



RED OAK ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

THE *Heart* OF SOUTHWEST IOWA

Volume 2 | Issue 3 | August 2023



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Red Oak Graduate Denny Sapp
Image from www.skyhawk.org

Denny Sapp was born and raised in Red Oak, Iowa. His dad worked at the Eveready Battery plant and his mother was a local hairdresser who was adored. He attended and graduated from Red Oak High School and Northwest Missouri State University. Denny met his future wife, Anne Morgan from Elliot, Iowa, at Northwest in 1966.

Shortly after graduating from Northwest, Denny joined the U.S. Navy and became a Navy pilot who served either on active duty, or as a reservist from 1968 through 1991. He was deployed to Vietnam three times on the USS Hancock with 367 combat missions.

Denny received several awards and decorations including 39 Air Medals (11 Individual, 28 Strike/Fight), nine Navy Commendation Medals with Combat V, two Distinguished Flying Crosses, Vietnamese Service Medal (one Gold Star, two Bronze Stars), Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Unit Citation, and the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry with a Gold Star. A display of Denny Sapp's military items are currently on display at the Montgomery County History Center.

After his service in Vietnam, he was assigned to the Naval Weapons Center in China Lake, California to be a test and evaluation pilot. A few years later he was selected to be a member of the Blue Angels as a pilot to fly solo demonstrations in Pensacola, Florida. Following the Blue Angels he was assigned to USS Eisenhower. Denny then left active duty to join the US Naval Reserves from 1978 to 1987 where he became the commander for an F-18 squadron in Point Mugu, California. In 1991, Denny retired from the U.S. Navy Reserves (USNR) with the rank of Captain (O-6) with 23 years of service.

After retiring from the USNR, Denny flew as a pilot for Delta Air Lines, Alaska Airlines, Western Air Lines, and retired as a captain in 2004. He has since volunteered to help homeless Veterans for entrance and housing needs, and joined the Aviation Exploring Posts to help educate kids about opportunities in aviation.

In 2008 to 2013 Denny and his wife Anne also worked with a non-government organization in Cambodia to help rescue and prevent women and children trafficking and helped open a school. Denny is currently a Northwest Foundation Board Member and recently created the Anne Morgan Sapp Dream Team Scholarship in memory of his late wife Anne Morgan and their passion for education. At this time he resides with his family in Washington state.



Denny and Anne Sapp
Image from www.nwmissouri.edu

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Do you have any ideas or suggestions for articles you want to see in this Newsletter? Or do you have a candidate for our Alumni Spotlight? We want to hear from you! Shot us an email at redoakiowa.alumni.newsletter@gmail.com

RED OAK PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Written by: Mark Erickson

The Red Oak School District Activities Department is proud to highlight our students, participants, and athletes from our winter seasons! Our coaches, directors, and sponsors strive to instill positive character qualities within our programs. Our activities department would like to publicly thank our alumni, businesses, and entire community for their ongoing support! Please read the exciting news about our programs and students below.

MUSICAL RECOGNITION

Red Oak High School music/theater department participated in the 2023 Iowa High School Musical Theater Awards Showcase, presented by EMC Insurance Companies, in honor of the school's achievements for its February production of Fiddler on the Roof. The musical was directed by Tim and Terra Marsden. The entire press release can be found here: [Musical Press Release](#).

RED OAK SPORTS

12 of our senior participants earned the Hawkeye Ten Conference All Academic recognition by earning a 3.5 GPA or above throughout their high school career. Those participants were involved in tennis, track, golf, soccer, baseball, and softball.

Aiden Bruce and Landon Couse earned Academic All-State recognition from the Iowa Association of Track Coaches for their outstanding work in the classroom combined with their accomplishments on the track. In order to be selected for Academic All-State, participants must be a senior who maintained a 3.8 or higher cumulative grade point average and competed at the Coed State Track Meet.



Landon Couse, Riley Fouts, Aiden Bruce, Brayden Sifford, Jack Kling, and Jocelyn O'Neal performed well at the state track meet in May. Their performances were highlighted by a runner-up finish in the sprint medley, and Jocelyn's 4th place finish in the girls long jump.

Three softball players earned All Hawkeye Ten Conference recognition. Jaydin Lindsay was named to the 2nd Team. Merced Ramirez and Tymberlee Bentley were selected to the Honorable Mention Team.

All five baseball seniors - Dawson Bond, Landon Couse, Chase Roeder, AJ Schmid, and Braden Woods - received All District recognition. Dawson, Landon, and Chase were selected to the All Hawkeye Ten Conference team. Dawson was also selected to play in the IHSBCA All Star Series. The 2023 baseball team set numerous team and individual Red Oak baseball records as well as winning more games (15) than any team in the past eighteen years.



Congratulations to Landon Couse, Jack Kling, Riley Fouts, and Brayden Sifford for qualifying for the Drake Relays!

