



# The Wright County Monitor

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## Bringing Healthcare Back Home

*Amanda Rink, Editor*  
In Wright County, a new healthcare initiative led by Iowa Specialty Hospitals and Clinics is making a significant impact on the lives of homebound residents.

Registered Nurse Cyndi Rector has stepped up to head the newly established program to provide crucial in-home nursing care for those who need it most. The Visiting Nurse Services' main goal is to ensure that homebound residents continue to receive the care and attention they need but the program has become more than that.

Great ideas are often born once a problem is recognized. Amy McDaniel, CEO of Iowa Specialty Hospital in Belmond, saw the gap left by the removal of the county home health services. Without in-home nursing care, many residents, mostly the elderly and those with chronic illnesses, struggle to maintain their health.

Iowa Specialty Hospitals and Clinics were determined to change that and pursued the necessary certification to launch the new Visiting Nurse Services in Wright County. Thanks to their efforts, homebound people once again have access to professional and caring health professionals right at their doorstep.

The Visiting Nurse Service program exists to enhance the quality of life for those who are homebound. It provides healthcare tai-

lored to their needs. But beyond the medical benefits, it also offers peace of mind to patients and their families.

When a Visiting Nurse steps through a patient's front door, they bring with them a wealth of services, including medication management, wound care, chronic disease assessment, and education, bloodwork services, care coordination, specialized medical needs, and even personal hygiene assistance.

By providing these services at home, the program reduces hospital visits while improving their clients' overall comfort and quality of life.

Though still in its early stages, the Visiting Nurse program has already started making a difference, serving six so far.

"Beyond receiving care—which is, of course, the primary goal—many patients also appreciate the companionship," Cyndi Rector told The Wright County Monitor. "Some individuals live alone, and our visits bring not just medical support, but also a much-needed personal connection."

Cyndi Rector, who earned her Associate in Nursing from Iowa Central Community College, is an experienced healthcare worker. When she isn't working, she enjoys spending time with her family, Eric, Mackenzie, Madison, Maycie, and Mason.

The response from the



**Cyndi Rector RN is the newly established Visiting Nurse Services Leader with Iowa Specialty Hospital. (Photo: ISH)**

community about the new program has been overwhelmingly positive.

"I've received so many encouraging comments," Rector shared. "People are truly excited to have these services available in Wright County again."

Could this program serve as a blueprint for other rural areas struggling with home healthcare access? Rector thinks so.

"Other communities would need to meet the requirements set by the Centers for Medicare and

Medicaid, but I highly recommend looking into it—for the betterment of their residents," she explained.

Healthcare access in rural areas remains a challenge, but programs like the one led by Rector prove that solutions do exist. She encourages local leaders and policymakers to support health initiatives.

The team behind the new Visiting Nurses services didn't just solve a community-wide program; they re-established a lifeline.

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## Wright County Monitor Earns Recognition in 2025 Iowa Better Newspaper Contests!



*Amanda Rink, Editor*

Last Thursday, the Iowa newspaper industry gathered to celebrate journalists across the state at the Iowa Better Newspaper Contest award ceremony. With about 3,200 entries across many categories, the competition was steep.

Mid-America Publishing Company took home multiple awards, including one for The Wright County Monitor. Our newspaper earned third place in Class II for the article "No Eminent Domain for Private Gain," written by yours truly. And it was an incredibly proud moment, not just because of the award but because it confirmed something I believe: local journalism matters, even when it's not easy or fun.

The article tackled the issue of property rights, focusing on landowners' concerns. Not everyone agreed with the coverage,

and some pushed back. But as I've written before, journalism isn't about writing what is comfortable; it's about covering the issues that impact our community.

The Iowa Better Newspaper Contest, which was judged by the Kansas Press Association, was divided into five classes based on circulation. The Wright County Monitor competed in Class II, a weekly newspaper with a circulation between 756 and 1,260.

Judes shared their thoughts on my piece, noting: "I've done such stories and gotten some very angry comments from the property owners and their friends." You can review the contest results and read the full article here: [shorturl.at/6caDf](http://shorturl.at/6caDf)

Winning this award is a reminder that asking tough questions and sharing those answers is worth it. No matter the pushback, shining a light on the issues that matter to our community is what news reporting is all about!

So, thank you, your support makes THIS possible. Here's to sharing more stories that matter!

## CGD Claims 3<sup>rd</sup> At State Duals

*Taylor Smith, Sports Editor*

Cowboys wrestlers were in Coralville on Saturday for the 2025 Iowa High School State Dual Championships at Xtream Arena.

First, the #6 seed Cowboys knocked off #3 Sergeant Bluff-Luton 35-32 in a mid morning dual. Charlie Campbell delivered a 10-2 major decision over Kaleb Pendergast at 190, and JT Kelso

(285), Angel Cortes (113), and Linden Phetxoumphone (120) all posted pins for C-G-D.

The Cowboys held a 30-6 advantage after Ryan Hartwig (126) and Adrian Phetxoumphone (132) won by technical fall and decision, respectively. Sergeant Bluff-Luton would score 14 straight with victories at 138, 144, and 150, but senior Kaleb Seaba picked up a huge

17-0 technical fall at 157 to help the Cowboys advance.

In the semifinals, C-G-D would fall 38-31 to #2 West Delaware. Kelso, Paxton Redenius (106), Cortes, and Linden Phetxoumphone recorded four consecutive pins, and Linden Phetxoumphone had a 13-2 major decision over Jarrett Engel. Unfortunately, the Hawks earned 23 points on six straight victories. Campbell stopped the

bleeding with a 1<sup>st</sup> period pin, but the dual was out of reach.

The Cowboys were back in business in their 3<sup>rd</sup> place dual against #4 Williamsburg. Kelso, Cortes, Hartwig, and Seaba pinned their opponents, and Adrian Phetxoumphone had a 7-4 decision. Linden Phetxoumphone, Colin Sesser (144), and Campbell added technical falls in the 42-31 team victory.



(Photos: IAWrestle Nate Castillo)



(Photo: Melinda Anderson)

## Area Headlines

### Belmond

The Iowa Department of Transportation spoke with home and business owners along Highway 69 last week to discuss a state-funded sidewalk revamp project.

### Britt

The West Hancock Community School District Board of Education has named three finalists in its search for the district's next superintendent. The finalists are Andrew Armstead, Joseph Brown, and Jason McLaughlin.

### Clarion

The Clarion Development Alliance is hosting an all-new "Cupid's Carnival" on February 16, beginning at 11:00 in the morning and ending at 3:00. The event features face painting, crafts, and games. Admission is \$10 per child, with funds to go toward community projects.

### Eagle Grove

The city council approved a development agreement with First Bank, authorizing tax increment financing (TIF) payments not to exceed \$400,000 to support a downtown project.

### Goldfield

On February 7, a water main broke near the old school site, leaving the northwest part of town without water. The northwest part of town was put under a boil advisory until water tests came back clear.

### Hampton

A few Hampton residents are calling for Councilmember Bill Hodge to step down from the Hampton City Council after Hodge remarked on the possible deportation of undocumented immigrants in the area during the city's Feb. 3 council workshop.

### Rowan

Mark Bruns will remain the Fire Chief of the Rowan Volunteer Fire Department, per recommendations from the City Council.

### Webster City

According to the new Sheriff Alex Pruisman, the Hamilton County Sheriff's office launched its K9 program last week.

**Watch next week for our FFA Section!**



**FFA Special Section Next Week!**

## Healthcare Back Home

continued from page 1

“They [Iowa Specialty] don’t just have the motto of ‘consistently exceeding expectations’—they truly live it,” Rector shared. “I’m proud to work for Iowa Specialty and to bring these essential services to our community.”

For many in Wright County, the services are more than healthcare, it is a powerful reminder that even in rural areas, no one is forgotten, and everyone deserves care.

## Free Naloxone Available at Wright County Public Health

Administrator Sandy McGrath announced recently that Wright County Public Health has been certified as a free Naloxone (also known as Narcan) distributor.

“This is great news for Wright County because it can, and will, save lives,” said McGrath.

Naloxone is used to reverse and block the effects of opioids including, but not limited to, fentanyl, heroin, oxycodone, and morphine. It is safe to give to people of all ages, including infants. In addition, it is not harmful if given to someone believed to have overdosed but actually did not use an opioid.

Introduced during the Iowa 90<sup>th</sup> General Assembly (House File 595), legislation passed allowing specified entities the authority to distribute an opioid antagonist such as Naloxone to individuals defined as a person in a position to assist. These entities have the authority to distribute NARCAN® provided to them by the Iowa Department of Health and Human Services. Wright County Public Health is a participant of this initiative.

A person in a position to assist is defined as a family member, friend, caregiver, community-based organization, health care provider, employee of a substance abuse treatment facility, school employee, first responder as defined in section 147A.1, or other person who may be in a place to render aid to a person at risk of experiencing an opioid-related overdose (Iowa Code Section 135.190).

If you would like more information, you are encouraged to call (515) 532-3461 or stop by their new location at 120 First Avenue NW, Clarion, Iowa. The facility is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Some of the services offered at Wright County Public Health include but are not limited to: Early Childhood Services like HOPES and Early Head Start visits, medication assistance, foot and blood pressure clinics, immunization and Flu/COVID vaccines, WIC, and Stop the Bleed Training. For a full list of their services, please visit the website at: [https://www.wrightcounty.iowa.gov/departments/residents/public\\_health/index.php](https://www.wrightcounty.iowa.gov/departments/residents/public_health/index.php)

## 8 Day Weather Outlook Clarion, IA.

**Thursday, February 13**  
Mostly Sunny 14°/2°  
W 10 mph



**Friday, February 14**  
Cloudy 28°/15°  
SSE 18 mph



**Saturday, February 15**  
AM Snow Showers 21°/0°  
N 20 mph



**Sunday, February 16**  
Partly Cloudy 16°/-3°  
NW 14 mph



**Monday, February 17**  
Mostly Cloudy 20°/ 7°  
SSE 13 mph



**Tuesday, February 18**  
Cloudy 26°/13°  
ESE 17 mph



**Wednesday, February 19**  
Mostly Cloudy 29°/8°  
NW 16 mph



**Thursday, February 20**  
Partly Cloudy 26°/11°  
N 14 mph



## Clarion Fire Department Hosts Ice Rescue Training at Lake Cornelia



The Clarion Fire Department (CFD) hosted an Ice Rescue training class on Sunday, February 2, at Lake Cornelia, led by Professional Rescue Innovations. Firefighters from Clarion, Renwick, Goldfield, Kanawha, Belmont, and Dows participated in the training, which provided both classroom instruction and hands-on experience.

The session included practical exercises using specialized rescue equipment, allowing

participants to enter the icy water and simulate a real-life victim rescue scenario. It was an invaluable learning opportunity, ensuring that local first responders are well-prepared should an actual ice rescue situation arise.

For those planning to go ice fishing at Lake Cornelia, please be aware that there is a large hole in the quiet water area. It has been roped off, but exercise caution while on the ice. (Photo: CFD)

## Wright County Supervisors Focus on Budget Amendments and Wage Increases

Amanda Rink, Editor

The Wright County Board of Supervisors gathered for their regular meeting last Monday to discuss various county matters. Those in attendance were Dean Kluss, Ashley Bosch, and Lynn Loux with Rick Rasmussen and Betty Ellis joining through Zoom.

The board heard updates on secondary roads, budget amendments, and wage increases for county employees.

Wright County Engineer Adam Clemons provided an update on secondary road maintenance, sharing the completion of brush cutting and ongoing work orders.

“We’ve pretty much got all that done this year,” Clemons shared, referring to the brush-cutting work.

He also discussed recent and upcoming winter weather events.

“We are slated to have some winter events this week, so we’re going to keep on top of that.”

He noted that the county monitors the National Weather Service briefings and may hold an emergency meeting with the sheriff’s office and emergency management to discuss a potential courthouse closure if the weather worsens.

“We’ve seen in the past that it does help us in secondary roads, the sheriff’s office, and emergency management when the courthouse closes,” he said.

The board reviewed and accepted the January monthly revenue report from the Wright County Sheriff’s Office. This included county car service fees and mileage, new and renewed weapons permits, and copy fees totaling \$2,776.07.

The board also received budget amendment documents for the current fiscal year, outlining an increase in revenues of \$252,370 and a reduction in expenses of \$533,518. The resulting increase in carryover totaled \$785,888.

