



The Wright County MONITOR



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Local Giving Brings Easter Fun to Tornado Park

Amanda Rink,
Editor

April 19, 2025 - Tornado Park was full of fun as local families gathered for the annual egg hunt in celebration of Easter last Saturday.

The event was a true community effort. Students from the Clarion-Goldfield-Dows Peer Helper group spent hours filling eggs, while parents also helped to organize and distribute prizes, which were piled high on picnic tables.

The event was all funded by local donations. "This is all thanks to the generosity of the community," said Sam Stumpf, Director of the Clarion Development Alliance. She shared that every dollar donated went to the Egg Hunt, allowing for a wide variety of prizes.

The cherry on top of the holiday weekend was a family movie night funded by The Clarion First Methodist Church. The church paid for all children's tickets last Saturday night for the showing of "The King of Kings", an animated film inspired by the book "The Life of Our Lord" by Charles Dickens.

Sponsors of the egg hunt included:

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Wright Words Yard Cards and Blown Away Balloon Co. of Clarion offered a photo drop for the Easter Bunny to pose with children. (Photo: Amanda Rink)



Peer Helpers from CGD filled easter eggs for children 10 and under and helped to hand out prizes during the hunt. (Photo: Amanda Rink)

Wright County Officials Warn of Rural Fallout from Proposed Iowa Property Tax Overhaul

Amanda Rink,
Editor

April 18, 2025 - In a public meeting hosted at the Wright County Courthouse last week, state Representative Mark Thompson heard an urgent and unified message from local leaders: the proposed property tax overhaul working through the Iowa Legislature could devastate rural communities if approved without significant changes.

The discussion centered on House Study Bill 328 and Senate Study Bill 1227, proposals that would eliminate Iowa's current

"rollback" system for calculating taxable property value.

Instead, full taxation would be allowed on assessed value while limiting local governments to a 2% annual growth cap on tax revenues, with modest flexibility during inflationary periods.

Supporters say the bill is designed to rein in unpredictable tax hikes and provide relief for homeowners. But local officials and economic leaders warned that the measure, as written, fails to account for the real needs and constraints of rural

Iowa.

"We are rural," shared Melinda Anderson, President of the Clarion Development Alliance. "The state's idea of rural is 15,000 to 20,000 people. We're not even close to that. These changes could stop (our) growth in its tracks. But we want to grow, we need to grow."

TIF Projects, Housing, and the Risk to Local Budgets-Much of the discussion focused on Tax Increment Financing (TIF), a tool widely used by counties to finance development projects. As Clarion City Administrator

Clint Middleton put it, not many people understand TIF to its full extent. But under proposed legislation, many existing TIF agreements would lose revenue viability, putting major ongoing developments at risk.

Local economic officials shared their concerns that if the bills were to pass as written, housing projects, daycare partnerships, and even industrial parks could go "belly up," with several attendees citing projects that rely on projected TIF revenues as collateral for development loans. They

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Wright County Supervisors Review Work Orders, Staffing Needs, and Text Alert System



All smiles Monday morning, Eric Rector accepted a certificate from Supervisor Rick Rasmussen, celebrating 30 years of service with Wright County Conservation. Rector, who started with the department in 1995, was praised for his long-standing impact, especially at the county's popular campsite. (Photo: Amanda Rink)

Amanda Rink,
Editor

April 21, 2025 - The Wright County Board of Supervisors gathered Monday morning for business as usual, discussing drainage projects, new hires, and community events.

The meeting began at 9:00 A.M., and the board, acting as Drainage District Trustees, opened the meeting with public input. Morris Brandt presented one of three drainage work requests that received approval. The board also signed off on invoices from Jack Britton and James Crawford, who trapped a total of 22 beavers as part of an ongoing drainage maintenance effort.

The board then moved on as County Supervisors to hear a virtual presentation from Landon Beck, a representative from Text My Gov., a service aimed at improving communications between local government and residents.

Supervisor Betty Ellis noted the meeting was just the beginning of gathering information. "We're exploring what the program could do for Wright County," Ellis said, adding that county department heads would be asked for input and emphasized, "Of course, we always need to know the big question, the cost." Beck noted that estimates would be sent to the board for consideration.

County Engineer Adam Clemons presented his

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Area Headlines

Belmond

After a recommendation from Police Chief Dario Gamino, the hiring of Angel Zamora as a new officer was approved by the City of Belmond. Zamora holds a degree in law enforcement and is expected to attend the police academy in early June.

Dows

The City of Dows has decided to "forgo city cleanup this Spring," according to Mayor Larry Klatt the reasoning behind the choice is expense to the city, and townsfolk throwing away things that cannot be taken to a landfill.

Eagle Grove

A malfunctioning signal light was reported at the railroad crossing near the intersection of NE 2nd Street and Lucas Avenue. The issue was reported to Union Pacific Railroad for further inspection and repair.

Goldfield

A Maid-Rite lunch hosted by the American Legion Post 370 and the American Legion Riders will be held on Sunday, April 27, from 10:30 A.M. - 1:30 P.M. to benefit Bryan Dayton. Dayton is an electrical lineman from Woolstock, a former Eagle Grove police officer, U.S. Marine Corps veteran, who was seriously injured while working to restore power during a blizzard in early 2025.

Hampton

Tessa Brodie of Hampton staged a solo protest outside the Franklin County courthouse on April 17, opposing what she described as the illegal deportation of migrants and citizens to El Salvador without due process. She said she plans to continue protesting in the days ahead.

Rowan

"Thank you to everyone who came to my 90th Birthday Party! It was a wonderful day, and it was very nice to see everyone," shared Ardith Frohling in a written statement following the community-wide celebration of her Birthday.

April Storm Knocks Out Power, Damages Farms Across Wright County

Amanda Rink,
Editor

April 18, 2025 - In the early morning of April 18, the majority of Wright County woke up without electricity in their homes due to a large storm system that swept through Iowa. Reports from MidAmerican Energy show that approximately 2,000 customers in the county were affected by power outages.

City workers in Clarion responded quickly, working early to address issues at the water treatment facility caused by the outage,

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An uprooted tree rested east of Clarion in the aftermath of the April 18 storm that swept through Wright County, which caused widespread power outages and damage to rural properties. (Photo: Jon Ahrendsen)



Student Newspaper on pages 9 &10

200th Baby Born at Iowa Specialty Hospital to Local Parents



Pictured is Slade Grant Sebby, the 200th baby born at Iowa Specialty Hospital in 2025. (Photo: Bailey Sebby)

Iowa Specialty Hospital’s 200th baby of 2025, Slade Grant Sebby, was born on April 14th at 4:02 in the afternoon to parents Bailey and Grant Sebby of Clarion. Baby Slade weighed 7 pounds 10.5 ounces and was 20 inches in length. He is joined at home by his big sister, Laikynn. Iowa Specialty Hospital’s Maternity Center is located at its Clarion campus. “It is always so exciting to hit a milestone in the OB department,” stated Brittney Schafer, OB Leader. “A new baby is like the beginning of all things; wonder, hope, and a dream of possibilities! Thank you, Grant and Bailey, for entrusting Iowa Specialty Hospital to care for your newest addition, Slade.” In 2024, Iowa Specialty Hospital delivered 632 babies, which was the most babies ever delivered at the facility in a year.

April Storm continued from page 1

while linemen braved the storm to begin restoring electricity. According to the Iowa Environmental Mesonet, Wright County experienced wind gusts up to 34 mph on April 17, increasing to 32 mph on April 18, with peak gusts reaching 41 mph in the days following. Rainfall totals during the storm period were measured at 0.08 inches on April 17 and 0.27 inches on April 18, though some nearby areas in Iowa received more than two inches of rain. Wright County Emergency Manager Jarika Beecher told Iowa Public Radio that most storm damage in the county occurred in rural areas, citing outbuildings, hoop barns, and that “some hog facilities had damage to their roofs.” Emergency crews and local officials have since been assessing the extent of the damage while continuing clean-up efforts in affected areas.

Rural Fallout continued from page 1

warned that a 30–40% cut in TIF income could force developers to renegotiate with banks or abandon projects entirely. Equity, Inflation, and Legislative Whiplash - Participants voiced concerns over the inflation ranges built into the bills, which would allow revenue growth of 3–5% only if the Consumer Price Index (CPI) rises significantly, something they noted has averaged below 4% over the past decade. One official suggested a fix, saying local governments should be allowed to grow revenue by 2%, plus CPI. “Don’t cap us at 2% including CPI; that math doesn’t reflect real-world costs,” the official said. Others expressed frustration over how frequently Iowa’s property tax rules change, describing the difficulty of planning long-term infrastructure or staffing when rules shift year to year. Several attendees remarked that it’s nearly impossible to build a five-year plan when legislation changes each session. One person compared it to trying to budget in a game where the rules are rewritten every time, referencing House File 718 as a recent example. Rural-Urban Divide and Representation - Throughout the hour-long meeting, rural officials emphasized the mismatch between the needs of small communities and the assumptions in legislation shaped by what they consider urban districts. One attendee pointed out that counties like Polk have vastly different tax bases and resource levels, noting that smaller towns are expected to provide the same services with fewer tools to raise revenue. Some locals called for greater involvement of rural voices in the Ways and Means Committee, which constructs such tax bills. They suggested that the process would benefit from the direct participation of rural clerks, treasurers, and supervisors, not just representatives from urban centers like Des Moines. Next Steps - Thompson, who is originally from the Eagle Grove area, assured locals he would take their feedback directly to House leadership. Although he is not a member of the tax-writing committee, he acknowledged the legislation’s issues. “The number one thing I learned today was, don’t do it this year,” Thompson said. He considered the need to gather locals to speak with other officials at the Capitol, study the full impact of the bill, and be sure it works for all of Iowa. As the legislation waits for subcommittee action, our local rural leaders left the meeting with cautious optimism and a shared hope that their voices won’t be drowned out in Capitol debate.

Brothers Market Partners with Food Pantry

Amanda Rink, Editor Brothers Market of Clarion is selling \$10 Food Pantry Bags for purchase and delivery to help restock the shelves of the First Lutheran Food Pantry. This local partnership aims to support individuals and families in Wright County who are experiencing food insecurity. The First Lutheran Food Pantry, which serves all of Wright County, is entirely volunteer-run and is deeply committed to providing essential food items to those in need. The pantry’s mission centers on offering support with dignity, compassion, and a strong sense of community. “Huge thank you to Brothers Market for helping us collect much-needed supplies for area community members needing a hand up,” shared the First Lutheran Food Pantry in a written statement. About 8.5% of Wright County residents, or roughly 1,100 people, face food insecurity. Purchasing a \$10 Food Pantry Bag at Brothers Market is a simple yet impactful way to lend a hand to neighbors in need.



Logan, a young worker at Brothers Market, poses with the food pantry bags. (Photo: Hayden Rink)

Iowa Specialty Hospital - Clarion to Hold Open House

Iowa Specialty Hospital - Clarion will be hosting an open house on April 30th from 4:00 – 6:00 p.m. to showcase completion of several renovation projects. The public is invited to attend to take a tour of the Clarion Clinic, Behavioral Health department, and Maternity Suite. Refreshments will be available in the West Lobby, and the Gift Shop will also have extended hours for visitor shopping. “Over the past couple of years, we’ve been busy with several renovation projects,” shared Steve Simonin, President and CEO of Iowa Specialty Hospitals & Clinics. “As often happens when we experience increased growth, we found that multiple changes would be required to continue to serve the needs of our patients.” In order to expand the Maternity Suite to accommodate three additional OB patient rooms and a nurses’ station, several other projects had to be completed first. Administration offices moved from the east side of the facility to an area within The Meadows Senior Living. Once that was accomplished, a new Specialty Clinic was built where Administration had previously been located. With those two projects completed, the Maternity project could begin. Then thanks to a grant, the Behavioral Health department was able to have its own dedicated area in the lower level. This change allowed the Clarion Clinic to update its registration area and nurse pod, as well as add new exam rooms. With so many recent changes, Iowa Specialty is excited to share these completed projects with the public during its open house. If you are unable to attend the open house, but would like to learn more about Iowa Specialty Hospitals & Clinics, please visit their website at iowaspecialtyhospital.com.



“First Citizens Bank, First Bank, and First State Bank of Clarion joined forces to support First Steps Early Learning Center, pledging to each donate \$2,000 if the center could raise \$6,000 from the community,” shared Amanda Rosenkilde of First State Bank with the Wright County Monitor. “Thank you once again for your sponsorships! We are blessed to have such amazing community partners,” shared Amanda Carpenter of CGD in a written statement addressed to the banks and daycare director Alicia Frink. (Photo Provided by Amanda Rosenkilde).

Supervisors continued from page 1

weekly report from the Secondary Roads department, noting staffing needs and work orders completed. The board approved the posting of a heavy equipment operator at the bridge and sign maintenance facility. The job will start at \$28.96 with raises throughout the year-long probationary period. The county will help potential hires in obtaining their Class A CDL, a requirement for the job. “It’s not cheap,” Clemons admitted, estimating the cost of certification around \$2,000 to \$3,000. Clemons also shared updates on road maintenance efforts. Crews have been busy grading roads across the county and applying spot rock. Nineteen work orders were completed last week, and the bridge team just finished a demolition project. In other business, the board approved: • A liquor license for Top of Iowa Lucky Wife, LLC, for the Labor Day event at Lake Cornelia. • Savannah Schnetzer as a Medical Examiner Investigator, following a recommendation from Dr. Jon Ahrendson. The meeting wrapped on a celebratory note as Eric Rector was honored for three decades of service in Wright County’s conservation department. He received a certificate from the county, presented by Supervisor Rick Rasmussen, who expressed appreciation for Rector’s impact, particularly at the county’s campsite.

