

Researchers connect environmental issues with Iowa cancer rates

By Brooklyn Draisey
Iowa Capital Dispatch

Researchers and public health experts are urging Iowa lawmakers to act on emerging risks tied to the state's high and rising cancer rates, pointing to a new report examining Iowans' exposure to multiple carcinogens.

The report, released Wednesday by the Harkin Institute for Public Policy and Citizen Engagement and the Iowa Environmental Council, focuses on environmental factors including pesticides, per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), nitrate contamination and radon.

Presenters said the report expands the conversation beyond personal be-

havior, arguing environmental risks have been underexamined despite Iowa's cancer trends.

Iowa has ranked second in the nation for cancer incidence for the past three years and is one of only two states where rates continue to rise, according to Harkin Institute Wellness and Nutrition Policy Director Adam Shriver.

Cancer is the state's second-leading cause of death, with lung cancer alone accounting for one in four cancer deaths.

"This is a moment for policymakers to act with urgency to prioritize prevention, strengthen protections and reduce the environmental risks that are making people sick," said Sarah Green, executive director of the Iowa Environ-

mental Council.

The report found connections between environmental exposures and Iowa's most common cancers, including breast, prostate, lung, colorectal and melanoma. Many cancers associated with the identified risk factors are also increasing in the state.

Researchers said Iowa ranks "on the high end" for each of the major exposures examined.

The state leads the nation in pesticide use, with glyphosate, acetochlor and atrazine among the most commonly applied chemicals. These pesticides have been linked to increased risks for multiple cancers, including non-Hodgkin lymphoma and leukemia.

Some, including acetochlor and atrazine, have been banned in the European Union but remain widely used in Iowa.

Water quality also remains a concern. The report notes that PFAS have been detected in 94% of Iowa surface waters and 30% of groundwater sources. The Des Moines and Raccoon rivers rank among the top 1% in the nation for nitrate concentrations, with about 80% of nitrate pollution tied to agricultural sources.

In addition, Iowa has more than 4,000 concentrated animal feeding operations, roughly 2.5 times more than the next-highest state.

Colleen Fowle, water program director for the Iowa Environmental

Council, said the fact that Iowans are exposed to multiple pollutants is "complex and concerning."

The report suggests enforcing existing federal drinking water regulations, increasing funding for natural resources and environmental monitoring, and reducing overall chemical use in the state.

Many of the proposed actions would require coordination among lawmakers, state and federal agencies, researchers and agricultural stakeholders. The report also includes steps individuals can take to reduce personal risk.

Shriver said the report provides sufficient evidence to move forward, pushing back on arguments that more study is needed.

TAXES

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the cemetery line item by mistake, she said. Later, when updated figures were entered for health insurance and other items — those went into the correct line item.

"So we basically doubled the supplemental rate for that notice," Montagne said.

The original notice showed a possible countywide maximum tax rate of \$7.48530 per \$1,000 of taxable value. With the error corrected, board Chair Gloria Carr said, the corrected maximum countywide rate is \$6.16385 — actually lower than the current year's rate of \$6.20.

The published notice showed the county collecting a maximum property tax of \$8,371,660, when the actual number is \$6,913,451 — a difference of \$1.46 million.

Both Carr and Montagne emphasized that even those cor-

rected percentage increases are likely overstated for taxpayers, because the state's "maximum tax" notice format requires that the county assumes a 10 percent increase in everyone's property valuations for the coming year.

With the actual levy rate per \$1,000 of taxable valuation going down for both city and rural property owners in Floyd County, property owners who did not see a valuation increase will see their county taxes decrease.

"We did not have 10 percent valuation increase this year," Montagne said.

The supervisors' boardroom in the courthouse was packed with about two dozen people, many likely intent on commenting on what they had believed were double-digit property tax increases.

Once the mistake was cleared up, there were few questions on the actual tax rate or county spending.

One person in the audience commented that "Any tax in-

crease is too high," to general murmurs of agreement.

