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Probate: Kim Lear

IN THE IOWA DISTRICT COURT
FOR PALO ALTO COUNTY

In the Matter of the Estate of
KIM D. LEAR, Deceased
Probate No. ESPR012679

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT
OF ADMINISTRATOR AND
NOTICE TO CREDITORS.

To All Persons Interested in the Estate of Kim D. Lear, Deceased, who died on or about May 8, 2026:

You are hereby notified that on October 27, 2026, the undersigned was appointed administrator of the estate.

Notice is hereby given that all persons indebted to the estate are requested to make immediate payment to the undersigned, and creditors having claims against the estate shall file them with the clerk of the above named district court, as provided by law, duly authenticated, for allowance, and unless so filed by the later to occur four months from the date of the second publication of this notice or one month from the date of the mailing of this notice (unless otherwise allowed or paid) a claim is thereafter forever barred.

Dated: October 28, 2026

Nathan Lear
305 South 2nd Street
Ringsted, IA 50578
ADMINISTRATOR OF THE ESTATE

Ryan C. Buske
ATTORNEY FOR ADMINISTRATOR
McMahon, Stowater, Lynch & Laddusaw
120 North Thorington Street
P.O. Box 514
Algona, IA 50511

Date of second publication: November 12, 2026

44.2

Palo Alto County Sheriff

Wednesday, October 28, 2026

At 2:15PM, the Palo Alto County Sheriff's Office arrested Christopher William Mertz (37) of Lehigh Acres, FL on a valid Palo Alto County Arrest Warrant charging Mertz with 8 counts of Unlawful Possession of a Prescription Drug, all Serious Misdemeanors. Mertz was unable to post the $8,000 cash only bond and remained in custody at the Palo Alto County Jail to await his initial appearance in front of a magistrate.

At 3:28PM, the Palo Alto County Sheriff's Office arrested Troy Dean Petersen (29) of Graettinger, IA on a valid Palo Alto County Arrest Warrant charging Petersen with 8 counts of 1st Offense Prescription Drug Violation, all Serious Misdemeanors. Petersen was unable to post the $8,000 cash only bond and remained in custody at the Palo Alto County Jail to await his initial appearance in front of a magistrate.

Friday, October 30, 2026

At 8:19AM, the Palo Alto County Sheriff's Office arrested Alex William Bell (29) of Mallard, IA on a valid Palo Alto County arrest warrant for Child Endangerment, an Aggravated Misdemeanor. Bell was unable to post the $2,000 cash only bond and was placed in jail to await his initial appearance in front of a magistrate.

At 12:20PM, the Palo Alto County Sheriff's Office was called to Ayrshire, IA for a report of a dog at large. After an investigation, the Palo Alto County Sheriff's Office arrested, cited and released, Ruth Ellen Brown (36) of Ayrshire for 2 counts of Ayrshire City Ordinance Violation-Allowing Dogs/Cats to Run at Large, both Simple Misdemeanors. Brown was given a future court date to appear in front of a magistrate.

At at 10:20 pm, the Palo Alto County Sheriff's Office arrested Chad Handy (49) of Sioux City on a valid Palo Alto County warrant for operating while under the influence 3rd offense, which is a class D felony. Bond was set in the amount of $7,500.00 cash only. Handy was unable to post bond and was subsequently booked into the Palo Alto County Jail to await his initial appearance before a magistrate.

Sunday, November 1, 2026

At 6:09AM, the Palo Alto County Sheriff's Office responded to a single vehicle accident in the 5600blk of 430th St. West Bend, IA. After an investigation, the Palo Alto County Sheriff's Office determined that a 2015 Chevrolet Equinox, owned and driven by Crystal Lynn Goeders (34) of West Bend was westbound at this location when she came upon some debris on the roadway. When the vehicle went over the debris, it caused the Equinox to lose traction and enter the south ditch, causing the vehicle to roll over and come to a rest on its side. Goeders was taken by private vehicle to the Palo Alto County Health Systems for a complaint of minor injuries. Damage to the Equinox was estimated at $20,000.

