



The Wright County Monitor

156th year Number 2 Thursday, January 9, 2025

\$1.25 per copy

Official Newspaper for Clarion

Official newspaper of Wright County

www.clarionnewsonline.com

Wright County Humane Society's Latest Efforts

Amanda Rink, Editor

The Humane Society of Wright County continues to make progress in its mission to care for animals and connect them with loving homes. Board member Larissa Plagge recently shared updates on the organization's achievements, challenges, plans for the future, and notable community contributions.

Over the past six months, the Humane Society has expanded its network of dedicated volunteers, now with around 20 active members. These volunteers bring useful local connections to the cause, including school groups and organizations like the Boy Scouts. Creative events like "Dogs n' Donuts" have raised funds for the organization and brought adoptable pets into the spotlight.

Local businesses are pitching in, too. Pampered Pets has hosted events to support the Humane Society's efforts. Social media has become a crucial tool for spreading the word, with a weekly "Adoptable

Pet" online post that is widely shared by community groups and businesses.

The Humane Society has also received incredible support from local youth. Recently, Clarion-Goldfield-Dows (CGD) 3rd graders hosted a pet food drive, collecting dog and cat food to feed the animals at the shelter. Their efforts were an impressive demonstration of the power of young community members coming together.

But going above and beyond was 4th grader Alia Velasco, who made an extraordinary donation to the cause. Along with dog food and treats, Alia gifted \$150, dog jackets, beds, and toys for the adoptable animals. She brought a special treat, orange candy, for Teddy, the bear, who lives at the Humane Society. "Teddy is excellent," shared Plagge. "He's all chunky and adorable for winter hibernation!"

But even with support from the community, the humane society continues to face challenges. The issue of "community cats",



Humane Society of Wright County Board Member Marcia Burt and two CGD third graders smile with a trunk full of donated pet food, collected during a student-led drive to support the Humane Society's shelter animals. (Photo: Humane Society of Wright County)

stray cats that some residents consider a nuisance, has been a tough challenge for the Humane Society. This summer, the organi-

zation launched a Trap-Neuter-Release (TNR) program, starting at Lake Cornelia.

continued on page 2

Drainage Trustees Address Miscommunication About Financial Thresholds

Amanda Rink, Editor

The Wright County Drainage District Trustees met on Monday, January 6, 2025, to address a few issues, including drainage work orders, legal compliance concerns, and project communication with landowners.

Trustees welcomed newly elected Supervisors Betty Ellis, Ashley Bosch, and Lynn Loux marking their first meeting in one of their new roles as Wright County Supervisors.

Compliance with Iowa Code

The Trustees and Dan Hennigar of Hennigar Construction & Excavating considered compliance issues after learning the cost of a DD 36 Lateral C project exceeded the \$50,000 legal threshold, which mandates landowner notifications and an engineer's report. Dan, owner of Hennigar Construction & Excavating, acknowledged a miscommunication in oversight, stating the work would adhere to what an engineer would expect.

Supervisor Kluss raised concerns about potential legal implications and further emphasized the need for careful consideration of Iowa Code requirements. Supervisor Rick Rasmussen admitted "partial responsibility" in the matter, citing his unfamiliarity with this recent Iowa Code update.

Threshold Limits

The Trustees expressed frustration over the Iowa Code which required an engineer's report once \$50,000 is reached for drainage work. Drainage District Administrator Courtney Morris noted that many feel the limit is outdated but increasing the limit would require state legislative action.

Landowner Meeting Scheduled

To fully address any concerns landowners might have, the Trustees and Hennigar Construction & Excavating scheduled a meeting to happen next week. Landowners were notified by mail, the cost of which was approved at \$20.01.

Supervisor Betty Ellis shared that the landowners she has heard from expressed their approval of the work done by Dan and his crew.

In other updates:

- Two tile blowouts in Lincoln Township were reported and will cost about \$12,000 to repair. The Trustees approved moving on with repairs.

Area Headlines

Eagle Grove

Rotary Senior Living's recent "White Elefund" fundraiser, held to support safety upgrades, faced a disappointing turnout with just 23 attendees. The low attendance has left Eagle Grove's senior care facility struggling with a considerable budget shortfall.

Belmond

Volunteers are needed to retire Veteran Holiday Wreaths at the Belmond City Cemetery on Saturday, January 11, 2025, at 10:00 A.M.

Dows

The organizers for Dows Corn Days remind can donors to donate only cans that are redeemable in Iowa.

8 Day Weather Outlook Clarion, IA.

Thursday, January 9
Partly Cloudy 30°/23°
SSW 12 mph



Friday, January 10
Cloudy 30°/17°
NW 14 mph



Saturday, January 11
Partly Cloudy 28°/17°
NW 11 mph



Sunday, January 12
Cloudy 29°/17°
NW 13 mph



Monday, January 13
Mostly Cloudy 30°/13°
NW 12 mph



Tuesday, January 14
Partly Cloudy 25°/13°
NW 12 mph



Wednesday, January 15
Partly Cloudy 29°/19°
WNW 12 mph



Thursday, January 16
Partly Cloudy 31°/18°
WNW 15 mph



Winter Charm at Lake Cornelia



Interested in enjoying the winter lake landscape? Join The Wright County Conservation Board as they host a fun Winter Festival at Lake Cornelia on February 1st from 11 A.M. to 3 P.M. Enjoy activities like cross-country skiing, ice skating, ice fishing, and a snowshoe hike. Take a tractor-pulled hay ride, build snowmen, and cozy up in the lodge with crafts, donuts, and hot cocoa. Please call or text 641-531-9475 if you're interested in volunteering at this event. (Photo: Amanda Rink)

Amanda Rink, Editor

In late December, Lake Cornelia transformed into a winter wonderland. Its icy surface was dotted with ice fishers waiting for their catch, with nothing but the cold breath of Mother Nature down their neck.

Lake Cornelia is a 244-acre glacial lake, just six miles northeast of Clarion, and holds centuries of stories. Originally known as Little Wall Lake, Lake Cornelia is one of four lakes in Wright County. The lakes owe their existence to the Des Moines Lobe of the Wisconsin Glacier, which sculpted the landscape about 12,000 years ago. Today, Lake Cornelia has about average depth of 9.4 feet, plunging to about 20 feet at its deepest point.

In the early 1900s, the small town of Cornelia was busy. It was established in 1893, with a post office, general store, cafe, blacksmith shop, gain elevator,

barber shop, lumberyard, and even a commercial ice operation. The railroad depot welcomed four passenger trains a day, with a roller-skating rink that doubled as a dance hall to host local entertainment. Although these businesses have long since retired, echoes of the past are seen in repurposed buildings, now private homes. Today, the lake offers a blend of recreation and lakeside living. On its north shore, visitors enjoy the playgrounds, picnic shelters, and camping spots. A boat launch, a jetty, and the quiet waters add to the local spot's charm. About 190 homes hug the shores, whether they're staying for the summer or as year-round residents. Standing by the frozen lake last month, it was easy to imagine the scenes of the past at Lake Cornelia while enjoying the cold quiet of the present.

CHILD CARE

Where Are the Daycares?

Raising Kids in a Desert

Amanda Rink, Editor

As Clarion grows with new families and development, one challenge looms: a lack of childcare. This shortage forces parents to make tough decisions, staying home, giving up work, delaying having children, or relying on inadequate or unsafe options. The problem extends beyond families, disrupting businesses and hindering economic growth.

With 517 children under 12 and only 156 licensed daycare spots, Clarion qualifies as a "childcare desert," where more than three children vie for each available spot.

Local Providers Struggle to Meet Demand

Meghann Solis, owner of Meghann's Munchkins, operates one of the four state-registered in-home daycare options in Clarion. Meghann, who has run her daycare for 15 years, shared:

"I started daycare in 2010 for a few reasons—I love children, the cost of childcare was high at the time for the two kids my husband and I had, and I knew there was a need in Clarion."

Her Category B child development home allows her to care for up to eight full-

time children under school age, along with an additional four school-aged children. Even with her capacity, adding the potential 36 spots from other in-home providers still leaves a significant gap. Clarion's only state-registered daycare center, First Steps Early Learning Center (formerly Kid's Korner), recently moved to a new location to expand its services.

First Steps Early Learning Center can accommodate up to 108 children but currently has a waitlist. According to center manager Joleen Gonzales, staffing is a major barrier to increasing capacity:

"We're always looking for quality employees. We have full-time and part-time openings right now. The only way to expand our daycare spots is to ensure there are enough employees."

Karianne, the lead teacher for 4- and 5-year-olds at First Steps, echoed the need for more childcare options, "All the in-home daycares in Clarion are full."

A Broader Problem

The lack of openings has been a long-standing concern among in-home providers. Meghann shared, "I have zero openings and haven't had any for about

continued on page 2



Check out  Sports on page 9

Clarion Doctor Sanctioned for Handling of Chronic Pain Treatment

Amanda Rink, Editor

The Iowa Board of Medicine has sanctioned Dr. Jon Ahrendsen, a family practice physician at Iowa Specialty Clinic in Clarion, for alleged misconduct in his treatment of a patient with chronic pain. While sanctions include a formal warning, restrictions on prescribing controlled substances, and a three-year probationary monitoring program, Ahrendsen remains a practicing physician.

Dr. Ahrendsen has been with the hospital since June 1985, with a medical career spanning more than four decades. He earned his undergraduate and medical degrees from the University of Iowa, completing his residency at Broadlawns Medical Center in Des Moines. He is board-certified in family practice and has medical interests in areas such as ADHD, Autism Spectrum Disorder, PANDAS/PANS, hospice care, and FAA and DOT physicals.

Beyond his clinical practice, Dr. Ahrendsen serves as an adjunct clinical assistant professor with the University of Iowa, mentoring third-year medical students during their family medicine rotations at the Clarion Clinic.

He has been actively involved in his community, serving on several local boards, including the Clarion Movie Theater and Clarion Rotary Club. He is also a member of First Lutheran Church in Clarion and has held leadership roles with the State of Iowa Physician Assistant Board and Gateway Hospice.

Ahrendsen, who lives in Clarion with his wife, Becky, has three children and a passion for travel, having visited 51 countries. He is also an avid Iowa Hawkeyes football fan and a participant in community theater through the Iowa Rivers Players Theater.