Supervisors also discussed specific departmental budget adjustments with consideration from county department heads, including:

- Treasurer: Reduction of \$24,100
- Auditor: Reduction of \$20,636

- Engineer: Reduction of \$396,270
- Conservation: Reduction of \$186,954
- Public Health: Reduction of \$66,700
- Sanitarian: Increase of \$66,857

The public hearing for the budget amendment is set for March 3, 2025, at 9:30 AM.

Wage Increases for County Employees  
Supervisors also reviewed and approved wage increases for county employees, including:

- Treasurer’s Department: \$1,000 increase
- Recorder’s Office: \$1,500 increase
- Sheriff’s Office: \$2,600 increase

“This is just for one employee in my office, my office manager,” clarified Wright County Sheriff Jason Schluttenhofer.

The board also heard an update from Wright County Engineer Adam Clemons about the ongoing bridge project south of Eagle Grove. An equipment malfunction occurred while installing pilings.

“They got down to about 16 feet, and then the sound changed,” Supervisor Bosch said, who was visiting the site when the malfunction occurred. “They hit bedrock, and the piston shot out of the top of the hammer. Thankfully, nobody was hurt.”

Supervisor Kluss also shared an ongoing legal dispute from another Iowa county involving drainage issues and railroad regulations. The case is likely to progress to higher courts. This is relevant to Wright County, considering the non-responsiveness of the railroad company regarding various problems in the county.

In other updates, the board:

- Approved a liquor license renewal for Goldfield’s Oak Ridge Golf Course
- Passed Resolution 2025-08, which updated the depository limits for county funds. The change increased the Green Belt Bank and Trust limit from \$3 million to \$3.5 million
- Will attend the Farm Bureau board meeting on Thursday, February 13, 2025.

The next Supervisors meeting will be held on Monday, February 17, at 9:00 AM. This meeting and others can be watched online at [YouTube.com/@WrightCountyIowaOfficial](https://www.YouTube.com/WrightCountyIowaOfficial) 8312.

## Heartland Museum Celebrates 25 Years

Heartland Museum is continuing their 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary. This month, anyone who signs up to receive the monthly newsletter will have their name put in a drawing for a free admission ticket.

Melody Lager, President of the Heartland Museum Foundation, is editor of the monthly newsletter. Lager said, “I change our newsletter every year. One year we spotlighted our volunteers, another we selected some of the hidden gems around the museum. This year, in addition to highlighting the 25th anniversary, we are providing a fictional account of an early settler moving the Clarion area.”

To receive the newsletter, the museum facebook page offers a link



to sign up, or people can go to the Heartland website, [www.Heartlandmuseum.org](http://www.Heartlandmuseum.org), and use the form to sign up. Heartland will also accept an email from people who want to receive the newsletter. Write to [Heartlandclarion@gmail.com](mailto:Heartlandclarion@gmail.com).

Call 515-602-6000 for more information. Heartland is located at 119 9<sup>th</sup> St. SW in Clarion.



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**The Life and 70 Week**  
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**Wednesday, February 19th, 2025 at 1:00PM**

FARMLAND DETAILS	
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Tract 2 -301.63 +/- Acres -306.74 +/- Cropland NHEL -61.6 CSR2	Tract 6 -160 +/- Acres -160.4 +/- Cropland -82.5 CSR2
Tract 3 -159.01 +/- Acres -165.93 +/- Cropland -79.4 CSR2	Tract 7 -147.72 +/- Acres -147.4 +/- Cropland -79.4 CSR2
Tract 4 -77.73 +/- Acres -76.67 +/- Cropland -74.5 CSR2	Tract 8 -135.94 +/- Acres -135.19 +/- Cropland -75.9 CSR2

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515-443-6343

**Nick Skinner**  
515-650-0974

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Linda Lloyd, Clarion Public Library Director

It's Black History Month, a time set aside for reflecting on and honoring the contributions of generations of Black Americans.

We have learned about the most famous African-Americans of history like Martin Luther King Jr. and Rosa Parks. We have many books at the library to help inform and educate us on Black History.

Our book displays this week highlight Black History Month with talented Black Authors, inspiring Biographies, and Black History throughout the years.

**Biographies:**

Just as I Am: A Memoir - Cicely Tyson. Tyson an actress, lecturer,

**Check it Out at The Library!**

activist, and one of the most respected talents in American theater and film history.

Finding Me - Viola Davis, an American actress and film producer.

Becoming - Michelle Obama. The first African American Woman to serve the role of First Lady—she established herself as a powerful advocate for women and girls in the U.S. and around the world.

**Nonfiction:**

The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks by Rebecca Skloot: This is a book about Henrietta Lacks, whose cells, known as HeLa cells, were taken without her knowledge. This later became one of the most important landmarks in Cancer research.

African American Almanac: 400 Years of Triumph, Courage and Excellence by Bracks and Jessie Carney Smith - This covers events surrounding the civil rights movement; African American literature, art, and music; religion within the black community; and advances in science and medicine.

Hidden Figures by Margot Lee Shetterly A

powerful story of four African-American female mathematicians at NASA who helped achieve some of the greatest moments in our space program.

**Fiction:**

Housegirl by Michael Donkor. It's a story of friendship and family, shame and forgiveness; of learning what we should cling to, and when we need to let go.

Anywhere You Run: A Novel by Wanda M. Morris. After the murder of a white man in Jim Crow Mississippi, two Black sisters run away to different parts of the country . . . but can they escape the secrets they left behind?

Black Cake by Charmaine Wilkerson. Her debut novel is a story of how the inheritance of betrayals, secrets, memories, and even names can shape relationships and history.

This is just to name a few books we have at the library. Many more books and DVD's are available at the library for all ages. Also check out our eBooks online at Tumblebooks, Teen Book Cloud, Libby, and Hoopla.

**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.

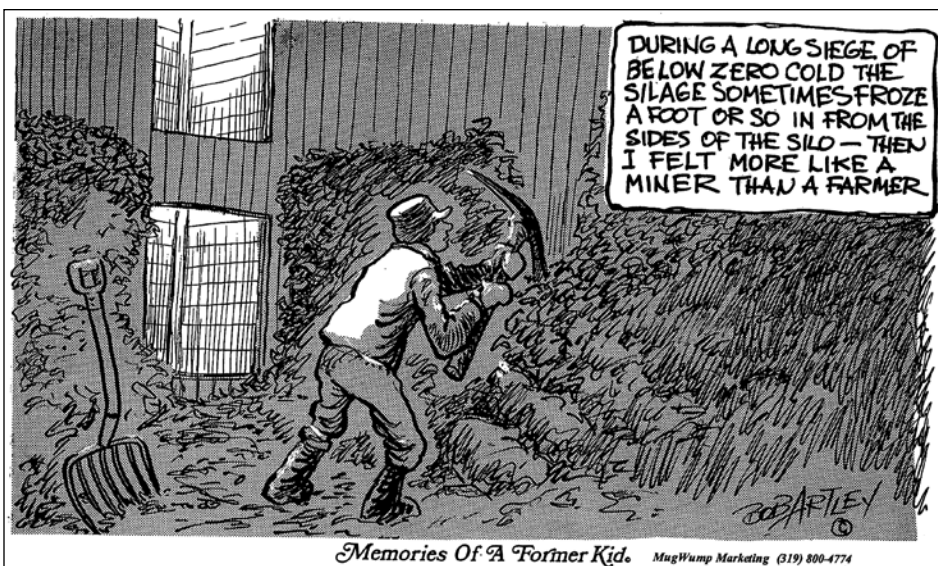
The American Academy of Neurology says that reading stimulates the brain and has been shown to slow down cognitive decline in old age. Reading also may help slow down memory loss.

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.



**Plan Now for How to Use Your Tax Refund**

Barb Wollan, ISU Extension & Outreach

Iowans who are expecting a sizable income tax refund have choices about how to use that money, says Barb Wollan, a human sciences specialist with Iowa State University Extension and Outreach.

"Keep in mind that how you use your refund will affect your household's financial wellbeing all year long. However, before you receive your refund, consider how much money to pay for tax preparation," said Wollan, who specializes in family wellbeing.

Wollan offers these suggestions.

Maximize your refund by not overpaying for tax return preparation

If your income is below about \$67,000 per year, you may be eligible for free tax preparation through the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program. Some ISU Extension and Outreach county offices are also VITA sites and a list of these VITA sites is available online. If your income is below \$84,000, you can use VITA's free do-it-yourself software. Learn more by sending an email to Central Iowa VITA, centraliowavita@gmail.com; an auto reply will provide you with the link and instructions.

Plan for use of your refund

As with any type of income, you have three main choices for how to use your tax refund: spend, save or pay off debt.

"Careful thought can help you ensure that your family benefits all year long from the refund," Wollan said.

Save your refund

Saving substantially from the tax refund may be overlooked when immediate needs and wants are always present. However, for many families, saving a large portion of the refund may be the best possible option.



tion.

"There are good reasons to save your income tax refund," Wollan explained.

- Think back to the financial challenges you faced in the past year and think ahead to special needs you anticipate in the year ahead. In many cases, having money in savings prevents an unusual or unexpected expense from becoming a major crisis.

- Without savings, any major repair, medical bill or large seasonal expense could disrupt your financial stability. For example, paying a car repair bill might leave you short on funds to pay your regular monthly bills on time, leading to late fees or additional interest charges.

- Having savings reduces costs, prevents stress and helps you maintain positive relationships with your landlord and other regular vendors.

- What seasonal expenses might you want to save for? What emergency expenses might arise? Consider setting saving goals for your tax refund to help prevent a financial crisis in the coming year.

Pay off debt

Your first priority for your refund may be to pay off any problem debt. If you're behind on a bill, getting caught up is important.

If you have high-interest credit card debt, paying it off will save a lot of interest expense, Wollan said.

Make a special purchase

After paying off problem debt, though, it becomes a balancing act: saving for anticipated needs in the coming year versus making special purchases now.

"Keep in mind that spending the money is irreversible. However, if you save a large portion of your refund and no emergencies arise, you can always make purchases later, or next year," Wollan said.

Most families will make some purchases with their tax refund. Consider purchases that will pay benefits for a long time, so that even six to eight months from now your family will still enjoy what you purchased and feel like it has made your life better.

As you look ahead to tax season, Wollan suggests planning for how you will use your tax refund. Without a carefully thought out plan, it can be easy to spend your refund on the first few good ideas that you encounter, rather than in the ways that will benefit your family the most. Paying debt may be inevitable, but prioritizing substantial savings can set the stage for a year without financial ups and downs.

**What parents can do to save more for college**

Raising a child is no small task. Though it's no surprise that parenting requires a substantial investment of time and energy, the financial cost of raising a child might raise more than a few eyebrows. According to the SmartAsset™ 2024 Study, the median annual cost to raise a child in the United States in 2024 is \$22,850, and that figure is considerably higher in many states.

Commitment and discipline are vital to getting across the financial finish line when raising a child, and that includes finding a way to finance a college education. Data from the College Board, a nonprofit that studies trends in the cost of a college education, indicates the cost of tuition and fees varies widely depending on the type of institution. Tuition and fees at an in-state four-year public school cost a little more than \$11,000 during the 2023-24 school year, while it was nearly four times as much (\$41,540) at a private nonprofit four-year institution.

Financing a child's college education can seem like a daunting task. However, an array of strategies can help parents save more for college.

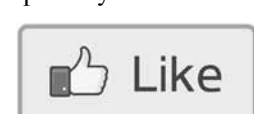
- Take advantage of a 529 plan. A 529 education savings plan is an increasingly popular way to save for college. The Education Savings Programs at Bank of America reports that 529 plan assets increased from \$88.5 billion in 2008 to more than \$446 billion in 2023. A 529 plan is a tax-advantaged investment program administered by a state. When funds withdrawn from the plan are used for qualified expenses, such as tuition costs, then the earnings are free from federal income tax obligations. There are distinctions between 529 prepaid tuition programs and 529 savings programs, so parents are urged to discuss those differences with a financial advisor so they can choose the best plan for their situation.

- Redirect extra income to a college savings plan. Parents may have "extra" sources of income that can be used to fund college savings. Annual bonuses, money distributed through state-sponsored property tax relief programs and even money freed up when kids graduate from daycare and into elementary school can be redirected into college savings plans. Redirected daycare expenses

may be particularly savvy, as parents know the cost of daycare is considerable. In fact, a recent report from Child Care Aware of America indicated the cost to place two children in child care exceeded annual typical mortgage payments in 45 states. Once kids are out of daycare, parents can redirect some or all the money they had been spending on child care into college savings plans.

