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Style in the Heartland!

How one local is bringing fashion to rural Iowa women

Amanda Rink,

ages and sizes.

April 3, 2025 - Twice a year since 2022, Ali Disney, owner of Italics Boutique has hosted a fashion show to showcase new arrivals. The event brings "big-city style" to Clarion, complete with runway looks, styled outfits, and models of all

The most recent show was held Thursday, April 3, and showcased her incoming Spring clothing. The event was vibrant, and fun, just as Ali hoped it would

But to Ali, Italics Boutique is more than just a clothing store and the twice-a-year fashion shows are more than just about selling clothing, it is a reflection of her passion for fashion, family, and her small-town community. For each ticket sold, \$5 was donated to Clarion Parks & Rec, a non-profit board Ali is a member of that is dedicated to raising funds to improve Clarion's parks.

Italics is in a large, splitlevel building that once housed Mr. G's clothing store. The shop carries a sense of local history. Just recently, Ali uncovered an old banner advertising "Keleher McAdams Anderson Clothiers-Wright County's Finest!", a nod to the building's retail roots.

The name Italics holds personal significance to the owner as well, "It has my name in it—Ali. But also, when you italicize a word, you emphasize it, and that's what a great wardrobe should do—emphasize who you are," she explained.

Inside the vibe is relaxed and always welcoming, with women's clothing neatly organized by season and color. It isn't uncom-

Amanda Rink,

April 1, 2025 - The

Clarion City Council met

last Tuesday with all mem-

bers present and led by

Mayor Rod Heiden. The

meeting covered updates

on city projects, plans for

the upcoming budget, and

efforts to secure funding

dent questioned the pro-

posed budget and tax levy.

Without a detailed ques-

tion, Mayor Heiden only

shared that the levy is go-

ing down because "the city

has paid down some of its

debt". The council thanked

the resident for attending,

who was the only member

of the public in attendance,

the meeting and moved on

a payment of \$394,250

to Peterson Construction

for ongoing work on the

Water Treatment Plant.

Public Works Director Jon

DeVries said the plant is

"starting to look like a real

water facility." The plan is

The council approved

to agenda projects.

In public input, a resi-

for a new police vehicle.

Editor

mon to hear cartoons and giggles drifting up from Ali's downstairs office, where her kids often tag along when they're not in

"I love that my kids get to see me living my dream," Ali shared with The Wright County Monitor.

A mom of four- Greyson, Delaney, Laurel, and Maren - Ali wears many hats, including Parks and Rec board members and advocates for her community. "My kids say things like, 'Mom is building that park' or 'I'm going to take over Mom's shop one day," Ali said. "They don't always get it, but it's sweet." Her husband, Kyle, is a constant source of support as well.

"I also think it is very important to show our children that we are a part of a community, and we can make a difference in our community."

For Ali, Italics Boutique has always been about more than just clothing. "For as long as I can remember, I wanted to own a business a clothing store, bookstore, ice cream shop...I had a lot of ideas!" she said. With a Bachelor of Arts in Marketing and an English minor, she started Italics as a small in-home shop before opening her first storefront on Main Street.

She describes Italics' style as "trendy but real," focusing on versatile, comfortable pieces for women of all ages. "I try to stay true to what I think ladies in Wright County will wear," Ali explains. "I focus on affordable, everyday styles." Which is what separates Italics from big box retailers or online stores.

"Shop Local, Support Local.. it is said a lot," she said, "Small shop owners

expected to be up and run-

ning by July, with water

flowing to the public by the

proved an update to a de-

velopment agreement that

has been dragging on be-

cause of repeated changes

from a third party managing

the federal grant. City Ad-

ministrator Clint Middle-

ton shared his frustration,

explaining that completed

and occupied apartments

still haven't received fund-

ing because of ongoing de-

mands from the third party.

Another federal grant is in

ahead to apply for a USDA

grant to help cover costs for

a new police vehicle. Even

if the grant doesn't come

through, the city plans to

replace a vehicle next year.

again on April 22, 2025

at 5:00 P.M in the council

chambers, the public hear-

ing for the Fiscal Year 2026

Budget will be held during

this meeting.

City council will meet

The council gave the go-

the works.

The council also ap-

end of the calendar year.

Water Plant

Nears

Completion,

Budget Hearing

Scheduled



Christina Webb and Jamie Wahl showcased spring green at the latest Italics Fashion Show. (Photo: Amanda Rink)



Italics Boutique is more than just a clothing store to owner Ali Disney (center) and the twice-a-year fashion shows are more than just about selling clothing, it is a reflection of a passion for fashion, family, and a small town community. (Photo: Ali Disney)

simply can't compete with Amazon, Target and Shein. But what you will get when you shop Clarion small businesses is business owners who truly care about our community and give back to this community."

But beyond that, Ali believes it's important for customers to see clothing on real people rather than hangers or just photos online and that is one of the reasons she hosts fashion continued on page 2

Supervisors Consider Drainage, Contracts, and Budget at **Recent Meeting**

Amanda Rink, **Editor**

April 1, 2025- The Wright County Board of Supervisors met Tuesday morning to consider issues ranging from drainage and infrastructure to union contracts, fiscal planning, and personnel contracts. With several approvals on the agenda, a public hearing, and a joint meeting between a neighboring county, the meeting was full.

Drainage District News - A drainage issue in Lake Township near Weis Auto prompted a work order. During discussions with Drainage Clerk Courtney Morris it was confirmed that a tile runs through the area and the water issue could be caused by a blockage. The board approved televising the tile, through Hennigar Excavating, line to assess the situation before moving ahead with further work. The board acting as Drainage District Trustees met with Humboldt County to take action on a Memorandum of Understanding regarding repairs within the joint drainage district. The two counties agreed to allow \$15,000 on each side without a meeting with notifications between each district about the repairs made.

Personnel Contracts - In a procedural move, the board rescinded its earlier motion concerning the new full-time Communication Director position. The original motion had included a cost-of-living adjustment clause, which was removed in favor of a standard salary adjustment. This came about after Supervisor Lynn Loux shared concerns over the wording at a previous meeting, he noted it had nothing to do with the hire themself.

He shared that some counties are already implementing salary freezes in response to the current economic strain. The board also approved a new threecontinued on page 2

AREA HEADLINES

Relmond

The Belmond City Hall will operate on a test basis from 7:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. for the rest of the month.

Eagle Grove

High School art students teamed up with "Slay Nutrition" to create stickers to display on cups sold at the drink shop.

Hampton

The Franklin Wellness Center partnered with the Franklin County VA to provide seven flags, representing each branch of the U.S Military and a U.S flag, at the center. The funding was made possible by late Vietnam Veteran Clinton Poley, who left a donation to the county.

The Rowan Public Library is selling books on a free-

8 Day Weather Outlook Clarion, IA.

will donation basis, funds to benefit the library.

Thursday, April 10 Mostly Cloudy 59°/37°



NW 13 mph Friday, April 11 Partly Cloudy 61°/36°



NNW 11 mph Saturday, April 12 Partly Cloudy 68°/47°



S 15 mph Sunday, April 13 Partly Cloudy 74°/48° S 20 mph



Monday, April 14 Partly Cloudy 70°/ 43° WSW 20 mph



Tuesday, April 15 Partly Cloudy 63°/40°



NW 19 mph Wednesday, April 16 Partly Cloudy 61°/41°



60°/43° SW 18 mph





Centrum Responds to Abuse Allegations, Denies Claims Made by Former Workers

Edward Lynn,

Eagle Grove Eagle

Following a federal lawsuit accusing Centrum Valley Farms of human trafficking, workplace discrimination, and retaliation, the company has issued a formal response denying the claims and expressing confidence in its management team, also saying "we expect to vigorously defend this case."

The lawsuit, filed in U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Iowa by six Guatemalan former employees, alleges that a Centrum supervisor, Jose Cornejo, used racial slurs, threatened deportation, and even brandished a gun to intimidate workers. Plaintiffs claim they faced harassment, unpaid overtime, and unsafe working conditions while employed at the company's Clarion facility.

Centrum, a subsidiary of Versova Holdings, LLP, initially did not respond to media inquiries. But Hinda

Mitchell of the Inspire PR Group later contacted The Eagle, The Wright County Monitor's Sister Publication, claiming, "the phone lines apparently were out" as the reason no one answered when the Eagle called previously. A followup question about the company's phone service was not answered.

"Caring for our team and providing a safe work environment are always our priorities," Mitchell wrote on behalf of Centrum. "We treat every individual on our team with respect at all times." But Mitchell declined to respond to questions about whether that statement referred to the alleged actions by managers, or the act of making the claims by workers.

Plaintiff Kenny Augusto Tetzaguic Lux, who worked at the facility from 2016 until his termination in 2024, alleges he was fired in retaliation for raiscontinued on page 2

NW 16 mph Thursday, April 17 Partly Cloudy



Centrum **Responds to Abuse Allegations** continued from page 1

ing concerns. The company cited a violation of "Guiding Principles and/or Core Values" in his termination notice.

The company denied the allegations made in the suit, stating that related complaints were investigated at the time, with some deemed unfounded and others unverified.

Questions about the use of assumed names in hiring to skirt immigration laws, and Cornejo's immigration status also went unanswered. However Mitchel did respond to say that "all Centrum Valley Farms team members are E-Verified as eligible to work."

In response to one allegation seemingly backed up by photographic evidence — that a manager brought a firearm to the facility - the company claims the item in question was a BB gun, used during a USDAcoordinated pest control effort related to the avian influenza outbreak. The plaintiffs allege it was used to intimidate them.

Centrum has not directly addressed several other follow-up questions posed by The Eagle, including inquiries about internal disciplinary actions, and whether any of the accused managers remain employed, and if any had been promoted or demoted. However, Mitchell had said in her initial email that, "We have the highest confidence in our leaders at Centrum Valley Farms and trust that this situation was managed both fairly and appropriately."

The Eagle also asked whether plaintiff Kenny Lux's reprimand for "insubordination" was connected to his prior complaint about supervisor Jose Cornejo, and whether that disciplinary action was reviewed internally. Additional questions included details about which specific complaints were investigated, who conducted those investigations, and what standards were used to deem them unfounded. Those questions went unanswered.

The Eagle further requested information about what protective gear is provided to workers handling pesticides. Mitchell didn't answer that question directly, but did comment on Centrum's behalf that "our farm follows the regulatory guidance of and complies with all state and federal requirements of OSHA, FDA, USDA and other government agencies."

The Eagle continues to seek answers to detailed questions submitted to the company. The lawsuit

Wright County Republican **Women Meet** To Form A New **Local Group**

On Friday, April 4, Wright County Republican women joined together at a residence to organize a new group. This is an expansion of the already existing Republican monthly meetings which are held on the last Thursday evening of the month at the Clarion public library. The monthly library gatherings have been on-going for 70 years. Routinely, there are 25 to 30 attending.

Sometimes the women just want more time to chat. The newly formed Wright County Republican women's group is looking for a social atmosphere to discuss our communities and to find ways to help our towns and county to flourish and grow. The group is looking forward to sharing local ongoing community projects, and for businesses and schools which need support.

At this first organizational meeting, there were two county supervisors present along with women who have been instrumental in the growth and success of our community for years. With the upcoming county public hearing on April 7 people in attendance discussed some of our area's taxation, with a short tutoring on what TIFF money is and how it is used to make our county grow. Any Republican women wanting to join the group to share ways to help local communities and Wright County, are invited to come to Clarion's Pizza Ranch on the second Friday of every month 11:45 a.m. The next meeting will be held on Friday, May 9. Grab lunch and join in the lively discussion.





1:00 - 4:00 p.m. Sunday, April 13 Community Center Rowan, IA.

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

Style in the Heartland! continued from page 1

shows twice a year. "It's fun, relatable, and shows how outfits can come together," she said.

Ahead of the show, Ali shared that she was excited to showcase new styles in denim jeans like wide-leg pants to customer-favorite brands like Judy Blue and Risen jeans.

Attendees could hear "oo-ing" and "ah-ing" through the hour-long show, which featured 30 looks from five local models. Kelsey Burres led the show in a Heimish USA Vertical Stripe Maxi Dress paired with a crowd favorite Corky Cognac Wedges. Christina Webb wowed in a Tribal Green and Blue Cinched Top paired with matching green pants and Knockaround Woodland Shades. Olivia Walton kept things relaxed in a pink Charlie B tie-dye top with wide-leg cropped Tru Luxe jeans, topped with a Jen & Co blush wool hat.

Models often returned with the same bottoms or shoes on with each look to show the versatility of the items. A truly unique throwback look came when Webb stepped out

in "Tribal Black Cargo Pants", a cute crossbody purse, and comfortable sneakers. Jamie Wahl was a new model for the Spring show and left attendees imagining exactly where they'd see themselves wearing the "Olive Colored Tribal Tropical Blouse and Shorts".

While Ali loves fashion, running Italics means balancing a lot, business, community, and family, but she wouldn't have it any other way. "My biggest challenge is not overcommitting," admits. "Knowing when to say no and making time for myself so I can care for

Despite the challenges, she finds joy in the personal connections she's made through her business. "I truly love seeing my customers every daywomen who are my kids' teachers, church friends, or people I see at sporting events.'

