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# The Grundy Register

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## Overlay project could close Highway 14 for three months in 2020

By **ROBERT MAHARRY**  
*The Grundy Register*

**CONRAD-** Around 100 patrons filed in to an informational meeting at BCLUW High School on Monday evening, during which state Department of Transportation officials laid out plans for an overlay project on Iowa Highway 14 from the E-18 (Liscomb) turn-off all the way north to Highway 175 in Grundy County that could close the well-travelled road between Grundy Center and Marshalltown for up to three months in 2020.

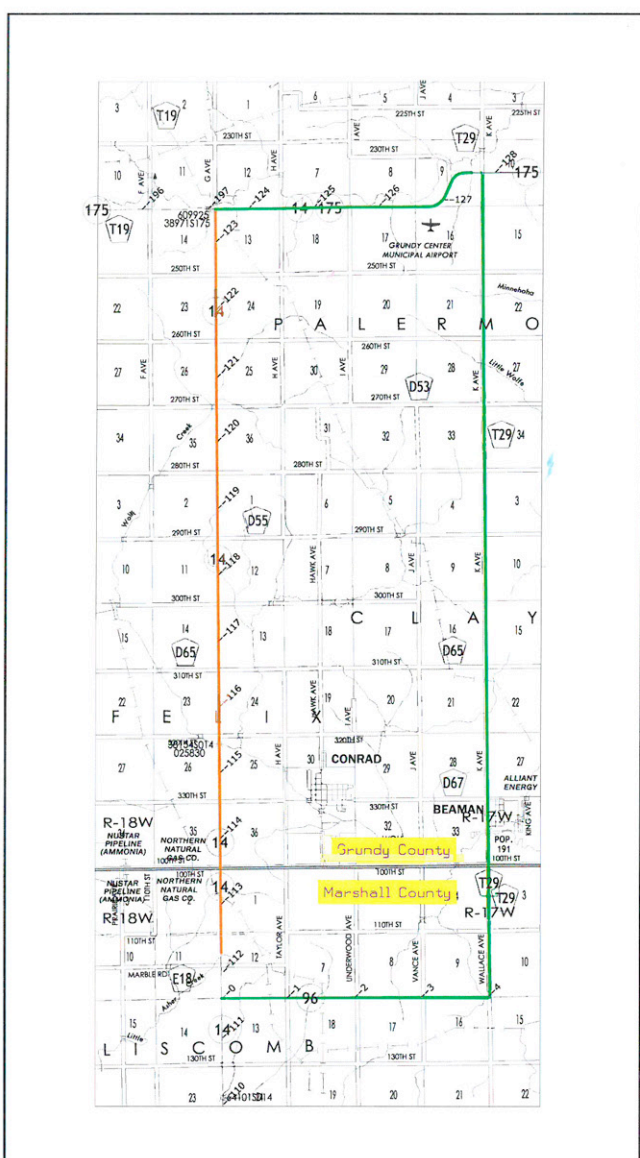
Several representatives from the DOT were on hand to explain the map in detail, and one of them told *The Grundy Register* that Monday night was the final public meeting in the process. The department will now commence buying right of way from the affected landowners, and grading is scheduled to begin in 2019.

The shoulder of the road will also be widened, according to the official, and during that time period, portions of the highway will be closed as the work moves forward. The most common detour throughout the process will likely be Highway 96 and Marshall/Grundy County Road T29—colloquially known as “the Beaman blackout.”

Of course, local access will still be allowed during the project.

“We’re not going to make you move,” the official said.

Between grading, right of way acquisition and paving, the total cost of the project is estimated to be over \$12 million, all of which will be paid by the state.



**County Border**  
**Detour Route**  
**Construction Route**

A map of the proposed overlay project and detour route for Highway 14 between E-18 in Marshall County and Highway 175 in Grundy County.

## G-R dissolution vote set for September

By **ROBERT MAHARRY**  
*The Grundy Register*

**REINBECK-** For better or worse, it’s finally happening.

On September 12, Gladbrook-Reinbeck voters will make a decision on whether or not to evaporate their district and undo a 30-year partnership between the two primary communities as a result of a petition organized by residents in the southern half who felt jilted when the school board opted to close the Gladbrook campus in 2015.

