



The Wright County

Monitor

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Local Artist's 'Intuition' Honors Loss and Life Through Sculpture

Amanda Rink, Editor

Clarion artist and teacher Madalyn Vorrie's exhibit Intuition is on display at the Chadima Galley in the Iowa Ceramics Center and Glass Studio in Cedar Rapids through February 1. Through a series of evocative sculptures, Vorrie explores themes of grief, resilience, and the delicate balance of life.

The exhibit's title reflects Vorrie's instinctive approach to her craft, rooted in personal experiences and emotions. "Intuition was inspired by the intuitive process of how I create my clay alien-flower sculptures," Vorrie shared. She works freely and adds elements without a rigid plan. Her sculptures evolve organically with spikes that represent protection, delicate ruffles, and textured elements showing nurturing. Art as Healing and Reflection

Vorrie's sculptures feature seedling-like forms in protective nests, which, to her, represent babies and the "nurturing and protective aspects of having a baby." In some of the pieces she includes wire and crocheted yarn to represent closing a wound, conveying the overall message of vulnerability. "The dan-

ger and beauty aspects are represented in my textured pieces in my sculptures, such as the ruffles, spikes, tears, water, and hole textures," she shared.

Central to the exhibit is the memory of Vorrie's infant son, Jayce Thomas Vorrie, whose short life inspires the emotional depth of Intuition. One piece, titled IUGR, reflects her experiences with Intrauterine Growth Restriction, a condition that affected Jayce.

Intrauterine Growth Restriction, or IUGR, happens when fetal weight is below the 10th percentile for gestational age. It can lead to complex challenges for both the baby and the parent, often requiring intensive monitoring and sometimes early delivery.

In IUGR, Vorrie uses a cracked alien flower to convey feelings of entrapment and vulnerability. "Inside the flower, I crocheted a preemie baby hat and placed it within a golden wire cage," she shared. To Vorrie, this represents the emotions surrounding IUGR.

Honoring and Educating Through Art

Vorrie hopes her work not only honors her "angel son's" memory but also sheds light on the often-overlooked experiences of



Local Artist Madalynn Vorrie's sculpture work, inspired by her son, is on display at the Chadima Gallery in the Iowa Ceramics Center and Glass Studio. (Photo: Madalynn Vorrie)

pregnancy and infant loss. "I hope my artwork can bring light to these struggles and help others who have faced similar experiences," she said.

Beyond the significance,

Intuition reflects Vorrie's roles as an artist and teacher. "Creating this exhibit allowed me to explore combining materials with ceramics to create deeper

continued on page 2

Supervisors Face Pressure to Address Pipeline Safety Concerns

Amanda Rink, Editor

The Wright County Board of Supervisors meeting featured passionate public input from Julie Glade, a landowner who could be affected by the proposed CO2 pipeline by Summit Carbon Solutions. Glade urged the Board to pass protective ordinances to regulate pipeline setbacks, even without full consensus from the Planning and Zoning Board.

Landowner Requests Action

During the open forum, Glade called on the Board to revisit the issue of setbacks. She noted other counties have passed ordinances with setbacks to protect schools, nursing homes, and rural residents from potential pipeline dangers.

"We've been told in the past that the Board of Supervisors can't move ahead without zoning ordinances from the Planning and Zoning Board," Glade said. She shared that it is her understanding that it is the Supervisors' responsibility to direct the Planning and Zoning Board to draft ordinances. "The public doesn't have the power to direct them," she stated following up with, "We can't keep passing the buck."

Glade stated that Wright County has more miles of pipelines than any other county in the state, increasing the risk of a rupture. "If this thing goes through, there will be a rupture in Wright County," she said with confidence. "People are going to suffer, and people are going to possibly die."

Iowa Senate File

Glade also referenced Iowa Senate File 136, introduced on page 2

Council Meeting Approves Hotel Motel Funds

Amanda Rink, Editor

The Clarion City Council met on Tuesday, January 21 in the City Council Chambers. Mayor Rod Heiden began the meeting at 5:00 PM on the exceptionally cold evening, with temperatures plunging well into the negatives.

The council quickly moved through the agenda, notably approving a liquor license for Case Del Taco, payment of bills, and previous meeting minutes. Hotel Motel Grant Recommendations

City Administrator Clint Middleton provided an overview of the recent Clarion Hotel Motel Board meeting, which reviewed grant applications with a quarterly fund balance of \$15,825.94.

The Board suggested to the Council to approve \$2,000 for benches and garbage bins for the Clarion Development Association (CDA) and \$2,000 for children's attractions at The Barn at Walton Farms. They also suggested that Wright County Community Connections receive \$1,000 for business signage. A \$1,000 request from the Iowa River Players was denied by the board as it did not meet grant parameters. The council followed the recommendations of the board, approving grant monies to be dispersed.

The next City Council meeting will be held on February 4 at 5:00 p.m. in Council Chambers.

Area Headlines

Goldfield

The Goldfield Legion will be hosting "Cards & Coffee" every Sunday afternoon beginning at 1 PM and ending at 4 PM. "All are welcome to join," an online statement from the group read.

Eagle Grove

The City of Eagle Grove issued a Peddler's Permit to Mad City Windows and Baths from Grimes, the permit ends on February 17, 2025.

Rowan

The water department continues to see improvement, notably a circuit breaker update and new chlorine hoses.

Belmond

The Belmond City Council reviewed next year's budget on Jan. 20. The property tax levy is expected to stay at \$18.43. With 2007 street project bonds ending, City Manager Cody Nicholas proposed keeping debt service steady to avoid a tax hike in FY 2026 for upcoming projects. Surplus funds will go toward high-interest debt in FY 2025.

Hampton

The Franklin County Sheriff's Office is investigating the theft of bronze veterans' plaques from Hampton's Memorial Park. Franklin County Sheriff Aaron Dodd reported to The Hampton Chronicle that his office seized numerous plaques from cemeteries and historical markers across several counties. The investigation is ongoing.

Breaking Barriers on the Mat

Amanda Rink, Editor

In Iowa high school wrestling is a proud tradition, and a new chapter is being written by the girls' wrestling teams throughout the Clarion-Goldfield-Dows (CGD) school district. The high school team is led by former wrestler Coach Emma Gomez, this shared team between CGD and Webster City is more than a group of athletes; it is an inspiration for young and seasoned women across our community.

Coaching with a Bigger Purpose

For Coach Gomez, wrestling is more than a sport, it is a lifelong passion. She works as an ophthalmic technician by day, but her evenings and weekends are dedicated to shaping a new generation of wrestlers. "To me, wrestling is more than just a sport," Gomez explains. "It teaches great life skills. It teaches athletes about resilience, dedication, and so much more."

From intense practices to



The CGD Girls' Middle School Wrestling team has a roster of 6. Coached by Caleb Vogel, the team is making big moves on and off the mat. (Photo: Joni Worden)

traveling for tournaments, Gomez is fully invested in the girls' success. "I put in a lot of hours, to say the least," she shared with The Wright County Monitor. Her goal isn't just to build strong athletes but to instill a mental toughness that will serve the young women she coaches beyond the mat.

The Power of Collaboration

The partnership between Webster City and CGD predates Gomez's tenure as coach, but she immediately recognized the value of the

shared team. By combining resources and athletes, the two schools have created a powerful and competitive team. "It is amazing to have them combined," she says. "It gives all the girls an opportunity to push each other, especially those in the same weight class."

Despite any logistical challenges of coordinating athletes from two different counties, the team has combined seamlessly. "It is almost as if there was a piece of the puzzle missing

until they got united," Gomez said. She considers the team's friendship and dedication to the sport for their strong team bond.

One athlete, CGD Freshman Marlee Thompson, shows this dedication, enduring long drives to and from practice in Webster City. Gomez is grateful for such dedication, acknowledging that "the amount of time we spend in a car driving back and forth is not easy!"

continued on page 5



Marlee Thompson is the single CGD representative on the Girls' High School Wrestling team. Currently, Thompson holds a 19-8 record with 15 pins and 2 techs. (Photo: IA Wrestling/BK Photography Creation)



Reagan Hill, CGD 4th Grader, shared that seeing her older cousin, Marlee Thompson, wrestle inspires her to keep going. (Photo: Paige Hill)



Check out  Sports on pages 11 & 12

After an extended hiatus, local car enthusiast Kirk Cramer is contributing to the newspaper once again!



A Car Story Riding Out the Flood

Kirk Cramer,
Columnist

My love for cars started at an early age and 60 years later, I enjoy going to car shows whenever I get the chance. As the saying goes, when the top goes down the price goes up. However, not in my case, especially when the car is under three feet of water.

It all started when I went to the Good Guys Car Show in Des Moines, Iowa in 2018. After the show I drove my 1968 Camaro Convertible back to my daughter's house, who lived in Des Moines at the time, thinking it would be nice and safe there instead of on the fairgrounds. I went to bed early so I could get a good start on day two of the show. My night was interrupted when my wife woke me up in the middle of the night screaming that the backyard was flooding.

There were flashing lights outside warning the neighborhood that the levy had broken upstream and this area was flooding fast. I ran to check on my car right when their garage door gave way to the rushing waters and I was in three feet of water trying to keep the debris in the garage from banging against my beautiful car. My display signs and pictures were floating in the backseat and the engine was underwater. I knew it was a lost cause.

It took me six weeks to move on after realizing that not only my dream car but our other two cars that were parked there, were totaled out. I decided to thumb through the Hemmings Motor News and lo and behold, I saw my future car!

The picture of a 1967 Camaro black hardtop RSSS was staring up at me. I called the number and after telling the owner my story, he said he'd hold the until I made the four-hour trip to Kansas City. I took my trailer knowing this was my new dream car and I would be bringing it home, which I did.

Local Artist continued from page 1

meaning," she shared. "It also inspires me to show my students the importance of expressing emotions through art and seeking opportunities to share their work."

Vorrie teaches her students to connect with their art on an emotional level. "I speak with students about how to communicate meaning through their work, even if they're given what may seem like a simple prompt," she said.

Visit Intuition

Intuition is on display at the Chadima Gallery in the Iowa Ceramics Center and Glass Studio (329 10th Ave SE, Suite 117, Cedar Rapids, IA) through February 1, 2025.

Whether you're an art enthusiast or supporting a local artist, Vorrie's work offers an experience that lingers long after you leave the gallery.

What is Norovirus, and How Can You Protect Yourself and Others?

What it is?

Norovirus is a very contagious virus that causes vomiting and diarrhea. In fact, it is the leading cause of vomiting, diarrhea, and foodborne illness in the United States. People of all ages can get infected and sick with norovirus.

It is sometimes called the "stomach flu" or the "stomach bug." However, norovirus illness is not related to the flu. The flu is caused by the influenza virus. Norovirus causes acute gastroenteritis, an inflammation of the stomach or intestines.

Most people with norovirus illness get better within 1 to 3 days, but they can still spread the virus for a few days after.

Types of Norovirus

You can get norovirus illness many times in your life because there are many different types of noroviruses. Infection with one type of norovirus may not protect you against other types.

It is possible to develop protection against specific types, but it is not known exactly how long protection lasts. This may explain why so many people of all ages get infected during norovirus outbreaks.

Who is at risk?

Anyone can get infected and sick with norovirus, and people of all ages get infected during norovirus outbreaks. Your likelihood of getting a norovirus infection is also determined in part by your genes.

*Shellfish: If eaten raw, oysters and other filter-feeding shellfish can contain viruses and bacteria that can cause illness or death. Anyone who consumes raw shellfish is at risk of contracting norovirus. Children younger than 5 years old, older adults, and people with weakened immune systems are more likely to develop severe infections.

To avoid getting norovirus, do not eat raw or undercooked shellfish.

How does it spread?

Norovirus spreads very easily and quickly in different ways. You can get norovirus by:

- Having direct contact with someone with norovirus, like caring for them, sharing food or eating utensils with them, or eating food handled by them.
- Eating food or drinking liquids that are contaminated with norovirus.
- Touching contaminated objects or surfaces and then putting your unwashed fingers in

your mouth.

Signs and Symptoms

A person usually develops symptoms 12 to 48 hours after being exposed to norovirus.

Most common symptoms: Diarrhea, vomiting, nausea, stomach pain/cramping
Other symptoms: Fever, headache, and body aches

Dehydration

If you have norovirus illness, you can feel extremely ill, and vomit or have diarrhea many times a day. This can lead to dehydration (loss of body fluids), especially in young children, older adults, and people with other illnesses. Symptoms of dehydration include:

- Decreased urination
- Dry mouth and throat
- Feeling dizzy when standing up
- Crying with few or no tears
- Unusual sleepiness or fussiness

Drink plenty of liquids

If you have norovirus illness, you should drink plenty of liquids to replace fluid lost from vomiting and diarrhea. This will help prevent dehydration.

- Sports drinks and other drinks without caffeine or alcohol can help with mild dehydration. However, these drinks may not replace important nutrients and minerals. Oral rehydration fluids that you can get over the counter are most helpful for mild dehydration.

*Seek medical care for severe dehydration

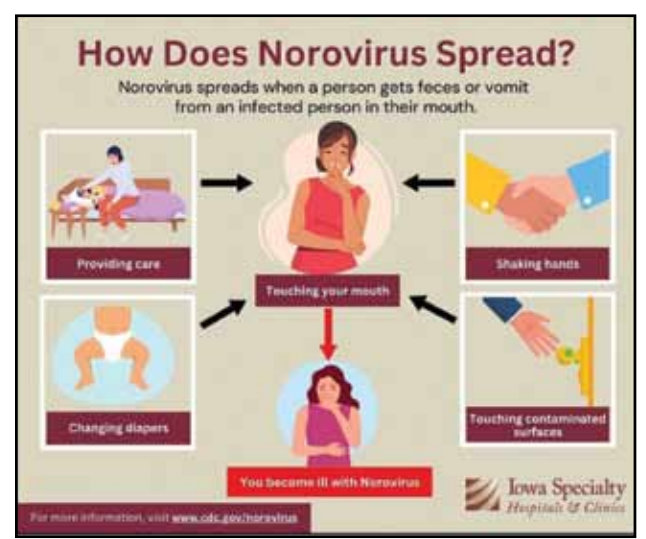
Dehydration can lead to serious problems. Severe dehydration may require hospitalization for treatment with fluids given through your vein (intravenous or IV fluids). If you think you or someone you are caring for is severely dehydrated, call your doctor.

