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FEDERAL FOOD ASSISTANCE

Iowa to resume Summer EBT

State program reached far fewer children this year

MAYA MARCHEL HOFF AND ERIN MURPHY
Lee-Gazette Des Moines Bureau

DES MOINES — Iowa announced on Monday that it will return to a federal summer food assistance program, while tying the program's \$40 per month per child to Iowa's new healthy foods initiative.



Reynolds

Gov. Kim Reynolds announced on Monday that the state will participate in the federal Summer

The announcement came on the same day a report made available to The Gazette showed Iowa's program in 2025 fell well short of reaching the number of children that the federal program would have.

EBT program, also known as SUN Bucks, which will provide families with \$120 over three months or \$40 per month, per child, on pre-loaded electronic benefit transfer cards to purchase food during summer break.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture approved the state's waiver to align Summer EBT with Iowa's "Healthy SNAP" program set to go into effect Jan. 1, which

Please see **EBT**, Page A4

SIoux CITY COUNCIL

City OKs state money for Sioux Honey

Cooperative plans big expansion in Sioux City

CAITLIN YAMADA AND DOLLY A. BUTZ
Journal staff writers

SIoux CITY — The Sioux City Council has approved Sioux Honey Association's application with the Iowa Economic Development Authority, allowing the cooperative to receive \$4.2 million in state incentives for an expansion project.

The Sioux City Council on Monday approved a resolution authorizing the submission of an Iowa Economic Development Authority (IEDA) High Quality Jobs application for Sioux Honey Association, which has been located at its current site, at 301 Lewis Blvd., since 1970.

On Friday, Iowa's economic development board awarded Sioux Honey Association over \$4.2 million in state incentives to help finance a \$130 million expansion that would create 39 new jobs in Sioux City. The state assistance was contingent on the city authorizing the company's application to the Iowa Economic Development Authority.

The city council approved the application unanimously on Monday. Council member Dan Moore thanked the economic development department for their work on the project.

Sioux Honey, makers of the Sue Bee and Aunt Sue's brands, has operated at Sixth Street and Lewis Boulevard since 1970. The cooperative, which

Please see **HONEY**, Page A3



TIM HYNDS, SIoux CITY JOURNAL

Summer Amman, Sioux City Art Center Development Coordinator, left, and Michele Melo, Special Projects Coordinator, set out decorations Dec. 11 in the atrium of the art center for its New Year's Eve Bash on Dec. 31.

Party at the Art Center

Sioux City Art Center gets ready for celestial-themed New Year's Eve bash

DOLLY A. BUTZ
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SIoux CITY — The Sioux City Art Center will open its doors New Year's Eve for a celestial-themed bash — "Shooting Stars and Champagne Bars."

The Art Center's atrium will be decorated in chandeliers, disco balls and gold fabric to ring in 2026. This inaugural event, which runs from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m., is for those 21 and up.

"We have been rolling the idea around for a little bit, just knowing that there weren't a lot of activities on New Year's Eve," Summer Amman, the Art Center's development coordinator, said. "For adults, we saw kind of an opportunity to have a celebration and a fun party atmosphere here in our beautiful building."

Amman said the Art Center's building can be transformed to fit different needs. She said staff are proud of the building's design, architecture and how beautiful it can be.

"We love using it when we can to make this upscale environment that looks like it could be in a big city and just really a beautiful atmosphere," she said.

Art Center staff are anticipating a crowd of 200 to 300 people to gather in the atrium for the New Year's Eve bash, which is being presented by Charese Yanney.

"All our sponsorships are kind of celestial-themed as well. We have great sponsors for the event. We're looking at gold, midnight blue, sparkly silver," Amman said of the decor. "And we'll have chandeliers, a disco ball, of course, and gold fabrics strung from the pillars. The lighting will be great. So it's kind of a moody, celestial theme."

Tickets are \$75 per person and include late-night bites, entertainment and a complimentary midnight champagne toast. A cash bar will be available. Amman said food will be coming out on the hour.

The evening also includes live music with DJ JAB, a silent disco with River City Disco, games and more.

"He'll do live mixing," Amman said of DJ JAB, who is coming from Omaha. "We've got really fun things planned in our galleries on the main floor. In one room we've got a silent disco happening."

Please see **ART CENTER**, Page A3

Headid baseball field move is underway

CAITLIN YAMADA AND DOLLY A. BUTZ
Journal staff writers

SIoux CITY — The Sioux City Council has started the process of relocating the Headid baseball fields to a Jefferson Street property.

The 30-acre plot of land in the Leeds neighborhood, 3700 Jefferson St., was recently rezoned from general commercial to general industrial, which came after residents expressed concerns about having an industrial site so close to homes, parks and schools.

The owners of the property, developer Dolf Ivener and his partners, are now willing to sell the property to the city to relocate the Headid Little League's baseball fields.

The Headid fields, currently located at 2404 Hawkeye Drive, must be relocated because Knife River is purchasing or leasing several parcels of land from the city, including the Headid complex, to extensively rebuild and expand its construction materials facility.

"In addition, Ivener and his partners have submitted a proposal to purchase 5.45 acres of city-owned land along

Please see **HEADID**, Page A3

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The Mini

RFK Jr. is by far the worst HHS Secretary the U.S. has ever seen or will ever see. He's done more damage to the health and Americans' well-being than anyone in the last 100 years. I am not certain why the president or Congress has not removed him from office and then charged him with a criminal offense. — **John Stetson, Sioux City**

Weather
Partly sunny
High 44 • Low 31
FORECAST • A12

Inside
Weather A12
Sports C1
Comics D3, D5

Stocks A9
Nation B1
Obituaries C11