Looking back on the busy night, Ali is proud of what she's built in our community. "Even if



Pink was a popular color at the latest Italics Fashion Show. Olivia Walton and Christina Webb look fresh in the latest styles. (Photo: Amanda Rink)

I'll know I did it," she reflected. "My fashion shows are something unique, something special for our community. I'm Italics doesn't last forever, grateful for every person

who's walked through my

If you missed the Spring Fashion Show, Ali will host another fashion show in the

Locals Protest in Support of the Postal Service

Amanda Rink,

Across the U.S. people have been speaking out against plans to change and possibly privatize the U.S Postal Service. Their concern? That it could lead to job cuts, higher postage prices, and worse service, especially in rural areas.

On March 20, postal workers and supporters joined a nationwide "Day of Action" in over 150 cities. In large cities, hundreds showed up. But even small town citizens showed up in support.

Belmond, three women, Nancy Duitscher (Clarion), Kathy Schnell (Belmond), and Gwen Buseman Harvey (Belmond), stood outside their post office in protest. They shared concerns that the government's plan



A small but determined protest took place where three women, Nancy Duitscher, Kathy Schnell, and Gwen Buseman Harvey, stood outside the Belmond Post Office to voice their opposition to the United States Postal Service privatization. (Photo: Kathy Schnell)

The small protest is

could hurt their community. part of a bigger message, postal service public... and Americans want to keep the

Coffee and **Sweets at** the Heartland Museum

Heartland Museum is hosting Coffee & Sweets for past volunteers and anvone interested volunteering. This will be in the community room at the museum (119 9th St, Clarion) from 9:00 am – 11:00 am on April 26. As we celebrate our 25th anniversary, we honor our past volunteers.

This a free event everyone. Volunteers are needed Wednesday thru Saturday, 10:00 am -1:00 pm starting May 28. Volunteers need to be age 14 or older, and can volunteer for one day, or multiple days! During summer open hours, volunteers staff the greeter's desk. During the closed season, volunteers can utilize their talents on



refreshing displays.

Heartland Museum is open by appointment for tours. Over 90 restored tractors, some unique, are part of the tour along with store fronts, hats, and teddy bears. Call 515-602-6000 for more information. Heartland is located at 119 9th St. SW in Clarion.



Supervisors continued from page 1

year union contract for sheriff deputies and jail staff. The key change includes continued participation in Plan 11C post-retirement health care and the option for a nationwide trust plan to house post-retirement health funds.

Bridge Contract Awarded Near Rowan-The board awarded a contract for Bridge 116 north of Rowan on Victor Avenue, to Peterson Contractors. The approved bid came in at \$186,029.75. A minor typo involving milling materials delayed the award from the prior week, but the issue was corrected for final approval.

The Wright County Engineer Adam Clemons released a detailed report of upcoming projects during the meeting, which are highlighted in a different article in this publication.

Seismic Testing Request - In closing, the board did not make changes to a road use agreement with Twin Rivers Exploration to increase the setback distance for live seismic testing from 250 feet to 50 feet. The issue, related ongoing geological exploration, will covered in greater detail in the next issue of The Wright County Monitor. Ultimately, the Board of Supervisors "did not see a county-wide benefit", economically or otherwise, to allowing closer testing of county assets and only

saw the risk of assets. Twin Rivers is still permitted to test in Wright County but only at the originally agreed distance from county assets such as tile or bridges

In other business:

Wright County Auditor's quarterly revenue report was presented as \$1,316 and approved.

Wright County Sheriff's Office's March revenue report presented as \$2,121.17 and approved.

- The board scheduled a budget hearing for the 2025–2026 fiscal year for April 28 at 9:30 a.m.

The Wright County Board of Supervisors will meet again Monday, April 14, 202,5 at 9:00 A.M. at the Wright County Courthouse. This meeting, along with past ones, can be viewed online at youtube.com/@ wrightcountyiowaofficial 8312.

Correction

In the March 31 Supervisors board meeting coverage The Wright County Monitor published a typo. The Wright County Courthouse has an excess of \$26,000, not \$2,600, in ARPA funds which the grounds director has projects in mind to utilize the funds by the end of the calendar year.



Pipeline bill survives funnel with major amendment from senators

Cami Koons

Iowa Capital Dispatch

Iowa senators amended and advanced a House bill aimed at protecting private property rights from eminent domain.

House representatives passed the proposed legislation last week which combines a series of bills aimed at reforming the Iowa Utilities Commission and preventing the Summit Carbon Solutions' pipeline from using eminent domain in the state.

Sen. Mike Bousselot, R-Ankeny, said the Senate subcommittee meeting on the issue was "long await-

Bousselot said his goal "has always been" to pass legislation that protected "all landowners" and not just those affected by certain projects, which he alleged House legislation over the past several years has done.

"House File 639, before us today focuses only on creating additional property rights for land impacted by potential hazardous liquid pipelines ... but does not take into account all types of pipelines, transmission lines or power generation," Bousselot said.

Bousselot proposed an amendment that would remove certain parts of the House bill and add language to "avoid" eminent domain by allowing a project to find voluntary ease-

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ments outside of the original project corridor.

Bousselot said this would apply to "any project seeking eminent domain approval before the IUC, including pipelines, transmission lines and power generation."

His amendment would also require the Iowa Utilities Commission to make, within one year, a decision on any project that is seeking eminent domain rights.

'By saying that decision needs to be made within one year, there's plenty of time for fact finding, but it also means, like the court cases that are going on today, those court cases get to court faster," Bousselot said.

passed from the floor. House File 639 would

Increased the insurance requirements for a hazardous liquid pipeline to cover any damages to property and reimburse landowners for increases in their property insurance premiums due to the pipeline.

Changed the definition of a common carrier, to require a hazardous liquid carrier to establish with "clear and convincing evidence" that it will transport a commodity.

Required an Iowa Utilities Commissioner to be present at all proceedings.

Allowed any interested party, including lawmakers, to intervene in IUC proceedings.

Restricted the IUC's ability to sanction interve-

Limited the length of a hazardous liquid pipeline permit to one 25-year term.

Bousselot's proposed amendment would strike the common carrier definition, permit limits, intervenor requirements and would adjust the insurance requirements.

The amendment would add a requirement for the "lifetime" repair and replacement costs for drainage tile, crop loss and soil degradation. Under the proposed amendment landowners would also be able to request, and be granted, a new land representative.

The amendment retains the requirement that a commissioner from the IUC be present at informational meetings and hearings, and the section on insurance requirements that hold operators responsible for damages caused by the projects.

Some of the landowners said the contents of Bousselot's amendment were "a surprise" and they questioned how the landowners outside of the corridor, or the area around a proposed eminent domain project, would be notified.

Jake Highfill, on behalf of the American Petroleum

Institute said the organization was in favor of the corridor change and that it was "common practice" for members of the institute in other states.

project."

Ketzner said the company has been suggesting the corridor change Bousselot proposed and appreciated the amendment, noting it would give the project a route forward in counties where it currently has 90-95% of easements secured.

ing makes a lot of sense."

Sen. Matt Blake, D-Urbandale, said he signed off on the bill in subcommittee because it was the "last train out of the station" on the private property rights issue, but he urged his colleagues to vote against the amendment, which he called a "tremendous

Sen. Tony Bisignano, a Democrat from Des Moines, said he opposed the amendment because of its rushed nature, and because he felt it was not

"We haven't had a time to talk with people, to step back and really look at it," Bisignano said of the amendment. "These people deserve the debate on eminent domain and property rights. This is a consolation.

The committee voted to adopt the amendment.

This amendment builds on the work that was found in House File 639, retaining some, adding a lot, but ultimately is a major, major addition to strengthening and protecting private property rights in Iowa," Bousselot

nications.

Read more from Cami Koons online at IowaCapitalDispatch.com

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Jake Ketzner, a lobbyist for Summit Carbon Solutions, urged lawmakers to vote against "any piece of legislation that changes the rules in the middle of a

"If we have the ability to move off someone's ground that does not want the project, currently, the only way to deal with that is restarting," Ketzner said. "So we think what you're suggest-

change to the system."

"solving property rights."

He voted in favor of the amendment to "keep it alive" for floor debate, which he has pushed for earlier in the session via a failed amendment to chamber rules.

The bill advanced to the Senate floor via a voice vote in favor. Bousselot said he intends to file an additional amendment on the floor dealing with commu-

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The Historical Viewpoint

April Fool's Day and Hoaxes

Casey Jarmes, The News-Review

This paper came out on April 2, 2025. Some of you reading may have experienced pranks and chicanery yesterday, a day famed for its association mischief. with origin of April Fools' Day actually goes to the fourth century, during the reign of Roman Emperor Constantine. Constantine's jesters mockingly told him they could run his empire more efficiently than he could. Constantine, amused, allowed one of his jesters, Kugel, to rule as king for a day. Kugel used his temporary king powers to declare the first of April to be celebrated as a day of absurdity. In honor of King Kugel, I've decided to use this column to recount some of the greatest pranks ever pulled.

Irish satirist Jonathan Swift loved April Fools' and hated astrologers, considering them to be quacks. He particularly despised John Partridge, the writer of popular astrological almanacs. Partridge earned Swift's ire by publicly mocking the Church of England, of which Swift was a priest, and publishing predictions about the deaths of church officials. Most of these predictions failed to come true, because astrology is nonsense. Swift decided to get back at Patridge by publishing his own almanac, under the pseudonym Isaac Bickerstaff, which predicted Partridge would die on March 29, 1708. Patridge, angered, wrote a rebuttal, calling Bickerstaff a fraud. Except, when March 29 came, a letter from the British government published in the newspapers announced that Partridge had died, just as had been predicted. Said letter was of course a fake written by Swift. Mourners came to Partridges's house, as did an undertaker.

A gravestone was even put up, to mark the grave of the very much still living Partridge. Partridge attempted to dispel the hoax by writing a pamphlet explaining he was still alive; Swift countered this by writing that the pamphlet was a hoax written by someone else who was trying to trick people into believing Partridge was still alive. John Partridge remained a public mockery until his actual death six years later.

On April 1, 1957, the BBC documentary "Panorama" program aired a three-minute hoax about a family of spaghetti farmers living in Ticino, Switzerland, showing the farmers picking strands of cooked spaghetti hanging from tree limbs then laying them out to dry. The voiceover helpfully explained that, due to generations of careful breeding, the spaghetti trees all produced noodles of identical length, explaining why they came in the box that way. Eight million people watched documentary that the night. The BBC received hundreds of phone calls, many of them from people asking how to grow their own spaghetti trees. Pasta was an exotic delicacy in England during the fifties, usually coming in Chef Boyardee-style tin cans with tomato sauce, leading many viewers to believe the story was genuine.

Α more morally journalistic questionable hoax came in August 1835, when New York City tabloid The Sun published a six-part series detailing the astounding lunar discoveries allegedly made by famed astronomer John Herschel. According to the Sun, Herschel had built a massive, highly advanced telescope in South Africa, which allowed him to see the moon with perfect clarity, observing forests, oceans and temples. Roaming across the moon's surface were strange creatures, like unicorns, bipedal, tail-less beavers, miniature zebras, and a race of humanoids with bat-like wings. These bat-men were divided into a racial hierarchy, with the white ones being the most advanced, because this is a story from 1835. The reports in the Sun ended by claiming the telescope had been destroyed, after its lenses acted like a magnifying glass and burned down the observatory, preventing any further observations. This was, of course, a hoax, perpetrated by The Sun reporter Richard Locke, to increase paper sales and satirize astronomers for often being more influenced by religion than actual science. The hoax was successful, making The Sun go from a failing paper to the most popular in the world, as other newspapers reprinted its stunning story. Herschel, a real astronomer, had nothing to do with the

Readers believed the with story, churches even planning to send missionaries to the moon. To defend the people of the 19th Century, they lived in a time where more powerful telescopes were reshaping knowledge of the cosmos. Uranus had been discovered by John Herschel's father William in 1781, Ceres had been discovered by Giuseppe Piazzi in 1801, and Neptune would end up being discovered by Johann Galle and Urbain Le Verrier in 1846. It was commonly believed at the time that other planets in the solar system must be populated, under the argument that God would not create empty, purposeless planets.

January, 1749, In advertisements in London newspapers announced a show would be performed by a stunning acrobat, so skilled he could dive into an ordinary wine bottle. The people of London, enthralled by the seemingly impossible trick, sold out the theater. Even the King's son, Prince William Agustus, showed up to watch the impossible. Except, when the time came, the acrobat was a noshow. A theater employee came out and told the crowd that, if the acrobat did not appear, they would be given their money back. One audience member shouted that, if they paid him double, he would fit into the bottle himself. Eventually, a member of the aggravated crowd chucked a lit candle onto the stage, setting it on fire. The crowd rioted, tearing out furniture and dragging it out into the street, where they burned it in a massive bonfire. A story ran in a newspaper after the riot, claiming the acrobat had been paid by a wealthy gentleman to do the same trick privately.

When he dived into a bottle, the gentleman corked the bottle, trapping him. It took 23 years for the truth to come out; the perpetrator of the hoax, Duke John Montagu, had been discussing the gullibility of Londoners with his friends, leading to Montagu betting he could fill a theater by advertising something as completely absurd as a man diving into a quart bottle.