Treatment and recovery

Most people with norovirus illness get better within 1 to 3 days. There is no specific medicine to treat people with norovirus illness. Antibiotic drugs will not help treat norovirus infections because they fight bacteria, not viruses.

A good rule to follow when treating someone with norovirus is The Rule of Three:

1. Nothing by mouth (such as food or beverages) for three hours.
2. Then ice chips or small sips of water for three hours,
3. Then clear liquids for three hours.
4. Continue as needed.
5. If at any point you vomit, restart with the first step ("nothing by mouth") for three hours.
6. Take Tylenol or ibuprofen



***You can still spread norovirus for 2 weeks or more after you feel better.**

for body aches.

7. Get plenty of rest!

How can you prevent getting norovirus?

Norovirus is very contagious, but you can take steps to protect yourself and others, including:

- Wash your hands well and often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds; especially:
- After using the toilet or changing diapers
- Before eating, preparing, or handling food.
- Before giving yourself or someone else medicine.

Be aware that hand sanitizer alone doesn't work well against norovirus. You can use hand sanitizers in addition to hand washing, but hand sanitizer is not a substitute for handwashing, which is best.

- If you're sick, don't prepare or handle food, or care for others. Wait at least 2 days (48 hours) after your symptoms stop.
- Handle and prepare food safely:
- Carefully wash fruits and vegetables well.
- Cook oysters and other shellfish thoroughly to an internal temperature of at least 145°F.
- Routinely clean and sanitize kitchen utensils, cutting boards, counters, and surfaces, especially after handling shellfish.
- Keep raw oysters away from ready-to-eat food in the grocery cart, refrigerator, and on cutting boards.
- Throw away food that might contain norovirus.

Noroviruses are relatively resistant to heat and can survive temperatures as high as 145°F.

- Immediately remove and wash clothes or linens that may have vomit or feces on them.
- Wear rubber or disposable gloves.
- Handle items carefully without shaking them.
- Wash the items with detergent and hot water at the maximum available cycle length, then machine dry them at the highest heat setting.
- Wash your hands after with soap and water.

Quick-steaming processes will not heat foods enough to kill noroviruses. Food contaminated with norovirus may look, smell, or taste normal.

- Clean and disinfect contaminated surfaces.
- Always clean well and disinfect the entire area immediately.
- After someone vomits or has diarrhea:
- Wear rubber or disposable gloves and wipe the entire area with paper towels and throw them in a plastic trash bag.
- Disinfect the area as directed on the product label.
- To disinfect, use a chlorine bleach solution with a concentration of 1,000 to 5,000 ppm (5 to 25 tablespoons of household bleach [5% to 8%] per gallon of water) or use an EPA-registered disinfecting product against norovirus.
- Leave bleach disinfectant on the affected area for at least 5 minutes.
- Clean the entire area again with soap and hot water.
- Wash laundry, take out the trash, and wash your hands.
- Wash laundry in hot water.
- Immediately remove and wash clothes or linens that may have vomit or feces on them.
- Wear rubber or disposable gloves.
- Handle items carefully without shaking them.
- Wash the items with detergent and hot water at the maximum available cycle length, then machine dry them at the highest heat setting.
- Wash your hands after with soap and water.

For more information, visit www.ohc.gov/norovirus

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Supervisors Address Pipeline Safety Concerns continued from page 1

duced on January 23, which would allow counties to establish setbacks. The file is introduced by Republicans Salmon, Campbell, Taylor, Rowley, Alons, Lofgren, Green, Evans, Westrich, and Shipley. Lobbyists currently against the bill are from Iowa Propane Gas Association and the American Petroleum Institute. Iowa Farmers Union and the Iowa Chapter of Sierra Club have expressed support with the Linn County Board of Supervisors undecided.

Still, Glade urged the Board to act now rather than waiting for litigation outcomes in other counties.

Supervisors Respond

Supervisor Dean Kluss pointed to past decisions by the Board, stating, "I think it's clear from the record where we stand... whether we are opposed to the pipeline or for the pipeline."

Glade challenged the Supervisors to take the next step by passing ordinances, noting that other counties with fewer pipeline miles have already done so. Supervisor Betty Ellis stated that Wright County's Planning and Zoning Board had drafted an ordinance but placed it on hold due to concerns over lawsuits against other counties.

County Engineer Adam Clemmons clarified that while the Supervisors

could direct Planning and Zoning to act, the board itself must vote to enact any recommendations. "They have their own vote to enact it or not," he said.

According to the Iowa Code, the Planning and Zoning Board along with the Board of Adjustments has two specific roles: prepare the zoning ordinance, and review and recommend zoning amendments and updates. The Planning and Zoning Commission "acts in an advisory capacity to the elected body".

When Glade asked why the Supervisors had not moved forward as other counties had, Kluss noted ongoing litigations and rulings by the Iowa Utilities Board. "The Iowa Utilities Board has already made a decision (to approve eminent domain to install and operate the CO2 pipeline), and that decision is contingent upon certain things," he stated.

The Wright County Board of Adjustments will hold a public hearing to "address variances requested at 1825 Cornelia Drive in Clarion" at 5:00 P.M. at 416 5th Ave. SW, Clarion, Iowa. A resident has requested setback variances, specifically which setbacks were not stated in the agenda.

Press for Power
Glade argued that the Supervisors have the power to

act, regardless of Planning and Zoning's position. Ellis and Kluss acknowledged the complexity of the issue, promising to consult with legal counsel and the board of Planning and Zoning/Adjustments.

Glade pushed back against relying on litigation to protect people from the maybe hazardous pipeline. "We can't rely on other things (or people) to stop this pipeline when we have a chance to do what we can locally," she said.

As the debate continues, Wright County residents and leaders face the challenge of balancing legal issues with the urgent need to address public safety concerns.

For more details on this meeting or related documents mentioned in this article, visit the Wright County, Iowa State University Extension and Outreach or Legiscan websites.

Supervisors Consider Bridge Project, Battery Fires, and Medical Examiner Fees

Amanda Rink,
Editor

During Monday's meeting, the Wright County Board of Supervisors considered a range of issues, including the Voss Quarry Bridge project, landfill safety concerns, and support for county medical examiners. Public input during the meeting sparked discussion, which is covered in detail in a separate article in this issue.

Construction and Conservation

Wright County Engineer Adam Clemmons shared an update on the Voss Quarry Bridge project. The bridge's deck has been removed, and crews are halfway through dismantling the structure's abutments and piers. Crews hope to complete the bridge demolition before the migration of the Topeka Shiner, a federally protected fish species.

For those curious about the project, the county has been posting updates, including drone footage, on its Facebook page. In addition to infrastructure updates, the Board discussed administrative decisions regarding county medical examiners.

County Medical Examiners

The board spent time considering whether to cover annual membership fees for the county medical examiners. In the past, the county has paid for the training but not membership. Membership reduces training costs by \$50. The board agreed to pay the \$100 membership fee per examiner, seeing it as a way to save money and support the important work of the medical examiners.

Landfill Fires

Lithium batteries are still causing headaches—and

fires—at the Wright County landfill. Supervisor Lynn Loux highlighted ongoing concerns about lithium batteries causing fires at the Wright County landfill. When disposed of in regular trash, these batteries can ignite, posing safety risks despite the installation of new fire detection and grinding systems. The supervisors discussed options for additional safety measures.

Drainage District

In their role as Drainage Trustees, the supervisors reviewed and approved a repair request for a damaged tile in DD 30, Pleasant Township.

The Supervisors will meet again on Monday February 3, 2025 at 9:00 A.M. You can stream this meeting and past meetings at youtube.com/@WrightCountyIowaOfficial8312.

Wright County Veterans
Free Coffee and Rolls
Friday, January 31
8:00 - 10:00 a.m.
Wright County Veterans Affairs
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**ANNUAL
WILD GAME
FEED**

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8th, 2025
SNOW DATE: SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 9th AT 2 PM

DOORS OPEN: 4:30 PM
SUPPER: 5:30 PM
AUCTION: 7:00 PM

Door Prizes, Auction, Raffles
TICKETS: \$25.00

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Linda Lloyd, Clarion Public Library Director

The extension office in Missouri sent an email to me offering an online class for Neighboring 101. Monthly sessions, class videos, and access to exclusive materials and resources are all available. That took me down the path of what books are available at the library on neighboring and it led me to these.

What does it mean to be a good neighbor? Fred Rogers did not take his role on TV lightly. He saw a way to help young people make sense of the world around them and to become more knowledgeable and engaged citizens. He taught us each person is worthy to be loved and heard. To read more about

Check it Out at The Library!

his commitment to creating a better world, stop at the library and borrow the Biography; The good neighbor: the life and work of Fred Rogers by King, Maxwell

Good neighbors: a novel by Serling, Joanne. Her story starts when four young families who quickly form a neighborhood clique, their friendships based on little more than the ages of their children and a shared sense of camaraderie. Then one of the couples adopt a four-year-old girl from Russia, the group's loyalty and morality is soon called into question.

Not a fan of Biographies, I'm sure we can find a book about neighbors just for you. In our Romance, Thriller, Christian Fiction, and Children's book sections.

Good riddance by Lipman, Elinor. A comedy with a smart and snappy dialogue. Daphne is the process of decluttering items that do not spark joy before moving into a New York apartment building. It starts a series of events both poignant and absurd.

Nosy neighbors by Sampson, Freya. In this cozy story of a community coming together; an

unlikely assortment of neighbors will have to band together in hope of saving the historic Shelley House, in which they live, from demolition.

Good karma by Kelly, Christina A charming, heartfelt tale of love lost and regained in a gated community in Savannah, Georgia.

LaRose: a novel by Erdrich, Louise. While hunting a buck in the North Dakota forest a man accidentally shoots his neighbor's five-year-old son. Then following an old Ojibwe tradition, their own son is given to the boy's grief-stricken parents, to raise as their own. That's when the story begins.

Ivy + Bean: no news is good news by Barrows, Annie is a children's chapter book. Ivy and bean need to make some money and decide to write a newspaper. They snoop around the neighborhood and come up with very interesting news for their newspaper.

As Mister Rogers said, "There are three ways to ultimate success: The first way is to be kind. The second way is to be kind. The third way is to be kind."

The View From Here

Senator Dennis Guth, R-Klemme

Martin Luther King Day on Monday meant the Iowa Legislature was not in session. That allowed several Iowa senators the opportunity to attend the inauguration in D.C. Tuesday was quiet, with a few subcommittees being run and landowners protesting the CO2 pipelines.

Wednesday was very busy all day with committees, subcommittees and constituents. One of the highlights was having the FFA (Future Farmers of America) groups from several schools in my district visit the Capitol. I always enjoy speaking with these kids and learning how they want to use the skills they acquire in FFA. They learn how to be good citizens, as well as understanding the agricultural industry. These students include many of the future leaders of agriculture and industry in our state. It's good to see the next generation engaged in public service by being informed and active.

I chaired the subcommittee for SF 6, which would require all daycare, schools and colleges to inform parents about exemptions, both medical and religious, to vaccine mandates. Those exemptions have been in place in the past, but many schools chose to avoid informing parents and promoted the idea "no shots, no school." That is not the law. We had around 20 people show up in support of the bill by telling their stories about being bullied by schools. The only objection was received by email from

the Iowa Osteopathic Medical Association. While they had a representative attending the subcommittee, they chose not to speak up after hearing the other side. This bill was passed in the House on the same day and will advance to full committee in both chambers.

I think this reflects the enthusiasm of conservatives after seeing President Trump win re-election and the increase in the Republican majorities in Iowa. There is a lot of energy in the Capitol right now and I hope to see many good things happen this session.

One of those things I hope to see advance is SSB 1028. This bill requires the human growth and development instruction in grades 1-12 include instruction related to human development inside the womb, a high-definition ultrasound video showing the presence of the brain, heart, and other vital organs in early fetal development, and a high-quality, computer generated rendering or animation that depicts the humanity of the unborn child by showing prenatal human development, starting at fertilization. SSB 1028 also passed out of subcommittee on Thursday.

I have submitted bills to promote medical freedom and limit the use of eminent domain to projects of true public benefit. I support a bill being introduced by Senator Salmon that would limit the Governor's emergency powers to 60 days without the legislature's authorization of an extension. *Quote for the week: A life of challenge is more satisfying than a life of regrets.*

The Peoples Post

To the People of House District 55

Representative Shannon Latham

Subcommittees Get Underway during Week 2 of Session

The second week of the 2025 legislative session was filled with constituent visits and subcommittee meetings. Before I summarize a few bills on which I'm working, I'll begin with a quick overview of how an idea becomes a bill and possibly a law.

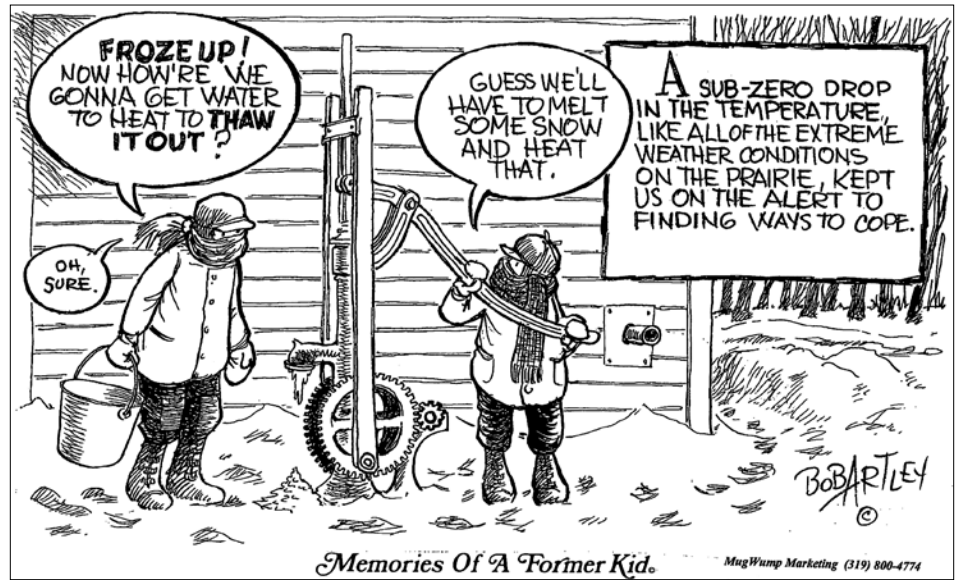
How an Idea Becomes Law

Legislation is proposed by many different groups: constituents, legislators, lobbyists, the governor and others. That proposal is sent to the non-partisan Legislative Services Agency (LSA) for bill drafting where it is put in proper legal language. It is then filed by the sponsoring legislator. The Speaker

assigns the bill to one of 21 committees in the Iowa House.