- Don't go it alone. A 2023 survey from the College Savings Foundation found that 45 percent of parents would request that family and friends contribute to a child's 529 plan in lieu of the standard gifts given to children for their birthday, special events like graduation or during the holiday season. This practical yet less traditional approach can pad college savings plans by a considerable amount over the years, and close relatives might be more than happy to help parents fund a better education for their youngsters.

College is a costly investment, but parents can look to a handful of strategies to help defray tuition costs.



**The Wright County Monitor**  
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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

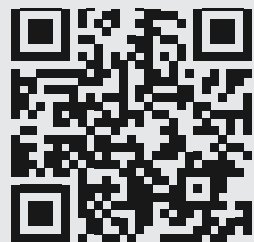
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Legal notices

PUBLIC NOTICE
Wright County Assessor Proposed Budget

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING - PROPOSED BUDGET
Fiscal Year July 1, 2025 - June 30, 2026
Assessing Jurisdiction: WRIGHT COUNTY ASSESSOR

The Conference Board of the above-named Assessing Jurisdiction will conduct a public hearing on the proposed fiscal year budget as follows:
Meeting Date: 2/24/2025 Meeting Time: 04:30 PM Meeting Location: Supervisor's Board Room, Wright County Courthouse, 115 N Main St, Clarion, IA 50525
At the public hearing any resident or taxpayer may present their objections to, or arguments in favor of, any part of the proposed budget. This notice represents a summary of the supporting detail of receipts and expenditures on file with the Conference Board Clerk. Copies of the Supplemental Budget Detail will be furnished to any taxpayer upon their request.

Contact Name: Tonce Nicholas, Wright County Assessor Contact Telephone Number: (515) 532-3737

Table with 10 columns: Line Item, FYE June 30, 2024 Actual, FYE June 30, 2025 Re-estimated, FYE June 30, 2026 Proposed, Transfers Out, Estimated Ending Fund Balance FY 2026, Estimated Beginning Fund Balance FY 2026, Estimated Other Receipts, Transfers In, Estimated Amount To be Raised By Taxation

Proposed taxation rate per \$1,000 valuation: \$ 0.53181
Virtual Meeting Information:

Published in the Wright County Monitor on Thurs. Feb. 13, 2024

PUBLIC NOTICE
Wright County Treasurer Semi Annual Report

Wright County Treasurer - Accounting
Semi-Annual Report
Peggy Schluttenhofer, Wright County Treasurer, Clarion, IA
For the period from July 1, 2024 - December 31, 2024, Inclusive
Statement of Account By Fund

Certification Date January 27, 2025

Table with 7 columns: Fund, Balance July 1, 2024, Revenues, Total to be Accounted for, Disbursements, Fund Balance December 31, 2024, Auditor's Warrants Outstanding

Clarion, IA 50525
January 27, 2025

I, Peggy Schluttenhofer, Treasurer of Wright County Treasurer, do hereby certify that the report given is a correct summary of the business transacted by me as said during the period therein specified.

Published in the Wright County Monitor on Thurs. Feb. 13, 2024

PUBLIC NOTICE
City of Dows Feb. 3 2025 Minutes and Claims

Dows City Council
February 3, 2025

The Dows City Council met in regular session on February 3, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. at Dows City Hall with the following present: Council Members Russell, Lienemann, Worden, Plendl and Mayor Klatt.

Absent: Council Member Richard Echelberger.
Also present: Sam Solis, city maintenance and Ashley Bosch, Wright County Supervisor.

Motion by Lienemann, seconded by Plendl to approve the minutes from January 6, 2026 council meeting. Motion carried. All ayes.

Motion by Russell, seconded by Worden to approve payment of the following bills:
PUBLIC SAFETY
1. Wright County Sheriff \$6,587.50 (police - 3 rd % sheriff contract payment)

2. Wright County Communications \$3,848.20 (police-3 rd % dues payment)
CULTURE AND RECREATION
1. KMDE LLC \$811.46 (pool-electric expense- July through December)

2. Treas. State of Iowa \$610.69 (pool-2024 sales tax)
3. W&H Coop \$504.02 (community center-LP)

4. Barnhart Electric \$820.72 (parks-repairs)
5. Culligan \$40.00 (community center-supplies)

6. Barnhart Electric \$518.39 (community center-repairs)
7. Chase Credit Card \$942.05 (library- books and computer)

8. Alliant Energy \$462.95 (library, pool, parks, community center- electric expense)

9. Deb Olson \$17.31 (library-supplies)
10. Dows Grocery \$26.54 (library-supplies)

11. Penworthy \$182-06 (library-books)
12. Regina Russell \$213.20 (library-gross salary)

13. Debra Olson \$1,393.75 (library-gross salary)
14. Judy Kessel \$1 03.00 (library-gross salary)

GENERAL GOVERNMENT
1. Wellmark BCBS \$1,363.41 (city hall-health insurance)

2. Column Software \$114.23 (city hall-publishing)
3. Jeanette Wenzel \$2,011.97 (city hall-gross salary)

4. Copy Systems \$55.89 (city hall-copy machine agreement)
5. Jeanette Wenzel \$2,011.97 (city hall-gross salary)

PUBLIC WORKS
1. W&H Coop \$1,685.04 (road use-shop LP)

2. Caseys Mastercard \$551.65 (road use-fuel)
3. T and S Sanitation \$918 .00 (road use- garbage-six months)

4. Arnold Motors \$182.50 (road use-supplies)
5. KC Nielsen \$890.25 (road use-repairs)

6. Alliant Energy \$1 ,808.96 (road use-street lights, shop electric)
BUSINESS ACTIVITIES

1. Alliant Energy \$2,055.68 (water and wastewater-electric expense)
2. Sam Solis \$1,943.93 (water - gross salary)

3. Wellmark BCBS \$1 ,413.84 (water-health insurance)
4. Treas. State of Iowa \$149.61 (wastewater-2024 sales tax)

5. Treas. State of Iowa \$198.11 (water-December sales tax)
6. AgSource Labs \$524.00 (wastewater-testing)

7. Hennigar Construction \$1,789.55 (wastewater-repairs)
8. Sam Solis \$40.00 (water - phone expense)

9. Hawkins \$617.07 (water-supplies)
10. IAMU \$417.00 (water-quarterly safety dues)

11. Dows Post Office \$219.00 (water-postage)
12. KMDE LLC \$812.69 (water-electric expense-July through December)

13. Iowa One Call \$12.60 (water - supplies)
14. Sam Solis \$1,943.93 (water-gross salary)

15. Quill \$211.83 (water-supplies)
16. Dows Comm. Grocery \$37.74 (water - supplies)

17. Electric Pump \$1,173.00 (water-repairs)
18. Victor Morales \$100.00 (water-deposit refund)

19. Urness Hardware \$139.44 (wastewater-supplies)
Motion carried. All ayes .

Motion by Lienemann, seconded by Worden to approve the Clerk's Report for December 2024. Motion carried. All ayes. Receipts for December 2024-\$54,793.37.

Mayor Klatt said the City has gotten permission from the owner of the property to take the building down at 109 N. Garfield Street. He said he will be requesting bids from Weidemann Inc., Rodney Claude, Walker Reclaim and Demo, and Hennigars. Mayor Klatt said that some can go in basement but the rest needs to be hauled to Wright County Landfill and the top 4 or 5 feet filled with dirt. Motion by Lienemann, seconded by Russell to have the bids for taking down the building at 109 N. Garfield St. due by March 3, 2025 council meeting. Motion carried. All ayes .

Motion by Lienemann, seconded by Worden to set March 24, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. as the time and date for public hearing on Proposed Tax Levy. Motion carried. All ayes.

Motion by Worden, seconded by Russell to allow the Clerk to advertise for summer pool and mowing help. Motion carried. All ayes.

Water rates were discussed. The City of Dows has not raised their water rates in several years. Costs of electric, chemicals and repairs has gone up. Motion by Russell , seconded by Worden to have the Clerk make an ordinance raising water rates by 3% and sewer till 100% of water . Motion carried. All ayes.

Motion by Lienemann, seconded by Worden to have the Clerk make an ordinance raising the water deposit to \$200.00 for renters. Motion carried. All ayes.

There being no further business, Mayor Klatt declared the meeting adjourned.

Published in the Wright County Monitor on Thurs. Feb. 13, 2024

PUBLIC NOTICE
Wright County Supervisors Jan. 27, 2025 Minutes

January 27, 2025

The Board of Supervisors met as Drainage District Trustees. To view the minutes from the drainage meeting, see the Drainage District minutes on the County website.

Chairman Rasmussen called the regular meeting of the Wright County Board of Supervisors to order at 9:03 a.m. Members present were Rasmussen, Kluss, Bosch, Loux and Ellis.

Motion by Kluss and seconded by Bosch to approve the tentative agenda with item 9, receive Treasurer semiannual report, tabled until next week. Motion carries.

Minutes of the previous regular meeting of January 20, 2025 were read and approved with taking out the detailed drainage minutes.

Approved claims for payment. In open forum for public input, Julie Glade addressed the board about citizens being concerned about the Summit Carbon Pipelines going through Wright County. She would like the board to approve protection ordinances with setbacks.

She would also like the board to go on record with their position on approving protection ordinances. Supervisor Kluss stated that the board had previously made their position clear. He then went on to explain that the Wright County Planning and Zoning Commission Board is working on an ordinance, but it has been put on hold while other counties go through litigation due to their ordinances. The Board of Supervisors said they will reach out to our Planning and Zoning Director.

Also, in open forum for public input, LeRoy Jensen asked for more details on some claims paid by the County that were published in the newspaper. After receiving the information, he was informed that we only have a small space to enter details, but anyone can go to the Auditor's office and request more information.

Adam Clemons, Wright County Engineer, gave an update on the current bridge construction and Secondary Roads department.

Discussion was had regarding the County paying the annual membership fees to the IACME (Iowa Association of County Medical Examiners) for Wright County Medical Examiners. Motion by Kluss and seconded by Ellis to approve paying for the annual membership fees. Motion carries.

The Board gave updates about meetings they had attended. Dean Kluss attended a MIDAS meeting and also attended the Wright County Landfill meeting. Rick Rasmussen attended the Central Iowa Juvenile Detention Center meeting. Lynn Loux attended the Wright County Landfill meeting. Ashley Bosch attended the CICS, and DCAT meetings. The Supervisors will all attend the Statewide Supervisor meeting in Des Moines on Thursday.

Motion by Kluss and seconded by Bosch to adjourn the meeting. Motion carries. Rick Rasmussen, Chairman Wright County Board of Supervisors Deb Lukes, Wright County Deputy Auditor

Published in the Wright County Monitor on Thurs. Feb. 13, 2024

PUBLIC NOTICE
Region V Regional Planning and Input Meeting

REGION V REGIONAL PLANNING AFFILIATION PUBLIC INPUT MEETING
Draft MIDAS 2050 Long Range Transportation Plan

MIDAS Council of Governments will hold a series of public input meetings on the region's draft 2050 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP). The 2050 LRTP is a planning document which assesses the current transportation network and identifies needs of the network for the next 20 years; it is a tool to guide the future of the region's transportation system. The region includes the counties, and cities in these counties, of Calhoun, Hamilton, Humboldt, Pocahontas, Webster and Wright.

The public input meetings will be held on the following dates:
February 18, 2025, 11:00 a.m. at the Pocahontas County Courthouse, Supervisors Chambers, 99 Courthouse Square, Pocahontas.

February 18, 2025, 12:30 p.m. at the Calhoun County Courthouse, Wellness Room, 416 4th St, Rockwell City.

February 18, 2025, 3:00 p.m. at the MIDAS Office, 602 1st Ave S, Fort Dodge.

February 19, 2025, 11:00 a.m. at the Humboldt County Engineer's Office, 2221 220th St, Dakota City.

February 20, 2025, 10:00 a.m. at the Wright County Engineer's Office, 416 5th Ave SW, Clarion.

February 20, 2025, 11:30 a.m. at the Hamilton County Courthouse, Downstairs Conference Room, 2300 Superior St, Webster City.

The meetings are for interested parties to express their views, share their opinions, and ask questions regarding the plan, its goals and proposed projects. Anyone interested may share their comments with MIDAS staff at the meeting or by submitting written comments to MIDAS by February 21, 2025.

Copies of the draft 2050 LRTP are available at http://www.midas-cogia.net or by contacting Stacy Lentsch at MIDAS Council of Governments, (515) 576-7183 ext. 212 or by email at slentsch@midascog.net.

If you have any questions or special needs pertaining to this meeting, please contact Stacy Lentsch, MIDAS Council of Governments, (515) 576-7183 ext. 212 or by email at slentsch@midascog.net.

Published in the Wright County Monitor on Thurs. Feb. 13, 2024

Legals are your right to know!

