



The Wright County MONITOR



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The Official Newspaper of Wright County, The City of Clarion, & The Clarion-Goldfield-Dows Community School District

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Choir to Perform at the Holmes Lutheran “Country” Church

Amanda Rink,
Editor

Holmes Lutheran Church will host the Proclaim Choir and Women’s Ensemble from Free Lutheran Bible College (FLBC) during its Sunday worship service on February 8 at 9:30 a.m. at their county church in Holmes.

The choir is made up of 27 college students and is touring Iowa to share the gospel through music and testimony. According to Andrew Hanson, director of music at FLBC, the choirs travel “to share the gospel through song and testimony, as well as encourage congregations.”

Hanson said Holmes Lutheran was selected as a tour stop based on practical considerations and connections with the college. “Churches are contacted to host based on several factors,” he said, including space, housing availability, travel distances, and previous relationships with FLBC. He noted that for many congregations on this tour, it is a first-time visit by an FLBC choir in nearly 20 years.

Students on the tour come largely from the Midwest. “We have students from Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, Michigan, Illinois, and even one from Washington,” Hanson said. “Our Iowa students are from Hubbard and Traer.”

The tour’s theme, The God of Hope, reflects both



timeless and current challenges. “As we share about the depth and sureness of the hope we have in Jesus, we pray that ‘the God of hope would fill you with all joy and peace in believing,’” Hanson said, quoting Romans 15:13.

The one-hour service will feature mostly choral music, along with congregational hymns, student testimonies, and a message.

The event, hosted at 2139 Hancock Ave., is open to the public.

Those unable to attend Sunday morning are invited to a Saturday concert at Salem Lutheran Church in Radcliffe on February 7 at 6:30 p.m.

Pastor George Lautner of Holmes Lutheran Church said the visit is meaningful for the congregation and community. “The opportu-

nity entrusted to Holmes Lutheran is valued because through the efforts of the choir and college, our congregation is fed and is given the opportunity to feed our neighbors with the gospel truth that we share weekly.”

For more information, please contact Holmes Lutheran Church Secretary Darla Thompson at 515.219.0178 or at holmes-lutheran@gmail.com.

Supervisors Move Forward on Comprehensive Plan

Amanda Rink,
Editor

January 26, 2026 - The Wright County Board of Supervisors met briefly on Monday morning, approving several items and taking steps toward final adoption of the county’s comprehensive plan.

The board formally received the 2025 Wright County Comprehensive Plan, which will be shared on the county website with an option for the public to submit comments. Emails submitted through the site will be forwarded to the board for consideration.

A public hearing on the comprehensive plan was set for February 16 at 9:30 a.m., with publication set for early February.

The board then received the semi-annual report from the Wright County Treasurer without discussion, covering county business from July 1 through Dec. 31. The report included a detailed accounting of revenues paid to the state and balances on hand as of year-end.

County Engineer Adam Clemons presented an agreement with the City of Woolstock, which was approved by the board. Under the agreement, the county will continue road maintenance on areas of 335th Street that run through the city limits, including a small paved section near the baseball field and the gravel road west of the town.

Clemons also provided a brief secondary roads update, reporting limited activity due to winter conditions. Crews responded to winter weather as needed, completed one repair work order, and received more than 500 tons of salt.

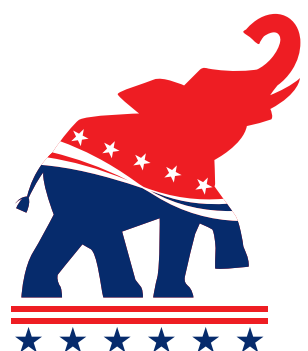
Under meeting updates, supervisors noted upcoming travel to the ISAC statewide supervisors meeting, scheduled for Wednesday and Thursday.

The board reminded residents that Republican caucuses will be held Feb. 2 at the CGD High School gym, with doors opening at 5:30 p.m. and precinct meetings beginning at 7 p.m. Democrats will caucus the same evening at the Clarion Public Library, also beginning at 7 p.m., with registration required by 6:30 p.m.

In other business, the board:
- Approved a liquor license for the Oakdale Chapter of the Izaak Walton League of America without discussion.

The supervisors will meet again on Monday, February 2, at 9:00 a.m. at the Wright County Courthouse. This meeting, and past meetings, can be viewed online at youtube.com/@WrightCountyIowaOfficial8312.

Wright County Party Meetings and Caucuses Scheduled



Amanda Rink,
Editor

Residents of Wright County will have opportunities to participate in local political activities in the coming days, as both major parties prepare for the up-

coming Iowa caucuses.

The Wright County Democrats will hold a meeting on Tuesday, January 27, at 6:30 p.m. at the Clarion Public Library. Community members interested in Democratic Party activities are encouraged to attend.

Later in the week, the Wright County Republicans will meet at the Clarion Public Library on Thursday, January 29, beginning at 6:30 p.m. The meeting is open to local Republicans and those wishing to learn more about party organization and upcoming events.

The Iowa caucuses are

scheduled for Monday evening, February 2, and Wright County residents will caucus at two locations.

Wright County Democrats will caucus at the Clarion Public Library, with the caucus beginning at 7 p.m. Registration, which needs to be completed by 6:30 p.m., will take place before the event.

Wright County Republicans will caucus at the CGD High School gym, also starting at 7 p.m. Participants are also encouraged to arrive early to allow



time for registration.

Caucuses offer voters a chance to have a direct voice in selecting party leadership and candidates. It is an important part of the democratic process.

Eagle Grove Man Arrested on Drug and OWI Charges Following Two-Vehicle Crash

Amanda Rink,
Editor

A 25-year-old Eagle Grove man was arrested and charged following a two-vehicle accident that authorities say led to the discovery of methamphetamine.

According to court records, Gilmar Coyan Azurdia, born March 11, 2000, was taken into custody at approximately 10:07 p.m. on Jan. 16 after being involved in a crash in the 100 block of West Broadway Street.

Law enforcement officials allege that the investigation of the crash resulted in an operating while in-



An arrest in Eagle Grove last week resulted in a man being detained by federal immigration authorities; see page 2 for more details. (Photo: Polk County Sheriff’s Office)

Former Eagle Grove Officer Faces Amended Charges

Amanda Rink,
Editor

January 23, 2026 - Court records show that charges against a former Eagle Grove police officer, Colt Richardson, accused of sending explicit material to a minor, have been amended, removing a felony count and replacing it with three misdemeanor charges. A jury trial, which has been rescheduled multiple times, is now set for the end of January.

Colt Allen Richardson, 28, of Webster City, was employed by the Eagle Grove Police Department at the time of the alleged inci-

dents on December 6, 2024. He is no longer employed by the department, according to public records.

The case began with a criminal complaint alleging dissemination and exhibition of obscene material to a minor. The original criminal complaint states that Richardson allegedly used the social media platform Snapchat to send explicit images to a person under the age of 18.

According to the report, the first communication allegedly occurred while Richardson was on duty at the Eagle Grove Police

continued on page 2

AREA HEADLINES

Belmond

The Belmond Police Department will soon require fitness testing for prospective officers.

Dows

Fox Hill Forge has partnered with the Dows Historical Society to produce blacksmithing demonstration videos at the Dows’ Quasdorf Blacksmith Museum.

Eagle Grove

The Eagle Grove Recreation Center is scheduled to open March 1.

Hampton

Hampton residents Kailey and Josh Einspahr received the January 2026 Image of Pride Award for their home at 902 1st Ave. SE, recognized for extensive indoor and outdoor improvements.

Rowan

A water main break and frozen pipe placed Rowan under a boil order last week paired with repairs delayed by cold temperatures and water pressure issues.

Woolstock

The county approved a 28E agreement with the City of Woolstock to continue road maintenance on portions of 335th Street within the city limits, including the paved section near the baseball field and the granular roadway west of the city.

Check out



Sports on pages 10 & 11



The Scarlet & Black on page 9

Eagle Grove Man Arrested

continued from page 1

toxicated arrest. A subsequent search of Coyan Azurdia's person reportedly produced 3.5 grams of a white crystalline substance, which field-tested positive for methamphetamine. Methamphetamine is classified as a Schedule II controlled substance under Iowa law.

Coyan Azurdia has been charged with possession of a controlled substance, methamphetamine. Additional charges listed in court documents include OWI first offense, driving while revoked, no insurance, and failure to maintain control. He was booked into the Wright County Jail following the arrest.

A statement filed by law enforcement states that the charge is supported by physical evidence, officer observations, witness identification, and alleged statements made by the defendant.

Coyan Azurdia made his initial appearance by phone in Wright County District Court on January 20, without legal counsel at that time. He was informed of the charges, his constitutional rights, and the conditions of his release. Court records indicate that an application for appointment of counsel was approved. And a preliminary hearing has been scheduled for January 29 at 1:30 p.m.

The court order also notes that the defendant has an immigration hold. This could keep someone who might have a U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement detainer held in jail longer, which could then lead to deportation.

All charges are accusations only, and all parties are assumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

Former Eagle Grove Officer

continued from page 1

Department, with a second communication occurring later while he was off duty.

An initial trial information filed by the Wright County Attorney's Office included a Class D felony charge of sexual exploitation of a minor through the purchase or possession of explicit material, along with a serious misdemeanor charge related to the dissemination of obscene material.

An amended trial information e-filed on January 20, 2026, replaces those charges. The amended filing no longer includes a felony count. Instead, Richardson now faces two counts of phone dissemination of obscene material to a minor and one count of first-degree harassment.

All three counts are charged as aggravated misdemeanors and stem from the same alleged date of offense and the same minor identified in court records.

Under Iowa law, a Class D felony carries a potential prison sentence of up to five years, while aggravated misdemeanors carry a maximum penalty of up to two years in prison.

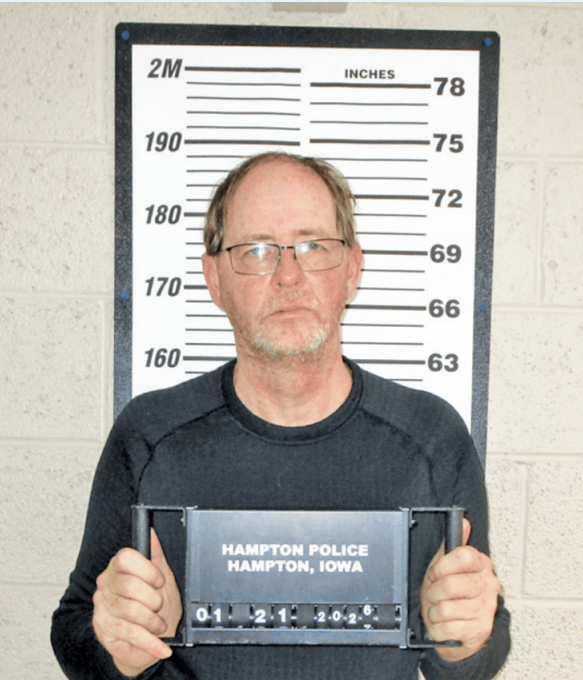
Court records also show that the presiding judge initially assigned to the case recused himself on January 9, 2026, following a verbal motion by the State citing an alleged conflict. The case has since been specially assigned to District Court Judge Joseph Tofilon.

A jury trial is set to begin on January 29.

The amended filing cancels any pending preliminary hearing and lists multiple witnesses, including local law enforcement officers. Court records further indicate that Richardson has been permitted to travel out of state while the case remains pending.

Richardson is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty in a court of law.

Hampton Man Arrested on Abuse Charges



Daniel Raisch of Hampton is facing numerous charges after an arrest last week. (Photo: Franklin County Sheriff's Office)

Jennifer Burnham,
The Hampton Chronicle

A Hampton man was arrested Wednesday afternoon for allegedly abusing a young family member, according to the Hampton Police Department.

Daniel Raisch, 51, of Hampton is facing charges for incest, two counts of sexual abuse in the third degree, and indecent exposure.

He is currently behind bars at Hardin County Jail, where he is awaiting a court date and being held on a \$25,000 cash only bond

Clarification

In a recent issue of The Wright County Monitor, there was wording that made the funding for the Wright County Communications Center unclear.