The committee chairman assigns the bill to a three-person subcommittee for consideration. That subcommittee is comprised of two Republicans and one Democrat. The subcommittee meeting is open to the public for input and discussion. Two of the three subcommittee members must vote "yes" for this bill to move to the full House committee for consideration. If the bill gains a majority vote in its assigned committee, it will then move to consideration for floor debate. Iowa House Leadership decides if and when a bill might come before the Iowa House for debate and a vote.

If the House passes a bill, it is sent to the Senate where the process is



FEBRUARY*

February will be a special month in the sky. The brightest stars and constellations of the year will be well placed for viewing in the early evening with a quick look outside. Orion (the Hunter) with its iconic belt of three stars will be in the southern sky and in the midst of the bright winter stars. The belt will be flanked by reddish Betelgeuse above and Rigel below, both in Orion. The belt will point up to Aldebaran in Taurus (the Bull), with brighter Jupiter to its left, and down to Sirius, the brightest star in the sky, in Canis Major (the Great Dog). Procyon in Canis Minor (the Little Dog) will be to the left and above Sirius, and Capella in Auriga (the Charioteer) will be above and to the left of Aldebaran. Completing this grouping of bright stars and planets will be the unmistakable Castor and Pollux, the twin stars of Gemini (the Twins) that will be a little above a line between Capella and Procyon, with bright Mars to the right of Pollux and to the lower right of Castor.

Adding to this lustrous grouping of bright stars and planets will be brilliant Venus that will rule the western evening sky.

Dimmer Saturn also will be present, but after having passed Venus in January, it will be moving lower in the sky until it is lost in the twilight glow. The last day to see it will be around February 20 when it will be very low in the early evening sky. If you can find Saturn, look below it for Mercury, which will be climbing into the evening sky to join the alignment of planets. Alignment

happens because the solar system is flat. Planets do not wander all over the sky, but they move along a narrow path.

During February, Mars will be moving in retrograde motion, or westward when compared to the background stars. This motion will take it farther to the upper right of Pollux, one of the bright twin stars of Gemini. However, that motion will slow until Mars stops on February 23. It then will begin its regular, or eastward motion, slowly at first and then picking up speed.

The motion of Mars and the other outer planets can be difficult to understand. During the night, we see them moving westward along with the background stars, an apparent motion that is caused by the rotation of the Earth. We also see them drifting westward during the course of several months, an apparent motion that is caused by the Earth's faster orbital speed as we catch up to them and leave them behind. However, their true motion is eastward, and that can be seen as they pass background stars. Adding to this motion complexity is their seeming retrograde or westward motion that occurs when Earth passes an outer planet. During retrograde motion, a planet will still rise in the east, move westward during the night, and drift slowly westward over the course of several weeks. It is only its westward motion past the background stars that is different. This is easiest to see with Mars because of its faster orbital speed.

Finally, these stars and planets will be followed by Regulus, the brightest

star in Leo (the Lion) that will rise at about 7:00 early in the month, and later in the evening by Spica, the brightest star of Virgo (the Maiden), and to its left brighter Arcturus, the brightest star in Bootes (the Herdsman). The appearance of these stars is a sure sign that spring is not far away.

Observing Highlights

Feb. 1 The crescent Moon will be close to the left of brilliant Venus and farther above much dimmer Saturn.

Feb. 6 The Moon will be above very bright Jupiter with dimmer Aldebaran, the eye of Taurus (the Bull), below Jupiter.

Feb. 7 The Moon will be close to the lower left of Elnath, the second brightest star of Taurus. It represents the tip of one of the bull's horns. However, Elnath is also part of the five-sided constellation Auriga (the Charioteer).

Feb. 9 The Moon will be to the lower left of Mars and closer to the right of Pollux, the slightly brighter star of Gemini (the Twins). Castor, Gemini's other twin star, will be to the left or upper left of Mars.

Feb. 12 After they rise at about 6:30, the full Moon be to the left of Regulus, the brightest star of Leo (the Lion). The Moon will probably be too bright to see Regulus, but on the 16th, Regulus should be visible before the Moon follows it into the sky.

Feb. 16 The Moon will lead Spica, the brightest star in the constellation Virgo (the Maiden) into the sky at about 11:00.

Feb. 21 Before dawn, the Moon will be close below Antares, the brightest star in Scorpius (the Scorpion).

Moon Phase	Date	Rises	Highest Point	Sets	When Visible
First quarter	Feb. 5	Noon	Sunset	Midnight	P.M.
Full moon	Feb. 10	Sunset	Midnight	Sunrise	All night
Last quarter	Feb. 20	Midnight	Sunrise	Noon	A.M.
New Moon	Feb. 27	Sunrise	Noon	Sunset	Not visible

*Dates and times are approximate.
Sources: StarDate, Jan-Feb 2025.
Vol. 53, No. 1.
Northern Lights, e-newsletter of the North Central Region of the Astronomical League. Vol. 9, No. 3.
SkyandTelescope.org

The Wright County Monitor
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Legal Notices Noon Friday
Classifieds 11:00 a.m. Friday
Display Ads 11:00 a.m. Friday
Submitted News Noon Friday
Obituaries 4:30 p.m. Monday
Breaking News 5 p.m. Monday*
Event coverage requests 24 hours
*This news may not be published in
the current issue.

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Regular employees in order of con-
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Sarah Duda, Composition
Amanda Rink, Editor
Taylor Smith, Sports Editor

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City of Dows
Clarion-Goldfield-Dows
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Legal notices

PUBLIC NOTICE Notice of Public Hearing - Budget Estimate

Local Government Property Valuation System
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING BUDGET ESTIMATE Fiscal Year July 1, 2025 - June 30, 2026
Wright County 911 Service Board

The 911 Service Board of the above named jurisdiction will conduct a public hearing on the proposed fiscal year budget as follows:
Meeting Date: 2/10/2025 Meeting Time: 04:00 PM Meeting Location: Board of Supervisors Room
At the public hearing, any resident or taxpayer may present objections to, or arguments in favor of, any part of the proposed budget. This notice represents a summary of the supporting detail of budgeted receipts and expenditures on file with the 911 Service Board Secretary. Copies of the Supplemental Budget Detail will be furnished upon request.

	FYE June 30, 2024 Actual Expenditures	FYE June 30, 2025 Re-Estimated Expenditures	FYE June 30, 2026 Proposed Expenditures	Transfers Out	Estimated Ending Fund Balance June 30, 2026	Estimated Beginning Fund Balance July 1, 2025	Estimated Other Receipts	Transfers In	Estimated Amount To Be Raised By Surcharge
1. Surcharge Fund	227,894	325,350	325,350	0	152,759	258,299	17,400		202,410
2. Operating Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
3. TOTAL	227,894	325,350	325,350	0	152,759	258,299	17,400	0	202,410

Published in the Wright County Monitor on Thurs. Jan. 30, 2024

PUBLIC NOTICE Notice of Public Hearing - Proposed Budget

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING --- PROPOSED BUDGET Fiscal Year July 1, 2025 - June 30, 2026
Wright County Emergency Management Commission

The Emergency Management Commission of the above-named County will conduct a public hearing on the proposed fiscal year 2025/2026 budget as follows:
Meeting Date: 2/10/2025 Meeting Time: 04:00 PM Meeting Location: Wright County Board of Supervisor Room
At the public hearing any resident or taxpayer may present objections to, or arguments in favor of, any part of the proposed budget. This notice represents a summary of the supporting detail of receipts and expenditures on file with the County Coordinator.

	Actual FYE June 30, 2024	Estimated FYE June 30, 2025	Proposed FYE June 30, 2026
BEGINNING FUND BALANCE:	1	178,378	188,464
REVENUES:			
County Contribution	2	73,620	77,301
Other Revenues	3	53,551	31,439
Total Revenues (2+3)	4	127,171	108,740
EXPENDITURES:			
Administration and Operations	5	114,877	150,371
Capital Outlays	6	2,208	62,000
Total Expenditures (5+6)	7	117,085	212,371
Total Ending Fund Balance	8	188,464	58,078

Published in the Wright County Monitor on Thurs. Jan. 30, 2024

PUBLIC NOTICE Wright County Supervisors Jan. 13, 2025 Minutes

January 13, 2025
The Board of Supervisors met as Drainage District Trustees. To view the minutes from the drainage meeting, see the Drainage District minutes on the County website.
Chairman Rasmussen called the regular meeting of the Wright County Board of Supervisors to order at 9:46 a.m. Members present were Rasmussen, Kluss, Bosch, Loux and Ellis.
Motion by Ellis and seconded by Kluss to approve the tentative agenda. Motion carries.
Minutes of the previous regular meeting of January 6, 2025 were read and approved.
Approved claims for payment. Supervisor Kluss told the board that Eric Eide with Nyemaster Goode PC agreed to be the Drainage Attorney for Wright County. Motion by Kluss and seconded by Ellis to appoint Eric Eide as the Wright County Drainage Attorney. Motion carries.

Motion by Kluss and seconded by Bosch to receive the Auditor's quarterly revenue report. Motion carries.
Motion by Kluss and seconded by Loux to appoint Jailer, Israel Rivera as a Civil Process Server. Motion carries.
Motion by Kluss and seconded by Ellis to approve the liquor license for Clarmond Country Club pending dram. Motion carries.
Motion by Kluss and seconded by Bosch to appoint Darrel Steven Carlyle to the Heart of Iowa Regional Housing Trust Fund. Motion carries.
Adam Clemons, Wright County Engineer gave an update on Secondary Roads department.
Motion by Kluss and seconded by Bosch to adjourn the meeting. Motion carries.
Rick Rasmussen, Chairman Wright County Board of Supervisors Deb Lukes, Wright County Deputy Auditor

Published in the Wright County Monitor on Thurs. Jan. 30, 2024

PUBLIC NOTICE Equity Case No. CDDDM003171

Public Notice Equity Case No. CDDM 003171
In the Iowa District Court for Wright County upon the Petition of Rebeka Jo Curtis Petitioner and concerning Michael James Curtis Respondent.
Equity Case No. CDDM003171
Original Notice by Publication
1. Information for Respondent Named Above
*Petitioner (your spouse) has filed a divorce lawsuit naming you as Respondent
*Petitioner's contact information during the divorce case: Rebeka Jo Curtis 308 1st Ave SE Clarion, IA 50525 515-825-7057 couponfour04@gmail.com
2. Respondent's deadline for filing a response
You must file an answer or a motion with the Clerk of Court in the above county within 20 days after January 20, 2025
3. Instructions to Respondent Named Above
You must file an answer or a motion with the Clerk of Court in the above county within 20 days after the date provided above. If you do not respond, the court may enter a judgment against you giving Petitioner what he or she asked for in the Petition.
Important Notice to Respondent
You should talk to an attorney

at once to protect your interests. If you choose not to have an attorney represent you in this matter, go to the Iowa Judicial Branch website for self-represented litigant information and family law forms.
If you need assistance to participate in court due to disability, contact the disability coordinator at 515-532-3309. Persons who are hearing or speech impaired may call Relay Iowa TTY (1-800-735-2942)
Disability Coordinators cannot provide legal advice. Disability coordinator contact information available at: http://www.iowacourts.gov/Administration/Directories/ADA_Access/.
Additional Information for Respondent
You must register to eFile through the Iowa Judicial Branch website at <https://www.iowacourts.state.ia.us/eFile/> and obtain a login and password to file and view documents in your case and to receive service and notices from the court.
For general rules and information on electronic filing refer to the Iowa Court Rules Chapter 16 Pertaining to the Use and Electronic Document Management System available on the Iowa Judicial Branch website
For court rules on the protection of personal privacy of court filings refer to Division VI of the Iowa Court Rules, chapter 16.

Published in the Wright County Monitor on Thurs. Jan. 30, 2024

The Wright County Monitor
DEADLINE:
Legal Notices.....Noon Friday
Classifieds.....11 a.m. Friday
Display Ads.....11a.m. Friday
Submitted News.....Noon Friday
Obituaries.....4:30 p.m. Monday

Kids:
You need to talk to your parents.

Some kids think synthetic drugs, often called fake marijuana and bath salts, are safe.

They are not – they can be dangerous in many ways.

Talk to your parents about the dangers of synthetic drugs.

Find out more at DrugFreeIowa.org
For Immediate Assistance, call the Iowa Substance Abuse Information Center toll-free Help Line at 866-242-4111.



PUBLIC NOTICE City of Clarion January 21, 2025 Minutes

The Clarion City Council met in regular session Tuesday January 21st, 2025, at 5:00pm in the Council Chambers with Mayor Heiden presiding. Present were Council members Shayne Hennigar, Nick McOllough and Mike Ennis (Dave Flurer, Dan Hennigar - absent). Also, in attendance City Administrator Clint Middleton, PWD Jon DeVries, and Chief Steve TerHark.
Mayor Heiden called the meeting to order and polled the council for any conflicts of interest with the agenda, there was none. Mayor Heiden asked if there were any citizens listed to address the council, there were none.
Motioned by McOllough seconded by S. Hennigar to approve consent agenda consisting of Minutes-2025.01.07; Financial report- approve checks; Licenses/Permits-(Building, Liquor, Tobacco, Sign, Peddler, Street Closure) Liquor -

Casa Del Taco (Motion passed 3-0, Flurer & D. Hennigar-absent).
Motioned by McOllough seconded by Ennis to approve Hotel Motel Grant Committee recommendations: CDA \$2,000 Benches and Garbage Receptacles; Iowa River Players - Denied for sit criteria; The Barn @ Walton Farms \$2,000.00; WCC - \$1,000 Signage/Website (Motion passed 3-0, Flurer & D. Hennigar-absent).
Reports from the Council or Dept heads: Middleton stated first house is torn down, burnt house is next. Looking to see if house on South Main can be salvaged. Questions about the burnt trailer in NW park. "We don't want it to sit forever."
Motioned by McOllough seconded by S. Hennigar to adjourn. All Ayes. (Motion passed 3-0).
Respectfully Submitted,
Clint Middleton City Administrator

Published in the Wright County Monitor on Thurs. Jan. 30, 2024

PUBLIC NOTICE Axel Lee Cain Case No. JVVJ500960

IN THE IOWA DISTRICT COURT FOR CALHOUN COUNTY IN THE INTEREST OF AXEL LEE CAIN, Minor Child.
Case No. JVVJ500960 ORIGINAL NOTICE
TO: LARRY RAYMOND KLING III and ALL PUTATIVE FATHERS OF A CHILD BORN ON THE 21ST DAY OF SEPTEMBER 2022 IN FORT DODGE IOWA:
You are notified that there is now on file in the office of the clerk of court for Calhoun County, a petition in case no. JVVJ500960, which prays for a termination of your

parent-child relationship to a child born on the 21st day of September 2022. For further details contact the clerk's office. The Petitioner's attorney is Ryan A. Kehm whose post office address is 706 First Avenue North, Fort Dodge, Iowa 50501, phone (515) 573-2191.
You are notified that there will be a hearing on the petition to terminate parental rights before the Iowa District Court for Calhoun County, at the Courthouse in Rockwell City, Iowa at 10:30 A.M. on the 7th day of March 2025.
CLERK OF THE ABOVE COURT

Published in the Wright County Monitor on Thurs. Jan. 23 & 30, 2024

Legals are your right to know!