According to board records obtained by the Iowa Capital Dispatch, Ahrendsen treated the patient for several years but failed to properly document the patient's medical condition or the necessity for ongoing narcotic prescriptions.

The board also alleges that Ahrendsen prescribed doses of "high-risk medications" that exceeded recommended levels and did not adequately assess the patient for potential drug abuse or misuse of the medications, despite the patient's history of substance abuse and requests for early prescription refills.

The board's records do not provide details about the patient's outcome but note that Ahrendsen has been issued a formal warning. His ability to prescribe controlled substances has been restricted, and his medical license has been placed on probation. He is required to participate in a practice-monitoring program for the next three years.

Available patient testimonials are mostly positive with one person sharing, "Dr. Ahrendsen was very thorough and answered my questions. He took time to show [me] pictures of my spine and hip to explain previous bone density tests. He also wrote a letter requesting medical records from [my past] doctor in Oregon for me. He is a wonderful doctor!"

On Monday, January 6th, 2025 Chief Compliance Officer & General Counsel for Iowa Specialty Hospital Reagan Swisher offered this statement:

"Iowa Specialty Hospital – Clarion is aware of the official action taken by the Iowa Board of Medicine as it relates to Dr. Jon Ahrendsen. Iowa Specialty Hospital – Clarion was made aware of the situation by Dr. Ahrendsen prior to the finalization of the action and both Dr. Ahrendsen and Iowa Specialty Hospital – Clarion will be in complete compliance with the requirements laid out by the Board of Medicine.

Currently, Dr. Ahrendsen's license is no longer restricted regarding controlled substances as he has complied with the Board of Medicine's order to lift said restriction. As always it is Iowa Specialty Hospital – Clarion's, and Dr. Ahrendsen's, view that quality patient care is first and foremost."

Overnight Parking Permits Now Available

The Clarion Police Department is issuing 2025 parking permits for vehicles parked overnight in city-owned lots. To avoid fines, ensure your permit is up to date, as all 2024 permits have now expired.

Permits can be purchased at the police department on weekdays between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. Payment options include cash, check, or credit. Be sure to bring a valid ID and current vehicle registration

when applying.

A visible and valid permit is required for all vehicles parked overnight in city lots. Stay compliant and secure your 2025 permit today.

LifeServe Blood Center would like to thank the community of Goldfield for hosting 3 blood drives during the year 2024

A total of 77 units of blood were collected, saving & potentially sustaining the lives of 231 people in need.

Your lifesaving gift was appreciated and celebrated. LifeServe Blood Center would like to recognize

donors who achieved milestone donations during 2024.



- 7 GALLONEER – RODNEY HEIDEN
- 5 GALLONEER – TYLER LINN, PAUL LIEBBE
- 4 GALLONEER – VALERIE VISOCKY, JOHN FLETCHER, LORI WEETS, NANCY BURKHART
- 2 GALLONEER – LESLI POUTRE, ELIZABETH SCHWAKE
- 1 GALLONEER – SANDRA GANGSTEAD

Together these 10 individuals have donated 304 pints of blood – potentially sustaining the

lives of over 912 people. What an amazing gift! If you happen to know them, make sure to give

them a shout out and thank them for their amazing dedication to saving lives through blood donation!

Here are upcoming blood drives in 2025:

Wednesday, January 8th from 1:00pm – 6:00pm at the United Presbyterian Church

Wednesday, May 14th from 1:00pm – 6:00pm at the United Presbyterian Church

Wednesday, September 3rd from 1:00pm – 6:00pm at the United Presbyterian Church

If you know anyone who would like to talk about hosting, volunteering for blood drives or gathering information relating to blood donation, please contact Alex Jackson at Alexandria.

jackson@lifeservebloodcenter.org or call/text phone number 712.212.5018. I am available to educate groups in meeting or presentations about blood donation and LifeServe Blood Center.

Thanks to everyone who came out to show their support. Be sure to text 'LIFESERVE' to 999-777 to make your next appointment and we look forward to seeing you next time!



Wright County Humane Society continued from page 1

"The goal is to ensure the cats are healthy and can't reproduce while keeping them in their found environment," explained Plagge. Thanks to the program, she personally re-homed eight kittens and helped TNR about ten cats in the area.

This humane approach involves trapping stray cats, neutering or spaying them to prevent further reproduction, and releasing them back into their environment. The program helps control the stray cat population without resorting to euthanasia. Plagge credits the efforts of volunteers like Don

Garrett, Sandy McGrath, and their families for their daily animal care. She also praised others like Marcia Burt and Colette Johnson for fostering partnerships and handling everyday tasks like vet appointments.

Community events have become an important part of the Humane Society's outreach. From adoption efforts at the Clarion dog park opening to the annual "Lap the Lake" fundraiser and "doggie dip" swim days, these gatherings don't just raise funds, they connect animals with potential adopters and get the animals socialized before adoption.

The next big event, "Tails and Ales" at The Bru in Clarion on January 20th, promises to be another exciting opportunity for community members to get involved and show their support.

While the Humane Society continues to focus on immediate needs like animal care and adoption, plans for a permanent shelter are taking shape. "With Don Garrett (who houses the animals at his property) getting older, long-term plans for a shelter are a priority, but nothing is solid yet," Plagge shared.

Despite challenges and

thanks to the community and countless volunteers, the Humane Society of Wright County remains committed to its mission.

There are many ways you can get involved. Attend an event, foster an animal, or support the Humane Society's TNR program. To learn more, follow the Wright County Humane Society on social media or contact them directly.

With every event, donation, and volunteer hour, the Humane Society moves closer to its dream of a permanent shelter and a future where every animal has a loving home.

Where are the Daycares? continued from page 1



five years. We do not have adequate childcare options in town. Most of us registered providers are always full." New state requirements for in-home daycares have made it harder for providers, including experienced ones, to expand their services and offer more spots.

This issue isn't unique to Clarion. A report by the Bipartisan Early Childhood Initiative found that rural areas face a 35% gap between the demand for and availability of childcare programs, compared to a 29% gap in urban areas. Rural childcare deserts are often concentrated in low-income census tracts, worsening workforce shortages as parents are forced to stay home as full-time caregivers.

Nationally, 86% of rural parents who are not working, or whose partners are not working, cite childcare responsibilities as a primary reason, according to a Bipartisan Policy Center survey. Of those, 45% said they or their spouse care for their youngest child.

This burden normally affects women more, limiting

their ability to participate in the workforce and achieve financial independence. Research shows that when center-based care is accessible, the percentage of mothers who use that care and are employed doubles.

However, with childcare costs in some areas rivaling or exceeding in-state college tuition, many parents struggle to justify the expense of paying more than half of their check to have someone else raise their child.

Kelsey Burres, owner of The Main Scoop in Clarion, remembers being in a similar situation before becoming a business owner. "When I was working full-time at the school, I was barely making enough to cover daycare and a car payment. When I opted to stay home full time, it made sense."

The challenge isn't limited

to Clarion. In larger cities, parents face similar struggles. Former Belmont resident Katie Franken, who relocated to Mason City, shared her experience, "I had my infant daughter on a waitlist for daycare before she was even born in March 2023. Now my newborn son is on the same waitlist. My husband stays home with them while I work because we don't have childcare options."

Without other options and less financial flexibility, some parents have no choice but to trust strangers with their children.

In Webster City, Sara Lovely discovered nearly a dozen bite marks on her 10-month-old son after he returned from daycare in May 2024, according to a report from The Messenger. Despite assurances from the daycare

about its camera system and supervision, Lovely was left without answers and had to rely on family members for childcare.

Looking Ahead

Fortunately, many parents in Clarion feel confident leaving their children with the town's registered providers. Kelsey shared, "I loved when my kids were in an in-home daycare. They were so well cared for, and it felt like a second home. I miss that a little for my youngest."

Childcare isn't just about babysitting, it's about building a better future for the entire community. In Clarion, the need is clear, and the time for action is now. Investing in childcare means supporting families, strengthening workplaces, and fostering a healthier, more connected community.

Supervisors Review Employee Benefits, Nonprofit Funding, and County Updates

Amanda Rink, Editor

The Wright County Board of Supervisors met Monday morning, to address an agenda covering employee health insurance plans, financial requests, and updates from the Supervisors.

County Employee Health Insurance

Ryan Berven from Assured Partners provided an update on health insurance for county employees. Employees can now access counseling services—up to six sessions—either online or locally, without tapping into their insurance or incurring out-of-pocket costs. Berven also shared that health insurance rates for the county are decreasing by 3% this year.

UDMO Annual Update

Julie Edwards, Executive Director of Upper Des Moines Opportunity (UDMO), presented the organization's annual update and request for

funding. Edwards painted a picture of impactful services that have touched nearly every corner of Wright County. UDMO supported 2,361 individuals across 1,000 households in the last year.

UDMO offers a wide variety of services like:

Assisting residents with heating, water bills, and furnace repairs, providing food through a pantry, distributing coats, mittens, and gloves for children, helping families secure affordable housing, and offering payment for outdoor work for senior citizens not to exceed the amount of \$100 for things like snow removal or painting. The program also funds shoes, activity fees, and birthday celebrations for kids.

Edwards acknowledged a decrease in population in Wright County that seems to have affected the number of people UDMO serves. She also cited overlapping services from other

nonprofits that support community programs. Deposit the decrease, she emphasized the continued need for funding for UDMO's diverse support systems.

In other updates, the board heard:

- Supervisor Kluss is coordinating with Attorney Eric Edey of Ames for drainage district issues.
- The Wright County Sheriff's Office revenue for December was reported at \$1,519.68.
- Crisis Intervention Services in North Central Iowa sent a letter requesting \$1,000 for their operations in Wright County.
- Fourteen secondary road updates were completed last week.

The next Wright County Board of Supervisors meeting will take place on Monday, January 13, 2025, at 9:00 A.M. You can stream this meeting and others at youtube.com/WrightCountyIowaOfficial8312.

First Baby of the New Year!

Baby Boy

Nick and Erica Getting of Webster City, IA would like to announce the birth of their son Theodore Miles Getting. He was born Wednesday, January 1, 2025 at the Iowa Specialty Hospital in Clarion, IA. He weighed 9 pounds 0.5 ounces. He joins his siblings: Thomas (7) and Declan (2). Proud Grandparents are: Ken and Kathy Getting of Webster City, IA; Connie (Jamie) Michael of Webster City, IA and Mike Just of Webster City, IA.