While the budget for the Communications Center is under Emergency Management, the center itself is not. "Only our budget is, not the department itself," shared Communications Director Tiffon Pohlman with The Wright County Monitor.

Wright County Charitable Foundation Slated to Award Largest Amount of Grant Money in Organization's History

Applications being accepted until February 15, 2026

The Wright County Charitable Foundation (WCCF) Advisory Board announced last week the passage of a Resolution for a distribution of an additional \$57,741.66 in Endowment Fund assets from its Community Foundation of Greater Des Moines fund. This will allow a total of \$165,213.00 in grant money to be awarded to area non-profit organizations to help complete projects and programs that benefit the people of Wright County, Iowa.

WCCF Endowment Director Darrel Steven Carlyle stated that they have exceeded the \$1 million requirement, currently holding \$1.154 million in Endowments, and that allows them to put money (up to five percent) into the pass-through account which can then be additional funds they can distribute.

"This will be the largest amount to be awarded in the history of Wright County Charitable Foundation," Carlyle said.

He added that WCCF

foresees the additional pass-through funding continuing for years to come, maintaining the minimum \$1 million balance with the help of earned interest and new Endowments being sought out.

Applications for the Wright County Charitable Foundation 2026 Granting Cycle are being accepted now through February 15th. Late applications will not be considered.

Each grant applicant is required to match 20 percent (20%) of the funds necessary to complete the project. Volunteer labor hours can be considered as match, along with the funds needed to complete each project.

Links to the Application and Guidelines for the 2026 Granting Cycle can be found on the Wright County Charitable Foundation section of the Wright County Economic Development web page at: https://www.wrightcounty.iowa.gov/departments/economic_development/charitable_foundation.php

For more information, contact Wright County Economic Development at (515) 532-6422 or send an email to wced@wrightco.iowa.gov



Elizabeth McOllough and Missy Loux accepted the check on behalf of First Lutheran Food Pantry.

Community Health Center of Clarion Welcomes Helen Retleff, ARNP, as Primary Care Provider

Community Health Center of Clarion is pleased to welcome Helen Retleff, ARNP, to its care team as a primary care provider serving patients at the Clarion location. Retleff brings a wealth of clinical experience and a strong commitment to personalized patient-centered care.

Retleff has years of experience as an emergency room nurse in a busy college-town setting and has worked in a variety of healthcare environments, including UnityPoint, Community Health of Mason City, and Proteus. She earned her nursing degree from Mercy College of Health Sciences, her Bachelor of Nursing from Chamberlain College, and her Nurse Practitioner degree from Purdue Global

in 2017. In addition to her clinical work, Retleff is dedicated to mentoring the next generation of providers and continues to serve as a preceptor for nurse practitioner students.

As a primary care provider in Clarion, Retleff looks forward to building meaningful relationships with patients and helping them better understand their health conditions, medications, and treatment plans. She has a special interest in managing chronic conditions such as diabetes and hypertension and believes strongly that medical care should be tailored to everyone's lifestyle and needs.

"I enjoy getting to know my patients and working with them to find care plans that truly fit their lives,"

said Retleff. "Medical care is not one-size-fits-all, and I love helping people feel informed, supported, and confident in their care."

Outside of the clinic, Retleff and her husband live on his family farm, where they stay busy caring for animals, bees, and spending time with their seven grandchildren.

Community Health Center of Clarion is excited to welcome Retleff and looks forward to the positive impact she will have on patients and the community.

About Community Health Center of Clarion Community Health Center of Clarion is part of Community Health Center of Fort Dodge, Inc., a Federally Qualified Health Center offering comprehensive medical, dental, and be-



Helen Retleff, ARNP

havioral health services. The clinic provides care to patients regardless of insurance status and accepts Medicare, Medicaid, and most major insurance plans. A sliding fee scale is available for those who qualify. To learn more, visit chcfd.com. To schedule an appointment, call 515-532-3343.

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COMMENTARY

Here’s why your library book may not arrive in time for book club

Joan Zwagerman

I joined a virtual book club during the COVID-19 lockdown, and it was a lifeline. It was also the first time I’d ever joined a book club. Odd thing for a book lover/word nerd/writer/librarian to say, but there it is.

Before that, there were kids to raise and a host of other demands or challenges with time. Plus, when time was at a premium, I wanted to read what I wanted to read, and it usually wasn’t what everyone else was reading.

The virtual book club still meets, but the “book” part of the club has all but ceased to be. Now a more accurate description would be: an occasional check-in for the geographically dispersed. Apparently, this happens to some other book clubs, too.

A few months ago, I finally joined an in-person book club. Some members read a lot — I mean, a LOT, and are up on all the latest and hottest authors and titles. I fall asleep while reading, so I am a slacker. They let me join anyway.

Getting hold of the

latest and greatest titles, though, has proved to be challenging. Not everyone wants to buy a new book each month or has an Audible subscription. Also, some people prefer to read rather than listen, so an audio book isn’t an attractive option.

No problem, just use interlibrary loan, right? Well, thanks to the dumbness of DOGE (the Trump administration’s Department of Government Efficiency), the Institute for Museum and Library Services’ budget was slashed, and the federal cuts affect state libraries.

State libraries provide funding for interlibrary loan reimbursements and related services, so now, you’ll wait longer for your requests to arrive if you live in Iowa. If you live in South Dakota, well, their state library’s cuts were so severe that they suspended ILL funding entirely.

In an age, when we are deluged by more information than we can possibly read, digest, or critically examine, it’s ironic that obtaining books through libraries is becoming more challenging.

I’m not even talking about the folks who are trying to remove materials from both school and public libraries. You can read the latest from Nicole Baart on the ongoing challenges at the Sioux Center Public Library.

What I’m talking about is access at its most basic level, how books get into people’s hands or in the case of ebooks and audio books, into their devices.

Let’s start with physical books. When a book is published, the copies are typically sent to a wholesale book distributor where bookstores and libraries order copies of new releases.

The largest book distributor in America, Baker & Taylor, recently announced that they are going out of business. Baker & Taylor has been the leader in book distribution for decades and was especially popular with libraries. On the other hand, this news seems like it would be a huge win for its competitor, Ingram.

While Ingram might be happy about increased business, it also requires infrastructure and staffing changes. Stepping into the bigger shoes vacated by B&T is not going to happen overnight. So, there may be a temporary slowdown in book distribution, and libraries and bookstores and their patrons will be inconvenienced.

At this news, some people will certainly say, “Why do we even have libraries anymore? Everything is on the internet.”

“Nobody buys (or needs) physical books anymore.”

“I get all the books I want on my Kindle/phone/iPad.”

But here’s the thing: Not everything is on the internet and not necessarily

freely. When it comes to ebooks, you can buy them from the Kindle store and there’s subscription-based Audible for audiobooks. Lucky the person who can buy an electronic book in either form whenever they want.

Barring that, the State Library of Iowa offers electronic books to all Iowa libraries who participate in their Bridges program. Bridges is the name of the program, and Libby is the name of the app that delivers electronic book formats, either as ebooks or audio books.

So, there’s the library, yes. What a lot of people don’t understand is that electronic versions cost a library more than purchasing a physical book, and the library rarely owns said titles. Electronic versions of books are usually leased by contract for specific lengths of time.

If you read the next great American detective mystery on Libby and tell your best friend about it, they may have to wait awhile for their turn. Licensing limits the number of checkouts allowed per title and sometimes the wait list is months long.

I have been on a waiting list behind more than 400 people for an electronic title, telling me I may have to wait 37 weeks. Of course, I gave up and tried interlibrary loan. Most of the time the book will arrive, but not always. I have had requests canceled because too few libraries owned the book or because it was too new to lend to other libraries.

Recently, I requested an ILL for a title that my book club planned to read. I placed the request as soon as we decided on the title, and on the day of our meeting, the book finally arrived. Another member placed an ILL request through another library and still didn’t have the book by the night of the meeting.

And yes, there are libraries that purchase multiple copies of books — book sets — and they will lend these to book clubs, but you have to pick the right book and plan far in advance. A further complication for us, barring the use of book sets, is that our book club members live in different communities and use different libraries. So, not a workable option for us.

Joni Mitchell sang, “You don’t know what you’ve got ‘til it’s gone.” But I know what I had when I had it. Easy access. Efficient service. It’s not gone, but it’s fading fast.

Joan Zwagerman is an Iowa native and is employed as the University Archivist at Buena Vista University in Storm Lake. She’s a member of the Iowa Writers’ Collaborative and her column, “Nuts and Bolts,” is on Substack. ©Copyright 2026, Iowa Capital Dispatch. Published under a Creative Commons license, CC BYNC-ND 4.0. Read more at iowacapitaldispatch.com



*In The Sky During February**
David Voigts

February will be a good month for planets. All the visible planets except Mars, which is too close to the Sun, will be in the sky during at least some of the evenings. For most of every night, very bright Jupiter will outshine everything in the sky except the Moon. It will be unmistakable to the right of Pollux and to the lower right of Castor, the bright twin stars in the constellation Gemini (the Twins). Saturn also will be unmistakable during February evenings, shining low in the southwest in a dim part of the sky. It will set at about 9:00 early in the month and at about 7:00 at the end of February.

During midmonth, fleet Mercury will make a brief visit to the early evening sky. Although this will be its best evening appearance for the year, Mercury will never get very high above the western horizon. On February 18, Mercury will be at its highest point and just above a very thin crescent Moon before they set near the end of twilight. This is an excellent opportunity to see the elusive planet. Finally, brilliant Venus will complete the planet parade as it climbs above the western horizon in the last part of the month.

The very thin crescent Moon, which is only visible just after sunset or just before dawn, is one of the best sights in astronomy, and its close pairing with Mercury will make this one even more special.

Moon Phase	Date	Rises	Highest Point	Sets	When Visible
Full moon	Feb. 1	Sunset	Midnight	Sunrise	All night
Last quarter	Feb. 9	Midnight	Sunrise	Noon	A.M.
New Moon	Feb. 17	Sunrise	Noon	Sunset	Not visible
First quarter	Feb. 24	Noon	Sunset	Midnight	P.M.

*Dates and times are approximate.
Sources: StarDate, Jan-Feb 2026. Vol. 54, No. 1.
Ottewell, Guy. Astronomical Calendar 2026. Universal Workshop, pub. 2025.
Schaaaf, Fred. The 50 Best Sights in Astronomy and How to See Them. John Wiley & Sons, Inc. pub. 2007.
In-The-Sky.org
SkyandTelescope.org

✦ Your Horoscope ✨

ARIES - Mar 21/Apr 20

You are unstoppable this week, Aries. Your famous pioneering spirit is magnified, giving you the green light for major breakthroughs. Take the lead in situations that excite you.

TAURUS - Apr 21/May 21

Prepare for a week of unexpected results, Taurus. A significant financial opportunity may appear out of the blue, or you might find yourself feeling extra secure at work.

GEMINI - May 22/Jun 21

Gemini, your social life is booming right now. You are a magnet for excellent ideas and exciting connections this week. Expect conversations that lead to professional opportunities.

CANCER - Jun 22/Jul 22

Right now you are hitting a major professional high point, Cancer. All eyes are on you, and your efforts may lead to some well-deserved recognition and rewards.

LEO - Jul 23/Aug 23

Prepare for adventure this week, Leo. The cosmos is urging you to expand your horizons and seek new inspiration. Your optimism is contagious as you make your plans.

VIRGO - Aug 24/Sept 22

This week brings a powerful sense of personal transformation and empowerment to you, Virgo. You have the energy to tackle complex matters and emerge feeling stronger and wiser.

LIBRA - Sept 23/Oct 23

Libra, your relationships are very strong this week.

However, any very thin crescent Moon has intrinsic beauty and two special sights to enjoy. The first has long been known as “the old Moon in the new Moon’s arms.” This refers to when the crescent holds the rest of a dimly lit Moon within it. The accepted astronomical name for this glow is earthshine, and it is caused by the Sun’s light reflecting off the Earth and making the Moon dimly visible.

The other sight is best seen through binoculars or a telescope. When either is used, the inner edge of the crescent will look rough. This is caused by mountains that are sunlit and valleys that are in the dark. The floors of craters also may be dark because they are in the shadow of their walls. If you look at the ends of the crescent you might see bright islands surrounded by the blackness of space. They are mountain peaks catching the first rays of the Sun. The thin crescent Moon is truly special.

