



# The Wright County MONITOR



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## ‘They Have Less, But Also More’, CGD Educators Return with Deeper Compassion After Guatemala Trip



Amanda Rink,  
Editor

When four educators from Clarion-Goldfield-Dows School District packed their bags for spring break, it wasn’t to chase sunshine or relaxation. Instead, they set out on a journey to Antigua, Guatemala, a historical city surrounded by volcanoes, with a mission in mind: to better understand the roots of their immigrant students and the immense culture shift they experience when arriving in rural Iowa.

“It wasn’t a vacation,” said Megan Fiscus, an English Language Learner (ELL) teacher. “It was a true learning experience to be immersed in the culture and language for a solid week. You start to understand how our students feel when they come here and don’t understand what’s going on around them.”

Fiscus traveled alongside 5th-grade reading teacher Maycie Rector, 4th-grade teacher Terri Godby, and Spanish interpreter and ELL paraeducator Daisy Carrillo. Together, they left

the States for a “compassionate travel” experience - one that provided cultural, academic, and emotional understanding.

The trip was not funded by the school. Instead, the team fundraised money, including a large donation from Versova Community Foundation, which recognized the importance of supporting the children of its workforce.

Antigua, once the capital of Spanish Central America, is considered one of the safest cities in Guatemala. Despite Antigua’s charm, the country remains one of the poorest in the region, with many families living in rural areas lacking basic necessities like clean water, modern housing, and access to education.

“Seeing it firsthand changes your mind,” said Carrillo. “We visited a private school that only charges \$25 to \$100 for the school year but families still struggle to pay.”

The group visited classrooms that were a fraction of the size of those in Clarion. Materials were sparse,

yet students were self-disciplined and remarkably responsible.

“They all brought their own containers for snacks, brushed their teeth at school, swept floors, cleaned tables, and didn’t leave a mess,” Rector reflected. “There were no reminders, no misbehavior. Life is harder there, and the kids have more life skills from a younger age.”

Teachers in Guatemala earn about \$350 a month and often lack formal training. Still, the community fills gaps where it can. Parents work in the schools, often cooking the meals to offset tuition costs. Grandparents walk children to school. There are no clocks in the classrooms, all of these details that the visitors noticed reflect broader cultural values: time isn’t rushed, life is lived slowly, and family is central.

“It made me think about my Guatemalan students here,” shared Godby, who teaches seven students from Guatemala in her 4th-grade class, some of who are working hard at

learning the English language. “They’ve come from a place where they have more freedom, more responsibility, and a strong sense of family and community. Coming here, with all the structure, rules, and language barriers, it has to be exhausting for them.”

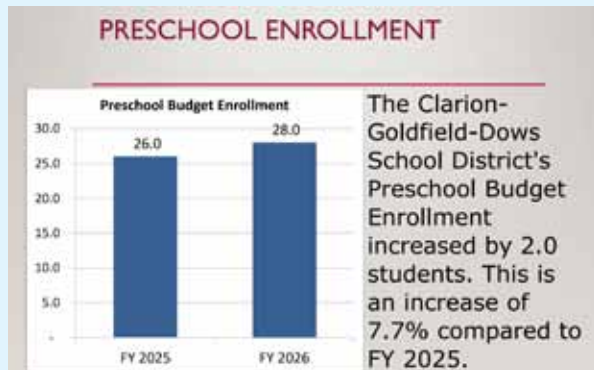
The trip wasn’t without emotional weight. The teachers found themselves exhausted at the end of the day, from the mental toll of trying to understand everything in a foreign language.

“One day, we had a full day of school visits and then two to three hours of Spanish lessons,” said Godby. “By the end, we were exhausted. But it made us think, this is what our students feel like every day when everything is in a language they don’t fully understand.”

Rector agreed, “Seeing an English menu gave me a sense of relief. It reminded me how powerful it is to give our students materials in their language, to lower that stress, so they can be ready to learn.”

continued on page 2

## CGD School District Adopts 2026 Budget



Amanda Rink,  
Editor

**April 9, 2024** - At a recent budget hearing, the Clarion Goldfield Dows (CGD) Board of Education approved its fiscal year 2026 budget, outlining modest increases in specific funding areas despite an overall decline in enrollment and financial challenges linked to state formulas and property valuations. Board Secretary Anita Frye shared a detailed review of the budget, which this article highlights.

### Enrollment & Funding Changes

Enrollment figures saw a modest dip this year, with the district’s headcount dropping by 3.6 students or roughly 0.4%. This includes small declines in categories like Special Education and other supplemental programs, which are closely tied to fund formulas. However, there was a bright spot, preschool enrollment climbed by 7.7% that brings a modest boost to the program funding.

Because Iowa’s school funding is based on weighted enrollment, even slight changes can carry significant funding implications. With a decrease of 6.1 weighted students and each one accounting for \$8,000 in state funding, the district stands to lose nearly \$49,000 before other adjustments.

### General Fund

The CGD General Fund, which covers the district’s daily operations, showed a mix of growth and decline.

The regular program budget increased by \$124,430 (1.6%), but this was counterbalanced by the loss of \$161,900 in one-time budget guarantee funds, resulting in an overall drop of 0.5% in regular program funding. Special Education funding held steady, increasing by only \$251 due to the rigidity of state funding formulas.

The Teacher Salary Supplement (TSS) rose, by \$70550 or 9%, driven in part by state mandates to meet new minimum teachers’ salary levels. Dropout prevention funding also increased by \$23,348, though, unlike last year, the district could not carry over unspent funds.

### Property Tax & Levy

The General Fund levy fell sharply by \$534,470, or 8.9%, due to state-imposed limits on what local districts can levy. Yet, thanks to adjustments in the Instructional Support Levy (ISL), the district was able to collect more through that avenue—an increase of 70.6%. This wasn’t exactly due to carryover changes but rather reflects a recalibrated strategy to utilize the ISL, one of the few tools available to go beyond the state’s spending cap.

As Board Secretary Anita Frye explained, the ISL gives the board flexibility to exceed the state’s per-pupil maximum by up to 10%, using a blend of property taxes and income surtaxes. It’s a critical mechanism to help cover costs that the state’s 2% Supplemental State Aid won’t fully address.

Meanwhile, the Cash Reserve Levy was reduced by nearly half (48.5%) - a drop influenced by the district’s healthy cash balance carryover, which restricted further levy authority under state rules.

Overall, the total General Fund levy dropped from \$10.12 to \$9 per \$1,000 of assessed property value. This contributes to a reduced total property tax rate of \$13.17 per \$1,000, down from \$13.50. For context, the CGD portion now sits at 13.28214, while the Dows portion is at 12.73456.

continued on page 2

## AREA HEADLINES

### Belmond

Sewer rates are set to increase. Separately, a portion of the water treatment plant has broken down, with repairs expected to cost several hundred thousand dollars.

### Dows

Removal of the old bar north of the Convention Center will begin soon. “This will be a big improvement for the area,” shared Mayor Larry Klatt.

### Eagle Grove

Milling work began on SW 1st Street, NE 2nd Street, and NW 8th Street. Residents are advised to avoid parking on these streets. Following the milling work, limited access will be provided until paving begins in mid-summer, with completion expected by August.

### Hampton

The City of Hampton was recently recognized with the 2024 Tree City USA Growth Award by the Arbor Day Foundation and the Iowa Department of Natural Resources for its commitment to urban forestry. Hampton was one of 25 Iowa communities honored for demonstrating strong tree management practices and enhancing local forest resources.

### Rowan

Central Waste Systems of Clarion is conducting annual septic tank inspections. They have also replaced all Mort’s stickers with updated labels showing the correct emergency contact number, and any septic issues should now be reported directly to Central Waste Systems.



## ‘Tre Strong’ Community Unites for Middle Schooler Recovering from Traumatic Accident

Amanda Rink,  
Editor

A Clarion-Goldfield-Dows middle school student is making strides in recovery after surviving a traumatic car accident.

On March 29, 13-year-old Tretyn “Tre” Solis, the son of Megann and Danny Solis of Clarion, was returning from the T.A.G. Science Fair at the Hilton Coliseum in Ames when a freak accident changed everything. A loose tire struck the school suburban he was riding in, smashing through the windshield and hitting Tre, who was seated in the front passenger seat. He sustained multiple skull and facial fractures, a brain bleed, and required emergency craniotomy surgery that night.

For several days, Tre remained sedated in the ICU. But day by day, the updates from his mom, Meghann, on social media grew more hopeful: walking with physical therapy, eating applesauce, charming nurses with Dragon Ball Z trivia, and slowly regaining strength. “We moved from the ICU to the Peds general floor... now it’s just a matter of letting him heal, manage

his pain, and rehabilitation,” Meghann wrote.

Most recently, Tre has been up and moving more, undergoing physical, occupational, and speech therapy daily. “Him having a good day and wanting me to snuggle him this afternoon was the best birthday present I could ever ask for,” Meghann shared on April 9, her birthday.

As Tre continues his road to recovery, the community has rallied in extraordinary ways to support the Solis family of seven. Meghann, well known in Clarion as the owner of a busy in-home daycare, and Danny, the former owner of “Grounded” who had just started a new job, found their world turned upside down when the tragedy struck. Not only does the family have to drive back and forth often to support their other children in Clarion, they have to continue to make ends meet while the expected medical bills pile up.

The most surprising of understandings came from Tre’s friends, who rallied on April 9 at Clarion’s Pizza Ranch to buss tables for tips, sell frozen pizza



Pictured here just hours before the accident, 13-year-old Tretyn “Tre” Solis (circled) was returning from the T.A.G. Science Fair at Hilton Coliseum in Ames on March 29 when a loose tire struck the school suburban. Tre, seated in the front passenger seat of the school suburban, suffered multiple skull and facial fractures, a brain bleed, and underwent emergency surgery that night. (Photo: Tanja Jensen)

and shirts to raise funds for their friend and his family.

“Within ten minutes of the buffet opening,” shared Solis family friend Courtney Morris, “there was already a line formed at the register.” More support continues to pour in for the family across Wright Coun-

ty. A T-shirt fundraiser led by Morris and sold through Threads & Company in Belmond has taken off. All proceeds go directly to the Solis family.

A classmate of Tre, Kayleigh Marshall, who owns the bracelet business Little

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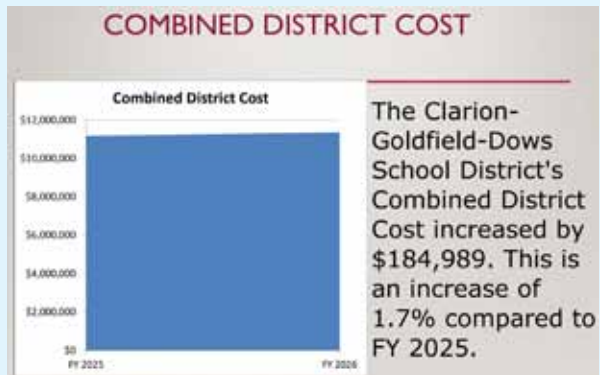


Check out  Sports on page 9



## CGD School Budget

### continued from page 1



**Other Areas**  
The **Management Fund** ended with a \$320,327 surplus thanks to \$1.26 million in revenue and \$988,500 in expenses. These funds help cover obligations such as insurance, unemployment, and legal needs.