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Submitted NewsNoon.....Friday
Obituaries 4:30 p.m.....Monday
The Wright County Monitor

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PUBLIC NOTICE
City of Clarion Feb. 4, 2025 Minutes

The Clarion City Council met in regular session Tuesday February 4th, 2025, at 5:00pm in the Council Chambers with Mayor Pro-Tem Dave Flurer presiding. Present were Council members Dan Hennigar, Shayne Hennigar, Nick McOllough and (Mayor Heiden & Mike Ennis - absent). Also, in attendance City Administrator Clint Middleton, Attorney Zach Chizek, PWD Jon DeVries, and Chief Steve TerHark.

Mayor Pro-Tem Flurer called the meeting to order and polled the council for any conflicts of interest with the agenda, there was none. Mayor Pro-Tem Flurer asked if there were any citizens listed to address the council, there were none.

Motioned by McOllough seconded by S. Hennigar to approve consent agenda consisting of Minutes- 2025.01.21; Financial report-approve checks; Licenses/Permits-

(Building, Liquor, Tobacco, Sign, Peddler, Street Closure) (Motion passed 4-0, Ennis-absent).

Motioned by D. Hennigar seconded by McOllough to approve Resolution (25-09) approving Pay Request with Peterson Construction for WTP Project for \$427,500.00 (Motion passed 4-1, Ennis-absent).

Motioned by McOllough seconded by S. Hennigar to approve Resolution (25-10) Development Agreement - City- Pelico (Motion passed 4-1, Ennis-absent).

Middleton updated the Council on the Budget Workshops dates that coincide with current council meetings. Reports from the Council or Dept heads: None

Motioned by D. Hennigar seconded by S. Hennigar to adjourn. All Ayes. (Motion passed 4-0). Respectfully Submitted, Clint Middleton City Administrator

Published in the Wright County Monitor on Thurs. Feb. 13, 2024

PUBLIC NOTICE
City of Clarion Feb. 4, 2025 Claims

Table with 2 columns: VENDOR, AMOUNT
A & D TECH SOLUTIONS...242.7
AFIAC...186.34
AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES...607.33
ARNOLD MOTOR SUPPLY...768.51
AVESIS...349.72
BAKER & TAYLOR...88.31
CASEY'S BUSINESS MASTER-CARD...119.07
CITY OF CLARION...395.96
CITY OF CLARION...480.24
CLARION HEALTH INS...1,375.97
CLARION VISION INS...369.23
COLUMN SOFTWARE PBC...108.46
D R BONIN ELECTRIC, LLC...1,989.21
DEMCO...170.03
First Citizens Bank...14
FED FICA ELECTRONIC...14,511.36
FIRST CITIZENS BANK...30
GORDON FLESCH COMPANY...57
GROVES & CHIZEK...365
HAWKEYE WEST PEST CONTROL...65
HAWKINS, INC...5,171.68
HOMESERVE USA...5,367.85
HSA PERSONAL...1080
IOWA ONE CALL...10.8
IPERS...29,576.79

Table with 2 columns: LIBRARY IDEAS, AMOUNT
MENARDS FORT DODGE...121.65
MID AMERICAN ENERGY...18,913.94
NYEMASTER GOODE, P.C...218
STERICYCLE, INC...96.28
T & S SANITATION...362
T-MOBILE...172.75
THE TRASH MAN...10
LOGAN TORSSELL...125
TREASURER STATE OF IOWA...4,626.01
POSTMASTER...421.95
UNITYPOINT HEALTH...462
URNESS HARDWARE & APP...990.57
US CELLULAR...195.11
VISUAL EDGE IT...442.95
WELLMARK BC/BS...21,031.64
WF FINANCIAL LEASING INC...683.34
WILLEY'S WOOD SHOP...525
WMTEL...115
WRIGHT FARM SERVICES...134.24
Accounts Payable Total...114,208.49
GENERAL...51,024.59
ROAD USE...15,793.11
EMPLOYEE BENEFIT FUND...17,906.43
WATER...18,863.87
SEWER...10,512.03
INTERNAL SERVICE FUND...108.46
TOTAL FUNDS...114,208.49

Published in the Wright County Monitor on Thurs. Feb. 13, 2024

## Iowa House Higher Education Committee focuses on civics education in meeting, legislation

Brooklyn Draisey  
Iowa Capital Dispatch

Iowa's public universities are "derelict in their duty" of teaching students about the United States, its history and ideals, a presenter told Iowa lawmakers.

The Iowa House Higher Education Committee passed four bills, most with amendments, during its meeting after hearing a presentation from the National Association of Scholars.

House Study Bill 55 would require state university faculty to publish syllabus information online for public view, including the educator's name, course requirements, reading materials and class subject descriptions.

Amendments added to the bill struck language requiring the subject matter of each lecture and discussion to be published online as well, and added a section saying these rules don't apply to courses that don't regularly meet in a classroom setting.

Rep. Monica Kurth, D-Davenport said despite the amendments, which were recommended by the Iowa Board of Regents, she was still concerned about the potential cost of complying with the law.

"I think that it represents an overreach that is undesirable," Kurth said. "I'm also concerned that it takes away the flexibility that might be needed within a course to address certain types of issues or problems as they come up."

Under House Study Bill 59, universities would also have to post online certain financial information. As amended, budget lines totaling \$50,000 or more would need to be published online, as well as expenditures and vendor services that meet that same threshold. Each university administrative unit would also be required to share its budget, and expenditures for diversity, equity and inclusion would be made public as well.

Kurth also voiced concerns about HSB 59, citing an email from the Board of Regents that suggests much of the information is already available online. Rep. Jeff Shipley, R-Birmingham, said the bill would make that information more organized and accessible to the public.

House Study Bill 57 would bar accrediting agencies from taking negative action, such as removing accreditation, from public universities for following or refusing to violate state law. If authorized by the attorney general, universities would be able to bring a civil suit against accreditors who take action against them for that reason.

The bill will head to the floor, but Rep. Ross Wilburn, D-Ames, said he has "several concerns" about the Legislature's ability to block a nongovernmental organization such as an accrediting body from taking action against universities that fail to comply with their policies.

Under House Study Bill 53, public universities would be prohibited from requiring students to take a course re-

lating to DEI or critical race theory to fulfill general education or any academic program standards, with exceptions for programs with titles directly showing the main focus of the course to be on race, gender or sexuality.

The bill also provides that universities cannot require or incentivize employees, appointees and committees to participate in DEI or critical race theory activities. Wilburn brought forward an amendment to remove this section, as he said it could have unintended consequences of not getting faculty the continuing education they need, especially in various medical fields.

Rep. Steven Holt, R-Denison, urged the committee to resist the amendment, but said he'd like to speak with Wilburn more about potentially adding language relating to medical issues. The amendment failed to pass, but the legislation itself will move to the House floor.

David Randall, director of research at the National Association of Scholars, told lawmakers students across the U.S., including those in Iowa, are not learning the necessary knowledge of the U.S., its government and history, in K-12 or higher education. According to a 2024 survey of 3,000 college students by the American Council of Trustees and Alumni, a minority of students were able to say when the Constitution was written and that the legislative branch can declare war, among other things.

"If you look at the general education requirements of the University of Iowa, Iowa State University and the University of Northern Iowa, you will see that Iowa's public universities are derelict in their duty," Randall said.

Randall said none of the state universities have general education requirements for American history and government, and civics courses are generally more focused on civic engagement rather than education. He added that the UI has a general education requirement in the category of "Diversity and Inclusion," which the university said will be changed to "Understanding Cultural Perspectives" starting in the 2025-26 school year.

Priorities Randall cited in improving civics education in higher education can be found in legislation already being discussed by lawmakers, including changing general education requirements and stopping accreditors from taking negative action against universities for following state laws.

Another solution he proposed was to have universities establish "administratively autonomous" schools that focus on U.S. history and government that would report to the Legislature itself rather than the university it is housed in, in order to "ensure that civic education in Iowa's public universities is not entrusted to the radical university establishment."

Civic education requirement bill passes out of subcommittee

Holt referenced the presentation during a subcommittee meeting on House Study Bill 56, which would require college students to take a course on American history and civics in order to earn a bachelor's degree.

The course would need to include, but not be limited to, instruction on "the study of and devotion to American institutions and ideals," according to the bill, as well as the history and principles of U.S. government, founding documents like the Constitution, the Articles of Confederation and the Emancipation Proclamation, and landmark court cases.

Iowa Board of Regents State Relations Officer Jillian Carlson said the board is registered "undecided" on the legislation but could support the bill if the board was able to work with the Legislature on amendments.

Members of the public questioned how certain topics, people and documents were selected as topics for the course and what the process was for choosing what and who would be included or excluded from the bill language.

Brian Schurz, a resident of Norwalk who graduated from the University of Northern Iowa with a degree in history, asked why people like Ida B. Wells and Susan B. Anthony, among others, were not listed in the legislation, as well as topics like efforts to combat the Ku Klux Klan.

"Our process of America, of where we came today, is kind of ugly, and there were people that were taken advantage of, and it's important to have those conversations in an open and honest forum," Schurz said. "By using this prism as we're trying to pass laws in the state of Iowa, I don't want to call it McCarthyism in the 1950s but if it's something that you don't like and somebody gets upset about it, then we're trying to shout each other down or restrict someone to be quiet. So I think we have to be very cautious with this."

After reading a quote from former President Ronald Reagan about how "freedom is never more than one generation from extinction," Holt said the presentation cited data from a recent study that showed half of respondents would flee the U.S. if it was invaded.

This is why it is so important to teach young people about the topics outlined in the bill, he said, and added that despite what was suggested in the meeting, this legislation does not prevent any topics from being taught in the classroom.

Subcommittee chair Rep. Skyler Wheeler, R-Hull, said he looks forward to working with the Board of Regents to come to an agreement on language in the bill, but the fact of the matter is that students need to be required to learn what is touched on in the legislation. If people don't unite to tell one story about the U.S. and its history, Wheeler said, multiple versions of the country will continue to be taught in schools.

"Why in the world ... do we have an education system if we're not going to be able to utilize it to make sure that kids know basic things about our country, things that they should know?" Wheeler said.

The bill will head to the full higher education committee for consideration.

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## Bill would require Iowa K-12 materials follow Trump order on 'Gulf of America,' 'Mount McKinley'



(Photo via the U.S. National Centers for Environmental Information)

Robin Opsahl  
Iowa Capital Dispatch

Iowa lawmakers have advanced a bill that would require Iowa schools to replace in educational materials any references to the Gulf of Mexico with "Gulf of America" and "Denali" with "Mount McKinley."

House Study Bill 97 comes weeks after President Donald Trump announced the U.S. Department of the Interior would work with the U.S. Board on Geographic Names to rename these two geographic formations. Mount McKinley, the highest peak in North America, was renamed Denali in 2015 after 40-years of advocacy from Alaska leaders. Alaska state lawmakers have called for Trump to reverse his executive order on renaming the mountain.

The Gulf of Mexico is in international waters. Though part of its shore is in the U.S.,

it is shared with Mexico and Cuba. While the directive could influence how the U.S. federal government refers to the body of water, it would not necessarily change the name used by the international community or private organizations, such as mapping platforms and media organizations.

Educational companies that provide materials to U.S. schools would not necessarily be required to refer to the body of water as "the Gulf of America" under Trump's directive. But the change could be required in Iowa school textbooks and handouts under the legislation brought forward by GOP House lawmakers.

Michelle Johnson with the Iowa Association of School Boards said her organization was registered undecided on the bill as they're still waiting to learn more about the impact and imple-

mentation of Trump's executive order.

"How does an executive order impact what local schools do?" Johnson said. "We don't deal with that super often, so we're just kind of waiting to see what happens. There probably would be a cost associated with this — it would be new handouts, new information, that would be given to students. So there would be something to consider with cost when it comes to giving materials to students."

The legislation advanced 2-1 and will be available for consideration by the House Education Committee.

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## Senate panel votes to require school cellphone policies

Robin Opsahl  
Iowa Capital Dispatch

A Senate subcommittee gave initial approval Wednesday to Gov. Kim Reynolds' proposal to set a statewide minimum policy restricting students' cellphone use in schools.

The bill, Senate Study Bill 1065, would require school boards to adopt policies that, at minimum, ban use of personal electronic devices during instructional periods. Schools could add further restrictions on the use of cellphones through the school day.

The measure would require school districts specify disciplinary action if a student uses their cellphone during class or tests, and requires schools set protocols to securely store personal electronic devices. The policies would begin in the 2025-2026 school year.