Feb. 2 The Moon will rise just before Regulus, the brightest star in Leo (the Lion), at about 7:00. In the northeastern parts of the U.S., the eastward motion of the Moon will take it over and hide Regulus. In central Iowa, the occultation will begin close to the eastern horizon at about 7:40 CST and end at about 8:40 CST. The event will be visible at slightly different times elsewhere. In the western states, the Moon will be very close to Regulus. Everywhere

the very bright Moon will make it hard to see Regulus without binoculars or a telescope.

Feb. 7 After they climb into good view after midnight, the Moon will be close to the lower right of Spica, the brightest star in the constellation Virgo (the Maiden). They will cross the sky together until dawn.

Feb. 11 In the hours before dawn, the Moon will be just east of Antares, the bright heart of Scorpius (the Scorpion).

Feb. 18 Mercury will be at its highest point, but still close to western horizon. It will look like a bright star just above the very thin crescent Moon. Look about 30 to 45 minutes after sunset.

Feb. 19 The crescent Moon will be close to the upper right of Saturn at nightfall.

Feb. 23 The Moon will be to the right of the Pleiades (or Seven Sisters) open star cluster, although binoculars may be needed to tease the cluster out of the Moon’s bright light. Aldebaran, the brightest star in the constellation Taurus (the Bull), will be farther to the lower left of the Moon.

Feb. 27 Just after sunset on February 27, Venus will pass close to the left (southward) of departing Mercury. At nightfall,

the Moon will be in line with Pollux and Castor above Pollux, the bright twin stars in Gemini (the Twins). Very bright Jupiter will be to the upper right of the Moon and to the right of the twin stars.

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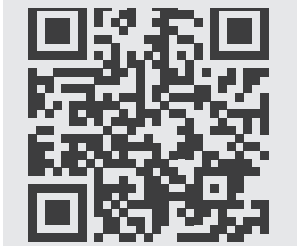
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WRIGHT COUNTY

DEMOCRATS CAUCUS

Monday,

February 2, at 7 p.m.

Clarion Public Library | N. Main St
Registration begins at 6:30 p.m.
All Wright County Democrats are encouraged to attend; voter registration is available on site.

For questions call Nancy
Duitscher at 1-402-419-6941

Courthouse news

BIRTHS
Jory Steven Jass was born on January 13, 2026, to Abigale and Chase Jass of Garner.

Milani Deja Cruz-Craver was born on January 14, 2026, to Jazella Cruz-Shatzer of Hampton.

Alison Mae Smith was born on January 15, 2026, to Kaitlyn and Jaden Smith of Clear Lake.

Sutton Robert Ort was born on January 15, 2026, to Sierra Selvidge of Clear Lake.

Scottie Jack Halling was born on January 16, 2026, to Dusty and Cody Halling of Kanawha.

Valentina Contreras was born on January 17, 2026, to Claudia Contreras Perez of Belmond.

Calvin Cooper Johnson was born on January 17, 2026, to Jessica and Joel Johnson of Sheffield.

Arlo Shepherd Bang was born on January 18, 2026, to Anna and Drake Bang of Forest City.

DEATHS
Edward Carl Stadtlander of Meservey was born on March 29, 1940, and died on January 10, 2026, at the age of 85.

Sheryl Elaine Hill (Ask) of Belmond was born on September 19, 1947, and died on January 11, 2026, at the age of 78.

Neal Allen Rabe of Belmond was born on August 7, 1949, and died on January 7, 2026, at the age of 76.

Patricia Irene Nesvold (Larue) of Eagle Grove was born on September 9, 1951, and died on December

21, 2025, at the age of 74.

TRAFFIC
Elmar Smaytler Cazun Castellanos, Eagle Grove, no valid driver’s license.

Timothy Shawn Kellogg, West Des Moines, speeding over 55 zone (11 thru 15 over).

Maria Carmelina Tomas Cajti, Belmond, no valid driver’s license.

CRIMINAL
Misty M. Schaffer, of Fort Dodge, driving while barred, waiver of rights and guilty plea.

Wilson Amadeo Garcia Gonzales, of Belmond, driving while barred, preliminary hearing February 5, 2026, at 1:30 p.m.

Jocelyne Carol Caramela, of Humboldt, probation discharge effective January 30, 2026.

Mercedes Leigh Hult, of Belmond, disorderly conduct – fighting/violent behavior, trial continued to March 5, 2026, at 2:00 p.m.

Dalton Wayne Roark, of Belmond, disorderly conduct – fighting/violent behavior, trial continued to March 5, 2026, at 2:00 p.m.

Orlando Melendez Macias, of Clarion, violation of no contact/protective order–contempt.

Tonia Lee Houston, of Des Moines, possession of controlled substance – marijuana, first offense, 30-day extension granted to complete jail sentence.

Jessica Reena Morales, of Coalville, interference with official acts, guilty plea accepted; fine of \$250, surcharge of \$37.50, plus court-appointed attorney fees.

Brayden Jacob Dean Louk, of Clear Lake, possession of controlled substance – marijuana, first offense, guilty plea accepted; deferred judgment; civil penalty of \$430, court costs, and court-appointed attorney fees.

Paris Lachelle Jefferson, of St. Louis, possession of controlled substance – marijuana, first offense, guilty plea accepted; deferred judgment; civil penalty of \$430, court costs, and court-appointed attorney fees; restitution pending determination.

Leroy Brown Jr., of Opalocka, possession of controlled substance – marijuana, first offense, guilty plea hearing scheduled for February 6, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. via Zoom.

Gilmar Amilcar Coyan Azurdia, of Eagle Grove, possession of controlled substance – methamphetamine, first offense, preliminary hearing January 29, 2026, at 1:30 p.m.

Landyn Paul Pullen, of Ankeny, possession of controlled substance – marijuana, first offense.

Rebecca Katherine Garcia, of Eagle Grove, possession of controlled substance – marijuana, first offense.

Geneva Marie Friedl, of Fort Dodge, possession of controlled substance – marijuana, first offense, court date scheduled for February 12, 2026.

Iowa House introduces bill to ban CO2 pipelines from using eminent domain

Cami Koons
Iowa Capital Dispatch

A House subcommittee advanced a bill Tuesday that would prohibit carbon dioxide pipeline operators from exercising eminent domain for the purpose of building a carbon sequestration pipeline.

Landowners and some Iowa Republicans have been opposed to the use of eminent domain, or the taking of private property with just compensation for public use, in relation to a proposed carbon sequestration pipeline.

The House passed a similar bill last year, and a faction of senators attempted to amend a different pipeline-related bill to an eminent domain ban, but the effort was not accepted on the Senate floor.

Rep. Steven Holt, R-Denison, said the language in House Study Bill 507 is “as simple as it can get.” Holt said the bill would not stop the pipeline from being built, but would protect Iowans’ private property rights.

“Economic development is of profound importance, but it does not trump fundamentally constitutional rights,” Holt said. “The use of government power to seek property for a private economic development project is not constitutional.”

Opponents of the bill argued it would stall economic growth in the state by blocking construction of the Summit Carbon Solutions pipeline, a project that would connect to ethanol plants in Iowa and surrounding states and transport sequestered carbon dioxide from the plants to underground storage.

This would give Iowa’s renewable fuel industry access to the ultra-low carbon fuel market.

The project has already been affected by a South Dakota law banning the use of eminent domain for carbon sequestration pipelines. Recent filings indicate Summit may change course from its original plan to sequester the carbon dioxide in North Dakota, in order to avoid crossing through South Dakota.

Jake Ketzner, speaking on behalf of Summit Carbon Solutions, said HSB 507 would “kill” the project and take away Iowa’s ability to compete in new and emerging markets for low carbon ethanol.

Ketzner said the company instead supports a bill that widens the pipeline corridor beyond the route in its state permit to allow the pipeline to find a route without having to cross through unwilling landowner’s property.

“This bill is a ban,” Ketzner said. “We can do better.”

Rep. Charley Thomson, left, Rep. Steven Holt, center, and Rep. Ross Wilburn at a House subcommittee Jan. 13, 2026 on a bill that would ban eminent domain for CO2 pipeline projects. (Photo by Cami Koons/Iowa Capital Dispatch)

Senate Majority Leader Mike Klimesh, R-Spillville, has said he plans to file a bill related to eminent domain. While not yet filed, Klimesh has said his bill, rather than banning eminent domain, would allow pipeline operators to deviate from their approved routes to instead find passage with willing landowners.

Klimesh has said his vision for dealing with the controversial topic, is similar to an amendment filed by Sen. Mike Bousset, R-Ankeny, to the pipeline bill in 2025.

This amendment was opposed by Senate Democrats and a group of Senate Republicans who sided with the majority of House Republicans on the pipeline issue. The pipeline has caused tension within the Iowa Republican Party.

Rep. Charley Thomson, R-Charles City, said the bill boils down to the constitutional rights and protections that Iowans have around property.

Thomson said even with the bill, there are still issues of eminent domain that will have to be solved in the state of Iowa.

“The Summit proposal is a clever, but very corrupt perversion of our constitutional system,” Thomson said.

Several representatives from labor unions also spoke against the bill and said it would lead to a “direct result in job loss for the Iowa trades workers.”

Landowners who testified in favor of the bill said Summit could still build its pipeline if the bill were enacted, but it would protect them from eminent domain.

Earlier in the day, landowners opposed to the pipeline project gathered in the Iowa State Capitol Rotunda to kick off their fifth year lobbying against the project.

Last year marked the first time a pipeline-related bill was taken up in the Senate, and while the bill narrowly passed the chamber, it was vetoed by Gov. Kim Reynolds.

Landowners, wearing their signature red attire, joined in a prayer led by Rockwell City pastor Dillon Brandt. He prayed lawmakers would “seek what is best for the people, the

land and future generations.”

Peg Rasmussen, a Montgomery County landowner impacted by the second proposed phase of Summit’s project, came to the Capitol Tuesday to begin her second year lobbying against the pipeline.

Rasmussen said she felt the House was “solidly behind” the pipeline fighters’ cause, but said the Senate, “as always” will be a challenge.

Rasmussen said Holt’s bill was a “simple clean bill.”

In her veto message, Reynolds said House File 639 had “vague legal standards and sweeping mandates” rather than “clear, careful lines.”

Rasmussen said landowners, about 80 of whom were in attendance Tuesday, have asked some of the senators who have been previously on their side to submit an eminent domain ban — like HSB 507 — in the Senate.

She said that while she hasn’t seen the language of Klimesh’s bill, she doubts it’s “as short and simple” as HSB 507.

Holt argued that a bill widening the pipeline corridor may reduce the use of eminent domain for the project, but it does not protect landowners as eminent domain could still be used.

Tom Hayes, president of South Central Iowa Federation of Labor, spoke in opposition to the bill and said for all of the pipeline projects he has worked on, eminent domain was a problem.

“This bill can knock out only the carbon capture pipeline,” Hayes said.

He argued a bill that allowed pipeline operators to look outside of their approved routes would go further in preventing the use of eminent domain on private property owners.

Holt and Thomson held that carbon capture pipelines do not rise to the level of a public use that is required for the use of eminent domain.

“I will continue to support ethanol, I will continue to support corn growers, and I will continue to support agriculture, but they do not trump the constitutional rights of the good men and women sitting in this room,” Holt said.

Holt advanced the bill to the House Judiciary Committee.

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

NOTICE NOTICE

Please kindly note that the main staff of The Wright County Monitor works remotely and does not operate an office in Clarion.

For direct communication, please contact Newspaper Editor and Writer Amanda Rink by phone/text at 515.851.2069 Monday - Friday 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. or by email at news@wrightcountymonitor.com.