“Over the last 30 years, you’ve really improved the campsite. It’s one of the better ones around,” Rasmussen said, highlighting the popular quiet water area for boaters. The next Supervisors meeting will be held on Monday, April 28, at 9:00 AM. This meeting and others can be viewed online at YouTube.com/@WrightCountyIowaOfficial8312.



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Retirement Celebration
OPEN HOUSE

Wednesday, May 7, 2025
3:00-4:00PM

CGD High School Gym
1111 Willow Drive,
Clarion, IA 50525

Join us as we honor:
Tim Chipman
Denise Eekhoff
Paul Hansch
Jay Klaver
Kim Lund
Jeff Meyer
Jeff Nelson
Kevin Ofstethun
Lori Swanson
Lynette Smith



reading between the lines

with Amanda Rink

This One’s for Johnny (and the Weird Kids)

Amanda Rink,
Editor

“And don’t be so bugged over being a greaser. You still have a lot of time to make yourself be what you want. There’s still lots of good in the world.” - Johnny (S.E. Hinton, The Outsiders)

I’ve always been able to remember what grade of school I was in by looking at the last digit of the year, it’s one of the little tricks that has stuck with me in adulthood. I graduated in 2012, which means I was in 7th grade in 2007 and in 7th grade at Belmond-Klemme you read The Outsiders. But in 2005, when I was in the 5th grade, I read a little ahead of the curve.

That was kind of my thing, reading ahead, sneaking stories I wasn’t assigned or “old enough” or “gifted enough” to read yet. But at an early age, I liked to prove everyone wrong. I tore through Junie B. Jones, Goosebumps, The Series of Unfortunate Events, Harry Potter, and others I can’t recall as a younger

kid, but The Outsiders was different.

It wasn’t just a good story, it was the first book that made me feel something bigger than myself. It was the first time I saw myself in a character, even if he was a greaser named Ponyboy.

April 23rd is World Book Day, and while I’ve been feeling a little burnt out lately, I knew I wanted this column to be a kind of love letter to the first book that made me, the first one that cracked something open in my heart.

If you’ve never read The Outsiders, it’s a coming-of-age novel written by S.E. Hinton when she was just 18 years old. It tells the story of two rival teen gangs, the Greasers, coming from working-class families, and the Socs, the privileged kids.

The book is gritty and emotional and way more powerful than most expect from a young adult novel. One of the characters dies in a moment of heartbreaking bravery, and if you’re a fifth grader reading it way ahead of schedule, you’re definitely soaking the pages with your salty, angst-ridden tears.

The book stuck with me not only because I was a little rebel but because, like the Greasers, I always felt a little bit outside the crowd. Even now, as a reluctant adult, I still sometimes feel

like I’m standing just a bit apart, like I’m still trying to find where I fit in.

If I could go back and talk to that younger version of myself, the one who felt misunderstood, dramatic, and lonely, I’d tell her first to stop feeling so sorry for herself... but also to lean into it.

I’d tell her that being the weird one isn’t a bad thing. That eventually she’ll find her people, the other weird ones. The ones who also cried over books, the ones who know that reading can change you in all the best ways.

These days, I mostly read for entertainment. Because life, let’s be honest, has a way of using up all the emotions we have to spare. But every once in a while, a book still reminds me what it’s like to be cracked wide open, to be seen, and find a little piece of yourself between the lines.

Books can do that. They can plant seeds that bloom years later into a sense of self, hope, or belonging. And if that’s not worth celebrating on World Book Day, I’m not sure what is.

Amanda Rink is the Editor of The Wright County Monitor and a children’s book author. When she isn’t caring for her family, writing for the newspaper, or avoiding laundry, she can be found hiding in the woods with a cup of coffee and a romance novel.



The Historical Viewpoint Rosemary Kennedy and Ice Pick Lobotomies

Casey Jarmes,
(Sigourney)
The News-Review

The first experiments into psychosurgery were conducted in 1888, when Swiss psychiatrist Gottlieb Burckhardt removed parts of the brains of six mentally ill patients. These experiments did not go well. One of Burckhardt’s patients died, one committed suicide, two showed no change, and the final two were left with epilepsy and aphasia. The latter pair, however, were noticeably quieter and calmer after the operation. This is going to be a theme in this column.

Burckhardt’s research was rightfully condemned. Psychosurgery was all but abandoned until the 1930s, when American neuroscientists Carlyle Jacobsen and John Fulton removed the frontal lobes of chimpanzees, rendering them docile and cooperative. Inspired by this, Portuguese neurologist António Egas Moniz began operating on humans, severing the connections between the frontal lobes of a patient suffering from depression, anxiety, paranoia, hallucinations, and insomnia. The patient was left calmer and less paranoid, so Moniz declared the operation a success. Moniz dubbed the operation leucotomy and performed it on 40 more patients.

Moniz taught his surgery to American Walter Freeman, who renamed the procedure the lobotomy and introduced it to the U.S. Together with surgeon James Watts, Freeman traveled the country, performing lobotomies and teaching it to other doctors. Thanks to Freeman’s aggressive promotion, lobotomies spread like wildfire, with 60,000 people in the U.S. and Europe being subjected to the procedure. In 1949, Moniz was awarded the Nobel Prize for inventing the lobotomy.

It needs to be stated that lobotomies did not cure mental illnesses. It made mental illness less noticeable. Patients were often left unable to speak, eat, or use the bathroom, left unable to feel emotions, left apathetic and unable to concentrate, and in some cases left in a vegetative state. Lobotomies were not good for the people they were performed on. The procedure was popular because it made things easier for those tasked with caring for the mentally ill. After all, a brain-dead patient is a lot calmer than someone suffering from mania.

The most publicized lobotomy victim was Rosemary Kennedy. Rosemary was the daughter of businessman and British ambassador Joseph Kennedy and sister to one president and two prominent senators. She was born in 1918, during the Spanish flu epidemic. Because of the flu, a doctor was unavailable, resulting in complications during birth. Rosemary was left without oxygen for an extended period, leaving her with an intellectual disability. Rosemary struggled to read and write. Still, she was able to learn through heavy tutoring, and was able to attend the family’s socialite activities without issue. More importantly, she was happy and enjoyed her life.

After WWII forced the Kennedys to flee England, Rosemary began suffering from mood swings and seizures. Rosemary began getting into fights and was sent to a convent. To the horror of the nuns, the 22-year-old Rosemary began sneaking out at night to visit bars and go home with men. This irritated Joseph Kennedy, who feared the scandal of an unexpected pregnancy could damage the political careers of his sons, who he had spent decades grooming to become president.

To editorialize for a moment, much of Rosemary’s behavior was not abnormal in any way. A woman in her twenties visiting bars should not be cause for alarm, nor does it justify the horrific things her father did to her. It should also be noted that misogyny played a massive role in the popularity of lobotomies. During the first three years lobotomies were performed, 80% of patients were women, because during the 1940s, an emotionless, docile, empty-headed doll was the ideal woman for many Americans.

It’s worth noting that there is some speculation

that, rather than a disability, Rosemary Kennedy suffered from some form of mental illness, and that the Kennedys referred to her as disabled because it was more socially acceptable. Lobotomist James Watts personally believed she suffered from depression. Personally, I think it’s likely both are true.

In 1941, Joseph Kennedy hired Freeman and Watts to lobotomize his daughter. The two men made an incision in her skull and inserted an instrument resembling a butter knife, which they used to cut through brain tissue. Rosemary was awake during the procedure, and asked to recite the Lord’s Prayer and sing God Bless America as they worked. When she stopped responding, they knew their work was done.

The lobotomy left Rosemary with a diminished mental capacity, unable to walk, and incontinent. Joseph placed his daughter in an institution. He did not visit her, nor did his wife Rose, until 1961. Rosemary’s siblings were not told about what had happened to their sister.

In 1961, shortly after John Kennedy’s election, Joseph suffered a stroke that left him unable to walk or speak, in a bit of poetic irony. Only then did the rest of the family learn of the horrors enacted on Rosemary. Following Joseph’s death in 1969, Rosemary returned to living with her family. Her sister Eunice went on to create the Special Olympics, while John and Ted helped pass the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Rosemary Kennedy was only one of thousands mutilated by Freeman and Watts. And somehow, this story gets worse. During the 40s, Freeman came to the conclusion that cutting through the skull was too slow, and began performing lobotomies by poking an ice pick through the eye socket. This quicker procedure could be performed in 10 minutes, without surgical mask or gloves, outside of an operation room. The ice pick method led Watts to sever their partnership in disgust.

Freeman continued performing lobotomies for years. Ever the showboat, he once stopped in the middle of a lobotomy for a photo op, causing the patient to die. He performed lobotomies on 19 minors, including a four-year-old. Freeman was eventually banned from surgery in 1967, after one patient died during her third lobotomy at the hands of Freeman. Of the estimated 3500-4000 patients Freeman operated on, 490 died.

The lobotomy fell out of favor, in part because of growing disgust towards its brutality, and in part due to the rise of psychoactive drugs. Still, it should be noted that the procedure did not exist in a vacuum. Lobotomies were carried out because of society’s contempt for the mentally ill and apathy towards their well being. The procedure is gone, but the ideals it was born from, that the mentally ill are problems to be fixed rather than human beings with rights, still flourish.

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Linda Lloyd,
Clarion Public
Library Director

Libraries are community hubs and gathering spaces. We provide spaces for socializing, learning, and engaging in various activities. We offer programs for children, teens, and adults; promoting literacy, lifelong learning, and civic engagement. We offer a safe and supportive environment in a vibrant community.

Hagie Manufacturing and the Clarion Public Library teamed up and had a very exciting program geared towards elementary age kids. We had STEAM activities with many activity tables and snacks. Corn was our theme; we had experiments that included dancing popcorn, Oobleck that is made with corn starch and water, sensory buckets of corn and soy beans, mosaic art using colored popcorn on a canvas. Then we planted sweet corn that they could watch grow and put in their gardens. We all had a great time with the kids while they participated in the activities.

If you don’t have space for a garden, the Iowa Specialty Hospital has a Community Garden. They have free garden plots you can sign up for, you just need to sign an agreement and maintain your plot.

If you need some gardening tips or just starting to garden, we have some awesome books to help you plan. If you want to plant vegetables and fruit we have The Kitchen Garden by Alan Buckingham. It explains

what months to sow, plant, and harvest along with tips on problem solving.

We also have Jerry Baker, America’s Master Gardener book Terrific Garden Tonics! A chapter on Incredible Edibles that has many ways to help with insects, critters, and bed prep tonics that are very helpful if you’re on a budget.

Martha Stewart’s Gardening Handbook; The Essential Guide to Designing, Planting, and Growing. Her book has gardening basics, trees & shrubs, and specialty gardens. One section discusses growing your own gardens; vegetable garden, berry patch, fruit trees, and a cutting-flower garden.

New fiction books:
The Paris Express A Novel by Emma Donoghue. Inspired by a French railway disaster of 1895 that went down in history thanks to a set of surreal photographs, this sweeping thriller brings together characters real and invented, rich and poor, from all over the world, on a steam train hurtling through the countryside.

The King’s Messenger by Susanna Kearsley. He is tasked with the most dangerous of missions. She is only there from duty. But in the face of treachery and injustice, might they need each other more than they could know? A story of justice, honour, truth and love – and survival against impossible odds...

Last Twilight in Paris A Novel by Pam Jenoff. A Parisian department store, a mysterious necklace and a woman’s quest to unlock a decade-old mystery are at the center of this captivating novel of love and survival.

Library Book Club will be meeting Monday, April 28th 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.

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Regular Meal - \$10.00

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CGD April 9, 2025 Claims

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Community
School District
April 9 2025 Claims

Vendor Name	Vendor Description
Amount	
Access Systems	Copier Supplies
185.55	
Air Filter Sales & Services Inc	
Custodial Supplies	733.41
Airgas USA LLC	Cylinder Rental
529.35	
Amazon Capital Services	
Perkins/Instructional Supplies	1,109.07
Arnold Motor Supply	
Transportation Supplies	367.91
Beyond Consequences Institute, LLC	At Risk Supplies
436.00	
Bobadilla, Yaquelin Translator	
30.00	
Borrayes, Jacqueline Translator	
67.50	
Brothers Market PS/FCS Supplies	124.34
Business Card Bank of America	
Supt. Travel	697.37
Calo Placement Tuition	9,450.00
Card 3 Bank of America Custodial Supplies	748.07
Card One Bank of America Library Books/Supplies	242.92
Carder, Jared Reimburse Travel	25.00
Carrillo, Daisy Reimburse Travel	100.00
Castro, Angela Translator	112.50
Central Iowa Distributing Custodial Supplies	1,238.00
City Of Clarion Water/Sewer	2,542.54
City Of Goldfield Water/Sewer	64.31
Clarion Distributing Custodial Supplies	2,676.80
Column Software PBC Legal Publications	512.92
Comm 1 Network Inc Phone Lines	874.32
Continental Research Corp Transport Supplies	118.60
Cramer Chiropractic DOT Physical	100.00
Crystal Clean Carpet Carpet Cleaning	504.71
DHS Cashier 1st FI State Medicaid Share	9,105.32
Donovan Group I Communications	2,500.00
Erickson Fiscus, Megan Reimburse Travel	100.00
Ewell Education Services VoAg Perkins	210.00
Godby, Teresa Reimburse Travel	260.00
Gold-Eagle Cooperative Transportatiin Fuel	9,402.12
Hanson & Sons Tires	1,021.96
Hernandez Matul, Vanessa Paola Translator	150.00
IASBO Conference Registration	320.00
Iowa Department of Inspections, Appeals & Licensing Boiler Inspection	80.00
Iowa Pupil Transportation Association Transport Membership	240.00
Iowa School Finance Information Services, Inc Background Checks	168.00
JW Pepper & Son Inc MS/HS Music	239.99
Lopez Perez, Estuardo Translator	240.00
Mango Languages EL Title III Subscription	9,576.00
Martin Brothers Distributing Co., Inc. HS Supplies	643.17
Matute Hernandez, Luis Translator	240.00
Medical Enterprises, Inc. Drug Screens	72.00
Menards Ames Custodial Supplies	736.37
Menards FD Custodial Supplies	430.24
Midamerican Energy Electric	16,391.72
Middleton, Amanda Reimburse Travel	90.72
National Restaurant Association Perkins Certificates	128.40
Olsen, Jo Anne Accompanist	575.00
Poac Gomez, Cristina Translator	75.00
Poac, Marcia Translator	60.00
Rector, Maycie Reimburse Travel	100.00
RevTrak Credit Card Fee	556.76
Robles Camacho, Alejandra Translator	397.50
Roto-Rooter Service	235.00
Schluttenhofer, Karen License Reimbursement	16.00
School Bus Sales Transport Parts	86.00
Shred-it USA Shredding	216.16
Solution Tree Inc. PLC Conference	729.00
Stuck, Lisa Supplies	205.00
T & S Sanitation Garbage	1,505.00
T-Mobile Cell Phones/MS Connectivity	6,535.48
Tamayo Calles, Cristian Translator	150.00
Timberline Billing Service LLC Medicaid Billing Services	940.26
Tisotj Lopez, Guadalupe Mariana Translator	67.50
Unmess Hardware Custodial Supplies	174.15
VERIZON Cell Phones	467.86
Villatoro, Rosa Translator	90.00
Visa - Card Two Postage	310.50
Visa Card Three TAG Travel	1,932.76
Visa -AF MetroFax	11.95
W & H Cooperative Oil Co Propane	152.00