Letter to the Editor

Human trafficking is the fastest growing worldwide criminal enterprise, surpassing illegal drugs and weapons and it's in your backyard! As we enter 2025, the harsh reality is that Human Trafficking has increased in Iowa according to the U.S. State Department. Extrapolating the numbers of reported calls suggests more than 100,000 Iowans are victims of human trafficking. The National Human Trafficking Hotline and the Iowa Victim Service Call Center report a rise in calls however these numbers represent less than half of one percent of all human trafficking cases. According to a dark web study conducted by Creighton University Human Trafficking and Social Media Initiative, there are 320 trafficking victims in Iowa at any given time. This number should alarm Iowans and send an urgent message to policy makers to earmark critical funds specifically for human trafficking survivors.

In our state, Iowans have always been known as hard-working dedicated people who share a strong sense of community. A decade ago, there were virtually no programs within Iowa to support victims of human trafficking. Through dedicated efforts and sacrifices in the private sector, Iowa

has now established an infrastructure of eight organizations providing residential programs, meeting the unique needs of trafficking survivors. These nonprofit organizations have struggled to survive, and some have been forced to cut services due to a lack of resources. The sad reality is, to date, no public funds have been designated to support victims of human trafficking in Iowa. This situation leaves these organizations constantly struggling to stay afloat, hampered by the increased need for services and continual short fall of resources.

Shared Hope International, is a well-respected organization dedicated to ending human trafficking. In the fall of each year, they grade states on six issue areas. Since 2011, Shared Hope has established an advanced legislative framework, providing a comprehensive analysis and assessment of all state statutes relating to and impacting child and youth sex trafficking.

Year after year, Iowa has continued to receive an "F" on the national report card. This dismal score is reflective of the low priority and a pervasive attitude that human trafficking is not occurring in Iowa amongst policymakers. Meanwhile former state senator, Maggie Tinsman, is zealously combating human trafficking and is a strong advocate for legislative reforms. When people question Maggie about this issue in Iowa, she responds by saying, "Iowa is perfect for human trafficking. We have a giant rural area to safeguard and protect it and mainly an attitude that it is not happening here. That's exactly where it is!" In a state known for its strong sense of responsibility within our communities we simply must prioritize our efforts, combining the private and public sectors to effectively intervene in human trafficking. Collaboration is essential, offering victims a way out, and providing comprehensive support and services for their healing and recovery.

With each passing year Iowa is losing ground addressing the critical needs of victims who have become ensnared in the fastest growing criminal enterprise, human trafficking. These children and adults are targeted and trapped online or in person for sex, labor or sextortion schemes. On behalf of North Central Iowa Coalition Against Human Trafficking, NCICAHT and other abolitionists across our state, I am making an urgent appeal to our legislature to take decisive action in 2025, supporting NAHT's legislative recommendations and prioritizing the Human Trafficking Survivor Services Fund with a \$1

million appropriation..

For more information, contact the Iowa Network Against Human Trafficking and Slavery at www.iowanah.org. If you are interested in joining NCICAHT, North Central Iowa Coalition Against Human Trafficking, or to inquire about no-cost prevention education, professional training or presentations please contact Melody Stone at priariemelody@gmail.com.

Together we can make Iowa the least hospitable state for human trafficking to exist and provide comprehensive services for victims who are most deserving of our support and care!

Melody Stone MA, LMHC Founder, North Central Iowa Coalition Against Human Trafficking Ambassador, Shared Hope International

Providing professional training, prevention education and presentations

Melody Stone is a trauma trained counselor, prevention education specialist, professional trainer and Ambassador with Shared Hope International. She is also the founder of North Central Iowa Coalition Against Human Trafficking, incorporating 23 counties.

Melody networks with and supports the efforts of many anti-trafficking organizations and abolitionists across Iowa including the Network Against Human Trafficking, NAHT. She serves on the Iowa Human Trafficking Legislative Committee and strongly supports the following recommendations for the 2025 legislative session.

- Establish a Human Trafficking Survivor Services Fund. Allocate \$1 million to ensure services are available statewide to provide the financial stability needed to guarantee survivors have access to safe spaces and reintegration services.
- Create an ongoing taskforce to develop legislative recommendations to strengthen anti-human-trafficking efforts.
- Extend the civil statute of limitations for sexual abuse or trafficking of a minor to 5 years after a victim reaches the age of 18.
- Close the loopholes in Iowa Code (710A and 725.1) that do not protect children adequately in the commercial sexual exploitation of children, or CSEC.
- Require the Department of Health and Human Services to screen all minors entering the system for human trafficking (CSEC) while increasing the availability of restoration facilities and protective services for juvenile trafficking victims.
- Require juvenile justice agencies to screen all minors entering the system for human trafficking (CSEC).

Check it Out at The Library!

Have trouble sticking to your New Year's Resolutions? We are here to help you make sure you have the tools you need for success.

Not entirely sure where to start? Stop up and see us at the library and we will help you find information to get you started.

New Year Reading Suggestions:

End resentment, burnout, and anxiety – reclaim your time, energy, health, and relationships; with Melissa Urban's book *The book of boundaries: Set the Limits That Will Set You Free*. Urban is the Co-founder and CEO of the Whole30 and an authority on helping people create life-long healthy habits.

Meet the book *How to Skimm Your Life* by The Skimm, Inc. This book was written as a reference tool

to help you navigate the big moments in your life. They cover personal finance, career, stress management, global politics, civic engagement, and more.

Unfollow Your Passion: *How to Create a Life That Matters to You* by Terri Trespicio. With Trespicio's compelling insights, scientific research, and powerful storytelling you can begin to live it on your terms. She gives you the tools you need (and the permission you crave) to dispense with the BS, toss the old advice, and lay claim to the life that's been yours the whole time – so you can begin to live it on your terms. Her TEDx talk, *Stop Searching for Your Passion*, has been viewed more than seven million times.

The Farm: Rustic Recipes for a Year of



Memories Of A Former Kid, MugWump Marketing (319) 800-4774

The impact of reading on cognitive decline

Aging and change go hand in hand. Although some may bemoan the gray hairs that start to arrive or stiffness in the knees that seems to sneak up on a person in middle age, such concerns are not necessarily enough to lose sleep over. However, many people 50 or older are nervous about the potential for cognitive issues like dementia as they grow older.

The Alzheimer's Association estimates that 6.7 million people have Alzheimer's disease in the United States. The Alzheimer Society of Canada estimates that there were 733,040 people living with dementia in the country as of January 1, 2024. Alzheimer's disease and other dementias can rob people of their memories, personalities and abilities to live satisfying, independent lives. While it may not be impossible to prevent all cognitive issues completely, there is reason to believe that reading could be an ally in cognitive care.

The American Academy of Neurology says that reading stimulates the brain and has been shown to slow down cognitive decline in old age. Reading also may



help slow down memory loss.

The powers of reading were noticed more than 10 years ago when a 2013 study from researchers at Emory University measured readers' MRI scans as they read books. They found the deeper readers went into a story, the more areas of their brains were activated. This activity remained elevated for several days after participants finished their books. The more a person reads, the stronger complex networks in the brain become.

Additional evidence that reading can help the brain was noted by researchers at the Texas A&M School

of Public Health. A 2024 study suggests that older people with mild cognitive impairment who engage in high levels of activities like reading, hobbies and word games have better memory, working memory, attention, and processing speed than those who do not take part in such endeavors. Furthermore, a 2021 study published in *Neurology* found that high levels of cognitive activity, like reading and writing letters, can delay the onset of Alzheimer's disease by five years among those age 80 and over.

Reading can keep brains functioning optimally and potentially delay age-related cognitive decline.

Financial tips for young professionals

Young adults confront something of a juggling act once they begin their professional lives. For many, that challenge begins with landing and starting a first job, arranging a payment plan for student loans, finding a place to live, and determining savings and personal finance goals. Although entering the workforce and taking a big step toward financial independence can be exciting, it also comes with financial responsibility.

Setting a strong financial foundation as early as possible helps establish long-term financial security. These tips can help young professionals manage their money more effectively.

- Take a money management course. Young professionals may be tired of heading to class or making the grade at this point in life, but educating oneself about some of the basic rules of personal finance can help bridge knowledge gaps in this arena. Many young adults have never been taught the basics of



applying for credit and staying out of debt. If you've been riding your parents' financial coattails throughout school, now is the time to learn more, whether it's through an online course or reading up on the subject.

- Set SMART goals. The acronym SMART stands for Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, and Time-bound, and can serve as a roadmap to achieving various goals, including those related to money. Develop a clear plan for your money, which can make it easier to budget and achieve savings-related goals.
- Minimize debt. The Education Data Initiative says university graduates owe an average of \$28,244 on student loans after they leave school, with a monthly payment between \$200 and \$299. Some graduates have even more debt and higher payments. Managing debt is vital to anyone's finances. Create a debt repayment plan at the earliest opportunity. With a "snowball" strategy, borrowers pay off their smallest debts first. Once a debt is paid off, the payment amount for that debt is then applied to the next smallest debt, gaining momentum with each payment. The "avalanche" approach involves paying off the debt with the highest interest rate first.
- Aim to pay with cash more often. Unless you can afford to pay off the balance in full every month, using credit cards a lot can contribute to debt accumulation. LendingTree says that, as of Sep-

tember 2024, the average APR on all new card offers was 24.92 percent. Buying items with cash or debit will reduce the likelihood of spending what you don't have, offers Investopedia.

- Set up an emergency fund. It might be challenging to set aside a lot of money right now when you have an entry-level position and some debt. But setting aside as little as \$1,000 for unexpected life events separate from your own personal savings can shield you from issues that arise from unexpected expenses.
- Participate in employer benefit plans. Look for the various ways that your employer can help you save money. This may include participating in retirement plans (including those with employer contribution matches), health spending accounts, gym memberships, and additional opportunities.
- Start saving and investing now. According to SmartAsset, if you start investing \$150 a paycheck at age 25 and your investments have an average annualized return of 8 percent, after 40 years you'll have about \$1.1 million in your account. Investing the same at age 35 means cutting nearly half of that total simply by procrastinating.