Another person at the meeting complained about an actual double-digit tax increase in the school district where he owns property, and said the supervisors should refuse to allow that.

Both Carr and Supervisor Frank Rottinghaus explained that those tax rates — for school districts, cities, community colleges, townships and others — are set by the people elected to govern those bodies, and the county is legally required to collect them for those groups.

ity Rating) point. The values are largely outside the assessor's control and are provided by the Iowa Department of Revenue.

Schmidt said agricultural assessed values increased about 30 percent for 2025 due to the way the five-year rolling average works: a low year dropped off and was replaced by a high year, and COVID-era federal payments to farmers are included in the income side of the formula. She said the county expects agricultural valuations to decrease for the 2027 assessment year.

On the county's own budget, Carr said the increase in total requested tax dollars on the corrected notice — the actual measure of what the county is asking for — is about \$340,000 on the general services side, against a roughly \$6.9 million budget.

She identified primary increase drivers as a 6.5 percent salary increase for the sheriff and

deputies under the state-required "Back the Blue" law, a \$150,000 increase in the first year of an expected new contract for the county's share of ambulance service funding, possible \$25,000 for communications center reorganization, a new \$40,000 server for IT infrastructure, and debt service on bonds for the law enforcement center and courthouse update project and the new county public service communications system.

The county's health insurance costs increased an average of 2.51 percent, Carr said, noting the Charles City School District's health insurance reportedly went up 38 percent. The county participates in an insurance pool that has cushioned premium increases.

Carr and Schmidt both discussed the cumulative effects of state property tax legislation, particularly House File 718, now in its third year, which is

ratcheting down the county's maximum general levy from its original \$3.50 to a current \$3.29 per \$1,000 of taxable value.

At the same time, the state has eliminated or reduced several instances where it used to "backfill" counties for state-approved cuts in tax revenue, including the military exemption backfill and the business property tax credit — shifting those costs to local government without reducing state revenue.

The extra Homestead Credit for residents age 65 and older has also reduced the county's taxable valuation base by an estimated \$11 million countywide across all taxing authorities, Schmidt said.

The public hearing on the actual proposed Floyd County budget will be held at 9:30 a.m. on Tuesday, April 14, in the supervisor boardroom on the ground floor in the courthouse.

COUNTY

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The supervisors approved awarding the 2026 crushed rock purchase for gravel roads to Bruening Rock Products Inc. of Decora at \$16.339 per ton for 80,000 tons of limestone surfacing, for a total of \$1,307,120.

County Engineer Miller said that was the only bid received and was close to the engineer's estimate of \$1,320,000.

The price includes hauling and spreading the rock.

The board also approved a resolution awarding the contract for resurfacing and milling of Packard Avenue from B60 north 0.65 miles to Highway 14 to Matthy Construction Co. for about \$1.3 million. Another bid for about \$1.36 million had been received from Heartland Asphalt.

Miller said the engineer's estimate for the project had been almost \$1.49 million, so the bids were very good.

Miller also told the board he met recently with Nora Springs city officials to discuss the possibility of a joint county-city shop facility, adding that both the county's and the city's shops

in that community need replacement.

The proposal would have the county purchase roughly two acres adjacent to the city's current property and construct a shared facility straddling the property line. Miller said he has land acquisition funds in his fiscal year 2027 budget and construction would fall in fiscal year 2028 if approved.

Supervisor Carr said it was OK to continue exploring the idea, "but I'm not ready to sign anything."

Supervisor Boyd Campbell agreed discussions should continue, and said that hopefully it could result in cost savings for the county and the city.

ALSO AT THE MEETING Tuesday, the board:

- Approved a request from the Floyd and Mitchell Counties Child Abuse Prevention Council to place awareness displays — small decorative figures and pinwheels — on the Main Street side of the courthouse grounds during April, which is Child Abuse Prevention Awareness Month.
- Set the fiscal year 2027 county budget hearing for Tuesday, April 14, at 9:30 a.m. in the courthouse boardroom.

FALLIS

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tried to retire, but we keep pulling him back in," said Andrews.