Wright Farm Services LLC Bus Repair	213.81
General Fund Total	\$91,739.89
Belmond-Klemme Comm School Track Entry Fees	200.00
BSN Sports, LLC Baseball Hats	829.35
Card One Bank of America Choir Award	28.00
Carder, Jared Reimburse Travel	92.40
Garner-Hayfield Comm School Track Entry Fees	250.00
Hampton -Dumont Community Schools Track Entry Fees	125.00
IGHSAU Athletic Supplies	15.00
Imagine That! Special Olympics Clothing	132.54
Iowa HS Athletic Assoc. Team Plaques	75.00
Iowa HS Music Assoc. Registration	150.00
Lake Mills CSD Track Entry Fees	100.00
Martin Brothers Distributing Co., Inc. PH Supplies	372.43
Medco Supply Company Athletic Supplies	7.39
National FFA Organization FFA Supplies	629.60
Pocahontas Area Community School Track Entry Fees	125.00
Roland-Story High School Entry Fees	205.00
South Hamilton Comm School Entry Fees	125.00
Spartime Lanes PH Bowling	475.00
Stein, David Prom DJ	350.00
Trophies Plus Awards	269.55
VERIZON AD Cell Phone	35.01
Visa - Card Two Entry Fees	469.50
Webster City Comm Schools Entry Fees	120.00
West Hancock Community School Entry Fees	60.00
Activity Fund Total	\$5,240.77
SFM Work Comp Premium	135.00
Sumners Insurance Agency Supervision Premium	454.73
Management Fund Total	\$589.73
Access Systems Leasing Printer Copier Lease	2,569.45
Amazon Capital Services Instructional Equipment	1,504.82
Apple Computer, Inc. Instructional Equipment	21,975.00
Card 3 Bank of America Van Rental	36.00
Comm 1 Network Inc PRI	260.00
Heartland Business Systems, LLC Tech Assistance	195.00
Houghton Milflin Harcourt Publishing Company Instructional Purchased Services	294.25
Iowa Communications Network ICN	637.85
JMC Inc Student Reporting Software	14,871.28
Mechanical Air Systems Company HS Equip Repair	2,588.19
Rieman Music Digital Piano	2,299.99

Sam's Club MC/SYNCB Microsoft Licenses	1,458.00
PPPEL Fund Total	\$48,689.83
UMB BANK NA Loan Payment	287,125.00
Debt Service Fund Total	\$287,125.00
Amazon Capital Services Supplies	73.99
Anderson Erickson Dairy Co Dairy Products	5,674.72
Bimbo Bakeries USA Bread Products	586.20
Brothers Market Food	30.74
Clarion Distributing Nutrition Supplies	33.00
Johnstone Supply Nutrition Supplies	205.76
Martin Brothers Distributing Co., Inc. Food/Supplies	25,588.97
VERIZON Nutrition Cell Phone	51.59
Nutrition Total	\$32,244.97
Total Claims	\$465,630.19
Fund 71	
Auxiant Claims Medical Claims Premium	330,962.58
Clarion Health & Fitness Monthly Fee	700.00
Reliance Life Standard Premium	2,234.47
Fund 71 Total	\$333,897.05
Fund 72	
Auxiant Claims Flex Claims	2,100.00
Fund 72 Total	\$2,100.00
Fund 74	
Auxiant Claims HRA Claims	3,228.53
Fund 74 Total	\$3,228.53
March 20 2025 Payroll AFLAC March 20 2025 Premium	387.56
Clarion-Golfield-Dows Flex Acct March 20 2025 Payroll	2,100.00
Clarion-Goldfield-Dows HRA March 20 2025 Payroll	2,925.00
Collection Service Center March 20 2025 Payroll	764.28
EFTPS March 20 2025 Payroll Form 941	160,427.78
First Citizens Bank March 20 2025 H.S.A	25,784.05
First Citizens Bank 403B March 20 2025 Payroll	930.00
Group Benefit Fund March 20 2025 Payroll	230,746.19
Iowa Dept of Revenue March 20 2025 Payroll State WH	16,730.49
IPERS March 20 2025 Payroll	114,195.12
New York Life Ins March 20 2025 Payroll	50.00
Total Payroll	\$555,040.47
Anita Frye - SBO/Board Secretary	

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

PUBLIC NOTICE
Estate of Randy Lynn Ellwood

THE IOWA DISTRICT COURT FOR WRIGHT COUNTY IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF RANDY LYNN ELWOOD, Deceased. CASE NO. ESPR017678 NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT OF ADMINISTRATOR AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS
To All Persons Interested in the Estate of RANDY LYNN ELWOOD, Deceased, who died on or about December 12, 2024:
You are hereby notified that on February 4, 2025, the undersigned was appointed administrator of the estate.
Notice is hereby given that all persons indebted to the estate are requested to make immediate payment to the undersigned, and credi-

tors having claims against the estate shall file them with the clerk of the above named district court, as provided by law, duly authenticated, for allowance, and unless so filed by the later to occur four months from the date of the second publication of this notice or one month from the date of the mailing of this notice (unless otherwise allowed or paid) a claim is thereafter forever barred. Dated on 3/18/25
Kaitlyn Marie De La Torre, Administrator of the Estate Alesha Sigmeth Roberts, ICIS PIN No: ATAT0009741
Attorney for executor Sigmeth Roberts Law, PLC 101 1 st Ave NE - P.O. Box 402 Clarion, Iowa 50525
Date of second publication April 24, 2025.

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

Legals are your right to know!!

PUBLIC NOTICES
CGD April 9, 2025 Minutes

The Clarion-Goldfield-Dows CSD Board of Directors held a Discipline Hearing, FY26 Budget Hearing and a Regular Meeting on Wednesday, April 9, 2025. In attendance were Troy Seaba, Megan Ring, Elizabeth Severson, Craig Warnke, Joe Nelson, Aaron Patrick, and Jared Carder.

At 4:10 P.M. Board President Troy Seaba called the meeting to order. He led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance. Roll Call Vote was taken to go into Closed Session – Discipline Hearing – Iowa Code 21.5(1) e.

Seaba – yes, Ring – yes, Severson-yes, Warnke-yes.

At 4:20 P.M. the board moved into Open Session. Motion by Severson to Approve Recommendation from Middle School Principal Aaron Patrick to Expel student effective immediately for the remainder of the school year, with the option to appear before the board at the August meeting to request permission to enroll. Second by Ring. Motion carried 4-0.

Principal Patrick left the meeting and visitor JC Kelso, and Wright County Monitor Editor Amanda Rink joined the meeting.

At this time Editor Rink read a statement that she received from Alison Marshall, as Marshall had asked her to read statement since she herself could not attend the meeting. Marshall wanted to express her appreciation for Supt. Nelson meeting with her and her husband. She felt he demonstrated a willingness to have open communication and conversations. She also appreciated the communication from MS Principal Patrick.

FY26 Budget Hearing
Open Forum – No one addressed the board concerning the FY26 Budget Hearing.

Board Secretary Anita Frye presented the FY26 Budget to the board. – FY26 Budget presentation may be requested from the district office during normal business hours. Combined District tax rate is 13.17312, with the original Clarion-Goldfield District being 13.28214, and the original Dows District being 12.73456. This is a decrease from FY25 due to the increased property valuations. Motion by Ring to Approve the FY26 Budget and Proposed Tax Rate as presented. Second by Warnke. Motion carried 4-0.

Regular Meeting
Motion by Ring to Approve the Agenda. Second by Severson. Motion carried 4-0.

Educational Reports – None.

Superintendent's Report – Nelson started his report by expressing his message of continued district support for Tre Solis and his family. FFA Advisor Angie Charlson is putting together a trip to Sister City Junik, Kosovo during March 2026 Spring Break. This will be an agricultural learning experience. CGD enrollment numbers continue to fluctuate, especially at the high school level. It is the trend we have seen for the last few years. On May 21 st Nelson will be traveling to Target Field along with other volunteers with a group of Veterans from our three towns to attend a Twins baseball game where they honor Veterans on the field before the game. On May14th the leadership team will be traveling to Des Moines for professional development with the topic being "Having Difficult Conversations". This is a two-part training. Employee Appreciation and Retirement Open House will be Wednesday, May 7 th at 2:30 P.M. with the Retiree Open House being held in the high school cafeteria 3:00 – 4:00 P.M.

Consent Agenda – Motion by Ring to Approve Consent Agenda. Second by Severson. Approve Minutes of Meetings held on March 13, and March 27, 2025; Approve payment of bills in between meetings; Approve payment of monthly bills; Approve SIACC Ad Hoc Committee and meeting; Approve Resignations from Jalyin Heeren – 2 nd Grade, Miriam Meinke - Girls Asst Soccer Coach, Emma Gomez – HS Girls Wrestling Coach, and Stacy Tate – Elem Para; Approve FY25 Contract for Angela Garcia – Asst. Girls Soccer Coach, \$3,300.00, Adriana Lopez – FT Housekeeper at Step 1 - \$15.80 an hour with benefits to start after 60 work day probationary period; FY26 Contracts Jessica Smock – HS Dance Coach \$3,300.00; Craig Warnke – HS Asst. Football Coach \$3,300.00, Heather Foster – MS Social Studies Teacher - \$67,051.39 upon verification of transcripts by Board Secretary; Approve 1 st Reading of Policies – Policy 403.06-Drug and Alcohol Testing Program; 403.6E1-Drug and Alcohol Testing Program Notice to Employees; 403.6E2-Drug&Alcohol Program and Pre-Employment Testing Acknowledgement Form; 405.09-Licenses Employee Probationary Status; 407.06-Licensed Employee Early Retirement; 503.05-Corporal Punishment, Mechanical Restraint and Prone Restraint; 503.08-R(1) Discipline of Students Who Make Threats of Violence or Cause Incidents of Violence; 503.09-R(1)-Stu-

dents Use of Personal Electronic Devices-Regulation; 605.06-R(1) Internet-Appropriate Use Regulation; 606.01-Class Size-Class Grouping; 706.03-Reduction in Employee Pay; 706.03-R(1)-Reduction in Employee Pay – Regulation; 800-Objectives of Building & Sites; 801.01-Building & Sites Long Range Planning; 801.02-Buildings & Sites Surveys; 801.03-Educational Specifications for Building & Sites; 801.04-Site Acquisition; 802.01 Maintenance Schedule; 802.02-Requests for Improvements; 802.03-Emergency Repairs; 802.05-Buildings & Sites Adaptation for Persons with Disabilities; 802.06-Vandalism; 802.07-Energy Conservation; 803.01-Disposition of Obsolete Equipment; 803.02-Lease, Sale or Disposal of School District Buildings & Sites; 804.01-Facilities Inspections; 804.04-Asbestos Containing Material; 804.06-Use of Recording Devices on School Property; 804.06-R(1): Use of Recording Devices on school Property-Use of District Owned Recording Devices Regulation; 905.01-R(1)-Community Use of School District Buildings, Sites & Equipment – Regulation; Approve 2 nd Reading of Policies - Policy 403.06-Drug and Alcohol Testing Program; 403.6E1-Drug and Alcohol Testing Program Notice to Employees; 403.6E2-Drug&Alcohol Program and Pre-Employment Resting Acknowledgement Form; 405.09-Licenses Employee Probationary Status; 407.06-Licensed Employee Early Retirement; 503.05-Corporal Punishment, Mechanical Restraint and Prone Restraint; 503.08-R(1) Discipline of Students Who Make Threats of Violence or Cause Incidents of Violence; 503.09-R(1)-Students Use of Personal Electronic Devices-Regulation; 605.06-R(1) Internet-Appropriate Use Regulation; 606.01-Class Size-Class Grouping; 706.03-Reduction in Employee Pay; 706.03-R(1)-Reduction in Employee Pay – Regulation; 800-Objectives of Building & Sites; 801.01-Building & Sites Long Range Planning; 801.02-Buildings & Sites Surveys; 801.03-Educational Specifications for Building & Sites; 801.04-Site Acquisition; 802.01 Maintenance Schedule; 802.02-Requests for Improvements; 802.03-Emergency Repairs; 802.05-Buildings & Sites Adaptation for Persons with Disabilities; 802.06-Vandalism; 802.07-Energy Conservation; 803.01-Disposition of Obsolete Equipment; 803.02-Lease, Sale or Disposal of School District Buildings & Sites; 804.01-Facilities Inspections; 804.04-Asbestos Containing Material; 804.06-Use of Recording Devices on School Property; 804.06-R(1): Use of Recording Devices on school Property-Use of District Owned Recording Devices Regulation; 905.01-R(1)-Community Use of School District Buildings, Sites & Equipment – Regulation; Approve Annual Review of Policies 103 Long-Range Needs Assessment; 103-R(1) Long-Range Needs Assessment Regulation; 505.08 Parent and Family Engagement District-Wide Policy; 505.08-R(1) Parent and Family Engagement District-Wide Policy-Building Level Regulation; 506.01 Education Records Access; 506.1E1 Request of Non parent; 506.1E2 Release Records; 506.1E3 Request for Hearing; 506.1E4 Examination of Records; 506.1E5 Transfer of Records; 506.1E6 Receipt of Subpoena; 506.1E7 Juvenile Justice Agency Info Sharing Agreement; 506.1E8 Annual Notice; 506.1R1 Education Records Access – Regulation; 506.02 Student Directory Information; 506.02E1 Authorization for Releasing Student Directory Information; 506.02-R(1) Student Directory Information-Use of Directory Information; 506.04 Student Library Circulation Records; Approve Potential List of 2025 Graduates; Approve FY26 Milk Bid from Anderson Erickson Dairy and FY26 Bread Bid from Bimbo Bakery. Motion carried 4-0.