RED OAK CHAMBER

Written by: Elaine Carlson
Executive Director of the Red Oak
Chamber & Industry Association

The 2023-24 school year has started this week in Red Oak and the surrounding area. That means the football stadiums, school gyms, and volleyball courts will be in action! Just another sign that Fall is around the corner.

COLD CASH

Holiday event planning has been one of the things we are focusing on at the Chamber in recent weeks. One of the dates so many look forward to is the sale of Cold Cash!

This year, \$25,000 of Cold Cash will be sold at the Red Oak Chamber office on Saturday, November 4th from 8 a.m. until we sell out!

The public will be able to purchase \$100 worth of Cold Cash for only \$80 with a limit of \$300 per household. The City of Red Oak continues to support this program with their investment of \$5,000 to make up the 20% discount. We appreciate the City's commitment for their continued support of this successful program.

One distinct difference between Cold Cash & Red Oak Bucks is the expiration date. Cold Cash certificates will be valid from November 4th, 2023 through January 31st, 2024, giving purchasers three months to spend them. The Red Oak Bucks do not have an expiration date. Red Oak Bucks and Cold Cash are available for purchase by the public.

The Cold Cash program continues to be a successful program that keeps those dollars local during the holiday season.



Red Oak Chamber & Industry Association Carriage Rides - Photo by Finch & Lilac Photography

HOLIDAY EXTRAVAGANZA

Each year we host the Holiday Extravaganza, which is a holiday Ladies Night Out event on the second Monday in November. This year's extravaganza theme is "Making Spirits Bright". Tickets for the Holiday Extravaganza continue to sell out in under two weeks prior to the event and we are expecting this year to be no different.

"A Christmas Story in Red Oak, Iowa" is our holiday theme this year. We will be kicking off the holidays the evening of November 24th with the lighting of the Community Christmas Tree, horse drawn carriage rides, and hot cocoa with Santa. The next morning in support of Small Business Saturday, the Southwest Iowa Squadron of Heroes will ride along with our participants on the lighted fire truck throughout downtown. Also that morning, we have planned Christmas crafts for families to create together and a Christmas Bingo event! In the afternoon, families may enjoy a matinee at the Red Oak Grand Theatre of the free showing of "A Christmas Story", of course! All of these great events are free to everyone and will take place in our festive downtown area that weekend.

RED OAK UPDATES

This is also the time of year when we are working on ROCIA Membership & Sponsorship Renewals for the next year. As we receive confirmation of those renewals, it helps us to put together the overall budget and event budgets for 2024. Collectively, Red Oak Chamber and Industry Association members can achieve more than one business or individual can do alone. Their partnership impacts our community, area tourism, small business growth, education, and many other areas for our region. We value our relationship with our investors and recognize it would be impossible to accomplish all that the Chamber does throughout the year if it were not for their continued support and investment.

Our Chamber is the only entity that markets Red Oak. We strive to market not only our member businesses and organizations but our community as a whole. We promote our own events and programs but also promote community events as well. If you haven't done so yet, please check out our website www.redoakiowa.com, 'like' our @RedOakChamberandIndustryAssociation and @RedOakJunctionDays Facebook Pages, and follow us on Instagram to keep up on the latest news and information!

Until next time!

Elaine Carlson



Red Oak Chamber & Industry Association
Downtown Ornaments - Photo by Drue Powers

Red Oak
Chamber and Industry Association

HIGH SPEED FIBER COMES TO RED OAK

Written by: Joey Norris

Red Oak may soon have a new internet service provider. United Fiber, a Savannah, Missouri internet provider with roots in rural electricity, is seeking interest in receiving their fiber-optic services in Red Oak. Plans will likely start at 200Mbps for \$50/mo and go up to 1Gig for \$100/mo. It is unclear whether or not TV bundles will be included with internet and phone services.

Red Oak residents may express their interest in receiving these new internet services by filling out the form at: <https://unitedfiber.com/red-oak/>

With sufficient interest, United Fiber hopes to begin installing their fiber network in Red Oak in the spring of 2024 with services to begin fall of '24. The Red Oak installation will take place alongside build-outs of Bedford and Clarinda, as well.

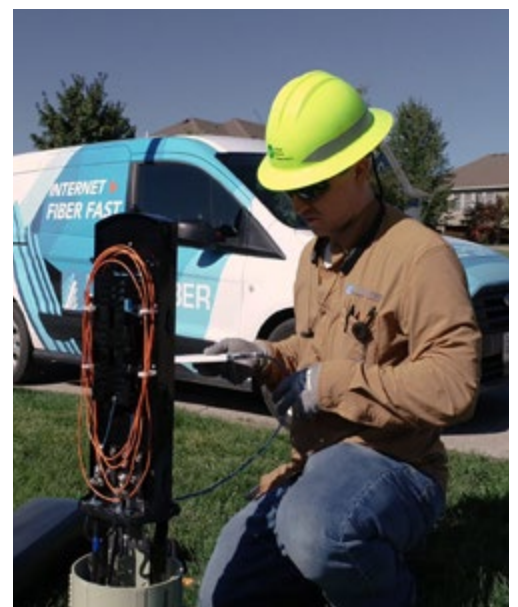


Image from www.unitedfiber.com

NEW RAILROAD EXHIBIT

Written by: Dave McFarland



Montgomery County History Center Railroad Exhibit

We are unveiling a new exhibit at the History Center in connection with Red Oak history, especially. The exhibit features the local history of the railroad, which play a key role in the growth of the greater area.