There are many ways young professionals can develop strong financial skills. Working with a certified financial planner also can help young professionals grow wealth over the course of their lives.

The Wright County Monitor
www.clarionnewsonline.com
304 W. Broadway St.,
Eagle Grove, IA 50533

Office Hours:
Monday-Friday
9:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m.

Clarion contact information:
Phone: 515-448-4745,
515-364-2344
FAX: 1-800-340-0805

We reserve the right to edit any and all copy presented to our news department.
We reserve the right to reject any advertising, request prepayment, and cancel at any time. Quantity discounts available.

Newsroom
515-448-4745, 515-364-2344 or
email news@wrightcountymonitor.com

Use this contact to offer story tips, local news, church news, obituaries: 515-364-2344 or design@wrightcountymonitor.com

Dows News
Dows news can be emailed to design@wrightcountymonitor.com

Paper or Internet Advertising:
Contact Nikki Vega by email at sales@wrightcountymonitor.com

Circulation and Subscriptions:
1-800-558-1244 ext. 122 or
email circulation@midamericapub.com
subscriptions and renewals can take up to two weeks to process and may cause lags in service if not planned ahead. Didn't get your paper? If you did not receive your paper in Thursday's mail, call the Clarion Post Office or The Monitor at 515-532-2871.

Composition:
515-448-4745, or by email at design@wrightcountymonitor.com

Billing and Accounting:
Admin., 1-800-558-1244 ext.119
or email
accounting@midamericapub.com

News Tips:
The Monitor welcomes any and all news tips. At the office, call 515-364-2344 or email news@wrightcountymonitor.com. To request a photographer, please give at least a day's notice.

Deadlines:
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.

The Monitor Staff:
Regular employees in order of continuous years of service:
Sarah Duda, Composition
Amanda Rink, Editor
Taylor Smith, Sports Editor

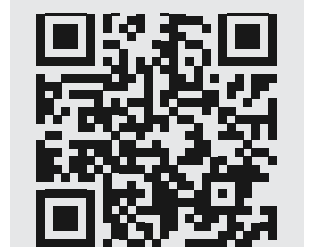
Official Newspaper For:
City of Clarion
City of Dows
Clarion-Goldfield-Dows
School District
Wright County

Member of:
Iowa Newspaper Association
National Newspaper Association

A Division of Mid-America Publishing Corporation
P.O. Box 29
Hampton, Iowa 50441
Postmaster: Send address changes to: The Wright County Monitor, P.O. Box 153, Clarion, Iowa, 50525

Postal Information:
USPS ISSN 693-360 Weekly

Scan the QR Code for our e-edition
www.clarionnewsonline.com



Iowa Forage and Grassland Council Conference Set for February 3



Erika Lundy-Woolfolk, Sherry Hoyer
ISU Extension and Outreach

Black cattle eating corn stalks. AMES, Iowa – The 2025 Iowa Forage and Grassland Council annual conference is set for Feb. 3 in Ames. The event will be held at Reiman Gardens, 1407 University Blvd., just to the southwest of Jack Trice Stadium.

After a number of years of drought conditions across the state, this year's conference is focused on improving forage productivity and exploring alternative options that best meet your production goals.

Registration begins at 9:30 a.m. with a welcome and introductions at 10 a.m. Two presentations are on tap for the morning session, and lunch will be followed at 12:45 p.m. by the IFGC annual meeting. The two afternoon sessions run from 1:15 to 3 p.m. Conference topics and speakers are:

The Right Alfalfa for Your Farm, Scott Newell,

alfalfa outreach specialist, University of Wisconsin

Iowa Forage Research Update, Shelby Gruss, forage extension specialist, Iowa State University

Market Outlook for Forage and Beef Cattle, Christopher Pudenz, economics and research manager, Iowa Farm Bureau

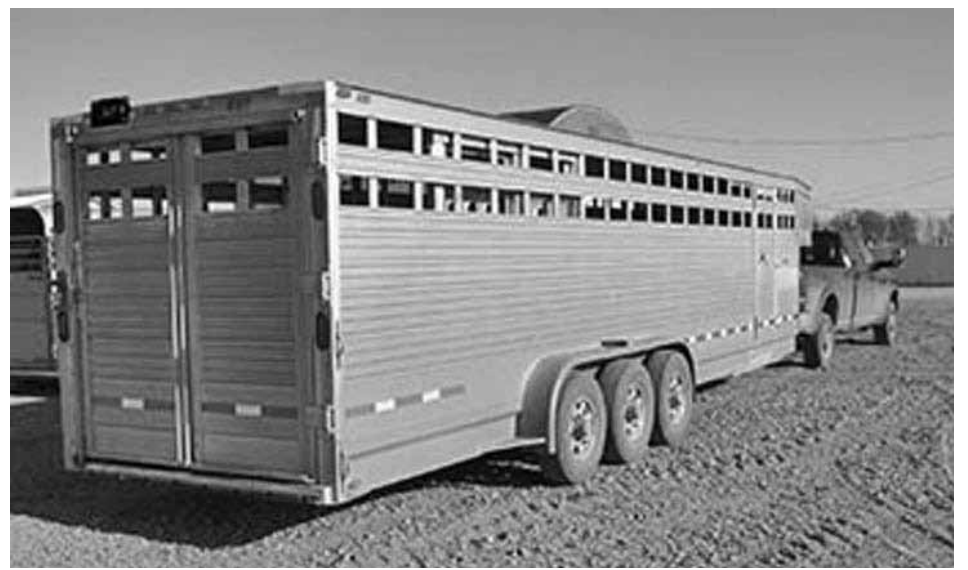
Important Considerations for Forage Weed Management Decisions, Wesley Everman, extension weed specialist, Iowa State University

This year, a tradeshow will be incorporated in the annual conference to encourage building relationships and brand awareness between producers and forage industry stakeholders across the state. Current IFGC industry memberships will have the option of having a booth free of charge. If you're interested in having a booth at the annual conference, contact Erika Lundy-Woolfolk, Iowa State University Extension and Outreach and Iowa Beef Center beef specialist, at ellundy@iastate.edu.

The conference is open to the public for \$45. IFGC members pay \$30 and those who have not yet paid dues can do that during the online registration process. Preregistration is encouraged to allow for adequate meal count.

See the agenda, registration form and map to Reiman Gardens on the IFGC conference website. The Iowa Forage and Grassland Council is led by a board of directors composed of agricultural producers, industry stakeholders and educators to advance forage production in the state. IFGC hosts or supports a variety of forage-focused meetings throughout the year, including its annual meeting generally held in February. Regardless of membership, all who have a vested interest in Iowa's forage production are invited to attend. To learn more about the Iowa Forage and Grassland Council including how to join the organization, visit iowaforage.org.

Beef Quality Assurance Sessions in Iowa Set for January 2025



Denise Schwab
ISU Extension and Outreach

Livestock trailer used to haul cattle. AMES, Iowa – If you'll need to update your Beef Quality Assurance certification in January, Iowa Beef Center and Iowa State University Extension and Outreach have you covered with six events. ISU Extension and Outreach beef specialist Denise Schwab said these BQA dates and locations are scheduled in various areas of the state and are for both initial certification and recertification. At the end of the meeting, all participants will become BQA certified.

BQA is required for everyone who sells cattle to Tyson Foods, Cargill and Iowa Premium, as well as several other beef processors and some sale barns. Certification must be renewed every three years to maintain that sales eligibility.

"Please check for pre-registration information for the site you want to attend," Schwab said. "Some sessions include a meal and having those numbers is important for planning.

Also, the Jan. 20 program at Van Horne includes a BQAT session following the regular BQA portion."

Jan. 15, 4 p.m.: Warren Cultural Center - Auditorium, 154 Public Square, Greenfield. Please RSVP to 641-743-8412. Held in conjunction with Three-State Beef Conference.

Jan. 20, 1-3 p.m.: ISU Extension and Outreach Cerro Gordo County, 601 S Illinois Ave, Mason City. Contact Sarah DeBour at 641-423-0844 or sdebour@iastate.edu.

Jan. 20, 6 p.m.: Thanks to the Benton County Cattlemen for helping sponsor a BQA and BQAT training at the Van Horne Community Center in Van Horne. A meal will be served at 6 p.m., with the training to start about 6:30 p.m. BQAT will follow the BQA certification. To register call ISU Extension and Outreach Benton County at 319-472-4739 or email Patti at upmeyer@iastate.edu.

Jan. 23, 5-8 p.m.: Grundy Center Community Center, 705 F Avenue, Grundy Center. Contact Brandy Bingman at 319-824-6979 or bbingman@iastate.edu.

Jan. 24: BQA training will be offered following the Driftless Region Beef Conference starting at 1 p.m. at the Grand River Convention Center in Dubuque. No preregistration is required for this training.

Jan. 27, 6-8 p.m.: Lakin Center, 61321 315th Street, Malvern. Please RSVP to ISU Extension and Outreach Mills County at 712-624-8616.

Iowa's BQA certification program utilizes industry partnerships to extend its reach across Iowa and is funded with beef checkoff dollars. The BQA program has helped inform industry representatives and beef producers about the latest management practices such as proper injection site techniques, recordkeeping practices, and new industry on-farm BQA Assessments; and helped consumers become more aware of the extra efforts taken by Iowa producers to deliver safe, wholesome beef.

For more information on BQA or any of these sessions, contact Schwab by email at dschwab@iastate.edu or call 319-721-9624.