The final prank we'll be discussing today can actually be found in this very column. That story about Kugel and Constantine I began the column with? Absolute nonsense. It never happened. In 1983, Boston University History Professor Joseph Boskin was asked by an Associated Press reporter about the origin of April Fools' Day. Boskin decided to prank the reporter, making up a fake story about a fake king on the spot, which the AP published. The actual origin for April Fools' Day is unclear.

How to take a pause from the daily grind

Stress affects just about everyone. The American Institute of Stress estimates 80 percent of adults in the United States experience stress on a regular basis. Worldwide, the World Health Organization reports that more than 75 percent of adults experience into a lunch hour or use

stress at some point in their lives. Health woes, employment, politics, and negative news all can contribute to people feeling stressed. So can engaging in a daily routine that elicits the "Groundhog Day" effect, or when each day seems like a carbon copy of the one before. Finding ways to take a

come happier and healthier. Think about a new job

break from a daily routine

can help individuals be-

If work obligations are eating into personal time and responsibilities are growing exponentially, it might be time to seek a new path that offers a better work-life balance.

Focus on self-care

People need to dedicate time for activities that help them unwind, such as meditation, yoga, reading, or taking a walk outside. Just a few minutes of self-care each day can help. Individuals can incorporate some deep-breathing exercises time after dinner to stroll the neighborhood with the dog or family to decompress.

Make time for hobbies Individuals can treat hobbies and other interests just as they would personal or work obligations. Add time for hobbies to your daily calendar and assign them the same significance

as work-related tasks.

Prioritize exercise The Mayo Clinic says exercise can alleviate stress and release endorphins, which can improve mood and reduce anxiety. Exercise also can clear the brain by helping a person focus on movements instead of worries. Make exercise a non-negotiable component of daily life. Taking the stairs, walking to work or school, parking further away from stores in parking lots, and doing little bursts of activity several times a day can ensure exercise becomes part of the routine.

Utilize personal and sick time Many people are letting

their vacation and other personal days go to waste. A 2023 survey released by the fintech lending firm Sorbet found that 62 percent of American workers with personal time off (PTO) did not use it all. Plus, 5.5 percent did not take any time off the previous year. Fears of falling behind and pressures to appear dedicated are driving these behaviors. According to the invoicing company Skynova, the average American takes 14 days off from work a year while Europeans take 24 days. Using all personal time is definitely a way to take a break from the daily grind.

It is important to take breaks from routine to recharge and enjoy a different outlook on life.



Courthouse news -

Violet Renee Van Lent, was born on March 17, 2025, to Alexis and Joshua Van Lent of Nora Springs.

Bryson Maddox Johnstone was born on March 18, 2025, to Brianna Zavala of Hampton.

Letty Rose Ann Gansen was born on March 18, 2025. to Rachelle Jones of Mason

Hunter James Thilges was born on March 18, 2025, to Shelby and Derek Thilges of Buffalo Center.

Lucille Kay Thury was born on March 18, 2025, to Kala and Elias Thury of Eagle

Hudson Keel Maggard was born on March 19, 2025, to Miranda and Cody Maggard of Humboldt.

Lola Paige Kopen was born on March 19, 2025, to Mikaela and Andrew Kopen of Clear Lake.

Liam James Erdmann was born on March 20, 2025, to Nicole and Steven Erdmann of Clear Lake.

Benjamin Eoin Kelley was born on March 20, 2025, to Kathryn Kelley of Mason City.

Bowden David Boothby was born on March 20, 2025, to Jenna and Michael Boothby of Clarion.

Xander Josue Mendez Diaz was born on March 20, 2025, to Leidy Diaz Mendez and Jose Mendez Mendez of Webster City.

Lila Quinn Agnas Johns was born on March 20, 2025, to Marie Grace and Seth Johnson of Belmond.

Enzo David Hall was born on March 21, 2025, to Gabrielle and Jake Hall of Mason City.

Anderson Gabriel Wigui Otzoy was born on March 21, 2025, to Milvian Otzoy Garcia and Wilmer Wigui Lopez of Clarion.

Spencer Lee Anthony was born on March 22, 2025, to Calli Tibodeau of Forest City.

Harper Lynn Skuster was born on March 23, 2025, to Alexandra and Joshua Skuster of Rudd.

Deaths

Larry Dean Hansen, born on June 11, 1939, passed away on March 25, 2025, at the age of 85 from Clarion.

Keith Leonard Kramer, born on November 17, 1951, passed away on March 25, 2025, at the age of 73 from Ackley.

Property Transfers

Warranty deed - town lot: First State Bank to Rothman Alexander W - Clar Eastman's Addn Blk 22 lots 1 & 2; 25-482. Warranty deed - town lot: Tech Pointe Management LLC to Elevate Business LLC - Clar Railroad Addn Blk 5 lots 11 & 12, Clar McKay's Addn Blk 3 lots 1 & 2, Larue, Keith 00014534004649483; 25-486. Others - town lot deeds: Jahnke Carol A Executor, Jahnke Leonard M Estate, Jahnke Leonard, to Jahnke Carol A - EG Hewett's Park Addn Blk 15 lots 17 & 18, Jahnke, Carol A 000013261004650347 Court officer deed; 25-488. Warranty deed - town lot: Plymouth Creek LLC to

South & Adjacent; 25-490. Related Documents: 25-521 01-005, others-land deeds. Quit claim deed - town lot: VanderLinden Gerrit Joseph, VanderLinden Amy Nicole, to VanderLinden Stephen Paul, VanderLinden Joanne - EG Parkview Addn Lot 7: 25-492. Quit claim deed - town lot: Giese Barbara A, Giese Barbara A Revocable Trust to Barbara A Giese Revocable Trust - EG Edgewood Addn Blk 1 lots 6 N 54' & 7 S 11'; 25-495. Quit claim deed - town lot: PNI Real Estate Holding Company LLC to Pritchards of Belmond Real Estate LLC - Belm Orig Addn Blk 10 lots 4 Except W 2.5' and Part Alley, 3 W 30.1' and Part Alley, 6 and Part Alley, 7, Lot 5 Except Tract and Part Alley, Belm Orig Addn Blk 22 Tract, 3364532 0 3364532_0_1; 25-496. Warranty deed - town lot: A and C Investments LLC to JW Efficiencies LLC -Belm Orig Addn Blk 24 Lot 6 Except S 16 1/2'; 25-499. Warranty deed - land deeds: Hill Joyce E to Morgan Laine E - 27-91-26 SW S 35' Lot 13 NW 1/4, EG Hewett's Park Addn Blk 1 lots 17 S 35' OF N 70' & 16 E 10' OF N 70', Morgan 906594 000012148004654419; - 5 0 6 2 5 Others - land deeds: Threlkeld Dennis J Estate, Threlkeld

Park Addn Lot 27 Tract

Dennis J Estate, Threlkeld Dennis J, McKee Sue Executor, Threlkeld Rebecca Executor to Threlkeld Rebecca 12-90-25 NE S 1/2, Court officer deed: 25-514. **Small Claims**

TD Bank USA, N.A. Alexandria Braaksma, judgment for the plaintiff in the amount of \$1,015.44 plus \$174.00 in court costs, and interest at 6.02% from 2-11-

Hauge Associates, Inc. v. Scott Krueger, judgment for the plaintiff in the amount of \$683.55 plus \$95.00 in court costs, and interest at 7.22% from 2-11-25.

Tickets

Christan Amilcar Pastorcac of Eagle Grove, IA, dark window or windshield.

Christan Amilcar Pastorcac of Eagle Grove, IA, no valid drivers license.

Christan Amilcar Pastorcac of Eagle Grove, IA, failure to provide proof of financial liability. Michael Patrick Mugan of

weight violation - 5001 to 6000. Jesus Valenzuela Lopez of

Tavares, FL, maximum gross

Clarion, IA, no valid drivers license.

Alec Jacob Amonson of Eagle Grove, IA, speeding 55 or under zone (11 thru 15 over).

Jeremy David Toomsen of Renwick, IA, speeding 55 or under zone (16 thru 20 over). Nury Waleska Rivera Rodriguez of Belmond, IA, speeding 55 or under zone (21

or over). Melissa Keyli Navas Ortiz of Eagle Grove, IA, no valid drivers license.

Edna Barbara Aleman Gonzalez of Webster City, IA, speeding 55 or under zone (11 thru 15 over).

Antonio Espiridion Vazquez of Des Moines, IA, speeding 55 or under zone (11 thru 15

over). Maria Ramos of Dows, IA, no valid drivers license.

Abdalla Mohamed Amin of West Chester, PA, fail to change lane upon approach to EmergenC.

Henry William Retleff of Cherokee, IA, speeding 55 or under zone (11 thru 15 over). Tulip Ann Pertuis of

Klemme, IA, permitting unauthorized person to drive. Tulip Ann Pertuis of Klemme, IA, permitting unauthorized person to drive.

Ricardo Ochoa of Omaha, NE, speeding over 55 zone (6 thru 10 over).

Paul Maurice buns of Woden, IA, failure to maintain or use safety belts – Adu.

Merlin Dean Anderson of Corwith, IA, speeding 55 or under zone (1 thru 5 over).

Peter Edmund Carlson of Minneapolis, MN, speeding 55 or under zone (1 thru 5 over). Keilani Venegas Alvarez of

Denver, CO, speeding 55 or under zone (11 thru 15 over). Mercedes Velasquez DeLeon of Clarion, IA, permitting unauthorized person to drive.

Jamie Michael Perfilio of Nashville, TN, speeding 55 or

under zone (1 thru 5 over).

Tanner J Schwichtenberg of Galt, IA, window tint.

Constantino Cruz Barradas of Goodell, IA, no valid drivers license.

Maria de Lourdes Lopez Matul of Clarion, IA, permitting unauthorized

person to drive. Tulip Ann Pertuis of Klemme, IA, permitting

unauthorized person to drive. Laura Dicke of Eagle Grove, IA, excessive speed 6 thru 10.

Sonia Acosta Flores of Clarion, IA, failure to have valid Licenseor permit while.

Oscar Atz Garcia of Clarion, IA, failure to have valid Licenseor permit while.

Rene Mendoza Contreras of Eagle Grove, IA, failure to have valid Licenseor permit while.

Candace Zoe Hardin of Spirit Lake, IA, excessive speed 6 thru 10.

Adrian Cooper Askelson of Badger, IA, excessive acceleration.

Christan Amilcar Pastorcac of Eagle Grove, IA, reckless driving.

Criminal

State of Iowa vs Calles Garcia, Robin, serious possession misdemeanor controlled substance marijuana 1st offense. Defendant received a deferred judgment and was assessed a civil penalty of \$430, and placed on probation for 1 year.

Legal notices

PUBLIC NOTICE City of Clarion April 1, 2025 Minutes

The Clarion City Council met in regular session Tuesday April 1st, 2025, at 5:15pm in the Council Chambers with Mayor Heiden presiding. Present were Council members Dave Flurer, Dan Hennigar, Shayne Hennigar, Nick McOllough and Mike Ennis. Also, in attendance City Administrator Clint Middleton, Attorney Zach Chizek, PWD Jon DeVries, and Chief Steve TerHark.

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

Motioned by Flurer seconded by

S. Hennigar to approve consent consisting of Minutes-2025.03.18; Financial report- apks: Licenses/Permits (Building, Liquor, Tobacco, Sign, Peddler, Street Closure) Building: Rothman - Garage Extension, Prairie Energy; Street Closure - Bosch. Motioned by McOllough seconded by S. Hennigar approving Pay Request #24 with Peterson Construction for WTP Project for \$394.250.00 (Motion passed 5-0). Motioned by Flurer seconded by

date for proposed FY26 Budget, April 22 5:00pm. (Motion passed

Iat 111 LLC - EG Hewett's

Motioned by D. Hennigar seconded by McOllough to approved updated Development Agreement - City and Several Developers (Motion passed 5-0).

Motioned by Flurer seconded by S. Hennigar to set public hearing for submission of USDA application

Reports from the Council or Dept heads. DeVries mentioned street sweeper is out cleaning up, good sign. There will also be a Tornado Seiren test on battery back-up coming soon. Look for heads up on the Clarion Facebook page. The mayor mentioned a corner to have Chief

Mot by Flurer to move into Closed Session: Property - Iowa Code 21.5(1) (i) (Motion passed 5-0). Motioned by McOllough seconded by Flurer to move out of Closed Session (Motion passed 5-0). No action taken.

tion passed 5-0).

Clint Middleton City Administrator

(Motion passed 5-0).

TerHark keep an eye on parking is-

Motioned by McOllough seconded by Flurer to adjourn. All Ayes. (Mo-

Respectfully Submitted,

Published in the Wright County Monitor on Thurs, April 10, 2025

PUBLIC NOTICE

D. Hennigar to set public hearing

City of Clarion April 1, 2025 Minutes The Clarion City Council met in regular session Tuesday April 1st, 2025, at 5:00pm in the Council Chambers with Mayor Heiden presiding. Present were Council members Dave Flurer, Dan Hennigar, Shayne Hennigar, Nick McOllough and Mike Ennis. Also, in attendance City Administrator Clint Middleton, Attorney Zach Chizek, PWD Jon DeVries, and Chief Steve TerHark.

