

County Supervisors look at handling of property setbacks by other counties

Lee van der Linden,
The Belmond Independent

The Wright County Board of Supervisors gave information on the next steps in approving an ordinance on property setbacks for pipelines at a brief meeting held February 3.

Jeremy Abbas of Planning and Zoning explained that an ordinance used by other counties is available, but that ordinance has not been considered by Planning and Zoning. Julie Glade then asked the board what their next steps would be.

Supervisor Betty Ellis responded, "I'd like to review it and see what's going on in other counties and if they have had any resistance at all." Ellis said the board could approve the first two readings of the ordinance and wait on the third. "If something comes down the pike and we have to pass something, we could do the third reading and be done," Ellis said.

Bob Ritter told the board that he listened to the Greene County Board of Supervisors meeting that morning, which included a report from Riley Gibson of Summit Carbon Solutions. Ritter said one of the supervisors mentioned that updated recommendations from the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration now put the proposed carbon capture pipeline too close to his property. In addition, someone mentioned an artesian well that is not included on the pipeline map. The SCS representative did not know what an artesian well was or how the pipeline could affect other wells nearby. In other business, the board:

- heard that the Voss Quarry Bridge has been completely removed and the contractor is preparing to install pilings for abutments;
- heard from the public health director that cases of Influenza A are ramping up in Wright County. She said flu shots are available from public health for people who have no insurance or are under-insured;
- approved the claims after the recipient of a \$375 invoice was corrected;
- and approved the treasurer's semi-annual report.

Fort Dodge couple sues city alleging misconduct by a police officer

Clark Kauffman
Iowa Capital Dispatch

A Fort Dodge couple is suing the city, alleging a police officer improperly entered their home and violated their civil rights.

Robert and Tamisha Benedict are suing the City of Fort Dodge and Officer Leighton Walker in U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Iowa, alleging assault, trespassing, negligent hiring and supervision of city personnel, and civil rights violations related to an unreasonable search.

The couple alleges that Aug. 15, 2024, Walker was on duty and patrolling the city while Tamisha Benedict was at home with her two teenage sons and their friends – one of whom was Walker's daughter.

Around 7 p.m., the lawsuit states, Tamisha Benedict had to leave the house to take one of the children to an event and communicated that fact to Ashley Utley, the mother of Walker's child. She later gave her address to Utley so she could pick up her daughter.

According to the lawsuit, Walker then drove to the Benedict house and, while on duty, armed and in uniform, entered the home and conducted a complete search of the property.

"Walker eventually cornered the teenagers in the basement," the lawsuit alleges, and "battered his daughter and dragged her out of the house."

The lawsuit alleges the Benedict children were "terrified" by the incident.

The lawsuit was originally filed late last year in Webster County District Court but was transferred recently to federal court. The city has yet to file a response in either state or federal court.

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DNR to recap hunting seasons, discuss possible rule changes at February 18 public meeting

The Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is hosting a series of town hall-style meetings where local staff provide updates on recently completed hunting seasons, discuss possible changes to hunting rules and regulations, and address other topics as requested.

Locally, the Iowa DNR will be at the Clear Lake Wildlife Unit office, 15326 Balsam Ave., in Ventura, on Feb. 18. The meeting begins at 6 p.m. and again the Iowa DNR will be at the Tietz Entrepreneurial Center, Iowa Lakes Community College Algona Campus, 2111 Hwy. 169 North, in Algona, on Feb. 19. Attendees should enter through the southwest door. The meeting begins at 7 p.m.

"We want people to come out, listen to the hunting seasons reviews, ask questions, and hear directly from our staff," said Todd Bishop, chief of the Iowa DNR's Wildlife Bureau. "Part of the meeting will be devoted to discussing potential rule changes and collecting feedback as we work through the rules process."

The meetings are open to the public. Comments collected from these public meetings will be considered along with other related comments received by the Iowa DNR prior to proposing changes to hunting rules and regulations. Proposed rules will be presented to the Natural Resource Commission during a regular public meeting for consideration and additional public comment.

Any person attending the public meeting and has special requirements, such as those related to mobility or hearing impairments, should contact the Iowa DNR or ADA Coordinator at 515-725-8200, Relay Iowa TTY Service 800-735-7942, or Webmaster@dnr.iowa.gov.

134M poultry and counting

Charts show hardest-hit counties in bird flu crisis

Lauren Cross,
Investigate Midwest

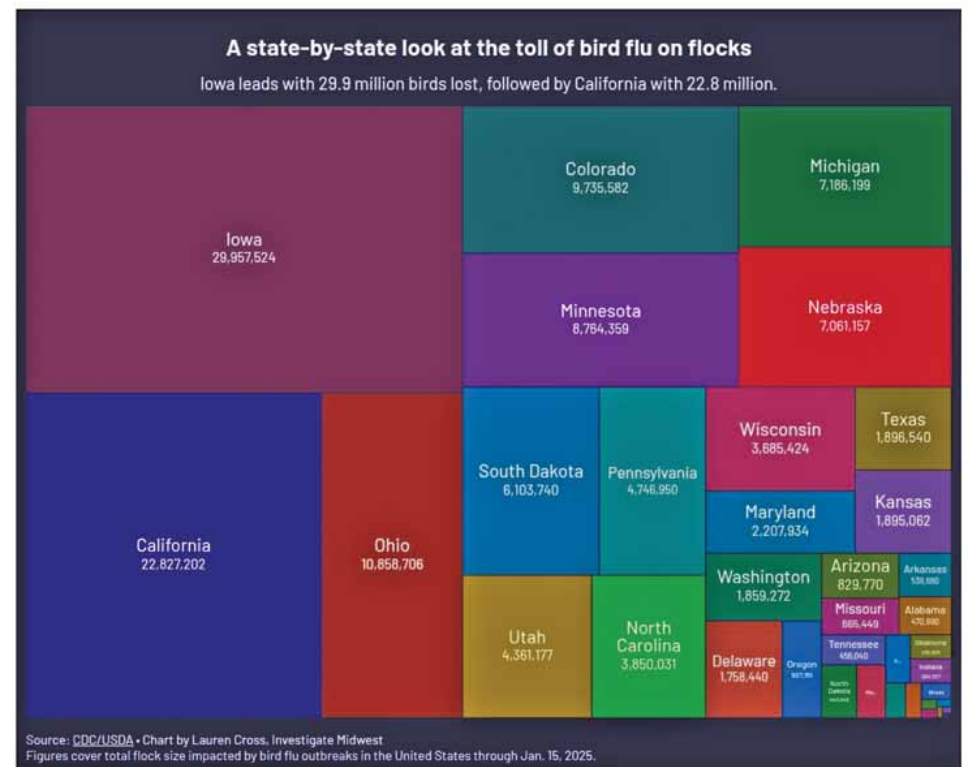
The latest data from the CDC and USDA show the continued devastating effects of bird flu outbreaks across the United States – with Iowa, the nation's leading egg producer, suffering substantial losses.

Since November 2023, more than 12.1 million poultry birds have been affected in Sioux County, Iowa.

On Jan. 17, health officials in Georgia, the nation's leading state for chicken production, announced it was suspending poultry sales after detecting bird flu, for the first time, in flocks designated for commercial sale. This recent development is not yet reflected in the CDC and USDA databases used for this analysis.

"This is a serious threat to Georgia's #1 industry and the livelihoods of thousands of Georgians who make their living in our state's poultry industry. We are working around the clock to mitigate any further spread of the disease and ensure that normal poultry activities in Georgia can resume as quickly as possible," Georgia Agriculture Commissioner Tyler Harper said in a news release.

Since federal and state government officials began tracking in February 2022, at least 1,400 outbreaks have been reported in more than 600 counties nation-



wide, affecting nearly 135 million birds.

Other counties experiencing severe losses include Weld County, Colorado, with 9.95 million since April 2022, and Merced County, California, recording 8.35 million, according to the data.

Midwest states with the highest number of birds affected include Iowa, Ohio, Minnesota, Michigan, and Nebraska.

Meanwhile, 67 human cases have been reported in the U.S. since the flu was first detected in humans in 2024, according to the CDC.

"While the current pub-

lic health risk is low, CDC is watching the situation carefully and working with states to monitor people with animal exposures," the agency stated on its website, which is regularly updated with the latest information.

Lauren Cross is the assistant editor/audience engagement manager at Investigate Midwest. Her role involves not only editing and managing content but also developing innovative strategies to engage with communities and ensure that vital stories reach those who need them most. Before joining Investigate Midwest, Lauren spent

eight years at Lee Enterprises, where she tackled stories on public policy, environmental issues, and social justice across the Midwest. ©Copyright 2025, Investigate Midwest. Published under a Creative Commons license, CC BY-NC-ND 4.0. Investigate Midwest is an independent, nonprofit newsroom. Our mission is to serve the public interest by exposing dangerous and costly practices of influential agricultural corporations and institutions through in-depth and data-driven investigative journalism. Read more at investigatemitwest.org

Local Business Owners Urge Others to Be Cautious After Being Impersonated

Jennifer Burnham,
Mid-America Publishing

Hampton residents Aimee and Bill Reichenbacher are urging others in the community to remain vigilant as they recently learned a fraudulent website was created under the guise of their custom farming business, D&R Machine.

"The website was very well done and looked very legitimate, listing many large pieces of equipment for sale," Aimee said. "A 50 percent going out of business sale was advertised on Facebook ads as well."

The website was first brought to their attention by several people and then someone eventually called the Greater Franklin County Chamber of Commerce to ask about the legitimacy of the business. The Chamber of Commerce then reported the fraudulent activity to the Franklin County Sheriff's Office, which reached out to the Reichenbachers.

Since then, the Reichenbachers have reported the website to the Federal Trade Commission, Better Business Bureau, and Google — asking other concerned parties to do the same. They've contacted the banks that have been listed on the invoices. And they've made a public post on their personal Facebook account to share what has happened.

Unfortunately, despite all of their efforts, the website is still up and running.

Aimee said they are frustrated, as they haven't been able to find an easy way to get it shut down.

To help others, Aimee shared some of the red flags they noticed about the fraudulent website: "When the phone number listed was called a foreign-sounding English speaker answered with echoes of other speakers in the background, such as a telemarketing call.

When people ordered

equipment through the website, they received an invoice with our information. But the listing for wire payment had our address but a different business name. When closely inspecting the pictures on the site, you can tell that the logos on the hats and shirts have been removed and replaced with a logo they made with our company name."

Aimee stated that the business name and

its information was only accessible through the State of Iowa's business listings, and their information was not known to the public by any other online platform.

To her knowledge, nobody has paid money to those behind the website, and she hopes it stays that way.

"I hope we can get this figured out soon and that others can learn from our experience," she said.

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Iowa House bill would remove certain homeschooling restrictions

Robin Opsahl

Members of a subcommittee advanced an education bill Monday that supporters said would help parents homeschooling children, but that others said would remove important government oversight of children outside of traditional K-12 school settings.

The legislation, House File 88, includes multiple components related to home schools:

It removes of requirements in state code that require families homeschooling their children provide proof of immunization and blood lead tests.

Homeschooling families would no longer have to submit an "outline of course of study" for their children.

It eliminates current limits in law that only four children who are not related to the homeschooling instructor receive private instruction.

It doubles the current tuition and textbook credit from 25% to 50% for the first \$2,000 spent.

Education advocates said the language removing certain legal requirements could put children at risk. Melissa Peterson with the Iowa State Education Association said the current limit on unrelated children receiving unregulated homeschool instruction was put in place through compromises made under former Gov. Terry Branstad's administration as a way to provide families less moni-

toring and state oversight while ensuring that there were still sufficient safety and educational professional standards being taken into account.

"One of the reasons why in a compromise achieved in 2013 ... is because there was going to be a limitation on how many students you could (teach), and because those students needed to be related, so that we would not have the same concerns about needing a background check, about making sure that students were not exploited or taking advantage of," Peterson said.

