

Area youth participate in State Wrestling - Page 10

East Sac County names Students of the Month - Page 10

National Agriculture Week Heritage and Century Farms - Special Supplement

# The Sac Sun



155th Year No. 11 10 pages Sac City, Iowa, 50583 1 section, Greensaver March 17, 2026 \$1.00 per copy

## News Digest

### Lenten Luncheon Week

The First Christian Church and Unity Church invite you to join them in their "Walk With Christ" this Easter Season. This week is at First Christian Church at 11:30 a.m.

### Shull Center - "Flying the Wounded"

The Shull Center will host a special historical presentation, "MASH: Flying the Wounded," on Saturday, March 28<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm at the Shull Center, 300 South 11<sup>th</sup> Street, Sac City, IA. Tickets are \$10 for adults and free for anyone under the age of 18. Tickets will only be available at the door. To learn more about the play, check out their Facebook: The Shull Center.

### Crafts at the Center

Join us for a FREE family-friendly craft programs. On April 17<sup>th</sup> from 10:30am-11:30am and 5:30pm to 6:30pm we will decorate a bag to take on hikes. Registration is required.

### New Moon Hike

Join us at Hage Park for the New Moon Hike on March 17 at 7:15pm. Registration is appreciated.

### Fly Tying

Join us on April 16, 2026 at Hage Park starting at 6:00pm. There is limited space. Registration is required.

### Loring Hospital Snack & Learn

Loring Hospital is holding a Snack & Learn on March 30 at 9:30 a.m., "Building a Balanced Plate." Learn from Loring Hospital Dietician Jill Williams on how to simplify building healthy meals. See their ad in today's newspaper and Sac County Reminder for more details.

### Sac City Fire Dept. Easter Egg Hunt

The Sac City Fire Department will hold their annual Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 4, starting at 1 p.m. SHARP at the East Sac County Elementary School.

### Sac County Farm Bureau hosts

#### Sac City Chamber Coffee on March 19

The Sac County Farm Bureau will host a Chamber Coffee this Thursday, March 19 at 9:30 am at the Rec Center, in recognition of National Agriculture Week. Please join us for refreshments and community news. Upcoming events: Sac Veterinary Clinic will have a ribbon cutting on April 2.

### Loring Auxiliary Fun Night planned

The Loring Hospital Auxiliary has scheduled a Fun Night for Friday, March 27, at the Sac County Fairgrounds 4-H Building. They are planning on playing Music Bingo, followed by a comedy hypnotist show featuring professional entertainer Randy Andrews. There will also be a silent auction, and free will donation for potato bar from the Jackson 4-H Club. Tickets can be bought by the table (up to eight people), or individually.

### Sac County Beef Bash planned

Sac County ISU Extension is holding the Sac County Beef Bash for kids ages Clover Kids and up, with parents welcome to attend. This will be held on Saturday, March 21 at the Sac County Fairgrounds. Pre-registration for this educational workshop should be done by March 16, by calling the Sac County Extension at 712-662-7131.

### Private Well Information Session

A free information session on private wells will be held on Monday, April 6, at 6 p.m. at the Sac County Extension office, 620 Park Avenue. They are requesting RSVP from those attending. Contact the Sac County Extension office for more information.

### Sac Country Club Men's Stag

The Sac Country Club will hold their Men's Stag on Monday, April 6. For details, see their ad in today's newspaper and Sac County Reminder.

### Bank Midwest Fraud Prevention Seminar

Bank Midwest in Wall Lake will host a Fraud Prevention Seminar on March 24 at the Wall Lake Community Center. See their ad in today's newspaper and Sac County Reminder for more information.



### East Sac Coach receives state award

East Sac County Coach Steve Nuetzman (3rd from left) was presented with the Iowa Football Coaches Association 2025 Don Taft Memorial Junior High Award, during their annual banquet on February 28. Also in attendance were East Sac County coaches Scott Lahr, Eric McCollough, Tom Cox, Nole Bochmann, and Scott Kluber. (Photo submitted by Eric McCollough)

### Nichol Kleespies hired as Regional Director for Iowa State University Extension and Outreach

Nichol Kleespies has accepted the position of regional director with Iowa State University Extension and Outreach serving Cherokee, Buena Vista, Ida, Sac and Calhoun counties. She began the position January 26. As regional director, Kleespies will provide administrative leadership to county extension office staff and guidance to county extension councils.

