

Mahaska Chamber & Development Group Communicator



The Mahaska Chamber Diplomats held a ribbon cutting to celebrate the opening of Lemonade and Leaf in Oskaloosa. Owner Kristi Tarr made the bold decision to step away from the insurance world and pursue her dream of opening a not-so-typical gift shop. Located at 1007

South Market in Oskaloosa, Lemonade and Leaf offers a mix of lush houseplants, unique home décor, and gifts that range from charming to cheeky. It's your next must-stop destination for thoughtful, offbeat treasures and vibrant greenery. Hours are Tuesday and Wednesday 10 am – 6 pm, Thursday through Saturday 10 am – 2 pm.



The Mahaska Chamber Diplomats held a ribbon cutting at BackRoads Retreat, celebrating the transformation of a former dairy barn into a beautiful, affordable event space. Owners Jason and Valerie Bandstra began this journey with a vision—to turn a simple barn into a welcoming venue for gath-

erings of all kinds. One year later, that vision has become a reality. Overlooking a scenic pond complete with a fountain, the venue offers a stunning backdrop of the countryside and accommodates up to 272 guests. BackRoads Retreat is available for rent at \$145 per hour, with a minimum of four hours. Find more information at <https://www.backroadsretreat.com/>



The Mahaska Chamber Diplomats were excited to welcome Emma Ratliff, the new agent at American Family Insurance. Emma has been part of the American Family Insurance team since 2018 and is ready to help you with all your insurance needs right here in Oskaloosa. You can stop by at 1203 A Avenue East, Oskaloosa. Hours are Mon–Thu: 8:30 AM–4:00 PM | Fri: 8:30 AM–12:00 PM



The Mahaska Chamber Diplomats were pleased to welcome the following new teachers to the Oskaloosa Community School District.

Front row, left to right:

Eliza Kautz – 7th & 8th Grade Math

Bekah Settles – Elementary Music

Allie Day – High School Family & Consumer Sciences

Zoe Helmke – 5th Grade

Kara Denburger – Kindergarten

Jack Miller – High School P.E.

Back row, left to right:

Megan McGee – 2nd Grade

Miranda Thomas – 4th Grade

Alexis Bell – 3rd Grade

Shelly Nelson – Oskaloosa Middle School Special Education

Kendra DeJong – 2nd Grade Specialist

We're excited to welcome these educators to the district and wish them all the best for a great school year!

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