Financial – Monthly Reports may be requested for viewing during normal business hours at the district office. Frye shared an approved letter from State Auditor Rob Sand requesting 90-day extension for FY24 Audit filing date.

Transportation – Motion by Warnke to Approve the Purchase of a Replacement Suburban in between meetings, with the purchase price not to exceed insurance compensation plus \$1,000.00. Second by Severson. Motion carried 4-0.

Communications – Teacher/ Staff Appreciation will be held on Wednesday, May 7 th at 2:30 P.M. The district will host an Open House from 3:00 to 4:00 P.M. in the high school cafeteria for all 2025 retirees of the district. The next Regular Board Meeting will be held on Thursday, May 8, 2025, at 4:30 P.M.

Motion by Ring to adjourn. Second by Severson. Motion carried 4-0. The meeting adjourned at 5:07 P.M.

Anita Frye, Board Secretary

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

PUBLIC NOTICE
Dust Control Notice

Dust Control Notice
To Wright County Rural Residents
Any person desiring to have dust control on a section of road under county jurisdiction shall be responsible for hiring an approved contractor.

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

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

Deano's Dust Control
641-421-8622

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

PUBLIC NOTICES
Wright Co. Supervisors April 7, 2025 Minutes

April 7, 2025

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

Chairman Rasmussen called the regular meeting of the Wright County Board of Supervisors to order at 9:24 a.m. Members present were Kluss, Rasmussen, Loux, Ellis and Bosch present via Zoom.

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

Minutes of the previous regular meeting of March 31, 2025 were read and approved with one correction.

Approved claims for payment.

Motion by Kluss and seconded by Loux to approve the Union Contract for Sheriff Deputies and Jailers effective July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2029. Motion carries.

Angela Wesselink with Parent Connections, presented the proclamation for Child Abuse Prevention Month. Motion by Kluss and seconded by Rasmussen to proclaim April as Child Abuse Prevention Month in Wright County. Motion carries.

Motion by Ellis and seconded by Bosch to receive the monthly revenue report for the Wright County Sheriff. Motion carries.

Motion by Rasmussen and seconded by Kluss to receive the quarterly revenue report from the Wright County Auditor. Motion carries.

Motion by Ellis and seconded by Kluss to set the Wright County Budget Hearing for Fiscal Year 2025 – 2026 for April 28, 2025 at 9:30 a.m. Motion carries.

Motion by Loux and seconded by Kluss to rescind the motion of the Communications Director's new full time hire from March 24, 2025. Motion carries.

Motion by Loux and seconded by Kluss to approve the new Communications hire pending pre-employment physical and drug testing, at a starting wage of \$21.00 per hour and \$0.50 increases at six months and one year, along with any salary adjustments set by the Board of Supervisors. Motion carries.

Adam Clemons, Wright County Engineer, presented Resolution 2025-16. Motion by Kluss and seconded by Rasmussen to approve Resolution 2025-16 Awarding Contract for BROS-C099(105)–5F-99. By roll call vote: ayes – Kluss, Bosch, Rasmussen, Loux and Ellis; nays – none. Resolution 2025-16 duly passes and reads as follows:
RESOLUTION NO. 2025-16
AWARDING CONTRACT FOR PROJECT BROS-C099(105)–5F-99

WHEREAS, the Wright County Board of Supervisors, hereafter referred to as "the Board", believes that **BROS-C099(105)–5F-99** , hereafter referred to as "the project" is in the best interest of Wright County, Iowa, and the residents thereof.

The project is defined as **BROS-C099(105)–5F-99** consisting of PRECAST RCB CULVERT ; and **WHEREAS**, the Board has sought appropriate professional guidance for the concept and plan-

ning for the project and followed the steps as required by the Code of Iowa for notifications, hearings, and bidding/letting; and

WHEREAS, The Board finds this resolution appropriate and necessary to protect, preserve, and improve the rights, privileges, property, peace, safety, health, welfare, comfort, and convenience of Wright County and its citizens, all as provided for in and permitted by section 331.301 of the Code of Iowa; and

IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED by Board to accept the bid from **PE-TERSON CONTRACTORS, INC.** in the amount of **\$186,029.75** and awards the associated contract(s) to the same; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all other resolutions or parts of resolutions in conflict with this resolution are hereby repealed. If any part of this resolution is adjudged invalid or unconstitutional, such adjudication shall not affect the validity of the resolution or action of The Board as a whole or any part thereof not adjudged invalid or unconstitutional. This resolution shall be in full force and effect from and after the date of its approval as provided by law; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Board of Supervisors of Wright County, Iowa, that after receiving the necessary contract documents, including but not limited to, the contractor's bond and certificate of insurance, Adam W. Clemons, P.E., the Engineer for Wright County, Iowa, be and is hereby designated, authorized, and empowered on behalf of the Board of Supervisors of said County to execute the contracts in connection with the afore awarded construction project let through the DOT for this county.

Dated at Wright County, Iowa, this 7th day of April 2025.

Clemons presented the Fiscal Year 2026 Secondary Roads Five Year Program. Motion by Kluss and seconded by Bosch to approve the Fiscal Year 2026 Secondary Roads Five Year Program. Motion carries.

Clemons presented the Fiscal Year 2026 Iowa DOT Secondary Roads Budget. Motion by Kluss and seconded by Loux to approve the Fiscal Year 2026 Iowa DOT Secondary Roads Budget. Motion carries.

Clemons discussed with the Board regarding seismic testing. The live testing was completed and the report risk analysis came back with a 0.5 PPV within 50 feet. If the PPV gets within the 0.5, the risk goes up. In the current contract that was signed with a 250 feet setback, there is a 10-year claw back for any damages. Kluss does not see why the County should take on the risk. The setbacks will remain the same at 250 feet.

Clemons gave an update on the Secondary Roads department.

Motion by Kluss and seconded by Ellis to adjourn the meeting. Motion carries.

Rick Rasmussen, Chairman, Wright County Board of Supervisors
Amanda Meyer, Wright County Auditor

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

PUBLIC NOTICES
April 7, 2025 Special Meeting for Property Tax Levy

April 7, 2025 Special Meeting for Property Tax Levy

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

There were five citizens present in attendance and one citizen present via zoom for the Property Tax Levy hearing.

Mike Denger discussed how his taxes went up 80% last year. Assessor Toney Nicholas said that was due to his classification change of his property from Agriculture to Residential.

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

PUBLIC NOTICE
Estate of Norman Dean Helmick

THE IOWA DISTRICT COURT FOR WRIGHT COUNTY IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF NORMAN DEAN HELMICK, Deceased CASE NO. ESPR017696 NOTICE OF PROOF OF WILL WITHOUT ADMINISTRATION
To All Persons Interested in the Estate of Norman Dean Helmick, Deceased, who died on or about October 16, 2024:
You are hereby notified that on 3/26/2025, the last will and testament of Norman Dean Helmick, deceased, bearing date of April 6, 2022, was admitted to probate in the above-named court and there will be no present administration of the estate. Any action to set aside

the will must be brought in the district court of the county within the later to occur of four months from the date of the second publication of this notice or one month from the date of mailing of this notice to all heirs of the decedent and devisees under the will whose identities are reasonably ascertainable, or thereafter be forever barred. Dated on 3/26/2025.
Dirk Helmick, Proponent Attorney for estate:
Philip M. Johnson
216 North Commercial Ave
PO Box 109
Eagle Grove, IA 50533
Phil@johnsonslawfirm.com
Date of second publication April 24, 2025.

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

PUBLIC NOTICE
Norman Dean Helmick Trust

TRUST NOTICE IN THE MATTER OF THE TRUST: The Norman Dean Helmick Revocable Trust Agreement Dated April 6, 2022

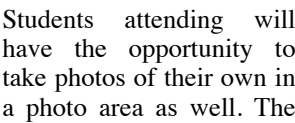
To all persons regarding Norman Dean Helmick, deceased, who died on or about October 16, 2024. You are hereby notified that the trustee listed below is the trustee of the The Norman Dean Helmick Revocable Trust Agreement Dated April 6, 2022. Any action to contest the validity of the trust must be brought in the District Court of Wright County, Iowa, within the later to occur of four (4) months from the date of second publication of this notice or thirty (30) days from the date of mailing this notice

The Clarion Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 2612 marked Good Friday, April 18, with a community fish fry, making use of their

Fish Fries are a long-standing custom at many VFW posts in Iowa.

especially during holidays like Good Friday, which is observed by many Christians as a day of fasting and abstinence from meat. **(Photo: Dennis Mraz).**

CGD presents Meet Me at Midnight for their 2025 Prom. Please join attendees at the Grand March. The event will begin at 7:00 P.M. at the high school gym for the introduction of couples and prom goers. The dance will begin at 8:00 P.M. until 11:00 P.M. in the library with music by The D.J Man Dave Stein. Photos will be taken at the Grand March as well as at Prom by Ruth Katz.



evening will be followed by After Prom, sponsored by the Junior parents.

PUBLIC NOTICE
Estate of LaVonne G. Falconer

<p>THE IOWA DISTRICT COURT FOR WRIGHT COUNTY IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF LaVonne G. Falconer, Deceased CASE NO. ESPR017689 NOTICE OF PROOF OF WILL WITHOUT ADMINISTRATION</p> <p>To All Persons Interested in the Estate of LaVonne G. Falconer, Deceased, who died on or about on October 25, 2024:</p> <p>You are hereby notified that on 04/02/2025, the last will and testa-</p>	<p>ment of LaVonne G. Falconer, de- ceased, bearing a date of March 27, 2012, was admitted to probate in the above-named court and there will be no present administration of the estate. Any action to set aside the will must be brought in the dis- trict court of the county within the later to occur of four months from the date of the second publication of this notice or one month from the date of mailing of this notice to all heirs of the decedent and devisees under the will whose identities are</p>	<p>reasonably ascertainable, or there- after be forever barred. Dated on 4/2/2025. Dennis M. Dougherty, Proponent Randall D. Dougherty, Proponent Attorney for estate: Philip M. Johnson, ICIS#: AT0014857 216 North Commercial Ave PO Box 109 Eagle Grove, IA 50533 Phil@JohnsonsLawfirm.com Date of second publication May 1, 2025</p>
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Published in the Wright County Monitor on Thurs. April 24 & May 1, 2025

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Bristow Fun Day
Saturday
July 30

Featuring
Puzzle Machine
Puzzle Mite Sleds

Breakfast at Fire Shed
Served by the Bristow & Relay Canteens
Farmer's Flea Market
Next to Fire Shed, no setup fee

Parade
Line up at 9:30 in East Street & Railroad Street
Main Bristow & Relay Klingenberg
Grand Marshalls: Bob & Patsy Stockler