Legal notices

PUBLIC NOTICE Estate of Leigh Banwell ESPR017666

THE IOWA DISTRICT COURT FOR Wright COUNTY IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF Leigh F. Banwell, Deceased CASE NO. ESPR017666 NOTICE OF PROOF OF WILL WITHOUT ADMINISTRATION

To All Persons Interested in the Estate of Leigh F. Banwell, Deceased, who died on or about on August 31, 2024: You are hereby notified that on De-

ember 20, 2024, the last will and testament of Leigh F. Banwell, deceased, bearing date of June 11, 2004, was admitted to probate in the above named court and there will be no present administration of the estate. Any action to set aside the will must be brought in the district court of the county within the later to occur of four months from the date of the second publication of this notice or one month from the date of mailing of this notice to all

heirs of the decedent and devisees under the will whose identities are reasonably ascertainable, or thereafter be forever barred. Dated on December 23, 2024. Sherry J. Banwell, Proponent Attorney for estate: Phillip M. Johnson, ICIS#: AT0014857 216 North Commercial Ave PO Box 109 Eagle Grove, IA 50533 Phil@Johnsonsllawfirm.com

Published in the Wright County Monitor on Thurs. Jan. 2 & 9, 2024

PUBLIC NOTICE Estate of Pamela Watne ESPR017669

THE IOWA DISTRICT COURT FOR Wright COUNTY IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF Pamela Watne, Deceased CASE NO. ESPR017669 NOTICE OF PROOF OF WILL WITHOUT ADMINISTRATION

To All Persons Interested in the Estate of Pamela Watne, Deceased, who died on or about on October 29, 2024: You are hereby notified that on

December 23, 2024, the last will and testament of Pamela Watne, deceased, bearing date of August 17, 2018, was admitted to probate in the above named court and there will be no present administration of the estate. Any action to set aside the will must be brought in the district court of the county within the later to occur of four months from the date of the second publication of this notice or one month from the date of mailing of this notice to all

heirs of the decedent and devisees under the will whose identities are reasonably ascertainable, or thereafter be forever barred. Dated on December 23, 2024. Stanley L. Watne, Proponent Attorney for estate: Phillip M. Johnson 216 North Commercial Ave PO Box 109 Eagle Grove, IA 50533 Phil@Johnsonsllawfirm.com

Published in the Wright County Monitor on Thurs. Jan. 2 & 9, 2024

PUBLIC NOTICE Wright County Supervisors December 23, 2024 Minutes

December 23, 2024 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 Pro-tem Kluss called the regular meeting of the Wright County Board of Supervisors to order at 9:10 a.m. Members present were Kluss and Rasmussen with Helgevoild absent

Motion by Rasmussen and seconded by Kluss to approve the tentative agenda. Motion carries.

Minutes of the previous regular

meeting was read and approved.

Approved claims for payment. Three members of the wellness committee attended a meeting in Des Moines concerning the wellness program. Wright County is currently getting 5% discount FY25 health insurance rates giving a \$86,966.40 savings. Due to participation in the wellness program again, Wright County will get 5% on FY26 premiums. Motion by Kluss and seconded by Rasmussen to continue in the ISAC Wellness program and have the president of the Wellness committee to sign. Motion

carries. Adam Clemons, Wright County Engineer, gave an update on Secondary Roads. Staff went out twice on hard surface roads for snow events. The crews cooperated with Conservation on Ash tree remove on O'Brien Ave.

Motion by Rasmussen and seconded by Kluss to adjourn the meeting. Motion carries. Dean Kluss, Chairman Pro-tem Wright County Board of Supervisors Betty Ellis, Wright County Auditor

Published in the Wright County Monitor on Thurs. Jan. 9, 2024

PUBLIC NOTICE City of Clarion Notice of Intent to Request Release Funds

NOTICE OF FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT AND NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST RELEASE OF FUNDS Date of Publication: January 9, 2025 City of Clarion 121 1 st Street SW Clarion IA 50525 515-532-2847

These notices shall satisfy two separate but related procedural requirements for activities to be undertaken by the City of Clarion. REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF FUNDS

On or after January 28, 2025, the City of Clarion will submit a request to the State of Iowa, Iowa Economic Development Authority for the release of Community Development Block Grant funds under TITLE 1 of the HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 1974, as amended (P.L. 97-35) to undertake the following project: Project Title: Upper Story Housing Project for 124 N. Main Purpose: The purpose for the Project is to help provide affordable, safe, and adequate housing for residents of the City of Clarion, especially families who are considered low-to-moderate income (LMI). The proposed project will help establish five new residential units at this property of which four of the proposed five units will be made available to LMI families and individuals for a period of at least three years.

Location: The project activities will take place at 124 N. Main, Clarion, Iowa. Estimated Cost: The total project cost is estimated at \$1,050,050. HUD funding is \$550,000. FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT The City of Clarion has determined that the project will have no significant impact on the human environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) is not required. Additional project information is contained in the Environmental Review Record (ERR) on file at Clarion City Hall, 121 1 st Street SW and may be examined or copied weekdays during normal business hours of 7:00 A.M to 4:00 P.M., Monday – Friday.

City of Clarion to use HUD program funds.

OBJECTIONS TO RELEASE OF FUNDS

The Iowa Economic Development Authority will accept objections to its release of funds and the City of Clarion's certification for a period of fifteen days following the anticipated submission date or its actual receipt of the request (whichever is later) only if they are on one of the following bases: (a) the certification was not executed by the Certifying Officer of the City of Clarion; (b) the City of Clarion has omitted a step or failed to make a decision or finding required by HUD regulations at 24 CFR part 58; (c) the grant recipient or other participants in the development process have committed funds, incurred costs or undertaken activities not authorized by 24 CFR Part 58 before approval of a release of funds by the Iowa Economic Development Authority; or (d) another Federal agency acting pursuant to 40 CFR Part 1504 has submitted a written finding that the project is unsatisfactory from the standpoint of environmental quality. Objections must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the required procedures (24 CFR Part 58, Sec. 58.76) and shall be addressed to Iowa Economic Development Authority at 1963 Bell Avenue, Suite 200, Des Moines, IA 50315. Potential objectors should contact the Iowa Economic Development Authority to verify the actual last day of the objection period. Rodney Heiden, Mayor – City of Clarion, Iowa

PUBLIC COMMENTS Any individual, group, or agency may submit written comments on the ERR to the Clarion City Administrator. All comments received by the City of Clarion prior to authorizing submission of a request for release of funds. Comments should specify which Notice they are addressing. RELEASE OF FUNDS The City of Clarion certifies to Iowa Economic Development Authority that Rodney Heiden, in his capacity as Mayor, consents to accept the jurisdiction of the Federal Courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to the environmental review process and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. Iowa Economic Development Authority's approval of the certification satisfies its responsibilities under NEPA and related laws and authorities and allows the

Published in the Wright County Monitor on Thurs. Jan. 9, 2024

You don't know what

YOU DON'T KNOW...

WITHOUT PUBLIC NOTICES, YOU ARE LEFT GUESSING.

Since knowing is so important, we joined other newspapers in Iowa and also publish our public notices online.

FIND IOWA NOTICES ONLINE AT www.iowanotices.org



NEWSPAPER DEADLINE:



Legal Notices.....Noon Friday
Classifieds.....11:00 a.m Friday
Display Ads11:00 a.m. .Friday
Submitted News.....Noon.....Friday
Obituaries 4:30 p.m.....Monday

The Wright County Monitor

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, January 12
9:00 a.m. Sunday School for all ages
10:00 a.m. Worship Service
• Sunday, January 19
9:00 a.m. Sunday School for all ages
10:00 a.m. Worship Service
• Sunday, January 26
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
Pastor Grant Woodley
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, January 12
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 8
Adoration at all Parishes
7:40 a.m. Rosary at St. Francis, Belmont
8:00 a.m. Mass at St. Francis, Belmont
5:00 p.m. KC Meeting at Cattlemans
8:30 p.m. YFF Classes
6:30 p.m. First Reconciliation at St. John, Clarion
• Thursday, January 9
11:40 a.m. Rosary at Sacred Heart, Eagle Grove
12:00 p.m. Mass at Eagle Grove
• Friday, January 10
7:40 a.m. Rosary at St. John, Clarion
8:00 a.m. Mass at Clarion, IA
• Saturday, January 11
Baptism of the Lord (Baby Needs)
7:40 p.m. Rosary at St. Francis, Belmont
4:00 p.m. Mass at St. Francis, Belmont
7:15 p.m. Rosary at St. John, Clarion
8:00 p.m. Spanish Mass at St. John, Clarion
Sunday, January 12
Baptism of the Lord (Baby Needs)
7:40 a.m. Rosary at Sacred Heart, Eagle Grove
8:00 a.m. Mass at Sacred Heart, Eagle Grove
10:10 a.m. Rosary at St. John, Clarion
10:30 a.m. Mass at St. John, Clarion

• Monday, January 13
8:15 a.m. Rosary at St. Francis, Belmont
11:00 a.m. Fatima Rosary at Sacred Heart, Eagle Grove
1:30 p.m. Mass at the Meadows
5:30 p.m. Finance at Sacred Heart, Eagle Grove

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. Sabado
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, January 12
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, January 12
9:30 a.m. Worship and 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, January 12
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
• Sunday, January 12
Annual Meeting

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
Missouri Synod
Jct. Highway 69 & 3
Pastor Mark Eichler
• Sunday, January 12
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, January 12
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, January 12
9:00 a.m. Conf/SS/Coffee
10:00 a.m. Worship/Comm.