Motioned by Flurer seconded by Mcollough to open Public Hear-

Mayor Heiden called the meeting

ing for Property Tax Levy (Motion passed 5-0). Nancy Duitscher asked for a brief explanation of the levy. Mayor explained to her it was going down because of past debt being paid off. Motioned by Mcollough seconded by Flurer to close Public Hearing for Property Tax Levy (Motion passed 5-0).

Motioned by Flurer seconded by McOllough to adjourn. All Ayes. (Motion passed 5-0).

Respectfully Submitted Clint Middleton City Administrator

Published in the Wright County Monitor on Thurs. April 10, 2025

PUBLIC NOTICE

City of Clarion Ap	
CLAIMS REPORT VENDOR AMOUNT AFLAC	MENARDS FORT DO
AIRGAS USA, LLC227.42 AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES1,674.00 ARNOLD MOTOR SUPPLY	OVERHEAD DOOR C PARADIGM BENEFIT PETERSON CONSTR
403.66 CASEY'S BUSINESS MASTER- CARD166.19	QUADIENT FINANCE
CITY OF CLARION	REES HYDRAULIC S/ SVC RELIABLE1 HEATING PLUMBIN
CLARION VISION INS COLLECTION SERVICES CEN- TER369.23	STERICYCLE, INC T & S SANITATION TREASURER STATE
COLUMN SOFTWARE PBC	UMB BANK, N.A UMB BANK, N.A
DAKOTA SUPPLY GROUP	UNIFIED CONTRACT VICES POSTMASTER UNITYPOINT HEALTH
FED FICA ELECTRONIC	VISUAL EDGE IT WF FINANCIAL LEAS
REAU	WMTEL WRIGHT CO RECORI WRIGHT FARM SERV
HANSON AND SONS 199.34 HOMESERVE USA5,396.95 HOTSY EQUIPMENT CO. 348.98 HSA PERSONAL1130	Accounts Payable Tota
IOWA ONE CALL	ROAD USEEMPLOYEE BENEFIT
KANCAC CITY LIFE INC. CO.	DEDT CEDVICE

KANSAS CITY LIFE INS CO.

KANSAS CITY LIFE INS CO..

KC NIELSEN, LTD.

KANSAS CITY LIFE INSURANCE

.2,000.00 MENARDS FORT DODGE.. 89.93 MID AMERICAN ENERGY . 17,443.94 OVERHEAD DOOR CO. 45.66 PARADIGM BENEFITS.. ... 200 PETERSON CONSTRUCTION... .394,250.00 QUADIENT FINANCE USA, INC.

REES HYDRAULIC SALES & 44.79 RELIABLE1 HEATING AC &3,940.42 PLUMBINSTERICYCLE, INC 96.65 T & S SANITATION TREASURER STATE OF IOWA .3,058.55 UMB BANK, N.A.

.67,837.50

UNIFIED CONTRACTING SER-..1,336.10 **POSTMASTER** UNITYPOINT HEALTH.. VISUAL EDGE IT......5,978 WF FINANCIAL LEASING INC . 5,978.73661.81

WRIGHT CO RECORDER 22 WRIGHT FARM SERVICES ..152.73 Accounts Payable Total.

. 551.463.70 . 43,782.61 14,219.28 EMPLOYEE BENEFIT FUND. .5,386.08 DEBT SERVICE 68,087.50 WATER . WATER PLANT PROJECT.

14,812.56 .394,250.00 . 10,678.33 INTERNAL SERVICE FUND.247.34 TOTAL FUNDS 551,463.70

JENNIFER LITTLEJOHN ... Published in the Wright County Monitor on Thurs. April 10, 2025

. 1,215.63

.2,422.58

. 134.6

PUBLIC NOTICE Wright Co. Supervisors March 24, 2025 Minutes

March 24, 2025

Dennis J, McKee Sue Executor,

Threlkeld Rebecca Executor to

McKee Sue - 12-90-25 NE S

1/2, Court officer deed; 25-513.

Others - land deeds: Threlkeld

Chairman Rasmussen called the regular meeting of the Wright County Board of Supervisors to order at 9:00 a.m. Members present were Kluss, Bosch, Rasmussen, Loux and Ellis.

Motion by Ellis and seconded by Loux to approve the tentative agenda. Motion carries. Minutes of the previous regular

meeting of March 17, 2025 were read and approved. Approved claims for payment.

Motion by Ellis and seconded by Kluss to agree not to be included the proposed amendment for Pharmacy Benefit Managers in the ongoing Opioid Litigation. Motion

Tiffon Pohlman, Wright County Communications Director, dishire. Motion by Kluss and seconded by Loux to approve the new hire pending pre employment physical and drug testing, at a starting wage of \$21.00 per hour with fifty cent increases at six months and one year, along with any cost of living

increases. Motion carries. Adam Clemons, Wright County Engineer, answered questions regarding Resolution 2025-14 to vacate a county road. He explained that a question came up regarding the installation of a field entrance on the north end of an adjacent field. The landowner can install a field entrance using the same protocol as usual, but an entrance will not be provided since the County is not

removing the road. Motion by Ellis and seconded by Kluss to approve Resolution 2025-14 to Vacate a County Road pending completion of Tile Order 7072, Bridge Removal Work Order 7772 and asset location. By roll call vote: ayes - Kluss, Bosch, Rasmussen, Loux and Ellis; nays

- none. Resolution 2025-14 duly asses and reads as follow RESOLUTION TO VACATE A COUNTY ROAD Wright County

WHEREAS, The Wright County Board of Supervisors held a public hearing on March 17, 2025, at

Resolution No. 2025-14

as follows: That Portion of Youngblood Avenue, originally established on April 14th, 1883 (See Road Re-

9:30 AM on the proposed vacation

and closure of a portion of Wright

County Secondary Road, described

cord Book 1, Page 90), lying between Sections 1 and 2, T-92N, R-23W of Wright County, Iowa. The intention of this road closure is to vacate the entire portion of the road commencing at the North Right of Way line of 170 th Street, thence running in a Northerly direction approximately 5,663' to the South Right-of-Way line of 160 th Street.

WHEREAS, Objections NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RE-SOLVED by the Wright County Board of Supervisors that the subcated and closed.

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

Brittany Howieson with the Clarion CDA gave an update on upcoming events that the CDA would like to use the Courtyard for. The events will coincide with Festival in the Park and also the first Mondays of May through August. She was informed to complete the application for use and work with Andy Yackle, Buildings and Grounds.

Elizabeth Thyer with Gardiner and Company presented the Fiscal Year 2024 Audit for Wright County. She explained that there were no major issues and that all the variances were accounted for by County staff. Motion by Kluss and seconded by Ellis to receive the Fiscal Year 2024 Audit prepared by Gardner and

Company. Motion carries. Motion by Loux and seconded by Kluss to adjourn the meeting. Mo-

tion carries. 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.

Rick Rasmussen, Chairman Wright County Board of Supervisors Deb Nesheim, Wright County Deputy Auditor

Published in the Wright County Monitor on Thurs. April 10, 2025

PUBLIC NOTICE CGD FY26 Proposed Tax Levy First Hearing

Clarion-Goldfield-Dows CSD Board of Directors held their First Public Hearing for FY26 Proposed Property Tax Levy on Thursday, March 27, 2025. In attendance Troy Seaba, Kelly Kirstein, Beth Severson, Craig Warnke, Jared Carder, Melanie Maasdam, Amy Rudolph, Wright County Monitor Editor Amanda Rink, Supt. Joe Nelson, and Board Secretary Anita

President Seaba called the meeting to order at 4:00 P.M. Seaba then led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion by Severson to Approve

the Agenda. Second by Kirstein. Motion carried 4-0. President Seaba read a statement detailing the purpose of the meeting and the procedures the board would be following. President Seaba then moved to Open Forum.

Open Forum - There were no comments concerning the FY26 Proposed Budget Statements, and the board secretary did not receive any written comments concerning the FY26 Proposed Budget.

Motion by Kirstein to adjourn the meeting. Second by Severson. Motion carried 4-0. FY26 Proposed Property Tax

Levy Hearing adjourned at 4:03 Anita Frye,

Board Secretary

Published in the Wright County Monitor on Thurs. April 10, 2025



Plumbing, Heating and A/C, Inc.

114 N Commercial, Eagle Grove

515-448-3456

PUBLIC NOTICE Dust Control Notice Using Chloride products

Dust Control Notice

To Wright County Rural Residents Any person desiring to have dust control on a section of road under county jurisdiction shall be responsible for hiring an approved contrac-

tor.
The normal treatment available will be 400 linear feet X 18 feet in width, with treatment being applied in two separate applications. Scheduling of these applications will be the responsibility of the contractor selected by the resident. Wright County will prepare the site prior to the application by the chosen contractor.

Contractors approved by Wright County are listed below. Payment for the dust control applications will be made directly to the chosen contractor.

641-421-8622

218-735-8717 Using Magnesium Chloride Kist Snow & More Services 515-293-3055 Using Magnesium Chloride All questions regarding dust control and material used should be directed to the contractor at the

EnviroTech Services

phone numbers shown above. Wright County will not guarantee the effectiveness of the dust control treatment Any complaints concerning the quality will be handled between the resident and the contractor they selected.

Wright County reserves the right to perform normal maintenance (such as blading and granular resurfacing) through areas of dust control to level uneven or rough reas without liability for the cos of any new dust control application. Wright County Engineer

Published in the Wright County Monitor on Thurs. April 10, 17 & 24, 2025

PUBLIC NOTICE Wright County Landfill March 26, 2025 Minutes

LANDFILL AUTHORITY The following is a report of public record from the 26 March 2025 Board meeting of the Wright County Area Landfill Authority, an Iowa 28E

organization. Members present included Mike Nail, Al Mattison, Barb Schaefer, Criag Russell, Jeanie Arends, Dale Hollman, John Leist, and Lynn Loux. Travis Connor was also present. Members not present were Bruce Rholl, and Chris Petersen.

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm. The Board approved the minutes from the 22 January 2025 Board meeting, the bills and bank reconciliations for the months ending 30 January 2025 and 28 February 2025, the financial statements for the months ending 31 January 2025 and 28 February 2025. The 28 February 2025 financial report showed total expenses of \$1,144,760.00 (76%) and revenues of \$945,784.70 (62%). The expenses exceeded the revenues

by \$198,975.30 Travis Connor announced to the Board the proposed Employee Wage Increase for FYE 2025-2026 The Board approved a 9% increase

to all hourly employees. Travis Connor discussed with the Board the FY 2025-2026 Budget. After brief discussion the Board approved the FY 25-26 Budget of \$1,320,823.00. A decrease from

last year of 12%.

Board the progress of the construction of the Transfer Building. The walls and roof are done. Still waiting on the electrical, fire alarms, and cameras. The overhead doors should be completed in the next couple of weeks.

Travis Connor discussed the purchase of the 2018 International LT semi-tractor. The 2009 Mack had many mechanical issues and the continued repair cost out-weighed the cost of a new to us used semitractor with warranty. The next Board meeting is 21

May 2025. The meeting was adjourned at 7:42 pm. Travis R. Connor, Director

Wright County Area Landfill Au-Wright County Area Landfill Au-

thorities employee salaries for

FY 2025 Travis R. Connor **Executive Director** \$80.000.00 Salary Donald R Fraser II Loader Operator \$57,200.00 \$2.00/hr \$27.50/hr Ryan R. Caquelin Truck Driver \$56,160.00 ^ \$2.00/hr \$27.00/hr Mason M. Rector Truck Driver \$56,160.00 ^ \$2.00/hr \$27.00/hr Connie L. Ruiter Scale Attendandt \$47,840.00 \$2.00/hr \$23.00/hr Mark A. Hennigar PT-Maint/Driver \$7,000.00

Travis Connor reported to the \$20.00/hr Published in the Wright County Monitor on Thurs. April 10, 2025

Legals are your right to know!



People Over Politics

Warning Signs for Iowa's Economy

Jennifer Konfrst Iowa House

Democratic Leader

What impact are we having on Iowans' day-to-day lives? Are our constituents feeling positive effects from our choices?

As legislators, these questions should be at the top of our minds when we make decisions at the Capitol that affect Iowans and their families. Unfortunately, recent evidence and economic indicators paint a clear picture that, after eight years of total Republican control, Iowans are not experiencing positive effects.

In a recent release, the Bureau of Economic Analysis showed that in real, inflation-adjusted terms, Iowa's gross domestic product (GDP) contracted in 2024. That's a distinction only awarded to Iowa and North Dakota – the 48 other states and the District of Columbia all saw real GDP growth in 2024. The BEA's release also laid out the change in personal income by state. The good news: personal income grew in Iowa in 2024. The bad news: 47 other states grew more.

Iowa's economy is simply not keeping pace with our neighbors or the rest of the

Part of the problem lies with Iowa's slow population growth. A report from the U.S. Census Bureau shows that between 2020 and 2024, 98% of Iowa's population growth was a result of international immigration. During the same time period, Iowa lost over 9,000 residents to domestic migration – meaning over 9,000 Iowans left the state to live somewhere else.