Farmer Tractor & Pickup Pulls
Featuring Blue Ox Sled Co.
Winners from 7:30 on at 10:00
\$10,000 PER HOUR
Cash prizes: 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th, 13th, 14th, 15th, 16th, 17th, 18th, 19th, 20th, 21st, 22nd, 23rd, 24th, 25th, 26th, 27th, 28th, 29th, 30th, 31st, 32nd, 33rd, 34th, 35th, 36th, 37th, 38th, 39th, 40th, 41st, 42nd, 43rd, 44th, 45th, 46th, 47th, 48th, 49th, 50th, 51st, 52nd, 53rd, 54th, 55th, 56th, 57th, 58th, 59th, 60th, 61st, 62nd, 63rd, 64th, 65th, 66th, 67th, 68th, 69th, 70th, 71st, 72nd, 73rd, 74th, 75th, 76th, 77th, 78th, 79th, 80th, 81st, 82nd, 83rd, 84th, 85th, 86th, 87th, 88th, 89th, 90th, 91st, 92nd, 93rd, 94th, 95th, 96th, 97th, 98th, 99th, 100th, 101st, 102nd, 103rd, 104th, 105th, 106th, 107th, 108th, 109th, 110th, 111th, 112th, 113th, 114th, 115th, 116th, 117th, 118th, 119th, 120th, 121st, 122nd, 123rd, 124th, 125th, 126th, 127th, 128th, 129th, 130th, 131st, 132nd, 133rd, 134th, 135th, 136th, 137th, 138th, 139th, 140th, 141st, 142nd, 143rd, 144th, 145th, 146th, 147th, 148th, 149th, 150th, 151st, 152nd, 153rd, 154th, 155th, 156th, 157th, 158th, 159th, 160th, 161st, 162nd, 163rd, 164th, 165th, 166th, 167th, 168th, 169th, 170th, 171st, 172nd, 173rd, 174th, 175th, 176th, 177th, 178th, 179th, 180th, 181st, 182nd, 183rd, 184th, 185th, 186th, 187th, 188th, 189th, 190th, 191st, 192nd, 193rd, 194th, 195th, 196th, 197th, 198th, 199th, 200th, 201st, 202nd, 203rd, 204th, 205th, 206th, 207th, 208th, 209th, 210th, 211th, 212th, 213th, 214th, 215th, 216th, 217th, 218th, 219th, 220th, 221st, 222nd, 223rd, 224th, 225th, 226th, 227th, 228th, 229th, 230th, 231st, 232nd, 233rd, 234th, 235th, 236th, 237th, 238th, 239th, 240th, 241st, 242nd, 243rd, 244th, 245th, 246th, 247th, 248th, 249th, 250th, 251st, 252nd, 253rd, 254th, 255th, 256th, 257th, 258th, 259th, 260th, 261st, 262nd, 263rd, 264th, 265th, 266th, 267th, 268th, 269th, 270th, 271st, 272nd, 273rd, 274th, 275th, 276th, 277th, 278th, 279th, 280th, 281st, 282nd, 283rd, 284th, 285th, 286th, 287th, 288th, 289th, 290th, 291st, 292nd, 293rd, 294th, 295th, 296th, 297th, 298th, 299th, 300th, 301st, 302nd, 303rd, 304th, 305th, 306th, 307th, 308th, 309th, 310th, 311th, 312th, 313th, 314th, 315th, 316th, 317th, 318th, 319th, 320th, 321st, 322nd, 323rd, 324th, 325th, 326th, 327th, 328th, 329th, 330th, 331st, 332nd, 333rd, 334th, 335th, 336th, 337th, 338th, 339th, 340th, 341st, 342nd, 343rd, 344th, 345th, 346th, 347th, 348th, 349th, 350th, 351st, 352nd, 353rd, 354th, 355th, 356th, 357th, 358th, 359th, 360th, 361st, 362nd, 363rd, 364th, 365th, 366th, 367th, 368th, 369th, 370th, 371st, 372nd, 373rd, 374th, 375th, 376th, 377th, 378th, 379th, 380th, 381st, 382nd, 383rd, 384th, 385th, 386th, 387th, 388th, 389th, 390th, 391st, 392nd, 393rd, 394th, 395th, 396th, 397th, 398th, 399th, 400th, 401st, 402nd, 403rd, 404th, 405th, 406th, 407th, 408th, 409th, 410th, 411th, 412th, 413th, 414th, 415th, 416th, 417th, 418th, 419th, 420th, 421st, 422nd, 423rd, 424th, 425th, 426th, 427th, 428th, 429th, 430th, 431st, 432nd, 433rd, 434th, 435th, 436th, 437th, 438th, 439th, 440th, 441st, 442nd, 443rd, 444th, 445th, 446th, 447th, 448th, 449th, 450th, 451st, 452nd, 453rd, 454th, 455th, 456th, 457th, 458th, 459th, 460th, 461st, 462nd, 463rd, 464th, 465th, 466th, 467th, 468th, 469th, 470th, 471st, 472nd, 473rd, 474th, 475th, 476th, 477th, 478th, 479th, 480th, 481st, 482nd, 483rd, 484th, 485th, 486th, 487th, 488th, 489th, 490th, 491st, 492nd, 493rd, 494th, 495th, 496th, 497th, 498th, 499th, 500th, 501st, 502nd, 503rd, 504th, 505th, 506th, 507th, 508th, 509th, 510th, 511th, 512th, 513th, 514th, 515th, 516th, 517th, 518th, 519th, 520th, 521st, 522nd, 523rd, 524th, 525th, 526th, 527th, 528th, 529th, 530th, 531st, 532nd, 533rd, 534th, 535th, 536th, 537th, 538th, 539th, 540th, 541st, 542nd, 543rd, 544th, 545th, 546th, 547th, 548th, 549th, 550th, 551st, 552nd, 553rd, 554th, 555th, 556th, 557th, 558th, 559th, 560th, 561st, 562nd, 563rd, 564th, 565th, 566th, 567th, 568th, 569th, 570th, 571st, 572nd, 573rd, 574th, 575th, 576th, 577th, 578th, 579th, 580th, 581st, 582nd, 583rd, 584th, 585th, 586th, 587th, 588th, 589th, 590th, 591st, 592nd, 593rd, 594th, 595th, 596th, 597th, 598th, 599th, 600th, 601st, 602nd, 603rd, 604th, 605th, 606th, 607th, 608th, 609th, 610th, 611th, 612th, 613th, 614th, 615th, 616th, 617th, 618th, 619th, 620th, 621st, 622nd, 623rd, 624th, 625th, 626th, 627th, 628th, 629th, 630th, 631st, 632nd, 633rd, 634th, 635th, 636th, 637th, 638th, 6

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Iowa homes cited for abuse, unqualified staff, drug errors, and COVID-19 violations

April 10, 2025 - The federal government has resumed its practice of disclosing to the public its list of the nation's worst nursing homes — and four Iowa homes have been added to that list.

Prior to President Donald Trump taking office in January, the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services had, for 17 years, published a monthly, national list of so-called Special-Focus Facilities. The list was comprised of nursing homes that had experienced a serious recurrence of major regulatory violations related to quality of care.

Once a home was designated a Special-Focus Facility, it received additional oversight and assistance from the government that's intended to improve resident care.

At any given time, no more than two nursing homes per state were designated a Special-Focus Facility, although the federal list also included hundreds of other nursing homes whose quality-of-care violations made them eligible for enrollment in the program.

After Trump took office, CMS suspended the publication of monthly updates to the list, presumably because of a directive that barred CMS and other federal agencies from issuing any statements or reports to the press or public that hadn't first been cleared by the White House.

Recently, CMS posted its first update to the list in 2025. It shows that during the 2025 moratorium on updates, four Iowa nursing homes were added to list of facilities that are considered eligible for special-focus status: Accura Healthcare of Pleasantville, Aspire of Perry, Clarion Wellness and Rehabilitation Center, and Harvest Acres Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in Keota.

The two Iowa care facilities that are not only eligible for special-focus status, but are actually enrolled in the program and receiving additional oversight and guidance, are unchanged from last year. They are Arbor Court in Mount Pleasant, which has been in the program for two full years; and Aspire of Gowrie, which has been in the program for a year and a half.

In addition to the four Iowa homes added to the eligibility list, there are six Iowa care facilities that remain on the list from 2024 when it was last updated: Garden View Care Center in Shenandoah, which has been on the eligibility list for four months; Greater Southside Health and Rehabilitation in Des Moines, which has been on the list for 32 months; Harmony West in West Des Moines, which has been on the list for 17 months; The Ivy in Davenport, which has been on the list for 18 months; Pine Acres Rehabilitation and Care Center in West Des Moines, which has been on the list for 12 months; and Via of Des Moines, which

Here's a detailed look at the four newly eligible Iowa homes and a few of the issues each has faced in the past two years:

Clarion Wellness and Rehabilitation Center - This 76-bed facility is owned or operated by a real estate investment trust based in California. In the past two years, the Clarion home has been cited for a total of 31 state and federal violations.

In October 2024, the state proposed, but held in suspension, a \$7,000 fine for a series of errors involving resident medications. Part of the issue was that a male resident of the home didn't receive his cancer medication as ordered and the staff seemed unsure as to when it was dispensed, according to state records. The manager at the man's cancer treatment center told inspectors that failure to provide the drug "could be potentially fatal" to the resident.

Also in October 2024, two separate fines of \$500 each for resident abuse were held in suspension by the state, according to state records. The alleged abuse involved a kitchen worker who was seen by colleagues entering a female resident's room as often as eight times per day. The resident later complained the worker had kissed her and rubbed her arms and back and would enter her room uninvited and sit and talk to her. CMS fined the home \$37,190, according to federal records.

Accura Healthcare of Pleasantville: This 46-bed facility is a part of the for-profit Accura chain of nursing homes. Since April 2023, federal regulators have imposed three denials for payment for new admissions, and state inspectors have cited the business for 36 state and federal violations.

In September 2024, the state imposed an \$8,000 fine against the home for failing to protect residents in the midst of a COVID-19 outbreak. According to state records, workers allegedly said the staff didn't take steps to isolate COVID-positive residents until inspectors entered the home; the home didn't screen visitors during an outbreak; administrators required several employees to report for work knowing they had tested positive for COVID-19; face masks were not used by the staff during an outbreak; and personal protective equipment such as gowns and eye protection were unavailable to the staff. Protective N95 masks for breathing had not been available for three weeks, inspectors found.

The administrator allegedly told inspectors she was unaware of the equipment shortages and lack of isolation and said the facility had been operating “in crisis mode” and so COVID-positive staff were required to work as long as they were free of symptoms. The assistant director of nursing told inspectors no disciplinary action was taken against workers for ignoring infection-control protocols.

Inspectors reported that one “very scared” resident who contracted COVID-19 in the home had to be taken to a hospital emergency room for treatment as he was short of breath, with oxygen levels below 90%. The state proposed fines of \$8,000 for the infection-control violations and \$6,000 for failing to provide sufficient nursing staff to meet residents’ needs. Both state fines were held in suspension. CMS later imposed a federal fine of \$44,190 against the home.

— Aspire of Perry: This 35-bed facility is part of the for-profit Aspire chain of care facilities based in Florida. In the past two years, the Perry home has been cited for a total of 81 state and federal violations. In December 2024, it was cited for 32 violations, including resident abuse, and was fined a total of \$500 by the state.

The fine was tied to findings that the home had allowed an individual to work with residents as both a nurse aide and a medication aide despite the person having no certification as a medication aide and being listed on the state's registry of known abusers.

Other violations related to handling medications, management of residents' funds, failure to provide a safe and clean environment, residents' assessments and care plans, food service, infection control and dozens of other issues resulted in no penalties.

— Harvest Acres Nursing and Rehabilitation Center of Keota: This 35-bed facility is managed by Mission Health of Florida, according to state records. In the past two years, Harvest Acres has been cited for a total of 45 state and federal violations.

In November 2024, the home was cited for 32 violations. At the time, the state proposed, but held in suspension, five separate fines totaling \$21,000. The fines were tied to alleged incidents of resident abuse, failure to intervene and treat residents with changing conditions, and failure to provide residents with their prescribed diets.

Inspectors allege the home failed to adequately assess and treat a resident who fell at the home on Sept. 7, 2024. Two weeks later, on Sept. 22, the resident was admitted to a hospital with stroke-like symptoms. State records show that two days later the resident died, with the cause of death listed as complications from a head injury caused by a fall. CMS fined the home \$203,060, according to federal records.

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BUSINESS & PROFESSIONAL DIRECTORY

Words of Wisdom

Last week’s trivia questions:
What actress has starred in movies including “The Blind Side”, “Speed”, and “Miss Congeniality”? Answer: Sandra Bullock.
What actress has starred in movies including “Legally Blonde”, “Sweet Home Alabama”, and “Walk the Line”? Answer: Reese Witherspoon.



This week’s trivia questions:
What band was named “Artist of the Decade” in the 1980s, and has more hit country songs than any other band?
What female country singer had an 80s hit song with “I Was Country When Country Wasn’t Cool”?

April 23 is Administrative Professionals Day, Denim Day, Movie Theatre Day, and National Picnic Day; April 24 is Fashion Revolution Day; April 25 is National Arbor Day, World Women’s Wellness Day, and World Penguin Day; April 26 is International Sculpture Day, National Pretzel Day, World Healing Day, and World Veterinary Day; April 27 is Babe Ruth Day, Woody Woodpecker Day, and World Design Day; April 28 is National Blueberry Pie Day, and National Superhero Day; April 29 is World Wish Day, International Dance Day, and National Peace Rose Day.

“The best argument against democracy is a five-minute conversation with the average voter.”
– Winston Churchill

“It’s always funny until someone gets hurt. Then it’s just hilarious.”
– Bill Hicks

“Everybody talks about the weather, but nobody does anything about it.”
– Charles Dudley Warner

“If you find it hard to laugh at yourself, I would be happy to do it for you.”
– Groucho Marx

“The fact that some geniuses were laughed at, does not imply that all who are laughed at are geniuses. They laughed at Columbus, they laughed at the Wright Brothers. But they also laughed at Bozo the Clown.”
– Carl Sagan

“Be yourself” is about the worst advice you can give some people.”
– Thomas Lansing Masson

“Clothes make the man. Naked people have little or no influence on society.”
– Mark Twain

The first ever National Football League (NFL) draft of college players was held on Feb. 8, 1936 in Philadelphia. The Philadelphia Eagles had the first pick and selected Dubuque, Iowa native and Heisman Trophy winner Jay Berwanger, from the University of Chicago. The Eagles were unable to meet Berwanger’s reported demand of \$1,000 per game, and traded his rights to the Chicago Bears. Berwanger chose not to play pro football.

The 2025 NFL draft will be the 90th annual meeting of NFL franchises to select players. The draft is scheduled to be held at Lambeau Field in Green Bay, Wisconsin on April 24-26. The first pick in last year’s draft, Chicago Bears quarterback Caleb Williams, signed a four-year contract worth almost \$40 million dollars, plus a \$25 million dollar signing bonus.



