

April 14, 2021



Volume 38
Issue 15

Iowa Newspaper Association Bulletin

www.INAnews.com

CALENDAR of EVENTS

MEETINGS

INA, INF, INA Services
Company Board Meetings
Friday, April 23
@ 10 a.m. via Zoom

WEBINARS

Getting Beyond the
Buzzword to Engage Your
Community - Part 2
Thursday, April 29



A barrel-mounted light and camera is seen on Police Chief Ben Davis' handgun at the Fayette Police Department on Thursday, April 8, 2021. The town of 1200 has a four-person police department, which is responsible for public safety within the city limits and on the Upper Iowa University campus. (Rebecca F. Miller/The Gazette)

Second installment of INA police video investigative series available!

In November, the Iowa Newspaper Association launched a statewide project focused on police video rules, regulations and associated policies. Since the launch of the project, numerous journalists from across the state have requested copies of these policies from local police departments, sheriff departments and other law enforcement agencies.

This multi-part series of investigative articles are being made available without charge to all INA members. This story, the second in the InFocus police video project, explores how Iowa law enforcement agencies balance accountability with privacy of people shown in police recordings. There are legitimate questions about how videos should be redacted to protect privacy, but there also are cases of law enforcement agencies using privacy as a red herring to keep videos secret.

The second installment is available to all INA members for download. **The story should be embargoed for print until April 25 and embargoed for digital until April 26.** We strongly encourage all newspapers to download and use the story and available graphics.

The Iowa Newspaper Association would like to thank the project team of Erin Jordan, Cedar Rapids Gazette; Zack

Kucharski, Cedar Rapids Gazette; Jared Strong, Carroll Times Herald; Daniel Lathrop, Des Moines Register and William Steiden, Des Moines Register.

If you requested the first in the series you will automatically receive an email with downloading instructions. If you'd like access to the first in the series, or the second and have not made the request before please email Zack Kucharski, at the Cedar Rapids Gazette Zack.Kucharski@thegazette.com.

THANKS TO THE FOLLOWING NEWSPAPERS HAVE REQUESTED ACCESS TO THE FIRST INSTALLMENT:

Akron Hometown, Belmond News, Bloomfield Democrat, Carroll Times Herald, Cedar Rapids Gazette, Clear Lake Mirror Reporter, Clinton Herald, Des Moines Register, Dubuque Telegraph Herald, Fort Dodge Messenger, Iowa City Daily Iowan, Iowa Falls Times Citizen, Marshalltown Times Republican, Ottumwa Courier, Sioux City Journal, Spencer Daily Reporter, Spirit Lake Dickinson County News, Storm Lake Pilot Tribune, Washington Southeast Iowa Union and Waverly Newspapers

The Iowa Newspaper Association's mission is to advocate the continued importance of thriving newspaper enterprises in Iowa dedicated to the First Amendment and to provide guidance to members and direction to the association's two related boards.



A Meskwaki pictograph, circa 1830. (Photo: State Historical Society of Iowa)

INF offers free content from Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs

New articles available today! The April series of articles are available today for download from the INA website, and cover the following topics:

- **Virtual museum exhibits** - A new virtual resource from the State History Museum of Iowa enables teachers and students to examine artifacts and explore Iowa history from the comfort of their homes and classrooms, all with guidance from a museum staff member.
- **The arts and social-emotional learning** - Students who learn how to sing, dance or paint develop other skills in the process, such as how to show empathy, build relationships and express emotions in healthy ways. At the Iowa Fine Arts Education Summit on June 17, educators, artists and nonprofit leaders will discuss how the arts can help students practice what experts now call "social-emotional learning."

Visit <https://inanews.com/resources/sponsoredcontent/> to download this month's series and to view the archive of articles from previous months.

CONTACT US



Phone 515-244-2145

Website www.INAnews.com

INA/CNA/INF STAFF DEPARTMENT MANAGERS

Executive Director

Susan Patterson Plank

ext. 125 spattersonplank@inanews.com

Sales and Marketing Director

Samantha Fett

ext. 140 sfett@cnaads.com

Communications Director

Cicely Gordon

ext. 133 cgordon@inanews.com

Media Director

Autumn Phillips

ext. 136 aphillips@cnaads.com

Program Director

Jana Shepherd

ext. 159 jshepherd@inanews.com

Technology & Digital Development Manager

Susan James

ext. 129 sjames@cnaads.com

BOARD PRESIDENTS

Iowa Newspaper Association

Terry Christensen, Fort Dodge Messenger

515-573-2141

tchristensen@messengernews.net

INA Services Company

Ron Gutierrez, Clinton Herald

563-242-7101

rgutierrez@cnhi.com

Iowa Newspaper Foundation

Mark Spensley, Monticello Express

319-465-3555

advertising@monticelloexpress.com

U.S. MAIL

Iowa Newspaper Association

319 East 5th St.

Des Moines, IA 50309

INA LEGAL HOTLINE

515-283-3100 (paid service)

Charter schools must have sunshine, too

RANDY EVANS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
IOWA FREEDOM OF INFORMATION COUNCIL

The 2021 session of the Iowa Legislature will end in a few weeks, and one big issue moving toward a final vote would make charter schools easier to create as an alternative to the traditional K-12 public schools.