Chaney Yeast with Blank Childrens Hospital said tests on children's exposure to lead is critical to ensuring they are safe and able to develop in a healthy environment.

"When we think about Iowa's aging housing stock, and we know that there's lead in our homes in our rural homes in Iowa and in our urban areas of Iowa, we know for children ... that can impact their long-term ability to learn and be healthy," Yeast said.

Lauren Gideon, a parent who homeschools her seven children and works for Classical Conversations, a homeschool instruction company, said the bill retains parents' right to have the "primary responsibility" for their children, which includes oversight of their health decisions and allowing them to receive instruction from another parent choosing to pursue private instruction.

"Parents have that jurisdiction, and we have things like due process and innocence until proven guilty to protect them and they belong

on that jurisdiction until evidence is provided that they no longer have the ability to exercise their duty as parents," Gideon said.

The measure also includes a provision discussed as a bill in 2024 that would prohibit the inclusion of gender-neutral language in grades 9-12 world language classes for languages that use a grammatical gender system, like Spanish.

Keenan Crow with One Iowa said there is not currently a problem at Iowa schools' language classes teaching new, gender-neutral words in languages with grammatical gender systems.

"It's kind of baffling in its current draft format, because it seems to imply that teachers are ... being required to make up words — like new words that don't exist and aren't in current usage already," Crow said. "I think that's obviously incorrect."

But Rep. Bill Gustoff, R-Des Moines, who helped author the legislation, said he has received reports from public school world language teachers that said their colleagues have discussed allowing for gender-neutral options for gendered words.

The legislation advanced out of subcommittee with Rep. Heather Matson, D-Ankeny, voting against it. The measure will next be available for consideration by the House Education Committee.

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Check it Out at The Library!

Linda Lloyd, Clarion Public Library Director

The State Library of Iowa offers a multitude of services and programs to Iowa's public libraries and citizens. With their support we are able to provide many services to our library patrons.

New source of information provided through the State Library of Iowa is The People's Law Library of Iowa. This is easy-to-understand information about Iowa's laws on topics like family law, housing law, consumer law, Veterans law, work law, life planning, and more. The People's Law Library of Iowa website is not legal advice but will help you find research guidance. This can be accessed through The Clarion Public Library website or search PeoplesLawIowa.org

The Code of Iowa 2023 reference books and the City of Clarion: Code of Ordinance's are available to look at in the library.

On the subject of Law, here are a few fictional novels we have available.

The #1 Lawyer by James Patterson - Murder, Thriller & Suspense - Biloxi's best criminal defense attorney has never lost a case. Then his client's beautiful wife is murdered, and America's #1 lawyer suddenly becomes its #1 suspect.

Author John Grisham is an American novelist and lawyer, he is known for



best-selling legal thrillers. Eight of his novels have been adapted into films. If you want a great read stop in and check out one of his novels, you can't go wrong.

Lisa Scottoline has a legal background, her writing career began in 1994 with her first novel Everywhere That Mary Went, it became a best seller and she was awarded the Edgar Award by the Mystery Writers of America. Stop in to look at the selection we have by Scottoline.

Michael Connelly is the bestselling author of forty novels and also known for his book to movie adaptations of The Lincoln Lawyer and Blood work. He is also the executive producer of Bosch and Bosch: Legacy drama series that is now streaming.

Stay up to date with the Clarion Public Library by downloading myLIBRO app and you can also keep track of your library account.

Letter to the Editor

In mid-January I read a blue-highlighted article about Dr. Jon Ahrendsen. I do not know the problems or the correction. We expect doctors to have extensive knowledge, that gives us hope that we will get better than we are right now.

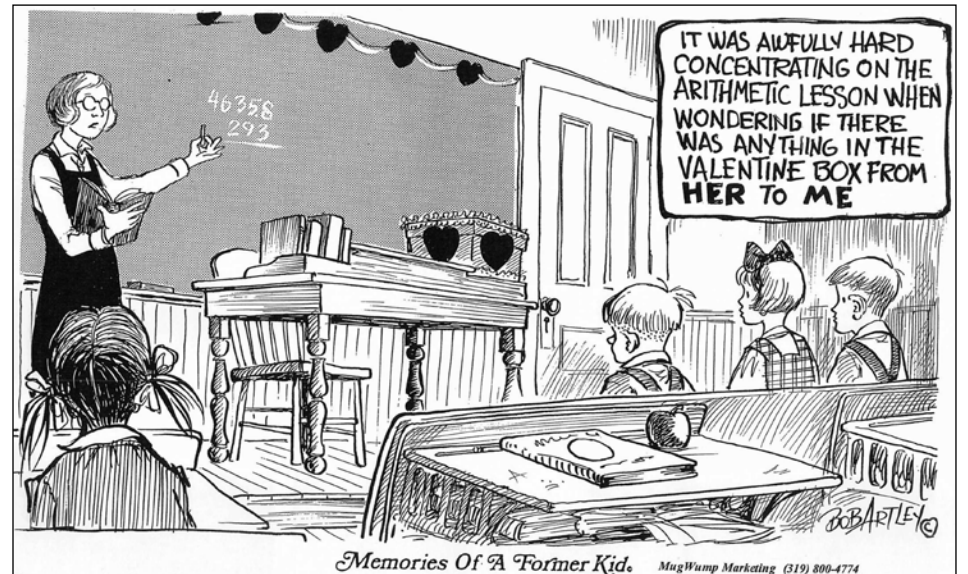
I wonder how often I do things right especially the first time through. Most of what I have seen is that we try the best possible option, and continue trying what is known and available. There are times that the cure works well, other times it takes more time and more options. How many factors are there within what is suggested for the patient and the patients own unique

makeup to make the process successful.

I have known Dr. Ahrendsen and his family for 40 plus years. He was our family doctor for years. I was always amazed and thankful for the fact that Dr. Ahrendsen had a passion for knowing why and how. He had a desire to search things out that might be additional help for the patients if their current treatment was not yielding good results.

It is my hope that Dr. Ahrendsen is given the space and grace to continue his work. A price has been paid.

Margaret Cramer, Blairsburg, IA



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A floating barn and 150 pairs of boots

Mary Swander, Buggy Land

If a barn is floating down the road, surely the cows must be following?

Iowa Writers 'Collaborative. Linking Iowa readers and writers. In Buggy Land, cattle sometimes break through fencing and wander out onto the road. But cattle don't fly through the air here the way they do in Ireland. They don't make eye contact, then jump off of cliffs and come crashing down on top of the car. For one thing, we have no cliffs. We have no ocean to wedge us up against a cliff.

No, I usually encounter livestock here on the road, on level, flat ground. After my encounter with the flying Irish heifer, I've learned not to make eye contact with critters in Buggy Land. They amble along, nudging the next critter's butt. They eye my car. They eye me. I turn my head away, and then more often than not, they calmly follow me home.

I have some sort of magnetism for animals. I know, that sounds silly but it's true. Stray dogs and cats take up residence under my garden shed. Foxes live in my windbreak. Eagles circle above when these critters have no interest in other neighboring farms. One of my neighbors once had a beautiful, large, tri-colored Australian shepherd named Gus.

Ella, Gus' owner, worked in town and left every morning at 7:30 a.m. By 7:35, Gus was sitting on my porch.

"You have to stop feeding Gus," my neighbor Donna said.

"I haven't given Gus a bite," I said.

I went through my days working in the garden, trimming the bushes, painting the woodshed with Gus at my heels.

At 5 p.m., Gus raced down the road to be ready to greet Ella when she pulled into her lane at 5:15.

Once during the 1993 flood, I opened the door and found the neighbor's bull standing next to my stoop, ring in his nose, pawing the ground.

Whoa, I backed up and called Bob.

Bob said the bull's favorite cow got hit by lightning and died. The bull was bereft and bellowed and cried for days until he trotted up the road to my place. Then all was quiet.

Herds of cattle, flocks of sheep, piglets, a pair of beagle puppies and more have all found their way here. I simply open the gate to my pasture, and they walk in, their owners soon locating them.

Whenever a neighbor is missing livestock, someone usually asks, "Have you looked at Mary's?"

Buggy Land critters seem to understand the lay of the land and how, with a little cooperation, their world might be rearranged. They try out

their own configurations, fence or no fence. At first, I thought it all had to do with geography. I live on top of the hill, a great vantage point. From here, a critter could see a predator from miles away. But over the years, I've become less convinced that I'm hosting a predator/prey relationship. I'm more convinced that there's some kind of vibration to this place. Whatever charge I carry, I carry it into the magnetic field surrounding me that seems to know no boundaries.

So, I wasn't too surprised one cold January day when I was driving home from town, and I saw a white, 40-cow, wooden barn cruising straight toward me in the left-hand lane. I was so used to critters heading my way, I thought, oh, look at that, there's a barn. Surely 40 cows will soon follow. Anticipate the problem.

Then I realized there were no cattle. Just the barn floating down the road. Wow, what does this mean? Surely, cattle are coming soon. Wait, I thought, the Amish are moving a whole barn on a flatbed truck. The barn inched closer and I got a better look. Now wait just one second, there was no truck — just a lone buggy out in front of the barn. The barn must be on wheels, I thought. But could that one buggy be pulling the barn? I looked again. No, the barn appeared to be drifting down the road all by itself!

Oh, boy. There had to be cattle here somewhere. Then I looked at the highway pavement. And saw the boots. 150 pairs of men's work boots. No cows, just the barn walking down the road! Okay, this was too woo-woo for even me. Was I hallucinating? I slowed my car, and pulled off to the shoulder of the road to give the barn room to pass. For goodness sake, I'm waiting for a passing barn, I thought. They never taught us this in driver's ed.

The barn took up both lanes. Some of the roof and siding had been taken off the structure, and when I peeked inside, I saw all the men in the neighborhood carrying the barn. By hand.

Oh, hi, Joe, Henry, Eli, Mahlon, Max, Elmer, and Alan, I waved. They nodded at me and smiled as if to say, "Can't wave now, Mary. Kinda got my hands full." Biceps and triceps flexed, their thick hands wrapped around the two-by-four braces that had been screwed to the inside walls.

An elderly Amish foreman marched behind the buggy, carrying an auctioneer's cane, keeping the beat as if he were leading a band.

"DOWN." He yelled, and in perfect unison, the men lowered their arms and the barn came down to the pavement.

The men shook out their hands and chatted with each other, taking a break. My eyes followed the lines

of the road and I spotted the empty foundation about a half-mile away. The men had taken down a fence and carried the barn out onto the highway. Then I glanced in the rearview mirror of my car to catch sight of the new foundation. The Amish men had at least another half mile to go. And the path was all uphill. The men were moving the barn from a farm whose owner had died, the place sold for development. That patch of land was to become our own little bit of urban sprawl. The men were moving the barn to a working Old Order farm where it would provide extra storage and shelter.

The barn's new home. A white-frame farmhouse stood on top of the rise. Inside, all the women of the neighborhood—Martha, Sarah, Miriam, Fannie and Lydia, and more—were busy making a big dinner for the whole community.

"One, two, three, lift!" the foreman called, and the barn rose up into the air again. Away, away, up, up the rise, one hundred and fifty pairs of boots in sync, ankles bending, then straightening, soles touching the pavement at exactly the same time, the foreman keeping the beat, the men puffing from the exertion. My imaginary cows trailed through my mind. I kept my eyes closed and head down.

I spent the rest of the morning watching the men complete their mission: the barn placed on its new foundation, the siding and roof replaced. The women pulled pies from the oven. They carved beef roasts and hams. They filled platters with fried chicken and put out bowls of corn canned right out of their summer gardens.

"Mahlon," I said later that spring when we were out morel hunting. "How was it possible that you carried a barn down the road?"

Mahlon shrugged. "That is what happened, right?"

"Oh, we do that sometimes," Mahlon said. "It's not that uncommon."