PUBLIC NOTICE City of Clarion 2024 Employees Gross Wages

STEVE A TERHARK	81254.46	JON R DEVRIES	81628.86
BRET C THOMPSON	75682.34	LUKE D ANDERSON	55895.38
SHAYNE E HENNIGAR	950.00	ADAM E RUSSELL	58347.86
THEODORE R KNUTSON		BRADY A LYONS	53724.38
	68426.46	MICHEAL D ANDERSON	
LELAND A WILLIAMS	5770.53		74240.07
CHRISTIAN R JONES	70240.26	BRIAN T MARKER	61182.19
AUSTIN D BIGGS	67403.88	STEVEN D KRUEGER	10711.40
HECTOR A NINO	65103.29	DARRIN C WALLER	48779.42
LANCE A AUSTIN	1080.00	SCOTT A SIMMONS	54321.96
EUGENE A ROSENBAUM		REBECCA S AHRENDSEN	
	1880.00		2253.90
KEVIN R CLABAUGH	680.00	LINDA R LLOYD	52584.24
TERRY J HOWIESON	715.00	JOYCE A ERIKSEN	9221.97
MICHAEL J WEBER	560.00	ALYSSA M LLOYD	23192.02
PETER R SMITH	3185.46	ISABELLE HERNANDEZ	2183.25
JAMES L FLURER	1200.00	MICHAEL S ENNIS	1100.00
JONATHAN S GANGESTAD		DANIEL D HENNIGAR	1360.00
	15.00	TRISHA L BARZ	51129.04
MICHAEL JR K DURHAM		LISA M BROTT	45240.81
	1060.00	ANA L LOZANO-JUAREZ	1527.50
GREGORY G LITTLEJOHN		CLINT M MIDDLETON	92433.91
	396.52	LISA J KIST	42871.17
ADAM W CLEMONS	25.00	DAVID J FLURER	1190.00
PATRICK R MCCORMICK		NICHOLAS R McOLLOUGH	
	4279.90		1290.00
ERIC M STEVENS	935.00	MCCOY L YACKLE	2055.00
MATHEU N SOLIS	2249.39	CALEB R KRUEGER	3075.00
BRYCE M HAMILTON	24.00	EUGENE G ROSENBAUM	25.00
TYLER REITER	800.00	NICK CARPENTER	3040.13
ALEXANDER P ROSENBAUM		MADYSON HENNIGAR	428.39
	1320.00	KENNEDY TRCA	5115.63
CHRISTOPHER A PETERSEN		BETHANY E CAPPS	4965.97
	615.00	DANNY J SMITH	5587.50
AUSTIN N THOMPSON	205.00	PATRICK M OBRIEN	5895.00
CHRISTOFFEL J JACOBS	480.00	JAY D KLAVER	3888.75
MADISON S DURHAM	2728.89	LANDEN M KAKACEK	3062.50
KAYLA R HASTY	624.39	JEWELL A ROUTH	2044.89
SILAS E LANTZKY	1068.76	MASON A WARDELL	1454.60
KALEB W KING	560.00	SHYANN A RINK	500.26
HEATHER M SPRECHER		WILLIAM B HAYS	1481.26
	1443.79	ELLA P FINERAN	719.57
KRISTYN M HENNIGAR		JALLEN M STEWART	1111.06
	15594.60	ELLA R ENGSTROM	326.25
TIMOTHY D HAMILTON	720.00	MELISSA R LOUX	3750.00
DWIGHT O TEW	613.35	JORDYN D LINN	1165.44
SARAH J SPRECHER	544.80	QUINN J BROOKS	360.69
KAYLEE A HAMILTON	24.00	LOGAN T TORSELL	538.32
JENNIFER J LITTLEJOHN		HARPER M NERLIEN	520.19
	75514.17	TAYLOR C JOHNSON	512.94
CHRISTOPHER D REED		ARMANDO I MELENDEZ	440.44
	16232.10	CREW H GARZA	380.38
DAWN K SHERMAN	49678.77	KENNA M CHAPMAN	141.37
DENNIS OSTREM	786.60	CADEN R HAUSENSTEIN	174.26
AMY S REITER	7105.50	LYNETTE M SMITH	412.50
ROBERT T ENTIN	21413.40	BRANDON D FLURER	820.00
JOANNA M CORREA DONES		AUBRIE M FISHBURN	5769.76
	515.55	MADIELINE A ASKVIG	1674.64
ANTHONY A WUBBEN	246.00	GABRIELLE D OPPMAN	1638.06
RODNEY L HEIDEN	5000.00	ABIGAIL R SAMSON	2388.64
WILLIAM R ANDERSON	2648.00	NATALIE R GREVING	1746.02

Published in the Wright County Monitor on Thurs. Jan. 30, 2024

PUBLIC NOTICE City of Clarion January 21, 2025 Claims

CLAIMS REPORT		LANGUAGE LINK	7.81
VENDOR	AMOUNT	MENARDS FORT DODGE	531.68
AFLAC	264.9	MID AMERICAN ENERGY	172.79
ALEX HARRAH	190	MID-AMERICA PUBLISHING CO	
AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES			64
	155.97	NATIONAL ELEVATOR INSPEC-	80
BOUND TREE MEDICAL, LLC		TION	435.44
	49.56	OVERHEAD DOOR CO.	56.65
BROTHERS MARKET	46.09	JASON PARRY	1,000.00
LISA BROTT	1,458.49	PFM FINANCIAL ADVISORS LLC	
CLARION DISTRIBUTING	191.95		2,261.58
CLARION VISION INS		PHYSICIAN'S CLAIMS COM-	74.86
COBRAHELP	40	PANY	1,000.00
COLLECTION SERVICES CEN-		PRAIRIE ENERGY	78.86
TER	369.23	SMALL CITY RESEARCH INST	1,600.00
COLUMN SOFTWARE PBC			172.75
	132.04	T-MOBILE	10
COUNSEL OFFICE AND DOCU-		THE TRASH MAN	1,454.42
MENT	476.17	TREASURER STATE OF IOWA	
DEPT OF INSPECTIONS, AP-		VISUAL EDGE - DALLAS	1,454.42
PEALS &	75		6,000.32
FED FICA ELECTRONIC		VISUAL EDGE IT	55
	15,587.30	WINDOW MAN	22,669.67
FERGUSON WATER WORKS		WR CO ECONOMIC DEVEL	1,000.00
#2516	3,862.17		648.09
FIRST CITIZENS BANK	25	WEX BANK	88.21
VISA	824.02	ZIEGLER INC	Accounts Payable Total
GOLD-EAGLE COOP	2,504.67		77,464.46
HAWKEYE WEST PEST CON-		GENERAL	48,044.00
TROL	200	ROAD USE	5,351.50
I & S GROUP INC	7,018.89	EMPLOYEE BENEFIT FUND	3,151.97
EMERGENCY SERVICES MAR-		WATER	8,088.28
KETING	660	WATER PLANT PROJECT	
IOWA MEDICAID ENTERPRISE			7,018.89
	2,029.71	KANSAS CITY LIFE INS CO	3,677.78
IOWA SPECIALTY HOSPITAL			INTERNAL SERVICE FUND
	821.6	KANSAS CITY LIFE INSURANCE	2,132.04
IPERS		CO	144.89
	1,953.54	TOTAL FUNDS	77,464.46

Published in the Wright County Monitor on Thurs. Jan. 30, 2024

Informed citizens build stronger communities

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Wright County Conservation Prepares Wood Duck Nesting Boxes Ahead of Spring

Last week, The Wright County Conservation staff worked on cleaning wood duck nesting boxes that are placed around our wildlife areas.

These beautiful birds once faced the risk of extinction during the late 19th century and early 20th century due to overhunting and loss of habitat. However, with conservation efforts, the Wood Duck population is increasing and is considered one of the most widespread nesting duck species in Iowa.

During the spring around March, Wood Ducks begin returning to Iowa to start nesting. Wood ducks exhibit a pretty unique nesting behavior. Now, most species of ducks lay their eggs in depressions on the ground, which allows them easy escape from predators and an easy transition for ducklings who are ready to leave their nest. Wood ducks, instead, lay their eggs in cavities of trees. They are unable to create their own cavities, so they usually find an abandoned cavity or a hole in the tree where a branch broke off. Sometimes these cavities can be 60 feet high!

Being in an enclosed space while nesting means that if a predator ventures into the cavity, it is much harder for the wood duck hen to escape; leading wood ducks to have some of the highest mortality rates out of all of our duck species in Iowa. Wood duck chicks leave the nest only 24 hours after hatching! They do this



(Photo: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service)

by jumping out of the nest and falling to the ground. Yes, their nest can be up to 60 feet from the ground, but luckily since they are so light they don't get harmed. Chicks will stay on the ground with their mother until they are about 5-6 weeks old and forage for their own food. Once they reach about 8-9 weeks old they will be able to fly. Around early fall, Wood Ducks will migrate south to warmer weather.

Staff found wood duck eggs in nearly all of the boxes so they are being well used! Sometimes multiple wood duck hens will lay eggs in the same nest, known as dumping, and could result in over 20

eggs in the same nest. These eggs are not incubated, and they often do this either because there is a threat of predators or there are not enough available nesting sites. Staff did find evidence of this interesting behavior in some of the nest boxes.

If you are a landowner with possible wood duck habitat and are interested in building wood duck-specific nesting boxes, check out this publication from ISU: Woodworking for Wildlife - Wood Duck Box (ISU How to Build a Wood Duck Box). The NRCS may also be able to provide financial assistance to building costs, contact your local agency.

Iowa lawmakers dive into bills on financial aid, tuition for military members

Brooklyn Draisey, Iowa Capital Dispatch

Lawmakers discussed several bills aimed at higher education financial aid for members of the military as the Iowa Legislature began its second week with subcommittee and committee meetings.

Members of the Iowa House of Representatives met in subcommittee and the House Education Committee to go over two bills relating to the National Guard, one making changes to the Iowa National Guard Service Scholarship program and the other creating a new scholarship program for certificates and other credentials.

House Study Bill 4 would add a second limit to how much an award can be through the service scholarship program, with the current law stating scholarships cannot exceed the in-state tuition rate of Iowa's public universities. If passed, students wouldn't be able to receive scholarship funds exceeding "the difference between the tuition rate at the institution attended by the national guard member less any financial aid the national guard member receives under certain 14 specified federal programs," according to the legislation.

The bill would also strike language barring a National Guard member's unit, where they attend drills or whether they are enlisted in the Iowa Army

or Air National Guard, from being considered when determining whether an award will be given or how much.

Subcommittee member Rep. Elinor Levin, D-Iowa City, said during the subcommittee and House Education Committee meetings she would prefer the language be left in the bill, and was the only no vote in the full committee to send it to the floor.

"I have an amendment drafted that I would love to discuss after today's committee meeting, but I think that this bill should move forward, and I just hope that we can perhaps get it right before we pass it on the floor," Levin said.

Iowa National Guard Adjutant General Maj. Gen. Stephen Osborn urged lawmakers to expand the service scholarship program in his Condition of the Guard address Jan. 16, a request he previously made in 2024.

House Study Bill 3, which also passed out of subcommittee and committee, would establish a National Guard Service Professional Qualification Scholarship program to provide funds to National Guard members pursuing higher education programs that are not associate or bachelor's degrees. This would include certificates and other credential programs approved by the adjutant general, according to the legislation.

Funds not utilized by

the National Guard Service Scholarship program would be used for the new scholarships, according to the bill.

"This is a great bill," Levin said in the education committee meeting. "I think it recognizes the reality of education these days, and I'm excited to offer this opportunity to our Guards members."

A House Veterans Affairs subcommittee also reviewed legislation touching on higher education for military members.

House Study Bill 6 would expand the population of military members, veterans and family members who qualify for in-state tuition for undergraduate study at public universities and community colleges.

The bill would expand the definition of "qualified military person" in Iowa law to include veterans of armed conflict and those honorably discharged, and would qualify veterans' spouses and children for resident tuition and fees.

The Iowa House Veterans Affairs Committee is set to bring up the legislation Wednesday, according to its schedule.

Read more from Brooklyn Draisey online at IowaCapitalDispatch.com ©Copyright 2025, Iowa Capital Dispatch. Published under a Creative Commons license, CC BY-NC-ND 4.0. Read more at iowacapitaldispatch.com

Breaking Barriers

continued from page 1

A Typical Day on the Mat

Wrestling demands both physical and mental toughness, and the Webster City-CGD girls are rising to the challenge. Practices focus on learning techniques, improving conditioning and mental resilience. "I definitely push them hard when it comes to conditioning," Gomez explained. "We're not only striving to be strong physically but mentally too."

The team's hard work is paying off, even as a young squad competing against seasoned opponents. Gomez shared, "Although we are a young team, we've been competing well with upperclassmen."

The Rise of Girls' Wrestling in Iowa

In recent years, girls' wrestling has experienced explosive growth in Iowa, and Gomez had a front-row seat to this evolution. "I wrestled before it was 'cool' for girls to wrestle," she reflects. "When I wrestled, it was not just to compete but for a purpose. That purpose has been achieved with the sport growing like it has."