UNITED METHODIST & PRESBYTERIAN
Dows
• Sunday, January 12
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, January 12
10:30 a.m. Worship

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN
304 W. Main, Latimer
Travis Berg, Pastor
• Sunday, January 12
9 a.m. Worship, 10:15 a.m. ABC/Sunday School

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Morgan, Lee Center, Bradford
Erling Shultz, Pastor
• Sunday, January 12
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, January 12
9:30a.m. Joint Sunday Worship Service with Holy Communion, Coffee to follow
• Dinner is the first Sunday of the month



The Clarion Wire

** 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 businesses. Win \$100, \$50 or \$25 with a drawing held on February 4! You can't win if you don't play!!
** Congratulations to Heartland Museum as it celebrates its 25th anniversary in 2025! Watch for various ways it might celebrate during the year!
** Play BINGO every Friday at the Senior Citizens Center from 1:30 - 3:30 p.m.
** Dows Legion is hosting a Potato Bar on Sunday, January 12 at its post on Main Street from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.
** Clarion's Senior Citizens Center, Play '500 cards', the first and third Wednesdays of each month. Next one will be on Wednesday, January 15! from 1:30 - 3:30 p.m.
** It's a four-week look at the topic of "Guilt", hosted at the Clarion Church of Christ beginning on Thursday, January 16 from 7 - 8:15 p.m.
** Jessica McClintock will entertain at Chappy's on Main beginning at 8 p.m. on Saturday, January 18!
** First Lutheran Church FOOD PANTRY in Clarion, 420 - First Street N.W., open on the second and fourth Thursdays of each month, from 5 - 6:30 p.m. Next event is January 23!
** Diamond Vogel and Keep Iowa Beautiful is once again announcing FREE gallons of paint to communities and non-profit groups to 'spiff' up local communities. Applications are due February 14. For more information, visit https://

keepiowabeautiful.org/grants-scholarships/grants/paint-iowa-beau....
** 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.. The WCCF 2025 Granting Cycle opens on January 1 with applications being accepted through February 15. Late applications will not be considered. To learn more, visit their website at https://www.wrightcounty.iowa.gov/departments/economic_development/charitable_foundation.php or call Darrel Steven Carlyle at (515) 532-6422.
** Need items from the local Loan Closet? How are hospital-type items accessed? There is one location with Iowa Specialty Hospitals. Call Clarion - 515-532-2811. Callers will be directed to Belmont Hospital or Clinic. The person will help callers with their questions or needs.
** AT THE CLARION THEATRE: Showing "Sonic The Hedgehog" (PG) on Friday - Sunday, January 10 - 12 @ 7 p.m.; Sunday matinee, January 12 @ 2:30 p.m.
** FOCUS ON BUSINESS: Enjoy the new COFFEE BAR at FUEL on North Main beginning at 7 a.m. Wednesdays - Friday; 8 a.m. on Saturdays. Restaurant opens at 11 a.m. - Wednesdays - Sundays. (Coffee available most times on Sunday).
** THANK YOU: To the Jeff and Deb Hansen Foundation of Iowa Select Farms for their gifts of 5# pork loins to make Christmas a bit merrier for people in North Central Iowa!



Look, a square!
Squares have four equal sides. Daddy's kind of a square too, but that's another story.

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

Ad Council United Way

	Office: (563) 864-3333 Cell: (563) 605-1078		<p>Strength to Carry On</p> <p>Accounts of people surviving for long periods of time in the wilderness or lost at sea are amazing, and often uplifting. The will to live is strong, and you don't know how far you can go until you are forced to do it. There are accounts of polar explorers surviving for years because their ships were "iced in" or stuck in the ice, such as the Franklin expedition, which left England in 1845 seeking the Northwest Passage and was icebound until 1848, when the crews left their ships and tried to walk to safety (they never made it). The Donner Party was a group of migrants going to California who spent the winter of 1846-1847 in the Sierra Nevada mountains and resorted to cannibalism to survive. More recently, in 1972 a group of Uruguayan rugby players travelling by plane crashed in the Andes and survived by eating some of the remains of passengers who had died. The decision to eat human flesh to survive is surely one of the most difficult and horrific one can imagine, and yet it shows the strength of our will to live. These stories of survival also show that human beings, when pushed to the limit often find ways to push beyond the limit. The phenomenon of a "second wind," where we find reserves of energy hitherto untapped is familiar to every endurance athlete. What we seldom hear about, however, is that there can often be a third or a fourth wind, that is, we can almost always dig deeper to find further untapped reserves. And what is more, when the reserves within have truly run dry, we can sometimes tap into sources from without, and one of the greatest is the divine energy coursing through all of nature. So the next time you're feeling wiped out and that you can't go another step, look for that second wind, and ask God for strength to carry on.</p> <p>-Christopher Simon</p>	Office: (563) 864-3333 Cell: (563) 605-1078	Office: (563) 864-3333 Cell: (563) 605-1078		
Office: (563) 864-3333 Cell: (563) 605-1078	Office: (563) 864-3333 Cell: (563) 605-1078	Office: (563) 864-3333 Cell: (563) 605-1078			Office: (563) 864-3333 Cell: (563) 605-1078		First Citizens Bank myfcb.bank
Office: (563) 864-3333 Cell: (563) 605-1078				Office: (563) 864-3333 Cell: (563) 605-1078	Office: (563) 864-3333 Cell: (563) 605-1078	Office: (563) 864-3333 Cell: (563) 605-1078	
	Office: (563) 864-3333 Cell: (563) 605-1078		Stevenson Insurance Services ABENS-MARTY-CURRAN AGENCY Goldfield 515-825-3476		Comm1 The Local www.comm1.net Phone, Video & High Speed Internet All on a Fiber Optic Network! 641-762-3772 Kanawha, Iowa		

Words of Wisdom

Last week's trivia questions:
Who has co-hosted Dick Clark's New Year's Rockin' Eve since 2006, and is the new game show host for Wheel of Fortune? Answer: Ryan Seacrest.
What song, traditionally played on New Year's Eve, is about preserving old



friendships and looking back over the events of the year? Answer: Auld Lang Syne.

This week's trivia questions:

What college football bowl game has been played annually in New Orleans, Louisiana since 1935?
What college football bowl game has been played in Dallas, Texas every year since 1937?
What college football bowl game has been played in Miami, Florida every year since 1935?

Jan. 8 is Earth's Rotation Day, and World Literary Day; Jan. 9 is National Law Enforcement Appreciation Day, and International Choreographers Day; Jan. 10 is National Cut Your Energy Costs Day, and Save the Eagles Day; Jan. 11 is National Milk Day, and World Sketchnote Day; Jan. 12 is National Pharmacists Day, National Youth Day, and National Hot Tea Day; Jan. 13 is Public Radio Broadcasting Day, National Sticker Day, and National Fourth Graders Day; Jan. 14 is Organize Your Home Day, and International Kite Day.

This week is Elvis Presley Birthday Celebration Week.

HELP! My brother has 2 tickets to the Super Bowl

My brother has 2 tickets to the upcoming Super Bowl! He was so excited and paid the \$3,500 for each ticket as soon as they went on sale. However, he didn't realize that the game would land on the day of his wedding.

If you are interested, he is looking for someone to take his place.. It will be at St. Francis Church in Des Moines, Iowa at 3:45 p.m. She is 5' 7" and weighs about 145 pounds. She's a great cook, and will be in the white dress!

Air Force One gets caught in a snowstorm in Iowa and crashes. Because most of the roads are out, it takes emergency responders a long time to reach the wreck. When they get there, they see a farmer.

"Did you see the plane crash?" asked the EMTs.

"Yup. Sure did. Buried them all too," answered the farmer.

"None of them survived?"

"Well, the president said he did, but you know what a liar he is."

A guy walks into a store in Iowa and says, "I'd like to buy that .50 cal sniper rifle with 4,000 rounds of ammunition and a box of penicillin."

The store clerk replies, "Sorry Sir, I'm going to have to see some paperwork for that penicillin."

The Iowa State Cyclones football team has played in 19 bowl games, starting with the Sun Bowl against LSU in 1971. The Cyclones have played in a bowl game seven of the last eight years, the most recent being a 42-41 win over the Miami Hurricanes in this year's Pop-Tarts Bowl in Orlando, Florida.

The Iowa Hawkeyes football team has played in 37 bowl games, including 35 since 1981. The Hawkeyes' first bowl game appearance was a win over Oregon State in the 1957 Rose Bowl. Their most recent bowl game was a 27-24 loss to Missouri in this year's Music City Bowl in Nashville, Tennessee. Iowa's record in bowl games is 18-18-1.

Monitor Memories

FROM THE ARCHIVES OF THE WRIGHT COUNTY MONITOR
1983 - 1948

42 Years Ago
January 13, 1983

Wintertime offers a chance for a variety of activities for snow-bound residents, one of which is snowmobiling. Snowmobilers in Wright County are fortunate in having a wide variety of snowmobile routes that they can operate their machines on throughout the county. The best of the trails is the County Snowmobile Trail, which was established by the Iowa River Riders snowmobile club out of Belmond. The trail offers snowmobilers the opportunity to take a county-wide tour.

Larry A. McCullough, of rural Woolstock, told investigating officers that someone had apparently broken into his house during the previous Thursday night. He told authorities that when he returned to the house the next day, he found a big, yellow dog inside of his house, and the animal had damaged the carpet and woodwork.

It's only natural for brothers to stand up for one another. So when Cowboy 185-pounder Jim Bossard was pinned last Wednesday at Webster City, it came as no big surprise when Dave Bossard recorded a fall in the heavyweight match to give Clarion a 29-27 North Central Conference wrestling victory.

77 Years Ago
January 8, 1948

Lois Ellinger, in the seventh grade in Clarion public schools; Carol Kay Christiansen, fourth grade, and Barbara Oldham, fourth grade, were among the 22 winners in a state wide essay contests, the results of which were recently announced. Lois was runner-up to the state winner, while the other two girls received honorable mention.

G. G. Miller and A. A. Williams have formed a partnership under the name of the M&W Motor Co. and have obtained the franchise for the Kaiser-Frazer line of motor cars for Clarion and vicinity. At the present time they are temporarily using the ware-house of the Economy Products Co. on No. 3 west of town for their office and display room. However, construction has been started on a new garage building.

The weather played right into the hands of the committee who prepared the ice skating rink on the playground east of the school building last week, with the result Clarion skaters had plenty of that sport. The sudden dip in temperature Wednesday fitted in with the plans for flooding the rink, with the result that freezing took place quickly.

Obituaries

Phyllis Louise (Tillman) Brinkman 1927 - 2024

Phyllis Louise (Tillman) Brinkman was born July 13, 1927, on a farm southwest of Clarion to Vera Mechem and Ray Tillman. Phyllis died December 9, 2024, at the Meadows Assisted Senior Living Community in Clarion, Iowa at the age of 97. There were nine children in the Tillman family. Her sister Bonnie and brother Burgess survive her. Phyllis' world view was shaped by the Great Depression, and she was a proud member of the Greatest Generation.

Phyllis graduated from Dows High School and attended Ellsworth College earning her teaching credentials. She taught in rural schools, including one-room schoolhouses, for six years. She substitute-taught or worked as a teacher's aide in surrounding grade schools for decades.

Phyllis married Kenneth Brinkman in 1946. They had three children Kurt (Nadia), Brian, and Susan (Kevin). She has three grandchildren: Heather (Ben) Brinkman Lent, Ashley (Dan) Brinkman McClure, and Lauren Kuss; and five great-grandchildren: Liana, Jackson, and Brennan Lent and Gabriel and Roman Mendoza. She



is predeceased by Brian, Ken, and Kevin.