A criminal charge is merely an accusation and the defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty in a court of law.

Trust Notice

TRUST NOTICE

In re: MARY H. MERTZ LIVING TRUST

To all persons interested in the Mary H. Mertz Living Trust.

You are notified that Mary H. Mertz died on April 25, 2026. You are hereby notified that Lisa M. Davenport and Linda M. Martin are the Co-Trustees of the Mary H. Mertz Living Trust, dated October 24, 2005, as amended. Any action to contest the validity of the Trust must be brought in the District Court of Palo Alto County, Iowa, within the later to occur of four (4) months from the date of second publication of this notice or thirty (30) days from the date of mailing this notice to all heirs of the decedent Settlor and the spouse of the decedent Settlor whose identities are reasonably ascertainable. Any suit not filed within this period shall be forever barred. Notice is further given that any person or entity possessing a claim against the Trust must mail proof of the claim to the Co-Trustees at the address listed below via certified mail, return receipt requested, by the later to occur of four (4) months from the date of the second publication of this notice or thirty (30) days from the date of mailing this notice if required, or the claim shall be forever barred, unless paid or otherwise satisfied.

Dated October 29, 2026

Lisa M. Davenport, Co-Trustee
Linda M. Martin, Co-Trustee

c/o Matthew J. Wurstner
Carlson & Blakeman, LLP
11429 Davenport Street
Omaha, NE 68154
(531) 201-4500
matthew@carlsonblakeman.com
ATTORNEY FOR CO-TRUSTEES

Date of second publication: November 19, 2026

45.2

Probate: Howard E. Morey

THE IOWA DISTRICT COURT
FOR Palo Alto COUNTY

IN THE MATTER OF
THE ESTATE OF
Howard E. Morey, Deceased.
CASE NO. ESPR012707

NOTICE OF PROBATE OF WILL, OF
APPOINTMENT OF EXECUTORS,
AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS

To All Persons Interested in the Estate of Howard E. Morey, Deceased, who died on or about October 23, 2026:

You are hereby notified that on November 2, 2026, the Last Will and Testament of Howard E. Morey, deceased, bearing date of February 11, 2016, was admitted to probate in the above named court and that David Morey and Jeffrey Morey were appointed Executors of the estate. Any action to set aside the will must be brought in the district court of said county within the later to occur of four months from the date of the second publication of this notice or one month from the date of mailing of this notice to all heirs of the decedent and devisees under the will whose identities are reasonably ascertainable, or thereafter be forever barred.

Notice is further given that all persons indebted to the estate are requested to make immediate payment to the undersigned, and creditors having claims against the estate shall file them with the clerk of the above named district court, as provided by law, duly authenticated, for allowance, and unless so filed by the later to occur of four months from the date of the second publication of this notice or one month from the date of mailing of this notice (unless otherwise allowed or paid) a claim is thereafter forever barred.

Dated November 2, 2026

David Morey, Executor
4812 510th Avenue
Mallard, Iowa 50562

and

Jeffrey Morey, Executor
603 Lake Street
Emmetsburg, Iowa 50536

Dalton J. Kidd, ICIS#: AT0010964
Attorney for Executors
Kidd Law Firm, PLLC
2112 Main Street
P.O. Box 246
Emmetsburg, IA 50536

Date of second publication November 19, 2026

45.2

Emmetsburg Police Department

Wednesday, October 21, 2026

Following the investigation into a dog bite, EPD issued a citation to Kristy Winter for failure to have dog vaccinated. Winter was given a court date and released on her promise to appear.

EPD was called to the 1100 block of Jefferson Street to investigate a traffic collision. Following the investigation it was determined that Joshua Bird of Emmetsburg was backing from a driveway in his 2017 Nissan Titan when he failed to see a 2008 Dodge Avenger owned and registered to Jane Zupp of Washta, IA which was parked and unoccupied. There was an estimated $1,500.00 in damages to the Bird vehicle and $2,000.00 in damages to the Zupp vehicle. There were not injuries reported at the scene.