She replaces Terry Janssen, who had been the Regional director since 2012. Janssen retired in January after 25 years with Iowa State University Extension and Outreach. Kleespies has served ISU Extension and Outreach with the 4-H Youth Development program for more than a decade in multiple capacities. Her experience includes leading staff to ensure high quality program delivery, providing budget and fiscal oversight, and developing systems and procedures that support program fidelity during a period of transition.

She received her bachelor's degree in business management and entrepreneurship from Buena Vista University, a master's in education



Nichol Kleespies

administration from Colorado State University and Doctor of Business Administration from National University in California.

"Nichol brings strong, established relationships across multiple areas in Iowa and internally, which will make her a successful regional director," said Andrea Welchans, assistant vice president for ISU Extension and Outreach. "We congratulate Nichol and welcome her to our team."

ISU Extension and Outreach is part of the federal Cooperative Extension Service — a network of



Terry Janssen

more than 100 land-grant institutions, including Iowa State University, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture serving communities and counties across the United States. Every county in Iowa has an elected extension council that decides how to support ISU Extension and Outreach educational programs at the county level.

For more information about ISU Extension and Outreach, visit [www.extension.iastate.edu](http://www.extension.iastate.edu).

### Bridge repair by Lake View to close road for five months

The City of Lake View and the Sac County Engineer's office closed Highway 175 to M50 to D36 between 7th Street in Lake View and 320th Street last Monday, March 16. The road will remain closed for approximately five (5) months for the bridge replacement project.

A posted detour is in place to route thru traffic around the area using Highway 175 to M50 to D36.

The road will remain open to local traffic only. As with all construction projects the progress depends on the weather.

Remember to use extra caution

when driving in or near any construction project, for the safety of yourself and the construction workers. Call the Sac County Engineer's office at 712-662-7687 with any questions you may have.

### Loring Hospital opens mental health program for older adults

Loring Hospital in Sac City has partnered with Senior Life Solutions to help older adults who are experiencing symptoms of depression, anxiety, or other mental challenges often associated with aging. The new Senior Life Solutions program is located at Loring Hospital in Sac City.

Senior Life Solutions provides outpatient services designed to meet the unique needs of individuals (typically 65 and older) who could benefit from coping and communication skills to improve their mental health. The program offers group and individual therapy, psychiatric evaluation, and medication management. The Senior Life Solutions team includes a board-certified psychiatrist, licensed therapists, a registered nurse, and other professionals dedicated to the emotional well-being of the older adults in our community. "We are thrilled to expand Loring Hospital's services and provide

more comprehensive care to older adults in our community," said Matt Johnson, CEO of Loring Hospital. "This partnership is another step in our continued commitment to meeting the needs of the community. The Senior Life Solutions program provides evidence and outcomes-based treatment proven to significantly improve the mental health of older adults."

Individuals may benefit from Loring Hospital's Senior Life Solutions program if they are experiencing any of the following common indicators or triggers of depression and anxiety:

- Anxiety
- Changes in appetite
- Depression
- Difficulty sleeping
- Feelings of sadness or grief lasting more than two weeks
- Feelings of worthlessness or hopelessness
- Lost a spouse or close family member
- Loss of energy
- Loss of interest in previously enjoyed activities
- Recently experienced a traumatic event

Following an individual assessment, participants meet up to three times per week in a supportive, encouraging group setting. Individual therapy sessions are also offered, along with medication management and regular check-ins. The program also offers teletherapy services, allowing patients to get the mental health support they need from the comfort of their homes using a telephone, computer, or tablet device.

Anyone can refer a patient to the program, including a healthcare professional, family member, or friend. For more information, call Loring Hospital's Senior Life Solutions program at 712-662-6435.

### Chautauqua Singers to present "What Love Is This?"

Sac City Area Chautauqua Singers will present "What Love Is This?" on Sunday, March 22, at 3 p.m. in the Unity Church, Sac City.

Under the direction of Barb Bloes, this choir will perform this Easter-themed cantata. Accompanying the choir this time is Lori Maier.

Narrators for the program are

Greg and Sandy Schnirring. A free-will offering will be collected during the performance to offset the cost of the production.

Join the choir after the performance for refreshments in the fellowship hall following the performance.

### Iowa DNR to recognize Harker land donation

DES MOINES, Iowa – More than 3,200 acres of Iowa land in 22 counties with an estimated value of more than \$11 million was permanently protected through donations for conservation.