Most recently, Fallis had intended to retire at the end of January, but decided to stay on an additional couple of months in order to finish up prepara-

tions for the city's three upcoming railroad crossing projects. Now that those projects have been bid out, he is "crossed the finish line," he is ready to finally turn the reins over to Crawford Engineering, which has been contracted to take on his engineering duties in lieu of a full time city engineer.

"I'm glad that they'll have somebody there for engineer-

ing," said Fallis. "It's hard to find engineers right now."

Fallis plans to waste no time enjoying his retirement. He's preparing for a trip to Europe next week as part of spending his free time doing more traveling, and he also aims to work on songwriting and playing guitar.

Celebrating his last week on the job at the Pub on the Cedar on Tuesday, friends, co-work-

ers, and associates showed up to say farewell to Fallis, mostly confident that this time his retirement plans will stick and bring to a close a long career in civil engineering that included more than a decade in Charles City.

"It's a great way to build out a career," said Fallis. "There are so many great things happening here."

Legal Notice

THE IOWA DISTRICT COURT FOR FLOYD COUNTY IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF NORA MARIE HENNICKE, Deceased
CASE NO. ESPR019220
NOTICE OF PROBATE OF WILL, OF APPOINTMENT OF EXECUTOR, AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS

To All Persons Interested in the Estate of Nora Marie Hennicke, Deceased, who died on or about February 13, 2026:

You are hereby notified that on March 13, 2026, the Last Will and Testament of Nora Marie Hennicke, deceased, bearing date of April 7, 2015, was admitted to probate in the above-named court and that Brenda Hennicke was appointed Executor of the estate. Any action to set aside the will must be brought in the district court of said county within the later to occur of four months from the date of the second publication of this notice or one month from the date of mailing of this notice to all heirs of the decedent and devisees under the will whose identities are reasonably ascertainable, or thereafter be forever barred.

Notice is further given that all persons indebted to the estate are requested that make immediate payment to the undersigned, and creditors having claims against the estate shall file them with the clerk of the above-named district court, as provided by law, duly authenticated, for allowance, and unless so filed by the later to occur of four months from the date of the second publication of this notice or one month from the date of mailing of this notice (unless otherwise allowed or paid) a claim is thereafter forever barred.

Dated: March 18, 2026

Brenda Hennicke, Executor of Estate
807 Beck Street
Charles City IA 50616

Judith O'Donohue, ICIS#: AT0005849
Attorney for Executor
ELWOOD O'DONOHUE, BRAUN & WHITE, LLP
116 North Main Street
PO Box 307
Charles City, IA 50616

Date of second publication: 03-27-2026

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Legal Notice • Legal Notice • Legal Notice • Legal Notice

Floyd County Board of Supervisors Meeting
March 17, 2026, 9:00 a.m.

The Floyd County Board of Supervisors met in the Floyd County Courthouse Board Room. Supervisors Gloria Carr, Boyd Campbell, and Frank Rottinghaus were in attendance.

Rottinghaus/Campbell moved to amend the agenda to strike the Board of Health update. Motion carried 3-0. Campbell/Rottinghaus moved to approve the amended agenda. Motion carried 3-0.

Rottinghaus/Campbell moved to approve the March 10, 2026 minutes. Motion carried 3-0.

Campbell/Rottinghaus moved to approve the claims: County #2006-2043 and Engineer #10552-10563. Motion carried 3-0.