“It’s been a long two years, a lot of meetings and a lot of time,” Board President Lisa Swanson said.

If the vote passes with a simple majority, the territory of G-R will be split between Dike-New Hartford, GMG, Grundy Center, Hudson and North Tama, with the city of Reinbeck and all of the district’s assets there going to D-NH and the city of Gladbrook heading south to GMG. It would be the first voluntary dissolution of a school district by public referendum in the history of the state of Iowa.



Gladbrook-Reinbeck Superintendent David Hill addresses the public during Monday night’s school board meeting in the high school commons area. Citizens of the district will vote on the dissolution proposal on September 12. (Robert Maharry/The Grundy Register photo)

See **DISSOLUTION** Page 7



The Grundy County Fair Board has a list of improvements at the fairgrounds they are hoping to improve in the future. Among those are upgrades to the grandstand area and the addition of a campground. (Michaela Kendall photos)

## Fair board plans infrastructure improvements, upgrades

By **MICHAELA KENDALL**  
*The Grundy Register*

**GRUNDY CENTER** – Even with several days still left of this year’s Grundy County Fair Week, fair board members are already busy planning future improvements and upgrades at the fairgrounds – including one project they hope to start as early as this year.

“We’ve spent the last 10 years or so trying to make improvements out here to get more community involvement,” said fair board president Kyle Dudden. “We’ve had a lot of long-range, optimistic brain-storming for what we’d like to see in the future, and we’d like to go forward with some of these ideas.”

A few of the changes the group has talked about include: building a camping area at the fairgrounds, making changes and improvements to the grandstand area (which include adding a permanent concession area and upgrading the bleachers and restrooms), as well as adding a conference building that could be used by members of the community all year round.

“It’s great we can have this area one week of the year, but we want to get it so these grounds are used more than that. They’re just too nice to sit empty,” Dudden said.

Dudden says many of the possible improvements are still preliminary, and much of it will be dependent upon what funding the fair board can secure, but they hope to break ground on the campground project as soon as this year.

“We’ve talked about adding a campground out here for the past few years, and we would like to break ground on that soon, even within this calendar year so we have some changes for next year,” he said.

Dudden said there are two possible locations for the 40 to 50 spot campground: either south of the sheep barn, or east of the grandstand area, with the grandstand area being the preferred spot.

Right now, there are about 20 spots scattered throughout the fairgrounds, but the campground would give campers a central location with water and electric.

Once the campground project is done, the board would like to look into the rest of the proposed changes, but Dudden said the group is trying to take things one step at a time right now.

“One thing all these changes have in common is that they cost money,” he said. “The county is very generous to us with grant money, and we get

very generous donations from our sponsors and community members, so we’ve got to be fiscally responsible with the money we’re given. We need to use it to make improvements that benefit the county and community as a whole, because this really is something for the whole community to enjoy.”

Dudden said without the fair board working together as a whole, these initiatives and improvements wouldn’t be possible.

“We have a great group of fair board members, and it’s the fair board as a whole that’s really made that push, and made these last few years to be what they’ve been,” Dudden said.

Members of the Grundy County Fair Board include: Kyle Dudden, president; Jared Gutknecht, vice president; Ron Flater, treasurer; and members Jerry Schmidt; Brandon VanLoh; Pat Brown II; Katrina Hemann; Jeff Greiner; Richard Benson; John Hillard; Curt Kyh; Jody Beard; Logan Clark; Bryan Moeller; Jody Micheal; Jason Steinmeyer; Justin Lynch; Luke Kjormore; and Kyle Dudden.

For more information about this year’s Grundy County Fair, visit <http://www.grundycounty-fair.com/>



**Kicking off the 2017 Grundy County Fair Week**  
This year’s fair week kicked off on Monday afternoon with non-livestock judging. Exhibitors filled the Alumni Building from noon to five to have everything from photography to baking judged by a local expert. Shown in the photo above is Talasia Meester, who is receiving comments on her craft from Judge Sarah Rickelman. (Michaela Kendall/The Grundy Register photo)