The donors associated with 26 donations of land or land value will be recognized during a ceremony on March 24, from 1 to 2 p.m., in the first floor rotunda, at the State Capitol, in Des Moines.

Landowners who are in attendance will be honored individually for their donation.

#### In Sac County:

Renate Harker - Renate Harker bequeathed 20 acres of mixed habitat near Sac City in Sac County to Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation. Prairie restoration will enhance existing wildlife habitat, reduce erosion and promote water infiltration in the North Raccoon River watershed.

#### In Pocahontas County:

John Pascal, Jr. and Sally Pascal donated 10 acres of mixed habitat south of Pocahontas to Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation. The property, along with an adjacent 11 acres donated by Gail Ewan, has been transferred to Pocahontas County Conservation to serve as a public

recreation area crucial for wildlife habitat.

Fork Creek Farms, LLC & Richard C. Rastetter, Jr. - Fork Creek Farms, LLC and Richard Rastetter donated 52 acres of open space and perennial vegetation near Rolfe in Pocahontas County to Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation.

Divided by the North Branch of Lizard Creek, prairie restoration at this site will provide water quality benefits and habitat for feeding, resting and nesting for migrating birds and other species.

The long-term protection and restoration of this property was a long-term goal of Rich before he passed away in 2023. His family was happy to make sure his dream was achieved last year.

The Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation conveyed six properties totaling 2,523 acres of land to the State of Iowa at below market value prices. These land projects were located in five counties and valued around \$4.2 million of donated land value.

For more information about individual donations, visit the DNR website at [www.iowadnr.gov/land-donors](http://www.iowadnr.gov/land-donors).

### Budget process continues for Sac City

The City of Sac City has set the budget hearing for the 2026-27 fiscal budget, and proposed property tax levies, for March 24, during their regular meeting at 5 p.m.

City Administrator Jamie Lawrence said he has put together three different proposals for the council to consider, each with different levels of funds needed. The city published a proposed budget in last week's newspaper.

One of the concerns of the budget, according to Lawrence, is the

increase in property tax insurance over the years. He noted that when he started in Sac City, the cost of the city's property tax insurance was around \$85,000; it has since climbed to over \$200,000. That has put a strain on the budget.

The proposed budget was printed in the March 10 edition of The Sac Sun. It showed an increase in the proposed property tax levy of approximately \$1.10 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation, to \$20.11231 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation.

### Sac City works on licenses for commercial solid waste haulers

The City of Sac City during their March 10 meeting approved a resolution to require commercial solid waste collectors to get a license from the city to operate within city limits.

According to City Administrator Jamie Lawrence, this is being done in order to make sure the City of Sac City is named in the companies' insurance policy as an additional insured. The license application will ask for: commercial solid waste collector license application; compliance attestation; insurance requirements sheet; and indemnification agreement. Other information they are requesting includes: business contact information; vehicles and equipment used in service; compliance with applicable State and Federal solid waste regulations; proof of liability insurance; and agreement to indemnify and hold harmless the City of Sac City.

Licenses will be valid for one year. In other items during the meet-

ing, the city council approved an amendment to its gas supply agreement with PEFA. This was done to allow PEFA to refinance bonds from 2019 with a new Series 2026 bonds, resetting the pricing structure and discount available to participating cities.

The council approved the new 2026 Sac City Zoning Ordinance. According to Lawrence, there are still some things to be adjusted in the zoning ordinance, such as shipping containers and abandoned buildings, which will be adjusted by amendment at later dates.

Sac City Police Chief John Thomsen told the council that they need to find a new location to take stray animals. Their previous location was no longer going to board those animals. Chief Thomsen said that most of the time when they have a dog or cat that is loose, the officers put it on Facebook, and the owners claim them before they have to be boarded.



### Weather

March 7, 2026 - March 13, 2026

	Hi	Low	Precip/Snow
Saturday	63.1	27.7	0.05/0
Sunday	44.3	26.9	0/0
Monday	<b>68.2</b>	35.3	0/0
Tuesday	66.1	32.9	0/0
Wednesday	55.3	29.4	T/T, Fog
Thursday	41.9	<b>23.3</b>	0.05/0
Friday	59.3	<b>23.3</b>	0.25/0
Total	56.9	28.4	0.30/0, Fog

**Bold** = Week's Extremes. All statistics are for the 24-hour period that ends at 7:00 a.m. on the date listed.

Compiled by Brett Murley, NWS Observer