In our English world, we wouldn't be able to even think about such a thing. Not enough muscle power. And even with our phones and internet, we wouldn't have been able to organize the event. Everyone would have had an excuse. Sorry, got a doctor's appointment I can't miss. Sorry, gonna be out of town. Sorry, got to play tennis.

"Oh, that part wasn't so bad," Mahlon said. "We just sent home notes in the kids' lunch buckets from school."

And with that the map of the world was changed.

Mary Swander is a well-published author and playwright, the executive director of AgArts, and the host of the "AgArts from Horse & Buggy Land" podcast. Find her work at maryswander.com. She is a member of the Iowa Writers' Collaborative. Subscribe to her blog, *Mary Swander's Buggy Land*. ©Copyright 2025, Iowa Capital Dispatch. Published under a Creative Commons license, CC BY-NC-ND 4.0. Read more at iowacapitaldispatch.com.

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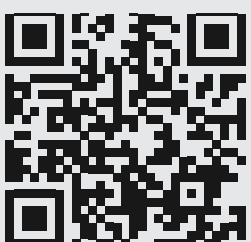
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The Thompson Times

Representative Mark Thompson, House District 56

Representative Martin Graber, one of my fellow representatives and good friend died suddenly on Friday, January 31 after leaving the Capitol. I will personally and professionally miss his presence—a great man and a great leader. We extend our heartfelt prayers to his wonderful wife of 49 years, Coni. Martin served 32 years in the Army National Guard, retiring as a Brigadier General and was first elected to the House in 2020. We all grieve at this great loss at the Capitol.

I have received several questions about apprehending those who have entered the U.S. illegally. The following is from our Wright County's senior law enforcement officer, Sheriff Jason Schluttenhofer.

Wright County Sheriff's Office will assist the US immigration enforcement agencies to help deport criminals from our county if an illegal alien is arrested in our county and comes to jail. We will contact immigration and allow them to speak to them. Immigration can put on a detainer at that point. After he or she goes through our legal system, immigration will pick him up and he will be deported. We will not be going into schools picking up illegal aliens contrary to the rumors out there. The Sheriff's Office will be working hand-in-hand to take the criminals off the streets to make our community safe. In the last four years of the previous administration, I can only think of one illegal alien that was deported out of our jail. Under the previous administration, we had four illegal aliens in our jail that had committed crimes in our community. Under the Biden administration, immigration did not put detainees on them. After President Trump took office, we again called Immigration and immediately, four detainees were put on these individuals holding them for deportation once they are done in Wright County's court system.

Farm to Table Meat Sales
During this past week, the House Agriculture Committee passed a bill in hopes of a full House vote that creates a new type of food processing entity that is licensed and inspected by the Department of Inspection, Appeals and Licensing (DIAL) agents that can store officially processed packaged meat or poultry raised by the licensee and offered for sale at a premise or farm on a wholesale or retail basis. The bill legalizes the on-farm storage of processed inspected packages and allows the sale on a wholesale or retail basis. This legislation builds on other recent legislation and will facilitate proliferation and growth.

Education Funding
Education funding is already being discussed. State supplemental aid (SSA) is one of the principle topics. The Senate and Governor are promoting a 2% increase. Most representatives are on board with a greater than 2% SSA, myself included. Currently, grades K-12 account for 47% of the state's multi-billion-dollar budget. When 3 regent universities are included, the amount exceeds 50%. Operational sharing, transportation cost, and other categories are all also being discussed.

These next few weeks there will be a flood of bills making it through subcommittee and full committee votes in hopes of making it to the floor for a House vote. A few that have made it through the process are below.

HF 37- Local Government Moves Bill to Provide Flexibility for County Attorneys

This week the Local Government Committee advanced House File 37 for consideration for the full House of Representa-

tives. The bill would provide flexibility to counties for salaries of county attorneys. Currently, 97 counties are not allowed to provide an annual salary to a county attorney higher than Iowa district court judge. Many rural counties in Iowa have struggled to higher qualified county attorneys with this salary cap. Additionally, assistant county attorneys' salaries are limited to 85% of their county attorney's salaries. These factors have increasingly made it difficult for counties to hire adequate staffing for the county attorney office.

HF 64- Obscene Material Penalty- Stone amendment 64.84

The bill as drafted, increases the penalty for disseminating obscene material to a minor from a serious misdemeanor to a class "D" felony. None of the minimum sentences can be deferred or suspended.

HSB 47- School Safety Enhancement

This week, the Education committee passed HSB 47 to build upon Iowa House's efforts to make our schools as safe as possible.

This bill encourages collaboration between schools, law enforcement and mental health professionals to ensure the safest environment possible for our students and staff in schools.

It provides immunity from civil liability for individuals who report credible threats.

As the session speeds up, the number of bills and proposed legislation is larger than any news article can contain. As I hear from constituents, I try to summarize those that garner the most interest. Our state website has all legislation listed by number, committee, or subject at www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation.

The View From Here



Speaking to iJAG students in Eagle Grove.

Senator Dennis Guth, R-Klemme

The third week of the '25 legislative session was a very busy one for me. Subcommittees and research filled my days along with meeting many constituents. We started the week with a Rally for Life and celebrating the steps Iowa has taken to reduce abortion in Iowa and providing more support for pregnant women, families and adoption. I hope we can make further progress to eliminate all abortion in our state.

We had several school bills in the works this week. One of the first things we try to do each session is setting the Supplemental State Aid so schools can get their budgets set for the year. SSB 1053 was passed by the Senate Education Committee setting SSA at an increase of \$235 million. This is exactly what the Governor had requested, so if the House agrees this can be laid to rest in a week or so.

Another bill dealing with schools is SF 8, which prohibits a school board from taking action against an employee for using a student's legal name or the pronoun that matches their sex at birth rather than their "preferred" pronoun.

An Education subcommittee also passed SSB 1036, which would change the school start date to the second to the last day of August.

The Local Government

Committee passed a moratorium on increasing the number of casinos in the state. SSB 1069 would limit the number of casinos in Iowa to 19 for the next 5 years. Of course the current casinos are all in favor of limiting expansion. This seems to be an interference with the Racing and Gaming Commission we set up to regulate this industry. I would like to decrease, not increase, gambling in the state. Passing this bill will not do that. I, and many senators, are a little divided on how to vote on this issue.

There are plenty of other issues we dealt with this week in the Senate. I'd like to share a little of my work outside the Capitol building.

I was contacted by a non-profit group that wants to force blood banks to collect and store blood from directed donations. They used to allow a person with a scheduled surgery to bank blood ahead of the surgery so they could receive their own blood or that of another volunteer with a matching blood type. That sounded like a very reasonable accommodation to make when a doctor authorizes this for their patient. Wanting to know why blood banks no longer cooperated with this request, I set up a meeting with the biggest blood bank in Iowa.

They were very gracious in setting up a tour and conversation with the CEO

on short notice. I learned many things about the difference between non-profit blood banks and those that collect blood/platelets for pharmaceutical use. Important considerations in deciding to collect and store blood for a directed donation are a couple of facts. First, blood can only be stored for 42 days before use. Second, most surgeries require at least 3.5 units of blood to replace what is lost. That makes it very hard to collect enough blood before a surgery to supply the need of that surgery. If you have only 2 units of blood stored and need 3 or 4, you are getting other blood any way, negating the supposed benefit to self-donation.

As a legislator, I must get the facts before I take action that will affect Iowans. I'd love to have your input on these and any other issues important to you. I am reminded of Proverbs 18:17. The first to plead his case seems just, until another comes and examines him.

I learned years ago to be careful about committing to one side of an issue until I have had a chance to hear both sides.

I will be having 2 forums on Feb. 15.

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 Cheloesvig Building e Grove.

Nine Newly Elected Legislators Join Republican Legislative Interveners, Signaling Growing Support for Private Property Rights in Iowa

Today, the Republican Legislative Interveners for Justice (RLIJ) announced the addition of nine newly elected legislators to their growing coalition. The group, which has been at the forefront of protecting private property rights and opposing the use of eminent domain for the proposed carbon pipelines in Iowa, continues to expand its influence with the incoming freshman legislators.

Having been founded in June 2023 with nineteen

members, the intervener group has now grown to include 43 Iowa legislators from both the House of Representatives and the Senate.

"We are thrilled to welcome these newly elected legislators," said Representative Helena Hayes, one of several founding members of the Legislative Interveners. "Because these legislators choose to stand boldly with us, their actions showcase a personal commitment to

protect private property rights."

As an incoming freshman and new member, Representative Judd Lawler of Iowa County stated, "Iowans are increasingly concerned about the use of eminent domain to advance the interests of private companies rather than the public interest."

Since their founding, the Republican Legislative Interveners have been actively involved but most recently, they filed a

lawsuit against the Iowa Utility Commission. With the start of the legislative session, new bills from both the Senate and House are expected to be introduced. With expanded membership and increasing public support, the group hopes to make significant strides in addressing this critical issue.

"The growing strength of this group of lawmakers reflects Iowans' united commitment to safeguarding property rights," said

Senator Doug Campbell, a newly elected member. "We will continue this fight, combining the proven experience of our seasoned colleagues with the fresh energy and determination of the new members."

New RLIJ Members include:

**Senator Doug Campbell
Representative
Judd Lawler
Representative
Craig Williams**

**Representative
Samantha Fett
Representative
Sam Wengryn
Representative
Jennifer Smith
Representative
Travis Sitzman
Representative
Jason Gearhart
Current Local RLIJ
members include:
Senator Dennis Guth
and Representative
Mark Thompson**

Legal notices

PUBLIC NOTICE City of Clarion Notice of Storm Water Discharge

PUBLIC NOTICE OF STORM WATER DISCHARGE
The City of Clarion, Iowa plans to submit a Notice of Intent to the Iowa Department of Natural Resources to be covered under the NPDES General Permit No. 1 – "Storm Water Discharge Associated with Industrial Activity." The storm water discharge will be from the operation of the City's Wastewater Treatment Facility located in the SE ¼ Section 1, Township 91N, Range 25W in Wright County, Iowa.

Storm water will be discharged from 1 point source and overland flow to Drainage Ditch #2 to Sugar Creek to Eagle Creek to the Boone River.

Comments may be submitted to the Storm Water Coordinator, IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES, 502 E. 9th St, Des Moines, IA 50319. The public may review the Notice of Intent from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, at the above address after it has been received by the department.

Published in the Wright County Monitor on Thurs. Feb. 6, 2024

PUBLIC NOTICE Meeting on STBG and TAP Applications

PUBLIC MEETING ON STBG AND TAP APPLICATIONS
The Region V Planning Affiliation (RPA) is accepting applications for regional Surface Transportation Program Block Grant (STBG) funds and Transportation Alternative Program (TAP) funds. A public meeting will be held to discuss the application process for applying for STBG and TAP funds. This meeting will also give those present a chance to discuss the region's transportation system.

The Region V RPA will hold a public meeting on **February 12, 2025, at 2:00 PM** in the MIDAS Council of Governments Conference Room at 602 1st Avenue South, Fort Dodge, Iowa.

Applications for the regional STBG and TAP funding will be

available for the first time at the public meeting. After the meeting, applications will be available at the MIDAS Council of Governments office, 602 1st Avenue South, Fort Dodge, Iowa or by contacting Stacy Lentsch, Program Administrator, at slentsch@midascog.net.

Applications must be received by 12:00 p.m. on March 21, 2025. All applications must be submitted electronically to: slentsch@midascog.net.

If you have questions on the application process or if you require special accommodations to attend the hearing such as handicapped accessibility or translation services, you may contact Stacy Lentsch at MIDAS Council of Governments, (515) 576-7183 ext. 212.

Published in the Wright County Monitor on Thurs. Feb. 6, 2024

PUBLIC NOTICE Wright County Supervisors Jan. 20, 2025 Minutes

January 20, 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 9:16 a.m. Members present were Rasmussen, Kluss, Bosch, Loux and Ellis.

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

Minutes of the previous regular meeting of January 13, 2025 were read and approved.