The legislation includes caveats for students with Individualized Education Program (IEP) or 504 plans that require accommodations involving the use of cellphones or other electronic devices. It also requires school districts to allow parents to petition to let their child keep their cellphone with them during class if they can establish "a legitimate reason related to the student's physical or mental health."

The Department of Education would be required to develop and distribute model policies to Iowa school districts. It would also require the education department to work with the Department of Public Safety to develop and reform emergency plans in line with the cellphone use restrictions, so parents and

guardians would be able to contact their child during the school day in the case of an emergency.

Molly Severn, legislative liaison for the governor's office, cited a survey from the Pew Research Center that showed 72% of high school teachers said students being distracted by cellphones was a major problem in their classrooms.

"With digital distractions at an all time high, Gov. Reynolds wants ensure that Iowa's classrooms maintain environments for focus, learning and productivity," Severn said.

Several Iowa school districts have already implemented cellphone use policies. In a news release on the governor's proposal, Ottumwa Community Schools Superintendent Michael McGrory said the bill would "undoubtedly benefit students across Iowa" and that his district has already seen positive impacts from implementing a cellphone policy.

Education advocates were largely in support of the measure, though several organizations were registered as "undecided" because of questions about the timeline for implementation and certain professional development provisions.

Sen. Herman Quirnbach, D-Ames, who voted against the measure, asked if school districts are already implementing school cellphone use policies across the state, "why does the governor need to get involved?" He said cellphone use in schools was a problem, but that legislative action was not necessarily required as school districts already had the authority to

set policies on the issue.

Quirnbach also said he did not support the measure's limit requiring parents to obtain permission for their child have a cellphone with them in class if having the device is related to the student's health.

"You can imagine situations where a student who has problems with diabetes, epilepsy, food allergy and food poisoning, asthma — there are lots of situations where students may need to have immediate access, first of all, to their parents to let them know something's going on, but also direct access to medical resources to help them avoid a catastrophe," Quirnbach said.

In addition to cellphone use, the legislation would require 6<sup>th</sup>- through 8<sup>th</sup>-grade students to take "effects of social media" training. Sen. Jeff Taylor, R-Sioux Center, said he was appreciative of the measure as a way to help students navigate these online spaces. Several studies have found links between high social media use and negative mental health outcomes among teens.

"Social media, although in some ways, is wonderful, in other ways it can be quite harmful and upsetting, especially to kids of certain age," Taylor said.

The measure is available for consideration by the Senate Education Committee.

Read more from Robin Opsahl online at [IowaCapitalDispatch.com](http://IowaCapitalDispatch.com) ©Copyright 2025, Iowa Capital Dispatch. Published under a Creative Commons license, CC BY-NC-ND 4.0. Read more at [iowacapitaldispatch.com](http://iowacapitaldispatch.com)

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## Church news

### CLARION AREA

**CLARION FIRST METHODIST CHURCH**  
201 3rd Ave. NE, Clarion, IA 50525  
Pastor Craig Luttrell  
515-532-2845  
website: www.clarion.church  
Church Office  
Hours: Monday - Thursday 8:00 a.m. - Noon  
• Sunday, February 16  
9:00 a.m. Sunday School for all ages  
10:00 a.m. Worship Service  
• Sunday, February 23  
9:00 a.m. Sunday School for all ages  
10:00 a.m. Worship Service

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

**UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, CONGREGATIONAL**  
121 3rd Avenue N.W., Clarion  
• Sunday, February 16  
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, February 12  
Youth Faith Formation  
7:40 a.m. Rosary at St. Francis, Belmont  
8:00 a.m. Mass at St. Francis, Belmont  
6:30 p.m. Youth Faith Formation at all Parishes  
• Thursday, February 13  
11:40 a.m. Rosary at Sacred Heart, Eagle Grove  
12:00 p.m. Mass at Sacred Heart, Eagle Grove  
• Friday, February 14  
11:00 a.m. Fatima Rosary at Sacred Heart, Eagle Grove  
• Saturday, February 15  
Youth Led Masses and SCRIP Cards Anointing the Sick  
3:15 p.m. A/B at St. Francis, Belmont  
4:00 p.m. Mass at St. Francis, Belmont  
7:15 p.m. A/B at St. John, Clarion  
8:00 p.m. Spanish Mass at St. John, Clarion  
Sunday, February 16  
Youth Led Masses and SCRIP Cards Anointing the Sick  
7:15 a.m. A/B at Sacred Heart, Eagle Grove  
8:00 a.m. Mass at Sacred Heart, Eagle Grove  
9:00 a.m. KC Omelet Breakfast  
St. Francis, Belmont  
9:45 a.m. A/B at St. John, Clarion  
10:30 a.m. Mass at St. John, Clarion  
• Monday, February 17  
8:15 a.m. Rosary at St. Francis, Belmont  
6:30 p.m. OCIA at St. John, Clarion

• Wednesday, February 19  
Youth Faith Formation  
7:40 a.m. Rosary, at St. Francis, Belmont  
8:00 a.m. Mass, A/B at St. Francis, Belmont  
10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting at St. John, Clarion (Office Closed)  
6:30 p.m. Youth Faith Formation at all Parishes

**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, February 16  
10:00 a.m. Worship Service and Fellowship Coffee in the Fellowship Room.  
No Sunday School

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

**HOLMES EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
Pastor George Lautner  
412-874-9878  
• Sunday, February 16  
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, February 16  
9:30 a.m. Morning Worship, 10:30 a.m. Fellowship, 11 a.m. Sunday School, 6 p.m. Evening Worship

### ROWAN AREA

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

**IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
Missouri Synod  
Jct. Highway 69 & 3  
Pastor Mark Eichler  
• Sunday, February 16  
10:30 a.m. Divine Services,  
11:45 a.m. Bible Study

### DOWS AREA

**SOVEREIGN GRACE CHURCH**  
109 N. Eskridge St., Dows  
Dows / www.sgcdows.com  
Doug Holmes, Pastor  
• Sunday, February 16  
10:15 a.m. Sunday school,  
Coffee, 11:15 a.m. Worship at First Presbyterian in Dows

**FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
Dows, IA  
Masking is option  
• Sunday, February 16  
9:00 a.m. Conf/SS/Coffee  
10:30 a.m. Worship  
• Wednesday, February 19  
5:30 - 6:30 p.m. Free Community Meal

**UNITED METHODIST & PRESBYTERIAN**  
Dows February 16  
10 a.m. Dows Joint Worship at Untied Methodist

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

**IMMANUEL U.C.C.**  
204 E. South St., Latimer  
Joe Dunnwald  
• Sunday, February 16  
10:30 a.m. Worship

**ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN**  
304 W. Main, Latimer  
Travis Berg, Pastor  
• Sunday, February 16  
9 a.m. Worship, 10:15 a.m. ABC/Sunday School

**UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
Morgan, Lee Center, Bradford  
Erling Shultz, Pastor  
• Sunday, February 16  
8:30 a.m. Worship (B), 9:30 a.m. Worship (LC), 10:30 a.m. Worship (M)

**MISSIONARY ALLIANCE CHURCH**  
3rd & Lake Streets, Blairsburg, IA 50034  
• Sundays  
8:45 - 9:45 a.m. Café is open serving donuts, smoothies and coffee beverages  
9:00 a.m. Adult Sunday School  
10:00 a.m. Worship Service  
10:00 a.m. Nursery available for children up to age 2  
10:00 a.m. Kids Church for children 2 years to grade 5  
• Wednesday  
5:45 - 6:15 p.m. Café Open  
6:30 p.m. Youth  
6:30 p.m. Kids Club for children grades 1-5

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







## The Clarion Wire

\*\* Congratulations to the CDA winners in the January Local Lottery: Olivia Walton, Lavonn Dirks, and Deanna Kraft (winning \$100, \$50, and \$25). Over \$30,000 in punch cards were turned in!  
\*\* Happy Valentine's Day! Celebrate Valentine's Day in Clarion!  
\*\* Celebrate Valentine's Day at the Clarion Senior Citizens Center on Friday, February 14 - Chili luncheon! Freewill offering! Bingo to follow!  
\*\* Buffet Special at Clarion Pizza Ranch on Friday, February 14! One buffet at regular price; 2nd buffet for \$8.99!  
\*\* Fuel on North Main in Clarion. Look for Valentine's Day menu specials!! Friday, February 14!  
\*\* Enjoy an 8 oz. Strip Steak or 10 oz. Rib Eye Steak at Chappy's on Main on Friday February 14 (with potato, a cocktail or wine)!  
\*\* How about a "Brownie Bar for 2" at The Main Scoop on South Main on Friday and Saturday, February 14 and 15!  
\*\* "Valentine's Day Buffet" at Sam's Chinese Kitchen on Friday, February 14 from 5 - 8 p.m.  
\*\* Breath of My Beloved Ministries is hosting a women's night of worship on Saturday, February 15 @ 5:30 pm, located at its new location, 1204 Central Avenue East-Clarion. A light supper with worship following; free will offering is welcomed. More information? Breath of My Beloved Ministries Facebook page.  
\*\* "Cupid's Carnival", lots of indoor fun, on Sunday, February 16 from 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. CGD high school.  
\*\* American Legion in Dows; their next meal on Main Street in Dows - "Spaghetti Dinner: Sunday, February 16. 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.  
\*\* "Easy Going Senior Exercises" at the Clarion Senior Citizens Center every Monday and Thursday afternoon, beginning at 1:30 p.m.  
\*\* Community Impact nights at Pizza Ranch: from Tim Hamilton: Busing tables all 4 Mondays in February which is Scout month. It continues - Tigers (1st grade) on the 17th; and the 24th is Bears (3rd grade). Purchasing pine-wood derby items and cast iron cookware with the proceeds. The group the raises the most gets bragging rights and a traveling trophy for the year. Eat pizza or carry some out during Mondays in February!  
\*\* Clarion's Senior Citizens

Center, Play '500 cards', the first and third Wednesdays of each month. Next one will be on Wednesday, February 19 from 1:30 - 3:30 p.m.  
\*\* "Blind Date with a Book! Check out an adult fiction book without looking at the cover. From Clarion Public Library (checked out!). Each 'book' has a couple of clues about the book are about, as they are wrapped with a couple of prizes readers can keep. Not interested in a book? There are a couple of puzzles to choose from as well! Library is in the process making up some for 'Play Dates' with a book for ages 8 and up!  
\*\* First Lutheran Church FOOD PANTRY in Clarion, 420 - First Street N.W., is open on the second and fourth Thursdays of each month, from 5 - 7 p.m. Next event is February 27! (may visit ONE of its four locations once a week per household).  
\*\* From Hagie Manufacturing: Please join us for a come-and-go retirement party honoring Bill Speirs, who is celebrating an incredible 54 years of dedicated service at Hagie Manufacturing! On Thursday, March 6 from 1:30 to 3:30 .m. at The Red Shed Event Center, 908 2nd Street NW, Clarion.  
\*\* Wright County Farm Bureau hosts a Town Hall meeting on Saturday, March 8 at the Clarion library. Senator Dennis Guth and Representatives Mark Thompson and Shannon Latham have been invited to meet with citizens at 10 a.m.  
\*\* AT THE CLARION THEATRE: Showing "Captain America: A Brave New World" on Friday - Sunday, February 14 - 16 @ 7 p.m.; Sunday matinee, February 16 @ 2:30 p.m. (First of two weeks!)  
\*\* MONEY SAVING TIP: Lots of Valentine gift and care opportunities in town!! Look for discounts on winter closeouts!!  
\*\* YOU CAN HELP: Do you have t-shirts you no longer want or can wear? (Don't have to be nice, need to be clean) Share them with art and elementary students in Van Meter Schools. It's in memory of "Andie", a 21-year-old. They will be weaving the shirts into beds for dogs. Drop them off at Wright Community Connections through the month of February.  
\*\* THANK YOU: To our local volunteer Fire Department and for all of their training. Their efforts paid off for all of us with the recent house fires!



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## Karl King Band Announces February Concert

*Jerrold P. Jimmerson*

The Karl L. King Municipal Band of Fort Dodge, IA will open their 2025 indoor season on Sunday, February 16<sup>th</sup>, with a concert beginning at 3:30 pm in the Fort Dodge Middle School Auditorium, located at 800 North 32<sup>nd</sup> Street in Fort Dodge. There is no admission charge, with these concerts being provided by the City of Fort Dodge.