Friday, October 23, 2026

The EPD arrested Anthony Nichols of West Liberty, Kentucky, following a 911 call reporting a domestic disturbance. Nichols was charged with domestic abuse assault-impeding flow of air or blood and fourth-degree criminal mischief. He was transported without incident to the Palo Alto County Jail, where he will await an initial appearance before a magistrate. The Palo Alto County Sheriff's Office assisted the EPD at the scene.

Saturday, October 24, 2026

EPD cited 37-year-old Misty Renea Schoon of Emmetsburg for failure to comply with order to remove animal. Schoon was given a court date and released on her promise to appear.

Thursday, October 29, 2026

The EPD stopped a vehicle in the 700 block of Lawler Street. After investigating, officers arrested the driver, 19-year-old Joshua Robert Cortes Aguilar, for driving while suspended, a simple misdemeanor. He was transported without incident to the Palo Alto County Jail to await his initial appearance before a magistrate. Cortes Aguilar also received a traffic citation for failure to provide proof of financial liability.

A criminal charge is merely an accusation, and the defendant is presumed innocent unless and until they are found guilty in a court of law.



Letter to the Editor

To the Editor,

As your current Emmetsburg School Board President, I want to thank everyone who took the time to be involved in the recent school bond vote. Thank you to my fellow board members for the countless hours spent working through options and making adjustments, to the volunteers who gave their time and energy to help share information, and to everyone in our community who took the time to show up and vote. Your involvement matters, and I truly appreciate it.

I would be lying if I said I wasn't disappointed Tuesday night when the results came in. The bond received 54% support, falling short of the 60% needed to pass. But when I got up Wednesday morning, I reminded myself that the majority of our community still supports moving forward with improvements to our elementary school. That tells me we have work to do, and we need to get back to it.

We understand that many people are asking, "What's next?" That's a fair question, and one we need to take seriously. Our responsibility as a school board is to continue working toward a solution that is right for our students, staff, taxpayers, and community. Doing nothing is not an option, and it would not be fair to our community to ignore the needs of our aging elementary building.

Our next step will be a school board work session on December 2nd at 6:30 a.m. The purpose will be to debrief the recent vote, review what we heard from our community, and begin setting a course of action for the future. We have more listening and work to do, and we are committed to doing both.

We may not all agree on the path forward, but we owe it to our students, staff, and community to keep working toward a solution. I look forward to that work and appreciate everyone who continues to be part of the conversation.

Together We Grow,
Kyle Caven
Emmetsburg School Board President

Thank you for voting for me for county supervisor. I look forward to serving PaloAlto County.
Aaron Dietrich

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Opinions in the form of Letters to the Editor are welcomed from readers of The Reporter - Democrat

All letters must be signed and include the writer's address and telephone number to be reached during business hours (to expedite verification). In the case of an organization, the signature of an officer must be included. Name of the writer will be printed with the letter. Anonymous letters WILL NOT be published.

If the letter is rejected, the writer may edit the letter and re-submit it for consideration to be printed.

Letters that are accepted can be published when space is availble.

Letters to the Editor do not reflect the views of this newspaper.

Mail letters to
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P.O. Box 73
Emmetsburg, IA 50536
or
E-mail letters to news@emmetsburgnews.com

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Feel free to contact us with news items, comments or questions.

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INFORMATIONAL MEETING
The Palo Alto County Board of Supervisors will host an Informational Meeting on Tuesday, November 17, 2026 at 1:00 p.m. at The Shores at Five Island 14 N. Lawler St, Emmetsburg. Guest Speaker is Charlie Nichols, Planning & Development from Linn County

PAUL & JULIE KASSEL
RETIREMENT FARM MACHINERY *Auction*
November 17th - 10:30 AM
4155 225th Ave. Spencer, IA 51301