The addition of girls' wrestling teams in high schools is a game-changer, offering opportunities for young women to pursue a sport that once felt out of reach. It also challenges traditional gender norms, showing that girls can excel in physical and demanding sports, just like boys.

Local Wrestler's Experience

Marlee Thompson, CGD's only female representative on the shared high school team, is no stranger to excelling in physical activity. Coming from a farming family with two brothers, she is used to standing up for herself. And although Thompson appears dainty, she is a strong opponent on the mat, with a 19-8 record with 15 pins and 2 techs.

On top of this, she also holds the title of "first pin" in program history against HD-CAL's Marlee Maas. Thompson also attends Clarion's Team Valley, coached by Carl Valley, when her schedule allows it. Her wins are a clear byproduct of the work she puts in, Thompson clocks at least 12 hours a week of practice.

Marlee started wrestling

in 5th grade, and in 6th grade, her Dad, Brandon Thompson, felt she was ready for tournaments. "I quickly fell in love with the sport," she shared.

"We are very proud of her hard work and dedication to the sport," Marlee's Mom, Nora, shared.

When we asked Marlee how she felt about being an inspiration to younger girls looking to wrestle, she answered frankly, "I wish everyone would realize how happy it makes me to inspire younger girls. I hope I will always be an inspiration so we can grow this program further."

Inspiring the Next Generation

The impact of the Webster City-CGD girls' wrestling teams goes beyond wins and losses. They're role models for younger girls who may never have considered wrestling before. "I think younger girls are looking up to all of them for sure," Gomez says. "It's eye-opening to (younger girls) that girls can do physical sports just like the boys."

Reagan Hill, a 10-year-old CGD Fourth Grader, is in the CGD youth wrestling program, "I feel proud of myself when I push through. Yes, I feel strong but smart about my decisions of what moves I choose in a match." She shared that while her Dad, Kelly Hill, first inspired her to begin wrestling, Marlee Thompson, who happens to be her older cousin, inspires her to keep going when things get hard.

"It makes me want to be just like her when I grow up and keep wrestling," she shared with The Wright County Monitor. Reagan's Mom, Paige, shared that Reagan practices mostly with boys.

"We're proud of her when she gets back on the mat after a tough loss, and the fight and grit she has during matches," said Paige.

As the interest in wrestling grows among young women, it is fair to say that the CGD girl's wrestling team will be growing in the coming years. The CGD girls' middle school wrestling team has a roster of six. One of those on the team is Chantel Noshush. Chantel, 13, is in the 8th

grade at the CGD Middle School. "I wanted to try out for wrestling because I thought it looked fun and challenging." With her brother's encouragement, Noshush joined the team to "prove to myself that I can handle tough things." It is fair to say she has proved this with impressive stats of 7-2 with 7 pins and 2 falls.

She realizes that her moves mean just as much on the mat as off, "Strength isn't just about being big or physical; it's also about being smart, determined, and willing to work hard. Wrestling shows that girls can be just as tough and skilled as boys. I do feel like I'm helping fight those stereotypes by wrestling because every time I step on the mat, I'm proving that girls can do this too and do it well," Noshush shared.

The skills Noshush is honing run deep through her family. With two uncles wrestling and a brother, she has a few cheerleaders. But none more so than her parents, Jesse and Linzey Noshush. "I'll always be her biggest cheerleader, no matter what she does, but knowing she's chosen something that means so much to our family makes it even more special. I'm beyond excited to support her every step of the way, just like I did with my brothers," Linzey shared with The Wright County Monitor.

This pride isn't limited to athletes or their parents. The success of the young woman taking part in the sport of wrestling is a point of pride for the broader school community. CGD Superintendent Joseph Nelson shared: "Given Clarion's long-standing role as the cradle of Iowa High School Wrestling, growing our Girls program truly feels like the next natural step. Our current numbers aren't where they'll be in a few years but I've certainly been impressed by the commitment and dedication of our CGD MS and HS Girls. Hosting our own CGD Cowgirl Wrestling Team is our ultimate long-term goal. Given the tremendous support we have for wrestling in our school district, I truly believe this goal will be achieved much sooner rather than later."

Wright County Residents Have Over a Million Dollars in Forgotten Assets

Discover and claim yours for National Unclaimed Property Day

State Treasurer Roby Smith is spreading the word about National Unclaimed Property Day, celebrated annually on February 1.

"This is a great opportunity to raise awareness and encourage Iowans to search for their name, the names of those they know and their favorite businesses. All you need is 30 seconds to search at GreatIowaTreasureHunt.gov for unclaimed cash or assets," Smith said. "Over

\$1 million is waiting to be reunited with past and present Wright County residents."

Administered by Smith, Great Iowa Treasure Hunt is Iowa's only legitimate source for unclaimed property. Unclaimed property includes, but is not limited to, forgotten checking and savings accounts, uncashed checks, lost stocks, life insurance policies, utility security

deposits and contents from abandoned safe deposit boxes. When businesses and entities are unable to contact the rightful owner of a property, it is reported to the State as unclaimed. Great Iowa Treasure Hunt then works to locate the owner or heir of the assets so individuals can collect what is rightfully theirs.

"Returning money to rightful owners and heirs is what Great Iowa Treasure Hunt is all about," concluded Smith. "After a record-breaking reporting season, more names than ever before have been added or our list. Even if you've checked for your name in the past, check our website again!"

Celebrate National Unclaimed Property Day by sharing information about Great Iowa Treasure Hunt with friends and family. Connect with the Treasurer on Facebook, Instagram and X to stay up-to-date on all areas of the office.



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Everyday moments can be learning moments with your kids. For more tips, visit bornlearning.org

BUSINESS & PROFESSIONAL DIRECTORY

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Church news

CLARION AREA

CLARION FIRST METHODIST CHURCH
201 3rd Ave. NE, Clarion, IA 50525
Pastor Craig Luttrell
515-532-2845
website: www.clarion.church
Church Office
Hours: Monday - Thursday 8:00 a.m. - Noon
• Sunday, February 2
9:00 a.m. Sunday School for all ages
10:00 a.m. Worship Service
• Sunday, February 9
9:00 a.m. Sunday School for all ages
10:00 a.m. Worship Service

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH ELCA
420 1st St NW, Clarion, IA 515-532-3440
www.firstlutheranclarion.com
"YOU are love, YOU belong, YOU are called, and YOU are gifted"
• 9:00 a.m. Sunday Worship Services

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, CONGREGATIONAL
121 3rd Avenue N.W., Clarion
• Sunday, February 2
9:00 a.m. Worship
10:00 a.m. Fellowship

CHURCH OF CHRIST
420 North Main, Clarion
Pastor Warren Curry
515-532-3273
http://clarionchurchofchrist.weebly.com
Facebook Clarion Church of Christ
9:00 a.m. Sunday School
10:00 a.m. Worship, also live each Sunday on Facebook
6:00 a.m. Tuesday Iron Man, Fellowship Hall, Church Building
10:00 a.m. Wednesday, Weekly Prayer Time Fellowship Hall, Church Building
Ongoing Bible Studies - times and locations vary; check for more information at the church office week.

ST. JOHN CATHOLIC
608 2nd Ave. N.E., Clarion
Father Jerry W. Blake, Pastor
515-532-3586
• Wednesday, January 29
Youth Faith Formation
7:40 a.m. Rosary at St. Francis, Belmond
8:00 a.m. Mass at St. Francis, Belmond
6:30 p.m. Youth Faith Formation at all Parishes
• Thursday, January 30
11:40 a.m. Rosary at Sacred Heart, Eagle Grove
12:00 p.m. Mass at Sacred Heart, Eagle Grove
• Friday, January 31
7:40 a.m. Rosary at St. John, Clarion
8:00 a.m. Mass at St. John, Clarion, IA
• Saturday, February 1
Food Pantry and Script Cards
3:15 p.m. A/B at St. Francis, Belmond
4:00 p.m. Mass at St. Francis, Belmond
7:15 p.m. A/B at St. John, Clarion
8:00 p.m. Spanish Mass at St. John, Clarion
Sunday, February 2
7:15 a.m. A/B at Sacred Heart, Eagle Grove
8:00 a.m. Mass at Sacred Heart, Eagle Grove
9:45 a.m. A/B at St. John, Clarion
10:30 a.m. Mass at St. John, Clarion
• Monday, February 3
8:15 a.m. Rosary at St. Francis, Belmond
1:00 p.m. cluster Social Justice at St. Francis, Belmond
6:30 p.m. OCIA at St. John, Clarion
• Tuesday, February 4
No Mass

• Wednesday, February 5
No Mass
6:30 p.m. YFF Classes at all Churches

UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
219 First Street N.W. Clarion
515-532-2709
• Sunday 9:00 a.m.
• Sunday 10:30 a.m. Adult Sunday School Class
• Wednesdays 6:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study
• Saturdays 8:00 a.m. Men's Group

THE LIGHTHOUSE CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE
Dana Wendel, Pastor
1010 2nd Street SW; Clarion
515-293-3003
FREE Dinner will be on the first Sunday of the month.
• Sunday
9:30 a.m. Coffee Time
9:45 a.m. Sunday School
10:45 a.m. Worship
• Tuesday
11:00 a.m. Prayer Time
• Iglesia del Nazareno
6:00 p.m. Domingo
Lay Minister Mynor
515-851-9699
Bienvenidos

GOLDFIELD AREA

Rejoice Church: A Word and Spirit Church
Pastors Cris and Jennifer Decious
Sunday worship 10:30 am
www.Rejoicechurchiowa.com or watch us on facebook
NEW LOCATION! We will begin IN PERSON WORSHIP services starting on DECEMBER 1, 2024 in our home worship room at 3320 210th St. Goldfield, IA 50542

UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
220 E. Oak St., Goldfield, IA 50542
515-825-3581
goldfield.upc@gmail.com
Facebook@goldpres
"A Church for the Community"
Office M-F 7:30 - 11:30 a.m.
• Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m.
LAKE LUTHERAN CHURCH
Goldfield
Pastor Ron Rasmussen
• Sunday, February 2
10:00 a.m. Worship Service and Fellowship Coffee in the Fellowship Room.
No Sunday School

GOLDFIELD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
P.O. Box 214
515-825-3754
New Pastor: Pastor Laurene Banza
We welcome all!
Pastor Laurene is from the Democratic Republic of Congo Africa.
• Sunday Services
11:00 a.m. Worship time

HOLMES EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
Pastor George Lautner
412-874-9878
• Sunday, February 2
9:30 a.m. Worship & Communion

HOLMES BAPTIST CHURCH
2137 Hancock Avenue
Pastor Cody Huber
515-825-3110
• Sundays
9:30 a.m. Sunday school, 10:30 a.m. Worship Service, 5 p.m. Evening Service
• Wednesdays
Prayer Meeting, youth group, kids club (1st - 6th grades - during school year)

WRIGHT CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH
1730 130th Street, Kanawha
641-762-3947
• Sunday, February 2
9:30 a.m. Morning Worship, 10:30 a.m. Fellowship, 11 a.m. Sunday School, 6 p.m. Evening Worship

ROWAN AREA

UNITED CHURCH OF ROWAN
Pastor Nancy Hofmeister
811 Pesch St., Box 38, Rowan
• Sundays
10:00 a.m. Worship
• Wednesdays
1:30 p.m. Bible Study
Thursday, February 2
10:00 a.m. Clergy Cluster

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
Missouri Synod
Jct. Highway 69 & 3
Pastor Mark Eichler
• Sunday, February 2
10:30 a.m. Divine Services, 11:45 a.m. Bible Study

DOWS AREA

SOVEREIGN GRACE CHURCH
109 N. Eskridge St., Dows
Dows / www.sgcdows.com
Doug Holmes, Pastor
• Sunday, February 2
10:15 a.m. Sunday school, Coffee, 11:15 a.m. Worship at First Presbyterian in Dows

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH
Dows, IA
Masking is option
• Sunday, February 2
9:00 a.m. Conf/SS/Coffee
10:30 a.m. Worship/Communion
Installation of Officers

UNITED METHODIST & PRESBYTERIAN
Dows February 2
10 a.m. Dows Joint Worship at Untied Methodist

FIRST REFORMED
214 Brown St., Alexander
• Sundays
9:30 a.m. Worship, 10:30 a.m. Coffee Fellowship

IMMANUEL U.C.C.
204 E. South St., Latimer
Joe Dunnwald
• Sunday, February 2
10:30 a.m. Worship

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN
304 W. Main, Latimer
Travis Berg, Pastor
• Sunday, February 2
9 a.m. Worship, 10:15 a.m. ABC/Sunday School

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Morgan, Lee Center, Bradford
Erling Shultz, Pastor
• Sunday, February 2
8:30 a.m. Worship (B), 9:30 a.m. Worship (LC), 10:30 a.m. Worship (M)

MISSIONARY ALLIANCE CHURCH
3rd & Lake Streets, Blairsburg, IA 50034
• Sundays
8:45 - 9:45 a.m. Café is open serving donuts, smoothies and coffee beverages
9:00 a.m. Adult Sunday School

10:00 a.m. Worship Service
10:00 a.m. Nursery available for children up to age 2
10:00 a.m. Kids Church for children 2 years to grade 5
• Wednesday
5:45 - 6:15 p.m. Café Open
6:30 p.m. Youth
6:30 p.m. Kids Club for children grades 1-5

NAZARETH LUTHERAN
Coulter
Pastors Tom Dettmer and Stanley Peterson
• Sunday, February 2
9:30a.m. Joint Sunday Worship Service with Holy Communion, Coffee to follow
• Dinner is the first Sunday of the month



Reconnect
With Your Church Community

The Clarion Wire

** Your last day to get your 'local lottery' cards filled and turned in! CDA businesses are celebrating the new year with its "2025 Local Lottery" during the month of January! There are 24 participating businesses! Spend \$\$, get a punch on a 'lottery' card; get \$100 worth of punches. Turn the filled card in to a participating business. Win \$100, \$50 or \$25 with a drawing held on February 4! You can't win if you don't play!!
** Play BINGO every Friday at the Senior Citizens Center from 1:30 - 3:30 p.m.
** Saturday, February 1 is "National Ice Cream for Breakfast Day". Main Scoop opens its doors that day at 8 a.m.!
** Clarion's BLOOD DRIVE is Tuesday, February 4 from 1 - 6 p.m. at the United Presbyterian Church.
** Clarion's Senior Citizens Center, Play '500 cards', the first and third Wednesdays of each month. Next ones will be on Wednesdays, February 5 & 19 from 1:30 - 3:30 p.m.
** 2nd Annual "Chocolate Crawl" with Clarion merchants on Thursday, February 6! Join the fun!!!
** American Legion in Dows; their next meals on Main Street in Dows - Sunday, February 9 from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. Riders soup lunch. And the Legion's Spaghetti dinner. Sunday, February 16. Same times!
** First Lutheran Church FOOD PANTRY in Clarion, 420 - First Street N.W., is open on the second and fourth Thursdays of each month, from 5 - 7 p.m. Next

events are February 13 and 27! (may visit ONE of its four locations once a week per household).
** Time is coming short! Wright County Charitable Foundation is calling on area non-profit organizations to submit grant applications for funding to initiate projects and programs that benefit the people of Wright County; applications being accepted through February 15. Visit their website at https://www.wrightcounty.iowa.gov/departments/economic_development/charitable_foundation.php or call Darrel Steven Carlyle at (515) 532-6422.
** "Cupid's Carnival", lots of indoor fun, on Sunday, February 16 from 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. CGD high school.
** AT THE CLARION THEATRE: Showing "DogMan" on Friday - Sunday, January 31 - February 2 @ 7 p.m.; Sunday matinee, February 2 @ 2:30 p.m.
** FOCUS ON BUSINESS: Enjoy Mexican food menu at Carmen's Super Tacos, 1218 Central Avenue East in Clarion (former Cayler building). 8 a.m. - 8 p.m.; enter at the east door. Tuesday - Sunday. 515-825-7281.
** MONEY SAVING TIP: Lots of discounts on clothes at Italics Boutique! (North Main in Clarion). A number of 50% racks!
** THANK YOU: To Iowa Specialty Hospital - its management, doctors, staff, and volunteers who make the 'hub of activity' GO! Giving great medical care to the residents of north central Iowa!