Approved claims for payment.

Duane Asbe with the Wright County Charitable Foundation gave an annual update and presented the board with a list of 39 different funds that the foundation gives grants from. Asbe then requested that the board considers the Wright County Charitable Foundation when discussing budgets and continues to support the foundation financially.

Motion by Kluss and seconded by Loux to receive the Recorder's quarterly revenue report. Motion carries.

Motion by Kluss and seconded by Bosch to appoint Kent Kirstein as Grant Township Trustee to fulfill the remaining two years of Gary Martin's four year term. Motion carries.

Motion by Kluss and seconded by Loux to authorize Amanda Meyer, Auditor and Joan Shillinglaw, Ac-

counts Payable Clerk, to manage and make changes to the County Visa Credit Cards. Motion carries.

Adam Clemons, Wright County Engineer, reviewed a bridge replacement project on Taylor Ave over Luicks Creek in section 31, of Pleasant Township, explaining that they will be replacing a 24' by 57' Triple Span Timber Bridge with a 24' by 80' Triple Span Continuous Concrete Slab Bridge. The Letting for this project will take place on April 15, 2025. Motion by Kluss and seconded by Bosch to approve the final plans for project BROS-C099(106)-8J-99. Motion carries.

Clemons then explained a memorandum for installation of a private drain tile in County Road Right of Way located in the NE ¼ of Section 10, Boone Township. The landowner, Jay Pogge, would like to install the private drain tile within the road right of way at a depth of about ten feet. Motion by Kluss and seconded by Bosch to approve the memorandum to install a private drain tile on 110th St. between Emmett Ave. and Davis Ave. and sign the contract with the landowners. Motion carries.

Clemons then gave an update on Secondary Roads department.

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

Published in the Wright County Monitor on Thurs. Feb. 6, 2024

Informed citizens build stronger communities





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IPN PUBLIC NOTICES
IOWA NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION

iowapublicnotices.com

USDA United States Department of Agriculture National Agricultural Statistics Service **Iowa Ag News – Cattle & Calves**

All cattle and calves in Iowa as of January 1, 2025, totaled 3.50 million head, according to the latest USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service – Cattle report. This was up 50,000 head from January 1, 2024. Beef cows, at 825,000 head, were up 15,000 head from last year. Milk cow inventory was up 5,000 head at 245,000 head. All heifers 500 pounds and over were up 4 percent

at 720,000 head. Heifers for beef cow replacement were up 10 percent from 2024 at 110,000 head; heifers for milk cow replacement, at 110,000 head, were down 8 percent from the previous year; and all other heifers were up 6 percent at 500,000 head. Steers weighing 500 pounds and over were unchanged from last year at 1.18 million head. Bulls weighing 500 pounds and

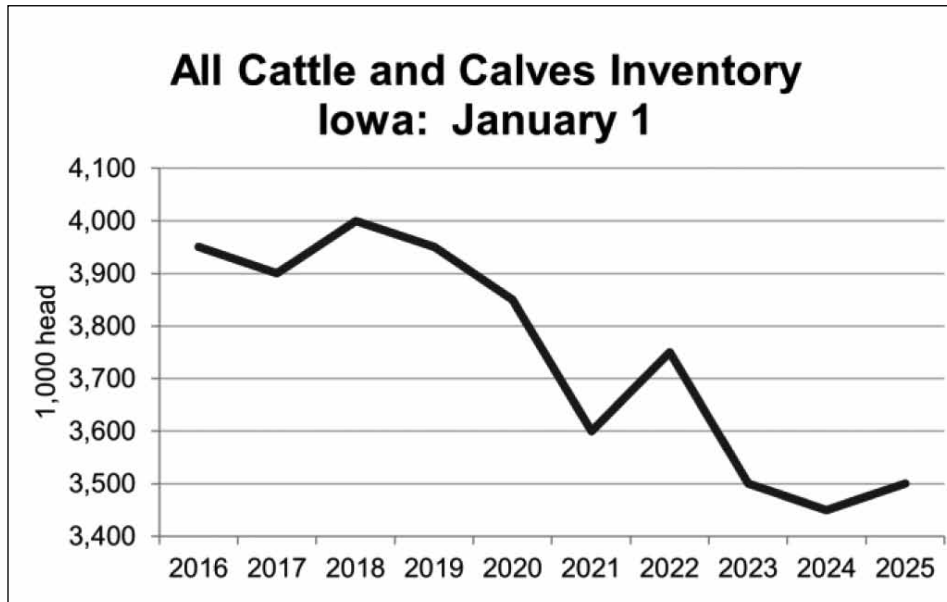
over were unchanged at 60,000 head. Calves under 500 pounds on January 1, 2025, totaled 470,000 head, unchanged from last year. The 2024 calf crop was estimated at 1.02 million head, up 2 percent from the 2023 calf crop. Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter in all feedlots on January 1, 2025, totaled 1.21 million head, up 3 percent from one year ago.

USDA United States Department of Agriculture National Agricultural Statistics Service **Iowa Ag News – Sheep and Goats**

All sheep and lambs inventory in Iowa as of January 1, 2025, totaled 161,000 head, up 6,000 head from 2024, according to the latest USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service – Sheep and Goats report.

Total breeding stock, at 117,000 head, was 6 percent above one year ago. Market sheep and lambs decreased 2 percent from a year ago and totaled 44,000 head. The 2024 lamb crop was estimated at 120,000

head, up 4 percent from the 2023 lamb crop. Wool production for 2024 was 760,000 pounds, up 3 percent from 2023, with fleece weights averaging 5.6 pounds.



| Class | Iowa | | | United States | | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|--------------------------------|
| | 2024 (1,000 head) | 2025 (1,000 head) | 2025 as % of 2024 (percent) | 2024 (1,000 head) | 2025 (1,000 head) | 2025 as % of 2024 (percent) |
| All cattle and calves | 3,450 | 3,500 | 101 | 87,157 | 86,662 | 99 |
| All cows that have calved | 1,050 | 1,070 | 102 | 37,360 | 37,213 | 100 |
| Beef cows | 810 | 825 | 102 | 28,013 | 27,864 | 99 |
| Milk cows | 240 | 245 | 102 | 9,347 | 9,349 | 100 |
| Heifers 500 pounds and over | | | | | | |
| For beef cow replacement | 100 | 110 | 110 | 4,718 | 4,672 | 99 |
| For milk cow replacement | 120 | 110 | 92 | 3,951 | 3,914 | 99 |
| Other heifers | 470 | 500 | 106 | 9,651 | 9,593 | 99 |
| Steers 500 pounds and over | 1,180 | 1,180 | 100 | 15,959 | 15,802 | 99 |
| Bulls 500 pounds and over | 60 | 60 | 100 | 2,031 | 2,009 | 99 |
| Calves under 500 pounds | 470 | 470 | 100 | 13,488 | 13,458 | 100 |
| Cattle on feed ¹ | 1,180 | 1,210 | 103 | 14,426 | 14,297 | 99 |
| 2023 | | | | | | |
| 2024 | | | | | | |
| 2024 as % of 2023 | | | | | | |
| Calf crop | 1,000 | 1,020 | 102 | 33,563 | 33,530 | 100 |

United States Cattle Inventory

All cattle and calves in the United States as of January 1, 2025 totaled 86.7 million head, 1 percent below the 87.2 million head on January 1, 2024.

All cows and heifers that have calved, at 37.2 million head, were slightly below the 37.4 million head on January 1, 2024. Beef cows, at 27.9 million head, were down 1 percent from a year ago. Milk cows, at 9.35 million head, were up slightly from the previous year.

All heifers 500 pounds and over as of January 1, 2025 totaled 18.2 million head, 1 percent below the 18.3 million head on January 1, 2024. Beef replacement heifers, at 4.67 million head, were down 1 percent from a year ago. Milk replacement heifers, at 3.91 million head, were down 1 percent from the previous year. Other heifers, at 9.59 million head, were 1 percent below a year earlier.

Steers weighing 500 pounds and over as of January 1, 2025 totaled 15.8 million head, down 1 percent from January 1, 2024. Bulls weighing 500

pounds and over as of January 1, 2025 totaled 2.01 million head, down 1 percent from January 1, 2024.

Calves under 500 pounds as of January 1, 2025 totaled 13.5 million head, down slightly from January 1, 2024.

Cattle and calves on feed for the slaughter market in the United States for all feedlots totaled 14.3 million head on January 1, 2025. The inventory is down 1 percent from the January 1, 2024 total of 14.4 million head. Cattle on feed in feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head accounted for 82.7 percent of the total cattle on feed on January 1, 2025, up slightly from the previous year. The combined total of calves under 500 pounds and other heifers and steers over 500 pounds (outside of feedlots), at 24.6 million head, was slightly below January 1, 2024.

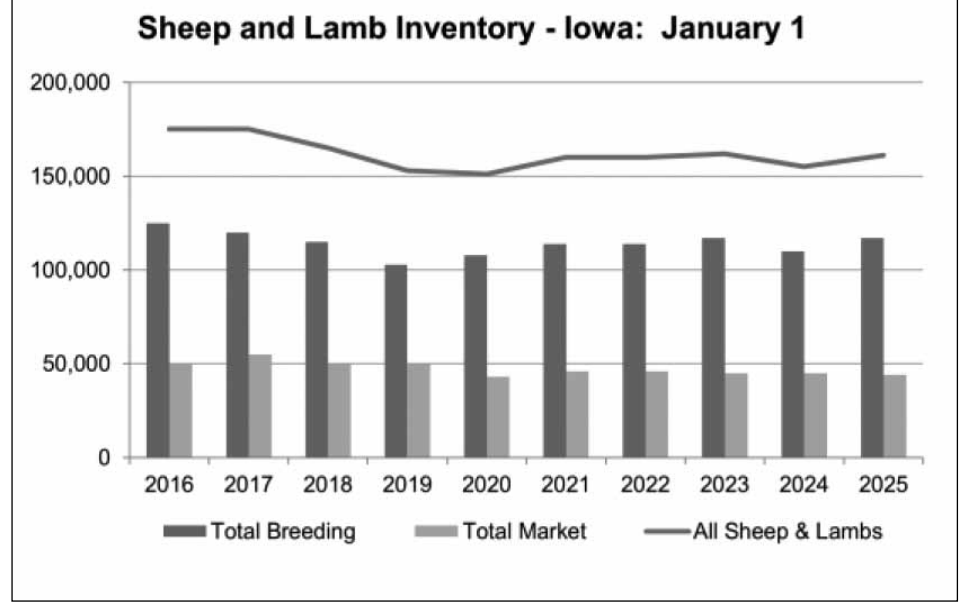
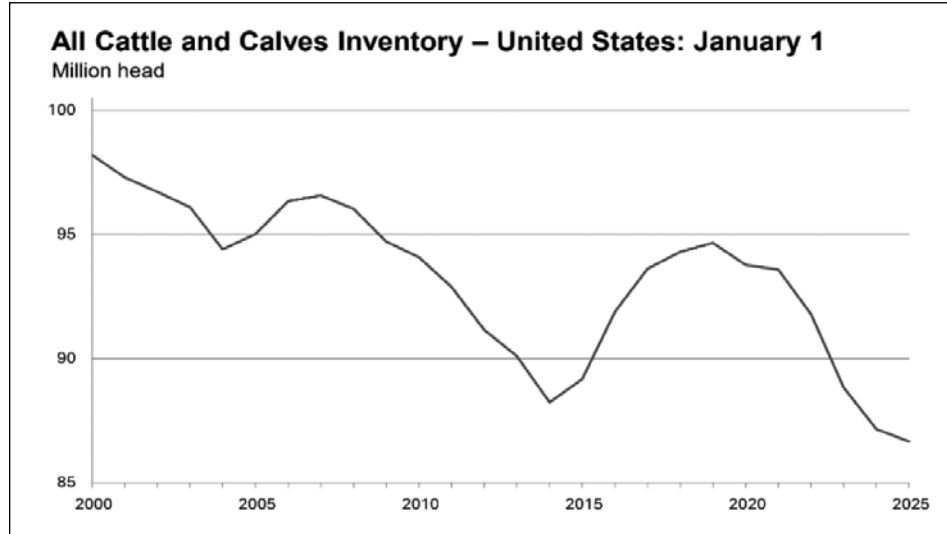
The 2024 calf crop in the United States was estimated at 33.5 million head, down slightly from the previous year's calf crop. Calves born during the first

half of 2024 were estimated at 24.6 million head, down slightly from the first half of 2023. Calves born during the second half of 2024 were estimated at 8.93 million head, 27 percent of the total 2024 calf crop.