This concert will be the Band's annual tribute to former Conductor Karl L. King in honor of his birthday. With previous conductor Jerrold Jimmerson's retirement last July, the band will be led by Interim Conductor Dan Cassady, who previously served as the Assistant Conductor. Cassady is a retired music educator who currently lives at Twin Lakes. Previously he taught music and directed bands at Fort Dodge Senior High, Iowa Central Community College, and St. Edmond High School. He currently performs as trombonist with Jive for Five and other area bands.

Karl King was born on February 21, 1891 in the small village of Paintersville, Ohio. After his childhood growing up in Canton OH, he left at the age of 19 to travel for 9 years with several different circuses. He first played Euphonium with their bands, then conducted several of them, and reached the pinnacle of success as conductor of the world-famous Barnum and Bailey Circus Band during the 1917 and 1918 seasons.

He returned to Canton after his trouping days were done in November of 1918 to settle down with his wife, Ruth, and direct the local Grand Army of the Republic Band there. In addition, the Kings' only son, Karl Jr., was born in November of 1919. In the fall of 1920, King and his family moved to the Fort Dodge when he was hired to conduct the local Municipal Band, a career that lasted more than 50 years until his death on March 31, 1971.

This concert will open with Henry Fillmore's musical tribute to one of Fort Dodge's most famous citizens, "King Karl King". Both King and Fillmore

were natives of Ohio and well-known composers. Fillmore directed the municipal band in Cincinnati OH, while King was famous for his circus career and his years spent directing the municipal band here.

Other selections to be performed include several of Karl King's marches. There are two famous circus marches, "Sells-Floto Triumphant" from 1914, and "Woody Van's" from 1911, along with his 1925 march, "Step On It!" dedicated to band manager Walter Engelbart, otherwise known as "Speed King".

However, King published more than 300 compositions. Also included on this tribute concert will be King's popular 1912 overture, "Princess of India", his ragtime selection from 1919, "Kentucky Sunrise", and his exciting 1910 circus galop "Excelsior".

Bringing an international flavor to this concert is the thrilling march by Vasilij Agapkin, titled "A Slavic Farewell", which is one of the gems to come out of post-Cold War Russia, along with Narciso Serredell Sevilla's beautiful Mexican waltz, "La Golondrina (The Swallow)".

Other familiar selections on this one-hour concert include Hoagy Carmichael's 1927 standard, "Stardust", along with a medley of popular songs from several well-known musicals, titled "The Golden Age of Broadway" by the famous song-writing team of Rodgers and Hammerstein.

The concert will conclude with Karl King's most famous and well-known 1913 composition, "Barnum and Bailey's Favorite March", one of the most recorded marches ever written, followed by our National Anthem, "The Star-Spangled Banner."

In case of inclement weather, the concert may be cancelled. Any announcements will be made on the band's Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/karlkingband/>, or on the band's website at [www.karlking.us](http://www.karlking.us).

## Words of Wisdom

Last week's trivia questions: Which two pro football quarterbacks have won Super Bowls with two different teams? Answer: Peyton Manning and Tom Brady. Manning won a Super Bowl with the Indianapolis Colts and the



Denver Broncos. Brady won Super Bowls with the New England Patriots and one with the Tampa Bay Buccaneers.

(Kurt Warner won a Super Bowl with the St. Louis Rams and lost one with the Arizona Cardinals. Craig Morton led the Dallas Cowboys and the Denver Broncos to a Super Bowl, losing both times.)

Which two pro football teams have been to the Super Bowl four times, and lost all four? Answer: The Minnesota Vikings and Buffalo Bills. (The Vikings lost the Super Bowl in 1970, 1974, 1975, and 1977. Buffalo is the only team to appear in four consecutive Super Bowls, but lost all four, from 1991 to 1994).

\*\*\*\*\*

This week's trivia questions: What popular website made its debut on Valentine's Day in 2005?

What state produces most of America's red roses?

\*\*\*\*\*

Feb. 12 is Abraham Lincoln's Birthday; Feb. 13 is Galentine's Day, and National Cheddar Day; Feb. 14 is Valentine's Day, Library Lover's Day, and Organ Donor Day; Feb. 15 is International Childhood Cancer Awareness Day; Feb. 16 is National Almond Day, and World Whale Day; Feb. 17 is Presidents' Day, and National Tennis Pro Day; Feb. 18 is Pluto Day, and Drink Wine Day.

\*\*\*\*\*

My new girlfriend works at the zoo. She's a keeper.

\*\*\*\*\*

Just went on a date with a welder. Man, were the sparks flying.

\*\*\*\*\*

Did you hear about the banker who broke up with his girlfriend? He was losing interest.

\*\*\*\*\*

You should never date a tennis player. Love means nothing to them.

\*\*\*\*\*

I used to date a weather forecaster. We had a stormy relationship.

\*\*\*\*\*

Two territories became U.S. states on Valentine's Day. Oregon became the 33rd state on Feb. 14, 1859, even if its residents didn't know it right away.

(It took a full month for the news to travel across the country via a combination of telegraph, stagecoach, and steamship).

Exactly 53 years later on Feb. 14, 1912, Arizona became the 48th state.

\*\*\*\*\*

In 1929, the Saint Valentine's Day Massacre happened in Chicago. Seven members of Chicago's North Side Gang were gathered at a garage on Feb. 14, 1929. They were shot by four unknown assailants, two of whom were disguised as police officers.

The murders resulted from the competition for control of organized crime in the city, during Prohibition. The largely Irish North Siders were headed by George "Bugs" Moran, and their largely Italian Chicago Outfit rivals were led by Al Capone.

The perpetrators have never been conclusively identified, but former members of a gang working for Capone are suspected of involvement.

\*\*\*\*\*

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## Monitor Memories

FROM THE ARCHIVES OF THE WRIGHT COUNTY MONITOR  
1983 - 1948

### 42 Years Ago February 17, 1983

Clarion will be represented by four seniors in the District Wrestling Tournament Saturday in Iowa Falls. The wrestlers are Marty Anderson (126), heavyweight Dave Bossard, Murray Anderson (132) and Eric Willim (185). The Anderson twins and Bossard won sectional championships Saturday in Fort Dodge, while Willim placed second.

The residents of the Clarion Care Center chose their Valentine's Day King and Queen last Monday to reign over the festivities scheduled in honor of Saint Valentine. Al Evans, 87, and Sadie Kirstein, 89, were selected by the residents to oversee the day's events.

An investigation by the Dows Police, Wright County Sheriff's Deputies and the Wright County Communication Center operations, has led to the admission of a Dows minor to making a false report of a personal injury accident. The minor also admitted to having made a false fire report earlier this winter. In which the Dows Fire Department was called to the Dows School, only to find no fire had actually occurred.

### 77 Years Ago February 12, 1948

Several Clarion women have had rather startling experiences with a magazine salesman recently. This salesman has been reported entering local homes after knocking without waiting for the lady of the house to come to the door to admit him. In one instance, the lady was working in her kitchen and couldn't answer the knock promptly and when she did approach the door, he was already in the house and just closing the door. He seemed not one whit concerned about his conduct when it was questioned.

Miss Priscilla Olsen, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Julius Olsen of Clarion, is now in Medellin, Colombia, where she began teaching Monday in a school for missionary children. She will teach the regular school subjects from fourth to eighth grade.

The First Methodist church of Clarion was one of 83 Iowa churches to receive a community service award at the annual meeting of Iowa Christian Rural Fellowship held in connection with the annual Farm and Home week at Iowa State college this week.

## ECC Announces Fall Term Dean's List

One hundred and forty-nine students were named to the Fall 2024 (August to December) Dean's List at Ellsworth Community College. To be eligible for the Dean's List, students must have earned a minimum of 12 credit hours during the semester (a full-time class load) and had at least a 3.5 grade point average for the Fall 2024 semester. Part-time students are not included in this list.

The ECC staff and administration congratulate these students for their academic excellence. Students are listed below by hometown; those with an asterisk (\*) after their name earned a perfect 4.0 GPA.

**Clarion, IA**  
Marlene Hernandez  
**Dows, IA**  
Zhan Yi  
**Rowan, IA**  
Kayleigh Courtney

## Iowa State honors fall graduates

More than 1,600 graduates received degrees from Iowa State University this fall. Graduate and undergraduate commencement ceremonies were held Dec. 20-21 at Hilton Coliseum.

Of the 1,675 students who graduated in December, 1,357 earned undergraduate degrees and 318 earned masters or doctoral degrees.

**Clarion, Iowa**  
Bryce Steven Allen,  
Bachelor of Arts,  
Communication Studies  
Alaina Friesleben,

Bachelor of Arts, English  
Natalie Ann Kirstein,  
Bachelor of Science,  
Elementary Education,  
Summa Cum Laude  
Destini Tasia  
Phetxoumphone,  
Bachelor of Science,  
Accounting  
Destini Tasia  
Phetxoumphone,  
Bachelor of Science,  
Management  
Maycie Lynn Rector,  
Master of Education,  
Education

## University of Iowa 2024 fall semester dean's list honorees announced

More than 8,700 students at the University of Iowa were named to the dean's list for the 2024 fall semester.

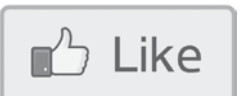
Jackson Beisel of Clarion  
Cael Chase of Goldfield  
Wyatt DeCoster of Clarion  
Kaitlyn Deutsch of Kanawha  
Elizabeth Hinman of Belmond  
Kenya Martinez of Eagle Grove  
Ellie Mewes of Clarion  
Jacob Moore of Clarion  
Joshua Moore of Clarion  
Carson Nesheim of Goldfield  
Megan Schafer of Eagle Grove  
Garrett Seaba of Goldfield  
Nicholas Sisson of Goldfield

**Guidelines for inclusion on the list are:**

Degree seeking undergraduate students in the Carver College of Medicine, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, the College of Education, the College of Engineering, the College of Public

Health, the Tippie College of Business, and University College who achieved a grade-point average (GPA) of 3.50 or higher on 12 semester hours or more of UI graded coursework during a given semester or summer session and who have no semester hours of "I" (incomplete) or "O" (no grade reported) during the same semester are recognized by inclusion on the dean's list for that semester.

Undergraduate students in the Roy J. and Lucille A. Carver College of Medicine may qualify for the dean's list with fewer than 12 semester hours of graded credit if deemed appropriate by the college  
College of Nursing students participating in clinical courses who have a total of 12 semester hours of earned credit, with eight semester hours of graded credit with a GPA of 3.50 or higher.



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## The Thompson Times

Representative  
Mark Thompson,  
House District 56

Each year some of the same issues are brought forward. One of those topics is the Pharmacy Benefit Managers (PBMs). For several sessions, Iowa House Republicans have been interested in taking action to protect our local pharmacies facing unfair practices from Pharmacy Benefit Managers, the middlemen known as PBMs. We are seeing rural pharmacies close down at an alarming rate. 29 pharmacies closed in 2024. More than 150 pharmacies have closed over the past decade. Without local pharmacies, Iowa families and older Iowans have a harder time accessing the care they deserve. Several additional regulations of PBM's in Iowa are being considered in HSB 99. All can be found on legis.iowa.gov but one I find important is requiring PBMs to reimburse pharmacies based on acquisition cost. Perhaps our federal government will be addressing this issue nationally also.

Another recurring issue is the funding of our schools. In 2024 K-12 made up 46% of our state budget. In 2014 K-12 education was 16.6% of our budget (Ballotpedia). This year the Senate and the Governor have proposed a 2% increase in SSA funding for education for the upcoming fiscal year. Iowa House is interested in getting more funding to

public schools. The House SSA funding is proposed at 2.25% with several other budget items increased to equate to an overall 3.93% increase in state funding to public schools.

-The new state cost per pupil under this proposal would be \$8,039 per pupil.

-In FY 2025, we allocated \$3.7876 billion to public education. This proposal would allocate \$3.9368 billion, an increase of nearly \$150 million.

Later this month Belmont-Kleme Superintendent Jenn Peters is hosting a zoom call for all District 56 superintendents and me to discuss education topics and concerns I can bring back to the House for further consideration.

Other topics of importance include:

Iowa House Environmental Protection Panel Hears Presentation on Status of Jordan Aquifer from DNR. Over the last several decades, demand for Iowa's high-quality groundwater has been growing as biofuel production has soared and as major electronic data server farms come to Iowa because of its relative safety from catastrophic environmental circumstances and low cost electrical power.

Judiciary Committee Works on Bills to Protect Minors. The House Judiciary Committee has begun working on multiple bills to protect children from obscene material both online and in person. These

bills focus on the online world of pornography, AI created images, and strong penalties for those who prey on children. House File 62 establishes liability for a commercial entity that publishes or distributes pornography on the internet, if a minor gets access to the material. The bill is not intended to target internet providers, instead it is focused on the websites and companies that produce and distribute the pornographic materials. As of now, 19 states have laws requiring some type of age verification before an individual can view a pornographic site. The language of the bill is being carefully evaluated and will be up for a vote in the Judiciary Committee in the next several weeks.