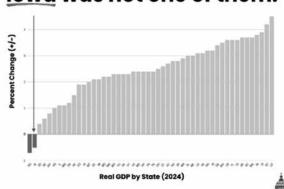
The Iowa Business Council cites Iowa's slow population growth as an impediment to the state's economic progress, while also noting Iowa's worsening healthcare delivery system as a factor. Iowa's national ranking for active primary care providers, obesity rate, percent of the population lacking health insurance, and wellbeing index have all fallen while the availability of mental health providers continues to stagnate as Iowa ranks 43rd in the country.

Finally, the percentage of Iowa children eligible for free or reduced price lunch rose between the 2023-2024 school year the 2024-2025 school year. More than 42% of Iowa's public school students now qualify, indicating a growing number of Iowa families in need of economic support.

Contributing to all these worsening economic markers is the constant presence of mass layoffs around the state. Just this week, Whirlpool announced it was laying off one-third of its workforce in Amana. The end of March saw the 16th round of layoffs at John Deere facilities in Iowa, and layoffs at Collins Aerospace in Cedar Rapids go into effect this month, affecting another 160 Iowa families. We can hardly go a week without another mass layoff notice in our communities.

All of these indicators

Last year, real GDP increased in 48 states. lowa was not one of them.



munities and to the Legislature. Where Iowa's economy hasn't stalled, it's regressed. Under Republican control, the Legislature has not done enough to decrease the burden for Iowa workers, to lower costs for Iowa families, or to improve the lives of our constituents.

Something has to change. **Quick Updates**

• Healthcare for Firefighters: HF 969, a bill to expand healthcare for firefighters and other first responders to include all types of cancer, advanced through the Senate State Government Committee this week. The bill was passed unanimously in the House and is now eligible for a vote on the Senate floor. Senate Democrats enthusiastically support this bill. Our first responders put their lives on the line for our benefit and they deserve healthcare that respects their sacrifice.

• Subject to Confirmation: A responsibility afforded to the Iowa Senate is the confirmation of certain appointments made by the governor. The governor submits a list of appointees that fall under the Senate's purview and each appointee is referred to a specific committee where they are reviewed. Confirmation of each appointment submitted to the Senate requires the approval of two-thirds of the members of the Senate. This process has begun and will continue through the first

couple weeks of April. More layoffs for Iowa can hardly go a week without hearing about another round of layoffs in our communities. Whirlpool announced this week it would be laying off 651 workers - roughly one third of the workforce at their Amana facility. The layoffs are a significant hit to the small community and, after years of benefit cuts, these workers will now navigate a complex and unfriendly unemployment process. Working Iowans deserve better protections. The Legislature should restore unemployment benefits and address the bureaucratic hurdles in the unemployment process to better serve impacted Io-

wans. • Pick a license plate: Iowans can now vote for a new education license plate online. The designs feature artwork from 16 student semifinalists from across the state. A committee representing art teachers from across the state reviewed and selected the semifinalists from over 100 qualified designs. You can access the online voting form to select their top three overall favorite designs. The winning design will be announced at the end of the school year and will tentatively go into production this summer. All semifinalist and finalist art designs will be permanently displayed at the Grimes State Office Building.

• Graduation Rate Rises: Iowa's high school graduation rate climbed to 88.3% for the class of 2024, marking a 0.8 percentage point increase from the previous year. This is the first time since 2020 that the state's graduation rate has returned to pre-pandemic levels, matching the rate last seen in 2019. In total, 34,158 students earned their diplomas this year, reflecting continued progress in education across the state. More information on Iowa's graduation rates, including rates by school district, are available on the Department of Education's Graduation Rates and Dropout Rates webpage.

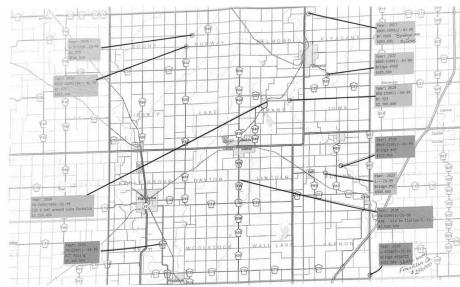
• A Thank You to Public Safety Telecommunicators: April is National 911 Education Month and next week is National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week. We want to take a moment to thank our public safety telecommunicators. They are often the first point of contact for the public in emergencies, and they handle people's worst days around the clock, seven days a week. Please take a moment to check out their cru-

cial work. Hail Damage: storms can cause significant damage to homes, vehicles, and other property, leading to costly repairs. Understanding how to handle an insurance claim after a hailstorm can make the process smoother, and taking preventative measures can help mitigate future damage and reduce potential losses. Learn more about handling hail damage claims here.

• IEC webinar series: The Iowa Environmental Council has launched a new four-part webinar series focusing on climate change, resiliency, and disaster preparedness in Iowa. Free and open to the public, the series starts April 23, from 12:00-1:00 p.m., with a conversation about the relationship between climate and agriculture. Participants will learn about Iowa's agricultural landscape and how climate change impacts farms and fields



County Lays Out Million Dollar Five-Year Roads and Bridges Plan



(Photo: Provided by Wright County Board of Supervisors/Designed by Wright County Engineer Office)

April 7, 2025 -Wright County Engineer Adam Clemons shared the county's 2026-2029 Second Roads Program Roads Schedule during Monday's Board Supervisors meeting, detailing more than \$10 million in infrastructure upgrades, including bridge replacements and roadway repaving.

Clemons, who presented a full map of the projects, down broke annual priorities with an emphasis on both state and federally funded projects.

2026 Projects

• C25 and R45 Repaying (Around Lake Cornelia) Estimated at \$2.25 million, this major resurfacing project will be funded through FM (Farm-to-Market) dollars. "We're repaving that area with funds that come from road use taxes," Clemons explained.

Bridge

Corner Bridge' 'Four With \$900,000 in federal aid already approved, the county may expand from a double to a triple box culvert during the design phase.

2027 Projects

• Bridge 52 (East of Galt) Estimated at \$300,000, this bridge will replace an older structure that no longer meets DOT size thresholds for culverts.

Bridge 155A (North of Belmond) curved-span bridge requiring special design, it's estimated at \$950,000.

• Bridge 109 (Southeast of Belmond off R65) Replacement costs are expected to reach \$420,000. 2028 Projects

• County K Repaving (South of Clarion) \$2.5 This million resurfacing will also use FM funds. "That's FM dollars coming from the state from road use tax," said Clemons.

• Bridge 49 (South of Rowan, East of Galt) Estimated at \$420,000, it continues the county's focus on renewing aging rural bridges.

2029 Projects

Norway Township Bridge \$540,000 A projected replacement in rural Wright County.

• Lake Blacktop Project A shared project with Franklin County, this \$2.1 million resurfacing will see Wright County contribute \$250,000 since it sits on the county line.

R27 (Southeast of Eagle Grove) One of the county's largest undertakings, this 7.9-mile stretch carries an estimated price tag of \$4.2 million.

All project costs may be subject to revision as final bids are received and engineering assessments continue.

Wright County Proclaims April as Child Abuse Prevention Month

Amanda Rink, Editor

April 7, 2025 - Wright County has officially proclaimed April as National Child Abuse Month the most recent Board of Supervisors meeting, reinforcing commitment to ensuring every child grows up safe, supported, and free from harm.

Wesselink, Angela Parent Coordinator for the **Building Families Program** in Hamilton, Humboldt, and Wright Counties, presented the proclamation request to the Wright County Board of Supervisors on Monday, April 7. "It is cheaper to raise a healthy child than fix a broken adult," she told the board.

Wesselink laid out the

and the proclamation importance of Positive Childhood Experiences, like stable relationships and supportive caregivers, which can counteract the impact Childhood Experiences like abuse or neglect. proclamation also highlights the need for collaboration across county sectors. "Statistics show 1 in

experience abuse neglect," Wesselink shared with The Wright County Monitor. But only 15% of the \$33 billion spent on child welfare is allocated prevention. Shifting focus toward proactive support, like affordable childcare, financial stability, and community-

7 children in the U.S.

based resources, can create lasting change according to the Parent Coordinator.

Local programs like Building Families, Parent Connection, and HOPES voluntary resources to help families parenting, manage child development, economic hardship, and health concerns. These evidence-based initiatives reflect Wright County's investment in prevention and hope for a brighter future for families.

For more information, contact: Building Families at (515) 602-6371 ext 1, Wright County HOPES and Early Head Start at (515) 532-346, or Parent Connection at (515) 293-





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Church news

CLARION AREA

CLARION FIRST METHODIST CHURCH 201 3rd Ave. NE. Clarion, IA

50525 Pastor Craig Luttrell 515-532-2845 website: www.clarion.church Church Office

Hours: Monday - Thursday 8:00

a.m. - Noon • Sunday, April 13

Palm Sunday 8:45 - 9:45 a.m. Breakfast served by the Youth Group, Free

will donation 9:30 a.m. Sunday School for all

10:00 a.m. Worship Service

 Sunday, April 20 Easter Sunday 8:30 a.m. Worship Service No Sunday School

10:00 a.m. Worship Service Sunday, April 27 9:00 a.m. Sunday School for all

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

• 9:00 a.m. Sunday Worship Services

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, CONGREGATIONAL

121 3rd Avenue N.W., Clarion Sunday, April 13 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 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 Wednesday, April 9

Youth Faith Formation 7:40 a.m. Rosary at St. Francis, 8:00 a.m. Mass at St. Francis,

Belmond 6:30 p.m. Adoration at St. John,

Sacred Heart and St. Francis

• Thursday, April 10 8:00 a.m. Sewing at St. John, Clarion

5:30 p.m. Stations, Soup Supper at Sacred Heart, Eagle Grove 5:30 p.m. Stations, Soup Supper at St. John, Clarion and St.

Francis, Belmond 6:30 p.m. CFFC at St. John, Clarion

• Friday, April 11 7:40 a.m. Rosary at St. John,

Clarion 8:00 a.m. Mass at St. John,

Clarion 7:30 p.m. Via Crucis at St. John, Clarion

· Saturday, April 12 Palm Sunday

4:00 p.m. Mass at St. John, Clarion

8:00 p.m. Spanish Mass, St. John, Clarion

• Sunday, April 13 Palm Sunday

8:00 a.m. Mass at Francis, Belmond

9:00 a.m. KC omelet Breakfast at St. Francis, Belmond 10:30 a.m. Mass at Sacred Heart, Eagle Grove

UNITED PRESBYTERIAN

CHURCH 219 First Street N.W. Clarion

515-532-2709

• Sunday 9:00 a.m.

• Sunday 10:30 a.m. Adult

Sunday School Class • Wednesdays 6:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study

• Saturdays 8:00 a.m. Men's

THE LIGHTHOUSE CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE

Dana Wendel, Pastor 1010 2nd Street SW; Clarion 515-293-3003 FREE Dinner will be on the first Sunday of the month.

 Sunday 9:30 a.m. Coffee Time 9:45 a.m. Sunday School

10:45 a.m. Worship Tuesday

11:00 a.m. Prayer Time Iglesia del Nazareno 6:00 p.m. Sabado

6:00 p.m. Domingo Lay Minister Mynor 515-851-9699 Bienvenidos

GOLDFIELD AREA

Rejoice Church: A Word and Spirit Church

Pastors Cris and Jennifer Decious Sunday worship 10:30 am www.Rejoicechurchiowa.com or watch us on facebook NEW LOCATION! We will

begin IN PERSON WORSHIP services starting on DECEMBER 1, 2024 in our home worship room at 3320 210th St. Goldfield,

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, April 13 10:00 a.m. Worship Service and Fellowship Coffee in the Fellowship Room.

GOLDFIELD UNITED

No Sunday School

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, April 13

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 $(1^{st} - 6^{th} \text{ grades} - \text{during})$ school year)

 Sundays 9:30 a.m. Worship, 10:30 a.m. Coffee Fellowship

IMMANUEL U.C.C. 204 E. South St., Latimer

• Sunday, April 13 10:30 a.m. Worship **ROWAN AREA**

ROWAN Pastor Nancy Hofmeister

UNITED CHURCH OF

WRIGHT CHRISTIAN

REFORMED CHURCH

641-762-3947

Worship

• Sunday, April 13

1730 130th Street, Kanawha

9:30 a.m. Morning Worship,

10:30 a.m. Fellowship, 11 a.m.