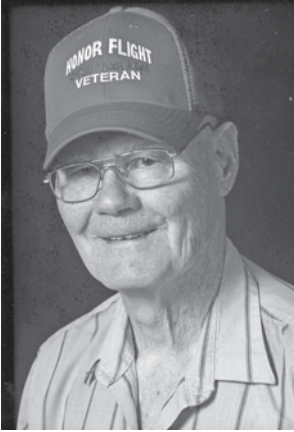
Baby Boy
Marissa and Leo Livingston of Belmond, IA would like to announce the birth of their son Vincent Donald Livingston. He was born Friday, April 18, 2025 at the Iowa Specialty Hospital in Clarion, IA. He weighed 8 pounds 14 ounces. He joins his sibling: Victoria (6). Proud Grandparents are: Bob and Deb Crosby of Whittemore, IA and Julie and Bill Saddler of Harpers Ferry, IA. Proud Great Grandparents are: Don Shaefer of Harpers Ferry, IA; Sue English of Decorah, IA and Mary Beck of Estherville, IA.

Wright County Public Health Encourages Parents to Keep Babies on Track for a Healthy Future

Wright County Public Health and the Iowa Department of Health and Human Services (Iowa HHS) remind Iowa parents to help protect their infants by keeping them up to date with recommended immunizations. Newborns receive some immunity against illnesses from their mothers, but this protection usually lasts only a few months. Following a recommended vaccination schedule can help protect babies from serious diseases before age 2, laying the foundation for a healthier future. Iowans should talk to their doctor or healthcare provider about which vaccines may be right for their children.
“Many parents have never experienced the devastating effects of viruses like polio, measles and mumps because they helped protect their children by having them vaccinated,” said Administrator Sandra McGrath. “A baby’s immune system is not fully developed at birth but develops over time as they encounter different germs and receive vaccinations that can help prevent potentially life-threatening diseases.”
The Iowa HHS Division of Public Health reports that in 2024, 71.2% of children in Iowa received all recommended vaccine doses by their second birthday — an increase from 2023, showing Iowans are using vaccines to help protect children.
Parents and guardians who follow the immunization schedule recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention help protect their infants from serious illnesses before they start, such as measles, polio, whooping cough, chickenpox, tetanus and more. Missing a scheduled dose or delaying a vaccine series can expose children to preventable infections and potential health problems. Parents should talk to their doctor or healthcare provider about which vaccines may be right for their child.
“As vaccination rates for Iowa’s babies increase, the risk of outbreaks generally decreases,” said McGrath. “Keeping your infant current on immunizations can help protect them and prevent the spread of serious diseases to other children and our communities.”
For more information about infant immunizations, including a downloadable parent-friendly infant vaccination schedule, visit the CDC’s website.
About Wright County Public Health
We are here to promote and protect health and equity, prevent disease, and improve the quality, safety, and length of life for the community of Wright County.
For more information, visit the Wright County Public Health website: https://www.wrightcounty.iowa.gov/departments/residents/public_health/index.php

Obituaries Ernest M. “Ernie” Jones 1935 - 2025

Ernest M. “Ernie” Jones, 90, of Fort Dodge, passed away Sunday, April 13, 2025, at the Marian Home.
A service honoring Ernie’s life was held at 11:00 a.m. Saturday, April 19, at Trinity United Methodist Church in Fort Dodge. Entombment followed in the Chapel of Peace Mausoleum in Fort Dodge. Military honors were presented by V.F.W. Post No. 1856, and the United States Air Force. Visitation was from 9:30 to 10:45 a.m. Saturday at the church. Memorials may be left to the discretion of the family. Arrangements have been entrusted to Gunderson Funeral Home & Cremation Services.
Ernie is survived by his wife Catherine; his children, Mark (Barb) Jones, Eagle Grove; Jane (Jon) Groteluschen, Fort Dodge; and Eric (Vickie) Jones, Badger; along with several grandchildren and great grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents and his sisters, Wilma Mehmen and Dorthy Hackett.
Ernest Marvin Jones, the son of Ernest W. and Viola M. (Wald) Jones, was born April 4, 1935, in Holmes, Iowa. He graduated in 1953 from Eagle Grove High School. Ernie served in the United States Air Force from 1954 until 1958. On April 18, 1959, Ernie was united in marriage to Catherine Mehmen in the Methodist Church at Waverly. Beginning in 1958, Ernie was employed as a heavy equipment operator with Celotex, until his retirement in 1998. The family lived in Eagle Grove until 1983, when they moved to Fort Dodge, where they had since resided.
Ernie was a member of Trinity United Methodist Church, AFL-CIO #6503, and was a past board member of the Celotex Credit Union. He enjoyed gardening, bowling, computers, watching Nascar and attending racing events at Iowa Speedway in Newton, going to casinos and gambling. He and Catherine traveled extensively during retirement, visiting all 50 states, and going on cruises and tours with Northwest Iowa Tours. Ernie treasured time spent with family, especially with his children and grandchildren.



Monitor Memories FROM THE ARCHIVES OF THE WRIGHT COUNTY MONITOR 1983 - 1948

42 Years Ago April 28, 1983
In an effort to encourage Clarion area residents to put their best efforts forward, Mayor William Young has proclaimed the month of May to be Clean Up Month in the community. In the proclamation, the mayor also proclaimed May 21 as Clean Up Day.
While Clarion Fire Chief Maurice Riley directed the operation, eight of the Wright County Fire Departments with 11 fire trucks got together and pumped out a total of 38,650 gallons of water in a 90 minute period during an exercise held last Thursday night at Lake Cornelia. The exercise tested the county fireman’s ability to load, haul and pump large quantities of water. For the 63 firemen that participated in the exercise, all were satisfied with the way it went.
Wilma Aldrich, a sixth grade teacher at Clarion Elementary, was recently honored by the Daughters of the American Revolution as being one of the top history teachers in the state of Iowa. Aldrich has been the fifth and sixth grade social studies teacher in Clarion Elementary since 1977.

77 Years Ago April 22, 1948
Sheriff Roy E. Wilson’s office in the court house has rather a “corny” look this week, all because he is custodian of a quantity of corn which litigants in the Pinter vs. Zeigler case picked from a field and a corn crib as exhibits in the case. Sheriff Wilson will have to keep the corn in his possession until such time as the court hands down a decision.
Pupils in grades four, five and six in Clarion public schools presented the operetta, “Hansel and Gretel” Thursday evening in the school auditorium, under the direction of Miss Betty Olmstead, grade music instructor. Title roles of Hansel and Gretel were played by Bobby Sandmaier and Delores Bell.
The Wright Count Monitor was signally honored Friday when it was awarded second place for General Excellence among newspapers published in towns 1,400 to 3,000 in Iowa. Announcement was made at a luncheon held in connection with the annual convention of the Iowa Press association in Des Moines. The Monitor, in the decision of the judges, was excelled only by the Monticello Express.

Deslyn Schutt 1926 - 2025

Deslyn Schutt, 99, of Clarion, Iowa, died Thursday, April 17, 2025. Funeral services were held at 2:00 p.m. Tuesday, April 22, 2025, at Foster Funeral and Cremation Center, with visitation one hour prior to the service. Burial followed the service at the French Cemetery, east of Woolstock, Iowa.
Deslyn Arthur Schutt, son of Christian and Emma (Loux) Schutt, was born February 22, 1926, on the family farm NE of Woolstock. He attended #6 and #8 country school through the 8th grade. He graduated from Woolstock high school in 1945, where he played basketball and participated in band and chorus. Deslyn served in the United States Army from 1945 – 1946. After discharge, he returned to Iowa to farm with his brothers. He worked various jobs in Webster City, before going on to college. Deslyn received a Business Administration degree and a minor in English and Education in 1958 from Valparaiso. He taught in the Los Angeles City School District and earned his master’s degree from Colorado State College. Deslyn took an education sabbatical and attended Berkley School of Nursing and became a Licensed Vocational Nurse. He worked for 14 years at the San Peninsula Hospital.
After retiring and moving back to Iowa, he remained active in church, helped with the Teddy Bear Reunions from 1990-2010 and volunteered at the Heartland Museum.
He is survived by his nephews, Raymond (Karen) Schutt of Eagle Grove, Charles (Sue) Potter of Leroy, MN, Keith (Patsy) Brock of Webster City, Denny Schutt of Des Moines.; nieces, Phyllis Eide of Woolstock, Mary (Bobby) Gregory from Hampton, Marlo (Michael) Bogh of Huron, SD, Connie Brock (Mark Anderson) of Woolstock, Martha Schutt of Des Moines; Alice Brock of Sioux Falls, SD , Kathy Schutt of Des Moines, Janet Schutt of Clive, Diane Schutt of Clarion, and many extended family members.
Deslyn was preceded in death by his parents; siblings, Herbert & Irene Schutt, Charles & Edna Schutt, Emma & Alton Potter, George Schutt, Celestin “Buster” & Darlene “Dolly” Schutt, Ilo & Marilyn Schutt, Eldred “Tiny” & Beverly Schutt, Martin & Janis Schutt and Hazel & Roger Brock; nieces, Suzanne Schutt and Edna Rigby ; nephews, Larry Brock, Bob Schutt, Steve Schutt, Ronnie Potter, Jerry Schutt, Yale Schutt, and Paul Schutt; and Lillian Schutt.
He was a member of the Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Mason City. Deslyn enjoyed bowling, making Pysanky and ornaments from old neck ties, reading his Bible and playing cards.



Celebrating Donna (Yoder) Fibikar

Date: May 3, 2025
Time: 2pm–5pm
Location: Southtown Apartments, 1501 S Main St, Clarion, IA in the Community Room
Hosted by: Shane & Chris (Ball) Fibikar, Dawn & Mark Heiden, Marda & Gary Lalor

Donna was recently diagnosed with terminal cancer and hasn't much time remaining in this life.

Please join us in showing this amazing woman what she has meant to us all, whether she was a coworker, friend, family, neighbor, a childhood second mom, or your favorite pizza lady, come take the time to give her a hug and say your farewells. Share your story or best memory with her so she can take them with her on her next journey.

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The View From Here

Senator Dennis Guth, R-Klemme

We have now completed the 14th week of what will hopefully be a 16-week legislative session. We passed bills ranging over many topics including how we conduct a recount in a close election. House File 928 establishes thresholds for the total vote margin that warrants a recount, how a recount can be requested, and who oversees the process of a recount to ensure accuracy and consistency across the state. The safeguards put in place by this bill ensure our election recount process is safe, secure, and accurate. This bill continues to strengthen and protect Iowa elections.

A couple of bills that I floor managed established an interstate compact for dieticians and respiratory therapists so they can operate in multiple states without having to go through the entire licensing process in each state. They established guidelines on how disciplinary action is exercised and what

qualifications are required. Military personnel that move around the country requested these compacts to help their spouses. I heard that the respiratory therapists heaved a sigh of relief when this bill passed (pun intended).

April 15 is known to many Americans as Tax Day, the day federal income taxes are due. On this day, the Senate passed Senate Joint Resolution 11, which makes it harder to raise income taxes on Iowans. Senate Joint Resolution 11 is a constitutional amendment requiring a 2/3 majority vote of the people in order to raise the income tax in Iowa or create a new tax. Constitutional amendments need to pass two consecutive General Assemblies before going to the people of Iowa for a vote. This legislation was passed in the last General Assembly so if it passes the Iowa House, the proposal will be on the ballot for all Iowans to vote on in the fall of 2026.

In the Senate, we use a super-majority vote for such things as confirming the

governor’s appointments to boards and commissions. Iowans overwhelmingly support using a super-majority vote to raise the income tax. It should be difficult to take more money from Iowans and their families.

Senator Rocky De Witt, the floor manager for the bill, said in his closing comments, “The Iowa state constitution does not belong to this chamber, it doesn’t belong to the House, it doesn’t belong to the governor, it doesn’t even belong to the State of Iowa. It belongs to the people of this state. It belongs to the citizens of this state, and they have entrusted us to protect that Constitution. Why? It is a barrier between the citizens and government. It’s not a guardrail, not a little lowly speed bump, it’s a barrier that guarantees our constituents their freedoms, and freedom from excessive taxation is real.” Senator De Witt’s closing remarks were a reminder for all of us legislators. It passed, 32-15, with all Democrats voting no.

Final Karl King Band Indoor Concert April 27

The third and final indoor concert for the 2025 season by the Karl L. King Municipal Band will be held on Sunday afternoon, April 27th, beginning at 3:30 p.m. in the Fort Dodge Middle School Auditorium, located at 800 North 32nd Street in Fort Dodge IA. There is no admission charge, with these concerts being provided by the City of Fort Dodge for everyone’s enjoyment. The band will be led by Conductor Dan Cassady, with Paul Bloomquist serving as the band’s announcer and also as chairman of the scholarship committee.

This April concert is always the Band’s annual scholarship event, with the presentation of the Karl L. King Memorial Scholarships. Talented students audition that day, and the winners will be recognized that afternoon with either a \$500 scholarship to Iowa Central Community College or a \$1,000 scholarship to any 4-year Iowa college or university of their choice. Providing the funds for these scholarships is the Karl L.

King Memorial Education Foundation, which “exists to provide band instrument scholarships for students majoring in music”.

All students who audition for a scholarship will be invited to join the Band in playing Karl L. King’s march, “The Iowa Band Law”, during the concert, and the major scholarship recipient will perform their award-winning solo during the afternoon program.

This concert will open with Henry Fillmore’s musical tribute to one of Fort Dodge’s most famous citizens, “King Karl King”. Both King and Fillmore were natives of Ohio and well-known composers. Fillmore directed the municipal band in Cincinnati OH, for many years, while King was famous for his 9 year circus career and his 50 years spent directing the municipal band here.

Selections to be performed include two of Karl King’s marches, “Sells-Floto Triumphant” from 1914, and “The Ohio Special” from 1946. Also included will

be King’s popular 1912 overture, “Princess of India”; his ragtime selection from 1919, “Kentucky Sunrise”; and his exciting 1910 circus galop “Excelsior”.