Legal notices

PUBLIC NOTICE City of Clarion January 20, 2026 Minutes		
The Clarion City Council met in regular session Tuesday January 20th, 2026, at 5:00pm in the Council Chambers with Mayor Heiden presiding. Present were Council members Dave Flurer, Nick McOllough, and Elmarie Nel (absent Dan Hennigar, Mike Ennis). Also, in attendance City Administrator Clint Middleton, PWD Jon DeVries and Chief TerHark	approve consent agenda consisting of Minutes- 2026.01.06; Financial report- approve checks; Licenses/ Permits- (Building, Liquor, Tobacco, Sign, Peddler, Street Closure) (Motion passed 3-0, absent Hennigar, Ennis).	Reports from the Council or Dept heads: Tim Hamilton from the Fire Department want to know if all council persons received the information from Gene about a report done in 2008, all in attendance had received it. McOllough asked for any update on the Trail. Middleton said there would be action next meeting approving applying for a Boost Grant to help with engineering work designing the actual trail and bridge crossing the creek.
Mayor Heiden called the meeting to order and polled the council for any conflicts of interest with the agenda, there were none. Mayor Heiden asked if there were any citizens listed to address the council, there were none. Motioned by McOllough seconded by Flurer to	Motioned by Flurer seconded by Nel to approve Hotel Motel Grant recipient (Motion passed 3-0, absent Hennigar, Ennis). The Barn at Walton Farms - grant \$1,500 for 2026 updates and attractions.	Motioned by Nel seconded by Flurer to adjourn. All Ayes. (Motion passed 3-0). Respectfully Submitted, Clint Middleton City Administrator

Published in the Wright County Monitor on Wed. Jan. 28, 2026

PUBLIC NOTICE City of Clarion January 20, 2026 Claims		
CLAIMS REPORT VENDOR AMOUNT A.D TECH SOLUTIONS242.7 ADVANTAGE ARCHIVES, LLC187.5 AFLAC223.1 AGSOURCE COOP SERVICES ..1,992.00 AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES27.84 MICHEAL ANDERSON ..1,097.00 ARNOLD MOTOR SUPPLY377.6 BOUND TREE MEDICAL, LLC81.99 BROTHERS MARKET.....141.86 BROTHERS MARKET66.21 CASEY’S BUSINESS MASTERCARD269.73 CENTER POINT LARGE PRINT ...98.28 CLARION HEALTH & FITNESS180 COBRAHELP40 COLLECTION SERVICES CENTER369.23 COLUMN SOFTWARE PBC194.21 COUNCIL LIVING14.97 CULLIGAN.....84.8 DOOLITTLE OIL CO. INC.520.52 FED FICA ELECTRONIC15,355.76 FIRST BANK HSA.....1,000.00 FIRST CITIZENS BANK25 VISA1622.85	FIRST CITIZENS (EE HSA)19,000.00 GENERAL TRAFFIC CONTROLS87 GOLD-EAGLE COOP.....4,846.35 GORDON FLESCH COMPANY63 HANSON AND SONS.....157.02 HAWKEYE WEST PEST CONTROL203 HAWKEYE WEST PEST CONTROL68 HOTSYS EQUIPMENT CO.110 I & S GROUP, INC.....28,956.32 IA DEPT OF REVENUE138.5 EMERGENCY SERVICES MARKETING660 INGRAM LIBRARY SERVICES.....713.24 KANSAS CITY LIFE INS CO.....2,234.78 LANGUAGE LINK.....120.28 LIBRARY IDEAS1,060.50 MENARDS FORT DODGE 359.92 MID AMERICAN ENERGY955.02 MID-AMERICA PUBLISHING CO77 MIDAS COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS3,255.50 MUNICIPAL WELL & PUMP29,120.00 PEERLESS WELL & PUMP10,210.00 PRAIRIE ENERGY75.1 QUADIENT FINANCE USA, INC46.86	SIMMERING CORY IA CODIFICATION1,080.00 SMALL CITY RESEARCH INST2,600.00 STERICYCLE, INC105.55 T & S SANITATION.....871 T.P. ANDERSON & COMPANY, P.C.300 THE TRASH MAN10.5 UNITYPOINT HEALTH42 URNES HARDWARE & APP.....697.86 US CELLULAR.....340.39 VISUAL EDGE IT.....8,296.49 WILLEY’S WOOD SHOP150 WINDOW MAN.....112 WRIGHT FARM SERVICES.....86.1 WEX BANK.....711.79 Accounts Payable Total144,369.00 GENERAL30,979.78 TRANSIT3,255.50 ROAD USE9,429.02 EMPLOYEE BENEFIT FUND.....20,023.66 Police Equip Fund738.2 WATER33,171.84 WATER UTILITY IMPROV FUND...10,210.00 WATER PLANT PROJECT28,956.32 SEWER6,810.47 LANDFILL.....600 INTERNAL SERVICE FUND194.21 TOTAL FUNDS144,369.00

Published in the Wright County Monitor on Wed. Jan. 28, 2026

Legals are your right to know!

PUBLIC NOTICE Wright County Supervisors January 12, 2026 Minutes		
January 12, 2026 Chairperson Bosch called the regular meeting of the Wright County Board of Supervisors to order at 9:00 a.m. Members present were Rasmussen, Bosch, Loux, and Ellis, with Kluss absent. Motion by Rasmussen and seconded by Loux to approve the tentative agenda. Motion carries. Approved claims for payment. In open forum, Natasha Krieger, Dispatcher, received the Outstanding Achievement Award. Congratulations Natasha! Mary Ingham, Alison Clabaugh, and Rachel Connor with Crisis Intervention Service gave their annual update to the Board of Supervisors. They assisted 65 households, 11 households with financial assistance and 4 preventions in Wright County. Crisis Intervention Service is requesting \$1,000 contribution. This will be discussed during budget discussions and the use of opioid funds. Motion by Rasmussen and seconded by Ellis to receive the monthly revenue report from the Wright County Sheriff. Motion carries. Motion by Ellis and seconded by Rasmussen to receive the quarterly revenue report from the Wright County Auditor. Motion carries. Peggy Schluttenhofer, Wright County Treasurer, presented an abatement of taxes on a mobile home property that burnt down in 2017. The total amount for the abatement is \$1,734.00. Motion by Ellis and seconded by Rasmussen to abate the taxes on the mobile home property for \$1,734.00. Motion carries. Jarika Beecher, Wright County Emergency Management Director, discussed that the Emergency Management Commission has decided to go to a levy, under the general supplemental fund, from a per capita.	Tiffon Pohlman, Wright County Communications Director, also discussed moving the Communications budget under the Emergency Management levy. This also would be switched from a per capita and work as a pass-through for the department. There was discussion on how this will increase the County's budget but also lower the Cities. Motion by Rasmussen and seconded by Ellis to move Wright County Communications to a levy under Emergency Management Commission starting with Fiscal Year 2027. Motion carries. Adam Clemons, Wright County Engineer, gave an update on the Secondary Roads Department. Motion by Rasmussen and seconded by Ellis to adjourn the meeting. Motion carries. Ashley Bosch, Chairperson, Wright County Board of Supervisors Amanda Meyer, Wright County Auditor	

Published in the Wright County Monitor on Wed. Jan. 28, 2026

PUBLIC NOTICE Estate of Mary L. Lester		
Public Notice IN THE IOWA DISTRICT COURT FOR WRIGHT COUNTY IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF Mary L. Lester, Deceased Probate No. ESPR017774 NOTICE OF PROBATE OF WILL, OF APPOINTMENT OF CO-EXECUTORS, AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS To All Persons Interested in the Estate of Mary L. Lester , Deceased, who died on or about December 11, 2025 . You are hereby notified that on the 16th day of January 2026, the Last Will and Testament of Mary L. Lester, deceased, bearing date of the 2nd day of November, 2004 , was admitted to probate in the above named court and that Janice I. Morford and Kathy L. Stahl were appointed Co-Executors of the estate. Any action to set aside the will must be brought in the district court of said 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 this notice to all heirs of the decedent and devisees under the will whose identities are reasonably ascertainable, or thereafter be forever barred. Notice is further given that all persons indebted to the estate are requested to make immediate payment to the undersigned, and creditors 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 of four months from the second publication of this notice or one month from the	date of mailing of this notice (unless otherwise allowed or paid) a claim is thereafter forever barred. Dated this 21st day of January 2026 Janice I. Morford 2012 Elm Lake Drive Clarion, Iowa 50525 Co-Executor of Estate Kathy L. Stahl P.O. Box 164 Clarion, Iowa 50525 Co-Executor of Estate Collin M. Davison ICIS Pin No. AT0010905 Laird Law Firm 210 Central Avenue W P.O. Box 73 Clarion, Iowa 50525 Attorneys for Executor Date of second publication 4th Day of February, 2026	
PUBLIC NOTICE Wright Co. Drainage Ditch Brush & Weed Control		
Drainage Ditch Brush & Weed Control Service Contract Wright County will be taking bids for Drainage Ditch Brush & Weed Control for a two-year contract. Full details of the contract may be obtained from the Wright County	Auditor's Office. Deadline for bids is 3:00PM on Friday, February 6, 2026. All bids must be sealed and marked on the outside with name, phone number, and "Drainage Ditch Brush & Weed	Control". They may be dropped off or mailed to the Wright County Auditor's Office. For more information call 515-532-2771 or email drainage@wrightco.iowa.gov

Published in the Wright County Monitor on Wed. Jan. 21 & 28, 2026

Church news

CLARION AREA

CLARION FIRST METHODIST CHURCH
201 3rd Ave. NE, Clarion, IA 50525
Pastor Craig Luttrell
515-532-2845
website: www.clarion.church
Church Office
Hours: Monday - Thursday 8:00 a.m. – Noon
• Sunday, February 1
9:00 a.m. Sunday School for all ages
10:00 a.m. Worship Service
• Sunday, February 8
9:00 a.m. Sunday School for all ages
10:00 a.m. Worship Service

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

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, CONGREGATIONAL
121 3rd Avenue N.W., Clarion
• Sunday, February 1
9:00 a.m. Worship
10:00 a.m. Fellowship

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

ST. JOHN CATHOLIC
608 2nd Ave. N.E., Clarion
Father Jerry W. Blake, Pastor
515-532-3586
• Thursday, January 29
11:40 a.m. Rosary at Sacred Heart, Eagle Grove
12:00 p.m. Mass at Sacred Heart, Eagle Grove
2:00 p.m. She Shall Be Called Woman at Sacred Heart, Eagle Grove
• Friday, January 30
7:40 a.m. Rosary at St. John, Clarion
8:00 a.m. Mass at St. John, Clarion
• Saturday, January 31
8:30 a.m. Beauty in Christ Virtual Watch Party at St. John, Clarion
3:15 p.m. A/B at St. John, Clarion
4:00 p.m. Mass at St. John, Clarion
7:15 p.m. A/B at St. John, Clarion
8:00 p.m. Mass in Spanish at St. John, Clarion
• Sunday, February 1
7:15 a.m. Rosary at St. Francis Xavier, Belmond
8:30 a.m. Noodle Making at Sacred Heart, Eagle Grove
5:00 p.m. Evening Prayer for the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord at St. Francis Xavier, Belmond
6:30 p.m. She Shall Be Called Woman at St. John, Clarion
• Tuesday, February 3
No Weekday Masses
2:00 p.m. OCIA at St. Francis Xavier, Belmond
• Wednesday, February 4
No Weekday Masses
6:30 p.m. YFF Classes at all Parishes
6:30 p.m. Adoration at all

Parishes
6:30 p.m. OCIA at St. John, Clarion
• Thursday, February 5
No Weekday Masses
2:00 p.m. She Shall Be Called Woman at Sacred Heart, Eagle Grove

UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
219 First Street N.W. Clarion 515-532-2709
• Sunday, February 1, Todd Stuber will be leading the service
• Sunday 9:00 a.m.
• Sunday 10:30 a.m. Adult Sunday School Class
• Wednesdays 6:00 a.m. Men’s Bible Study
• Saturdays 8:00 a.m. Men’s Group

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

GOLDFIELD AREA

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

UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
220 E. Oak St., Goldfield, IA 50542
515-825-3581
goldfield.upc@gmail.com
[Facebook@goldpres](https://facebook.com/goldpres)
“A Church for the Community”
Office M-F 7:30 – 11:30 a.m.
• Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m.
LAKE LUTHERAN CHURCH
Goldfield
Pastor Ron Rasmussen
• Sunday, February 1
10:00 a.m. Worship Service and Fellowship Coffee in the Fellowship Room.
No Sunday School

GOLDFIELD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
P.O. Box 214
515-825-3754
Pastor: Ann Trimble Ray. Each bring a new perspective to our church and God!
• Sunday Services
11:00 a.m. Worship time
Everyone Welcome!