Sunday School, 6 p.m. Evening

811 Pesch St., Box 38, Rowan

 Sundays 10:00 a.m. Worship

 Sunday, April 13 Palm Sunday Sunday April 20

7:00 a.m. Easter Sunrise Service followed by breakfast 10:00 a.m. Easter Worship

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Missouri Synod Jct. Highway 69 & 3 Pastor Mark Eichler Sunday, April 13

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, April 13 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, April 13 9:00 a.m. Conf/SS/Coffee

Sing • Thursday, April 17 6:30 p.m. Maundy Thursday Worship/Communion

10:00 a.m. Worship, SS will

 Friday, April 18 6:30 p.m. Good Friday Worship

 Sunday, April 20 8:00 a.m. Easter Breakfast 9:00 a.m. Easter Worship with Communion

UNITED METHODIST & PRESBYTERIAN

 Sunday, April 13 10 a.m. Dows Joint Worship at Untied Methodist

FIRST REFORMED

214 Brown St., Alexander

Joe Dunnwald

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN 304 W. Main, Latimer

Travis Berg, Pastor • Sunday, April 13 9 a.m. Worship, 10:15 a.m. ABC/Sunday School

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Morgan, Lee Center, Bradford Erling Shultz, Pastor

• Sunday, April 13 8:30 a.m. Worship (B), 9:30 a.m. Worship (LC), 10:30 a.m. Worship (M)

MISSIONARY ALLIANCE CHURCH

3rd & Lake Streets, Blairsburg, IA 50034

Sundays

8:45 - 9:45 a.m. Café is open serving donuts, smoothies and coffee beverages

9:00 a.m. Adult Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Worship Service 10:00 a.m. Nursery available for children up to age 2 10:00 a.m. Kids Church for

children 2 years to grade 5 Wednesday 5:45 - 6:15 p.m. Café Open 6:30 p.m. Youth

6:30 p.m. Kids Club for

children grades 1-5

NAZARETH LUTHERAN

Coulter Pastors Tom Dettmer and Stanley

Peterson • Sunday, April 13 9:30a.m. Joint Sunday Worship Service with Holy Communion,

Coffee to follow • Dinner is the first Sunday of the month



DUNCEME

Welcoming, OUR COMMUNITY'S **NEW ARRIVALS!**

Baby Boy

Jeffrey and Amanda Spencer of Goldfield, IA would like to announce the birth of their son Lawrence Carl Spencer. He was born Wednesday, April 2, 2025 at the Iowa Specialty Hospital in Clarion, IA. He weighed 7 pounds 10 ounces. He joins his siblings: Amelia (9) and Eliza (3). Proud Grandparents are: Cari and Joan Thurn of Dows, IA and Alan and Kim Spencer of Clarion, IA.

Baby Girl Miranda and Jake Kliven would like to announce the birth of their daughter Amilyah Kliven. She was born Monday, March 31, 2025 at the Iowa Specialty Hospital in Clarion, IA. She weighed 7 pounds 13 ounces. Proud Grandparents are: Kim and Dale Kliven.

The Clarion Wire

** "Easy Going Senior Exercises" at the Clarion Senior Citizens Center every Monday and Thursday afternoon, beginning at 1:30

** "IRON MEN" meet at the Clarion Church of Christ, every Tuesday a.m. at 6! Join them as your schedule allows - 420 North Main.

"BRÜ BBQ INVA-SION" It's a PRE-ORDER EVENT where "Whatcha Smokin?" from Luther Iowa will deliver orders to the The Brü in Clarion on Friday, April 11. Deliveries can be picked up, for dinein, or carry-out, between 5 - 6 p.m. Pre-order at https:// www.whatchasmokinbbq. com/bbq-invasions

** Breath of My Beloved Ministries is hosting a Women's Night of Worship on Saturday, April 12 @ 6:30 pm, 1204 Central Avenue East-Clarion. More information on the event can be found at Breath of My Beloved Ministries Facebook page.

** Dows American Legion's FISH FRY evening on Saturday, April 12!

** Help the M & Ms make \$ to give away pool passes in 2025 - Community Impact Night at Pizza Ranch on Monday, April 14 from 5 - 7:30 p.m. Dine in or carry out! (Second of two nights!

** Know of a family who could use a family pool pass for the upcoming summer season, contact Karen Weld at karenweld@outlook.com.

** Clarion's Senior Citizens Center, Play '500 cards', the first and third Wednesdays of each month. Next one is on Wednesday, April 16 from 1:30 - 3:30 p.m. ** Clarion VFW hosts a

GOOD FRIDAY FISH FRY on April 18 at Heartland Museum!! Serving from 5 - 7 p.m. Tickets adults \$12; children - \$5; and under 5 are FREE! ** For Easter weekend,

mark your calendars for the

movie 'KING OF KINGS"! It's coming to the Clarion Theater! ** Easter is coming! So is the annual EASTER EGG HUNT - Saturday, April 19

at 10 a.m. Tornado Park! ** Rowan's EASTER EGG HUNT is Saturday, April

19 at 10 a.m. Playground on Main Street. For kids up to sixth grade! Add candy? Drop off at the Rowan

Church or Library! ** Easter Brunch Buffet at Clarmond on Sunday, April 20;serving from 10 a.m.- 1 p.m. Currently taking reservations. Open to the public.

Call or text 515-532-2911. ** "Bingo at the BRU" the 4th of each Tuesday. Next one is Tuesday, April 22 at 6 p.m. \$20 for 3 cards and 10 rounds of Bingo; \$ for community fundraising!

** First Lutheran Church FOOD PANTRY in Clarion, 420 - First Street N.W., is open on the second and fourth Thursdays of each month, from 5 - 7 p.m. Next event is April 24!

Next "MEET AND EAT", community meal at the Clarion Church of Christ, 420 North Main, is Wednesday, April 30 at 6

** Beginning next month: 2025 Farmers' Markets in Clarion; west side of Courthouse Square beginning weekly on Saturday, May 26 from 9 - 11 a.m. Always looking for new vendors - \$3 for each week or 11 punch care for \$20. For information, contact Billie at 515-851-0567. Garden produce; crafts; whatever you can think of selling!!

** Congratulations to Rhonda Benton for her halfpage story (page 50) in the April/May issue of OUR IOWA magazine! If you have story ideas, old family photos, recipes, cute things children say, send them to karenweld@outlook.com.

** AT THE CLARION THEATRE: Showing "A Minecraft Movie"(PG) on Friday - Sunday, April 11 -13 @ 7 p.m.; Sunday matinee, April 13 @ 2:30 p.m. (2nd of 2 weeks!)

**FOCU\$ ON BU\$INE\$\$: Congratulations to Ali and the crew at Italics Boutique for her successful spring style show. And to Ali for hosting her 10th style!!

** THANK YOU: To all the leadership involved in making Clarion's DOG PARK a reality! Improvements and additions continue. The group continues to raise \$ for them - mail contributions to Box 6, Clarion 50525!

Bridgestone



HANSON & SONS Call Call us to Call us to Call us to **Nicolle Miller** 1407 Central Ave. East advertise advertise advertise Clarion, IA 50525 515-293-2329 920 Central Ave E Phone 515-532-2444 532-2871 to advertise! 532-2871 532-2871 Clarion Fax 515-532-2299 www.hansontire.net 515-532-2425 Fmail: www.mywrightchoice.com che hanson72@vahoo.com Call us to Call Call us to Nicolle Miller advertise MALLOY advertise 515-293-2329 532-2871 532-2871 Goldfield, IA to advertise! 204 E. Broadway St. **First Citizens Bank** 50542 Eagle Grove, IA. myfcb.bank 6 Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight. ??? Proverbs 3:5-6 NIV 515.825.3181 CLARION THRIFTY Office: Office: Office: What If? CENTER WHITE What if all works out? What if everything is destined to work out for the best? We often fret over minor inconveniences that, in the long run, make no difference or even work out for the best. Instead of complaining about the many things that don't work perfectly or don't fall into your plans, why not consider that there may be a larger plan at work here, and even if you don't immediately see what that plan is, it's usually best to go with the flow and try to make your plans fit in with the new developments, whatever they may be. There are examples of this virtually every day. An unplanned tetour or simply getting lost can oftentimes lead to unexpected discoveries. The many things that break or fail to function properly give us the opportunity to get rid of stuff we don't really need or to find something better. Even accidents and illnesses can sometimes lead to better outcomes. Vigor grows through a wound and heartbreak is often the thing which keeps us coming back to God. -Christopher Simon (563) 864-3333 (563) 864-3333 FIRST (563) 864-3333 PHARMACY Cell: Cell: BANK Cell: (563) 605-1078 210 North Main • Clarion 515-532-2893 (563) 605-1078 (563) 605-1078 www.firstiowa.bank Membe 515-532-6626 110 13th Avenue SW Laura Phillips Clarion, Iowa 50525 Pharmacy Manager **Stevenson Insurance** Office: Office: Services (563) 864-3333 ABENS-MARTY-CURRAN AGENCY (563) 864-3333 -Christopher Simon Cell: Cell: (563) 605-1078 (563) 605-1078 Goldfield 515-825-3476

Words of Wisdom

Last week's trivia questions: What singer's greatest hit songs include "Tiny Dancer", "Rocket Man", and "Goodbye Yellow Brick Road"? Answer: Elton John.

What singer's greatest hit songs include "You May Be Right", "Piano Man", and "It's Still Rock and Roll to Me"? Answer: Billy Joel.



What singer's greatest hit songs include "Don't Come Around Here No More", "Runnin' Down a Dream", and "The Waiting (Is the Hardest Part)"? What singer's greatest hit songs include "R.O.C.K. in the U.S.A.", "Pink Houses", and "Jack and Diane"?

April 9 is Education and Sharing Day; April 10 is Golfer's Day, National Siblings Day, and National Farm Animals Day; April 11 is National Pet Day; April 12 is National Grilled Cheese Sandwich Day; April 13 is Palm Sunday; April 14 is Air Force Reserve Birthday, National Dolphin Day, and National Gardening Day; April 15 is National Anime Day, Tax Day, and World Art Day.

This Week is National Library Week, and National Public Health Week.

Rodney Dangerfield jokes "I was such an ugly kid... when I played in the sandbox, the cat kept covering me up." "When I was a kid I got no respect. I had no

friends. I remember the see-saw. I had to keep runnin' from one end to the other." "I was ugly, very ugly. When I was born, the doctor smacked my mother."

"I asked my old man if I could go ice-skating on the lake. He told me, 'Wait til it gets warmer.'

"My wife is always trying to get rid of me. Last night she told me to put the garbage out. I told her I already did. She told me to go keep an eye on it." "My wife's a lousy cook. After dinner, I don't brush my teeth. I count them."

"My wife met me at the door the other night in a sexy negligee. Unfortunately, she was just coming home.

"Boy, is my wife stupid! It takes her an hour and a half to watch 60 minutes."

Some tarantulas have been known to survive for up to 2 years without food. (However, the spider will dehydrate in about a week without any water or moisture.)

There are approximately 2.5 million times as many ants on the earth as there are people.

Auditions For Little Shop Of Horrors Coming Soon To Wcct



Get ready to "feed" your love for theatre — Webster City Community Theatre is excited to announce auditions for the cult classic musical Little Shop of Horrors! This beloved dark comedy, brimming with catchy tunes, quirky characters, and a whole lot of fun, is coming to the WCCT stage July 10-20. Auditions will be held May 4 and 5, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. at 1001 Wilson Avenue, Webster City.

Auditions are open to high school students and adults, and performers of all experience levels are encouraged to audition. The audition process will include learning a brief dance routine, singing selections from the show, and performing cold readings from the script. If you'd like to review the musical cuts being used for auditions or a character description list, please email wcctcasting@ gmail.com for a link to the materials.

production This is under the direction of Anne Blankenship, with Oliver serving Kerryn as the music director, Lindsay Henderson as choreographer, and Katie Hildal production as coordinator. The story

Welcome to Mushnik's Skid Row Flower Shop, where Seymour Krelborn, a meek and nerdy floral assistant, dreams of escaping his grim surroundings and winning the heart of his coworker, Audrey. Seymour discovers a unique plant, which changes his life. He names the plant Audrey II. Audrey II is hungry, and what it craves might just put the entire city at risk. With catchy tunes like "Suddenly, Seymour" and "Feed Me," this dark comedy blends humor, thrills, and heart into an unforgettable musical experience.

For more information, contact wcctcasting@ gmail.com.

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

Monitor Memories

FROM THE ARCHIVES OF THE WRIGHT COUNTY MONITOR 1983 - 1948

42 Years Ago **April 14, 1983**

It's likely that Clarion Senior High School will have a new gymnasium floor before school opens this coming fall. The Clarion Community School Board took action on that matter Monday after listening to two authorities on gymnasium floors. The existing floor is in bad shape because of moisture vapors that have seeped from below.

Persons wishing to open their homes to RAGBRAI riders on the night of July 27 are asked to contact the Clarion Area Chamber of Commerce. Many riders prefer to stay in homes in the host towns along the route. The Chamber has received many letters already requesting housing Chamber reservations. secretary Karen Weld told the Monitor that several riders have already been placed in homes for that night, but more houses are needed.

The toughest foe that the Clarion Cowgirls track team has had to face so far this season has not come on a track, but from the skies, as the wet spring weather has continually given Coach Dan Ray and his runners fits of frustration.

77 Years Ago **April 8, 1948**

March was a month of great extremes and contrasts in the weather line, according to a summary of the daily reports as furnished The Monitor by George Reeder, local observer of the Weather Bureau. The mercury took a dive to 26 below March 11, and then zoomed upward to 72 just two weeks later.

Mrs. Harvey Johnson was very much surprised Tuesday morning when she received a box from Hawaii containing flowers honor of her birthday. The flowers, a Bird of Paradise and five Anthuriums, grow in profusion on the islands. They were sent air mail and were only two days enroute, arriving her in perfect condition. They were the gift of her son and daughter-in-law, Lieut. and Mrs. Harold Johnson.