NOTICE

Please kindly note that the main staff of The Wright County Monitor works remotely and does not operate an office in Clarion. For direct communication, please contact Newspaper Editor and Writer Amanda Rink by phone/text at 515.364.2344 or by email at news@wrightcountymonitor.com.

	Office: (563) 864-3333 Cell: (563) 605-1078		<p style="text-align: center;">“ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. ” John 1:1-3 NIV</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Before There Were Words</p> <p>The Gospel of John begins with this metaphysical equation of God with "the Word," who it becomes clear shortly thereafter, is Jesus. But the Word that would take on flesh and become Jesus is here being identified with the principle of creation through whom all things were made, and we aren't necessarily compelled to believe that prior to Jesus' physical existence it was Jesus who was creating the world, but rather that the Word is the creative aspect of the Godhead which would later take on the physical and historical aspect of Jesus. Jesus is the historical manifestation of the Word, who existed at a particular time and place and with a particular body, but the Word is also the ahistorical and timeless creative part of God which brought the physical universe into being and continues this creative function as the universe continues to unfold. Jesus helps us to understand God and at the same time helps us to see the invisible God in the visible universe. -Christopher Simon</p>	Office: (563) 864-3333 Cell: (563) 605-1078	Office: (563) 864-3333 Cell: (563) 605-1078	 HANSON & SONS Tire and Auto Service 1407 Central Ave. East Clarion, IA 50525 Phone 515-532-2444 Fax 515-532-2299 www.hansontire.net Email: che_hanson72@yahoo.com
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Words of Wisdom

Last week's trivia questions:
 What actor starred in movies including American Gangster, Cinderella Man, 3:10 to Yuma, and Gladiator? Answer: Russell Crowe.
 What actor starred in movies including The Perfect Storm, From Dusk Till Dawn, O Brother Where Art Thou?, and Ocean's Eleven?
 Answer: George Clooney.



This week's trivia questions:
 What is the name of the famous groundhog celebrated each year on Feb. 2?
 What actor starred in the movie Groundhog Day, and co-starred in movies including Ghostbusters, Caddyshack, Scrooged, and Stripes?

Jan. 29 is National Puzzle Day, and National Carnation Day; Jan. 30 is NASA's Day of Remembrance, and School Day of Non-Violence and Peace; Jan. 31 is National Hot Chocolate Day, and International Zebra Day; Feb. 1 is Dark Chocolate Day, and National Freedom Day; Feb. 2 is Groundhog Day, World Wetlands Day, and National River Day; Feb. 3 is American Painter's Day, and National Women Physicians Day; Feb. 4 is World Cancer Day, Farmer's Day, and Sweater Day.

This week is Catholic Schools Week, and National Meat Week.

"True leaders inspire others. If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a leader."
 - John Quincy Adams

"The best way to predict your future is to create it."
 - Abraham Lincoln

"The harder the conflict, the greater the triumph."
 - George Washington

"Honestly, if I were two-faced, would I be showing you this one?"
 - Abraham Lincoln

"How has retirement affected my golf game? A lot more people beat me now."
 - Dwight D. Eisenhower

"If one morning I walked on top of the water across the Potomac River, the headline that afternoon would read 'President Can't Swim.'
 - Lyndon B. Johnson

"I will not make age an issue of this campaign. I am not going to exploit for political purposes my opponent's youth and inexperience."
 - Ronald Reagan

"I have often wanted to drown my troubles, but I can't seem to get my wife to go swimming."
 - Jimmy Carter

Groundhogs are related to squirrels, chipmunks, and prairie dogs. (Groundhogs, also known as woodchucks, belong to the squirrel family and are part of the marmot tribe, which includes ground squirrels like chipmunks and prairie dogs.

As the largest members of this family, groundhogs share characteristics with their relatives, such as being skilled diggers and creating extensive underground caves).

Actor Chris Pratt apparently stole his Star-Lord costume from the set of his movie "Guardians of the Galaxy", so he could show up in costume to visit sick children in the hospital, who might want to meet Star-Lord.

Obituaries

Donald Denton Reed 1947 - 2025

Donald Denton Reed, the son of Warren D. and Ruth P. (Hanson) Reed, was born on February 9, 1947, in Charles City, Iowa. He was raised and educated in Clarion - graduating from Clarion High School in 1965 and ICC - Elevator and Farm Supply Program in 1971.

Don served in the United States Marine Corps from January 1968 to December 1969 during the Vietnam War.

On October 9, 1971, Don was united in marriage with Janice Carter at the Ullensvang Lutheran Church in Thor.

Don worked many years in the agricultural field. Don retired from the USPS in 2009 after 20 years as a rural mail carrier.

Don never met a stranger. He became a friend to everyone he met. His greatest passion was his family - his grandsons being the sparkle in his eyes.

Don passed away at home after a courageous twelve-year battle with cancer on Thursday, January 23, 2025, at the age of 77 years. He was preceded in death by his parents, in-laws John and Lucille Carter and brother, Brian Reed.

Don is survived by his wife of 53 years, Jan Reed; sons, Kyle Reed (Mandy) of Ankeny and Kirk Reed of Fort Dodge; grandsons, Tyson Carter and Langdon Tate Reed; brothers, Dennis Reed (Denise), Kevin Reed (Julie) and Brent Reed; sisters, Melia



Asche (Steve), Brenda Reed (Jim Fisher) and Lori Kloberdanz (Jerry); brother-in-law, Gary Carter (Sue); sister-in-law, Carolyn Matteson (Jon); step mother, Millie Reed; several nieces and nephews; special lifelong friends, Steve and Beth Core of Frost, MN and his faithful, furry companion, Libby Lou.

Visitation was Monday from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. at Foust Funeral Home. Memorial services were held on Tuesday, January 28, 2025, 11:00 a.m. at Samuel Lutheran Church in Eagle Grove - the service was livestreamed on the Samuel Lutheran Church Eagle Grove, Iowa Facebook page. Burial with Military Honors took place in East Ullensvang Cemetery in Thor.

Memorials may be left to ONE VISION (In the Memo: of Don Reed.

Foust Funeral Home, Eagle Grove www.foustfh.com

Monitor Memories

FROM THE ARCHIVES OF THE WRIGHT COUNTY MONITOR
1983 - 1948

42 Years Ago February 3, 1983

Even though the cold winds of winter still have a grip on the area, a group of Clarion residents are already making plans for one of the community's biggest summertime events. The "Festival in the Park" committee, which is made up of a group of some 20 Clarion residents and is chaired by Bud Gates, has begun to make plans and preparations for the June 11 event.

A gymnastics program is being established in Clarion for boys and girls, ages 5 to 18. The classes will be instructed by Roger Hollingsworth of the Hollingsworth School of Dance and Gymnastics at Fort Dodge. Instruction will be given in tumbling, vaulting, balance beam and the uneven bars.

Clarion Coast to Coast captured team honors during the annual Clarion Women's Bowling Association Tournament last weekend at Hi-Hatt Lanes. Coast to Coast used a balanced effort to roll 2760 team total for that title. Bowling for the winners were Dianne Watts, Shirley Hill, Sheryl Segoe, Bev Mosher and Betty Watts.

77 Years Ago January 29, 1948

Highway Patrolmen Al Sparvy and Harland Sievers placed a large highway map of Wright county in The Monitor display window Monday afternoon, which will during the year depict a careful record of all highway accidents, property loss and traffic violations. Data will be added to the map as it is received from patrol headquarters in Des Moines.

Unemployment has increased in the Clarion area during the past 30 days, according to D. J. Jerde, manager of the Iowa State Employment service in Wright county. A greater portion of the unemployment is in the laboring category, and has been caused by the reduction in construction, seasonal lay off on farms, and dormancy in the produce plants.

Traffic on the Chicago Great Western through Clarion was slightly disrupted Monday as the result of a derailment near Minden. A locomotive and 10 cars of a freight train overturned. The train was bound from Council Bluffs to Clarion. There were no injuries and only negligible loss.

IOWA NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION
HOW ARE YOUR LOCAL TAXES SPENT?
 iowanotices.org
 All Iowa public notices in one place... free, searchable and online

Free Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA)

Free Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) is again available in Hamilton and Wright counties this year, according to Barb Wollan of Iowa State University Extension and Outreach. The option is possible thanks to the efforts of dedicated local volunteers, and begins in early February.

NEW this year: a Belmond site will eliminate the need for Belmond residents to travel to Clarion for tax appointments. In addition, Wollan reports that "We're continuing the new do-it-yourself preparation option, and providing assistance to clients who choose to prepare their own returns." As a result, two VITA options are available locally: an in-person appointment, OR the "do-it-yourself" option.

Do-It-Yourself. Taxpayers can do their own federal and state tax returns free online, at a link provided by the local VITA site, while turning to the VITA program for help in choosing the right filing status and claiming the credits they are eligible for. That help will be available by phone

and email. To get started, send an email to CentrallovaVITA@gmail.com, no sooner than January 23, and you will receive a response with instructions.

Preparation by Volunteers. Those who prefer to have their tax return prepared by IRS-certified volunteers must make an appointment with their local site. BEFORE that appointment they must complete information worksheets. Clients can pick up copies of the forms at the County Extension Office (311 Bank St in Webster City OR 2302 Madison Ave in Clarion) OR they can come 20 minutes early to their appointment and fill out the forms on site.

Many clients will come for about an hour-long appointment and leave with their completed tax return. Others will come for two separate 20-minute appointments: one to do an intake interview and collect their paperwork, and the second to review their return and sign it.

Wollan particularly encourages families who qualify for the Earned In-



come Tax Credit (EITC) to take advantage of the free tax preparation. By avoiding tax and loan fees, these families can put 100% of those funds to use in ways that build financial security and help them reach additional financial goals."

Eligibility. For the "do-it-yourself" option, the only eligibility rule is that income must be below \$79,000. Taxpayers who wish to have taxes prepared for them by a volunteer must fit certain criteria, since there are some tax issues the IRS does not allow volunteers to address. Most taxpayers with income reported on W-2 or 1099 forms can have their returns

done by the volunteers. Volunteers do not prepare returns with farm or rental income, or in certain other complex situations. Taxpayers with low to moderate incomes are eligible - anyone up to \$45,000 and families with two or more children up to \$63,000.

Appointments Required. In Clarion call Wright County Extension (515-532-3453); in Belmond, call 641-425-9713. Appointments are also available in Webster City: call 515-297-3717. Local VITA efforts are supported by ISU Extension and by funding through the Iowa Center for Economic Success.

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The Thompson Times

Representative Mark Thompson, House District 56

The past week was short, but rather intense. Whenever veterans and FFA students show up on the same day, the capitol is packed. I led a subcommittee on Veterans issues relating to local veterans' service officers (VSO) and state veterans' affairs implementation of services.

In the local government arena, I led a subcommittee regarding a proposal to alert taxpayers more effectively regarding changes in tax rates and bonds. The proposal was tabled. I was in favor of tabling due to feedback last year in which small counties (like ours) were forced to spend their own funds to send out additional statements that ultimately (in many cases) did not clarify how our taxes were being spent.

There are several pictures of the FFA students that were taken in the well of the House Chambers. Unfortunately, I was only able to take one group to the top of the Capitol, due to other meetings that day. Hopefully in the future, such large groups are de-conflicted.

We also held our first subcommittee meeting on justice appropriations. While that sounds rather bland, I discovered it has significant potential since resources for victims of human trafficking and other violent crimes originate from this subcommittee. Victims (and survivors) are a key component of future human trafficking legislation and this was a valuable meeting to understand the process to pay for such assistance as well as the investigative and prosecutorial elements.

There has been a deluge of bills being introduced, some more impactful and meaningful than others. I



Christine Oliver, Administrator, Wright County Veterans Affairs visiting at the Capitol.

remain committed to being part of meaningful legislation.

First-Ever Federal and Other Funds Budget Subcommittee Meeting

- The newly-formed Federal and Other funds Budget Subcommittee also met for the first time this week.
- Historically, any money allocated to the state of Iowa from the federal government comes with many strings attached.
- Federal programs too often treat states like Iowa exactly the same as California, even though our needs are very different. The reality is that states are much better equipped to react to situations and know what is best for their citizens. But too often, the federal government stands in our way.
- The current administration has expressed a willingness to work with states to make these programs better tailored to each state's needs.
- With this new committee, Iowa will be one of the leaders in the country on how to best use this new flexibility from the federal government.