Other selections on this one-hour concert include Narciso Serredell Sevilla’s beautiful Mexican waltz, “La Golondrina (The Swallow)”; one of America’s finest and most popular hymns, “Amazing Grace”; along with a medley of popular songs from several well-known musicals, titled “The Golden Age of Broadway”, by the famous song-writing team of Richard Rodgers and Oscar Hammerstein II.

All concerts conclude in the traditional way with the playing of our National Anthem, “The Star-Spangled Banner”. In case of inclement weather (even though it is on April 27th), the concert may be cancelled. Any announcement will be made on the Band’s Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/karlkingband/>, or on the band’s website at www.karlking.us. No make-up date will be scheduled.

The Thompson Times

Representative Mark Thompson, House District 56

As this session winds down, the final bills from Ways and Means and Appropriations committees are being completed. The property tax reform is the most prevalent. Those drafting the legislation are requesting feedback from all Iowans. From the overwhelming input I have received, it’s clear we need property tax reform. Looking at my personal taxes, I couldn’t agree more. This past week a quickly formed group of district leaders were able to attend a discussion at the Wright County Courthouse. We were able to utilize the zoom-in system for others not able to physically attend. It was short notice, but I was very impressed with the full room of city managers, city councilmen, economic development, county supervisors, auditors, assessors, business owners, journalists and citizen in the room and online. While so many try to find the right path on property tax reform, the issue is so complex that the consensus was to not rush through such impactful legislation this year. Rather, slow it down and get it right. I

appreciate the input from all mentioned above and their efforts to find positive solutions.

After the meeting I contacted the Chairman of Ways and Means, Bobby Kaufmann. All tax legislation originates in his committee. He appreciated the input. He concurs with the idea of studying the issue further prior to making any substantive changes. He had heard the same from his constituents in SE Iowa. I will be advocating for several of the professionals in the room who volunteered to be part of any future study committee. Chairman Kaufman also indicated that short term property relief might be proposed based on the input he has received.

Another piece of legislation that has been worked on for some time is the Cancer Coverage and Screening for First Responders (HF 969). After years of work, we officially sent House File 969 to the governor’s desk to become law.

This bill expands the definition of cancer for the Municipal Fire and Police Retirement System and the Special Services Members of IPERS. Current code

outlines 14 types of cancers that are covered for disabilities and death benefits. In listing certain cancers that are covered, code inevitably leaves out additional cancers that should certainly be covered.

Firefighters and family members who have lost friends, coworkers, and loved ones to cancers that are not covered by current code, were in attendance to support the passage of this bill.

These people have our backs every day as they risk their lives and go to work. With this bill, we do what we can to return the favor and have their backs as well. This bill’s relevance is further highlighted by having VOLUNTEER fire fighters in our district, a fact we should always keep in mind. Thank them for their service when you can and support their fundraising efforts.

This week’s House vote tally.

Weekly Bill Tally

Unanimous: 10

Bipartisan: 13

Party Line: 3

Ongoing Bill Vote

Unanimous: 98

Bipartisan: 83

Party Line: 34

WCCT to peruse Little Shop of Horrors

Webster City Community Theatre will host a Readers Theatre on Sunday, April 27 at 3 p.m. to preview its summer musical, Little Shop of Horrors.

Readers Theatre is open to everyone who would like to learn more about the show, hear the music and read the script before auditions.

Little Shop of Horrors is a quirky musical about Seymour, a sweet but awkward florist who discovers a strange and exciting plant. He names it Audrey II, and things start looking up —until he realizes the plant thrives on human blood. As the plant



grows, so does Seymour’s popularity, but keeping up with its appetite becomes a big problem. Things get wild fast, and Seymour learns that fame and fortune might come with a few... unexpected strings attached.

Auditions are scheduled for May 4 and 5 at 6 p.m. with performances planned for July 10, 11, 12, 13, 17, 18, 19 and 20. The production is under the direction of Anne Blankenship, with Kerryn

Oliver serving as music director and Lindsay Henderson serving as choreographer. Katie Hildal is the production coordinator/stage manager.

Readers Theatre will be held at the lower level of the WCCT performing arts center, 1001 Willson Ave. Those attending may bring their own beverage and a snack to share, if they choose.

For more information, email wcctcasting@gmail.com or call 515-835-8430.

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All new and currently registered SP3 participants will be eligible for a one-time drawing for a chance to win a \$1,000 529 college savings deposit.

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Are you interested in improving the quality of child care in Iowa?

The Child Care Resource Program is seeking a full-time, telecommute Child Care Consultant to cover Humboldt, Wright & Hamilton counties.

Requirements:

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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 2nd Street S.W. Clarion IA 50525 Or by emailing jhogrefe@wrightco.iowa.gov Wright County is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

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Source: American Academy of Pediatrics 3/25

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

Hey folks, CALL BEFORE YOU DIG!

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

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2017 Ford F250 extended cab long box truck

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THE SCARLET & BLACK

THE CLARION-GOLDFIELD-DOWS STUDENT NEWSPAPER

www.clarionnewsonline.com

Thursday, April 24, 2025 • The Wright County Monitor 9

Cereal Box Domino Challenge Returns!!

The Elementary TAG students will once again be doing a domino cereal challenge. We will begin collecting cereal on Monday, April 28th thru Friday May 2nd with the actual cereal domino activity at an assembly at the end of the day May 2nd.

All students are to bring unopened boxes of cereal to donate to the local food pantry. The food pantry is VERY LOW on cereal, and the food bank does not know when they will receive more. It is our



most important year ever! If members of the community would like to donate, please leave in the elementary office. Please help us to fill the food pantry with cereal!!

Middle School Honor Roll Quarter 3

5th Grade A Honor Roll:

Gabrielle Barrett*, Asher Bean, Edgar Bouttaphanh*, Corbin Carder*, Iker Chocop Ordonez, Greyson Disney*, Parker Gniadecki, Skyla Jergenson, Ridge Johnson-Gilliland, Kali LaRue, Myla Loux, Sebastian Luttrell*, Zion Marshall, Howard Miller, Avyn Morgan, Parker Murray, Elsie Nail*, Elliot Nerlien, Emily Rivera Pelico, Gabriel Rosenkilde, Nikko Russell*, Lizbeth Samol, Akemi Sanchez, Jake Schnittjer*, Austin Scott*, Nolan Simmons, Jaxon Stumpf*, Alison Tijull Barrios*, Suliana Tukuafu, Corbin Watts, Ryker Watts*, Kiley Weets*, Zoey Wilson.

5th Grade B Honor Roll:

Romario Alvarez Maldonado, Blake Anderson, Maverick Burres, Brooklyn Comstock, Cooper Corrow, Dulce Del Risco, Kaitlyn Duran, Kaetin Gangstead, Valeria Garcia Lopez, Willian Gonzalez Lopez, Kendra Hernandez Martinez, Elizabeth Hernandez Ordonez, Mavis Lundy, Lisbeth Lux Carrillo, Steve Martinez Hernandez, Kendra Matute Hernandez, Bentley Nickell, Wyatt Rivera, Zedekiah Shockley, Carter Smith, Wyatt Smith, Hayden Tillman, Josue Wigui Oztzy, Estefania Zamora Chinchilla.

6th Grade A Honor Roll:

Charlie Allen*, Madelynn Ammerman, Coleman Carder, John Etheredge*, Easton Fiscus*, Evan Freybler, Kevin Hernandez Gonzalez, Sky Hoang, Eva Hogle*, Ciaran Holmes*, Olivia Holmes*, Camille Keller*, Kendyl Langfitt, Sullivan Lewis, Kayleigh Marshall*, Daniela Matul Vasquez, Juan Morales, Decker Olson, Samuel Pelico, Carter Roberts*, Zachary Roush, Jaxson Ruba, Gracyn Schmeling*, Emery Staples*, Sheamus Webb*, Lucy Wibholm.

6th Grade B Honor Roll:

Adriana Annis, Merary Barrios Alvarez, Ryan Connor, Antony Fuego Coj, Brendan Goltz, Tanya Jimenez Alegria, Kaden Kelley, Elisa Matul, Jade Poac, Izabel Reyes, Sterling Slifer.

7th Grade A Honor Roll:

Ainsley Ahrens, Andrea Alvarez Maldonado, Wyatt Askvig, Alec Boyken, Klay Butler, Escarlett Calvo Morales, Maverick Corrow, Maxwell Engstler, William Engstler, Kaitlyn Farnum, Addyson Greenfield, Reese Hennigar, Judah Keller, Alivia Kirstein*, Keira Martin Prescott*, Dracyn Morgan, Tucker Morrical, Kinlee Nail, Daily Ordonez Lopez, Kendrick Phetxuomphone, Fanny Poac, Cyprus Redenius, Michel Rico-Garcia, Andrea Robles Camacho, Malia Rothman, Piper Russell*, Jaxson Sly, Jarek TerHark*, Matthew Tijull Villatoro, Bridget Warnke, Owen Watts*, Greta Webb, Aerimez (AO) Whorley.

7th Grade B Honor Roll:

Emilly Barcenaz Ordonez, Stephanie Chocop, Amie Eekhoff, Alianna Fjetland, Raygen Garza, Ember Howell, Booker Lingenfelter, Nathaly Lopez Perez, Rilee Miller, Joselyn Ordonez Tijull, Emilio Rodriguez Venegas, Vanessa Ruiz Antonio, Joseph "JJ" Sheehan, Blaine Thompson.

8th Grade A Honor Roll:

Reed Campbell*, Maxton Downing*, Gabriel Garner, Victor Gaytan Moreno, Preston Gniadecki*, Joshua Haunstein*, Madden Johnson, Kyah Kelley, Hadassah Lantzky, Paxton Lingenfelter, Nick Savov, Samantha Seaba*, Drew Smith*, Tretyn Solis, Nolyn Torsell*.

8th Grade B Honor Roll:

Blake Bilyeu, Liliana Bobadilla, Jared Hernandez Ordonez, Mallory Keller, Morgan Keller, Kennedy Lopez Puac, Jennyfer Mejicanos Lopez, Juan Mrillo Velasquez, Chantel Noshush, Leighton Pate, Ellyana (Elly) Ray, Aubrianna Tucker.

Photos: Tanja Jensen



A big thank you to Versova and Prestage Foods for their generous donations to CGD students in honor of Dr. Seuss Day ...complete with Green Eggs and Ham!



Elementary students visited the Wright County Community Connection building in April. They shared their favorite parts of the visit...

I liked learning you could do crafts there.

Teddy L.

I liked playing foosball.

Maybelline L.

I liked helping to organize.

Leah S.

I liked organizing the candy.

Reagan H.

I liked playing air hockey in the Hub.

Lauren M.

I liked helping organize the candy and food.

Zayta W.

We had chubby mints for a treat!

Ellie D.

I liked the games.

Harrison C.

I liked helping pack the Easter Eggs.

Kruz M.

I liked air hockey.

Finn W.

I liked exploring the center for the first time.

Hadley M.



CGD Middle School Glowforge

A "Glowforge" is a laser cutter and engraver that allows creators to transform digital designs into physical projects across materials like wood, acrylic, leather, and more. Students from the CGD T.A.G. room have been experimenting with the new laser cutter.

Gracyn Schmeling - I made a sign that says always growing with a bouquet of flowers. I made it as a reminder that life is beautiful and always growing.

Kayleigh Marshall - I put my name on mine and added flowers of all shapes and sizes. The reason I made this is we all come in different shapes and sizes and are unique.

Print your favorite memories



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THE SCARLET & BLACK

THE CLARION-GOLDFIELD-DOWS STUDENT NEWSPAPER

10 The Wright County Monitor • Thursday, April 24, 2025

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Opinion



Are Video Games Impacting Children's Overall Development?

In Miss Rector's Reading class, Fifth grade students recently reviewed opinion writing and put their skills to the test by tackling a controversial topic: the impact

of video games on kids. Students learned how to support their opinions with strong reasons and examples while exploring both the positive and

negative effects of gaming. From creativity boosts to classroom distractions, their thoughtful arguments showed growth in writing and critical thinking.