The Brinkmans moved from Dows, Iowa to Gilmore City, Iowa in 1968 where Phyllis continued teaching. She taught Sunday School and Bible School at the Methodist Churches in Dows and Gilmore City for 50 years. For many years she led Story Hour at the Gilmore City Public Library and is remembered fondly for her lively storytelling.

Phyllis was at her core a teacher. She made learning fun. She never demeaned children and considered teaching them a privilege.

A memorial service for Phyllis will be held Sunday, July 13, 2025 following the regular church service at Faith United Methodist Church, Gilmore City, Iowa.

Obituaries

Stewart Johnson 1951 - 2024

Stewart Johnson of Naples, Fla., died Dec. 30, 2024, after a challenging few years dealing with the fallout from an aggressive form of melanoma. He was 73 and lived a full life that included positions in pharmaceutical and surgical equipment sales and marketing, and a mid-career change to accounting. A love of travel led him to pursue multiple cross-country and overseas adventures later in life, many of them on his beloved motorcycle.

Stewart was born on Valentine's Day 1951 in Oelwein, Iowa, to Rodney and Helen Lounsberry Johnson. He moved to Clarion, Iowa, in the early 1960s with his parents and two older brothers when his father was hired by Ray Hagie to be general manager of Hagie Manufacturing. He graduated in 1969 from Clarion High School, where he lettered in football, wrestling and golf, and earned an undergraduate degree in business at the University of Iowa in 1973 and an MBA from St. Louis University. His business experience included working for Abbott Labs in sales and after becoming CPA, he was a partner and co-owner of the Bahr and Karley accounting firm in Burlington, Wis.

He married Dawn Doehoffer in 1984 after being introduced to her by their mutual friend and settled in Chicago's north suburbs, first in Buffalo Grove then in Libertyville. After Dawn's death far too early from breast cancer, he eventually relocated to Florida.

Stewart had a love of learning about different cultures in his travels around the world, including Cambodia, India, Europe and South America and all over the United States. He took pride in having visited nearly all of the U.S. presidential libraries and loved weekend trips on his motorcycle as a member of a motorcycle club in Chicago. One of his

motorcycle trips through Spain was challenging because of the winding roads and hills. Later in life he discovered the joys of pickleball and made numerous friends in the pickleball world. He enjoyed being out on the water whether it was the Gulf of Mexico or Lake Geneva. Like his father, he enjoyed flying planes and was an expert on aviation. His favorite dogs were his black labs, Abby and Gretchen. Stewart was happy when he moved to Naples and no longer had to shovel snow. He also appreciated fast cars, his Corvettes, motorcycles, chess, Gunsmoke, the Iowa Hawkeye football team and the Kansas City Chiefs.

Proceeding him in death were his parents, Rodney and Helen Johnson. Survivors include his brothers Randy (Linda) of Overland Park, Kan., and David (Ellen) Johnson of Morrison, Co., one niece and many nephews, and numerous cousins and close friends throughout the country. Special thanks go to his friend Judy Mansueto, who served as his health care surrogate, and to Assisting Hands of Naples, especially Youseline, who cared for him with much kindness.

He will be buried in Lakeside Cemetery in Libertyville, Ill, next to his wife Dawn. A memorial service will be held in the Chicago area in late spring.



Baby Girl

Austin and Olivia Walton of Clarion, IA would like to announce the birth of their daughter Vera June Walton. She was born Sunday, December 29, 2024 at the Iowa Specialty Hospital in Clarion, IA. She weighed

8 pounds 4 ounces. She joins her siblings: Iylah (8), Graham (6) and Ledger (4). Proud Grandparents are: Scott and Krystin Myers of Eldora, IA. Proud Great Grandparents are: Adam and Kathy Walton of Clarion, IA.

Career Exploration Workshop

Traci Kloetzer
ISU Extension
and Outreach

Franklin County 4-H is offering a series of Career Exploration Workshops for ALL 7th-12th grade students in Franklin County. Students do not need to be in 4-H to participate in these FREE workshops. Our first workshop is January 14 from 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Hampton Post Office where we will learn all about careers in the postal industry. We will then walk to the Hampton Public Library where we will explore careers and learn how to search for jobs. Youth may sign up by visiting the following form, <https://forms.gle/eSxhGDYAPX-6szUUX8>, or by contacting Laela Ragsdale at laela@iastate.edu.

Local businesses who would be interested in talking to youth about future career opportunities in their business should contact Laela Ragsdale at laela@iastate.edu.

Scholarship Help Night

Any youth needing assistance in applying for college scholarships is welcome to come to the Hampton Public Library January 15 between 3:00 - 5:30 p.m. for assistance in applying for scholarships. 4-H youth in grades 9th-12th are also welcome to apply for 4-H Recognition

Day opportunities during this time. Please contact Laela Ragsdale at laela@iastate.edu with questions.

4-H County Youth Councils

Any 4-H Youth in grades 7th-12th are invited to join County Clover Kids Council or Senior Youth Council. We meet jointly once a month and focus on building leadership skills, making connections with other youth in Franklin County and having fun! Our next meeting is January 20 from 7:00 - 8:00 p.m. at the Franklin County Extension Office, 6 2nd Street NW, Hampton. Please contact Laela Ragsdale at laela@iastate.edu with questions!

4-H Awards Night

All Franklin County 4-H members, families and supporters are invited to join us for our Annual 4-H Awards Night on January 12, from 5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. at the Franklin County Convention Center. Refreshments and desserts will be provided. Please come and support our 4-H members accomplishments! Please contact Laela Ragsdale at laela@iastate.edu with questions.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider. For the full non-discrimination statement or accommodation inquiries, go to www.extension.iastate.edu/diversity/ext.

Specializing in Collision Repair!
"In business since 1995"
Lawson
AUTO BODY & DETAIL SHOP
• Down Draft Paint Booth w/Baked Curing Cycle
• Frame Machine • Computerized Paint Matching
• Computerized Estimates
• A preferred shop with insurance companies
Quality Pre-Owned Vehicles
Weather Tech Dealer • Detailing • Interior/Exterior Cleaning
118 N. Commercial • Eagle Grove • 448-3944
www.lawsonauto.com

Happy 65th Birthday TO Darla

I Love You in sign Sister Connie

Put All Your Faith In YeHoVaH! Please Watch FrankSpeech.com

KEEP IOWA Beautiful

To advertise contact Nikki: sales@wrightcountymonitor.com



FOR RENT
Lantern Park Apartments
RENTAL ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE

Featuring, 1 and 2 bedroom apartments with water, sewer, and trash removal furnished. Laundry facilities and off-street parking available. Must meet income and occupancy guidelines. Applications are available 24 hours a day at:
 601 2nd St. SE, Clarion, IA 50525 | Phone: 515-532-6837 • 641-398-2524
 Tt: 1-800-735-2942 • Voice 1-800-735-2943
 This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.
www.keywaymanagement.com

Classifieds

NOTICES
NOTICE: Garage door sales, service and repairs. Farm, home and commercial garage doors and operators. For prompt service, phone Mike Sampson in Kanawha at 641-762-3330

FOR RENT
 1&2 BD Apartments in Goldfield. 62 and older or disabled/handicapped at any age. Income Based, rental assistance if qualified. Contact Connor Management & Real Estate, LLC 641-435-4788/lkconnor@connormgt.com Equal Housing Opportunity Provider.

FOR RENT
FOR RENT: KANAWHA APTS. 2BR/1BA \$450. 1BR/1BA \$375. Updated Property, New Appliances, on site Laundry. Landlord Pays Water and Sewer. CALL AL 641-494-7965



Are you interested in improving the quality of child care in Iowa?
 The Child Care Resource Program is seeking a full-time, telecommute Child Care Consultant to cover Calhoun, Hamilton, Humboldt, Wright & Webster counties.
Requirements:
 Bachelor's degree is required in Early Childhood, Elementary Education with Early Child Endorsement, Child and Family Services or closely related field.
 Responsibilities include providing on-site or virtual consultation, practice-based coaching and technical assistance to non-registered Child Care Homes, Child Care Development Homes, Licensed Child Care Centers and Preschools.
 Travel is required.
 Reliable transportation, proof of insurance and a valid driver's license.
For more information & to apply online, please visit www.midsioux.org. 1-800-859-2025.
An Equal Opportunity Employer.

Mid-Sioux
OPPORTUNITY, INC.
 A Community Action Agency

GABBY'S GROUND RULES

Hey, folks,
CALL BEFORE YOU DIG!

IOWA ONE CALL

SM If you plan to landscape or do any home improvements that require digging, please follow Gabby's Ground Rules. Call Iowa One Call at least 48 hours in advance to have your underground utilities marked. Then avoid digging within 18" on either side of flags or paint markings. Know what's below - call Iowa One Call. It's fast. It's free. It's the law.

800-292-8989
www.iowaonecall.com

811
Know what's below. Call before you dig.

A public service announcement of Iowa One Call.

Look,
 a big rectangle!

Let's try and find other rectangles in this newspaper.

When you talk to your child, you build vocabulary, so everyday moments become learning moments. For more tips, visit bornlearning.org

Ad United Way



BE A CORRESPONDENT!

Do you have a story to tell or photos to show off?

We are always looking for area residents to write a column, submit articles or sport features in the newspaper!

Share history, highlight your community, document events and more.

Call 515-364-2344
 or email news@wrightcountymonitor.com

today, to talk about how we can include your voice and ideas!

Getting help is the first step to getting better.

If someone you love has a problem with gambling, they likely feel powerless to control it. 1-800-BETS OFF can help.

It's a free, confidential, 24/7 resource that can help you and your loved one find an experienced treatment professional.

Call 1-800-BETS OFF today to get help for them — and you.

1-800-BETS OFF

Iowa HHS

It's like having your own...

GIGANTIC SUCCESS MAGNET!

THE CLASSIFIEDS!

SPORTS

(Photos: Taylor Smith)

JV Boys Suffer Defeat in First Game of 2025



McCoy Yackle calls for the ball against Humboldt.



Freshman Armando Melendez was a presence in the paint for CGD.



Ethan Hasty catches his breath during the JV game.