Newly Formed Higher Education Committee's Agenda Takes Shape

- This week, the newly formed "Higher Education" committee released 14 bills for consideration. These bills give a good idea of what's on the table for this committee this year.
- These bills include ideas to make college more affordable, review academic programs' alignment with the state's workforce needs, ensure students are free from indoctrination, and eliminate DEI from all institutes of higher education, among other ideas.
- **ESA Funding**
 - Recently, it was posted on Facebook that the state's ESA program will cost Iowa taxpayers \$1 billion. The actual number expected to be spent on ESAs during this school year is \$218 million.
 - In the FY 2025 budget, state aid to public schools' accounts for 43.62% of the entire state budget. That's the biggest piece of the pie by far. ESAs, meanwhile, account for 2.01% of the total state budget.

Two Arrested for Stealing Grave, Historical Site Markers

Jennifer Burnham, Mid-America Publishing

Local law enforcement has arrested two residents in connection to the missing grave and historical site markers in the area.

The plaques were bronze and some were for veterans. A press release was distributed by the Franklin County Sheriff's Office Friday evening after the arrests were made earlier in the day.

Brandon Smith, 44, of Hampton, was arrested and charged with theft in the first degree, criminal mischief in the first degree and theft in the fourth degree.

Lauren Johnson, 34, of Dumont, was also arrested and is facing a charge of theft in the first degree.

Two other suspects have been identified, with charges pending, as noted in the press release.

The Franklin County Sheriff's Office executed the search warrant and arrest for Smith, with help from the Hampton Police Department. The Butler County Sheriff's Office executed the search

and arrest for Johnson, with assistance from the Franklin County Sheriff's Office.

The press release stated that the arrests were made after an extensive investigation into the disappearance of grave markers and historical site markers reported missing over the last month. The markers were taken from multiple rural and city cemeteries across Franklin County, with additional reports of missing markers in Butler and Cerro Gordo counties.

The plaque on the large rock in Memorial Park in Hampton was one of the targeted locations, along with Harlan Cemetery in Dumont, Maynes Grove Cemetery, and Beeds Lake Cemetery.

"It's just such a violation for us and all who are dealing with these thefts," said Kathy Hotchkiss.

The bronze military plaque was stolen from her father's gravestone at Beeds Lake cemetery. His name was Howard Muhlenbruch.



Brandon Smith



Lauren Johnson

Woodland Management and Water Quality Workshop to be held February 18th near Webster City

Iowa Learning Farms, in partnership with Iowa State University, will host a woodland management and water quality workshop on Tuesday, February 18th from 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Briggs Wood Conference Center near Webster City. We welcome farmers and landowners to attend the free workshop and join us for a complimentary meal.

Hosted by Billy Beck, Iowa State University Extension and Outreach Forestry Specialist, and Michelle Soupir, Iowa State University Professor of Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering, the workshop aims to discuss how woodland management and woodchip bioreactors can work together to reduce nitrate and improve water quality. Through an innovative research and demonstration project support by USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture, the team is exploring how traditionally low value timber species perform in woodchip bioreactors in an effort to meet both landowner woodland management and statewide water quality goals.

The event will be held at the Briggs Wood Conference Center - Van Diest Supply Company Meeting Room, 2501 Briggs Woods Trail, Webster City and is free and open to farmers and landowners though we require reservations to ensure adequate space and food. Attendees will enjoy



Woodchip bioreactor installation in Buena Vista County June 2019. (Photo: Iowa Learning Farms)

a complimentary meal and be entered in a drawing for ISU Prairie Strips honey. For reasonable accommodations and to RSVP, please contact Liz Ripley at 515-294-5429 or ilf@iastate.edu.

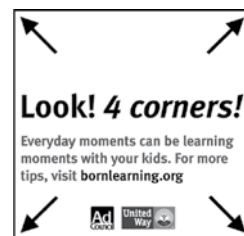
This event is supported by a USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture grant award 2024-68016-42660. Iowa Learning Farms field days and workshops are supported by the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service. For more information about Iowa Learning Farms, visit www.iowalearningfarms.org.

About Iowa Learning Farms

Established in 2004, Iowa Learning Farms is building a Culture of Conservation by encouraging adoption of conservation practices. Farmers, researchers and

ILF team members are working together to identify and implement the best management practices that improve water quality and soil health while remaining profitable. Partners of Iowa Learning Farms include the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, Iowa State University Extension and Outreach, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, and Iowa Department of Natural Resources (USEPA section 319) and GROW-MARK, Inc.

Related Links: <https://www.iowalearningfarms.org/events-1>



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THE SCARLET & BLACK

THE CLARION-GOLDFIELD-DOWS STUDENT NEWSPAPER

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Thursday, January 30, 2025 • The Wright County Monitor 9

The Scarlet and Black Returns! Reviving CGD's Historic Student Newspaper

Amanda Rink,
Editor of The Wright County Monitor

The Scarlet & Black, Clarion's historic student newspaper originally published in 1926, is making a comeback! After decades of silence since its last issue, dedicated efforts have been underway for more than a year to revive this voice for our local student body.

Under the leadership of the Wright County Monitor's Editor, Amanda Rink, the Wright County Monitor's Designer, Sarah Duda, and CGD T.A.G Teacher, Tanja Jensen, the paper will once again provide students with a platform to share their ideas, opinions, and talents.

The Scarlet & Black has a key goal of reconnecting with its legacy while empowering a new generation of

local young writers, creators, and leaders.

As a monthly publication, The Scarlet & Black hopes to inform, engage, and unite readers and most importantly, the student writers. From highlighting student achievements to addressing important student issues, the paper will serve as both a source of information, a history keeper, and a rallying point for school pride... all from the point of view of the students!

Most importantly, this revival offers opportunities for students to develop critical skills in writing, thinking, and teamwork. For the wider community, the return of The Scarlet & Black is a chance to celebrate the creativity and passion of our youth.

Local businesses are invited to partner with the revival by placing ads in the Scarlet & Black. Your support will not only help sustain the newspaper but also connect your business to a loyal and local audience.

For more information on advertising opportunities, contact sales@wrightcountymonitor.com or design@wrightcountymonitor.com. If your student is interested in writing for the Scarlet & Black, please reach out to Tanja Jensen (tjensen@clargold.org) or Amanda Rink (news@wrightcountymonitor.com). The Scarlet & Black is to be published the last Thursday of every month school is in session, covering topics brought to you by K-12 students at CGD.



Elementary Student Lighthouse Team

L to R Row 1 Finn Warnke, Leah Simmons, Maybelline Hernandez Lopez, Reagan Hill, Harrison Cramer, Hadlee Muhlenbruch. Row 2 Teddy Luttrell, Lauren Murphy, Zayta Whorley, Ben Engstler, Ellie Dahlgren, Kruz Marker. Advisors Sarah Kakacek and Tanja Jensen



Peer Helper

L to R Row 1 Mynae Espinoza, Austin LaRue, Maxton Downing, Madden Johnson, Josh Haunstein, Greta Webb, Kate Farnum, Row 2 Vanessa Ruiz, Fanny Poac, Addyson Greenfield, Preston Gniadecki, Max Engstler, Kohen Langfitt, Paxton Lingenfelter, Reed Campbell, Morgan Keller, Kyah Kelley, Neveah Morales, Haddi Lantzky. Missing Will Engstler, Austin LaRue

CGD School Pride!

Students Doing Incredible Things Little bit of Sunshine

Tanja Jensen,
Scarlet & Black Editor

Kayleigh Marshall is a 6th grade student. She started her own business a year ago called "Little Bit of Sunshine Co." It is on Facebook if you would like to check it out! She creates custom bracelets for sale, which is pretty amazing endeavor for a 6th grader.

Kaleigh took her business to the next level this fall when a neighboring community had a young man fighting cancer and made bracelets to help the Beecher Family.

She made a substantial donation from the proceeds of her bracelets donating \$2 from each bracelet. Her small little business began doing epic things!

Next, we have two music teachers right now courageously battling cancer. I have included the posts and the pictures.

We did a K-12 hat day to raise funds and Kayleigh once again stepped in. She started making CGD music bracelets right away and advertised them. She then had businesses stepping up and matching her donation, as well as monetary gifts. Her total she raised was \$3,272.

Kayleigh, as a 6th grader, has done incredible things most adults only dream of! She exemplifies incredible leadership, compassion, and the drive to help others.



Lake Cornelia Service Project

Mynae Espinoza,
CGD 8th Grade

CGD Middle School Peer Helpers had their first community service experience on September 25, 2024. They went to Lake Cornelia to pick up trash around the lake and even did some team-building activities. They had much fun picking up trash with their peers and helping the community stay clean.

When they were picking up trash they found lots of garbage lying around the lake, but that didn't stop them from helping their community. The Peer Helper team also did archery and kayaking as a team-building activity. They learned that people don't have to be good at something just to have fun with their peers. They also help the community stay clean at our beautiful Lake Cornelia.



CGD Middle School Quarter 2 Honor Roll

5th Grade A Honor Roll:

Romario Maldonado Alvarez, Gabrielle Barrett*, Asher Bean, Edgar Bouttaphanh, Corbin Carder, Iker Ordonez Chocop*, Cooper Corrow, Greyson Disney*, Valeria Garcia Lopez, Parker Gniadecki, William Gonzalez Lopez, Elizabeth Hernandez Ordonez, Skyla Jergenson, Jazmin Jimenez Alegria, Ridge Johnson Gilliland, Kali LaRue, Catherine Lopez, Myla Loux, Sebastian Luttrell*, Lisbeth Lux Carrillo, Zion Marshall, Kendra Matute Hernandez, Howard Miller, Avyn Morgan*, Elsie Nail*, Elliot Nerlien, Bentley Nickell, Ximena Rico-Garcia, Emily Rivera Pelico, Gabriel Rosenkilde, Nikko Russell, Lizbeth Samol, Akemi Sanchez, Jake Schnittjer, Austin Scott*, Zedekiah Shockley, Nolan Simmons*, Jaxon Stumpf*, Alison Tijull Barrios*, Suliana Tukuafu*, Corbin Watts, Ryker Watts*, Kiley Weets*, Josue Wigui Otzoy, Zoey Wilson, Estefania Zamora Chinchilla.

5th Grade B Honor Roll:

Hunter Austin, Maverick Bures, Brooklynn Comstock, Dulce Del Risco, Kactin Gangstead, Kendra Hernandez Martinez, Vilma Juarez Romero, Mavis Lundy, Steve Martinez Hernandez, Parker Murray, Emmett Nelson, Vanessa Reyes, Wyatt Rivera, Carter Smith, Wyatt Smith, Hayden Tillman, Belinda Villagres Gonzalez.

6th Grade A Honor Roll:

Charlie Allen*, Madelynn Ammerman, Coleman Carder*, John Etheredge*, Easton Fiscus, Evan Freybler, Sky Hoang*, Eva Hogle*, Ciaran Holmes*, Olivia Holmes*, Camille Keller, Kaden Kelley, Sullivan Lewis*, Kayleigh Marshall*, Juan Morales*, Samuel Pelico, Carter Roberts*, Jaxson Ruba, Gracyn Schmeling*, Sterling Slifer, Emery Staples*, Sheamus Webb*, Lucy Wibholm*.

6th Grade B Honor Roll:

Adriana Annis, Rene Gonzalez Leyva, Kevin Hernandez Gonzalez, Tanya Jimenez Alegria, Kendyl Langfitt, Daniela Matul Vasquez, Lillian Mittan, Decker Olson, James Ordonez Tijull, Kaeson Ring, Scarlett Rivera Pelico, Zachary Roush.

7th Grade A Honor Roll:

Ainsley Ahrens, Alec Boyken, Maverick Corrow, Maxwell Engstler, William Engstler, Kaitlyn Farnum, Addyson Greenfield*, Reese Hennigar, Judah Keller, Alivia Kirstein*, Austin LaRue*, Keira Martin- Prescott, Rilee Miller, Tucker Morrical*, Kinlee Nail*, Daily Ordonez Lopez, Kendrick Phetxoumphone, Cyprus Redenius*, Malia Rothman, Piper Russell*, Jaxson Sly*, Jarek TerHark, Bridget Warnke, Owen Watts*, Greta Webb*, Aerimez (AO) Whorley.

7th Grade B Honor Roll:

Andrea Alvarez Maldonado, Wyatt Askvig, Emily Barcenas Ordonez, Benson Burres, Klay Butler, Escarlett Calvo Morales, Amie Eekhoff, Alianna Fjetland, Raygen Garza, Ember Howell, Booker Lingenfelter, Christopher Lomeli Tevalan, Nathaly Lopez Perez, Dracyn Morgan, Joselyn Ordonez Tijull, Dayrin Perez Ordonez, Fanny Poac, Michel Rico-Garcia, Andrea Robles Camacho, Emilio Rodriguez Venegas, Vanessa Ruiz-Antonio, Alison Santiago, Owen Schaffer, Joseph "JJ" Sheehan, Esmelda Sofoifa Maldonado, Blaine Thompson, Matthew Tijull Villatoro, Christopher Tucker.

8th Grade A Honor Roll:

Reed Campbell*, Maxton Downing*, Victor Gaytan Moreno*, Preston Gniadecki*, Joshua Hauenstein*, Hadassah Lantzky*, Paxton Lingenfelter, Jennyfer Mejicanos Lopez, Carson Ott, Samantha Seaba*, Drew Smith*, Noly Torsell*.

8th Grade B Honor Roll:

Blake Bilyeu, Lilita Bobadilla, Mynae Espinoza, Gabriel Garner, Madden Johnson, Nathan Kakacek, Mallory Keller, Morgan Keller, Kyah Kelley, Juan Largo Barrios, Neveah Morales, Juan Murillo Velasquez, Peyton Nicholson, Chantel Noshub, Ellyana Ray, Nick Savov, Tretyn Solis, Aubrianna Tucker.

THE SCARLET & BLACK

THE CLARION-GOLDFIELD-DOWS STUDENT NEWSPAPER

10 The Wright County Monitor • Thursday, January 30, 2025

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Rep. Thompson Welcomes FFA Members

On Wednesday, January 22, Rep. Mark Thompson (R-Clarion) welcomed members of the West Hancock, Belmond Klemme, Clarion-Goldfield-Dows, and Humboldt FFA chapters to the Iowa House during the FFA Legislative Symposium.



CGD High School Student Council

Kalli Schermer, Jairo Santis, Harley Charlson, Jordyce Duncalf, Belle Wharton, Nic Curry, Audrey Egland, Owen Sweeney, Lea Charlson, Lydia Langfitt, Damon Fouts

One on One with Band Teacher Miss Katz

Nic Curry

Miss Katz, where did you teach before you came here to Clarion-Goldfield-Dows?