The **PEPPEL Fund**, which is used for equipment and facilities, is projected to run a deficit of \$612,088 due to significant purchases, including two new buses and a 12-passenger van. It also covers the routine upkeep of the buildings.

The **Activity Fund** saw a \$5,100 increase, fueled by private donations and event ticket sales, which vary year to year.

**Debt Service funds**—used for repaying district loans like the one for the middle school gym or high school ballfield—saw a modest \$5,382 gain.

Frye clarified to The Wright County Monitor after the public meeting, that these repayments are funded through transfers from the Capital Projects or Sales Tax Fund.

The **Nutrition Fund** faces challenges ahead, expecting a \$233,200 shortfall due to rising food costs and the expiration of federal COVID relief aid.

On a positive note, the **Sales Tax Fund** is projected to grow by \$44,997, helping to ease the district's loan obligations for projects funded by loans.

Despite a challenging fiscal landscape, which is being felt all over Iowa, the board moved forward with the budget, even as the district braces for future changes.

*Editor's Note: This article was reviewed for accuracy by Board Secretary Anita Frye and photos were provided by Anita Frye from her presentation to the CGD Board of Education.*

## CGD Board Earns Community Praise, Shares Updates on Students and Staffing

**April 9, 2025** - The Clarion-Goldfield-Dows Community School Board held its regular monthly meeting last Wednesday. Highlights ranged from public comment on school safety to district-wide initiatives in student programming and staff development.

During the open forum, community member Alison Marshall publicly praised the admin's handling of recent allegations involving a student bringing a firearm to school.

"Following the last school board meeting, I had sent a lengthy email to Mr. Nelson in regards to communication from the school, and I just wanted to say publicly how I really appreciated the meeting and the follow-up that my husband and I received," Marshall shared through a third party in attendance as she was unable to attend the meeting. "We definitely felt heard as parents and believe it is a priority from our district to improve and come up with the best way to keep parents informed. Mr. Patrick also took the time to follow up and listen to the concerns that we had. So thank you to our administration for quickly listening and responding."

The meeting quickly moved onto the Superintendent's report, where Joseph Nelson opened with an emotional update on student Tre Solis who is recovering from a car accident that happened during a school Talented and Gifted trip.

"Our hearts and prayers continue to be with Trey and the Solis family. We're all hoping for a full recovery," Nelson said. "It's been amazing to hear some of the good news—he's up walking, feeding himself, and having conversations."

Nelson also shared plans for a unique educational opportunity for high school students: an FFA-sponsored trip for eight students to our sister city Kosovo next spring. The trip, aimed at studying agriculture practices in Europe, will include participation from students, parents, and staff. "What an authentic and rich experience for our kids to spend their spring break visiting farms and seeing how they produce food in Eastern Europe," he said, praising FFA instructor Angela Charlson for the idea.

On the staffing front, Nelson noted that the district continues to see a strong applicant pool for open teaching positions. He also acknowledged a statewide struggle to hire special education teachers, which CGD is also facing. "If you are an 18-year-old kid looking for job security, go into special education. You'll have a lifetime of interview opportunities," he shared.

Enrollment has dipped slightly, with 11 fewer kids since August, mostly from the high school which Nelson noted was a normal fluctuation. He ended his report with a presentation of the upcoming school calendar to the board. The first day of the 2025/2026 school is set for Monday, August 25.

**In other business, the board approved:**

- Staff resignations, 2nd-grade teacher Jalyn Heeren, Girls Soccer Coach Miriam Meinke, Girls' Wrestling Coach Emma Gomez, and Paraprofessional Stacy Tate.
- New hires/contracts for the 2026 school year, Jessica Smock as the HS Dance Coach, Craig Warnke as the Assistant Football Coach, and a new housekeeper Adriana Lopez.
- First and second readings of updated district policies, ranging from drug testing to student record access
- The 2025 potential graduate list & appointees of the School Improvement Committee
- Contracts for milk and bread for the next school year (awarded to Anderson-Erickson Dairy and Bimbo Bakery)
- Board Secretary Anita Frye noted an approval of an extension request for the FY24 audit, which she shared is normal for school districts to request considering the difficulty in finding a company to conduct the audit.
- The purchase of a replacement vehicle for a recently totaled school Suburban, with costs not to exceed the insurance payout plus a \$1,000 deductible.

Looking ahead, staff appreciation events are set for May 7 at the High School at 2:30, where retirees will also be celebrated. Nelson reflected on how quickly the school year has flown by: "We're just a little over six weeks away from pomp and circumstance," he said.

The next CGD Board of Education will be held on May 8th at 4:30 P.M. at the district office. For detailed financial reports and policy changes, please visit the CGD website at clargold.org.

## ‘They Have Less, But Also More’

### continued from page 1



The teachers were left with powerful empathy for immigrant students who face similar challenges when coming to Clarion. But among the challenges they faced during the week from home, there were also moments of pure clarity.

Teachers shared that the classrooms had no tech, only computer labs. "They had Apple desktops in the computer lab, but most of the teaching tools were basic. Still, the kids got straight to work. No questions asked," Rector said.

The kids cleaned up after themselves and brushed their teeth and face at school after a meal or snack. This was an idea all of the education professionals agreed wouldn't be a bad one to implement at our schools. The kids also managed themselves without a lot of

redirection from the adults around them. The teachers visiting felt the traits were born out of necessity and "just expected".

One vivid memory came after lunch one day. Children had made a makeshift pool table from cardboard and egg cartons. "It was a reminder that kids don't need much to play," said Fiscus. "They were laughing, playing games, using pencils and straws as cue sticks. They had less, but they also had more."

Beyond the classroom, the teachers encountered a reality that many immigrant students rarely discuss: danger. In many areas of Guatemala, education is only free through sixth grade. After that, families must pay, and safety concerns often force older students, especially girls, to drop out.

"At a certain age, some

girls just stop going," Fiscus said.

Carrillo shared insight from a student she teaches in Clarion, "It becomes unsafe for them to walk to school, especially if their commute is long or isolated. One of our high school students explained that's part of why their family left, it just wasn't safe anymore." It isn't just girls who feel unsafe, boys often stay close to home to avoid being recruited into gangs.

This awareness hit the teachers hard. "It's not just that they're coming here for something better—they're also leaving because they can't stay," Carrillo added. "They don't always have a choice."

Though the contrast between life in Guatemala and rural Iowa might seem striking, the teachers left with a deep admiration for

both.

"They may come here for better opportunities, for education, healthcare, and safety, but they're also leaving behind something beautiful," Fiscus reflected. "It's a culture rich in tradition, slower living, and tight-knit family."

Although they could recognize the beautiful culture and life their students and their families may be leaving behind, the group was happy to be back in Iowa. The educators hope to visit a public school in Guatemala soon, believing that it will better reflect the circumstances where the majority of our students come from.

In the end, the trip reinforced a simple truth, understanding leads to compassion. And compassion can shape a better classroom, which leads to a rich community.

## ‘Tre Strong’ continued from page 2

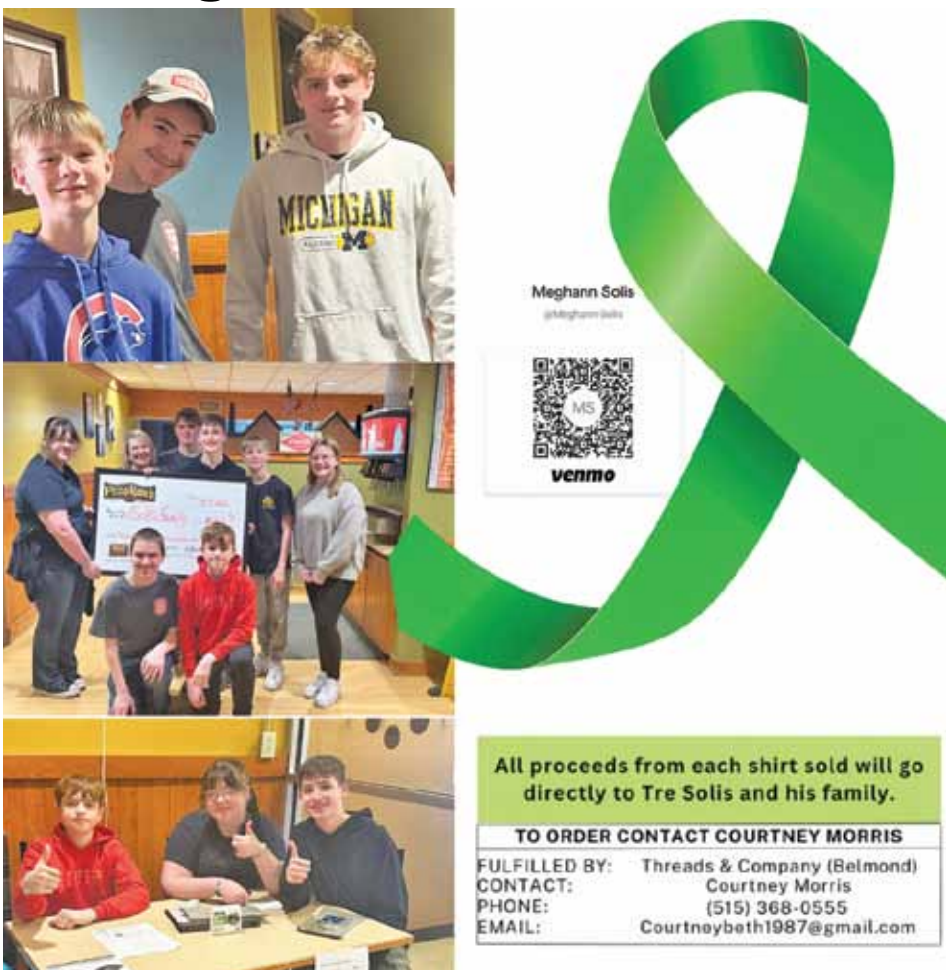
Bit of Sunshine, sold signature green and black bracelets as a fundraiser for the family. She fulfilled orders the night of the Pizza Ranch Fundraiser. Meghann shared after the event at Pizza Ranch her thanks sharing, "We appreciate it more than you'll ever know!"

The campaigns are much more about solidarity as a community that cares for its children than it is about financial support.

"The Solis family has the biggest hearts of anyone I know," Morris shared. "They have been there for me and my kids countless times... This is just one small way to show them how much they mean to all of us."

In a moment of profound crisis, what could have been just another news story has become a testament to the spirit of our tight-knit community. And for Tre, whose journey has really just started, that spirit may be one of the most powerful medicines of all.

The Solis family asks community members to "please keep the prayers coming for our little warrior." If you missed the most recent Pizza Ranch fundraiser, the kids are hosting another one on April 23 from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m.



**Tre's classmates stepped up in a big way at Clarion's Pizza Ranch on April 9, bussing tables, selling frozen pizzas and #TRESTRONG T-shirts, to raise \$1,263.82 for the Solis family. Donations can be made to the Solis family via Venmo (@Meghann-Solis), at First Citizens Bank, or by ordering T-shirts through Morris at 515-368-0555 or courtneybeth1987@gmail.com. (Photos: Courtney Morris/Graphic: Amanda Rink)**

## Deep Roots, Bold Vision

*Clarion Leaders Reflect on Community's Growing Impact*

**Amanda Rink, Editor**

Local Melinda Anderson paused to notice a commonly overlooked scene in Clarion last week - a Hagie sprayer ready for global export, an Ennis truck ready for travel across our country, and a local farmer gearing up to feed the world - and snapped a photo.