Revisions
All inventory and calf crop estimates for July 1, 2023 and January 1, 2024 were reviewed using calf crop, official slaughter, import and export data, and the relationship of new survey information to the prior surveys. Based on the findings of this review, July 1, 2023 all cows and heifers that have calved decreased by 0.3 percent and 2023 calf crop decreased by 0.1 percent. January 1, 2024 all cows and heifers that have calved decreased by 0.6 percent.

State-level estimates were reviewed and changes were made to reallocate inventory estimates to the United States total.

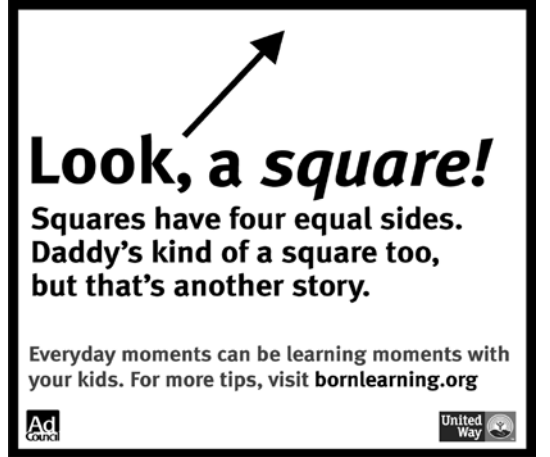
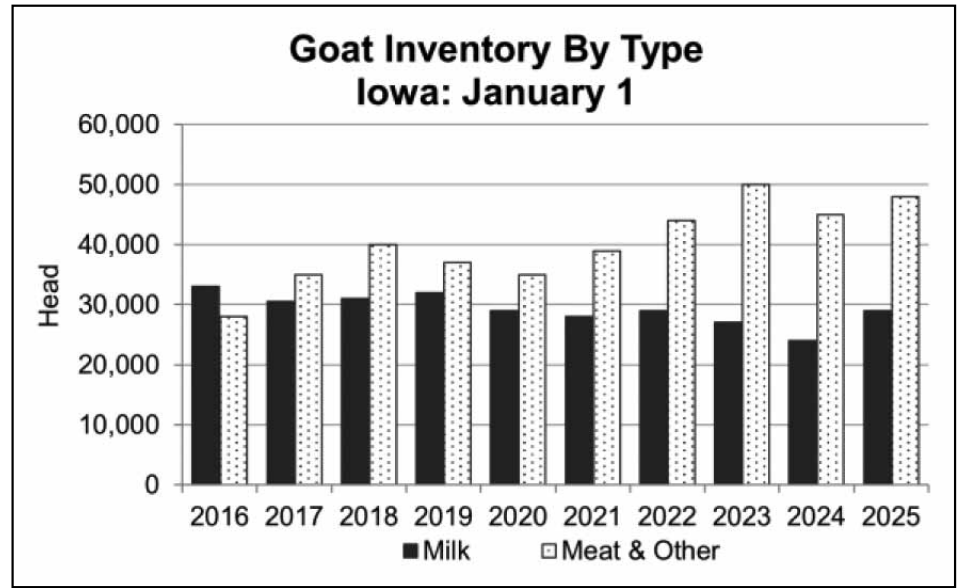
The complete report can be found on the USDA NASS website at www.nass.usda.gov/Publications.



| Inventory by Class | Iowa | | | United States | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| | Jan 1, 2024 (1,000 head) | Jan 1, 2025 (1,000 head) | 2025 as % of 2024 (percent) | Jan 1, 2024 (1,000 head) | Jan 1, 2025 (1,000 head) | 2025 as % of 2024 (percent) |
| All sheep and lambs | 155.0 | 161.0 | 104 | 5,030.0 | 5,050.0 | 100 |
| Total breeding sheep | 110.0 | 117.0 | 106 | 3,670.0 | 3,680.0 | 100 |
| Ewes | 89.0 | 92.0 | 103 | 2,870.0 | 2,880.0 | 100 |
| Rams | 4.0 | 4.0 | 100 | 165.0 | 165.0 | 100 |
| Replacement lambs | 17.0 | 21.0 | 124 | 635.0 | 635.0 | 100 |
| Total market | 45.0 | 44.0 | 98 | 1,360.0 | 1,370.0 | 101 |
| Lamb Crop | 2023 | 2024 | 2024 as % of 2023 | 2023 | 2024 | 2024 as % of 2023 |
| Lamb crop | 115.0 | 120.0 | 104 | 3,030.0 | 3,040.0 | 100 |
| Wool | 2023 | 2024 | 2024 as % of 2023 | 2023 | 2024 | 2024 as % of 2023 |
| Sheep shorn | 1,000 head | 1,000 head | (percent) | 1,000 head | 1,000 head | (percent) |
| Weight per fleece | 135.0 | 135.0 | 100 | 3,222.0 | 3,170.0 | 98 |
| Production | 1,000 pounds | 1,000 pounds | (percent) | 1,000 pounds | 1,000 pounds | (percent) |
| Wool | 5.5 | 5.6 | 102 | 7.1 | 7.1 | 100 |
| Fleece | 740 | 760 | 103 | 22,740 | 22,480 | 99 |
| Price per pound | dollars | dollars | | dollars | dollars | |
| Value ¹ | 0.15 | 0.18 | 120 | 1.56 | 1.43 | 92 |
| 1,000 dollars | 111 | 137 | 123 | 35,387 | 32,097 | 91 |

Milk goat inventory in Iowa as of January 1, 2025, was 29,000 head, 21 percent above January 2024. Total meat and other goat inventory was 46,000 head, 2 percent above the previous year.

| State | Milk goats | | Meat & other goats | |
|------------------------|----------------|----------------|--------------------|----------------|
| | 2024 (head) | 2025 (head) | 2024 (head) | 2025 (head) |
| California | 37,000 | 38,000 | 72,000 | 74,000 |
| Iowa | 24,000 | 29,000 | 45,000 | 46,000 |
| Minnesota | 14,000 | 15,500 | 34,000 | 33,000 |
| Texas | 26,000 | 22,000 | 700,000 | 720,000 |
| Wisconsin ¹ | 74,000 | 78,000 | (NA) | 32,000 |
| United States | 415,000 | 430,000 | 1,950,000 | 1,975,000 |



BUSINESS & PROFESSIONAL DIRECTORY

| | | | |
|--|---|--|---|
| <p>Office: (563) 864-3333 Cell: (563) 605-1078</p> | <p>A.D. TECH SOLUTIONS Computer and Network Repair. Virus Removal Mon. - Fri. By Appointment Only. 207 North Main Street (515) 532-2157 andrew@ad-techsolutions.com</p> | <p>Office: (563) 864-3333 Cell: (563) 605-1078</p> | <p>TIMOTHY M. ANDERSON ATTORNEY AT LAW KNOSHAUG ANDERSON LAW OFFICE 218 1ST STREET SW P.O. BOX 111 CLARION, IOWA 50525 TELEPHONE: (515) 532-2821 CLARION TOLL FREE (877) 532-2821 FACSIMILE (515) 532-2450 GARNER TOLL FREE (866) 923-2769</p> |
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NOTICE

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

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 9
9:00 a.m. Sunday School for all ages
10:00 a.m. Worship Service
• Sunday, February 16
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 9
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 5
No Mass
6:30 p.m. Youth Faith Formation at all Churches
• Thursday, February 6
No Mass
• Friday, February 7
No Mass
• Saturday, February 8
Baby Needs
9:00 a.m. Confirmation Retreat Begins at Sacred Heart, Eagle Grove
3:15 p.m. Rosary, A/B at St. Francis, Belmont
3:15 p.m. Rosary, A/B at St. John, Clarion
4:00 p.m. Mass at St. Francis, Belmont
8:00 p.m. Spanish Mass at St. John, Clarion
Sunday, February 9
Baby Needs
7:15 a.m. Rosary, A/B at Sacred Heart, Eagle Grove
8:00 a.m. Mass at Sacred Heart, Eagle Grove
9:00 a.m. Confirmation Retreat Ends at Sacred Heart, Eagle Grove
9:45 a.m. A/B at St. John, Clarion
10:30 a.m. Mass at St. John, Clarion
• Monday, February 10
8:15 a.m. Rosary at St. Francis, Belmont
• 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

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 Decius
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 9
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 9
9:30 a.m. Praise and Worship

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 9
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 9
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 9
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 9
9:00 a.m. Conf/SS/Coffee
10:30 a.m. Worship
5:30 p.m. Youth Group

UNITED METHODIST & PRESBYTERIAN
Dows February 9
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 Dunwald
• Sunday, February 9
10:30 a.m. Worship

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

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Morgan, Lee Center, Bradford
Erling Shultz, Pastor
• Sunday, February 9
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. 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

** Play BINGO every Friday at the Senior Citizens Center from 1:30 - 3:30 p.m.
** Annual Wild Game Feed at Oakdale Chapter, Izaak Walton League, Renwick. On Saturday, February 8. Doors open at 4:30 p.m.; Supper at 5:30p.m.; Auction at 7 p.m. Tickets \$25.
** American Legion in Dows; their next meals on Main Street in Dows - Sunday, February 9 from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. Riders Soup Lunch. And the Legion's Spaghetti Dinner. Sunday, February 16. Same times!
** "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: Bussing tables all 4 Mondays in February which is Scout month. It continues - Lions (Kindergarten) on the February 10; Tigers (1st grade) on the 17th; and the 24th is Bears (3rd grade). Purchasing pinewood 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!
** "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!
** Celebrate Valentine's Day in Clarion!
** Celebrate Valentine's Day at the Clarion Senior Citizens Center on Friday, February 14 - Chili luncheon! Details coming!!
** 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!
** Diamond Vogel and Keep Iowa Beautiful is once again announcing FREE gallons of paint to communities and non-profit groups to 'spiff' up local communities. Applications are due February 14. For more information, visit https://keepiowabeautiful.org/grants-scholarships/grants/paint-iowa-beau...
** Time is coming short! Wright County Charitable Foundation is calling on area non-profit organizations to submit grant applications for funding to initiate projects and programs that benefit the

people of Wright County; applications being accepted through February 15. Visit their website at https://www.wrightcounty.iowa.gov/departments/economic_development/charitable_foundation.php or call Darrel Steven Carlyle at (515) 532-6422.

** "Cupid's Carnival", lots of indoor fun, on Sunday, February 16 from 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. CGD high school.
** First Lutheran Church FOOD PANTRY in Clarion, 420 - First Street N.W., is open on the second and fourth Thursdays of each month, from 5 - 7 p.m. Next events are February 13 and 27! (may visit ONE of its four locations once a week per household).
** 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.
** 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.
** AT THE CLARION THEATRE: Showing "DogMan" on Friday - Sunday, February 7 - February 9 @ 7 p.m.; Sunday matinee, February 9 @ 2:30 p.m. (2nd of two weeks!)
** FOCUS ON BUSINESS: Enjoy Mexican food menu at Carmen's Super Tacos, 1218 Central Avenue East in Clarion (former Cayler building). 8 a.m. - 8 p.m.; enter at the east door. Tuesday - Sunday. 515-825-7281.
** MONEY SAVING TIP: Lots of Valentine gift and care opportunities in town!! Look for discounts on winter closeouts!!
** ADD TO THE FUN: As Wright County's HAWK-EYE reporter for OUR IOWA magazine, I am looking for a couple of things to possibly be included in an upcoming issue: got a good recipe you would like to share; or an 'OLD' photo showing fun, memories of the past for the column called "Iowa Re-wind". Let me know. karenweld@outlook.com .
** THANK YOU: To everyone who is in leadership in our community and area! We appreciate you! If you have the time to tell, text, write, or call a leader, go for it!!