Before I began teaching here I was teaching back at Waukee, one of the largest schools in Iowa as a middle school band teacher.

When did you decide you wanted to be a teacher?

I hadn't really wanted to become a teacher at first as half of my family is already within the education system and several people realized after I had such a connection with music and that going into the music education system it happened to become such a great career.

What is the difference between Waukee and Clarion-Goldfield-Dows that you have come to acknowledge?

Waukee was a huge school system, so there were more staff members and the band program was pretty great. But still, you didn't see as many students as often as the system was so large. Here at CGD, I get to see all the students and create new bonds with them.

Where did you go to college? What led you to go to that college?

I went to college at Union University in Jackson, Tennessee. At first, I was looking for an applied linguistic career but instead through a scholarship, and then realized that I wanted to become a music teacher. People around me even pointed out my love for music and how much I enjoyed it then it clicked. Union University was a great school as it

was smaller and had a family feel to it. Then recently I got my Master's in music technology.

So far at CGD what has been your favorite teaching moment?

I'm not sure I could narrow it down to one as I am just enjoying the process of getting to know the students and what is important to them. Then what I can do to serve the community and the students.

Miss Katz, what do you envision going into the school year with the CGD band?

I sorta only had some short-term goals as the marching band has been the main focus and with the time we had so as we got to work I got to check mark some work for the CGD marching band. Then this upcoming Friday we get to work with the middle schoolers and we can show them what high school band is all about.

One final question: is it difficult being surrounded by most of your family whilst at work? I know I could never do it.

I actually don't see my family much as my band lessons and the chaotic schedule with the middle school work and a lot of other daily obligations make it so that I only see them about once during the school day. But it is nice to see them after living far away for a few years, first in Tennessee over 10 hours away, and then living in Southern Iowa which is around 3 hours away.



Miss Ansley Katz has seven years of teaching experience. In the 2024/2025 school year CGD was happy to welcome Miss Katz to teach the high school band students. (Photo: Belle Wharton)



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SPORTS

(Photos: Taylor Smith)

Wildcats Quell Cowboy Comeback Attempt



Chaz Lane uses a Bryce Lindaman screen.

Taylor Smith, Sports Editor

A day after their dramatic win in Belmont, the 6-8 Cowboy basketball team hosted 8-4 Humboldt. After losing in a blowout to the Wildcats earlier this season, the Cowboys were looking to even the season

series. They would keep the score much closer this time around, but a three-point barrage from Humboldt became too much to overcome.

In the 1st quarter, Bryce Lindaman and Chaz Lane both had offensive rebound



Johnny Lomeli brings up the ball.

putbacks for the Cowboys. JD Morrical checked into the game and quickly scored two off of a slick assist from Lane.

The Wildcats led 21-15 after a quarter of play and went on a scoring run in the 2nd. Starting guard



Tristan Kakacek cuts to get open.

Lingenfelter helped the Cowboys cut the lead to three in the 3rd quarter, but Humboldt eventually pulled away for good. Kakacek hit two corner threes in the final minutes of the 65-56 loss.

Lane finished with 15

points, six boards, and two steals. Kakacek had a team-high 16 points and shot 86% from the field. Lingenfelter contributed nine points, nine rebounds, and four assists, and Morrical added five points and five assists off the bench.

Cowboys Triumph Over Wright County Foes

Taylor Smith, Sports Editor

On January 20, the Cowboy basketball team won their third straight in a back-and-forth non-conference road matchup with the Belmont-Klemme Broncos. The two teams traded blows in the 1st half, and the 7-6 Broncos led 24-23 after two quarters. In the 3rd, they managed to build a 10-point advantage over the Cowboys. With Chaz Lane on the bench in foul trouble, Huxley

Lingenfelter handled some of C-G-D's scoring duties.

Lane checked back into the game to start the 4th and converted on two "and one" opportunities. With four minutes left in the contest, Johnny Lomeli's corner three tied the game at 47. A floater from Lane gave the Cowboys the lead, but Belmont-Klemme responded with a three from the top of the key. Lane put the team on his back in the clutch as C-G-D escaped Belmont with a 58-51 win.

Lane scored 12 of his 21

points in the 4th quarter and converted on seven of his eight free throw attempts. The sophomore wing also had 10 rebounds and two steals.

Lingenfelter dropped 16 points and shot at a 63% clip. Lomeli finished with 13 points, eight boards, and three steals.

Bryce Lindaman contributed eight points, nine rebounds, and two blocked shots to the winning effort.

Wrestlers Prepare For Conference At Monday Dual

Taylor Smith, Sports Editor

The #4 (2A) Cowboys wrestling team continued their dominant season on January 20 in Jewell. South Hamilton hosted a triangular against Clarion-Goldfield-Dows and West Hancock. C-G-D buried the Hawks 77-6 before defeating the Eagles 59-

19.

Against South Hamilton, Paxton Redenius won a 1st period technical fall at 113, and Angel Cortes pinned his opponent in just 17 seconds at 120. Lucas Cayler (126), Colin Sesker (150), Caden Hauenstein (157), Charlie Campbell (190), and JT Kelso (285) all won by fall in the 1st or

2nd periods.

In a dual with West Hancock, Adrian Phetxoumphone (132) won by fall over Ethan Gayken. Ryan Hartwig (138) won a 15-0 technical fall, and Ryland Morgan (165) and Daven Duncalf (190) both ended their matches with pins.

Phenomenal Phetxoumphone Hits 100

Taylor Smith, Sports Editor

When Clarion-Goldfield-Dows standout Linden Phetxoumphone was eight years old, his father asked him if he'd be interested in trying the sport of wrestling. The youngster said yes, and it didn't take him long to taste his first bit of success.

"I placed first in my first tournament," Phetxoumphone explained in a recent sit-down with The Wright County Monitor. "I started liking it."

Growing up alongside his brothers and family in Webster City, Linden would hone his skills and learn what it meant to be a top wrestler.

"We always pushed each other and lifted weights with each other," he said.

"We knew what to eat and how to train well to become the best."

"The best" is no exaggeration. As a member of the Lynx wrestling team, Linden placed 3rd at Wells Fargo Arena as a freshman 106-pounder and was runner-up at 113 in 2024.

"Making it to the state finals was a fun experience," he indulged.

Now weighing in at 120-lbs. and wearing his new Clarion-Goldfield-



"When I step on the mat all my feelings just go away and I'm ready to wrestle." - Linden Phetxoumphone.

Dows singlet, the junior has added another accolade to his already impressive list of achievements. On January 18 at the Doc Carr Duals, Phetxoumphone pinned Sylvester Katoe of Waterloo West and became the latest Cowboy wrestler to reach the 100 career win plateau.

"It was a great experience for me," he said with a slight smile. "It was something I wanted to hit as a goal in my high school career."

Phetxoumphone was also complimentary of his

new surroundings in Wright County and said that he enjoys the "atmosphere" in Clarion. He stated that the move "was a smooth transition."

Now, with a new neighborhood to call home and 100+ wins to his name, Linden is ready to keep grinding.

"You've got to keep training to be the best," he commented. "The sport is hard, but if you keep training at a high level you'll be up there with the best."

Girls Grapple In Eagle Grove

Taylor Smith, Sports Editor

Last Monday, girls wrestling teams and fans from Humboldt, Webster City/Clarion-Goldfield-Dows, and Northwood-Kensett braved frigid temperatures for a varsity quad at Eagle Grove Elementary.

Freshman Marlee Thompson won by forfeit in WC/C-G-D's dual with Northwood-Kensett and the Lynx defeated the Vikings 36-12.

Against Humboldt, WC/C-G-D would face a tougher challenge. Thompson was in control for the entirety of her 115 match and earned a 17-0 technical fall win over Elsie Stattelmann. However, the Lynx had seven open weight classes and fell 66-11 at the hands of a stacked Humboldt squad.

Thompson was bumped up a weight class in the dual against shorthanded Eagle Grove. She faced two-



Marlee Thompson outclassed her opponent from Humboldt.

time state qualifier Jaymie Anderson at 120-lbs. and lost via fall in 1:25. As a

team, the Lynx outlasted the Eagles and won 24-18.

Miguel Calles Signs with the Iowa Central Dance Team

Amanda Rink, Editor

Miguel Calles, a senior at CGD, recently signed with the Iowa Central Community College (ICCC) dance team. Miguel, the son of Yadi Munoz, has been working to pursue his passion for

dance since middle school.

Miguel, who plans to major in business, chose Iowa Central for a good reason: its dance team is ranked number one in the nation. However, the family-like atmosphere in the ICCC dance team made

the biggest impression on him.

Miguel plans to spend two years at ICCC before transferring to Iowa State University. For now, he's ready to give it his all with the ICCC dance team for the 2025/26 season.



Go Tritons! CGD Senior Miguel Calles signed on with the ICCC Dance Team. (Photo: CDTA)

Cowboys Heading North!

12th of June 2025

SAVE THE DATE!

Ticket is good for Noon Twins game with CGD vs Bishop Garrigan to Follow!

This summer, C-G-D's baseball team will face Bishop-Garrigan at Target Field in Minneapolis. Ticket pre-sales will get fans into the Twins vs. Rangers game at noon and the Cowboys vs. Golden Bears game to follow. (Photo:CGD)

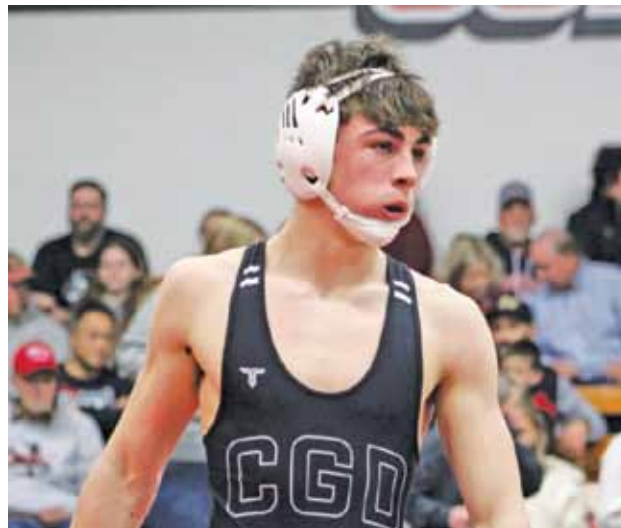
SPORTS

(Photos: Taylor Smith)

Trio of Cowboys Earn Conference Titles



JT Kelso



Colin Sesker



Adrian Phetxoumphone

Taylor Smith, Sports Editor

On Saturday morning, the eight schools of the North Central Conference met in Algona for their annual conference wrestling tournament.

would repeat as team champions with 238.5 points. #13 (2A) Hampton-Dumont/CAL came in second with 183, just two points ahead of #4 (2A) Clarion-Goldfield-Dows. #6 (2A) Humboldt placed 4th with a final score of 172.

The Cowboys, wrestling without Linden Phetxoumphone (illness), still brought home three individual titles and a runner-up.

Adrian Phetxoumphone placed 1st at 126-lbs. after winning a 4-0 decision

against Algona's Isaac Wilson. Colin Sesker won gold at 144 after coming out on top of an 11-9 decision over Barrett Morgan of Algona.

At 285, JT Kelso would also face an Algona wrestler in his 1st place match. He

won a 7-2 decision over Jack Limbaugh for the conference title.

Charlie Campbell (190) fought his way to the finals, but had to settle for 2nd after losing a 10-0 major decision to the undefeated Christian Dunning of Clear

Lake.

Paxton Redenius (3rd place - 113), Angel Cortez (3rd place - 120), Caleb Seaba (3rd place - 157), and Ryland Morgan (4th place - 165) also represented the Cowboys on the podium.

Ranked Gaels Edge Out Cowboy Hoopers

Taylor Smith, Sports Editor

The 6-9 Cowboys traveled to Fort Dodge on Friday night for a matchup against the #9 (1A) St. Edmond Gaels. After the 1st half of play, the 11-2 Gaels clung to a 28-21 lead. C-G-D

trailed by just two points after dropping 23 points in the 3rd quarter, but the Gaels held on for the 66-58 conference win.

Johnny Lomeli shot 63% from deep and guided the Cowboys with 19 points and seven boards.

Chaz Lane chipped in 17 points and four assists, and senior Ethan Russell shot 3/3 from distance for nine points.

Huxley Lingenfelter had seven points, eight rebounds, and a pair of steals in the loss.

Certified Commercial Pesticide Applicator Course Offered in February

Iowa State University Extension and Outreach and Iowa Central Community College partner to provide pesticide applicator education

Iowa State University Extension and Outreach and Iowa Central Community College are offering a four-day workshop that will prepare attendees to become certified as Commercial Pesticide Applicators.

This course will focus on materials needed to take the Iowa Core Manual Exam and Categories 1A (Ag Weed Control), 1B (Ag Insect Control) and 1C (Ag Disease Control). In addition, this material will cover local context and real-life application of insect, weed and disease management. Course information will be presented by ISU Extension and Outreach field agronomists.

The course will take place Feb. 18-21 at the Iowa Central Community College East Campus located at 2031 Quail Ave., Fort Dodge, from 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. each day.

"Agribusiness retail outlets are in need of a certified workforce to meet the seasonal demands of pesticide applications" said Aaron Saeugling, field agronomist with ISU Extension and Outreach. "This course will help develop that workforce for future employment."

The curriculum and supporting materials are offered in the form of PowerPoints, worksheets, demonstrations and activities. Participant engagement will provide a variety of learning opportunities through activities, hands-on demonstrations and real-life scenarios.

Tuition for the class is \$749 and includes the Core, 1A, 1B and 1C manuals as well as other resource materials. Participants will have the opportunity to take the certification exams each afternoon at the Iowa Central Community College testing center at no additional cost.

To register, please contact Iowa Central Community College at 515-574-1293 or go to the Iowa Central Community College registration page. Questions may be sent to noncredit@iowacentral.edu. Registration for this course closes on Feb. 11.



Dows Legion

The Dows Legion purchased these plaques with the money they received from the Charitable Grant Foundation. The plaques have all the living names of the legion members. (Photo: Barb Chambers)



Adult Crafts

Last Wednesday at the Dows Library the crafters made these adorable doll buttons. (Photo: Deb Olson)

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