Alliant, Elect	\$281.31
Amazon, Supplies	\$1236.57
Breitbach, Tents	\$125.00
Bruening, Rock	\$8270.97
REC, Elect	\$1633.04
YesWay, Fuel	\$79.11
Carquest, Parts	\$774.15
Centrl IA Dist, Supplies	\$512.00
CC Press, Notice	\$584.00
Charles City, Services	\$662.91
CMI, Equip	\$249.72
Cont. Fire, Serv	\$300.00
Croell, Matl	\$6308.00
FC Gen, Pstg	\$3100.00
FCMC, Medical	\$241.50
FCSCO, Services	\$549.10
FC Treas, Serv Fees	\$208.90
Fox Rehab, Eval	\$5610.00
Healthcare, Software	\$209.55
Heartland Coop, Util	\$500.00
M Huegel, Legal	\$4000.00
IAMU, Services	\$5300.00
IA DOT, Parts	\$72.96
ISACA, Dues	\$250.00
Reimb, Service	\$390.00
Kendro, Disposal	\$124.30
Jwirk Star, Supplies	\$270.84
Lessin, Parts	\$98.43
Martin Yale, Equip	\$88.60
MDS Records, Serv	\$89.33
Mick Gage, Serv	\$235.00
Mid Am, Util	\$9418.89
N Iowa, Broadcast	\$160.00
O'Reilly, Parts	\$38.00
Plainfield, Serv	\$180.00
Schuetz Ace, Hwd	\$35.98

Wood Fund, Reimb\$512.29
Weststream, Phone\$363.09
Young Plumbing, Serv\$2269.90

Updates regarding various boards, commissions, and activities since the last meeting: Rottinghaus attended Main Street Charles City, Charles City Chamber Board, and Ambulance Commission meetings. Campbell has been working with contractors for repairs in Drainage District 18. Carr attended the ISAC Spring Conference, participated in a virtual Summit lawsuit update and followed up with Ahlers & Cooney attorney Tim Whipple regarding pipeline topics.

Duane Ollendick, Community Resource Officer with the Charles City Police Department, presented a proposal for an opioid-specific educational program focused on prescription drug misuse and impairment. The request includes funding for impairment simulation goggles, pedal karts, and cup-stacking materials. Discussion included possible expansion to other schools and consultation with County Attorney Todd Prichard regarding allowable use of opioid treatment funds. No action was taken.

Travis Bartz, Sheriff's Deputy, presented an Amended Services Contract with Motorola Services for the Communications Tower, reflecting a reduced total cost of \$855,349, a savings of \$474,000. Bartz will contact Motorola for consideration of an additional discount if the county made an advance payment of \$500,000 and the remaining payment schedule would be for what the year.

Adam Miller, County Engineer, presented several right-of-way parcels under review for vacation and discussed the option of hiring a surveyor to obtain accurate legal descriptions prior to vacating the parcels. Rottinghaus/Carr moved to work with the interested landowner, if the landowner will cover survey costs and the county will cover road vacate expenses such as publication costs. Motion carried 3-0.

Rottinghaus/Campbell moved to authorize the Board Chair to sign the RAISE Grant Agreement. Motion carried 3-0.

Carr/Rottinghaus moved to set FY27 employer/employee rates for health and dental insurance premiums as follows:

- Single Health at \$993.40/mo.; county pays \$993.40/employee pays \$0
- Family Health at \$2,399.28/mo.; county pays \$1,799.46/employee pays \$599.82
- Single Dental Plan 1 at \$29.70/mo.; county pays \$14.88/employee pays \$14.82
- Single Dental Plan 2 at \$36.34/mo.; county pays \$15.02/employee pays \$21.32
- Family Dental Plan 1 at \$101.84/mo.; county pays \$57.90/employee pays \$43.94
- Family Dental Plan 2 at \$126.08/mo.; county pays \$57.96/employee pays \$68.12;
- COBRA/509A rates (no wellness option and employee/retiree pays 100%):
 - Single Health - Wellmark only - \$887/mo.
 - Family Health - Wellmark only - \$2,192/mo.
 - Single Health - Wellmark and partial self-funding - \$987/mo.
 - Family Health - Wellmark and partial self-funding - \$2,394/mo.
 - Single Dental Plan 1 - \$29.70/mo.
 - Family Dental Plan 1 - \$101.84/mo.
 - Single Dental Plan 2 - \$126.08/mo.
 - Motion carried 3-0.