To her, it wasn't just another rural moment; it was a reminder of the deep roots and big impact of life in our "itty-bitty" town.

"Fun view tonight of the roots our community is blessed to have," she wrote, sharing the photo online which quickly resonated with many. "Agriculture is vital to our community. To see a Hagie sprayer sold around the world from Clarion, Ennis trucks traveling around the country, and a farmer getting ready to feed the world, right here in the heart of our community. We are blessed to be rooted here."

Anderson, who serves as president of the Clarion Development Alliance

(CDA) board, personifies that "rooted" optimism. That same spirit was present later in the week when she joined CDA Director Sam Strumpf and fellow board member Lisa Hanson, of Hanson and Son Tire, at the Rural Iowa Development event.

The goal of the trip was to "learn from regional experts on economic development in rural Iowa," according to CDA Director Strumpf. "We are energized and full of so many ideas to bring back to Clarion," Strumpf shared on social media.

"When a small town is headed in the right direction, you can feel it," Anderson added. "Energetic towns have a vision, take risks, and are open to new ideas. They invest, care, and believe! Why not us? We believe—let's do this together."

In a time when rural communities often face challenges to grow, Clarion is growing as tall as the corn which surrounds it...rooted in the past, but boldly looking ahead.



**Members of the Clarion Development Alliance Board attended the Rural Iowa Development on April 10. (Photo: Melinda Anderson)**



**A local paused to notice a commonly overlooked sight in Clarion, and snapped a photo which is resonating with others in the community. (Photo: Melinda Anderson)**

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Linda Lloyd, Clarion Public Library Director

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Boss Up! This Ain't Your Mama's Business Book by Lindsay Teague Moreno. Moreno tells her story of going from stay-at-home

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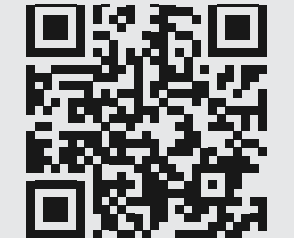
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## Check it Out at The Library!

mom to multimillion-dollar business owner. She shares stories that will make you laugh, cry, blush (probably all three). Moreno shares the lessons she has learned.

The Ugly Truth About Small Business: 50 Things That Can Go Wrong and What You Can Do About It by Ruth King. Through stories and lessons from entrepreneurs who have been there, and you can discover how to handle such situations.

The Small Business Start-Up Guide: A Surefire Blueprint to Successfully Launch Your Own Business by Hal Root and Steve Koenig. Save time, effort, and money with this book. It covers everything you need to know to start successfully.

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## Iowa Republicans release updated property tax legislation

Robin Opsahl  
Iowa Capital Dispatch

An overhaul of Iowa's property tax system would begin sooner and allow local governments to collect more revenue in times of high inflation under updated legislation released Wednesday by the Republican chairmen of the Legislature's tax-writing committees.

Senate Study Bill 1227, and its companion House Study Bill 328, make changes to House Study Bill 313 and Senate Study Bill 1208, the companion bills introduced in early March by Rep. Bobby Kaufmann, R-Wilton and Sen. Dan Dawson, R-Council Bluffs, the chairs of the Ways and Means committees in the House and Senate.

The original legislation, as well as the updated version, would repeal Iowa's "rollback" system for calculating property taxes, in which only a portion of residential property taxes are taxable. The taxable portion is a percentage of the property's market value, calculated each year growth of statewide taxable properties and limited by an aggregate value growth of 3%.

The legislation replaces the rollback with a "revenue-restricted" system by allowing taxation of the full assessed value of a property, but limiting the amount of new tax revenues local governments can collect. Most property tax levy rates could increase each year by no more than 2% under the bill, with exceptions for new construction.

While the initial proposal phased out the rollback system over five years, the new bill proposes eliminating this system of calculation immediately, in fiscal year 2027. The new version of the legislation also allows local governments to exceed the 2% limit — allowing up to 5% increases for most property tax levy rates — during times of high inflation, as determined by increases in the consumer price index (CPI).

In a news release, Dawson and Kaufmann stated the property tax proposal includes a "minimum budget guarantee to provide small communities certainty in their budgeting process." The measure also includes an increase to the homestead property tax exemption benefit from a proposed \$25,000 in the initial bill to \$50,000.

Some of these changes — like allowing for greater levy rate increases during inflationary periods — were brought up during subcommittee meetings on the legislation by advocates representing local governments. Dawson said the new version of the legislation came out of discussions and suggestions on the original bill.

"When we filed our original bill, we were looking to get it out to the public so we

walking the dog, or while you're winding down for the night.

New books:  
Fern Michaels book Fight or Flight is described as a gripping new page-turner. I'm putting this book down on my "To Read" list.

As seen on TikTok: one TikTok reviewer said Yarrow had them in a choke hold through this book and it's a great read for 2025, The Last Letter by Rebecca Yarrow.

The Texas Murders by James Patterson's is the 3<sup>rd</sup> book of the Rory Yates series. Yates is a Texas Ranger when a new investigation comes forth. It's the disappearance of an Indigenous woman and is showing clues pointing to a cold case.

Library Book Club will be meeting Monday, April 28<sup>th</sup> at 4:30. Our April book pick is The Last Word by Gerri Lewis, a Cozy Mystery. Books available at the front desk and also on Hoopla.

could start receiving feedback and input, and the bill filed today is a result of that feedback," Dawson said in the release. "... These updated proposals continue our goal of rebuilding the property tax system to bring relief, and bring more predictability and transparency to taxpayers, local governments and businesses."

Concerns about other portions of the proposal raised by local government representatives, like changes to tax increment financing (TIF) revenues and the shift of \$426 million in K-12 schools from property taxes to the state, were not addressed by the amendment, remaining the same in the new legislation.

The new property tax bill has not been scheduled for a subcommittee as of Wednesday. In interviews with reporters and at meetings, Kaufmann has repeatedly stated that his goal is for the measure to pass during the 2025 legislative session, while giving time for feedback and alterations as needed. Republican leaders have echoed this sentiment, while saying that they want to ensure the bill will have its intended impact of lowering property taxes while allowing local governments to continue providing needed services.

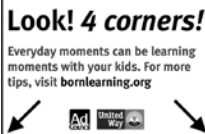
Senate President Amy Sinclair told reporters earlier in August that "we want it done right, rather than fast."

"For me, it's a priority to get done this session," Sinclair said. "But if it doesn't get done this session, it's because ... we didn't have all the details in place to get it done right.

Kaufmann said in a statement on the updated property tax bill that the measure will provide needed relief from rising property tax costs.

"With assessment letters coming out, Iowans have been louder than ever with their concerns about property taxes," Kaufmann said. "Iowans have expressed their concern, rage, and fear about unpredictable increases and their ability to afford staying in their homes. We are working to provide real relief to Iowans and their families, make Iowa a competitive state to live, and deliver a property tax overhaul that focuses on property taxpayers."

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



## The Historical Viewpoint The Hindenburg and Airship Disasters

Casey James,  
The News-Review  
(Sigourney)

The first steerable, powered airship was created by French inventor Henri Giffard in 1852. Giffard's dirigible consisted of a steam engine powered propeller and a 144-foot-long balloon filled with hydrogen. It was able to travel for seventeen miles at the blistering speed of five miles per hour before landing. Throughout the 19th century, airships were slowly improved over by various inventors, most notably by Count Ferdinand von Zeppelin of Germany.

Zeppelin began building airships in 1891. In 1900, Zeppelin completed the LZ-1, a 420-foot-long cylindrical rigid airship. Unlike earlier airships, the LZ-1 had an internal frame made of aluminum girders, allowing it to be far bigger. Zeppelin's airships were improved throughout WWI, where they were used to drop bombs on Paris and London. In 1928 Zeppelin's company, Luftschiffbau Zeppelin, began offering transatlantic airship flights. In 1936, it created the most famous airship in history, the LZ-129, christened the Hindenburg.

The Hindenburg was a 778-foot-long airship, the largest in history, designed to be like a floating luxury ocean liner. It contained 25 cabins, a large dining room, silk wallpaper, a custom-made ultralight aluminum piano, a lounge, a bar, and a writing room. The Hindenburg even contained a smoking room, separated from the rest of the ship via an airlock; the smoking room only contained one electric lighter and crew were instructed to search passengers to ensure they didn't carry cigarettes or pipes out of the room, for obvious reasons.

The Hindenburg was named after recently deceased German President Paul von Hindenburg. Paul von Hindenburg is remembered for having the

great idea of making Adolf Hitler chancellor, curtailing civil liberties and massively inflating Hitler's political power via the Enabling Act, and then dying of lung cancer, leaving Hitler with full control of the country. Although the Hindenburg was designed for civilian flights, it was co-owned by the German government and used extensively by the Nazis.

Hindenburg's first public flight was over the Rhineland, a region on the border of France and Germany. The Rhineland was occupied by the Allies following WWI, with the German military forbidden from entering the area. In March, 1936, Nazis remilitarized the Rhineland, the first step in their conquering of Europe. A few weeks later, the Hindenburg flew over the Rhineland, blaring patriotic music and political speeches from loudspeakers, dropping swastika flags and propaganda leaflets. Later that year, the Hindenburg flew over the Berlin Olympics, painted with swastikas and Olympic rings. The greatest airship ever built was a useful symbol for Nazi propaganda.

The Hindenburg was designed to be filled with helium. However, the United States owned nearly all of the world's helium supply. The U.S. government banned the exportation of helium in 1927, rightfully fearing it could be used for military purposes. Unable to fill their airship with helium, the Germans turned to the next best thing: hydrogen. Hydrogen is even lighter than helium, allowing the designers to add extra cabins to the ship. Unfortunately, hydrogen is also very, very flammable.

On May 6, 1937, the Hindenburg flew across the Atlantic, carrying 36 passengers and 61 crew members. As it moored at the Lakehurst Navy Air Base in New Jersey,

the Hindenburg suddenly caught on fire. The fire engulfed the hydrogen filled airship, transforming it into a blazing inferno. The exact cause of the fire is unknown, but the generally accepted theory is that the Hindenburg had a hydrogen leak which was ignited by static electricity as it passed through storm clouds.

36 people (13 passengers, 22 crewmen, and one unlucky soul on the ground) died, either from the fire or from falling from the 200-foot-high airship. Surprisingly, people managed to survive the disaster. One passenger, an acrobat named Joseph Späh, broke a window and jumped out when the crashing ship was only 20 feet off the ground, landing safely. One survivor, eight years old during the disaster, lived until 2019.

The Hindenburg disaster was not the deadliest airship accident in history. In 1944, the USS Akron, a U.S. Navy airship, crashed over the ocean during a thunderstorm, killing 73 people. But, unlike the Akron, the Hindenburg disaster was caught on film. Four newsreel teams were at Lakehurst to film the Hindenburg's arrival and were able to film the terrible crash. The famous words of Herbert Morrison, a radio journalist recording audio at the time of the disaster, are permanently tied to the disaster in public memory: "Oh, the humanity!"