HOLMES LUTHERAN CHURCH
2139 Hancock Ave, Holmes, Iowa
HolmesLutheran@gmail.com
Pastor George Lautner
Office hours 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. (Flexible)
515-825-3660
• Sunday, February 1
9:30 a.m. Worship & Communion
10:30 a.m. Children’s Sunday School
Communion 1st & 3rd Sundays
Praise Songs & Worship last Sunday of the month

HOLMES BAPTIST CHURCH
2137 Hancock Avenue
Pastor Cody Huber
515-825-3110
• Sundays
9:30 a.m. Sunday school, 10:30 a.m. Worship Service, 5 p.m. Evening Service
• Wednesdays
Prayer Meeting, youth group, kids club (1st – 6th grades – during school year)

WRIGHT CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH
1730 130th Street, Kanawha 641-762-3947
• Sunday, February 1
9:30 a. m. Morning Worship, 10:30 a.m. Fellowship, 11 a.m. Sunday School, 6 p.m. Evening Worship

ROWAN AREA

UNITED CHURCH OF ROWAN
Pastor Nancy Hofmeister
811 Pesch St., Box 38, Rowan
• Sundays
10:00 a.m. Worship

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
Missouri Synod
Jct. Highway 69 & 3
Pastor Mark Eichler
• Sunday, February 1
10:30 a.m. Divine Services, 11:45 a.m. Bible Study
October 7 – 28 and November 4 at 1:30 p.m. Women’s Bible Study

DOWS AREA

SOVEREIGN GRACE CHURCH
109 N. Eskridge St., Dows
Dows / www.sgcdows.com
Doug Holmes, Pastor
• Sunday, February 1
10:15 a.m. Sunday school, Coffee, 11:15 a.m. Worship at First Presbyterian in Dows

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH
Dows, IA
Masking is option
• Sunday, February 1
9:00 a.m. SS/Conf/Coffee
10:00 a.m. Worship/Communion
Installation of Officers
• Wednesday, February 4
6:00 p.m. Council Meeting

UNITED METHODIST & PRESBYTERIAN
• Sunday, February 1
10 a.m. Dows Joint Worship at Untied Methodist

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

IMMANUEL U.C.C.
204 E. South St., Latimer
Joe Dunnwald
• Sunday, February 1
10:30 a.m. Worship

ST. PAUL’S LUTHERAN
304 W. Main, Latimer
Travis Berg, Pastor
• Sunday, February 1
9 a.m. Worship, 10:15 a.m. ABC/Sunday School

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Morgan, Lee Center, Bradford
Erling Shultz, Pastor
• Sunday, February 1
8:30 a.m. Worship (B), 9:30 a.m. Worship (LC), 10:30 a.m. Worship (M)

MISSIONARY ALLIANCE CHURCH
3rd & Lake Streets, Blairsburg, IA 50034
• Sundays
8:45 - 9:45 a.m. Café is open serving donuts, smoothies and coffee beverages
9:00 a.m. Adult Sunday School

10:00 a.m. Worship Service
10:00 a.m. Nursery available for children up to age 2
10:00 a.m. Kids Church for children 2 years to grade 5
• Wednesday
5:45 - 6:15 p.m. Café Open
6:30 p.m. Youth
6:30 p.m. Kids Club for children grades 1-5

NAZARETH LUTHERAN
Coulter
Pastors Tom Dettmer and Stanley Peterson
• Sunday, February 1
9:30a.m. Joint Sunday Worship Service with Holy Communion, Coffee to follow
• Dinner is the first Sunday of the month

The Clarion Wire

** Wright County Charitable Foundation is calling on area non-profit organizations to submit grant applications for funding to help complete projects and programs that benefit the people of Wright County, Iowa. WCCF 2026 Granting Cycle is OPEN NOW! Applications will be accepted until Sunday, February 15, 2026. Each grant applicant is required to match 20 percent (20%) of the grant funds requested. The links to the Application and Guidelines for the 2026 Granting Cycle can be found at: www.wright-county.org/departments/economic_development/charitable_foundation.php
** BINGO continues at the Clarion Senior Citizens Center every Friday at 1:30 - 3:30 p.m.
** CDA ‘Casino Night’ is scheduled for Saturday, January 31 at the Red Shed! Kickoff the event with a “Burger Feed”, sponsored by the Clarion Fire Department! Open to the public (don’t have to do the Casino night); 6 - 8 p.m. Casino royal begins at 7 p.m. until 10 p.m.’ cost is \$10!
** Belmonds’s “Cattlemans Dining presents classical guatarist and composter Abigail Rae on Saturday, January 31, from 6 - 8 p.m. and thinking ahead. Make Cattleman’s a destination for fun on Valentine’s Day! Antonio Lopes and his jazz trio will be performing on Saturday, February 14 from 6 - 8 p.m. For reserations or to book catering, call Pete at 641-430-1688 or email cattlemansdining@gmail.com for more information.
** The beginning of Election season: Iowa Caucuses are set for Monday evening, February 2. Wright County Democrats will be at the Clarion Public Library at 7 p.m.; register is by 6:30 p.m. Wright County Republicans will meet at the CGD High School gym at 7 p.m.; register earlier!
** 500 card players: ‘500’ each Wednesday at Clarion’s Senior Citizens Center; both men and women; from 1:30 - 3:30 p.m. And beginning on Thursdays, learn to play ‘Hand & Foot’ card game! Also 1:30 - 3:30 p.m.
** Play (learn) Pickleball! From 6 - 8 p.m. at Clarion’s Elementary/Middle School Multi-Purpose Room (entry on north side of school building). Pay \$2 to play. Every Wednesday evening in January - February. Contact Gloria Johnson for more information 515-835-














7728.
** Wright County Economic Development, in collaboration with the Heart of Iowa Regional Housing Trust Fund, has forgivable home rehabilitation loans available for qualifying low-income individuals for repairing owner-occupied houses in Wright County. For more information, contact Aaron J. Budweg, Wright County Economic Development Director, at (515) 532-6422.
** Have fun at the Bru in southwest Clarion: ‘Trivia Nights’ are normally the 1st & 3rd ‘Thursdays - next times are February 5 and 19! And‘Bingo’ on 4th Tuesdays - February 24!
** Everyone is welcome as Holmes Lutheran Church hosts an uplifting hour-long worship & praise service on Sunday, February 8 at 9:30 a.m. with 27 students from Minnesota’s Free Lutheran Bible College on their February tour to Iowa and their THE GOD OF HOPE presentation!
** Kanawha Swimming Pool “Omelet Brunch” at the Kanawha Fire Station on Sunday morning, February 8. Freewill donation for pool repairs!
** ‘2nd Avenue Society’ enters at the Bru on 3rd Tuesdays! But in February it is Tuesday, February 10; note the one time change!!
** Mark your calendars for a “Chocolate Crawl” in Clarion’s retail district on Thursday, February 12 from 4 - 6 p.m.
** AT THE CLARION THEATRE: Showing “Avatar: Fire & Ash” on Friday - Sunday, January 39 - February 1 @ 7 p.m.; Sunday Matinee at 2:30 p.m. - February 1.
** FOCUS\$ ON BUSINESS\$: Take the stress out of the tax season! Barrett Financial Tax and Accounting is now booking new clients. Located at 202 N Main Street, Clarion. To book an appointment call (515) 448-8070.
** VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY: Want to help with the 2026 Clarion’s Festival in the Park? Contact CDA for more details - 515-532-2256!
** MONEY \$AVING TIP: Enjoy a “Sunday Night Supper” with popcorn from the Clarion Theatre - from \$2 on up, depending on size!
** THANK YOU: For community volunteers of all shapes, sizes, and ages who help make our area “RUN”!

Sunday Services

Reconnect

With Your Church Community

HAVE YOU TALKED TO GOD LATELY?

	Contact: Katie Phillips to Advertise! 641-790-1841		 <p>“ Let your eyes look straight ahead, fix your gaze directly before you.” Proverbs 4:25 (NIV)</p> <p>Decluttering for Clarity</p> <p>People often talk about “spring cleaning,” though winter can often be a great time for decluttering as well. In a season with days of poor weather when we may find ourselves stuck inside, there are a few forms of decluttering which we may undertake. We might find ourselves desiring to declutter, spiritually. This can be done by examining our conscience and thinking about how we can have a refreshed approach to the coming days, weeks, and months. We may also find the time to declutter our to-do lists, which can certainly provide a beneficial jolt in productivity or motivation. Finally, we might declutter in the most basic form, that is, our homes, office or anywhere else that needs organization. This often seems to help in decreasing our stress and worries, and taking time to do this winter can certainly bring about these feelings earlier.</p> <p>~James Stone</p>	Contact: Katie Phillips to Advertise! 641-790-1841	Office: 641-622-3110 Cell: 641-790-1841	 HANSON & SONS Tire and Auto Service <small>Che Hanson</small> 1407 Central Ave. East Clarion, IA 50525 Phone 515-532-2444 Fax 515-532-2299 www.hansontire.net Email: che_hanson72@yahoo.com	
Office: 641-622-3110 Cell: 641-790-1841	Contact: Katie Phillips to Advertise! 641-790-1841	Office: 641-622-3110 Cell: 641-790-1841		 HART Building Supply 204 E. Broadway St. Eagle Grove, IA.	Contact: Katie Phillips to Advertise! 641-790-1841	 FIRST CITIZENS First Citizens Bank myfcb.bank	
Contact: Katie Phillips to Advertise! 641-790-1841	 CLARION WELLNESS & REHABILITATION CENTER <i>Caring Staff... Quality Rehabilitation</i> 515-532-2893 110 13th Avenue SW Clarion, Iowa 50525	 THRIFTY WHITE PHARMACY Committed to Healthy Outcomes 210 North Main • Clarion 515-532-6626 Laura Phillips Pharmacy Manager		 FIRST BANK Serving You First Member FDIC www.firstiowa.bank	Contact: Katie Phillips to Advertise! 641-790-1841	Office: 641-622-3110 Cell: 641-790-1841	
	Office: 641-622-3110 Cell: 641-790-1841			Stevenson Insurance Services ABENS-MARTY-CURRAN AGENCY  Goldfield 515-825-3476		Contact: Katie Phillips to Advertise! 641-790-1841	

Monitor Memories

FROM THE ARCHIVES OF THE WRIGHT COUNTY MONITOR
1984 - 1949

42 Years Ago February 2, 1984

Duane Asbe of Clarion and Velma Huntley of Goldfield were honored as 4-H Alumni Members during the Wright county 4-H Leaders Recognition Banquet held last Saturday night at the Methodist Church in Clarion. Both individuals have been leaders of Wright County 4-H groups for a number of years. Huntley was the leader of the Boone Valley Go-Getters for 15 years and Asbe led the Norway Ramblers club for 11 years.

The Young America Shop was the scene of a Chamber of Commerce ribbon cutting ceremony Friday as that children's clothing store observed its grand opening. Manager Dixie Beenken had the ribbon cutting honors, while chamber president Bud Gates presented the plaque. Also shown in the front row are employees Sally Emerson and Mari Bernhardt, and owners Sue and Larry Stock.

The Clarion Cowgirls broke through the ice that had blocked the win column on Tuesday night, when they recorded an overtime win over Algona on Tuesday, after losing to Iowa Falls on Friday. With a three-point field goal from Kim Thompson with :06 left in regulation, and three points in the overtime period from Lana Marker, the Clarion Cowgirls

finally recorded their first win of the season, beating Algona 50-49.

77 Years ago February 3, 1949

Clarion residents have had a practical example of efficient street clearance in the past days. What with snow, sleet, ice and slush, Lewis Mcchem, head of the city's street maintenance department and his helpers John Cullinan and Carl Sasse, have been putting in from 12 to hours a day keeping the streets open and usable for traffic. While it has not been a winning fight, the street crew has, at least managed to keep even with the Weather Man.

Sportsmen of the vicinity adopted an organized plan to bring food to storm-bound pheasants of Wright County Wednesday night at a meeting of the Wright County Chapter of the Izaak Walton League. The past two or three weeks have played havoc with the birds who have been unable to find food except that put out for them by farmers.