First came Red Oak Creek, a small settlement along a creek lined with Red Oak trees. Just a handful of house and a small general store. Area roads began to lead to the small village; a freight road and even a stage coach line passed through, and it became known as Red Oak Junction. In 1858, the Post Office was moved here, and the village started to become a town. Then in 1869, the Burlington, Missouri River Railroad came and so did growth and prosperity.

There will be many changes with many different names will come. The B.M.R.R.R. will become the Chicago, Burlington, & Quincy. The C.B.&Q. will become the Burlington, and it will become the Burlington Santa Fe. Countless trains will come through Red Oak, and for a time many stopped here.

Thanks to many donations, especially from long time resident Richard Anderson, we will be featuring some of that history. See items from Bernard Corbin, famous local collector. There are a number of items from the Burlington Zephyr. The Zephyr was a revolution in train travel. It was powered by electricity produced by a 2-cycle diesel engine. In 1934, will make several visits to Red Oak.



Montgomery County History Center Railroad Exhibit



One will see the Zephyr on its land speed record run. From Denver to the Chicago World's Fair in just 15 hours. The average speed on the run was 77.8 mph, and she will attain speeds of 102 mph using just pennies worth of diesel fuel.

So many people will come and go from Red Oak, I doubt one could count them all. We should never forget all the soldiers, who left on the train for foreign battlefields. A source of pride for all who came heroes and a sadness for so many, who came home draped with our nation's flag.

Take some time to come and visit; there are many surprises waiting for you.

RED OAK COMMUNITY HEART & SOUL

Written by: Dee Mueller

Future Community Builders Needed!

Red Oak Community Heart & Soul (ROCH&S) is looking for volunteers! They are an organization run for and by community members. ROCH&S follows a resident driven process to identify what people love most about their community and its future. They are in the process of gathering stories from local residents who seek to share their unique stories and who want to help build a vibrant future for our town. With a mission dedicated to community betterment through a process of story gathering, stakeholder engagement, and collaborative partnership, the team hopes to continue creating lasting impacts that empower individuals and neighborhoods right here in Red Oak.

If you would like to get involved or learn more, there are many opportunities to volunteer, donate, or help spread the word. Red Oak Community Heart & Soul hopes to stand as a beacon of community-driven transformation, showcasing the power of unity and action that thrives in the heart of southwest Iowa.



Red Oak Community Heart & Soul Booth at National Night Out - Photo by Dee Mueller



Red Oak Community Heart & Soul at National Night Out - Photo by Dee Mueller

To participate, the upcoming Phase II training is set to take place September 23 from 3 to 5 pm at FiveOne8 on the east side of Fountain Square, please RSVP to coordinator@roheartsoul.org. Snacks will be provided, and drinks are available for purchase.

If you have questions or would like additional information, please visit our website at www.roheartsoul.org or send us a message on Facebook at roheartsoul. You can also reach out to our Coordinator, Dee Mueller, directly at 515-236-6829.



RED OAK ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

If you would like to forward this email on so others can sign up have them follow the link below to join the Red Oak Alumni Network and receive the Red Oak Alumni Newsletter quarterly!

<https://www.redoakiowa.com/alumni/>

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

If you have a submission for someone you think should be next issue's Alumni Spotlight send us an email to redoakiowa.alumni.newsletter@gmail.com

If you know a graduate of Red Oak Schools that has passed and would like to be included in next issues obituary section please send their name, year of graduation, and year of passing to redoakiowa.alumni.newsletter@gmail.com

RED OAK ALUMNI "DID YOU KNOW"

If you would like to submit any Red Oak Graduates for our Red Oak Alumni "Did You Know" Section click this link to enter their information!

[Red Oak Alumni "Did You Know"](#)

If you would like to join the Red Oak Iowa Alumni Facebook Group just follow the below link and request to join! It is a private Red Oak Alumni group where people can ask questions, post about upcoming events, etc.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/redoakalumni>

THE RED OAK ALUMNI NETWORK

Have a wonderful week, and be on the lookout for the next issue of the Red Oak Alumni Newsletter coming out January 2024.



RED OAK ALUMNI NEWSLETTER SPONSORED BY THE RED OAK HERITAGE FOUNDATION

The Alumni Newsletter is sponsored by the Red Oak Heritage Foundation, our community foundation. If you would like to help support them or for more information on them go to www.redoakheritagefoundation.org