The newsreel footage made the disaster infamous. Airship popularity was already declining, due to other disasters like that of the USS Akron and the invention of the airplane, but Hindenburg was the final nail in the coffin. Airplanes took over as the primary method of flight and were used throughout the second world war. The aluminum alloy framework of the Hindenburg was shipped back to Germany, where it was recycled into military aircraft.

## UDMO Is Preparing for Spring Planting!

Upper Des Moines Opportunity, Inc. is preparing for spring planting through our Annual Garden Program. This program offers seeds, plants, garden tools to eligible individuals and families living in Wright County. Our Garden Program is an inexpensive, healthy and nutritious way people can add to their own source of food. We

would love for your help to continue to offer such a nutritious program.

There are two ways the community can get involved in helping us with the Garden Program. First we are in need of monetary donations to help purchase items for the program. The second way is to donate garden seeds, tomato and pepper plants, onion sets and new garden tools such

as gloves, trowels, watering cans, foam kneeling pads, etc.

Donations can be mailed or dropped off at our office located at 221 W. Broadway, Eagle Grove, IA. 50533. Our office hours are: Monday-Thursday 8-12:30pm and 1-4pm. Closed on Fridays.

If you have questions about the Garden Program please feel free to contact Chris at the Wright County UDMO office at (515) 448-3704.

Thank you in advance for helping to make a difference in our community.

Heartland Museum is hosting  
Coffee & Sweets  
for past volunteers and anyone  
interested in 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.

Like us on  
facebook

Hey folks, CALL BEFORE YOU DIG!

**IOWA ONE CALL**

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

**800-292-8989**  
**www.iowaonecall.com**

Public service announcement of Iowa One Call.







## Trustees Address Tile Failures and Landowner Concerns at Drainage District Meeting

*Amanda Rink, Editor*  
**April 14, 2025** - At Monday morning’s Wright County Drainage District meeting, County Supervisors gathered as Drainage District Trustees to address a few issues.  
The meeting opened at 9:00 a.m. with Trustees reviewing current drainage work orders. Among immediate concerns were a broken flood tile in Iowa Township and a major 36-inch tile failure in Woolstock Township.  
Supervisor Betty Ellis raised concerns over a drainage

ditch that continues to frustrate landowners. She notes that the ditch has grown from a modest five feet to a steep twenty feet, and residents are frustrated by costs. Supervisor Rick Rasmussen countered that costs aren’t increasing at this time and agreed to visit the site with Ellis to see the situation firsthand.  
Another issue brought up by Ellis involved the removal of a natural gas pipeline north of Clarion last year. A local farmer, while using his manure spreader, fell into the area where the pipeline had been removed.

The farmer, along with Ellis, worried the ground wasn’t packed correctly.  
Drainage District Administrator Courtney Morris confirmed that she is working with the drainage district’s attorney to send a formal letter to the company, reminding them they’re accountable for any resulting damage of their work. The Drainage District meets on an as-needed basis. To view this meeting, and past ones, please visit [youtube.com/@wrightcountyiowaofficial8312](https://youtube.com/@wrightcountyiowaofficial8312).

## “Tienen Menos, Pero También Más”: Las Maestras de CGD Regresan con Mayor Compasión Tras Viaje a Guatemala

*Amanda Rink, Editora*  
Cuando cuatro maestras del Distrito Escolar de Clarion-Goldfield-Dows empa-cararon sus maletas para las vacaciones de primavera, no lo hicieron para buscar sol ni descanso. En su lugar, emprendieron un viaje a Antigua, Guatemala, una ciudad histórica rodeada de volcanes, con una misión clara: com-prender mejor las raíces de sus estudiantes inmigrantes y el gran cambio cultural que experimentan al llegar al área rural de Iowa.  
“No fue unas vacaciones,” dijo Megan Fiscus, maestra de estudiantes de inglés como segundo idioma (ELL, por sus siglas en inglés). “Fue una verdadera experiencia de aprendizaje, al estar totalmente inmersos en la cultura y el idioma durante una semana entera. Uno empieza a entender cómo se sienten nuestros estudiantes cuando llegan aquí y no entienden lo que pasa a su alrededor.”

Fiscus viajó junto a May-cie Rector, maestra de lectura de quinto grado; Terri Godby, maestra de cuarto grado; y Daisy Carrillo, intérprete de español y paraeducadora de ELL. Juntas, dejaron Estados Unidos para vivir una expe-riencia de “viaje compasivo”, que les brindó comprensión cultural, académica y emocional.

El viaje no fue financia-do por el distrito escolar. En cambio, el grupo recaudó fon-dos, incluyendo una generosa donación de la Fundación Co-munitaria Versova, que recon-oció la importancia de apoyar a los hijos de su fuerza laboral.  
Antigua, que fue en su momento la capital de la América Central española, es considerada una de las ciu-dades más seguras de Guate-mala. A pesar del encanto de Antigua, el país sigue siendo uno de los más pobres de la región, y muchas familias que viven en áreas rurales carecen de necesidades básicas como agua potable, vivienda digna y acceso a la educación.

“Verlo con tus propios ojos cambia tu forma de pensar,” comentó Carrillo. “Visitamos una escuela privada que solo cobra entre \$25 y \$100 por todo el año escolar, pero aún

así, a las familias se les hace difícil pagar.”

El grupo visitó aulas mucho más pequeñas que las de Clarion. Los materiales eran escasos, pero los estu-diantes eran disciplinados y no-tablemente responsables.

“Todos llevaban sus pro-prios recipientes para los re-frigerios, se lavaban los dien-tes en la escuela, barrían los pisos, limpiaban las mesas y no dejaban desorden,” recordó Rector. “Nadie les tenía que recordar nada, no había mala conducta. La vida allá es más difícil, y los niños adquieren habilidades para la vida desde muy pequeños.”

Los maestros en Guate-mala ganan alrededor de 350 dólares estadounidenses al mes y muchas veces no tienen una formación formal. Aun así, la comunidad busca llenar los vacíos. Los padres colabo-ran cocinando para reducir el costo de matrícula, los abuelos llevan a los niños a la escuela. En las aulas no hay relojes, y estos pequeños detalles refle-jan valores culturales más am-plios: el tiempo no se apresura, la vida se vive con calma y la familia es el centro de todo.

“Me hizo pensar en mis estudiantes guatemaltecos aquí,” compartió Godby, quien tiene siete estudiantes de Gua-temala en su clase de cuarto grado, algunos de los cuales están esforzándose mucho para aprender inglés. “Vienen de un lugar donde tienen más libertad, más responsabilidad, y un fuerte sentido de familia y comunidad. Al llegar aquí, con tanta estructura, reglas y barreras del idioma, debe ser agotador para ellos.”

El viaje también tuvo un peso emocional. Las maestras se sentían exhaustas al final de cada día, por el esfuerzo men-tal de tratar de entender todo en otro idioma.

“Un día, tuvimos clases todo el día y luego dos o tres horas de lecciones de espa-ñol,” dijo Godby. “Al final, estábamos agotadas. Pero eso nos hizo pensar: así se sienten nuestros estudiantes todos los días cuando todo está en un idioma que no entienden del todo.”

Rector estuvo de acuerdo: “Ver un menú en inglés me dio un gran alivio. Me recordó lo importante que es ofrecerles materiales en su idioma, para reducir ese estrés, y que así puedan estar listos para apre-nder.”

Las maestras regresaron con una profunda empatía por los estudiantes inmigrantes que enfrentan desafíos simi-lares al llegar a Clarion. Pero, además de los desafíos, tam-bién vivieron momentos de claridad total.

Contaron que las aulas no tenían tecnología, solo laboratorios de computación. “Tenían computadoras Apple en el laboratorio, pero la may-oría de los recursos eran muy básicos. Aun así, los niños se ponían a trabajar de inme-diato, sin preguntar nada,” com-mentó Rector.  
Los estudiantes se lim-

piaban solos, se cepillaban los dientes y la cara después de comer. Todas coincidieron en que sería buena idea imple-mentar algo similar en sus propias escuelas. Los niños se manejaban sin que los adultos tuvieran que intervenir mucho. Para ellas, esas actitudes son producto de la necesidad, y se consideran “algo normal”.

Un recuerdo especial-mente vívido fue después del almuerzo. Los niños habían armado una mesa de billar improvisada con cartón y car-tones de huevos. “Fue un re-cordatorio de que los niños no necesitan mucho para jugar,” dijo Fiscus. “Estaban riéndose, jugando, usando lápices y pa-jillas como tacos. Tenían me-nos, pero también tenían más.”

Fuera del aula, las mae-stras enfrentaron una realidad que muchos estudiantes inmi-grantes rara vez mencionan: el peligro. En muchas áreas de Guatemala, la educación solo es gratuita hasta sexto grado. Después de eso, las familias deben pagar, y los problemas de seguridad muchas veces obligan a los estudiantes may-ores, especialmente a las ni-ñas, a abandonar la escuela.

“A cierta edad, algunas ni-ñas simplemente dejan de ir,” comentó Fiscus.

Carrillo compartió lo que le contó una estudiante en Clarion: “Se vuelve peligroso caminar a la escuela, especial-mente si el trayecto es largo o solitario. Una de nuestras estu-diantes de secundaria explicó que por eso su familia se fue, ya no era seguro quedarse.” Y no son solo las niñas: muchos niños se quedan cerca de casa para evitar ser reclutados por pandillas.

Esta conciencia impactó profundamente a las mae-stras. “No es solo que vienen aquí buscando algo mejor — también se van porque ya no pueden quedarse,” agregó Carrillo. “No siempre tienen opción.”

Aunque el contraste entre la vida en Guatemala y la vida en el Iowa rural puede parecer grande, las maestras regresa-ron con una profunda admi-ración por ambas.

“Puede que vengan aquí por mejores oportunidades, por educación, salud y seguri-dad, pero también están dejan-do atrás algo muy hermoso,” reflexionó Fiscus. “Es una cul-tura rica en tradiciones, una vida más tranquila, y familias muy unidas.”

Aunque reconocen la belleza de la cultura y la vida que sus estudiantes y sus fa-milias pueden estar dejando atrás, el grupo también se sintió feliz de regresar a Iowa. Esperan poder visitar próxi-mamente una escuela pública en Guatemala, creyendo que eso reflejará mejor las con-diciones de las que proviene la mayoría de sus estudiantes.

Al final, el viaje reforzó una verdad sencilla: la com-prensión genera compasión. Y la compasión puede trans-formar el aula y, con ello, construir una comunidad más rica.