An unannounced fire drill at Clarion Senior and Junior high schools Wednesday resulted in emptying the building of more than 850 students in 57 seconds according to the superintendent of schools. The fire drills are called without warning during the school year and Wednesday's performance shows that the students are well trained.

Words of Wisdom

Last week's trivia questions:
What is a male horse called at birth?
Answer: A colt.
What is a female horse called at birth?
Answer: A foal (both male and female horses can be called foals).
What is a female horse under age four called?
Answer: A filly.
What is an adult female horse called? Answer:
A mare.

This week's trivia questions:
The 2026 Winter Olympics opening ceremony is Feb. 6 in Italy. What are the five colors of the "Olympic Rings" logo?
What year was the first Olympics that were televised?
What man holds the record for most Olympic gold medals?
What two women are tied for the most Olympic gold medals?

Jan. 28 is Pop Art Day, and National LEGO Day; Jan. 29 is National Puzzle Day, and National Carnation Day; Jan. 30 is National Croissant Day; Jan. 31 is National Hot Chocolate Day; Feb. 1 is National Freedom Day; Feb. 2 is Groundhog Day, and World Wetlands Day; Feb. 3 is American Painters Day.

This week is Catholic Schools Week and National Meat Week.

Funny texts and emails that spellcheck didn't fix:
"Are the roast history chickens at Walmart any good?"

"Is that restaurant allah cart?"
"These storm clouds are starting to look anonymous."
"We ate shrimps camping last night."
"St. Louis, Misery."
"At the end of the day we are all human beans."
"Exorcising of dogs not allowed on the course."
"Can you lemonade these papers?"....."This is a graphics and print shop."....."I know, can you lemonade these papers?"
"It's a sectional couch with otter man."
"The pig mutation on this product is amazing."
"That steakhouse has the best flaming young."
"I've been completely ostrich sized for what I said."

The 1900 Olympic Games in Paris, France were the first to feature female athletes. The 22 women competed in five sports, including tennis, sailing, croquet, golf, and equestrianism (horse riding).

The 1900 Olympics also featured live pigeon shooting, where competitors shot approximately 300 birds with shotguns.



Obituaries

Shirley Ann (Gram) Lager 1935 - 2026

Shirley Ann (Gram) Lager 90, of Clarion, passed away on Wednesday, January 21, 2026 at Iowa Specialty Hospital in Clarion, IA.

Mass of Christian Burial for Johnnie and Shirley Lager was held at 10:30 AM on Friday, January 23, 2026, at St. John's Catholic Church, 608 2nd Avenue Northeast in Clarion with Father Jerry Blake officiating. Burial took place in St. John's Catholic Cemetery in Clarion.

Visitation for Johnnie and Shirley Lager was held from 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM on Thursday, January 22, 2026 at Ewing Funeral Home, 1801 Central Avenue East in Clarion. Rosary began at 3:30 PM prior to visitation.

Shirley Ann (Gram) Lager was born on June 26, 1935, in Rowan, Iowa, to Bert Gram and Edna (Francis) Gram. Shirley was a true Iowa girl at heart. She loved being out on the farm with her dad, working with cattle, horses, chickens, and tending the garden.

Shirley attended Rowan Public Schools, graduating from high school in 1953. During her high school years, she led a very active life, participating in drama club, basketball, and the school newspaper. She was also a member of the Glee Club, where she performed in both group and solo numbers and served as an officer for several years.

In addition, Shirley was an accomplished pianist and played for many events both in and out of school. As a teenager, her dad gifted her a piano of her own, which deepened her love for music. She often played for her husband John, and his favorite song to hear her play was "12th Street Rag."

Apart from school, Shirley was deeply involved in 4-H for nine years, where she especially enjoyed projects in food and nutrition, sewing, and home furnishings. Her mother loved helping her with baking and sewing, sharing tips and tricks, while her dad enjoyed

working alongside her on home furnishings projects. Shirley's dad especially loved when she baked, but decided it took too long to stir by hand, so he went out and bought her a new mixer. Shirley loved being creative and trying new recipes, and those formative years helped shape the wonderful wife and mother she became.

Shirley was a tomboy at heart. She could bake and cook some of the best meals you'd ever have, yet she could also run a farm as if it were the easiest thing in the world. From a young age, she learned many of her kitchen skills from her mother. While she was a natural in the kitchen, Shirley truly loved being outdoors and living the life of a farm girl. She helped her dad whenever she could including running tractors and doing whatever needed to be done. She was so good with animals that she was known for being able to gently put a chicken to sleep in her arms and lay it down to rest. Shirley was also the one who taught her dad how to operate new equipment on the farm. She was smart, capable, and handy in every way.

In 1954, Shirley married her high school sweetheart, John O. Lager Jr., at St. John's Catholic Church in Clarion. The newlyweds began married life in Latimer, where they started their family, later moving to Belmond. They eventually settled on a farm east of Rowan, where John began his lifelong farming career and Shirley raised their children, helped with livestock, and developed a deep love of gardening and canning. In 1963, they relocated to a farm four miles south of Clarion, which they called home for many years. After 50 years of farming, they retired and moved into Clarion, where they continued to enjoy life together.

John and Shirley were blessed with six daughters. As her daughters grew, Shirley became involved in 4-H once again, working alongside them as they

learned baking, sewing, and home furnishings. She loved passing her knowledge on to her girls. Shirley later served as a leader for the Lincoln Lassies 4-H Club and was honored with a 20-Year Service Award in 2004. In 2012, she was inducted into the Iowa 4-H Hall of Fame. Her love of 4-H extended to her grandchildren and great-grandchildren, whom she joyfully helped with many projects over the years.

Shirley was a woman you wanted in your life. She was an amazing mother, grandmother, sister, aunt, and friend. She loved her family deeply and always made sure they felt that love. Shirley loved teaching her girls everything she could, both on the farm and in the kitchen. She passed on her love of gardening, canning, raising livestock, and so much more.

While her children and husband, John, brought her great joy, her grandchildren and great-grandchildren brought her an immeasurable amount of happiness. Shirley spoiled them in every way she could—baking for them, doing sewing projects, writing letters, coloring, working on puzzles, attending their events to show her support, and always enjoying a good movie with them.

As her family grew and spread across different places, Shirley's love for them never faded. No matter how much time had passed, you were always greeted by her unforgettable smile and warm, comforting hug.

Shirley also devoted 12 years helping her youngest daughter, Marcella (Lager) Brodersen, operate the 4-H Food Stand. In addition to 4-H, Shirley was a member of St. Cecilia's Circle, Catholic Daughters of America, St. John's Sewing Circle, and the Altar Society at St. John. She entered many projects in the open class at the Wright County Junior District Fair and was an active member of Ceres Circle and Wright County Cowbells. After retiring



from farming, Shirley and John also worked for Lifetouch for seven years.

Shirley is survived by her six daughters: Melody Lager (fiancé Steve Aldrich) of Dows, Iowa; Margaret (Rick) Schmidtke of Walker, Minnesota; Mary Lager of Clarion, Iowa; Maurita (Gene) Gourley of Webster City, Iowa; Milissa (Don) Katschke of Clarion, Iowa; and Marcella (Bill) Brodersen of Pleasant Hill, Iowa; and her beloved nephew Joe (Karlene) Spitler.

She is also survived by her 12 grandchildren: Aaron (Erin) Harris; Kevin (Cindy) and Jeff (Melissa) Schmidtke; Nicole Fletcher; Rachel (Nate Radke) Fletcher; Jackie Zeiger; Julie (Kenneth Hyland) Bell; Joshua (Megan) Zeiger; Gabrielle (fiancé Royce Nessa) and Chandler (fiancé Jordan Jensen) Gourley; and Kelsie and Chloe Brodersen; along with 23 great-grandchildren and five great-great-grandchildren.

Shirley was preceded in death by her husband of 71 years, John O. Lager; her parents; her sister Marian Aldrich; her brothers Raymond Gram (Gertie and Nadine) and Robert Gram (Dorothy); grandchildren Ashley, Ona, and Coulter Gourley; her special niece Annie (Brooks) Just; nieces Elaine Gram, Monica Durham; nephews Dennis Aldrich, Jerry Gram and Michael Durham; great-nephew and niece Dusty and Afton Spitler; and great-grandchild Wyatt Schmidtke.

Iowa State University announces fall 2025 Dean's List

More than 11,800 Iowa State University students have been recognized for outstanding academic achievement by being named to the 2025 fall semester Dean's List. Students named to the Dean's List must earn a grade point average of at least 3.50 on a 4.00 scale while carrying a minimum of 12 credit hours of graded course work.

Belmond, Iowa
Shea Whitney Sopher, Biology, B.S. (LAS)
Nate James Spencer, Agricultural Engineering, B.S.
Clarion, Iowa
Ady Askelsen, Agricultural Studies, B.S.
Jackson J Beisel, Aerospace Engineering, B.S.

Austin A Bierl, Horticulture, B.S.
Elliot Josephine Ennis, Finance, B.S.
Lauren Grace Hansch, English, B.A.
Tate Zachary Jackson, Psychology, B.S.
Emma Lee Keller, Veterinary Medicine, D.V.M.
Bryce Lindaman, Environmental Engineering, B.S.
Calvin Schluttenhofer, Accounting, B.S.
Dows, Iowa
Madeline Ann Askvig, Finance, B.S.
Eagle Grove, Iowa
Jocelyn Gonzalez, Communication Studies, B.A.
Elizabeth Lopez, Management, B.S.

Iowa State University fall graduates

Iowa State University awarded degrees to 1,751 graduates this fall. Graduate and undergraduate commencement ceremonies were held Dec. 19-20 at Hilton Coliseum. The

following are graduates from your area:
Eagle Grove, Iowa
Emma Jean Thul, Bachelor of Science, Supply Chain Management, B.S.

Iowa Central Community College President and Dean List

Belmond
Briana Verhelst
Jacob McDaniel
Zander McLemore
Clarion
Dawson Beyer
Hannah Bloomquist
Nicolas Curry
Marcelo Espinoza
Selvin Gonzalez
Isabelle Hernandez
Elizabeth Hodson
Tristan Kakacek
Claire Kirstein
Jacqueline Kirstein
Divina Mata
Landon Munoz
Trenton Robinson
Cole Schnittjer
Allison Scott
Teagan Webb
McCoy Yackle
Dows
Adrian Carrillo
Kolton Hefti
Ivan Rivera
Emma State
Tess Wibholm
Eagle Grove
Trinity Alesch
Holly Anderson
Victor Barron
Danielle Carriker

Zabdi Castro Aroche
Adam Champagne
Ariela Corado
Rylee Hanus
Carrie Hamilton
Rylie Hennigar
Zachary Hogrefe
Hector Martinez
Jordan Morris
Graciela Morales-Utrera
Zoey Pamperin
Maria Perez
Caitlin Pinkele
Matthew Ridgway
Nelson Rivera
Shyla Schwering
Brooke Terwilliger
Michael Umthun
Goldfield
Kyler Delatorre
Ricardo Noh-Mejia
Thor
Celeste Figueroa
Savannah Gilbert
Kendra Kinne
Jace Olson
Williams
Brooklyn Doolittle
Sylvia Otterros
Woolstock
Antonio McClain
Lilian Maines

After Ground Hog Day Blood Drive

Rodger Tveiten

The Kanawha Fire Hall is the site for a Tuesday, February 3rd, blood drive. The hours for the Life Serve event are from 1:30 to 6:00. Donors are

invited to enjoy snack-table refreshments after giving blood. Walk-ins are welcome. Appointments are available but not required. Call 800-287-4903



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to Advertise! 641-790-1841 or
sales@wrightcountymonitor.com

Winter Blues Casino Night

The Clarion Development Alliance invites the community to shake off the winter chill at this year’s Winter Blues Casino Night, taking place on January 31st at the Red Shed Event Center.

This year’s event will feature an exciting lineup of activities, including classic casino-style games, bingo, prizes, and social fun. A meal will be available for purchase and will be provided by the Clarion Volunteer Fire Department, with proceeds supporting the department.

New this year, bingo will be added to the evening’s activities, giving attendees another fun way to participate and win prizes. Casino chips and bingo cards will be sold separately.

Drinks will be available for purchase at the bar, and light snacks will be provided during the evening.