Taylor Smith, Sports Editor

After a long break, boys junior varsity hoopers from Clarion-Goldfield-Dows were on the road in Humboldt on Friday night. They led briefly in the 1st

quarter, but eventually lost by 13 to their North Central Conference foes.

Armando Melendez and Ethan Hasty helped power the CGD offense early on as Humboldt struggled to find their rhythm. Freshman

Jacob Ruba drilled a three-pointer, but the Wildcats countered and also buried a shot from distance. Turnovers and a shot clock violation would hamper CGD. They trailed 14-11 after a quarter of play.

Crew Garza drained a three to open the second quarter. Humboldt would answer again, but the Cowboys found Melendez inside for an easy two. The Wildcats began to assert their dominance and led 30-

19 at the half.

Melendez and Greydon Frantz helped carry the Cowboy offense in the 3rd quarter and the team looked reenergized. The two squads traded buckets, and a Garza three made it

49-39.

The Cowboys were able to string together a small run in the 4th, but a comeback wasn't in the cards. The Wildcats clamped down and came out with the 67-54 victory.

Cowboys 1-5 After Loss in Humboldt

Taylor Smith, Sports Editor

Similarly to the JV game, the Humboldt Wildcats came out cold against Clarion-Goldfield-Dows last Friday night. However, it didn't take them long to right the ship and they defeated the Cowboys in convincing fashion.

CGD got to the line early against Humboldt, and Chaz Lane established himself with an old-fashioned three-point play. The Wildcats built an 11-point lead in the 2nd quarter of an array of shots. On the defensive end, Lane had an emphatic block. The sophomore put the Cowboy offense on his back and had another three-point play. Unfortunately, Humboldt led 36-22 at halftime.

In the 3rd, JD Morrical and Ethan Hasty both drained a three and Lane added yet another three-

point play, but the team facing a 22-point deficit going into the 4th.

Humboldt kept their foot on the gas and pushed their lead to 30 in the 4th, winning by a final of 76-46.

Lane had 20 points, four steals, and a block in the loss. Morrical finished with nine points and three assists. Huxley Lingenfelter shot 50% from the field for six points, and Bryce Lindaman added five points and six boards.

The Wildcats shot 53.8% from the field as a team and three of their seniors finished in double digits.



Huxley Lingenfelter had 6 points and 6 rebounds vs. Humboldt.



Six games into the season, Chaz Lane averages 16.5 points per game and 8.7 rebounds per game.

No matter how you like to get your news, THE WRIGHT COUNTY MONITOR HAS YOU COVERED! Subscribe to The Wright County Monitor and you won't miss current local news about people, places and events.

The Wright County Monitor

149th year
Official newspaper of Wright County
www.clarionnewsonline.com

YOUR SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

ON-LINE SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION (OPTIONAL)

USER NAME: _____

PASSWORD: _____

EMAIL: _____

ENTER BILLING INFORMATION:

VISA MASTERCARD AMERICAN EXPRESS DISCOVER CHECK

CREDIT CARD NUMBER: _____

EXP. DATE: _____

\$64.00
For one year Local.

\$71.00
For one year out of the area.

\$59.00
For Digital Edition only.

Mail to: Wright County Monitor
9 Second St • Hampton, IA 50441

CGD High School Celebrates Winterfest!

2025 Winterfest Court

Front row left to right: Madeline Askvig, Abigail Samson, Kennedy Jackson, Elliot Ennis, MaKayla Beisel. Back row left to right: Coleton Johnson, Jaxen Engstrom, Cristian Rosales, Bryce Lindaman, Cesar Rosales.

Dress Up Days:
Wednesday - Crazy Sock Day
Thursday - Anything BUT a backpack
Friday - Spirit Day

Coronation will be held during half-time of the Varsity Boys Basketball game against Webster City on Friday, January 10th.

North Iowa Real Estate, LLC
We are the key to your new home!

515-532-3917
218 1st St. S.W., Ste. B,
Clarion, Iowa 50525
Information@NorthIARE.com

Rod Brooks, Broker/Owner 515-851-0918
Bob Powers, Owner/Salesperson 515-851-0938
Kevin Reed, Salesperson 515-851-1586
Jordan Marker, Salesperson 515-293-0296

We are excited to be working with Stalcup AgService to provide additional services to our farming communities.

www.stalcupag.com

Call to Schedule a consultation on:

- Farm Appraisals • Farm Real Estate
- Farm Management

www.stalcupag.com

AUTHORIZED DEALER



Iowa Ag News Monthly Prices

United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service

Greg Thessen

The average price received by farmers for corn during November 2024 in Iowa was \$4.12 per bushel according to the latest USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service – Agricultural Prices report. This was 11 cents above the October price but 62 cents below November 2023.

The November 2024 average price received by farmers for soybeans, at \$9.85 per bushel, was 3 cents above the October price but \$3.35 below the November 2023 price.

All hay prices in Iowa averaged \$114.00 per ton in November. This was \$4.00 above the October price but \$70.00 below the

November 2023 price. The November 2024 alfalfa hay price, at \$117.00, was \$4.00 below the previous month and \$72.00 below November 2023. The average price received for other hay during November was \$103.00 per ton. This was \$10.00 above the October price but \$46.00 below November last year.

The average price for milk was \$23.30 per cwt, \$2.60 below the October price but \$3.40 above November 2023.



Prices Received by Farmers – Iowa and United States

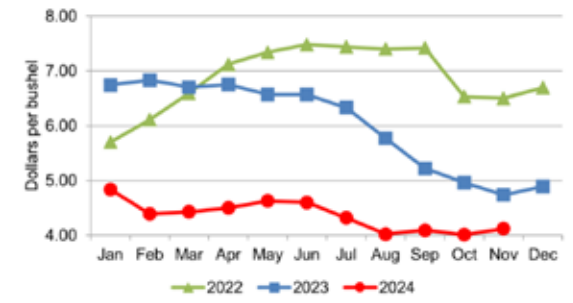
	Iowa			United States		
	November 2023	October 2024	November 2024	November 2023	October 2024	November 2024
	(dollars)	(dollars)	(dollars)	(dollars)	(dollars)	(dollars)
Cornbu	4.74	4.01	4.12	4.66	3.99	4.07
Hay, all, baledton	184.00	110.00	114.00	198.00	165.00	159.00
Alfalfaton	189.00	121.00	117.00	209.00	173.00	165.00
Otherton	149.00	93.00	103.00	174.00	147.00	147.00
Oatsbu	4.77	3.69	4.15	3.92	3.33	3.50
Soybeansbu	13.20	9.82	9.85	13.00	9.91	9.84
Milk, allcwt	19.90	25.90	23.30	21.60	25.20	24.20

Livestock Prices Received by Farmers – United States

	November 2023	October 2024	November 2024
Calvescwt	290.00	322.00	334.00
Cattle, all beefcwt	180.00	187.00	188.00
Cows ¹cwt	104.00	128.00	124.00
Steers and heiferscwt	184.00	189.00	190.00
Hogs, allcwt	57.50	63.90	65.40
Barrows & Giltscwt	57.50	63.60	65.30
Sowscwt	58.10	70.60	66.10
Eggs, market ²doz	1.61	2.72	3.21

¹ Beef cows and cull dairy cows sold for slaughter.
² Also referred to as table eggs.

Corn Price Received by Farmers - Iowa



Aerial views

Bruce Voigts, Aerial Photographer (Photos taken January 1, 2025)



The water level is still low at Big Wall Lake.



Making Ethanol at the Goldfield's Corn LP.



This photo taken back in 2006 shows the normal water levels at Big Wall Lake.



Prestage Foods of Iowa, south of Eagle Grove on break for New Year's Day.

Riedel Tree Service
All Tree Trimming and Removal
Specializing in Farm Acreages
Josh Riedel
Free Estimates • Insured • Seasoned Firewood
Cell: 641-430-7064

The Chronological Gospels
The Life and 70 Week
Ministry of the Messiah
www.ARoodAwakening.tv
Watch Shabbat Night Live

Dows Legion Potato Bar
Sunday, January 12
11 a.m. - 1p.m.
Dine-In and Take-Out
No Drive Thru.
Weather Permitting.

Menu
Monday, January 13, join the Dows Senior Citizens for a delicious meal at noon at the Senior Center. Cost is \$10.00. Everyone is welcome and carry-outs are available. Menu: Chicken, Mashed Potatoes/Gravy, Corn, Salads, Dessert.



AGP Ag Processing Inc
Refinery Material Handler
AG Processing Inc (AGP) is currently looking to hire a temp-refinery material handler worker in an entry level capacity. This is an amazing opportunity with growth potential at our Eagle Grove facility. AGP offers a positive work environment. Refinery Material Handler duties include both indoor & outdoor work activity with a rotating shift schedule. Candidates should have a high school diploma or equivalent. **Don't miss out on your chance for advancement at AGP. Apply today by filling out an application at our Eagle Grove main office located at 500 North Commercial Avenue, Eagle Grove or at AGP.com.**
AG Processing Inc is an Equal Opportunity Employer & participates in E-Verify.

how are your **LOCAL TAXES** spent?
Since knowing is so important, we joined other newspapers in Iowa and publish our public notices online.
FIND IOWA NOTICES ONLINE AT www.iowanotices.org

Town & Country Realty
A WINNING COMBINATION
for Real Estate Success!
a HouseSOLD name
Buying a Home is the single largest investment many people make in their lifetime. That kind of investment needs to be handled by knowledgeable professionals who have your best interest in mind!
Sales: Raejean • 515.689.8134, Natalie • 515.851.0737
Danielle • Office Manager, Carol • Broker/Owner
104 North Main • Clarion, IA • 515.532.2150 • www.clariontownandcountryrealty.com

Dows Business & Professional Directory
Muhlenbruch Insurance
Shannon Muhlenbruch, Agent
515-852-4156
Office: (563) 864-3333
Cell: (563) 605-1078
MORTS WATER 1-800-HEY-MORT (439-6678)
Local Authorized Kinetic Dealer
Well Systems • Water Conditioning • Backhoe Sewer Systems • Trenching/Horizontal Boring
Drain Line Auger & Jetting • Plumbing
www.mortsonline.com | Kent Morten - Owner
Geothermal • Heating • Air Conditioning
Air Quality Control • Plumbing • Duct Cleaning
1-800-579-6678
Comfort