The Board discussed the distribution of duties among the 911 Coordinator, Administrator and Zoning, and Board of Health Planning Assistant positions. It was noted that during the March 9 meeting, 911 coordination duties were redistributed to EMA Coordinator Jason Webster. Discussion included restructuring Jessy Willadsen's compensation to 85% Board of Health and 15% Planning and Zoning, and that the Assessor's Office is assisting applicants with initiating the building permit process. Further discussion is pending the Board of Health's next meeting.

Future agenda items: NACO, Public Health Update, zoning fee schedule, disbursement of Zoning and Board of Health Assistant Administrator duties, and setting the date for the FY27 budget hearing.

The Board conducted FY27 budget reviews, including dental insurance providers, the engineer's proposed salary increase, fund balances, and levy rate options.

Rottinghaus/Campbell moved to adjourn at 11:45 a.m. Motion carried 3-0.

ATTEST: Morrigan Montagne,
Floyd County Auditor

Gloria A. Carr, Chair
Floyd County Board of Supervisors

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Legal Notice - Legal Notice

IN THE IOWA DISTRICT COURT FOR FLOYD COUNTY
VERDIAN CREDIT UNION,
Plaintiff,
vs.
JARED J. JENNINGS,
UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF JARED L. JENNINGS,
STATE OF COLORADO,
AND PARTIES IN POSSESSION,
Defendants.
CASE NO. EQCV032436
ORIGINAL NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION
TO THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANT(S):

You are notified that a petition has been filed in the office of the clerk of this court, naming you as a defendant in this action, for foreclosure of the property legally described as: LOT THIRTEEN, BLOCK FIFTY-TWO, THIRD HART-PARR ADDITION "C" TO CHARLES CITY, IOWA. (Mortgaged Premises) due to a default in making contractual payments on a promissory note; for judgment in rem against the mortgaged premises for the principal amount of plus interest as provided in the Note and as may have been subsequently adjusted thereafter, fees, costs, and attorney's fees; for a declaration of the sum due as a lien on the premises, a declaration that the mortgage is prior and superior to all of the other liens on the property, for a special execution to issue for sale of the Mortgaged Premises at sheriff's sale, for the issuance of a writ of possession, for a appointment of a receiver upon plaintiff's application, and for such further relief the Court deems just and equitable.

FOR FURTHER PARTICULARS SEE THE PETITION NOW CONTAINED IN THE COURT FILE

NOTICE
THE PLAINTIFF HAS ELECTED FORECLOSURE WITHOUT REDEMPTION. THIS MEANS THAT THE SALE OF THE MORTGAGED PROPERTY WILL OCCUR PROMPTLY AFTER ENTRY OF JUDGMENT UNLESS YOU FILE WITH THE COURT A WRITTEN DEMAND TO DELAY THE SALE. IF YOU FILE A WRITTEN DEMAND, THE SALE WILL BE DELAYED UNTIL THREE MONTHS FROM ENTRY OF JUDGMENT IF THE MORTGAGED PROPERTY IS YOUR RESIDENCE AND IS A ONE-FAMILY OR TWO-FAMILY DWELLING OR UNTIL TWO MONTHS FROM ENTRY OF JUDGMENT IF THE MORTGAGED PROPERTY IS NOT YOUR RESIDENCE OR IS YOUR RESIDENCE BUT NOT A ONE-FAMILY OR TWO-FAMILY DWELLING. YOU

WILL HAVE NO RIGHT OF REDEMPTION AFTER THE SALE. THE PURCHASER AT THE SALE WILL BE ENTITLED TO IMMEDIATE POSSESSION OF THE MORTGAGED PROPERTY. YOU MAY PURCHASE AT THE SALE.

IF YOU DO NOT FILE A WRITTEN DEMAND TO DELAY THE SALE AND IF THE MORTGAGED PROPERTY IS YOUR RESIDENCE AND IS A ONE-FAMILY OR TWO-FAMILY DWELLING, THEN A DEFICIENCY JUDGMENT WILL NOT BE ENTERED AGAINST YOU. IF YOU DO FILE A WRITTEN DEMAND TO DELAY THE SALE, THEN A DEFICIENCY JUDGMENT MAY BE ENTERED AGAINST YOU IF THE PROCEEDS FROM THE SALE OF THE MORTGAGED PROPERTY ARE INSUFFICIENT TO SATISFY THE AMOUNT OF THE MORTGAGED DEBT AND COSTS.