Tickets are \$10 per person. You can find the link to purchase tickets on the Clarion Development Alliance website or Facebook page. Tickets may also be purchased at the door on the day of the event.

Event Agenda

- Meal: 6:00–8:00 p.m. (provided by Clarion Volunteer Fire Department, available for purchase)
- Social Hour: 6:00–7:00 p.m.
- Bingo: 6:00–9:00 p.m. (minimum of five people to play)

• Casino Games: 7:00–10:00 p.m.

• Prizes Announced: 10:00 p.m.

“We’re looking forward to a great night of community fun during the winter months,” said Bailey Sebby, Executive Director of the Clarion Development Alliance. “We’re especially excited to partner with the Clarion Volunteer Fire Department and to introduce bingo as a new addition to the event.”

The CDA encourages residents to mark their calendars and plan to join in for an evening of entertainment while supporting the local fire department and community initiatives.

Youth Internship Grant Program

Iowa’s Summer Youth Internship Grant program supports the creation of internship programs for Iowa’s youth that help prepare them for high-demand careers in the workforce.

IWD Opens Grant Opportunity Supporting Summer Youth Internship Programs | Iowa Workforce Development.

Iowa Summer Youth Intern Program	
Purpose	Awards grant funding to help develop internship programs for high school students and youth (between the ages of 14 and 24) that allow them to explore and prepare for high-demand careers, gain work experience, and develop personal attributes that help them succeed in the workplace.
Available Funding	Grant awards may vary in amounts as determined by the scope of the project. The maximum funding for one award will be \$60,000.
Eligible Organizations	Nonprofits, educational institutions, employers, and community organizations.
Application Period	Applicants apply through IowaGrants.gov typically during the first month of the year. The application period is currently open through Monday, February 16, 2026, at 2:00 p.m.

2026 Summer Youth Internship Grant Opportunity (Now Open)

Iowa Workforce Development is opening a new round of Summer Youth Internship Grant funding to help employers advance promising programs for Iowa’s youth. Eligible grant applicants include nonprofits, educational institutions, employers, and community organizations. Applications will be accepted until Monday, February 16, 2026, at 2:00 p.m.

House GOP property tax bill released with 2% revenue cap

Robin Opsahl
Iowa Capital Dispatch

House Republicans released their property tax plan Wednesday, starting down the path toward finding a compromise with the governor and the GOP Senate majority on one of their top session priorities.

House Speaker Pat Grassley and Rep. Carter Nordman, who chairs the House Ways and Means committee, unveiled House Study Bill 596 Wednesday. It joins the list of property tax bills to be considered this year, alongside Gov. Kim Reynolds’ proposal announced in her 2026 Condition of the State address and Senate Republicans’ proposal released last week, Senate Study Bill 3001.

Nordman said House GOP lawmakers crafted their legislation with a focus on “real, tangible relief for all homeowners.”

“While there may be three different proposals out there right now, I am confident that we’ll be able to find common ground and accomplish property tax reform this year,” Nordman said. “... This plan prioritizes the taxpayer over the taxing entities. It brings simplicity, it brings transparency, and most importantly, it brings relief.”

There are some similarities between the House proposal and the governor’s plan, such as a 2% revenue cap for local governments outside of new construction, with exemptions for school funding and the debt levy. Both bills also call for a focus on finding local government efficiencies and ways for local entities to cut spending.

There are also several differences. While the governor’s bill includes a \$10 million pot of one-time money for localities to finance consolidation and shared service agreements, the House bill does not have a funding mechanism to support this effort. Instead, it tasks the Iowa Councils of Government (COGs) to provide assistance with “coordination, planning and technical assistance for local government entities for the purpose of consolidating, sharing or regionalizing services.”

Grassley said COGs have already worked extensively with local governments on economic development, and said these boards were identified as a good “conduit” for working with local governments across a larger region on consolidation efforts. He also said he believes there is not necessarily a need for the fiscal backing included in Reynolds’ bill, as these changes will be driven by the revenue cap.

“Some communities have done really good with efficiency, so I’m not just blaming them in this conversation, but I’m saying with the ability to continue to collect more and more revenue, the incentive to find efficiencies, I don’t think is always taken as seriously as (it should be),” Grassley said. “So I think with that revenue gap, it will just naturally lead to more efficiencies.”

Both the governor’s and Senate’s proposals also include a measure specifically lowering property taxes for seniors. Reynolds’ bill proposes freezing property taxes for seniors age 65 and older in homes valued at \$350,000 or less, while the Senate bill goes further, eliminating most property taxes for Iowans over age 60 who no longer pay a mortgage for their home.

The House bill takes a different approach, proposing a new \$25,000 exemption for all residential properties. This provision, which would mean all properties are not taxed for the first \$25,000 in assessed home value, will help Iowans at all stages in their life, Nordman said.

“It gives relief to seniors, it gives relief to the working families, it gives relief to young couples who are buying a new home,” Nordman said. “So rather than just looking at one section, we’re given relief to everyone.”

The House proposal also requires bonds payable through property taxes to receive a 60% vote of approval to pass, in addition to adding new requirements on information sent to property taxpayers explaining how the tax money is used.

This bill does not include any of the measures related to changing Iowa’s “rollback” system of calculating property taxes which appeared in the Senate GOP proposal, as well as property tax plans introduced by legislative leaders in 2025. Grassley said the House Republicans’ goal was to introduce a “simplified” property tax plan in comparison to previous discussions, which is why the caucus settled on advocating a 2% revenue cap.

Grassley said as the conversation on property taxes progresses, he does not see any specific points in the House bill as “deal breakers” if they are not included in a final draft. Negotiations are ongoing, he said. He added that he did not know how a consensus will be reached, but the fact that the House and Senate GOP’s and governor’s proposals are all out early in session shows that all three parties are serious about taking action on the issue this session.

“Ultimately, regardless of what the process is, our goal is to find a situation where we can find certainty for the taxpayer,” Grassley said. “So however we get there, I’m not as concerned about. But we are already engaged in those conversations.”

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



Look, a square!
Squares have four equal sides. Daddy's kind of a square too, but that's another story.

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





Representative Mark Thompson, House District 56

Week two for the Iowa legislative Session was busy with many bills written by individual legislators, with associated subcommittees. The deadline to have those individual bills submitted was the end of this second week. I have submitted several regarding human trafficking and victims care along with a veteran’s bill to mirror legislation in the Senate.

As you may have seen in the news, the House passed a simple bill stating CO2 pipelines do not meet the state or federal constitutional criteria to use eminent domain. This is not about opposing the pipelines, but about opposing the use of eminent domain to construct the pipelines. The Senate has their own bill on the eminent domain issue so which bill progresses or if they move forward is unknown.

Every day during the legislative session, groups and interested parties can reserve time in the capitol rotunda to share information and present programs. Among those at the capitol this week were Veterans organizations and Veteran Service Officers (VSO) throughout the state. I was able to meet with Wright County VSO and the President of the VSO organization along with several from the Marine Corps League as well.

This month is Human Trafficking Awareness and the Iowa Network Against Human Trafficking was at the Capitol. As the legislator writing Human Trafficking legislation, I spoke alongside Senator Bisignano at the awards ceremony to present the plan for creating the Iowa Human Trafficking Team. This is a bipartisan mission, so Sen. Bisignano’s(D) remarks were particularly important as he stood with me as a partner in this legislation. (picture included)

Property Tax Reform

The Iowa Senate, Iowa House and the Governor all have independent plans for property tax reform. The Iowa House just released their plan and below is a quick synopsis.

The components of the bill include:

- Capping revenue growth at 2% plus new construction, ensuring that cities and counties are still incentivized to grow. This component includes exceptions for schools and the debt levy.
- Delivering immediate relief to every homeowner by creating a new \$25,000 exemption. Every residential property will not be taxed on the first \$25,000 of the assessed value of their home.
- Revamping the informational mailer sent to every property taxpayer to increase transparency and give taxpayers a better idea of where their money is going and what it funds.
- Clarifying that all bonds payable with property taxes must receive a 60% affirmative vote.
- Requiring Councils of Government (COGs) to help local governments find efficiencies and cut waste.

Each proposal will be evaluated, and legislature will work on the best option with one or a mix of several. Here is a link comparing the three options.<https://taxrelief.org/a-side-by-side-look-at-iowas-property-tax-reform-legislation/>

For the businesses in the area, Iowa Workforce Development (IWD) is opening a new round of grant funding to help employers advance promising summer internship programs for Iowa’s youth. Applications are now open at iowagrants.gov and will be accepted through Monday, February 16, 2026, at 2:00 p.m. Eligible grant applicants include nonprofits, educational institutions, employers, and community organizations. Priority funding will be given to programs that: Provide internships to youth at risk of not graduating, from low-income households, or who face barriers to upward mobility in the labor market. Programs must be based in a high-demand occupation as determined by the state listed on the website above. The full list of grant requirements and the notice of funding can be found at: Summer Youth Internship Program.

Another point of interest for Iowans getting or renewing their driver’s license; this past week the Iowa Department of Transportation announced the launching of a new statewide scheduling system. The new website – <https://iowadot.gov/drivers-licenses-ids/schedule-appointment> – allows Iowans to look and see what appointment times would be available at all 103 state and county-run locations.

Finally, for those in Wright and Humboldt County, the county economic development office has published information on the Heart of Iowa Regional Housing Trust Fund which will assist low-income individuals with rehabilitating and repairing owner-occupied housing. For more information, contact your respective county economic development office. There is also a program in Wright County for gap financing for new single-family home purchase or rehabilitation loan. I hope those who qualify can take advantage of these programs to improve our community.

Informed citizens build stronger communities





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THE SCARLET & BLACK

THE CLARION-GOLDFIELD-DOWS STUDENT NEWSPAPER

www.clarionnewsonline.com

Wednesday, January 28, 2026 • The Wright County Monitor 9

CGD 4th Graders shared their Favorite 2025 Memories

- Winning the championship in flag football - Trenton H
- The Jr. State Science Fair - Teddy L., Jett R.
- Spending time with friends and family - Zelia M
- Daisy helping us learn English - Victor O.
- Buddy Activities, Spark Clubs, and Action Teams - Leah S.
- Having a movie and popcorn party - Kate L
- Meeting my friends - Aizen R. Merrick J.
- Playing soccer - Elmer M.
- My Grandma visited from Guatemala. - Jason T.
- Going to a bible camp with my family. - Lily E.
- Riding snowmobiles with my dad. - Eli R.

Noetic Math Contest

CGD TAG middle school students grades 5th to 8th recently competed in the Noetic Math Contest. Created to inspire students to shine in mathematics with the Noetic Learning Math Contest (NLMC), a leading national competition for elementary and middle school students (grades 2 - 8). Held twice a year, NLMC challenges students to think deeply, discover the beauty of mathematics, and build a strong foundation for advanced STEM learning. With more than 60,000 students participating in the 2024 - 2025 school year, NLMC is one of the largest math contests for elementary and middle school students in the nation.



13 CGD Students Selected for the Karl King Honor Band

L. Yoakam,
Band Teacher

On January 17th, 13 Clarion-Goldfield-Dows Middle School band students were selected to participate in the Karl King Honor Band. This event brings in top middle school musicians from North Central Iowa, and forms one large band for each grade level, 6th, 7th, and 8th. The students had many hours of rehearsals, lessons with professionals, and viewed a concert by a professional musician at this event.

After a day of practicing with each other at St. Edmond Catholic School, the students performed a wonderful concert!