Others can debate the pros and cons of charter schools and House File 813, the bill that is awaiting debate and a vote in the Senate. That's not my purpose here today.

But I want to sound a cautionary note:

If the Legislature wants to make it easier to establish these independent schools and provide them with state tax money to operate on, then lawmakers should amend House File 813 to ensure these schools are subject to Iowa's public records laws.

As written, the bill already states that meetings of the charter schools' boards of directors would have to be open to the public. But the only records the bill mentions that would be open to the public are the annual budget for the charter school, the annual report it submits to the Iowa Department of Education, and the report on each school the department issues once a year.

This is far from adequate.

Unlike private K-12 schools that operate on tuition paid by the students who enroll there, the proposed law prohibits charter schools from charging tuition. Instead, their operating funds would come from Iowa's taxpayers, the same revenue source the state's K-12 public schools rely on.

If charter schools are not required to comply with the public records laws, Iowans would be deprived of important documents and information they deserve to properly evaluate how these schools use, or misuse, the tax money they have been provided.

The legislation, by design, gives charter schools more autonomy than traditional public schools.

Rep. Skyler Wheeler, an Orange City Republican and House floor manager of the bill, told colleagues: "Charter schools serve as incubators of innovation in neighborhoods across the country. These institutions give educators the freedom to cultivate new teaching models and develop creative methods to meet students' needs."

The schools could be organized by a local school district, with the approval of the Iowa Board of Education,

and would operate as part of the district. More likely, however, the schools would be organized by an interested group or an education management company, with the permission from the state board. They would be independent from the local public school districts.

Whichever way a charter school is created, it would receive the same amount of state education funding, per pupil, as Iowa's public K-12 schools receive each year. That now is about \$7,230 per pupil.

The legislation was approved last month, 55-40, by the Iowa House.

There is still time for lawmakers to require charter schools to provide the same access to their records as public school districts must provide. That legal obligation should go hand-in-hand with receiving per-pupil state school aid, plus additional money to support teacher salaries.

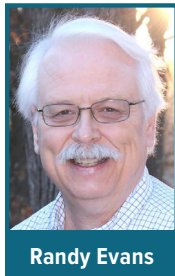
Educating our children is a fundamental mission of the state. Charter schools' governing boards should be held to the same standard of openness and accountability as the state's 330 public school districts.

It comes down to this: If organizers of charter schools want tax money to finance their operations, then they should be subject to public records laws. And if they don't want that scrutiny, then they can organize as a private school and operate on a tuition model.

There should be no room in Iowa for taxpayers to be denied access to how their taxes are being spent. Period.

Randy Evans is executive director of the Iowa Freedom of Information Council. He can be reached at IowaFOICouncil@gmail.com.

This article is free to use and publish in your publication. Visit <https://inanews.com/charter-schools-must-have-sunshine-tool> to use.



Randy Evans

FREE MEMBER EXCHANGE

▼ HELP WANTED

FEATURE/SPORTS REPORTER. Feature/Sports reporter needed for The News of Kalona Iowa. Must be able to cover meetings, do features and help with covering high school sports events. Full or part time position Must also be able to do some photography. Hourly pay depends on ability and experience. Contact Ron Slechta, The News 319-400-7072 or publisher@thenews-ia.co.m

NEWS EDITOR/REPORTER. Come join our team! Mid-America Publishing and Printing is now seeking a part time news editor/writer for the News Review in Sigourney, Iowa. The successful candidate will possess creative writing skills as well as be able to shoot photos and video to post to social media platforms and our website. You will join a team of three others in Keokuk County and when working for Mid-America become part of a network of dozens of other news professional throughout the state.

The editor will write news and items of general interest plus attend various events such as chamber of commerce, school board and city council meetings, business openings, high school fine arts events, local celebrations, and any other newsworthy happenings that may be of interest to the local community as time permits. Requires the ability to regularly write feature stories and conduct interviews, plus investigate news of all types in and around Keokuk County.