IF THE MORTGAGED PROPERTY IS NOT YOUR RESIDENCE OR IS NOT A ONE-FAMILY OR TWO-FAMILY DWELLING, THEN A DEFICIENCY JUDGMENT MAY BE ENTERED AGAINST YOU WHETHER OR NOT YOU FILE A WRITTEN DEMAND TO DELAY THE SALE.

You are further notified that unless you serve and, within a reasonable time thereafter, file a motion or answer on or before 04-20-2026 in the Iowa District Court for Floyd County, Iowa, at the Courthouse in Charles City, Iowa, judgment by default will be rendered against you for the relief demanded in the Petition.

This case has been filed in a county that utilizes electronic filing. Please review Iowa Court Rules Chapter 16 for general rules and information on electronic filing and division VI of Chapter 16 regarding the protection of personal information in court filings.

If you need assistance to participate in court due to a disability, call the disability coordinator at 641-421-0990. Persons who are hearing or speech impaired may call Relay Iowa TTY (1-800-735-2942). Disability coordinators cannot provide legal advice.

IMPORTANT: YOU ARE ADVISED TO SEEK LEGAL ADVICE AT ONCE TO PROTECT YOUR INTERESTS

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FLOYD COUNTY DUST CONTROL POLICY

Whereas Floyd County does not provide dust control services on any county road, citizens and landowners are, however, allowed to apply dust control materials by permit from the Floyd County Engineer's Office on any road at their own expense.

The only materials approved for use on the roads are calcium chloride, magnesium chloride and lignin sulfonate. All products must be approved dust control suppressants with appropriate documentation. Used motor oil is not an approved material and shall not be applied to county road surfaces.

Upon receipt of a dust control permit the county will blade and shape the indicated site prior to dust control material to provide for a smooth road surface. After the dust control material has been applied, the county will refrain from blading/graveling the treated area, unless it has become a hazard to traffic. The owner shall maintain the treated area and repair any roughness that may develop. The county shall not be liable for the cost of any new application made necessary by such blading.

Whereas the county needs to maintain gravels across Floyd County, any traffic as a result of normal spot rock and frost boil patchwork is considered normal operations during the course of the year.

Whereas the county places contract rock once a year on various gravel roads across Floyd County. Contract rock is considered to be extra ordinary travel on Floyd County Roads. The contractor placing contract rock will be responsible for maintaining fugitive dust at locations considered to be the main traveled haul roads from the quarry as designated by Floyd County Engineer during the time of contract rock. The contractor may utilize any of the approved materials listed above or water trucks may be used during hauling times. These designated main haul roads may vary from year to year. Once contract rock is completed the landowner is again permitted to apply dust control materials on any road at their own expense.

Whereas the landowner wanting to place dust control prior to contract rock hauling does so at the landowner's own risk. Any costs associated with re-application of dust control materials after contract hauling is done, shall be at the landowner's expense.

This policy is valid for the time period of May 1 to October 15. Before or after this time period the county will routinely maintain the rock surface by blading.

Floyd County Engineer

Farmers National Company

LAND AUCTION
SIMULCAST LIVE AND ONLINE

76.51+ Acres • Butler County, Iowa
Waverly Civic Center
200 1st Street, NE Waverly, Iowa
April 9, 2026 at 10:00 AM

Bidding starts | April 7, 2026 at 8:00 AM
Bidding closes | April 9, 2026 at close of live event
To register and bid go to: WWW.FNCBID.COM

-- Open to Farm in 2026 --
-- High Quality Cropland with Strong CSR2 Rating in Butler County --
-- Desirable tract size --

For more information on property details, please contact:

Alex Mitchell, AFM, Agent
Phone: (641) 426-6796
AMitchell@FarmersNational.com

www.FNCRealEstate.com