AUCTION HIGHLIGHTS
- 2008 JOHN DEERE 8330
- 1997 JOHN DEERE 8400
- 1995 JOHN DEERE 7800
- 1986 CASE 2394
- GREENSTAR DISPLAYS
- STARFIRE 3000 AND 6000 RECEIVERS
- JOHN DEERE 2210 FIELD CULTIVATOR (35.5')
- JOHN DEERE 1770 16 ROW PLANTER WITH PRECISION UPGRADES
- VARIOUS PARKER WAGONS, MOWERS
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LIVE & ONLINE BIDDDING

Paul and Julie have retired from farming and will be offering this extremely well cared for and clean line up of machinery for auction. This is a complete farm Machinery Auction. For a complete listing of all farm machinery please visit **WWW.IOWAMACHINERYMAN.COM**. There are very few small items on the sale. For information on the machinery please give Paul Kassel a call at 712-260-3389.

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2011 DODGE CHALLENGER R/T WHITE	$11,495	$9,900
2016 DODGE CHARGER SXT 3.6L RED!	$16,995	$15,900
2017 CHEVY MALIBU LT WHITE	$15,995	$14,695
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2008 FORD F150 RED CREW CAB 4X4	$5,995	$4,995
2010 FORD F350 LARIAT DUALLY 4X4 CREW	$21,550	$15,900
2011 CHEVY COLORADO LT 4X4 CREW CAB RED!	$14,800	$13,995
2011 FORD F150 3.5 4X4 SUPER CAB 120K MILES	$16,995	$15,750
2012 GMC SIERRA 2500 SLE 4X4 GRAY 6.0L	$15,250	$14,250
2013 RAM 1500 5.7 HEMI QUAD CAB 4X4	$15,250	$13,900
2018 CHEVY COLORADO BLACK Z71 4X4 CREW	$23,995	$22,995
2019 CHEVY COLORADO CREW 4X4 87K MILES	$21,300	$19,300
2019 CHEVY SILVERADO LTZ CREW 4X4 SILVER	$31,300	$25,800
2020 CHEVY SILVERADO CSTM 4X4 GRAY	$26,800	$24,900
2022 FORD F150 3.5L 4X4 XLT CREW CAB	$42,750	$39,995
SUVS	**WAS**	**NOW**
2014 JEEP WRANGLER UNLIMITED GOLD!!	$19,995	$18,500
2017 JEEP COMPASS LAT RED 4X4 SHARP	$15,350	$14,650
2017 JEEP CHEROKEE LIM GRAY 4X4	$16,995	$15,750
2019 CHEVY TRAVERSE LT AWD WHITE 67K MILES	$22,750	$21,900
2019 FORD EDGE SEL AWD SILVER 96K MILES	$13,995	$12,500
2019 GMC ACADIA SLT BLACK AWD SHARP!	$17,000	$14,900
2019 KIA SPORTAGE EX RED! AWD!	$18,995	$17,900
2019 TOYOTA RAV 4 XLE AWD GRAY	$21,795	$20,795
2020 FORD EDGE TITANIUM AWD SHARP!	$14,250	$12,900
2020 GMC TERRAIN SLE AWD GRAY	$20,995	$19,700
2021 FORD ESCAPE SE MAROON 4X4	$17,925	$16,900
2021 JEEP RENEGADE LATITUDE BLACK 4X4	$11,995	$10,995
2021 JEEP CHEROKEE TRAILHAWK 4X4 ORANGE!	$20,995	$19,995
2022 FORD BRONCO SPORT BIG BEND 4X4	$23,995	$20,995
2022 FORD EXPLORER XLT 4WD	$27,650	$25,900
2023 CHEVY TRAILBLAZERLT RED	$21,950	$21,500
2023 CHEVY EQUINOX LT AWD GRAY	$22,900	$21,900
2023 FORD EDGE SEL AWD RED 38K MILES	$26,700	$24,900
2023 JEEP GR CHEROKEE LTD WHITE SHARP	$35,450	$32,850
2023 JEEP WRANGLER SAHARA 4XE! 18K MILES	$34,995	$30,450
2025 FORD ESCAPE ST LINE 4X4 GRAY SHARP	$25,295	$24,750

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