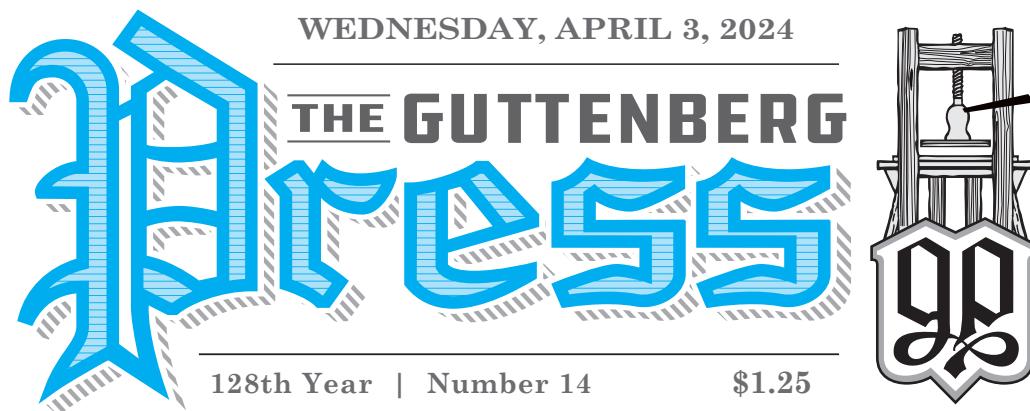




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10 Schiller Street | P.O. Box 937 | Guttenberg, Iowa 52052



Council sets public hearing on proposed budget

By Shelia Tomkins

Following new procedures set by the Iowa legislature, the Guttenberg city council met in special session March 25 to hold a public hearing on the proposed property tax levy and to set a date for a hearing on the upcoming budget.

There were no comments received on the levy. The budget hearing will take place at the regular council meeting on Monday, April 8, at 6 p.m.

The public hearing at last week's meeting was the result of an act passed by the Iowa legislature in 2023. House File 718 requires that certain information related to property taxation be provided to property owners and taxpayers in advance. The law was designed to help Iowans understand their property taxes and to allow them to weigh-in during local government budget meetings.

The new law required that notices be sent to property tax owners by March 20. The mailing included the date, time and place of public hearings, and the proposed property tax levy.

At last week's meeting, a period of time was allowed for public comments on the proposed tax levy for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2024, after which the hearing

(Continued on Page 2)

2024 solar eclipse - where, when and how

By Caroline Rosacker

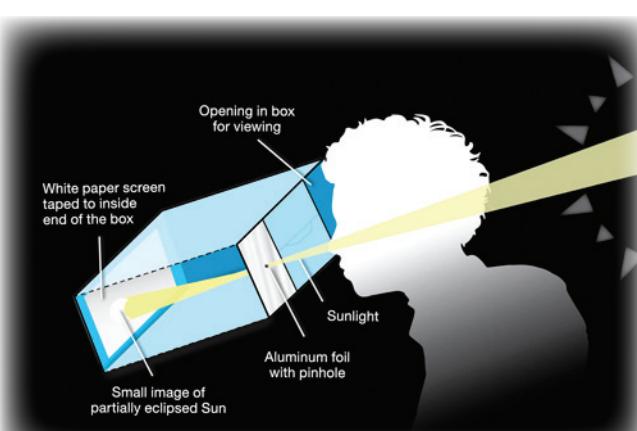
On April 8, 2024, a great portion of North America will experience a solar eclipse, which is defined as a cosmic alignment of the Sun, Moon, and Earth, in that order.

The notable event will begin as the Moon's shadow path makes landfall on Mexico's Pacific

coast, crossing the United States beginning in Texas at 1:27 p.m. CDT, and will end in Maine at 3:35 p.m. EDT before exiting North America via Newfoundland, Canada and continuing into the Atlantic Ocean.

Because the Sun's diameter is about 400 times

(Continued on Page 2)



If you don't have specialized eye protection for solar viewing, you can make your own eclipse projector using a cardboard box, a white sheet of paper, tape, scissors, and aluminum foil. (NASA online image)



GEIDC Community Resource Center shovel ceremony

A groundbreaking ceremony was held at the site of the future Community Resource Center at 516 South First Street in Guttenberg on March 26. The GEIDC project is being funded through a State of Iowa \$2.7 million grant, the work of grant writers, and the volunteer fundraising committee that has received to-date \$415,000 from generous benefactors. From left are Cole Amos, Estimator at Conlon Construction; Tara Chaney-Goldsberry, Architect, Veenstra & Kimm; GMHC administrator Tim Ahlers, Kathy Lansing, Tracy Kregel, Kari Harbaugh, Jackie Lee, Andy Reimer, Tom Augustyn, and William Kann. (Press photo by Caroline Rosacker)

GEIDC breaks ground on Community Resource Center

Submitted by
Jackie Lee
VP People and Culture
Community Savings Bank
and GEIDC Board
Member and CRC Project
Committee Member

The Guttenberg Economic & Industrial Development Committee (GEIDC) held a groundbreaking ceremony on Tuesday, March 26, at the building site of the future Community Resource Center located at 516 South 1st Street in the empty lot between the Guttenberg Brewing Company and the Municipal Building in Guttenberg.

The GEIDC is thrilled to announce the groundbreaking ceremony for the much-anticipated Community Resource Center, a pivotal service hub for the region. The event will mark the beginning of a transformative initiative aimed at addressing a diverse array of community

needs.

The Community Resource Center will serve as a beacon of hope and support for the region, hosting over a dozen agencies dedicated to meeting the multifaceted needs of the region. Among the wide range of services to be offered include a food pantry, clothing center, infant items, outerwear, backpack snack program for school age kids, school supplies, medical adaptive equipment, household basics, furniture, health insurance, housing assistance, utility/rent assistance, counseling, domestic/sexual violence advocate, mental health, substance abuse, elderly care, and transportation.

This ambitious project has been made possible through the generous support of the State of Iowa, which awarded the Guttenberg Economic

& Industrial Development Committee a significant \$2.7 million grant to spearhead the construction of this essential facility. With the project well underway, efforts are in full swing to raise the matching funds required for the three-story facility, anticipated to cost just over \$4 million.

The groundbreaking ceremony signifies a momentous milestone in the journey towards fulfilling the vision of a thriving, supportive community in Guttenberg and its surrounding areas.

Together, let us celebrate the dawn of a new era of community empowerment and resilience.

FRC services

Throughout life, almost everyone needs help at some point. That help could be a judgement free zone, a box of food, a bed after a fire or help navigat-

ing a confusing health care choice.

All these caring services are available for free through the Guttenberg Municipal Hospital & Clinics' Family Resource Center (FRC). The services at FRC are open to anyone, no matter age, income level, or ethnic background.

Let's examine a typical day at the FRC which begins early in the morning as volunteers travel to Kwik Star and Walmart to pick up food donations. The food is delivered to the small, unassuming building, housing the Family Resource Center and an army of volunteers process the food for distribution for people throughout the region.

But the FRC provides much more than needed food. A young couple from northern Clayton County (Continued on Page 2)

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Carol Gunnert, MD,
PhD, Family Medicine



Keenan Laraway, MD
Internal Medicine



Amber Jaeger, FNP,
PMHNP



Hayle Bockenstedt,
DNP



Taylor Grinstead, DNP



Jamie Hammerand,
DNP



Shelly Klein, DNP