On February 6<sup>th</sup> a Cedar Rapids man was found guilty of trafficking a minor. This is the first time the human trafficking law the legislature passed, and the governor signed in 2023 was implemented invoking much tougher penalties. This criminal was found guilty of a Class A felony with the possibility of life in prison. His sentencing will be in April. The victim testified at the trial and demonstrated incredible courage. This case, like all other human trafficking cases, illustrates that the victim IS the evidence, and that our state must dedicate resources to save the countless vulnerable people still forced to live this vile existence.

## The View From Here

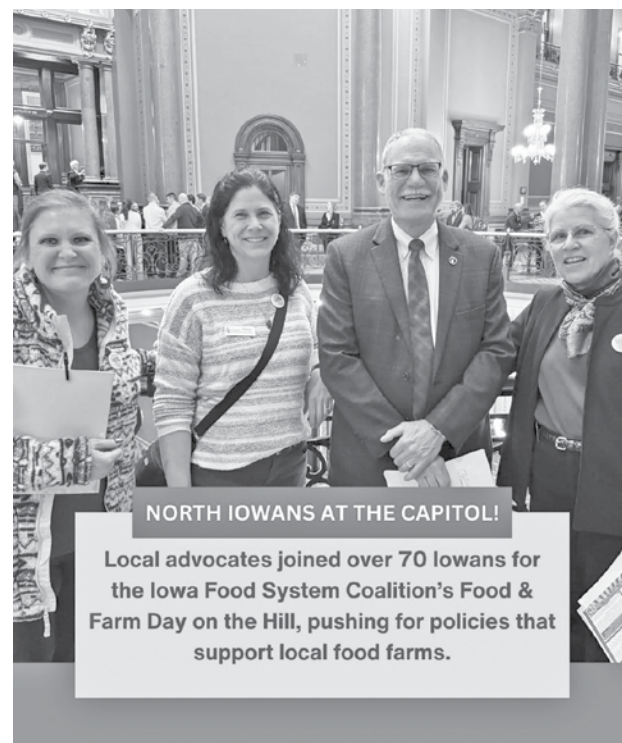
Senator Dennis Guth,  
R-Klemme

As I write this, I have just finished the fourth week of the legislative session. February 14 is the last day that I can request new legislation to be written. With the end of the session planned on May 2, you may think this is too early to put the brakes on new ideas. The truth is the legislative process takes time and if we didn't have a cutoff date for writing new legislation, we would never get done. We will probably have around 900 bills filed this year. Less than a fourth of those will become law.

When I talk about a bill it's usually because it's a bill that interests a lot of people, or it's a bill that I had a part in.

A bill that has a lot of interest by the public is SSB 1051. It deals with the warnings on pesticide labels. We discussed this issue last year, and are working on it more this year. The main avenue that is used to sue a chemical company is a failure to have warning labels about the potential harm they could pose to health. However, the EPA dictates what must be put on the label. If the company doesn't abide by those rules, they can't sell the product. It makes no sense to allow the company to be sued for following the law. The company can still be sued, but not for following the law on the label. This would apply to widely used chemicals like Round Up.

A bill I wrote is SF 128, dealing with what is recorded on the form used to fill out a death certificate of a child from 0-3 years old. Currently there is only one question asked about the child's vaccinations. Was the child fully vaccinated according to the schedule recommended by the CDC? The same form asks five questions about the last thing the child ate. Some medical examiners have



requested that we ask when the child's last vaccination was, what they were vaccinated for, and did they receive multiple vaccinations at the time.

A large number of moms showed up to testify in favor of the bill. Two medical professionals showed up to say this could lead to people being more reluctant to vaccinate their children. I maintain that the best way to increase confidence in the safety of vaccines is to have hard data to prove it. This is easy to do and hard to fake.

Also dealing with vaccines is SF 120, which would require parental consent before a minor can get vaccinated for sexually transmitted diseases. The best known of these vaccines has the worst safety record of any vaccine, except for the Covid-19 vaccines. A minor is not ready to weigh the risks and rewards of getting this vaccine before age 18.

I'll conclude with a quick note about the bill we passed in 2023 to reorganize the state government. Its goal was to make

government more efficient by aligning similar departments and eliminating redundancies. It would also help all the departments communicate with each other by getting them all on computer systems that can talk to each other. The Governor announced in her Condition of the State speech that in the first 18 months since the reorganization was implemented, Iowa has saved \$217 million. This amount will grow as time goes on, and the speed and efficiency of government response to citizens should also increase.

The last two weeks have been fun and tiring. However, I am encouraged by this verse to stay at it -- "The hand of the diligent shall rule". Proverbs 12:24

I will be having 2 forums on Feb. 15<sup>th</sup>.

- League of Women Voters Wake-Up forum at 8:30 in Nevada at the Public Library

- Eggs and Issues at 11:00 at Iowa Central Community College in Webster City, Tom Chelesvig Building

## Town Hall Meeting slated for March 8

Wright County Farm Bureau has scheduled a Town Hall meeting on Saturday, March 8 in the meeting room in the Clarion library.

Senator Dennis Guth and Representatives Mark Thompson and Shannon Latham have been invited to meet with citizens at 10:00 a.m. The public is

encouraged to attend and meet with the state legislators and provide feedback on any issues they would like to share.

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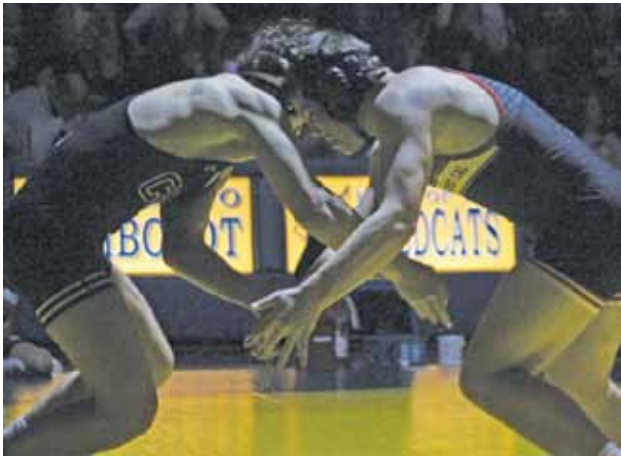
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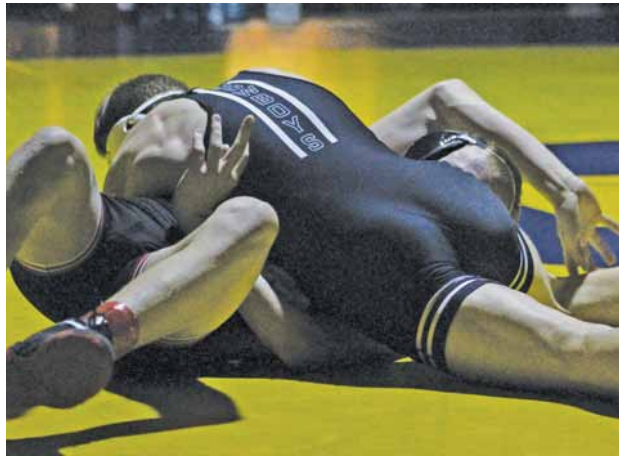
# SPORTS

(Photos: Taylor Smith)

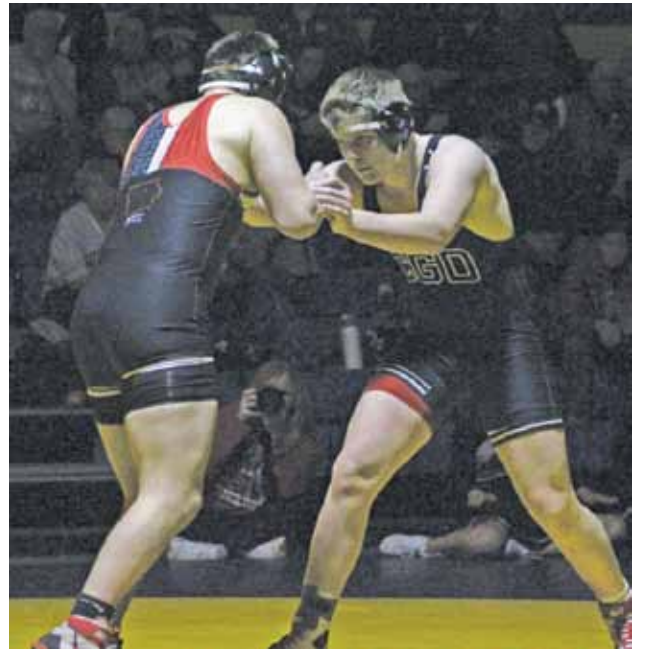
## Cowboys Celebrate Trip To State Duals



Charlie Campbell and Brody Robertson clash in the dimly lit Humboldt High School gym.



Linden Phetxoumphone won both of his matches in little time.



Traesyn Cope secured a last second decision for the Cowboys.

Taylor Smith, Sports Editor

On Tuesday, February 4, the #8 (2A) Humboldt Wildcats hosted a regional dual meet against #9 (2A) Clarion-Goldfield-Dows and #14 (2A) Hampton-Dumont-CAL. The winner of the C-G-D vs. H-D-C dual would advance to face Humboldt, and the winner of that dual would qualify for the State Dual Team Tournament in Coralville.

Against the Bulldogs, 132-pounder Adrian Phetxoumphone kick

started the Cowboys with a 19-4 technical fall over Charlie Showalter. Kolton Hefti (138) and Colin Sesker (144) both won decisions, but H-D-C took a 12-11 lead after victories at 150 and 157.

Their lead was short lived, and the Cowboys rattled off five straight victories. Caleb Seaba won 14-3 after earning takedown and near fall points in the 3<sup>rd</sup> period of his bout at 165. Next, Ryland Morgan (175) recorded a 14-3 major decision and Charlie

Campbell (190) had a 19-4 technical fall.

In an impassioned match at 215, Traesyn Cope outlasted H-D-C's Maddon Evans 9-7 in a come from behind decision. When the gym finally settled down, JT Kelso made quick work of his opponent at 285 with a pin in 1:34.

H-D-C picked up five more team points at 106, but Linden Phetxoumphone (120) had a 16-0 technical fall and Ryan Hartwig (126) pinned William Vosburg to put the finishing touches on

a 50-17 Cowboy win.

After a short break, Humboldt took the mat against C-G-D and wasted no time putting 12 points on the board with pins at 138 and 144. Colin Sesker moved up a weight class and defeated 150-pounder Jaxson Kirchoff 4-1 for the Cowboys' first points.

At 157, Seaba held a narrow lead for most of regulation, but was edged by Braden Downs in the first sudden victory period. Campbell (175) pinned Trey Al-Hameed in 23

seconds, but Humboldt led 31-9 after victories at 165, 190, and 215.

The mighty Cowboys answered the call with four straight pins by Kelso, Paxton Redenius (106), Angel Cortes (113), and Linden Phetxoumphone. Adrian Phetxoumphone's tech fall over Jonny Hayden sealed the deal, and

Clarion-Goldfield-Dows stamped their ticket to the 2025 IHSAA State Dual Tournament with a 38-37 win over the Wildcats.



## Boys Fall in Home Heartbreaker

Taylor Smith, Sports Editor

6-11 Algona visited Clarion last Monday for an evening of boys hoops. The Cowboys were looking to end a four-game skid, but a poor shooting performance in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter cost them the game.

Algona controlled the action through the 1<sup>st</sup> half, but Ethan Russell and Johnny Lomeli both drained corner threes to help reduce the Cowboy deficit to five going into halftime.