Video Games Boost Creativity, but Lead to Distracted Thinking

By Zion Marshall,
Middle School

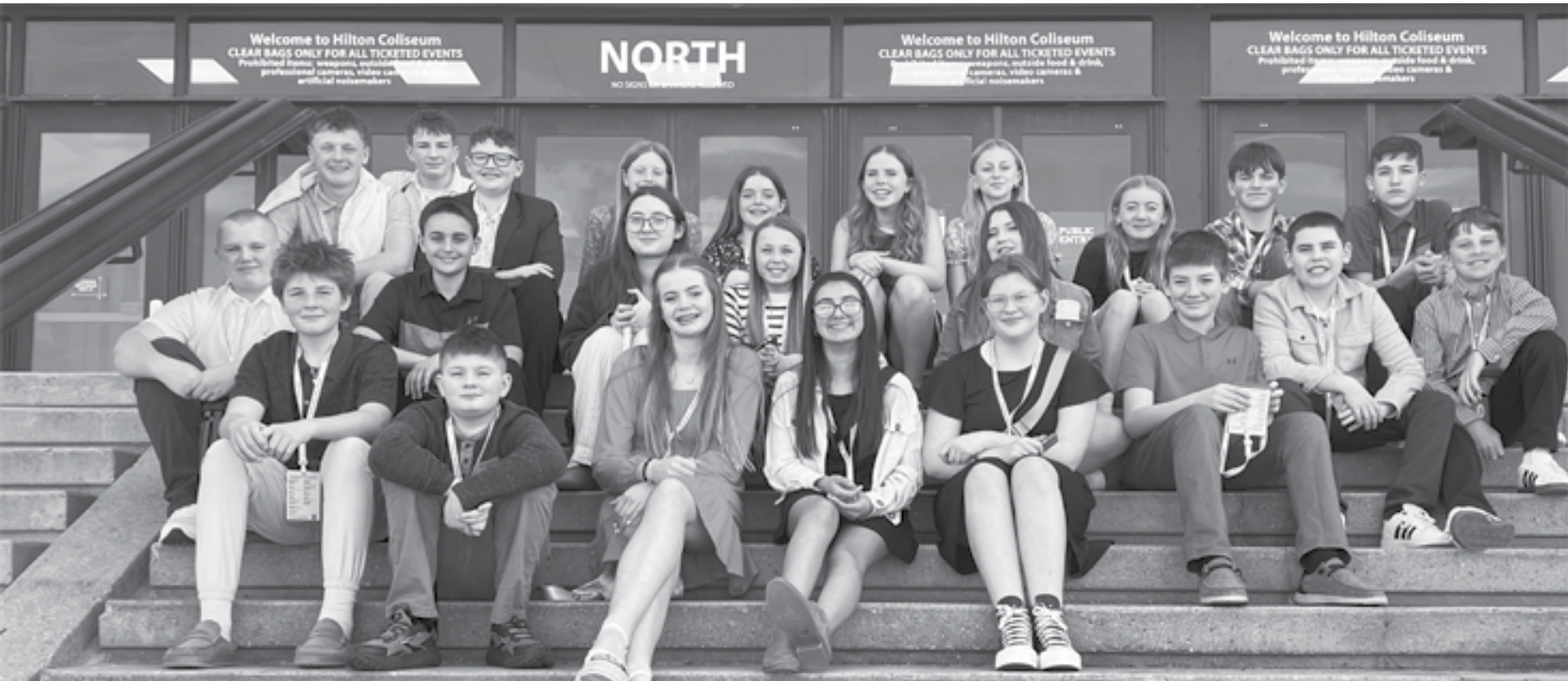
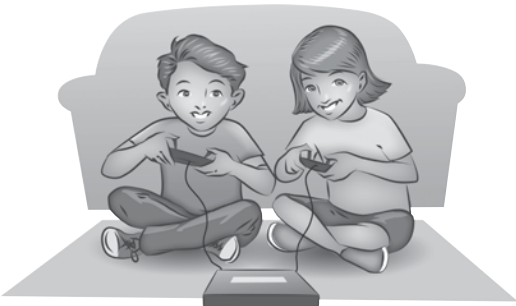
In my opinion, I think video games have both a positive and negative impact on kids. Video games can have a good effect because they help kids become more creative. For example, games like Minecraft let kids build things and solve problems, which helps them think of new ideas and find different ways to fix problems.

On the other hand, video games can also have a negative effect on kids. Sometimes, kids get distracted

in class because they're thinking or talking about a game with their friends. They might even try to find the game on their iPad during lessons, which could get them in trouble and make them miss important

schoolwork.

So, I think video games have both good and bad effects on children. They help with creativity, but they can also make it harder for kids to focus in school.



State Science and Technology Fair of Iowa Congratulations to the following students who placed at the State Science and Technology Fair of Iowa in their age division:

Emery Staples - 2nd Place Biomedical and Health Sciences

Easton Fiscus - Honorable Mention - Engineering

Piper Russell - Honorable Mention

Carter Roberts - 1st Place Chemistry

Greta Webb - Honorable Mention - Chemistry

Kendyl Langfitt - Honorable mention 6th Grade Biochemistry

Kayleigh Marshall - NASA Earth System Science

Project Award, Thermo Fisher

Scientific Junior Innovators Challenge Award,

1st Place, 1st Place Overall

Reed Campbell - Honorable Mention 8th grade Mathematics

CGDMS had 23 students compete at this site event!



The Wright County MONITOR



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Campbell With Top-5 Finish In Clear Lake



Charlie Campbell, pictured here in Eagle Grove, sprinted to fifth place in Clear Lake.


Taylor Smith, Sports Editor

The Cowboys track and field team battled seven area schools at the Clear Lake Invitational on Tuesday, April 15.

As a team, the Cowboys finished 7th with 33 total points. Clear Lake won their home invitational with 202 points, followed by Algona (160) and Forest City (122).

The C-G-D sprint medley (4:15.32), 4x100 (47.51), shuttle hurdle (1:10.51), and 4x200 (1:40.65) teams all turned in fifth place performances in their respective relays.

100m Dash –	
5 – Charlie Campbell	11.79
110m Hurdles –	
6 – Chaz Lane	16.72
200m Dash –	
9 – Ethan Boots	24.95
400m Hurdles –	
8 – Daven Duncalf	1:04.91
800m Run –	
9 – Calvin Barrett	2:32.65
1600m Run –	
5 – Christopher Greenfield	5:10.28
Discus –	
10 – Huxley Lingenfelter	99’5”
High Jump –	
8 – Chaz Lane	5’4”
Shot Put –	
11 – Huxley Lingenfelter	36’11”



Wright County United Continue To Improve



Taylor Smith, Sports Editor

The Wright County United boys soccer team fell to 1-4-2 on the season after a Tuesday night loss to 1-3 Waterloo East.

Junior midfielder Anderson Diaz was the United’s top performer against the Trojans, finishing the road match with an assist and his fourth goal of the season.

Byron Tux Coc would score United’s only other goal of the contest, and Cristian Lopez added an assist. Goalkeeper Jose Alfaro contributed ten saves in the loss.

The girls squad played on Monday and Thursday night last week and finished with a 2-2 tie at home against Webster City and a 0-0 tie at home vs. Charles City.

Sophomore forward Nazaria Matul and senior captain Jocelyn Gonzalez both cashed in on second half goals against the Lynx, and Angelita Camey added an assist. Freshman goalkeeper Angelica Gonzalez finished the match with six saves.



GOLF



Golfers Square Off In Wright County

Taylor Smith, Sports Editor

Last Tuesday, Clarion-Goldfield-Dows boys golfers visited Eagle Grove Golf Course again for a triangular against South Hamilton and Eagle Grove. South Hamilton won the meet and finished with a team score of 180, followed closely by the Eagles (190) and the Cowboys (192).

Senior Caleb Seaba shot a 47 and tied a South Hamilton golfer for fourth place. Jacob Ruba and Tristan Kakacek both shot a 48 to tie for sixth, and freshman Teddy Yackle was the final Cowboy scorer with a 49.

Sophomore Adam Hodson (53) and freshman Colin Sesker (68) also golfed for the Cowboys.

The same day, girls golfers would face off against South Hamilton and Eagle Grove at Oak Ridge Golf Course in Goldfield. The Lady Eagles won the triangular with a low score of 204. The Cowgirls finished second with 246, followed by South Hamilton’s 271.

Senior Maddie Askvig was C-G-D’s top finisher with a 56 for fourth place. Claire Kirstein and Blaire Askelsen tied for seventh with 62’s, and Randi Anderson shot a 66 for ninth.

Jordyce Duncalf shot a 70 in Goldfield.



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First-year student Austin Bierl of Clarion is nearing completion of the 2024-25 President’s Leadership Class at Iowa State University.

Bierl majors in horticulture and is a graduate of Clarion-Goldfield-Dows High School.

Each fall, Iowa State President Wendy Wintersteen invites 30 first-year students to participate in the program. They are selected for the class based on high school leadership experience, academic achievement, and involvement in school and community service. The President’s Leadership Class builds on these abilities and experiences, serving as an important training ground for students who will go on to become campus leaders, and ultimately, leaders in their professions and communities.

The class meets weekly in The Knoll, the president’s residence, to discuss a variety of topics related to leadership with President Wintersteen and are given the opportunity to interact with Iowa State administrators, faculty and staff, and state and local leaders. Each student receives a \$1,000 scholarship.



Iowa Timberdoodles Provide Unique Springtime Displays

Lowell Washburn

The courtship antics of the American woodcock is one of the Iowa woodland’s most remarkable spring rituals. The prelude to these daily performances begins as solitary males – also known as Timberdoodles -- begin emitting a series of off key, nasal calls referred to as “peenting”. There is no other sound that compares.

Then, as the sunset sky explodes into a dazzling array of color; the long-billed, oddly-shaped bird suddenly rises from the forest floor. Spiraling ever higher, the creature soon becomes a speck, hovering hundreds of feet above its woodland home. Once the flight reaches its zenith, the bird folds its wings and begins a meteor-like descent, hurtling toward earth in a breathtaking series of zig-zagging maneuvers. As the fall continues, the bird’s speed remains unchecked. Certain death seems a heartbeat away. Finally, and just a mere split second before impact, the creature extends its wings and gently flutters to the sod in a perfect two-point landing. Dropping its wings and fanning its stubby tail, the bird struts across the forest floor like a miniature gobbler. The dazzling return to earth is soon followed by resumed peenting and more spiraling flights as males attempt to attract the attention of prospective mates.

Although thousands of northbound woodcock migrate through Iowa each spring, only a scant handful will stay to nest. Bedecked in elegantly camouflaged plumage, a resting woodcock is nearly impossible to detect. Although most residents will never catch so much as a single glimpse of one, there are exceptions. My friend Paul Willis, for example, is the only person I know who has enjoyed the good fortune of spotting a group of four newly hatched, still in the nest woodcock chicks. The event occurred on his northern Iowa prairie farmstead.

Feeding almost exclusively on earthworms, Timberdoodles travel by night and spend their days probing the moist forest soils with their ridiculously long bills. Woodcock have delicately shaped pink feet equipped with long slender toes that enable foraging birds to detect the slightest



American Woodcock – Also known as Timberdoodles, woodcock migrate through Iowa during late April and early May. Their one-of-a-kind, aerial courtship performances represent one of the most unique rituals in the Iowa out-of-doors. Adorned in encrypted plumage, resting woodcock are nearly impossible to spot.

underground movements of their prey.

I once enjoyed the memorable pleasure of observing a woodcock feeding near the edge of a small woodland stream. Slowly and deliberately tiptoeing across the damp turf, the ‘doodle would balance on its front foot while steadily rocking back and forth. Whenever an underground movement was detected, the woodcock would instantly come to a halt. Assuming a statue-like pose, the bird appeared to be ‘listening with its feet’.




Woodcock with nightcrawler – Feeding nearly exclusively on earthworms, woodcock detect their prey by “listening with their feet”. (Photos: LW).

which was promptly swallowed in one long gulp. A dozen probes produced an impressive total of eleven earthworms.

Enjoy more wildlife tales online at Washburn’s Outdoor Journal at iawildlife.org/blog


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Ruler of the Roost

Lowell Washburn

For Iowa’s wild turkeys, the lengthening days of spring bring on a dramatic change in attitude. Gobblers that have peacefully spent the entire winter residing in close knit bachelor groups are suddenly defriending their associates. It’s the spring nesting season and for long bearded, ill-tempered toms, the wooing of hens has become a far greater priority than the maintenance of old alliances. Engaged in a perpetual quest for dominance, mature gobblers are now short fused and volatile. And whenever a pair of these twenty-plus pound feathered giants decide to duke it out, the results are dramatic.

The Nature Conservancy’s Clausen’s Cove – located along the Farmer’s Beach area of Clear Lake’s south shore – is one of my favorite places to view and photograph a wide range of woodland wildlife – including the eastern wild turkey. While at the area last week, I was treated to a classic example of just how intense a turkey rumble can be.

The event began when two widely separated gobblers simultaneously emerged from the oak timber to forage in some adjacent corn stubble. Upon becoming aware of each other’s presence, the pair quickly converged. Once

they were together, it didn’t take long for tempers to flare. It was the beginning of a genuine spring smack-down, and I had a ringside seat.

Round One kicked off with a bit of low-key saber rattling which included strutting, gobbling, and some harmless chest bumping. Once these formalities had been completed, the birds squared off and got down to the real business of deciding who was going to rule the roost. The Long Beards appeared to be evenly matched, and it took some additional posturing before either bird made its move. The actual battle began with some bob-and-weave head pecking before quickly escalating to the vigorous use of claw and spur. Following multiple bouts of intense rooster-like sparring, the gobblers paused to recalculate. By now, each bird had felt the sting of their opponent’s beak, claws, and spurs.

Having gained newfound respect for each other’s weaponry, the toms warily circled round and round with each seeking the advantage. Finally seeing what he perceived as an opening, the bird on the right made his move, lunging forward and then going airborne with a mighty leap. On his way back to earth, the gobbler made the most of his split-second



Chest Bumping. (Photos: LW)



Game On.



Recalculating.



Game Over.



Ruler of the Roost.

punishment to quell his enthusiasm, the ruffled gobbler had no desire for further conflict. Bruised and beaten, the defeated turkey promptly fled the scene. The newly confirmed Ruler of the Roost celebrated his victory by strutting back and forth across the corn.

Enjoy more wildlife tales online at Washburn’s Outdoor Journal at iawildlife.org/blog

Aerial views

Bruce Voigts, Aerial Photographer (Photos taken April 19, 2025)



A controlled Conservation burn just south of Morse Lake (former Steve Sebby property). Burning the dead grass helps control weeds and invigorates the prairie grasses.



A bin was blown off its foundation and ended up in the field, result of the high winds and rain we recently had. The local area had minor property damage from the high wind gusts.

Dows Library



Another fun day of crafting at the Dows Library, scrapbooking and visiting friends! (Photo: Deb Olson).

Menu

Monday, April 28, join the Dows Senior Citizens for a delicious meal at noon. The cost is \$10.00. Everyone is welcome. Carry-outs are available. Menu: Fish, Home Fries, Peas, Salads, Dessert.



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Wednesday, April 30th * 4:00pm - 6:00pm

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Refreshments will served, and tours will be available.
Please enter though the west entrance.

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