Look! 4 corners!
Everyday moments can be learning moments with your kids. For more tips, visit bornlearning.org

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|--|---|--|--|---|--|---|
| <p>Office: (563) 864-3333 Cell: (563) 605-1078</p> | <p>Office: (563) 864-3333 Cell: (563) 605-1078</p> | <p>Office: (563) 864-3333 Cell: (563) 605-1078</p> | <p>Don't Be Too Hard on Yourself-or Others</p> <p>In the 23rd chapter of the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus tells the people listening to him to do what the Pharisees and the teachers of the law tell them to do, but to not follow their examples, "for they do not practice what they preach." (Matthew 23:2) In particular, they place heavy burdens on the people but don't do much themselves and most of what they do is for show, including their fancy dress and "wide phylacteries" (boxes containing scripture that they wore on their foreheads and arms). Although the cultural context may be very different today, every organized religion has its pharisees and teachers of the law, who are charged with the task of educating and training people how to live properly. We should hold ourselves to a higher standard than we hold others to, but we shouldn't be too hard on ourselves. We are weak and fragile in many ways, and the burden of religion isn't meant to be impossible. Jesus tells us that religion should be a comfort to us. "Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light." Matthew 11:29-30) The Koran echoes this when it says, in the context of fasting during Ramadan, "God desires ease for you, and He does not desire hardship for you." (2:185) and reminds us that "God tasks no soul beyond its capacity" (2:286). — Christopher Simon</p> <p>Sunday, Feb. 11, 2024 First Reading 2 Kings 2:1-2 Psalm Psalm 90:1-6 Epistle 2 Corinthians 4:1-6 Gospel Mark 9:29</p> | <p>Office: (563) 864-3333 Cell: (563) 605-1078</p> | <p>Office: (563) 864-3333 Cell: (563) 605-1078</p> | <p>BRIDGESTONE HANSON & SONS Tire and Auto Service Che Hanson 1407 Central Ave. East Clarion, IA 50525 Phone 515-532-2444 Fax 515-532-2299 www.hansontire.net Email: che_hanson72@yahoo.com</p> |
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| <p>Office: (563) 864-3333 Cell: (563) 605-1078</p> | <p>CLARION WELLNESS & REHABILITATION CENTER Caring Staff... Quality Rehabilitation 515-532-2893 110 13th Avenue SW Clarion, Iowa 50525</p> | <p>THRIFTY WHITE PHARMACY Committed to Healthy Outcomes 210 North Main • Clarion 515-532-6626 Laura Phillips Pharmacy Manager</p> | | <p>FIRST BANK Serving You First Member FDIC www.firstiowa.bank</p> | <p>Office: (563) 864-3333 Cell: (563) 605-1078</p> | <p>Office: (563) 864-3333 Cell: (563) 605-1078</p> |
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Feed your game day crowd with Smoked Chicken Wings



Sports fans across the globe tune in when the National Football League hosts its annual championship game each winter. And that already robust viewership is growing, as figures from Nielsen Fast National and Adobe Analytics indicated Super Bowl LVIII between the Kansas City Chiefs and San Francisco 49ers garnered 123.4 million viewers who tuned in to watch Patrick Mahomes orchestrate a 25-22 overtime victory over Kyle Shanahan and the Niners.

Super Bowl Sunday has become an unofficial holiday in the United States, where fans ranging from the diehard to the casual to those simply tuning in for the commercials and halftime show gather to enjoy a few fun-filled hours. Seasoned party hosts know that food features as prominently as football and fun come Super Bowl Sunday. Guests may expect a few staples, including chicken wings. With that in mind, hosts can impress their guests by serving up this recipe for “Virgil’s Smoked Chicken Wings With Blue Cheese Dip” from Neal Corman’s “Virgil’s Barbecue Road Trip Cookbook” (St. Martin’s Press).

Virgil’s Smoked Chicken Wings With Blue Cheese Dip

Serves 4

Blue Cheese Dip

- 2 cups blue cheese crumbles, divided
- 1 cup mayonnaise
- 1/2 cup buttermilk
- 2 teaspoons hot sauce
- 1 teaspoon Worcestershire sauce
- 1/2 teaspoon kosher salt
- 1/4 cup finely chopped scallions
- 1/4 cup finely chopped celery

Marinade

- 1/2 cup vegetable oil
- 1/2 cup hot sauce
- 4 tablespoons Virgil’s Dry Rub (see below)
- 4 tablespoons granulated garlic
- 4 tablespoons granulated onion
- Juice of 1/2 lemon

Wings

- 8 large chicken wings
- 1/2 cup Virgil’s Dry Rub (see below)

Sauce

- 10 tablespoons unsalted butter
- 1 teaspoon cornstarch
- 4 tablespoons white vinegar
- 3/4 cup hot sauce
- 1/4 teaspoon cayenne pepper

1. To make the dip, combine 1 cup of the blue cheese, mayonnaise, buttermilk, hot sauce, Worcestershire sauce, and salt in the bowl of a food processor and blend on low until smooth.

2. Remove to a medium mixing bowl and fold in the rest of the blue cheese, scallions and celery, being sure to break up the larger blue cheese crumbles. Place in a covered container and refrigerate overnight.

3. Mix all the marinade ingredients in a large mixing bowl. Place the wings in a large container with a lid and pour the mixture over the wings. Toss until the wings are thoroughly coated. Cover and refrigerate for 2 days.

4. Preheat the grill or smoker to 245 F.

5. Spread out the wings on a sheet pan and wipe away any excess marinade. Sprinkle liberally with the dry rub, coating the wings all over.

6. Position the wings on the grill away from the direct heat of the coals or burners, and add hickory to the smoker or hickory chips on the coals or gas burners.

7. Cook the wings for about 3 hours, flipping every 30 minutes (their internal temperature should be about 165 F when cooked).

8. While the wings are cooking, cut the butter for the sauce into 1-inch cubes and refrigerate. Whisk the cornstarch into the white vinegar in a small bowl.

9. In a medium sauté pan over medium heat, bring the hot sauce to a simmer and whisk in the thickened vinegar. Return to a simmer, cook for 1 minute, and remove from the heat.

10. Add the cayenne and slowly whisk in the cold butter. Keep warm until serving.

11. Remove the wings from the smoker or grill and put half of them into a bowl, cover with the sauce, and toss. Repeat with the remaining wings and serve on a platter, with the blue cheese dip on the side.

Virgil’s Dry Rub

Makes 5 to 5 1/2 cups

- 2 1/2 cups sweet paprika
- 1 cup granulated sugar
- 1/2 cup Texas-style chili powder
- 1/2 cup minced onion
- 1/2 cup granulated garlic
- 1/4 cup dried parsley flakes
- 6 tablespoons kosher salt

Combine all of the ingredients in a medium bowl and whisk together until completely incorporated. Transfer to a covered bowl with a tight-fitting lid. Store in a cool, dry place.

CLIP & SAVE

Words of Wisdom

Last week’s trivia questions:

What is the name of the famous groundhog celebrated each year on Feb. 2? Answer: Punxsutawney Phil.

What actor starred in the movie Groundhog Day, and co-starred in movies including Ghostbusters, Caddyshack, Scrooged, and Stripes? Answer: Bill Murray.

This week’s trivia questions:

Which two pro football quarterbacks have won Super Bowls with two different teams? Which two pro football teams have been to the Super Bowl four times, and lost all four?

February is National Snack Food Month, National Cherry Month, National Children’s Dental Health Month, National Women Inventors Month, Library Lover’s Month, American Heart Month, Cancer Prevention Month, Hot Breakfast Month, International Friendship Month, Black History Month, Bake for Family Fun Month, National Embroidery Month, National Weddings Month, and National Grapefruit Month.

Feb. 5 is National Girls and Women in Sports Day; Feb. 6 is National Valentine Shopping Reminder Day; Feb. 7 is Rose Day, Ballet Day, and Bubble Gum Day; Feb. 8 is National Kite-Flying Day, National Boy Scout Day / Boy Scout Anniversary Day; Feb. 9 is Chocolate Day, National Pizza Day, Super Bowl Sunday, and World Marriage Day; Feb. 10 is International Cribbage Day, and Children’s Hospice Day; Feb. 11 is National Inventor’s Day, and National Guitar Day.

This week is Women’s Heart Week, Boy Scout Anniversary Week, and Burn Awareness Week.

“Most of the important things in the world have been accomplished by people who have kept on trying when there seemed to be no hope at all.”

– Dale Carnegie

“Integrity is doing the right thing, even when no one is watching.”

– C.S. Lewis

“Keep away from people who try to belittle your ambitions. Small people always do that, but the really great ones make you feel that you, too, can become great.”

– Mark Twain

“I am only one, but still I am one. I cannot do everything, but still I can do something; And just because I cannot do everything, I will not refuse to do the something that I can do.”

– Edward Hale

“They all laughed at me when I said I was going to be a comedian. Well, nobody’s laughing now!”

“My boss is going to fire the employee with the worst posture. I have a hunch it could be me.”

Ticket prices for the first Super Bowl in 1967, between the Green Bay Packers and Kansas City Chiefs, cost around \$10. The cheapest tickets for this year’s Super Bowl, between the Kansas City Chiefs and Philadelphia Eagles, start at around \$5,000.

No coach has ever won a Super Bowl with two different teams. But there are seven coaches who have taken two different teams to the Super Bowl -

- Don Shula (Baltimore Colts and Miami Dolphins)
- Bill Parcells (New York Giants and New England Patriots)
- Dan Reeves (Denver Broncos and Atlanta Falcons)
- Dick Vermeil (Philadelphia Eagles and St. Louis Rams)
- Mike Holmgren (Green Bay Packers and Seattle Seahawks)
- John Fox (Carolina Panthers and Denver Broncos)
- Andy Reid (Philadelphia Eagles and Kansas City Chiefs)

Monitor Memories

FROM THE ARCHIVES OF THE WRIGHT COUNTY MONITOR
1983 - 1948

42 Years Ago February 10, 1983

Winter finally showed off its true form last week, as most of Iowa was pounded by the first real storm of the season. The storm, which swept across the area last Tuesday, Wednesday, and part of Thursday, dumped as much as 12 inches of snow on the state, bringing activities to a grinding stop. In the Wright County area, snowfall amounts of 10 inches or more were reported.

Meadowlark Lemon, famed “Clown Prince of Basketball,” and his all-star Bucketeers basketball team will appear in person on Sunday, February 27 in Clarion in a benefit contest for F.M. Radio Boosters. Meadowlark Lemon and his professional hoopsters will play the California Coasters in a family evening devoted to the zany fun and spectacular basketball wizardry which has won international acclaim.

Thousands of acres of Iowa land could become exempt from property taxation under a law that was approved by the 1982 session of the Iowa legislature. The law, which has been coined as the “Slough Bill,” makes provisions for land owners to receive property tax exemptions on a large variety of land not usable for agricultural purposes.

77 Years Ago February 5, 1948

Monday was Groundhog day—and just in case you believe in the ancient weather sign, then this part of Iowa is in for six weeks more of winter, which would quite likely be the case anyhow. At any rate, there was not the slightest doubt that Mr. Groudhog saw his shadow here Monday. The run rose at 7:27 in the cloudless sky and shone brightly all through the day.

The January issue of “Right Off the Cob!” the official publication of the hybrid seed producers and seedsmen, published in Des Moines, contains an article several columns in length about the new 1948 Hagie detasseler which has undergone many improvements since the 1947 season.