## Wright County Dispatchers to See a Raise in July

*Amanda Rink, Editor*  
**April 15, 2025** - The Wright County Board of Supervisors met for their regular meeting to review county business, including wage adjustments, economic development updates, and ground use requests.  
**Land Access and Testing Clarification** - Supervisor Dean Kluss shared an update from Kyle Handy, land representative for Twin Rivers, who had concerns over the county’s denial of reducing the seismic testing distance from 250 feet to 50 feet from county assets. Handy believes this restriction will ultimately prevent Twin Rivers from exploring the possibility of hydrogen underground.  
Kluss clarified the Board’s stance in an email reply to Handy: “The Board did not feel that we were precluding any testing.” Kluss said, “It would require Twin Rivers to get permission from individual landowners to go onto their property. Therefore, they would assume the risk for any damage.”  
Kluss advised that if the company chose that route, they should contact Drainage Administrator Courtney Morris to avoid conflicts with existing drainage systems on private land.  
**Communication Center Wage Adjustments** - The Board discussed wage adjustments for the Communication Center, effective July 1, 2025. Communications Director Tiffon Pohlman requested a starting wage of \$23.50 an hour, and increased for two current

employees.  
Eric Rector emphasized the value of dispatchers: “As an officer, I want the most competent person in that seat. They don’t get paid near enough. You’re quibbling over \$4 a day at a 50-cent increase. This interview process was terrible, and the emotional stress they endure is significant.”

A motion was made to set the starting wage at a flat \$23.50, with exceptions for experienced hire’s wages to be reviewed by the Board. The motion also authorized wage increases for two current employees.

**Economic Development and Events**- Economic Development Director Darrel Steven Carlyle recommended appointing Kate Garner to the Wright County Economic Development Commission to replace Todd Foss. Her term will run through December 31, 2026. The Board approved the appointment.

Courthouse grounds use was also addressed. The Board approved two events:

- June 13, 2025: Family Fun Night, 4:00–8:00 PM
- June 14, 2025: Festival Kid’s Zone, 10:00 AM–4:00 PM

A decision on the “Market on Main” events, scheduled for May through August, was tabled. Supervisor Bosch tabled the event following the recommendation of Building and Grounds Director Andrew Yackle, citing the lawn’s incomplete regrowth.

**Cost Allocation Reimbursements** - The Wright County Central Service Cost Allocation Plan was reviewed

by the board. Supervisor Kluss explained the importance of the service for securing federal and state grant reimbursements.

“We’re spending a small amount of dollars (\$4,450) to be compensated for the time that we actually spend,” Kluss said.

The county stands to be reimbursed \$12,077. The Public Health Department reported \$91,244 in indirect costs related to Title 19, potentially qualifying for substantial reimbursement.

**Secondary Roads Update**- Jeremy Abbas, Assistant to the Wright County Engineer, provided updates from the Secondary Roads Department. Crews assisted with a fire at a decommissioned bridge in southern Wright County. Burnt debris is being removed to prevent it from sitting in the creek. Abbas reported that crews completed 39 work orders last week and returned to ten-hour shifts with Fridays off. “We’re in full blade mode,” Abbas shared of the crew’s work on gravel roads.

In other updates:  
• The Board discussed removing outdated law library books to allow for space for the County Attorney and received the quarterly report from the County Recorder’s office.

• A public meeting on property taxes is scheduled for Friday, April 18 at 10:00 AM in Council Chambers with Mark Thompson.

The next meeting of the Wright County Board of Supervisors will be held on Monday, April 21, 2025. Meetings can be viewed online at [YouTube.com/@](https://youtube.com/@wrightcountyiowaofficial8312)

## Legal notices

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

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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](http://www.clarion.church)  
Church Office  
Hours: Monday - Thursday 8:00 a.m. – Noon  
• 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 ages  
10:00 a.m. Worship Service  
• Sunday, May 4  
9:00 a.m. Sunday School  
10:00 a.m. Worship Service

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

**UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, CONGREGATIONAL**  
121 3rd Avenue N.W., Clarion  
• Sunday, April 20  
9:00 a.m. Worship  
10:00 a.m. Fellowship

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

**ST. JOHN CATHOLIC**  
608 2nd Ave. N.E., Clarion  
Father Jerry W. Blake, Pastor  
515-532-3586  
• Wednesday, April 16  
Youth Faith Formation  
7:40 a.m. Rosary at St. Francis, Belmont  
8:00 a.m. Mass at St. Francis, Belmont  
10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting  
Cluster Office Closed  
• Thursday, April 17  
Holy Thursday (Cluster Office Closed)  
7:00 p.m. Mass Sacred Heart, Eagle Grove  
• Friday, April 18  
Good Friday  
2:00 p.m. rosary a Divine Mercy Novena Begins Lived Stream at Sacred Heart, Eagle Grove  
5:30 p.m. Liturgy at St. Francis Xavier, Belmont  
7:30 p.m. Novena a la Divina Misericordia at St. John, Clarion  
• Saturday, April 19  
Holy Saturday (2nd Collection for Haiti)  
2:00 p.m. Rosary and Divine Mercy Novena Live Streamed at Sacred Heart, Eagle Grove  
7:30 p.m. Novena a la Divina Misericordia at St. John, Clarion  
8:00 p.m. Easter Vigil at St. John, Clarion  
• Sunday, April 20  
Easter Sunday  
8:00 a.m. Mass at Francis, Belmont  
9:00 a.m. KC omelet Breakfast at St. Francis, Belmont  
10:30 a.m. Mass at Sacred

Heart, Eagle Grove  
• Monday, April 21  
Easter Monday (Cluster Office Closed)  
8:15 a.m. Rosary at St. Francis, Belmont  
2:00 p.m. Rosary and Divine Mercy Novena Live Streamed at Sacred Heart, Eagle Grove  
7:30 p.m. Novena a la Divina Misericordia at St. John, Clarion

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

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

GOLDFIELD AREA

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

**UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
220 E. Oak St., Goldfield, IA 50542  
515-825-3581  
[goldfield.upc@gmail.com](mailto: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 20  
10:00 a.m. Worship Service and Fellowship Coffee in the Fellowship Room.  
No Sunday School

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

**HOLMES EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
Pastor George Lautner  
412-874-9878  
• Sunday, April 20  
9:30 a.m. Worship and Communion

**HOLMES BAPTIST CHURCH**  
2137 Hancock Avenue  
Pastor Cody Huber  
515-825-3110  
• Sundays  
9:30 a.m. Sunday school, 10:30 a.m. Worship Service, 5 p.m. Evening Service  
• Wednesdays

Prayer Meeting, youth group, kids club (1st – 6th grades – during school year)

**WRIGHT CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH**  
1730 130th Street, Kanawha 641-762-3947  
• Sunday, April 20  
9:30 a. m. Morning Worship, 10:30 a.m. Fellowship, 11 a.m. Sunday School, 6 p.m. Evening Worship

ROWAN AREA

**UNITED CHURCH OF ROWAN**  
Pastor Nancy Hofmeister  
811 Pesch St., Box 38, Rowan  
• Sunday  
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 20  
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](http://www.sgcdows.com)  
Doug Holmes, Pastor  
• Sunday, April 20  
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  
• Thursday, April 17  
6:30 p.m. Maundy Thursday Worship/Communion  
• 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 20  
10 a.m. Dows Joint Worship at Untied Methodist

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

**IMMANUEL U.C.C.**  
204 E. South St., Latimer  
Joe Dunnwald  
• Sunday, April 20  
10:30 a.m. Worship

**ST. PAUL’S LUTHERAN**  
304 W. Main, Latimer  
Travis Berg, Pastor  
• Sunday, April 20  
9 a.m. Worship, 10:15 a.m. ABC/Sunday School

**UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
Morgan, Lee Center, Bradford  
Erling Shultz, Pastor  
• Sunday, April 20  
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 20  
9:30a.m. Joint Sunday Worship Service with Holy Communion, Coffee to follow  
• Dinner is the first Sunday of the month

The Clarion Wire

\*\* 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!  
\*\* Clarion Church of Christ Good Friday service, April 18 at 6 p.m. Easter - Sunday, April 20 - breakfast at 8:30 a.m.; worship at 10 a.m.  
\*\* Easter Services: Good Friday Service, Friday, April 18 at the First Lutheran Church in Clarion, joining with Congregational Church and Goldfield Presbyterian Church. Easter Worship at the Lutheran Church with Congregational Church on Sunday,- 9 a.m. Presbyterian Church in Goldfield - 10:30 a.m.  
\*\* Good Friday service at First Methodist Church in Clarion, April 18 at 7 p.m. Sunday, April 20 at 8:30 a.m. and 10 a.m. Sunday.  
\*\* Annual EASTER EGG HUNT - Saturday, April 19 at 10 a.m. Tornado Park in Clarion!  
\*\* 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!  
\*\* Saturday, April 19 - at St. John’s Catholic Church with an Easter Vigil at 8 p.m. Sunday, April 20 - Easter Worship - 8 a.m. - St Francis Catholic Church in Belmont; and 10:30 a.m. - Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Eagle Grove.  
\*\* Join Clarion’s Presbyterian Church for Easter worship on Sunday, April 20 at 9 a.m.; brunch to follow!  
\*\* 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.  
\*\* “Easy Going Senior Exercises” at the Clarion Senior Citizens Center every Monday and Thursday afternoon, beginning at 1:30 p.m.  
\*\* Know of a family who could use a family pool pass for the upcoming summer season, contact Karen Weld at [karenweld@outlook.com](mailto:karenweld@outlook.com) .  
\*\* “IRON MEN” meet at the Clarion Church of Christ, every Tuesday a.m. at 6! Join them as your schedule allows - 420 North Main.  
\*\* “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!  
\*\* Thinking of Tre Solis and his family; it’s the 2nd

of two Community Impact Nights at Clarion’s Pizza Ranch is set for Wednesday, April 23 from 5 - 8 p.m. Also ‘Bake At Home Pizzas’. The first impact night raised over \$1,250 for the Solis family!  
\*\* 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!  
\*\* Volunteer Appreciation Coffee at Heartland Museum in southwest Clarion - Saturday, April 26 from 9 - 11 a.m. Always looking for more volunteers! The Museum is celebrating its 25th anniversary in 2025!  
\*\* CGD Prom is set for Saturday, April 26!  
\*\* CGD Class of 2025 Baccalaureate will be held at the First Methodist Church in Clarion on Sunday, April 27 at 7 p.m.  
\*\* Iowa Specialty Hospital - Clarion will once again have free garden plots available. Community Garden is located north of the cement parking lot by The Meadows Assisted Living (1302 South Main Street - Clarion). The land will be plowed and tilled in advance. It is up to the participant to maintain the plot once they have signed the agreement. Sign up deadline is April 28th. Contact Duane Asbe at 515-532-9315 to reserve your garden plot.  
\*\* Next “MEET AND EAT”, community meal at the Clarion Church of Christ, 420 North Main, is Wednesday, April 30 at 6 p.m. Entree: Scalloped Potatoes and Ham!  
\*\* Clarion’s Senior Citizens Center, Play ‘500 cards’, the first and third Wednesdays of each month. Next ones are on Wednesdays, May 7 and 21 from 1:30 - 3:30 p.m.  
\*\* 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!!  
\*\* AT THE CLARION THEATRE: Showing “King of Kings” on Friday - Sunday, April 18 - 20 @ 7 p.m.; No Sunday matinee for Easter!  
\*\* THANK YOU: Everyone praying for. caring, and contributing to the Solis family, as Tre continues to heal!



