Board of Supervisors opened its fiscal year 2026-27 maximum property tax levy public hearing Tuesday morning with an immediate correction: the notices given to county taxpayers had contained a significant error that markedly overstated the potential tax increase.

The corrected figures show an estimated 2.72% increase for urban residential taxpayers and 1.97% for rural taxpayers, compared to the incorrect

figures of 24.83% and 15.94% on the published notice.

County Auditor Morrihan Montagne explained how it happened.

When preparing the notice, Montagne said, she began by entering the previous year's tax dollars into the Iowa Department of Management system to calculate new rates based on current valuations.

During that process, she entered the supplemental levy amount into

TAXES, turn to page 7



Friends and family came out to celebrate the (possibly final) retirement of City Engineer John Fallis (center) on Tuesday, March 24, at the Pub.

Engineered to last: Fallis wraps up his 14 years with Charles City

By Travis Fischer
tkfischer@charlescitypress.com

Charles City officials and staff hosted a farewell party for City Engineer John Fallis on Tuesday in anticipation of his long-awaited retirement.

"He's been great to work with over the years," said Mayor Dean Andrews. "I asked him to stick around a while longer, but I got a firm 'no' on that."

Fallis has served as the city engineer for 14 years, the last four of

which have been spent unsuccessfully trying to retire.

Between setbacks in finding a replacement engineer, not wanting to leave in the midst of major projects, and agreeing to stick around to provide continuity as other long-standing city employees have moved on, Fallis' impending retirement has faced a seemingly endless series of delays.

"I don't know how many times he's

FALLIS, turn to page 7

2026 PROGRESS TODAY: SCHOOL & ATHLETICS



Vol. 129, No. 23
1 section, 14 pages
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LOCAL CALENDAR 2 JOURNAL 5 COMICS 9-10

LOTTERIES 2 CHURCH 6 SPORTS 12-13

COMMUNITY 4 CLASSIFIED ADS 8

TODAY
44/22
DETAILS, PAGE 2

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