Not often does the Downing taxi and the stork have a race, but they did Wednesday afternoon of last week. The race was almost a draw, though Mrs. Glen LaRue of south Clarion managed to get just inside the Clarion hospital door where she gave birth to a son. The new LaRue heir survived the ordeal like a champion, and he and his mother returned to their home Saturday.



Baby Girl

Jacob and Amanda Putney of Goldfield, IA would like to announce the birth of their daughter Wyatt Eleanor – James Putney. She was born Monday, January 27, 2025 at the Iowa Specialty Hospital in Clarion, IA. She weighed 8 pounds. Proud Grandparents are: Roxanne Putney of Clarion, IA. Proud Great Grandparents are: Brent and Renee Evie of Eagle Grove, IA.

Baby Boy

Dale Hager and Emily Klinginsmith of Latimer, IA would like to announce the birth of their son William Eugene Hager. He was born Monday, January 27, 2025 at the Iowa Specialty Hospital in Clarion, IA. He weighed 5 pounds 8.8 ounces. Proud Great Grandparents are: June Christenson of Clarion, IA.

UNI releases Fall 2024 graduation and dean’s lists

The University of Northern Iowa is proud to recognize the academic accomplishments of students each semester by announcing the graduation and dean’s lists. These lists highlight the hard work and dedication of students who have excelled in their studies.

To qualify for the dean’s list, students must have achieved a grade point average of 3.50 or higher while completing at least 12 semester hours, with at least one semester hour of graded credit.

Join us in celebrating the success of our Panther students as they continue to make UNI proud!

Dean’s List

Belmond, IA:

Addie Buseman
Leslie Carlos
Emma Carlson
Kaleb Carlson
Cristina Garza
Bailey Johnson
Grace Sheehan
Claudia Simonson
Valeria Torres
Acelia Watts
Clarion, IA:
Lauren Brooks
Shannon Brooks
Deborah Coldiron
Alexander Greving
Katherine Lopez
Owen Tew

Nicole Waters
Dows, IA:
Anthony Ramos
Eagle Grove, IA:
Madison Axtell
Elinor Jensen
Heather Mack
Shanlyne Pineda-Mendez
Hannah Sampson
Goldfield, IA:
Reagan Goodell
Alaura Lewis
Paige Nelson
Kayla Potratz
Kanawha, IA:
Kara Legleiter
Meservey, IA:
Benjamin Eckhoff
Rowan, IA:
Jaace Weidemann
Congrats Grads!
Belmond, IA:
Leslie Carlos – Bachelor of Arts, Interactive Digital Studies
Valeria Torres – Bachelor of Arts, Elementary Education
Clarion, IA:
Katherine Lopez – Bachelor of Arts, Elementary Education
Gavin Wilson – Bachelor of Arts, Family Services
Goldfield, IA:
Paige Nelson – Bachelor of Arts, English Teaching
Kanawha, IA:
Kara Legleiter – Bachelor of Arts, Early Childhood Education

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The Wright County Monitor

Clarion-Goldfield-Dows School Board Names 3 Finalists for Next High School Principal

The Clarion-Goldfield-Dows District has announced three finalists in its search for the next high school principal. The finalists are Gerald Miller, Adam Vorrie, and Tessa Yackle.

Miller has held leadership roles at Nodaway Valley Community Schools including middle school principal, high school principal and activities director over the past five years. In these roles, and as a special education and health and physical sciences teacher prior, he has prioritized fostering a culture of collaboration, innovation and student-centered learning. Miller holds a master's degree in educational leadership and a bachelor's degree in health and physical education from Concordia University, St. Paul, as well as a principal license from the University of Northern Iowa, Cedar Falls.

Vorrie has taught social studies, financial literacy and history to Clarion-

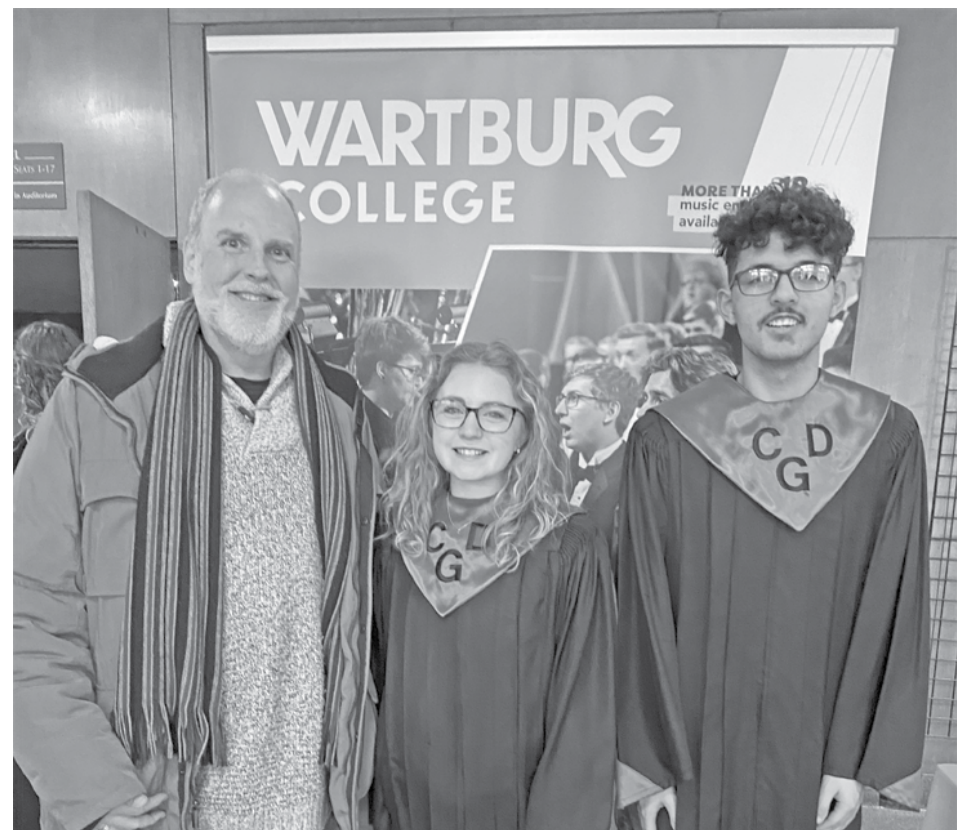
Goldfield-Dows (CGD) middle and high students for 10 years. He has also served as a model teacher and coach in the district. Vorrie currently serves as a board member of the Alliance for Civic Education and his involvement extends beyond the school as a volunteer for various community organizations and boards. Vorrie holds masters' degrees in transformative leadership from Iowa State and curriculum and instruction from the University of Kansas. He holds a bachelor's degree in history education from the University of Northern Iowa.

Since 2015, Yackle has served as a high school English teacher at Clarion-Goldfield-Dows and as an education literacy professor for Buena Vista University. At CGD, she also directs and sponsors elective events such as drama and speech. Yackle's passion for curriculum writing is evident as she

recently developed courses in Canvas for the Iowa Department of Education ILC project. Yackle holds a master's degree in professional administration from Morningside University and a bachelor's degree in elementary education from Buena Vista. She also completed the Prairie Lakes AEA Iowa Principal Leadership Academy.

The district has been working with Grundmeyer Leader Services (GLS) to conduct the search. As a next step, the board and stakeholder interview teams will conduct formal interviews with each of the three finalists on Wednesday, February 5. The board will then meet with Dr. Trent Grundmeyer, the lead GLS consultant, to discuss the candidates and make a final decision soon after. The next principal will officially begin leading CGD High School on July 1, 2025.

CGD represents at Wartburg Meistersinger Honor Choir



On January 27-28, 2025, CGD students Teagan Webb and Mitchell Ackerman had the opportunity to participate in the Wartburg Meistersinger Honor Choir Festival. Over two days, they joined talented singers from across the state in rehearsals, working under the direction of guest composer and conductor Dr. Marques L.A. Garrett. On Monday evening, the festival ended with a performance from the students. (Photo courtesy of Joseph Granzow)

Local Teachers Awarded Grants

The Iowa Agriculture Literacy Foundation (IALF) has awarded nearly 120 grants to schools across Iowa to bolster the integration of agriculture into classroom instruction and after-school programs with an academic focus.

The Agriculture in the Classroom (AITC) Teacher Supplement Grants are designed to help teachers initiate new projects and/or expand upon existing programs that promote agriculture literacy for students. Grants can be used to fund innovative lessons, activities, classroom resources, guest speakers, outreach programs, field trips, and other projects. Teachers received up to \$200 to fund their projects.

Some of the innovative projects launching this spring include farm robotics, culinary and nutrition programs, crop and animal lifecycles, tree propagation, pollinators, ecosystems, renewable energy, aquaponics, farm-to-fork projects, dairy field trips, egg hatching, and

agricultural history tours.

The grants are made possible through organizations and individuals, including the Iowa Farm Bureau Federation (IFBF), Ronnette Vondrak, IFBF's Community Relations manager, emphasized the importance of agricultural literacy in recognizing agriculture's value and impact. "The Iowa Farm Bureau Federation is proud to support teachers in their classrooms. Agricultural literacy is crucial in fostering a deeper appreciation of agriculture's influence, both in Iowa and globally."

Local Recipients:
Kendra Haugen,
Richard O. Jacobson
Elementary, Belmond
Tanja Jensen,
Clarion Elementary,
Jordan Omvig,
Robert Blue Middle
School, Eagle Grove

About the Iowa Agriculture Literacy Foundation Iowa is the leading producer of agricultural products

that are essential to feed a growing world population. The Iowa Agriculture Literacy Foundation (IALF) believes it is important for all Iowans to understand the essential role agriculture has in their lives. Through Agriculture in the Classroom efforts, IALF engages with teachers and students throughout Iowa. IALF is supported by the Iowa Corn Growers Association, Iowa Farm Bureau Federation, Iowa Pork Producers Association, Iowa Soybean Association, GROWMARK, Iowa Beef Industry Council, Iowa Turkey Federation, Corteva Agriscience, Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, Midwest Dairy, Iowa Farm Bureau Financial Services, Nutrien, and others in support of strengthening agriculture literacy among pre-kindergarten through 12th-grade teachers and their students. For more information, visit IALF online at www.IowaAgLiteracy.org.

Lawmakers consider allowing bachelor's degree programs at community colleges

Brooklyn Draisley
 Iowa Capital Dispatch

Iowa lawmakers are considering whether to allow community colleges in Iowa to offer new degree programs previously left to four-year public and private universities, with a request for further study to determine feasibility and possible impacts on students and higher education institutions.

Rep. Taylor Collins, R-Mediapolis, told the House Higher Education Committee he plans to request officials to conduct a feasibility study on Iowa's community colleges offering their own bachelor's degree programs for students. Community colleges typically offer associate's degrees or other certifications.

"It is my hope that gathering information over the interim, that this committee can take a hard look at this issue during the next legislative session of the General Assembly," Collins said.

His comments came after the committee heard a presentation from representatives of Iowa's community colleges about national trends in expanding baccalaureate degree programs to community colleges.

Community Colleges for Iowa Executive Director Emily Shields and Indian Hills Community College President Matt Thompson provided information to the committee about other states' efforts to have community colleges launch their own bachelor's degree programs, and how their practice could potentially be adapted and applied to Iowa in the future.

Almost half of the states in the U.S. have, in some way, allowed community colleges to offer bachelor's degrees, Shields said, though they vary greatly in details like what programs can be offered, how many colleges can have bachelor's degree programs and more.

"Some of the benefits and the reasons that states have chosen to go down this path are to largely meet the local workforce demands," Shields said. "Having community colleges that can be nimble in addressing if they have a specific industry in their community that needs

a bachelor's degree in a specific area, they can do that."

Other reasons include expanding access to bachelor's degrees for those who live in "education deserts" and cannot access online higher education, Shields said, as well as making bachelor's degrees more affordable.