**Baby Girl**  
Aryanna Albright and Xavian Sheka of Northwood, IA would like to announce the birth of their daughter Annabella Lanette. She was born Sunday, April 6, 2025 at the

Iowa Specialty Hospital in Clarion, IA. She weighed 7 pounds 2 ounces. Proud Grandparents are: Glenn Sheka of Grafton, IA and Satta Cheka of Cedar Rapids, IA.



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### Words of Wisdom

Last week’s trivia questions:  
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)”?  
Answer: Tom Petty.  
What singer’s greatest hit songs include “R.O.C.K. in the U.S.A.”, “Pink Houses”, and “Jack and Diane”?  
Answer: John Mellencamp.  
\*\*\*\*\*  
This week’s trivia questions:  
What actress has starred in movies including “The Blind Side”, “Speed”, and “Miss Congeniality”?  
What actress has starred in movies including “Legally Blonde”, “Sweet Home Alabama”, and “Walk the Line”?  
\*\*\*\*\*  
April 16 is National Banana Day, National Librarian Day, and National Orchid Day; April 17 is Holy Thursday, and World Circus Day; April 18 is Good Friday, National Newspaper Columnists Day, and National Exercise Day; April 19 is National Poker Day; April 20 is Easter; April 21 is National Kindergarten Day, and National Tea Day; April 22 is Earth Day, and National Jellybean Day.  
\*\*\*\*\*  
This week is Holy Week, and National Public Safety Telecommunications Week.  
\*\*\*\*\*  
**Funny quotes from the world of sports**  
“If lessons are learned in defeat, our team is getting a great education.”  
– *Coach Murray Warmath*  
“These are my new shoes. They won’t make you rich like me, they won’t make you rebound like me, they definitely won’t make you handsome like me. They’ll only make you have shoes like me.”  
– *Basketball player Charles Barkley*  
“Son, looks to me like you’re spending too much time on one subject.”  
– *Coach Shelby Metcalf, in response to a player saying he had four F’s and one D.*  
\*\*\*\*\*  
“I’m not allowed to comment on lousy officiating.”  
– *New Orleans Saints general manager Jim Fink*  
\*\*\*\*\*  
Bats save the U.S. agriculture industry an estimated \$3.7 to \$53 billion annually by eating pest insects.  
\*\*\*\*\*  
A single strand of spider silk is thinner than a human hair, but also five times stronger than steel of the same width.



### Monitor Memories

FROM THE ARCHIVES OF THE WRIGHT COUNTY MONITOR  
1983 - 1948

#### 42 Years Ago April 21, 1983

Area residents now have “A Time to Sew,” with the opening of a new shop in Clarion, which is owned and operated by Rob and Donna Miller. The store, which is located at the corner of North Main St. and First Ave., has fabrics, patterns and notions available for any project that a seamstress would want to undertake.

A group of 13 Wright County residents, representing severe weather spotter groups from Clarion, Dows, Eagle Grove and Goldfield met with Bob Shaw, the Coordinator for the Wright County Joint Count/Municipal Disaster Services, last Wednesday evening, and agreed to form an official Wright county Skywarn system. The Skywarn system, which is used to help law enforcement agencies and local residents be warned in the event of impending severe weather, is run completely by volunteers.

All the Clarion Cowboys have been asking for is a chance to show what they can do in competition. The weather finally gave them a break Tuesday, and they showed some talent and promise while finishing fourth in the Bronco Relays in Belmond.

#### 77 Years Ago April 15, 1948

When Mrs. Esther Olson, Clarion fourth grade teacher, composed a jingle two weeks ago, she almost completely dismissed the matter from her mind, until a letter came in the mail Thursday morning of last week, saying she had won a trip to Hollywood with “all the trimmings.” The contest was conducted by Des Moines theatres.

Hans and Pete Peterson, brothers, returned to their farm home two miles south of Clarion March 21 after a three months trip to Norway where they visited three brothers and a sister as well as many other relatives. On their return trip they were accompanied by Theodore M. Petterson, 20, who plans to be a permanent resident of this country. He reads and writes English fairly well as he had learned it in school in Norway, and is now learning to speak it.

Lay-offs among employees of the Chicago Great Western railroad, caused by the month long coal miners strike, has been pinching Clarion personnel harder and harder as the time stretches out. Today the Office of Defense Transportation issued an order cutting the service in half.

### Coffee and Sweets at the Heartland Museum

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





### Clarion Easter Egg Hunt

The Clarion Development Alliance is excited to announce the annual Easter Egg Hunt located at Tornado Park in Clarion on April 19<sup>th</sup>. The event will start at 10 am and is open to children aged 0-10 years.

This year’s event will be a fun-filled day for the family! Kids will enjoy the traditional egg hunt with candy-filled eggs, filled by Peer Helpers. There will also be special prizes such as bikes, trikes and scooters. With various age groups, each child will have an equal opportunity to find eggs. Photo opportunities will be provided by

**Amanda Carpenter -Scentsy Appearances**  
**Art U Creative**  
**The Branded Bombshell**  
**Central Waste Solutions**  
**Clarion Distributing**  
**Clarion Locker**  
**Cramer Chiropractic**  
**Dean & Lisa Kluss**  
**First Bank**  
**First Citizens Bank**  
**First Steps Early Learning Center**  
**Fuel**  
**Gift of Giving**  
**Glow Beauty Bar**  
**Gold Eagle Cooperative**  
**Hanson & Sons Tire**  
**Holmes Christmas Club**  
**John and Candy Sheehan**  
**Meghann’s Munchkins**  
**Meyer Ag Services, Inc**  
**Mom Prom**  
**North Iowa Real Estate**  
**Peer Helper**  
**Pizza Ranch**  
**Preppy Farmer**  
**Richard E. Bordwell Law, PLC**  
**Sally’s Sewing Room**  
**Scott Anderson Trucking**  
**Sigmeth Roberts Law**  
**Sumners Insurance**  
**Trail to Serenity Massage and Bodywork**  
**Urness Hardware**  
**Wright Community Connections**  
**Wright County Family Dental**





### Norwegian-Americans to Converge at Lake Mills

Rodger Tveiten

The perilous 1825 voyage of the first boatload of Norwegians to the United States will come alive on Monday, May 5th, at the Salem Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall in Lake Mills. Dale Goodman of the speakers’ bureau of the Vesterheim Museum will share the story of the wind-powered, single-masted sloop, which left Stavanger for the Port of New York on July 4, 1825.

This year is the 200th anniversary of the start of the mass migration of Norwegians to the America.

This bi-centennial will be commemorated in hundreds of communities and especially in the Lefse Belt stretching from Lake Michigan to the Pacific Northwest.

The Lake Mills celebration is organized by the Nordic Lodge of the Sons of Norway. Each May, the lodge hosts a banquet honoring the history and culture of Norway. One hundred lodge members, family members and friends are expected for the 2025 gala. Serving for the catered Swedish meatball buffet will start at 6:00 p.m. Two tables of Scandinavian desserts will follow the meal.

For reservations, contact Kermit Singelstad, lodge president. Those attending are welcome to wear their folk costumes. Norwegian and Icelandic sweaters are also welcome.

Look! 4 corners!

Everyday moments can be learning moments with your kids. For more tips, visit [bornlearning.org](http://bornlearning.org)

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### VFW Clarion Fish Fry

Friday, April 18  
5:00 - 7:00 p.m.

At the Heartland Museum Clarion, IA.

All you can eat Fish, Fries, Coleslaw and Drink!



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The View From Here

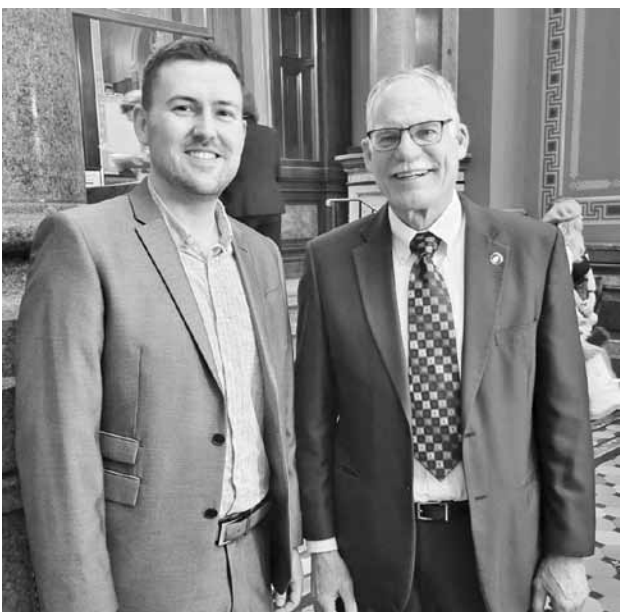
Iowa Senator Dennis Guth R-Klemme

We have finished week thirteen of the legislative session when most of our time was spent on floor debate. We have also started turning our attention to the budget and working through the details of each department’s budget.

This week we passed Senate File 167, which sets funding for K-12 education. The legislature increased funding for schools by \$240 million, bringing total state funding to over \$4.2 billion. The state is investing \$7,988 per pupil and continues the teacher pay increase from last year. This puts Iowa among the top ten states for teacher salaries.

Since education funding is by far the biggest budget item for the state, we set that budget first and will now be working on every other item in state government. Our target for the total budget is \$9.411 billion, which is up 5.2 percent from last year. With the tax cuts made in past years, it is important that we budget conservatively and prioritize our investments.

Since we legalized fireworks in Iowa several years ago, it has been necessary to make some adjustments. This week we passed SF 303 which allows consumer fireworks: July 3 between 9:00 am and 10:00 pm; July 4 between 9:00am and 11:00 pm; and December 31 from 9:00 am until 12:30 am January 1. The use of fireworks allows Iowans and citizens around the country to celebrate these important holidays in a patriotic manner and the way Iowans desire. I always enjoy sharing fireworks as a family, especially when the youngest members can be frightened by the big



Andrew Wagner, a pharmacist from Eagle Grove, visited to promote PBM reform. He is well supported in his community, with over 50 of his clients emailing me to pass legislation to help keep rural pharmacies open.

community display. It’s one of those things Iowans do to celebrate our freedoms.

I’ve heard of some disturbing increases in property taxes this week. We are working to make the process more transparent so that taxpayers know why their taxes are going up. The proposal, Senate Study Bill 1227, increases the homestead exemption to \$50,000 to help bring real relief to residential property taxpayers. It also immediately removes the rollback for all classifications except agriculture. Additionally, it implements a consumer price index (CPI) adjustment alongside the 2% revenue restriction to help local entities manage times of high inflation. Lastly, it provides a cushion to help small communities that may not be growing much.

The House passed two bills dealing with CO2 pipelines that I appreciated.

However HF 943, which bans eminent domain for carbon pipelines, did not make it out of committee. HF 639 would narrow the definition of common carrier so that private companies could not use eminent domain, increases the insurance requirements of the company owning the pipeline, and requires IUC board members to attend meetings. This bill was amended so that almost all of the good parts were eliminated and several items were added that would make it easier for Summit to prevail in their effort to force the pipeline through land when property owners don’t want it. I will continue to work for real protection of our God-given rights.

As a busy senator and farmer this spring, I affirm a statement I recently ran across.

If you don’t schedule your priorities someone else will.