Great opportunity to develop professionally, get involved in the local community and collaborate with professionals from 23 similar publications within Mid-America. Call Matt at 515-988-3726 for more details, apply online at Indeed.com or pick up an application today at The News Review offices at 120 E Washington St, Sigourney, IA! 05.19

NEWS EDITOR/REPORTER. Come join our team and do what you love! Mid-America Publishing and Printing is now seeking a full time news editor/writer for the The Hampton Chronicle in Hampton, Iowa. The successful candidate will possess creative writing skills as well as be able to shoot photos and video to post to social media platforms and our website. You will join a team of four others in Franklin County and when working for Mid-America become part of a network of dozens of other news professional throughout the state.

The editor will write news and items of general interest plus attend various events such as chamber of commerce, school board and city council meetings, business openings, high school fine arts events, local celebrations, and any other newsworthy happenings that may be of interest to the local community as time permits. Requires the ability to regularly write feature stories and conduct interviews, plus investigate news of all types in and around Franklin County.

Great opportunity to develop professionally, get involved in the local community and collaborate with professionals from 23 similar publications within Mid-America. Call Matt at 515-988-3726 for more details, apply online at Indeed.com or pick up an application today at The Hampton Chronicle offices at 9 2nd St NW Hampton, IA! 05.19

NEWS EDITOR/REPORTER. Come join our team! Mid-America Publishing and Printing is now seeking a full time news editor/writer for the Eclipse in Parkersburg, IA. The successful candidate will possess creative writing skills as well as be able to shoot photos and video to post to social media platforms and our website. You will join a team of three others in Butler County and when working for Mid-America become part of a network of dozens of other news professional throughout the state.

The editor will write news and items of general interest plus attend various events such as chamber of com-

merce, school board and city council meetings, business openings, high school fine arts events, local celebrations, and any other newsworthy happenings that may be of interest to the local community as time permits. Requires the ability to regularly write feature stories and conduct interviews, plus investigate news of all types in and around Butler County.

Great opportunity to develop professionally, get involved in the local community and collaborate with professionals from 23 similar publications within Mid-America. Competitive benefits include health, dental and vision insurance, generous paid time off and 401K w/ match. Great opportunity to get involved in the community and network with professionals from 23 similar publications. Call Matt at 515-988-3726 for more details, apply online at Indeed.com or pick up an application at 503 Coates St., Parkersburg, IA 50665. 05.19

NEWS REPORTER. The Le Mars Daily Sentinel, a four-day-a-week newspaper in northwest Iowa, seeks a motivated news reporter who can generate ideas, turn in accurate and well-organized stories, meet daily deadlines and work well with our newsroom. The ideal candidate must have experience using InDesign and be comfortable with digital photography. The Daily Sentinel also offers a competitive starting salary and solid benefits package. Please forward resumé, cover letter and clips to Kim Fickett, senteditor@gmail.com, or mail to Editor, Le Mars Daily Sentinel, 41 First Ave. N.E., Le Mars, IA, 51031.

REPORTER. The Spencer Daily Reporter, a family-owned newspaper in northwest Iowa, is seeking a talented reporter to join its award-winning editorial team.

We focus on community journalism - the kind of issues which matter to those in our community. We look to give folks the "why" on issues effecting their lives.

With strong mentors on the team, this is a position which allows reporters to hone skills while making a difference in the region.

As part of a three-newspaper group in the Iowa Great Lakes region, you'll be part of a close-knit team which works together on enterprise projects on issues in the region.

The Daily Reporter is a user-friendly workplace. We strive to accommodate your skill set, while helping you to be the best you can be.

Photography skills are a plus, but not required.

Competitive wages, benefits, PDO time and a 401k are included in the hiring package.

Send resume to:

Paula Buenger, Publisher

Spencer Daily Reporter

PO Box 197

Spencer, IA 51301

Or via email at: pbuenger@spencerdailyreporter.com

SPORTS EDITOR. Mid-America Publishing and Printing would like to announce an opening for a full-time sports editor for The Eldora Herald-Ledger, a weekly newspaper based in Eldora, Iowa, covering sports and recreation in and around Eldora. Requires the ability to write feature stories and interview, plus investigate news of all types related to Iowa sports. Come join us and work with an award-winning team in an exciting, fast-paced industry. Competitive compensation and excellent benefits including generous PTO, health, dental, vision 401k w/match and a great newspaper team to work with!

If you possess creative writing skills, are able to shoot photos and video and can manage social media platforms, then we encourage you to apply for this position

today. Knowledge of high school sports is needed along with a willing attitude and interest in all things sports and recreation. Previous writing and newspaper experience is a big plus.

Great opportunity to get involved in the community and network with professionals from 23 similar publications. Call Matt at 515-988-3726 for more details, apply online at Indeed.com or pick up an application at 1254 Edgington Ave Eldora, IA 50627. 05.19

SPORTS EDITOR. Mid-America Publishing and Printing would like to announce an opening for a full-time sports editor for The Hampton Chronicle, a weekly newspaper based in Hampton, Iowa, covering sports and recreation in and around Hampton. Requires the ability to write feature stories and interview, plus investigate news of all types related to Iowa sports. Come join us and work with an award-winning team in an exciting, fast-paced industry. Competitive compensation and excellent benefits including generous PTO, health, dental, vision 401k w/match and a great newspaper team to work with!