Points to consider if the Legislature decides to go down this path include existing partnerships with public and private universities, the needs of local businesses and industries, demand from students and the costs associated with implementing new degree programs, Shields said.

Citing the University of Northern Iowa and Buena Vista University as examples of universities that often partner with community colleges for programs like education, Shields said no one wants to create competition or undermine partnerships that help students and their institutions thrive.

Thompson said colleges would also need to consult with their industry partners and employers in their community to learn what degrees are most needed in the area, and then matters of cost and getting programs approved through the right processes would need to be addressed.

Shields said current law would most likely need to be changed in order to allow community colleges to create new bachelor of arts programs.

"I'm not sure there is any BA degree that it would make sense to offer at every single Iowa community college," Shields said. "I think it's going to be different by region as we look at those factors of local economy, education deserts, existing collaborations, that kind of thing."

Shields said "mission drift" is also a concern, as the community college system in Iowa is focused on workforce needs and short-term programs to address them, like non-credit certificate courses that are becoming more popular. Community college leaders would be wary of moving away from this area, she said.

Responding to a question about student's wishes and interest in potentially stay-

ing at their community college for longer, Thompson said each college in Iowa has seen students who want to remain where they are. It's hard to know how many students would actually follow through on that thought, he said, but it does prove that Iowa's community colleges create a good environment and offer a valuable educational experience.

"Every year we have students that ... fall in love with their community college that gave them a chance, and I can say that about all 15 of our community colleges in the state," Thompson said.

A subcommittee also discussed legislation to include community colleges in Iowa code barring state universities from starting, maintaining or funding diversity, equity and inclusion offices unless required by accreditors or state or federal law.

In addition to not being able to have DEI offices, House Study Bill 61 would prohibit community colleges from requiring anyone to submit a DEI statement or give preferential treatment to someone based on such a statement. They would also need to bring an annual report to Gov. Kim Reynolds and the Legislature showing compliance with the law.

Collins said community colleges are already compliant with the language in the bill, if not in the process of changing things to follow recommendations made by Community Colleges for Iowa in May 2024, and so he didn't see a need to advance the bill. It is currently listed as "tabled until future meeting" online.

"I appreciate the community colleges' work to achieve compliance before we even considered this piece of legislation," Collins said. "I hope the private colleges take the same approach, because we are no longer interested in DEI in this state or in this country."

Read more from Brooklyn Draisley online at IowaCapitalDispatch.com

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SPORTS

Cowboys Crush Eagles 71-11

Taylor Smith,
Sports Editor

Last week, the #9 (2A) Cowboys wrestling team visited Eagle Grove for a Tuesday night matchup against their old rivals. The home and away bleachers were filled to the brim for the short and one-sided dual that saw the Cowboys prevail 71-11.

Cole Wibholm wrestled first for C-G-D at 106, defeating Ethan Schreiber via tech fall in just 2:12. At 113, Paxton Redenius trailed EG's Andrew Orozco briefly in the 1st period, but he quickly recovered and came back to win by fall in 3:27.

Angel Cortes lost his bout with 2023-24 state qualifier Dylan Terwilliger

at 120, but Ryan Hartwig (126) avenged his teammate by pinning Hunter Waldo-Martinez in 3:30. The Cowboys picked up 30 additional points due to Eagle Grove's open weight classes at 132, 144, 150, 165, and 215.

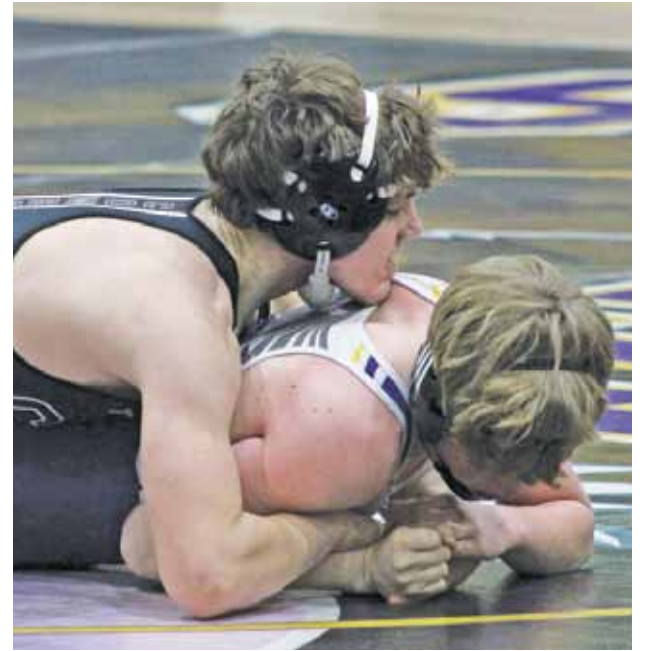
Adrian Phetxoumphone wrestled Jackson Babcock at 138 and improved his season record to 31-2 with the pin in a higher weight class.

Eagle Grove's Hayden Schafer would earn his team their final six points with his win via fall over Caden Hauenstein (157).

Ryland Morgan (175), Charlie Campbell (190), and JT Kelso (285) closed the dual out in dominant fashion with 1st period pins.



Adrian Phetxoumphone handles business in Eagle Grove. (Photos: Taylor Smith)



Ryland Morgan is 22-15 in his first year of high school wrestling.

Thompson Places 4th At Mason City Regional

Taylor Smith,
Sports Editor

On Saturday, girls wrestlers from Webster City/Clarion-Goldfield-Dows competed in their Class 2A Reg. 6 state qualifying meet in Mason City. Plenty of large enrollment schools were in attendance, and only the top two finishers from each weight class would advance to this weekend's state tournament in Coralville.

C-G-D's very own Marlee Thompson was the top placer for WC/C-G-D. The freshman lost a 15-7 major decision in the semifinals, but came back and overcame Adele Beek of Marshalltown via technical fall in the consolation round.

In the 3rd place match, Thompson fell to Kylie



Read more about Marlee Thompson's wrestling journey at <https://midamerica.news/wright-county-monitor/2025/01/27/breaking-barriers-on-the-mat/> (Photo by Chansé Hall)

Schmitz of Waverly-Shell Rock in 1:59. She ended her first high school season 20-10 with a 4th place finish at the regional.

As a team, Mason City

placed 1st with 211 points. Waverly-Shell Rock was close behind with 205.5 points, and Clear Lake scored 118. WC/C-G-D finished 8th with 9.5 points.



Marlee Thompson had 15 pins in her freshman campaign. (Photo by Chansé Hall)

Lane's Double-Double Not Enough To Quiet Cadets

Taylor Smith,
Sports Editor

The Cowboys basketball team had two conference road games last week against #1 (3A) Clear Lake and 7-9 Iowa Falls-Alden.

Clear Lake would keep their spotless record intact with an 81-32 Tuesday victory. In Iowa Falls, the Cowboys led 19-14 after a quarter of play. As the game progressed, C-G-D struggled from the free

throw line and narrowly lost 74-70 to the Cadets.

Against the Lions, Chaz Lane had 11 points, seven rebounds, and three blocks. Bryce Lindaman shot 50% from the field and finished with seven points and five boards. Senior Ethan Russell contributed five points and two assists.

Lane was also C-G-D's top scorer in the Friday night game vs. Iowa Falls-Alden. He shot 50% from the field for 19 points and

secured 10 rebounds. Lindaman had another big night with eight points and 12 boards.

Huxley Lingenfelter scored 18 on 61% shooting. He also had grabbed six rebounds, dished out three assists, and had a pair of steals. Tristan Kakacek added a team-high seven assists, and Johnny Lomeli dropped 16 for the 6-12 Cowboys.

CGD's Graclyn Bremmer Commits to Graceland Softball



Amanda Rink,
Editor

Graclyn Bremmer, a senior at CGD, has committed to play softball at Graceland University. Graclyn, the daughter of Andrew and Treasa Bremmer, has been playing softball since she was 4 years old and has been a part of travel ball since

middle school.

She plans to major in Psychology with the goal of entering social work. Graclyn shared that she chose Graceland for several reasons. The "positive coaching environment," the "small school feel," and the encouraging meeting she had with the director of the program were all key

factors in her decision.

Graclyn is the middle of five siblings: Noah Morrow, Tanner Morrow, Kiernan Bremmer, Ronya Bremmer, and Andrew Bremmer. She is excited about what lies ahead and is ready to make an impact at Graceland University while continuing to work toward her academic goals.

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Charlson Receives Grant from NAU Country

A \$1,000 National FFA SAE grant has been awarded to Lea Charlson of Belmond by NAU Country. Charlson is a freshman member of the FFA at Clarion-Goldfield-Dows high school. She was selected among 1,238 applications nationwide.

SAE grants are designed to help FFA members create or expand Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE) projects. An SAE requires FFA members to create and operate an agriculture-related business, work at an agriculture-related business or conduct an agricultural research experience. This year 26 different sponsors funded SAE Grants across the nation. Lea will be using the \$1,000 grant to begin a new SAE of a small animal cage business. She will be providing stackers, individual cages and carriers for rabbits and



other small animals. She will also be able to build custom cages for customers as well. Congratulations to Lea Charlson and we look forward to watching your business grow.

Deere-Driven Success Top Sales Team from Sweden Tours Heartland Museum



On Saturday, January 25th a delegation of top John Deere salespersons from Sweden toured the Heartland Museum. This was a 2 week United States visit paid for by John Deere for its top salespersons. (Photo: Melanie Maasdani/Heartland Museum)

Aerial views

Bruce Voigts, Aerial Photographer (Photos taken January 29, 2025)



The constructed wetland north and west of Clarion about 5 miles. It is usually filled with water and now is quite low due to our lack of snow and rain.



The award-winning baseball and softball diamonds east of the high school. Nice green color in the midst of the brown surrounding area.

Wild-harvested Mushroom Certification Class Set for Spring

Certification course, led by extension experts, offers experience identifying and safely harvesting wild mushrooms in the state of Iowa

Chelsea Harbach, ISU Extension & Outreach

White morel (*Morchella americana*). AMES, Iowa – Iowa State University Extension and Outreach's Wild-harvested Mushroom Certification Class will return this spring, offering mushroom hunters a valuable opportunity to hone their identification skills, learn more about their favorite mushrooms and connect with fellow mushroom hunters. The class is particularly relevant for those hoping to sell wild-harvested mushrooms, as sellers are legally required to complete a certification workshop to sell eight different varieties of wild-harvested mushrooms.



A white morel (*Morchella americana*) popping up through the forest floor prime for harvest. (Photo: Lina Rodriguez-Salamanca)

past two years, has enjoyed the opportunity to cultivate a community of fellow mushroom lovers and highlights the importance of distinguishing commonly harvested mushroom species from lookalikes.

"This certification helps ensure the safety of wild-harvested mushrooms sold in Iowa, by training the people foraging and selling them. Nobody wants to get sick from a misidentified mushroom. There are real health risks we are trying to prevent with this certification," said Harbach.

The state of Iowa legally requires a certification workshop that covers identifying mushrooms and distinguishing them from lookalikes in order to sell eight different species:

morel, oyster, chanterelles, hen of the woods, chicken of the woods, lion's mane, pheasant back and black trumpet. Iowans who have not been certified to sell morel mushrooms for three or more years must recertify this year.

Registration is open to out-of-state individuals who hunt and sell in Iowa; however, additional certification may be required to sell in other states. To register, visit the Wild-harvested Mushrooms Certification website. Email pidc@iastate.edu if you have questions about training and certification status.

Additional resources on safe mushroom harvesting are also available from Iowa State University Extension and Outreach.

Menu

Monday, February 10, join the Dows Senior Citizens for a delicious meal at noon at the Dow Community Center. The cost is \$10.00. Everyone is welcome. Carry-outs are available. Menu: Baked Ham, Baked Potatoes/Sour Cream, Mixed Vegetables, Salads, Dessert.

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