The Second Funnel Closes

Jennifer Konfrst Iowa House Democratic Leader

Last Friday, April 4, 2025, marked the end of Week 12 for the 2025 legislative session, and, with it, the end of the second legislative funnel.

Funnel weeks are self-imposed deadlines designed to narrow the pool of legislation up for consideration during a given year. By setting a deadline for policy bills, the idea is that the Legislature can quickly pivot to finalizing the budget before the session closes for the year.

While most of the bills proposed by Senate Democrats failed to advance beyond the funnel deadlines, there are some good bipartisan bills still alive. And though there are many bad GOP bills still alive, we’ve managed to help defeat quite a few terrible pieces of legislation. Here’s a brief rundown of where we stand after the second funnel (this list is not comprehensive):

- Bipartisan Bills Still Alive
- Ban cell phone usage in schools (HF 782)
- Expanded cancer and health care coverage for firefighters (HF 969)
- Helping individuals with disabilities to work and keep their healthcare (HF 905)
- Expanding parental leave for adoptive parents & state employees (HF 889/HF 248)
- New tools to address human trafficking (HF 649, HF 908)
- Prohibiting the use of bots for ticket purchases (SF 146)
- Lead service lines disclosed at selling (SF 425/HF 876)
- Health Care coverage for spouses and children of workers killed on the job (HF 913)
- Radon protections and

- free radon tests (HF 707)
- Increased privacy protections for victims of domestic assault (HF 397/SF 457)
- Expand services available in the Veterans Trust Fund (SF 617/HF 534)
- Provides recovery funding and strengthens protections against out-of-state predators during a natural disaster (HF 982/SF 619)
- Cryptocurrency Fraud Transaction Protections (SF 449)
- Bad GOP Bills Still Alive
- Low public school funding that reduces opportunities (SF 167)
- Allow unlicensed chaplain services in public schools (HF 884)
- State encouragement for elective high school courses on the Bible (SF 510/HF 845)
- Ending Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion in Iowa (HF 856)
- \$1 billion in new tax breaks for corporations at the expense of workers (SF 607/HF 980)
- Make it easier to fire employees (HF 767/SF 110)
- Voter Suppression (HF 954)
- Limit food options for hungry children (HF 970)
- Puts health care for 182,000 Iowans at risk (SF 615)
- Creates a new offense for smuggling persons that could criminalize nonprofits and religious organizations helping people (HF 572)
- Allow doctors to refuse treatment based on political beliefs (HF 571/SF 220)

Good News: These Bad GOP Bills are Dead

- Immunity for pesticide companies giving people cancer (SF 394)
- Gives the Governor a \$100,000 pay raise (SF 544)
- Funding diversion to charter schools affecting school district teacher salaries (HF 789)
- Make it harder to access vaccines (HF 712)
- Expands the ability to carry a gun into a school (HF 621)
- Ties the hands of DNR to acquire public land (SF 553)
- Cuts funding to libraries based on affiliation (HF 880)
- Vitamins and light therapeutics for at-risk students (HF 522)
- Conspiracy theory on

chemicals in the air (HF 927)

School Funding Finally Advances

This week, after nearly two months of delays, Republicans in the House and Senate have finally come together to advance a school funding proposal – just days before the deadline at which school districts are required to submit their annual budgets.

The deal negotiated between the Republican factions in both chambers – without input from legislative Democrats – is still woefully inadequate.

At the agreed-upon amount (2%), nearly half of Iowa’s school districts would be forced to raise property taxes or enact deep budget or staffing cuts. The funding rate fails to keep pace with rising costs and will continue the years-long trend of underfunding our public schools.

Earlier in the legislative session, Senate Democrats offered an amendment that would have altered the school funding increase to 5%, providing schools some breathing room and beginning to make up ground on the funding gaps enacted under the Republican trifecta. That proposal was rejected in February.

Quick Updates

- Cancer Coverage for Firefighters, finally: This week, the Senate finally passed HF 969, expanding cancer healthcare coverage for Iowa’s firefighters. This bill endured more hurdles than it should have, but Senate Democrats are proud to have supported it all the way through. Iowa’s firefighters deserve healthcare coverage that respects their service and the risks they take to keep the rest of us safe.
- Nursing home legislation rejected: During debate this week on HF 309, Democrats offered four amendments that would more clearly improve the safety and security of Iowa nursing home residents: increasing nursing home oversight, expanding opportunities for residents to comment on safety inspections, allowing cameras in nursing home rooms, and banning private equity from taking over Iowa nursing homes. Each amendment was defeated.

The Thompson Times

Representative Mark Thompson, House District 56

As the second funnel passed, the pace slows as the appropriations process begins. There are several bills that are “funnel proof” in ways and means committee that are still being voted out of committee and will be eligible for a floor debate and vote. This week the House finished their work sent over from the Senate by Tuesday. I stayed at the Capitol to follow bills I brought forward to make sure they got through committee. The one large bill passed was the school budgets. It is always a struggle to get both chambers to agree on this very complex issue. Below is a brief summary.

SSA Final Agreement (School Budget)

This week, we passed a final SSA agreement after months of negotiations. While our original proposal included more money for schools, this final agreement includes a couple of key wins secured by Iowa House.

This final agreement includes:

- A 2% increase in SSA for Fiscal Year 2026 plus an additional \$5 per student. This results in more than \$105 million more in school aid.
- This year also brings phase two of the teacher salary increase. This will include almost \$35 million additional dollars for public schools.
- The State Cost Per Pupil amount increases to \$7,988 per student which includes an additional \$5 for per pupil equity, which was a key component fought for by the House. This is an increase of \$162 per pupil.
- The operational sharing cap increases from 21 to 25, an additional \$942,087 for public schools.
- An additional 3% increase in transportation equity, in addition to the 2% increase. This equates to \$1,554,938 more for public schools. Altogether, these increases equate to a 2.8% increase in state funding to public

schools. The House secured more than \$4.7 million in additional investments for public schools through our negotiations.

These increases represent many of the specific funding issues we hear from our school districts. While each line item may not affect each individual school district equally, one line item may have a big impact on addressing the issue a specific district is facing. The House is working to respond to the specific concerns we’re hearing from our schools in a responsible manner.

Is ESA being audited?

I have been asked if the ESA is being audited and the funds monitored. There is a long list of the categories in which the schools are being monitored. The Iowa Department of Education has contracted with Odyssey, a third-party administrator, to manage the ESA program. Odyssey handles applications, financial transactions, compliance, and fraud prevention. This external oversight helps ensure that funds are securely administered and that payments are processed only for verified, eligible expenses.

Odyssey handles day-to-day operations, including processing payments, verifying expenses, and monitoring for fraud. As part of its contract, Odyssey is required to maintain auditable records of all transactions and compliance activities. The Department of Education has the authority to audit Odyssey’s performance to ensure it adheres to state guidelines, such as approving only qualified educational expenses and safeguarding against improper expenditures.

The DOE as a state agency managing public funds, it is subject to audits by the Iowa State Auditor’s Office. The State Auditor has the authority to examine state programs, including the ESA, to verify that funds are being spent appropriately and in

accordance with Iowa law.

Pharmacy Benefit Mangers (PBM’s)

Earlier this week Dr. Wagner from Eagle Grove posted on his Facebook page the plight of small pharmacist and pharmacies regarding what Pharmacy Benefit Managers (PBM’s) are doing to our small but essential pharmacies. In our rural area several small, independent pharmacies are struggling due to these PBM directives. Since entering the legislature several years ago, I have been working with Dr. Wagner and his predecessor, Dr. Mickey Cooper, on how I can support their efforts to fix this financially detrimental process. The PBM bill from the House survived and was placed on the House calendar for a vote. If we pass it in the house (I’m hopeful) I will lobby the Senate to pass it as well.

HF 852 – Pharmacy Benefit Managers - This bill includes the following additional regulations of PBMs in Iowa:

- Prohibits a PBM or insurer from discriminating against a pharmacy if the pharmacy is acting within its license and all laws.

- Prohibits the removal of pharmacy choice or imposing any monetary advantages or penalties that result in removing pharmacy choice (including unnecessary specialty drug designations and requiring use of mail order pharmacies)

- Prohibits additional cost-sharing on the insured based on where they choose to have their prescription filled

- Requires all rebates to benefit the insured

- Requires any amount paid by the insured for the prescription drug to be applied to their deductible

- Requires PBMs to reimburse pharmacies based on acquisition cost

- Prohibits spread pricing unless all cost differential is provided to the insured

- Requires pharmacies have an appeals process if not reimbursed at acquisition cost

House Study Bill 328: Updates to the Property Tax Overhaul Bill

Last month, we introduced a major property tax overhaul bill to kickstart a broad conversation about property tax reform. In the time since, we have been taking feedback from Iowans and different entities to gain a complete understanding of how any change we make to the system would affect Iowans across the state. As a result of this feedback, Iowa House Ways and Means Chairman Bobby Kaufmann and his counterpart in the Senate have introduced new legislation, updating the bill proposed several weeks ago. Iowans have been loud and clear about their complaints with property taxes and their fear that they may be priced out of their homes. Based on the feedback we hear from Iowans; the current system is disliked by both taxpayers and taxing entities. We should not be afraid of big changes to the system.

House Study Bill 328 would make the following changes to the original proposal:

- Increases the homestead exemption benefit to \$50,000 to help bring relief to residential property taxpayers
- Removes the rollback for all classifications except agriculture, effective for the FY27 budget
- Implements a CPI (consumer price index) adjustment alongside the 2% revenue restriction to help local entities manage times of high inflation
- Provides a minimum budget guarantee to provide small communities certainty in their budgeting process

Once again it is time to get additional feedback from Iowans on this legislation. I have scheduled a meeting this week with city and county leaders and office holders to come share their thoughts on this updated property tax proposal.

Classifieds

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**The Wright County Sheriff's Office is currently seeking applicants for Deputy Sheriff position.**

Original complete application, cover letter and resume must be received No later than May 12th, 2025. Applications can be picked up 8:00 a.m.- 4:00 p.m. Monday-Friday at the Wright County Sheriff's Office, 719 2<sup>nd</sup> Street S.W. Clarion IA 50525 Or by emailing [jhogrefe@wrightco.iowa.gov](mailto:jhogrefe@wrightco.iowa.gov) *Wright County is an Equal Opportunity Employer.*



**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](mailto:news@wrightcountymonitor.com).



CG

SPORTS

(Photos: Taylor Smith)

## Lane Takes Bronze At Umstead Relays

Taylor Smith,  
Sports Editor

On April 8, the CGDHS boys track and field squad competed in Wright County at the 65<sup>th</sup> annual Umstead Relays hosted by Eagle Grove. Athletes contended with a 15 mph wind late in the afternoon, but spectators from Algona, Eagle Grove, Forest City, Iowa Falls, Humboldt, Webster City, Belmond-Klemme, Central Springs, Lake

Mills, Manson Northwest Webster, Newman Catholic, St. Edmond, and West Hancock still packed the stands to watch their schools go head to head.

The Cowboys finished 6<sup>th</sup> in Class A with 23 team points. Algona (145), Humboldt (131), and Webster City (99) all placed in the top-3.



Bryce Lindaman heaves the shot put at the Umstead Relays.



Charlie Campbell looks to pass an Eagle Grove runner in the 4x200.