If you possess creative writing skills, are able to shoot photos and video and can manage social media platforms, then we encourage you to apply for this position today. Knowledge of high school sports is needed along with a willing attitude and interest in all things sports and recreation. Previous writing and newspaper experience is a big plus.

Great opportunity to get involved in the community and network with professionals from 23 similar publications. Call Matt at 515-988-3726 for more details, apply online at Indeed.com or pick up an application at 9 2nd St NW Hampton, IA 50441. 05.19

SPORTS EDITOR. The Tipton Conservative, a weekly newspaper in eastern Iowa, is seeking a sports editor. Strong writing, photo and layout (InDesign) skills required. Send cover letter and resume to Stuart Clark c/o The Tipton Conservative, Box 271, Tipton, Iowa 52772 or stuartC108@aol.com. 0414

▼ FOR SALE

Color Web Printers has the equipment, resources and experience to handle your newsprint needs. We provide full color printing, stitching, inserting and postal services. To discuss your print needs please contact: Joe Wise, 319-265-6826, Joe.wise@colorwebprinters.com

NEW LISTING! For sale: Bunn Tying machine for sale. Very little use. Excellent condition. \$300 or OBO. Call Jeff Wagner at The N'West Iowa REVIEW by phone at 712-348-3351 or email jwagner@iowainformation.com.

For sale: Northwest Iowa weekly newspaper with supplement and printing shop. County legal plus legal for four towns. Newly remodeled brick/block building, equipment, large inventory included. Selling because of age/health. Phone 712/230/1405 or e-mail rouse@nethtc.net

Considering a sale of your newspaper but not sure where to start? Iowa's newest media broker, Scenic Trail Media Brokers, LLC, is here to help you. Scenic Trail Media Brokers will work with you in every step of the process to properly market your newspaper to help you attract the right buyer for your property. We'll work with you until the final closing to make sure you get top dollar. Call Ryan Harvey today at 515-689-1151 or reach him by email at scenictrailmediabrokers@gmail.com for more information.

View and submit ads on the Internet at www.INAnews.com. Students and professionals may also submit their resumes for online viewing.

There is no charge for most of these ads. They are a free service to INA active (newspaper) members only. The name of the newspaper in the ad must be the same as published in the current INA Directory.

If you are trying to help an employee relocate, please send us the ad information on your letterhead, rather than having the employee write us. We will not run ads for persons living in a member's town without first clearing the ad with the publisher.

Please have copy to the INA office no later than noon on Monday. The INA will make the determination of whether an ad qualifies for free or paid publication. If payment for an ad is not enclosed with the ad, the INA will require payment in advance before the ad will be published.

Ads for products or services which could be marketed for a profit may be published for a fee of \$10 per insertion, paid in advance, with a 40-word maximum.

Recruitment (help wanted) ads for positions in states other than Iowa may be published for a fee of \$25 per insertion, with a 100-word maximum.

For more information, contact Cicely Gordon at cgordon@inanews.com.



Iowa Newspaper Association

Bulletin

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► IN THIS ISSUE...

- Getting Beyond the Buzzword to Engage Your Community - Part 2



An Iowa Newspaper Foundation Webinar...

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GETTING BEYOND THE BUZZWORD TO ENGAGE YOUR COMMUNITY - PART 2

Thursday, April 29 · 1-2 p.m.

Registration fee: FREE · Deadline: April 26

IN THIS WEBINAR...

Engagement is on every editor's lips, it's the journalism buzzword with endless definitions. Engagement isn't just clicks and likes, sometimes it is relational, creating deeper relationships with readers, building trust between the community and the journalist. Engagement can mean community participation in news, community organizing or building loyalty with would-be subscribers or members.

Our second session will focus on 5-10 strategies and tools your newsroom can employ to cultivate the kinds of engagement you value most. These aren't pie in the sky theories, just practical solutions for refining your engagement strategy.

THE PRESENTERS...

Val Hoepfner



Val Hoepfner is a digital journalist, training and media strategist. She has worked in digital, mobile and multi-platform journalism for more than 15 years. As CEO of Val Hoepfner Media and Consulting, LLC, Hoepfner travels to newsrooms, universities and media conferences where she creates and leads training for journalists in engagement, change management and developing digital and mobile workflow. Hoepfner is a member of the Native American Journalist Association, Online News Association, Association Press Photo Managers, American Society of News Editors, the Recording Academy and Public Radio in Mid America.



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