Clarion high school musicians were given one first and three seconds out of five entries in the preliminary music contest held at Dows Saturday. The first went to Marjery Delano in the oboe solo event. The seconds went to Carolyn Samson in alto clarinet solo, Don Goslin in tuba solo, and Margaret Telford in bell lyre solo.

Clarion Spring Market to bring over 30 small businesses together on April 10th

Downtown event promises exclusive deals, fresh finds and a unique shopping experience.

Clarion Development Alliance is excited to announce the Clarion Spring Market on April 10th from 4-7pm in downtown Clarion. This reimagined version of the traditional "Ladies Night Out" invites everyone from the community to join in on the fun and support the small businesses that make our community unique.

With over participating businesses, the spring market promises a one-of-a-kind shopping experience filled with exclusive deals, fresh new inventory and unique vendors to increase the fun. Each retailer will host at least one additional vendor, giving shoppers even more variety and new products to explore.

In addition to extending retail hours and vendors, Lucky Wife Wine

Slushies will be on Main Street for the duration of the event offering a refreshing treat. Whether you're looking to freshen up your wardrobe, find the perfect gift or simply want to enjoy a night out with friends, Clarion is the place to be. "The retailers wanted

to take the idea of Ladies Night Out and make it even bigger and more inclusive," said Sam Stumpf. "This event is about celebrating unique businesses we have, whether they are brick and mortar or in-home businesses and giving the community a reason to get together and support downtown."

For updates vendors, promotions and follow more, Clarion Development Alliance on Facebook.





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P.O. Box 111 Clarion, Iowa 50525 Telemone (515) 532 3821 (1) vapor Ent. 1870 (670) 532-2821 Extra de (515) 532-2450 Gwartz Tou, Tritt. (800) 923-2536



Obituaries

John H. Meyers 1937 - 2025

John H. Meyers, 87, of Dows, passed away on Friday, March 28, 2025 at home in Dows.

Memorial services were held at 11:00 AM on Saturday, April 5, 2025 at Ewing Funeral Home, 111 Luick's Lane South in Belmond.

Visitation was held one hour prior to services on Saturday at the funeral home.

John Henry, son of Raymond and Edna (Rife) Meyers, was born on May 25, 1937 in Franklin County, Pennsylvania. John was one of 10 children. He grew up in Pennsylvania until he was 13. He moved to Iowa to help his brothers on the farm for a short while before returning to Pennsylvania to help at home until he was 16. At 16 years old, John moved to Iowa. John enlisted in the Army National Guard. He served for 8 years before being honorably discharged as Staff Sargent.

On May 28, 1961, John was united in marriage to Catherine Wright. They made their home in Dallas Center where John worked for a local farmer for several years before moving to Dows where he worked for a local farmer and then on his own farm there. They eventually moved to Charles City raising hogs for a few years then moved back to the Dows area. He continued farming and working for local elevators until his retirement.

Over the years, John and Catherine enjoyed going to dances where they'd dance to old country music. After John retired, he enjoyed helping others with handyman projects. The last project he worked on was a house built in the 1900s in Dows. John was happiest when he was working! He enjoyed being with his family and would



be right in the action if there was a ball game, volleyball or dominos or card game going on.

John is survived by his wife Catherine Meyers of Dows; 5 children Cynthia (Wade) Childs of Charles City, Raymond Meyers of Dows, Donald (Dawn) Meyers of Webster City, Merry (Dave) Wiedow of West Union, and Julie Meyers (Rod Peterson) Humboldt; of grandchildren Elizabeth (Childs) Schaefer, Isaac Childs, Jeremiah Tacker, Lucas Tacker, Aaron Tacker, Joshua Meyers, Ciara Meyers, Ashley (Meyers) Crandall, Andrew Meyers, Anthony Meyers, Christopher Stover, Scott Stover, Terry Stover, James Claude, Nicole (Claude) Overland, Katie (Claude) Huff, Preston Peterson, Spencer Peterson, and Curtis Peterson; 41 greatbrother grandchildren; and sisters-in-law David (Joann) Meyers and Mary Meyers; and many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents; 8 siblings and in-laws Reuben (Ruth), Robert (Betty), Janet (John), Roy (Ada), Marty, Dan (Donna), Tom (Doris), and Mildred (Irvin).

www.ewingfh.com Ewing Funeral Home 1801 Central Avenue East Clarion, Iowa 50525 515-532-2233

April DAR Meeting

The Lucy Standish Newcastle Daughters of the American Revolution met April 3rd at the Pizza Ranch in Clarion at 1:;00 A.M.. Delicious Desert Pizza's were enjoyed. The meeting was called to order by Regent Daleen Schlitter. Five members recited the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag followed by the American's Creed. A total of 510 hours of volunteer service to their communities over the winter months. The minutes of the December meeting were approved as read. The treasurers report was accepted. No outstanding bills. Dues to both the State and National have been sent.

The National DAR treasurer sent a Thank You for our support of their projects. Andrea Crowl read the Defense Report about our present military Iris service records. Eriksen reported on Sauk Chief Black Hawk, the length of the battles of the Black Hawk War. Until Afghanistan, it was the longest conflict of the United States . Both Abraham Lincoln and Jefferson Davis took part in it at some time. President Andrew Jackson wished to move all the native tribes to west of the Mississippi River. There was then a

discussion about merging with another DAR chapter of disbanding.

Unfortunately, many of our present members live out of state and cannot attend meetings. So our active members do not often constitute a quorum. Regent Schlitter has asked State DAR for the proper procedures for Disbanding. A year's grace for this must be met, as well as proper papers Then members filed. could join another chapter, or become members at large. Dues for members at large are \$62 per year at this time. The Fort Dodge Chapter has already disbanded for lack of active members. Scholarships at graduation will be awarded in both Webster City and Belmond.

The meeting was closed with the Daughters Pledge. There will be no May meeting. Regent Schlitter having shoulder replacement surgery. Members will be notified about a June meeting.

The program was given by Dalene Schlitter . The Military Women's Memorial. in Washington It was founded in DC. 1985.

Respectively submitted. Secretary, Iris Eriksen.

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.

The View From Here

Senator Dennis Guth, R-Klemme

This week was the twelfth of the 2025 session. The expected last day of the session will be May 2, so time is growing short. April 4 was our second funnel date, or deadline, so we didn't debate on the floor, but spent our time in committees working on bills that the House sent to

One of those bills was HF 639, which is a bill that would increase the insurance protections for properties subjected to CO2 pipelines, improve guidelines for the IUC, strengthen the definition of a common carrier, and limit the permit time of a CO2 pipeline. The bill went to the Senate Commerce Committee, where it was amended. There are some good items in the amended bill such as: the bill includes additional requirements for Iowa Utilities Commission (IUC) members, such as requiring at least one member attends public informational meetings and pausing those meetings if that member leaves for any reason. It also requires a majority of IUC members be present for any hearing, including hearings on requests for eminent domain, provides for landowners to recover any damages caused by a project, implements additional protections for crop loss and soil restoration, and includes indemnification requirements to protect landowners and hold

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them harmless from damage throughout the life of a project. Additionally, the bill requires quicker decisions by the IUC and expands the use of voluntary easements, allowing companies to go off a planned path for a project and find landowners who are willing to work with them.

The landowners that have spoken to me are not happy at all with this new version, and neither am I. I will continue working to protect the property rights of landowners when they are threatened with eminent domain. It is way past time for the Senate to step up like the House has.

Two bills I ran in the State Government Committee created a compact with other states to make it easier for a dietitian or respiratory therapist to cross state lines without having to get a license in every state they operate in. HF 532 (dietitians) and HF 547 (respiratory therapists) were requested by professionals with military spouses that travel around the country a lot. I think these compacts make good sense for Iowa.

Senate File 575, the governor's rural health care bill, aims to coordinate and expand programs addressing health care workforce needs in our state. It designates \$10 million to the Health Care Professional Incentive Program to help identify high demand, health sector jobs in communities and coun-

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ties across the state. It also utilizes partnerships with Iowa hospitals to add an estimated 115 new residency slots at Iowa's 14 teaching hospitals. When fully implemented over four years, we anticipate 460 projected new physicians being trained through the residency program.

I helped pass HF 887 out of committee Thursday. It repeals the requirement for a Certificate of Need before a birth center can be established. A Certificate of Need is like a noncompete contract with local hospitals and clinics. With fewer and fewer health care facilities providing birthing services, it makes sense to remove restrictions on their establishment.

I heard Riley Gains speak in Hampton on April 3. She is an accomplished speaker with a very compelling story to tell. She made me proud to be part of the legislature that removed gender identity from our civil rights code.

In Ezekiel 22:30 God told Ezekiel:

I searched for a man among them who should build up the wall and stand in the gap before Me for the land, that I should not destroy it, but I found no one.

May God bless Riley and raise up many to stand in the gap in Iowa.

I expect my final town hall meeting to be Saturday, April 19th at Central College in Webster City at

MOVING SALE 1318 Sunset Drive, Hampton Friday, April 11 10 – 4

Saturday, \bar{A} pril 12 10 – 2 (1/2 Price Day)

collectibles, Antiques, Uranium glass, Red Wing Cooler, China Water Cupboards, MCM bedroom set, dolls, Cranberry glass, and outside furniture/yard

The Thompson Times

Representative Mark Thompson, House District 56

We have completed the second funnel which is a self-imposed deadline designed to keep the legislature on track. This deadline mandates that any bill sent from the Senate to the House must have cleared Committee and be prepared for floor debate if it is to be considered still alive and moving forward.

Simplified Bullying Law Moves Ahead in Senate

It has been 18 years since the original bill on bullying passed the Legislature.

HF 865 focuses on behavior over identity and applies the same standard to all children. Under the bill, that definition would read:

Harassment bullying shall be construed to mean any repeated and targeted electronic, written, verbal or physical act or conduct toward a student that creates an objectively hostile school environment that meets one or more of the following conditions:

(1) Places the student in reasonable fear of harm to the student's person or property.

(2) Has a substantially detrimental effect on the student's physical or mental health.

(3) Has the effect of substantially interfering with a student's academic performance.

(4) Has the effect of substantially interfering with the student's ability to participate in or

benefit from services, activities, or privileges provided by a school.

The bill awaits final approval on the Senate floor.

Bill Property Tax Updates

This session, we have introduced several bills for consideration, from slight tweaks to major reforms to the system. These bills serve as a starting point to kickstart a broad conversation about property tax reform. We've made it very clear that we are not looking to rush these bills through but are giving time for Iowans and interest groups to weigh in on how these changes would affect them or their members. We are relying on the feedback we receive from Iowans. The main bill that has been garnering the most attention because it would be a big overhaul of

the property tax system is HSB 313. Here's a general overview of what the bill does in its current form:

• Implements a revenue restriction to ensure property tax relief for all Iowans

• Provides a \$25k homestead benefit

Brings additional property tax relief to Iowa veterans and seniors.

 Lowers the uniform levy as it phases out the rollback system for residential, commercial, and industrial property over five years. This rollback system was enacted in 1977 and currently results in a lack of predictability for local governments, among other issues.

Altogether, this bill is estimated to provides \$426 million in property tax relief. Based on the feedback we hear from Iowans, the current system is disliked by both taxpayers and taxing entities. However, we do want to make sure we are taking our time to understand the full impacts of the legislation.

bills Other we've introduced on property taxes include:

• HSB 304 calculates property taxes on a per parcel basis with a 3% limitation. This solution would effectively provide certainty for property taxpayers.

• HSB 303 uses the interest from the taxpayer relief fund to buy down property taxes.

• HF 600 puts a cap of 2% on the average levy rate per \$1000 but permits local government to go higher with a 60% vote of the people.

• HF 418 modifies the process for determining the actual value of residential property, assessment certain limitations of classes of property, and certain levy rate limitations.

Iowa Ranks 4th in Best States to Practice Medicine

Recently, Wallet Hub came out with their rankings of all 50 states and DC for best states for doctors to practice. This ranking looked across 19 metrics for every state and ranked Iowa the 4th best state to practice medicine in the country. This high ranking is consistent with many other rankings that show Iowa has a strong health care foundation:

1st – Lowest Healthcare Costs (WalletHub, 2024)

4th - Best Healthcare System (WalletHub, 2024)

We continue to work on ways to recruit and retain health care workforce to all parts of Iowa with the House passing House File 310, House File 516, House File 972, House File 300, and many more this session.

House Ways & Means Committee Approves Two Anaerobic Digester System Measures

Science has come a long way; we now have the potential to glean energy from manure. This past week, the Iowa House Ways and Means Committee approved HSB 322 which proposes a new Code chapter.

Significant Judiciary Bills Survive the Second Funnel

HF 864/HF 62- Obscene Material Online

HF 864 establishes civil liability for commercial entities that publish or on the internet if minors access that material. It requires these entities to verify the age of individuals attempting to access such content using reasonable methods. If they fail to do so, they can be held liable for damages and must cover court costs and attorney fees.

HJR /HSB 35-Constitutional Amendment- Right to Confront Accuser

HJR 9 is a proposal to change the Iowa Constitution. It aims to protect children under 18 and witnesses with mental illnesses or disabilities by allowing laws that limit an accused person's right to confront these witnesses face to face in court. If approved, this amendment would published and then sent to the next general assembly for further consideration before being put to a public vote. Changing the state constitution is done haphazardly, and this process ensures a methodical approach.

