

## Celebrating retiring school staff



Pictured (left to right) Kathy Jensen, Sam Graeve and Jonil Madsen.

**AUDUBON** – Three Audubon School District staff members recently retired and were recognized for their service to the district, including Elementary Secretary Kathy Jensen, Principal Sam Graeve and High School English Teacher/Speech Coach Joni Madsen, according to a post on the Audubon Community School Facebook page.

Jensen was recognized for 36 years of service, Graeve was recognized for 28 and one half years of service and Madsen was recognized for 18 years of service.

“Each was presented with a plaque in recognition of their years of commitment, hard work, and care for Audubon students and families,” officials said in the Facebook post. “Their influence will be felt for years to come, and we are so grateful for everything they have given to our district. Please join us in thanking Kathy, Sam, and Joni for their outstanding service and wishing them happiness, relaxation, and new adventures in retirement.”

## Cass Supervisors approve part time Veterans Affairs

By Jennifer Nichols  
AJ Staff Writer

**ATLANTIC** – The Cass County Board of Supervisors approved Tuesday hiring William Bailey, current Audubon County Veterans Affairs Director, as the Cass County Veterans Affairs Director on a part time basis on a vote of 4 to 1 with Board member Wendy Richter voting no.

The board has discussed hiring a new director since current director Mitch Holmes announced he would be retiring from the position on July 1, and he said the Veterans Commission recommended hiring William Bailey for the position. Bailey cur-

rently works part time in Audubon as the Veterans Affairs Director there, starting in the position in February of 2025.

There were discussions on whether the position should be shared with Audubon County, but Chairman Steve Baier said during a previous meeting that members of the Cass County Veterans Commission voiced concerns about having a 50/50 split between the two counties.

“If we go 50-50, you’re going to have to split a day,” Baier said during a previous



William Bailey

meeting. “So you’re going to have a day when you’re either in Atlantic in the morning and Audubon in the afternoon. You’ve got road time and then you’ve got mileage.”

Baier also said previously he had some ideas about how to share the position, but during discussions, it was determined they “weren’t practical or would leave a situation where maybe (the director) was spread too thin, there was downtime with travel, or that you’re not doing anything but burning gas.”

Board member Bernard Pettinger said Tuesday he was still interested in exploring a sharing option with Audubon, and Board member Mark O’Brien wondered if every option had been considered related to sharing with Audubon.

Baier said other ideas could still be considered, but he thought it was important to consider hiring Bailey first, as well as having some way to review if veterans are getting the services they need with the new part time schedule of 24 hours per week within 90 days of Bailey’s employment. One reason for considering a part time schedule was because Iowa Code says counties with a population of 30,000 or less should have a Veterans Affairs Director work no fewer than 20 hours per week. Members of the Commission said

they would be willing to participate in a review like that.

Baier said depending on what happens during the review, it could be difficult to share with Audubon County, because of the amount of time needed in both counties.

“It’s almost impossible to put more time in this county and to go up to Audubon County for at least 50-50,” Bailey said. “Let’s say we bump this up another four hours saying, ‘oh, we can’t keep (up with) the flow of veterans coming into this county, so we need to add four more hours.’ Then you’re almost looking at an impossible, impossible split around 50-50.”

Richter said in a text message she voted against the motion because the salary amount changed. Baier said during the meeting that originally the board considered a full time position for approximately \$21 per hour, but the amount was increased to \$23 per hour as a part time position. She also said in the text message that she would have preferred to have the position be a full time shared position and not a part time position.

The Cass County Board of Supervisors approved hiring William Bailey as the Veterans Affairs Director. He is the current Veterans Affairs Director in Audubon County.

## Audubon City Council Recap

**AUDUBON** – The Audubon City Council met for their regular meeting on May 11 at City Hall. Many of the items discussed were tabled until further information can be gathered.

One topic that was discussed for a couple of different properties was some drainage issues. The first location being at The Friendship Home. Audubon Mayor Palle Lansman would like more direction from City Attorney Tad Wonio on who is responsible for fixing this problem. Public Works Director Brian Juelsgaard also said he will take a look at it. The second location discussed was the West side of the Memorial Building. Juelsgaard said he looked at this and didn’t think there was an issue but will have it looked at by a company that uses a camera to view sewers. Action will be decided at both locations after further assessment and understanding.

In addition to the drainage discussion on the Memorial Building, the council discussed wanting to get the old police building cleaned out and they approved a bid from Twin Construction to do some work on the building.

The council also discussed a couple of nuisance properties during the meeting. First on the agenda was 319 Washington Street. The building is dangerous and needs to be taken down. Papers are ready to be served to the property owner, Rick Bohlmann, to do something about it. A lot of things still need to happen before the building can be taken down but the council agreed they would like

to have a plan in place by July 1st of this year. The other property discussed was at 417 Tracy Street. State and City officials will be meeting to evaluate whether it is safe to go inside the building to save some documents.