(L to R): Jallen Stewart and Logan Legleiter get out of the blocks fast in the quarter mile.

<b>100m Dash –</b>	
8 – Charlie Campbell .....	12.4
11 – Selvin Gonzalez .....	12.76
<b>200m Dash –</b>	
10 – Ethan Boots .....	25.81
14 – Henry Holmes .....	27.99
<b>400m Dash –</b>	
10 – Logan Legleiter .....	1:02.49
12 – Jallen Stewart .....	1:05.71
<b>800m Run –</b>	
13 – Dietrich Woodley .....	2:37.4
14 – Calvin Barrett.....	2:41.68
<b>1600m Run –</b>	
5 – Christopher Greenfield .....	5:13.35
<b>3200m Run –</b>	
5 – Tate Jackson .....	11:32.75
<b>110m Hurdles –</b>	
3 – Chaz Lane .....	16.89
5 – Daven Duncalf .....	17.84
<b>400m Hurdles –</b>	
8 – Eduardo Rivera .....	1:05.26
9 – Daven Duncalf .....	1:05.59
<b>4x100 –</b>	
6 – Lindaman, Campbell .....	48.14
Lingenfelter, Gonzalez	
<b>4x200 –</b>	
6 – Lindaman, Lingenfelter.....	1:40.01
Gonzalez, Campbell	
<b>4x400 –</b>	
7 – Ruba, Legleiter,.....	4:27.56
Hoang, Sweeney	
<b>4x800 –</b>	
7 – Torsell, Barrett .....	10:34
Woodley, Greenfield	
<b>Sprint Medley –</b>	
6 – Matul, Holmes, Boots, Rivera.....	1:53.55
<b>Distance Medley –</b>	
7 – Boots, Holmes, Ruba, Jackson.....	4:24.56
<b>Shuttle Hurdle –</b>	
4 – Lane, Rivera.....	1:10.82
Duncalf, Lindaman	
<b>High Jump –</b>	
5 – Chaz Lane .....	5’8”
<b>Long Jump –</b>	
11 – Jallen Stewart .....	16’5 ½”
13 – Roy Hoang .....	15’3 ½”
<b>Shot Put –</b>	
9 – Huxley Lingenfelter .....	40’2”
10 – Bryce Lindaman.....	39’10 ¼”
<b>Discus –</b>	
5 – Huxley Lingenfelter .....	126’7”

## Charlson Cruises To 4<sup>th</sup> In EG



Sophomore Yaquelin Bobadilla runs into a 25 mph wind in Eagle Grove.

Taylor Smith,  
Sports Editor

On Thursday, the CGDHS girls track and field team competed at the Lady Eagle Relays in Eagle Grove against Webster City, Algona, Bishop Garrigan, Fort Dodge, Garner-Hayfield-Ventura, St. Edmond, and West Hancock. The ladies finished 7<sup>th</sup> overall with 46 team points.

MaKayla Beisel cleared 5’0” in the high jump for a share of 1<sup>st</sup> place. The senior then went on to take silver in the long jump (16’6”), the 100m hurdles (16.63) and the 400m hurdles (1:15.67).

Harley Charlson took 4<sup>th</sup> place in the open 800 with a time of 2:55.84.

C-G-D’s 4x800 team placed 5<sup>th</sup> with a time of 12:48.93.



MaKayla Beisel took silver in the 100m hurdles with a time of 16.63.



Sophomore Aleena Schaffer sprints the 100.



Johanna Perez glides past the competition at the Lady Eagle Relays.



Harley Charlson cruises in the open 800.

## Tux Coc Leads United Against Bulldogs

Taylor Smith,  
Sports Editor

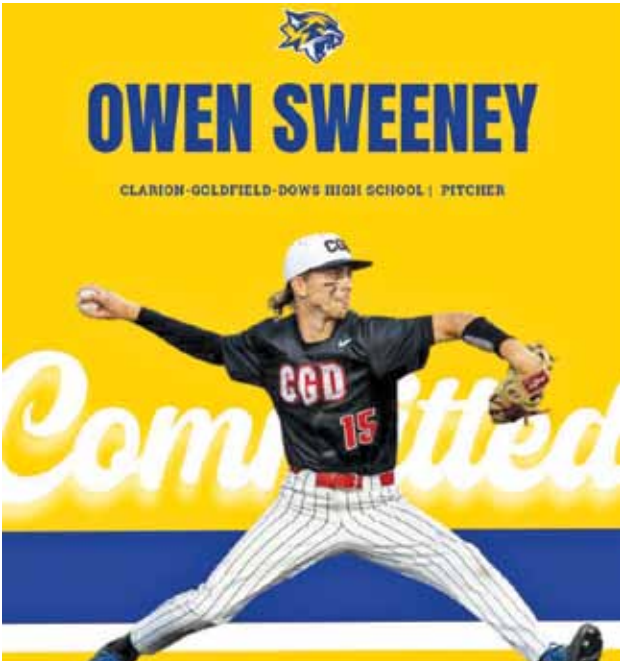
After a tie and two losses in their second week of action, Wright County United’s record now sits at 1-3-2.

First, Wright County would go head to head with 2-0 Hampton-Dumont-CAL in a Monday night road contest. With less than ten minutes to play, the Bulldogs scored the first goal of the game, but Wright County junior Byron Tux Coc responded with his team-high third goal of the season to tie things up in the 79<sup>th</sup> minute. Midfielder Angel Cortez set up Tux Coc on

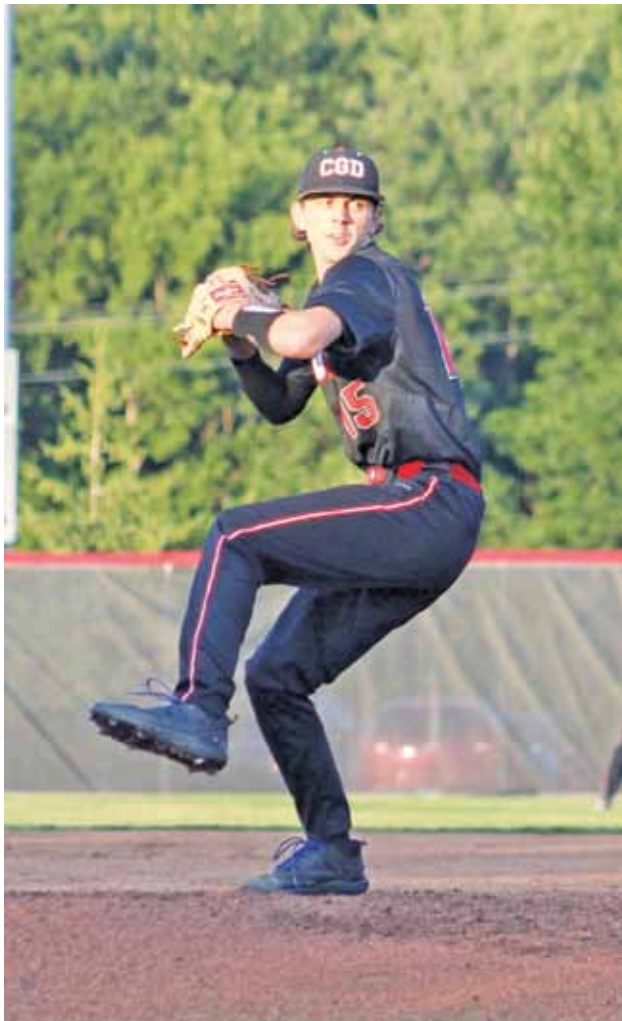
the play and was awarded his fourth assist of the year. Goalkeeper Jose Alfaro accounted for 10 saves in the tie.

On Thursday, Wright County would drop a home game against their conference foes from Humboldt. Tux Coc converted on his only shot on goal of the contest, but the United fell 4-1 to the Wildcats.

A day later in State Center, Central Iowa United defeated Wright County 7-2. Junior Anderson Diaz and freshman Jerry Hernandez each scored goals in the second half of the loss.



Last week, Cowboy senior Owen Sweeney chose to continue his career at NICC in Calmar. (Graphic from CGD Baseball\_ Facebook)



As a junior starter and relief pitcher, Owen Sweeney struck out 38 with an ERA of 4.24 and a record of 3-3.

## Cowgirls Tee Off In Story City and Goldfield

Taylor Smith,  
Sports Editor

Girls golfers from CGDHS teed off for the first time last Monday afternoon in Story City. The ladies had 252 total points and fell to opponents from Roland-Story (181) and West Marshall (211) at River

Bend Golf Course.

Sophomore Blaire Askelsen (12<sup>th</sup>/57) was C-G-D’s top golfer. Maddie Askvig finished 13<sup>th</sup> with a 61, and junior Claire Kirstein shot a 67 for 17<sup>th</sup> place. Jordyce Duncalf (20<sup>th</sup>/68) rounded out the scoring for

the Cowgirls.

Randi Anderson (72) and Quinn Brooks (74) also represented C-G-D at the triangular.

The girls would go on to lose 195-238 in a home dual against Garner-Hayfield-Ventura on Thursday,

April 10. Askelsen (5<sup>th</sup>/56) and Askvig (6<sup>th</sup>/59) led the charge again for the Cowgirls, and Kirstein shot a 60 for 8<sup>th</sup>. Duncalf scored 61 at Goldfield’s River Bend Golf Course.



Aerial views

Bruce Voigts, Aerial Photographer (Photos taken April 8, 2025)



Migratory birds were headed up north.



A house was being moved north of Clarion.



New Research and Learning Center building on the Northern Research and Demonstration Farm in Kanawha. “Researchers conduct extensive tests on corn and soybean weed management. Evaluation of cover crops and strip tillage also is underway. Researchers study soil fertility and management systems. Agronomists study nutrient requirements of area crops and apply nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium and lime to observe crop yield response.” Various field days are held during the summer months for those interested in this timely research.

Agronomy Workshop Series for Women to Be Held in Franklin County

Angela Rieck-Hinz, ISU Extension and Outreach

Iowa State University Extension and Outreach will host Agronomy in the Field, a multi-session, hands-on workshop being offered to women landowners, farmers, conservationists, and other women who are interested in learning more about agronomy. The workshop series will be held during the 2025 growing season.

Women in field. Sessions are designed to be hands-on and conducted in the field to see real-time conditions.

“Agronomy in the Field aims to strengthen agronomic skills for women that allow for better decision-making, provide a better understanding of inputs for crop production, showcase various conservation practices and increase confidence in communication with farming partners,” said Angela Rieck-Hinz, north central



field agronomist for Iowa State University Extension and Outreach.

The workshops will be held on April 29, May 27, June 24, July 22, Aug. 26 and Sept. 9 from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. at a farm located east of Hampton. Specific session and location details will be emailed to registrants.

The fee to register is \$50, with a discounted rate of \$30 for high school or college students. This fee includes all educational

materials and resources. To register for Agronomy in the Field, please contact Shonda Tranel, ISU Extension and Outreach Hardin County at 641-648-4850, ext 2., or stranel@iastate.edu.

This workshop is made possible by the financial support of Hardin, Franklin, Butler and Grundy County extension offices and supported locally by Hillcrest Grain Company and farm hosts, Shonda and Keith Tranel.

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