Governor Signs Four House Public Safety Bills HF 180/HSB22-Grooming

Individuals convicted of grooming, under current Iowa code, will be required to register as tier I sex offenders for a period of 10

HF 181/HSB 29- THC Open Container

House File 181 prohibits drivers and passengers from possessing open containers of beverages containing tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) in the passenger area of motor vehicles. The bill aligns with existing laws that restrict open containers of alcoholic beverages.

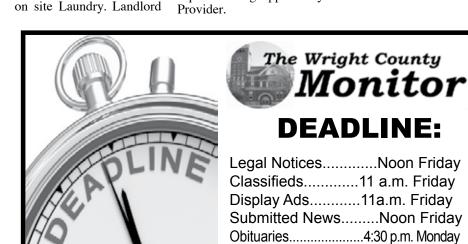
Assault Against Certain Professions

Senate File 397 increases penalties for assaults against certain occupations, including peace officers, correctional staff, juvenile detention staff, Department of Inspections Appeals and Licensing inspectors. increases the severity of penalties for assaults committed with intent to cause serious injury or using a dangerous weapon. The bill also includes provisions for assaults that result in contact with bodily fluids, such as saliva, and establishes a minimum seven-day sentence for certain offenses.

SF 22 House Passes Bill Limiting Use of Cell Phones in Motor Vehicles, Becomes Law

This new law requires a driver to use their cell phone in the hands-free mode when operating a motor vehicle. Under the new law, a driver could not have their phone in their hand while making a call or utilizing an app. The bill does provide some exceptions to the ban including public safety officials who are performing their official duties, health care professionals who are dealing with a health care emergency, and motorists who are reporting an emergency. This requirement will go into effect on July 1. Drivers who are found to be violating the law will be issued a warning for the first six months. Actual citations, which will be punishable with a \$100 fine, will not be issued until

January 1, 2026.









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Wright County United Kick Soccer Season

Taylor Smith,

Sports Editor

Last week, the Wright County United boys soccer team had three games in four days and began their season with a record of 1-1-1.

The boys were defeated 5-1 in their Tuesday night season opener against the Ballard Bombers. Freshman Cristian Lopez assisted Byron Tux Coc for United's lone goal, and senior goalkeeper Jose Alfaro

tallied seven saves in the

Wright County junior midfielders Byron Tux Coc and Anderson Diaz both found the back of the net in a Thursday night tie vs. Garner-Hayfield-Ventura. Tux Coc tied the match at 1-1 with a header in the 24^{th} minute, and Diaz scored in the 75th minute off of a penalty kick. Jose Alfaro had 11 saves in the 2-2 draw.

The boys would earn

their first win of the year in a Friday night matchup against Iowa Falls-Alden. Wright County scored two 1st half goals on their way to a 3-2 victory over the Cadets. Junior midfielder Angel Cortez led the team with three assists. Anderson Diaz, Ruben Guido, and Cristian Lopez all scored a goal apiece in the win, and Alfaro held it down on the defensive end with eight



Taylor Smith, Sports Editor

The Clarion-Goldfield-Dows boys golf team journeyed north to Garner Golf Course last Friday for a dual against the Garner-Hayfield-Ventura Cardinals. G-H-V's Quintin Formanek was the medalist

with a 40, and the Cardinals ran away with the 172-214 team win.

In Hancock County

Caleb Seaba was the Cowboys' top perfomer in Garner. The senior shot a 48 to tie for 5th place overall. Tristan Kakacek and Jacob Ruba placed 7th and 8th with scores of 52

and 53, respectively, while sophomore Adam Hodson shot a 61 for nine holes to bring C-G-D's team total to 214.

Freshman Teddy Yackle (64) and senior Owen Sweeney (66) also competed for the Cowboys.

Iowa Hunters Gearing Up For Spring Turkeys



Struttin'Their Stuff - A group of spring gobblers show off for a group of disinterested hens. Iowa's spring turkey season's kickoff with a special youth hunt beginning April 11. The state's regular four-part seasons begin April 14 and conclude May 18. Iowa hunters bagged a total of 16,051 birds during last year's spring seasons, with hunters managing to bag gobblers in each of the state's ninety-nine counties. (Photo by Lowell Washburn)

Lowell Washburn

Iowa's spring turkey seasons are just around the corner. Hunters are counting the minutes as Iowa woodlands are already rocking with the staccato daybreak gobbling of the state's most challenging gamebird. This year's turkey fest kicks off with a special youth hunt inning April 11. The first segment of the state's four-part regular hunting seasons begins April 14, and the spring hunts end with the conclusion of the

season's final segment on widespread, and the state's

Although wild turkey flocks are nonmigratory, they are highly mobile. Wildlife biologists note that preseason scouting can lead to increased success once hunters take to the woodlands. During recent years, preseason scouting has gained even importance Iowa turkey populations have shifted and, in some cases, have shown dramatic declines. But Iowa turkey populations remain

timbers continue to provide some of the nation's finest turkey hunting.

During the 2024 spring seasons, a total of 54,500 turkey hunting tags were issued with hunters harvesting 16,051 birds - well above the national hunter success average and a notable increase over Iowa's average harvest of

12,500 spring turkeys. Find additional turkey tales online at Washburn's Outdoor Journal iawildlife.org/blog/.

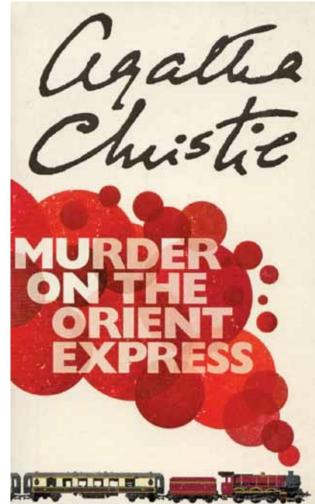
Readers Theatre

Readers Theatre at WCCT

Webster City Community Theatre has been a way for the organization to discover scripts that they might want to bring to the stage. Season after season, suggestions are made, scripts are read, and decisions are announced. One of those opportunities is scheduled for Sunday at 2 pm at 1001 Willson Avenue with the reading of "Agatha Christie's Murder on the Orient Express." Bring a snack to share and your own beverage.

Anyone interested in this informal reading of the script, adapted for the stage by Ken Ludwig, is encouraged to attend. Get familiar with the story and how the characters interact with each other. Visualize the set, props, and costumes. Imagine the lights and sounds. Then ask, "Is this a show that would fit the 2025-2026 season and do we have volunteers for the cast and crew?"

"Murder on the Orient xpress" is set in 1934 aboard the luxurious train as it travels from Istanbul to Western Europe. The train is stopped by a snow drift, trapping the passengers inside. One of the travelers is detective Hercule Poirot who finds his holiday interrupted by the murder of Samuel Ratchett, a wealthy American tycoon.



him multiple times in his compartment. With his deductive skills, Poirot must uncover the killer among the passengers before they kill again. Every passenger has their own secrets and alibis, making each of them a potential suspect. The plot is loosely based on

kidnapping.

Other characters include Monsieur Bouc, Mary Debnham, Hector Macqueen, Michel the Conductor/Head Waiter, Princess Dragomiroff, Greta Ohlsson, Countess Andrenyi, Helen Hubbard, and Colonel Arbuthnot.





Spring Into Lifesaving Action This May

The need for blood never stops especially since someone in the United States needs a lifesaving transfusion every two seconds. In LifeServe Blood Center's service area alone, more than 3,000 units of blood are needed each week to meet the needs of hospital patients.

As Spring comes to an end, and we head into summer, help us make sure a safe and stable blood supply is available by scheduling your next appointment at an upcoming blood drive:

• Clarion Community Blood Drive, 05/13/2025 from 1-5:30 pm at United Presbyterian

Church of Clarion-Fellowship Hall (219 1st Street NW).

• Goldfield Community Blood Drive, 05/14/2025 from 1-6 pm at United Presbyterian

Church (220 East Oak Street).

To schedule your appoint-

ment, call 800.287.4903 or visit lifeservebloodcenter.

LifeServe Blood Center is a non-profit, communitybased blood center that has served the needs of local hospitals and patients in our regions since 1947. As one of the 15 largest blood centers in the country, LifeServe provides blood products to 175 hospitals primarily in Iowa, South Dakota, Nebraska and Illinois. LifeServe is committed to saving lives by providing premier service to volunteer blood donors and access to a safe, quality blood supply for hospitals and patients. Your donation with LifeServe will help save your neighbor, a friend or family member, or a stranger on the street. YOU make a difference in YOUR community. For more information about blood donation or to schedule an appointment to donate blood, call 800.287.4903 or visit lifeservebloodcenter.org.







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United States Department of Agriculture **National Agricultural Statistics Service Iowa Ag News – Monthly Prices**



The average price received by farmers for corn during February 2025 in Iowa was \$4.59 per bushel according to the latest USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service - Agricultural Prices report. This was 22 cents above the January price and 20 cents above February 2024.

The February 2025 average price received by farmers for soybeans, at \$10.00 per bushel, was 14 cents above the January price but \$1.70 below the February 2024 price.

All hay prices in Iowa averaged \$103.00 per ton in February. This was \$9.00 below the January price and \$68.00 below the February 2024 price. The February 2025 alfalfa hay price, at \$105.00, was \$12.00 below the previous month and \$70.00 below February 2024. The average price received for other hay during February was \$95.00 per ton. This was \$9.00 below the January price and \$54.00 below February last year.

The average price for milk was \$23.50 per cwt, 60 cents below the January price but \$4.50 above February 2024.

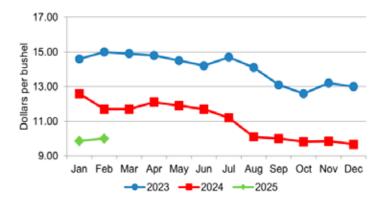
	lowa			United States		
	February 2024	January 2025	February 2025	February 2024	January 2025	February 2025
	(dollars)	(dollars)	(dollars)	(dollars)	(dollars)	(dollars)
Cornbu	4.39	4.37	4.59	4.36	4.29	4.58
Hay, all, baledton	171.00	112.00	103.00	191.00	153.00	153.00
Alfalfaton	175.00	117.00	105.00	201.00	161.00	159.00
Otherton	149.00	104.00	95.00	172.00	140.00	143.00
Oatsbu	4.90	3.86	3.90	4.10	3.55	3.41
Soybeansbu	11.70	9.86	10.00	11.90	10.00	10.20
Milk all cwt	19.00	24.10	23.50	20.60	24.10	23 60

Livestock Prices Received by Farmers – **United States**

	February 2024	January 2025	February 2025				
Calvescwt	311.00	367.00	364.00				
Cattle, all beefcwt	178.00	199.00	203.00				
Cows ¹ cwt	109.00	126.00	135.00				
Steers and heiferscwt	182.00	202.00	206.00				
Hogs, allcwt	58.20	61.10	66.00				
Barrows & Giltscwt	58.70	61.40	65.60				
Sowscwt	50.10	55.30	74.30				
Eggs, market ² doz	2.30	6.55	7.47				
1 Deaf annual and and define annual and for all and the							

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

Soybean Price Received by Farmers - Iowa



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

Aerial views

Bruce Voigts, Aerial Photographer (Photos taken March 31, 2025)



An ethanol plant is producing ethanol, seen as white "smoke" from the plant in the photo. There's a dispute over a private CO2 pipeline running through a farmer's land to capture CO2 from nearby ethanol plants. The main concern is whether it's fair for a private company to use Eminent Domain to compel landowners to accept the pipeline.





Clarmond Golf Course which is greening up. Golfing soon.

Menu

Monday, April 14, join the Dows Senior Citizens for a delicious meal at noon. The cost is \$10.00. Everyone Carry-outs is welcome. available. Menu: Turkey and Noodles, Mixed Vegetables, Salads, Dessert.



DOWS LEGION FISH FRY

Saturday, April 12 • 4 - 7pm (Or until gone) Dine-In and Drive-Thru Freewill Offering

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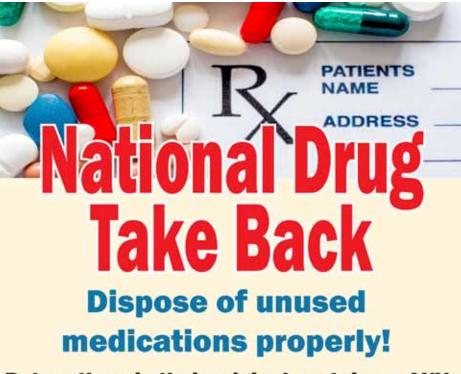
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- * Iowa Specialty

Hospital Pharmacy in Clarion

- * Iowa Specialty
 - Hospital Belmond
- *Thrifty White Pharmacy in Clarion Look for the drop boxes inside

Wright County Public Health would like to remind you that unused or outdated prescription medications need to be disposed of properly. Throwing it in the garbage of flushing it down the toilet is NOT one of those ways...medications can get into the ground water supply. Giving them to someone else is illegal!