Public Works Director Juelsgaard also reported that he has received one bid and is waiting on another to pave a portion of the cemetery. The council moved to table the decision until the second bid is received. Juelsgaard also stated that they are working on getting the pool ready for the season. They were waiting on ACCO to fix some valves before the pool was filled. He also reported that street work has been completed in town and stop light fixes were finishing up.

Also, during the meeting, the council moved to approve using Gronewold, Bell, Kyhnn, and Co. for the FY26 audit.

In the Police Department report Chief Sean Staples reported that Officer Jason Hemman is back from the academy, so that should help with scheduling. He also stated that they will be looking into getting a part-time officer.

A week following the regular council meeting, a special city council meeting was held on May 18 to approve Resolution 2026-22, which is a revised Notice to Bidders for construction of the new fire station. The council unanimously approved the notice. The council also unanimously approved an application to host a 2026 Cy-Hawk Street Party in Audubon.

## Restoring Function and Reducing Pain: Multimodal Chronic Pain Care at MRHC

**MANNING** - Chronic pain affects far more than the body. Pain influences how people sleep, work, and connect with loved ones. To better serve those struggling with pain, Manning Regional Healthcare Center (MRHC) is expanding its Multimodal Chronic Pain Management Program, using opioid settlement funding to bring more evidence-based, team-centered care.

Pain often limits one’s everyday activities. Whether caused by back pain, arthritis, fibromyalgia, headaches, or nerve pain, many people find that medications or procedures alone do not provide lasting relief. The MRHC Multimodal Chronic Pain Management Program addresses these challenges through a comprehensive, coordinated approach.

“Our role is to make sure each person’s medication plan truly supports their goals,” said MRHC’s Director of Pharmacy Jen Morris, PharmD. “When treatments are carefully selected and monitored, patients often feel better, think more clearly, and have the energy to focus on living their lives.”

Patients meet with providers to review their medications, adjust treatment plans when appropriate, and explore strategies that also improve sleep, mood, and overall well-being. Education about how the brain and nervous system process pain helps patients understand the powerful connection between stress, emotions, and physical symptoms. With this knowledge, many

discover new ways to calm their bodies and reduce discomfort.

Physical and occupational therapy are additional key components of recovery. Individualized programs build strength, flexibility, balance, and endurance while teaching safe and efficient movement for daily tasks. Patients also learn how to pace activities and modify routines at home or work so pain doesn’t control their day. Stress management techniques, group movement sessions, and sleep support further enhance progress.

“Movement is medicine,” said Therapy Director Taylor Nelson, PT, DPT. “When patients learn that it’s safe to move again, they regain strength, confidence, and independence. That’s often when real progress begins.”

Through coordinated care and personalized support, MRHC’s Multimodal Chronic Pain Management Program helps individuals move beyond pain, rebuild function, and reclaim their lives. No one has to manage chronic pain alone. With the right team and the right tools, real improvement is possible.

If you are struggling with pain, schedule an appointment with your primary health care provider at MRHC or visit [mrhc.com/chronic-pain-management](http://mrhc.com/chronic-pain-management) to learn more information.

AUDUBON COUNTY MEMORIAL HOSPITAL & CLINICS		
JUNE 2026 OUTPATIENT SPECIALTY CLINIC		
SERVICE	PROVIDER	DAYS
Cardiology/Obesity Medicine	Saima Zafar, MD	Thurs. 18th Fri. 19th
Cardiology	Dr. Kyle Ulveling/ Telemedicine	Wed 24th
Cardiology	Shelby Mescher, ARNP	Wed. 3rd
Dermatology	Rosa Nicosia, ARNP	Wed. 3rd, 17th, 24th
ENT	Jason Talmadge, MD	Mon. 1st
General Surgery	Jeffrey Maire, DO	Mon. - Tues., Thurs. - Fri.
Gynecology	Michael Woods, MD	Mon. 15th
Hand/Microvascular Specialist	Caliste Hsu, MD	Mon. 8th, Tues. 16th
Mental Health	Lois Potthoff, LMHC	Mon. - Fri.
Mental Health	Kevin Reynolds, LMHC	Mon. - Fri.
Mental Health	Mindi Rotert, LMSW	Wednesdays
Mental Health	Thea Guest, LISW	Thursdays
Nephrology	Carlos Franco-Palacios MD	Fri. 19th
OB/GYN	Kelly Anderson, DO	Thurs. 18th
Orthopedics	Richard Goding, MD	Wed. 3rd, Thurs. 25th,
Pain Management	Brian Jacobs, CRNA	Tues. 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd
Podiatry	Eric Jensen, DPM	Wed. 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th
Pulmonology	Shibu Skaria, MD	Thurs. 25th
Urology	Fawad Zafar, MD	Thurs. 4th, 18th
Wound Care	Jeffrey Maire, DO	Fri. 5th, 12th, 19th, 26th

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**AUDUBON COUNTY MEMORIAL HOSPITAL & CLINICS**

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Family Medicine Physician

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