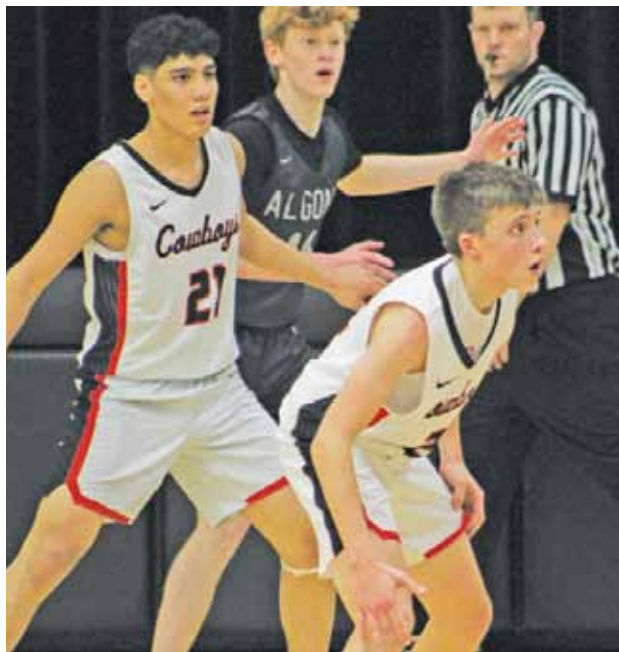
In the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter, Chaz Lane proved to be a menace on the defensive glass. After a Tristan Kakacek triple, Lane tied the game with a layup. Lane scored

nine of his 14 points in the 3<sup>rd</sup>, and Lomeli cashed in twice from distance to give C-G-D a 53-48 lead before the final quarter.

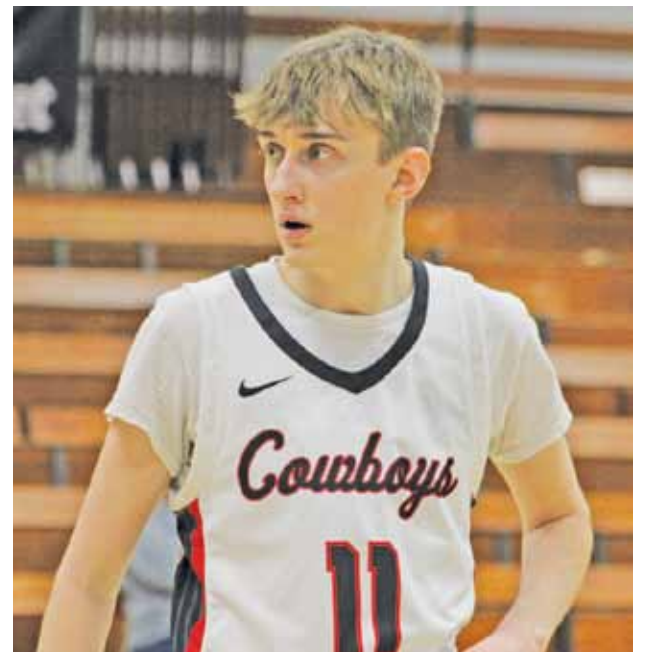
Unfortunately, the Cowboys would not score again. Algona, spearheaded by a 40-point performance from Ben Helmers, quickly took back the momentum and scored 21 points in the game's final minutes.

Lomeli finished with 18 points and six rebounds in the 70-53 conference loss. Lane grabbed 15 boards, dished out three assists, and had three steals for the Cowboys.

Senior Cesar Rosales scored seven, and junior Ethan Hasty added another six off the bench.



Johnny Lomeli (L) and Tristan Kakacek (R) defend the Bulldogs.



Ethan Russell

## Hoopers Lose By Six In Hamilton County

Taylor Smith, Sports Editor

On Friday, the Clarion-Goldfield-Dows Cowboys played their rivals from Webster City in a close game of conference basketball.

The Cowboys led by a single point after two quarters, but were unable

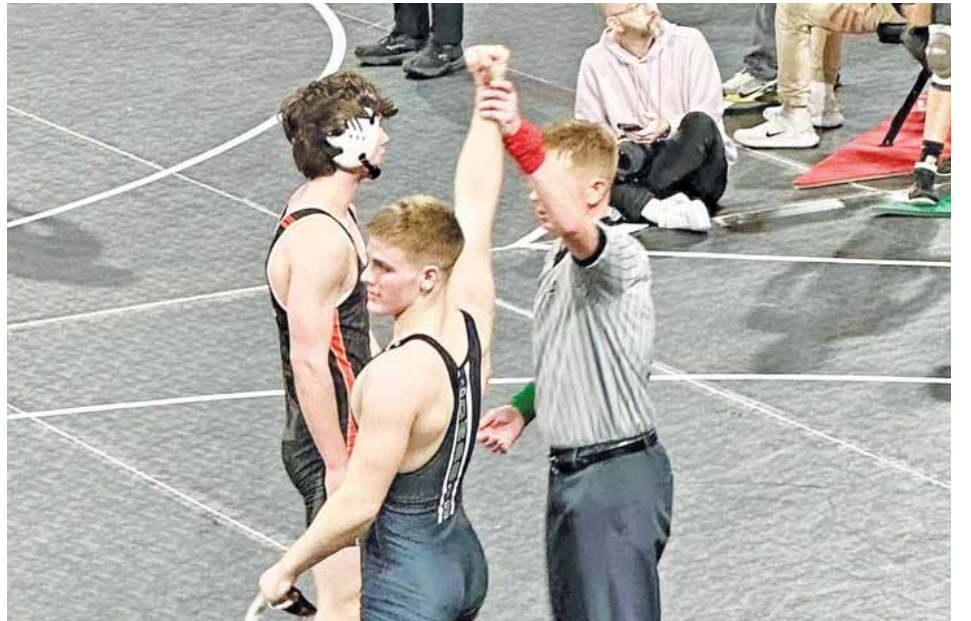
to convert from distance in the 2<sup>nd</sup> half. They were outscored 31-24 in the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> quarters of the 50-44 loss.

Chaz Lane finished with 15 points and seven rebounds. Huxley Lingenfelter dropped 10 and had team-highs of nine rebounds and four steals.

Johnny Lomeli scored five, and Tristan Kakecek contributed four points and two steals.

Cesar Rosales shot a perfect 3 for 3 from the field for six points. Bryce Lindaman grabbed five boards and scored four points on the night.

## More Photos from State Duals



(Photo: Casey Howell)



(Photo: Colt Powers KLMJ)

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## Aerial views

Bruce Voigts, Aerial Photographer (Photos taken February 7, 2025)



Gravel pit just east of Dows. An interesting "Ice Fall" on the right side of the pit's sides is developing. This is quite a large gravel pit which indicates years ago there were geologic forces creating this formation.



Lake Cornelia with a "resting" camp ground at the bottom of the photo. Soon there will be active campers on the camping sites. Notice more water has opened up on the lake, however a small ice house just right of the open water is present for ice fishing. Some say fishing is the best before icing up and icing out.

### Private Pesticide Continuing Instruction Course

Iowa State University Extension and Outreach Wright County office will be hosting a Private Pesticide Applicator Continuing Instruction Course

(P-CIC), led by Extension Field Agronomist, Angie Rieck-Hinz, on March 4, 2025 at 6:30 p.m. The event will be held at the Wright County Extension Office,

located at 2302 Madison Ave, Clarion. Please register by calling 515-532-3453 or online at <https://go.iastate.edu/7CGTWH>

### 2025 Dry Manure Applicator Certification Workshop to be Held in Wright County

Commercial manure applicators and confinement site manure applicators who primarily handle, haul, or land-apply dry or solid manure should plan to attend the Dry Manure Applicator Certification workshop scheduled in Wright county at 2302 Madison Ave, Ste B on February 25 at 1:00 p.m. Please call 515-532-3453 by February 21 to register

for this workshop. These workshops, offered by Iowa State University Extension and Outreach, in cooperation with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, meet manure applicator certification requirements for both confinement site and commercial manure applicators. The workshops differ from regular manure certification workshops, as they

focus more on dry/solid manure issues such as stockpiling and handling. The workshops are free to attend and open to all. Pre-registration is required. No walk-ins are permitted. Applicators will be required to submit certification forms and fees to the Iowa Department of Natural Resources to meet manure applicator certification requirements.

### Ornamental and Turfgrass Pest Control Course Offered March 5

Iowa State University and Outreach Wright County office will host an Ornamental and Turfgrass Pest Control Continuing Instruction Course (CIC) for commercial pesticide applicators Wednesday, March 5, 2025. The program provided by the ISU Extension and Outreach Pesticide Safety Education Program (PSEP) can be seen at office locations across Iowa.

This course will run from 1:00 to 3:30 p.m. To register or to obtain additional information about the CIC, contact Alondra Perez at the ISU Extension and Outreach Wright County office at 515-532-3453. The course will provide continuing instructional credit for commercial pesticide applicators certified in categories 30, 3T, and 3OT.

The IDALS-required topics to be covered are pesticide use and the environment; pesticide labels and comprehension; and pests, pest management; and pesticides. Additional information and registration forms for this and other courses being offered by the PSEP team can be accessed at [www.extension.iastate.edu/psep](http://www.extension.iastate.edu/psep).

## Iowa updates its strategy to reduce nutrient runoff

Farmers can access new nitrogen application calculator

Cami Koons, Iowa Capital Dispatch

The Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy has been updated to reflect increased access to data and new practices, including a precision ag-tool to optimize nitrogen application.

The nutrient reduction strategy was developed by the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, the Iowa Department of Natural Resources and Iowa State University in 2013, as part of a larger, 12-state task force to address the growing size of the hypoxia in the Gulf of Mexico by reducing nutrient levels in the Mississippi River Basin.

The strategy encourages farmers to participate in the nutrient reduction strategies, but does not mandate the conservation practices.

IDALS announced the updated version of the strategy Thursday. According to the press release, the last update was completed in 2017.

"We've learned valuable lessons working alongside farmers and landowners to implement conservation practices, and that's helping accelerate and scale-up adoption," Iowa Secretary of Agriculture Mike Naig said in a statement. "The strategy must reflect real-world scenarios, challenges and work that's happening in priority watersheds."

Excess nitrogen and phosphorus are the main contributors to the "dead zone" in the Gulf of Mexico, and thus are the nutrients the strategy seeks to reduce.

One of the 2025 updates includes a recommendation that corn farmers follow a three-year extended rotation to reduce nitrate N concentration in tile drainage by 42%, on average. According to the plan, that means following a four-year schedule of corn, soybean, alfalfa and alfalfa in a given field. Three years of legumes, a type of plant that fixes nitrogen in the soil, will reduce the need to apply nitrogen to the corn

crop, and showed a 10% increase in corn yields.

This recommendation would help the state reach its goal of reducing the nitrogen load from non-point sources by 41% from the 1980-1996 benchmark nutrient levels.

Point source pollution comes from sources like a wastewater facility or a factory that directly discharges into waterways. Non-point pollution is not as easy to pinpoint as it includes runoff from agricultural land, urban areas and more.

The update also notes that INRS provides quarterly updates to an online dashboard with measurements of water quality metrics, erosion control practices, funding, point source facility permits and in-field practices, instead of a "static" annual report.

The Iowa Nutrient Research and Education Council, which monitors the progress of the strategy, found in its 2023 survey a 7% decrease in the use of commercial nitrogen applied to continuous corn operations and that farmers planted nearly 4 million acres of cover crops in 2023, which is also a practice promoted by the strategy to reduce nutrient runoff.

"While there is still much to do, the strides we've made so far are a testament to what we can accomplish when we work together," Kayla Lyon, director of DNR, said in a statement about the updated INRS.

The press release from IDALS also highlighted new strategies to implement conservation practices. This included the "batch and build" process which began in 2020. The process installs nutrient reduction practices, like saturated buffers and bioreactors, on multiple farms at once, to maximize funding pools and accelerate the adoption of these practices.

According to IDALS, the state has completed five "batches" so far.

New tool for optimal ni-

trogen application

The strategy is also promoting the use of the Nitrogen Fertilizer Application Consultation Tool, or N-FACT, a precision ag tool developed by the Iowa Nitrogen Initiative, to "fine-tune" fertilizer application.

The public, online tool helps farmers determine the optimal rate of nitrogen application for their farm based on factors like location, precipitation and residual nitrogen.

The Iowa Nitrogen Initiative developed the tool from ISU research conducted with private farmers in every region of the state. According to a press release from IDALS, N-FACT can calculate more than 21,000 optimal nitrogen rate scenarios due to the hundreds of field trials conducted by ISU.

Dan Robison, dean of the college of agriculture and life sciences at ISU, said the collaborative team is doing "extraordinary work" for the farming community.

"This is a big part of the future of farming, at every scale, and it's beyond great that Iowa is leading," Robison said in a statement.

The research is ongoing and any Iowa farmer who can apply variable rate nitrogen and has a combine yield monitor can participate. Interested farmers can enroll on the Iowa Nitrogen Initiative's website.

Alan Atwater, an Iowa Corn Growers Association member and farmer, said he was "impressed" with the data presented by the tool, which informs one of the top expenses for corn farmers.

"This tool will allow farmers to better manage their nitrogen rates, allowing for better land management, lower input costs and improved nitrogen use efficiency," Atwater said in a statement.

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