8th Grade: Norah Fishburn, Piper Russell, Jack Keller, Tucker Morrical, Addyson Greenfield

7th Grade: Coleman Carder, Gracyn Schmeling

6th Grade: Myla Loux, Suliana Tukuafu, Owen Fishburn, Gabe Rosenkilde, Ryker Watts, Wyatt Smith



CGD Honor Roll

9th Grade

Ayala, Antonio
Barrows, Americus
Bilyeu, Blake
Bobadilla, Liliana
Butler, Khale
Calel Pelico, Estefany
Campbell, Reed
Downing, Maxton
Espinoza, Mynae
Garner, Gabriel
Gaytan Moreno, Victor
Gniadecki, Preston
Hauenstein, Joshua
Hernandez Ordonez, Jared
Johnson, Madden
Kakacek, Nathan
Keller, Mallory
Keller, Morgan
Kelley, Kyah
Lantzky, Hadassah
Lingenfelter, Paxton
Lopez Puac, Kennedy
Mejicanos Lopez, Jennyfer
Morales, Nevaeh
Murillo Velasquez, Juan
Nosbush, Chantel
Ott, Carson
Pate, Leighton

Plendl, Colin
Ray, Ellyana (Elly)
Rieck-Evanson, Rileigh
Roush, Tiffany
Savov, Nick
Seaba, Samantha
Smith, Drew
Solis, Tretyn
Torsell, Nolyn

10th Grade

Berning, Tara
Charlson, Lea
Chavez, Gabriela
Cope, Traesyn
Curtis, Isaac
Duncalf, Daven
Egland, Audrey
Farnum, Ryan
Feaster, Alina
Fineran, Ella
Fouts, Damon
Garcia, Judy
Garcia Villatoro, Johana
Glade, Lydia
Hoang, Roy
Johnson, Emily
Johnson, Taylor
Langfitt, Lydia
Lara Acosta, Genesis
Lopez Ordonez, Rodrigo

Martinez Santiago, Dianna
Melendez, Armando
Morgan, Ryland
Myers, Olivia
Nel, Manie (MJ)
Nerlien, Harper
Perez, Johanna
Poac, Maria
Poac-Gomez, Ruby
Redenius, Paxton
Reyes, Brianna
Roberts, Tristan
Ruba, Jacob
Sarat-Oxlaj, Liliana
Sesker, Colin
Sweeney, Caleb
Thompson, Marlee
Tijull Villatoro, Daphne
Toomsen, Asa
Watts, Quincy
Weets, Jada
Wharton, Hannah
Wibholm, Cole
Yackle, Theodore

11th Grade

Askelsen, Blaire
Beyer, Easton
Bobadilla, Yaquelin
Boyken, Jaden

Camey-Lopez, Angelita
Campbell, Charles
Cayler, Lucas
Creason, Calder
Engstrom, Ella
Espinoza Fernandez, Emiliano
Frantz, Greydon
Garza, Crew
Garza, Kimberly
Gomez Hernandez, Ciklaly
Herrera Pelico, Obed
Hoelsing, Kennedy
Kelso, J.T.
Lane, Chazden
Legleiter, Logan
Lingenfelter, Huxley
Linn, Jordyn
Matul, Rosa
Matul Vasquez, Nazaria
Mewes, Jillian
Meza, Ronaldo
Morrical, John (J.D.)
Nosbush, Cooper
Pohlman, Jaxun
Rivera, Ivan
Routh, Jewell
Smith, Ashlynn
Stewart, Jallen
Torsell, Logan
Warnke, Mason

Weets-Morris, Jace
Woodley, Alynna
12th Grade
Akdim, Anir
Allen, Jackson
Arrona Fernandez, Andres
Becerra Tevalan, Kristel
Bouttaphanh, Woudthinanh (Alex)
Carrillo, Adrian
Chay Romero, Elvis
Cortes Hinojosa, Angel
De Leon, Joncarlo
de Leon Juarez, Santiago
Diaz Gonzalez, Anderson
Fowler, Madison
Friedel, McKenna
Friesleben, Dane
Gomez Batres, Daniela
Gomez Juarez, Daniel
Gonzalez, Selvin
Hartwig, Ryan
Hasty, Ethan
Hefti, Kolton

Holmes, Henry
Hurt, Matthew
Jashari, Donjeta
Krueger, Quinn
Lara Book, Gabriela
Leal, Joseph
Matul, Christopher
Meier, Joel
Mejicanos Lopez, Madeline
Mendez-Rodriguez, Julio
Mittan, Chance
Morris, Kaylie
Munoz-Cruz, Sydney
Ordonez Oxlaj, Caty
Phetxoumphone, Linden
Santis, Jairo
Schnittjer, Cole
Scott, Allison
Solis, Niklas
Stevenson, Issac
Teran, Jasmine
Waddingham, Tessa
Weske, Kyleigh
Wilcox, Rosha

Congratulations!

CG

SPORTS

#2 Cowboys Roll Through Conference

Taylor Smith,
Sports Editor

The (2A) #2 Clarion-Goldfield-Dows Cowboys wrestlers got to work last week and rolled through the North Central Conference. They claimed the NCC dual team title on Thursday and then went on to win the NCC Tournament on Saturday.

Thursday night, the mighty Cowboys knocked off (2A) #9 Algona, 49-19, at a triangular in Iowa Falls.

“We had this meet circled on our schedule since last year,” Head Coach Cory Yoder remarked to The Monitor. “We dominated the meet. Our kids were ready, and it showed!”

Estuardo Lopez (113-pounds), Colin Sesker (157), and Easton Beyer (190) all won via technical fall against their Bulldog opponents.

Cole Wibholm (106), Linden Phetxoumphone (132), and JT Kelso (285) all won by fall.

Next, the Cowboys dominated 63-11 over the host Cadets. With that victory, CGD locked in their outright conference dual championship with a perfect 2025-26 record of 8-0.

A few days later, Clarion-Goldfield-Dows turned in a legendary performance at the North Central Conference Tournament held at Humboldt High School.

CGD ran away with the team title with 255 team



Cole Wibholm, pictured here at a dual in Clarion, was an NCC champion at 106-pounds. He had three pins on the day and helped the #2 Cowboys win their first conference championship since 2021. (Photo: Taylor Smith)

points.

#9 Algona (209.5 points), Hampton-Dumont-CAL (148.5), #20 Humboldt (128), and Clear Lake (124.5) rounded out the Top-5.

Wibholm, Paxton Redenius (113), Adrian Phetxoumphone (126), Linden Phetxoumphone, Sesker, and Kelso were all individual champions.

Adrian Phetxoumphone, Sesker, and Kelso all repeated as champions.

Ryan Hartwig (138), Dawson Beyer (150), Ryland Morgan (165), and Easton Beyer (175) were all runner-ups in their respective weight classes.

Lopez took bronze at

120-pounds, Reed Campbell finished 4th at 144, and Traesyn Cope was 5th at 215.

“The team scored 255 points,” Coach Yoder marveled. “That’s only 12 points shy of the NCC record of 267. I’m super proud of our kids and their effort. Having ten guys in the finals is an amazing accomplishment, and winning both the dual and tournament NCC conference championships just adds to our accomplishments this season.”

“Now, we turn our focus to regional duals on February 3! Our goal all year has been to win state duals, and our postseason starts now!”

Thompson Takes Silver at Conference

Taylor Smith,
Sports Editor

Last week, the Eagle Grove/Clarion-Goldfield-Dows girls wrestling team prepared for their conference meet with a Monday night triangular in Clear Lake.

The girls would fall to the host Lions, 53-6. 120-pounder Elideth Santiago’s 2nd period fall over Clear Lake’s Shaelyn Ulrich gave the Eagles their lone six points of the dual.

Against Iowa Falls-Alden, Catherine Orozco (100-pounds) and Morgan Keller (115) won via forfeit.

Marlee Thompson (110) and Keylyee Collins (125) both had 2nd period pins against their Cadet opponents. 1F-A won the dual, 54-24.

Finally, the Lake Mills Bulldogs would defeat Eagle Grove/Clarion-Goldfield-Dows by a score of 57-12.

125-pounder Mya Gilbert won via forfeit, and Thompson pinned Jasmine Schwartz to notch her second pin of the day at 110-pounds.

Then on Thursday, the team traveled to Osage



Marlee Thompson has a 31-9 record this season. (Photo: Taylor Smith)

High School to compete in the rescheduled Top of Iowa Conference Tournament.

Orozco would go 2-2 on the day at 100-pounds and placed 4th overall.

Thompson had a semifinal pin over Alexis Kolbet of Osage to earn a spot in the 1st place match. There, she was pitted against yet another Osage wrestler. This time, Green Devil Kiersten McRoberts won a major decision, and Thompson took home 2nd place.

Keller took 5th at 115, and Santiago and Gil-

bert placed 4th and 5th at 120-pounds.

Collins had two pins on the day at 125 and earned 4th place.

Baylee Steig was 6th at 135-pounds.

The Eagles placed 6th out of 9 schools with 67 team points.

Osage (281.5), Lake Mills (142.5), and North Butler (87.5) all placed in the Top-3.

This Friday night, the girls will compete in Denver at their Class 1A, Region 4 State Wrestling Qualifying Meet.

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SPORTS

Coach Kahler Praises Resilient Cowgirls



Audrey Egland boxes out against Belmond-Klemme. (Photo: Taylor Smith)



Johanna Perez catches her breath. (Photo: Taylor Smith)



Brianna Reyes attempts to disrupt a Bronco shooter. (Photo: Taylor Smith)

Taylor Smith,
Sports Editor

The Clarion-Goldfield-Dows Cowgirls basketball team had a full plate last week with three games in four nights.

On January 19, Wright County rival Belmond-Klemme (3-10 overall) came to CGDHS for a non-conference Monday night game.

The Cowgirls took a 4-0 lead after a basket and two made free throws from sophomore forward Brianna Reyes. Then, Kalli Schermer made an inside shot, and Haddi Lantzky showed off her baby hook.

The Broncos would get to the line often in the 1st quarter. They tied the game at 8-8 after eight minutes of play.

In the 2nd quarter, Audrey Egland drilled a three from the top of the key.

Egland later banked in a turnaround jumper before the half. She finished the night with 8 points and 5

rebounds.

Schermer had another strong take for CGD in the 3rd. BK led by five points going into the 4th.

The visitors gradually pulled away and won by a final of 37-22.

A day later, the squad took a short trip to Humboldt High School for a conference head-to-head vs. the Wildcats (7-5 overall, 3-3 conference).

Humboldt won the contest, 72-10.

Egland led CGD with 6 points and 5 boards. Schermer added 4 points, 4 rebounds to go along with two steals and an assist.

On Thursday night, the Cowgirls lost on the road against the St. Edmond Gaels (10-3 overall, 6-2 overall).

Reyes and Ruby Poac scored 4 points apiece and combined for 5 steals in the 54-8 Cowgirl loss.

The Clarion-Goldfield-Dows team holds a record of 0-14 this season, but



Haddi Lantzky wrestles for a loose ball. (Photo: Taylor Smith)

Head Coach Ashley Kahler knows that success isn't always measured in wins and losses.

"These girls are starting from the ground up, with zero varsity experience," said Coach Kahler. "We are learning what varsity

basketball is about. The record doesn't reflect the effort, growth, and heart they've shown all season at practice and games."

"I want people to know this season has been about more than basketball," she continued. "These Cow-



Kalli Schermer waits for the ball. (Photo: Taylor Smith)

girls are student-athletes who chose to be part of something bigger after not having a varsity team last year. They show up in the classroom, they show up for each other, and they fight every night on the court. The lessons they're learn-

ing about commitment, resilience, and never giving up will stay with them long after the season ends, and that's something we can all be proud of."



Huxley Drops 27 on Broncos



Tristan Kakacek (2), Chaz Lane (14), Huxley Lingenfelter (0), Paxton Lingenfelter (21), and JD Morrical (10) all got the start on Monday night in Clarion. (Photo: Taylor Smith)

Taylor Smith,
Sports Editor

The Clarion-Goldfield-Dows boys basketball team battled three area foes last week, and junior Huxley Lingenfelter went off for a double-double on back-to-back nights.

Monday evening in Clarion, the boys overcame rival Belmond-Klemme (8-4 overall) to win their sixth straight.

In the 1st quarter, Paxton Lingenfelter scored four quick points in the flow of the game, and JD Morrical's hard-nosed defense turned into CGD offense.

Morrical would hit a go-ahead three to give the Cowboys a two-point advantage.

A Tristan Kakacek triple highlighted a 9-0 Cowboy run to begin the 2nd quarter. The pesky Broncos kept closed throughout the quarter, but forward Chaz Lane cashed in a buzzer-beating putback to give CGD a 37-33 lead at half.

Lane had an old-fashioned three-point play in the 3rd, and Huxley Lingenfelter really started to feel his jump shot. Huxley finished with a season-high 27 points on 69% shooting. He also had 11 rebounds and 2 steals.

The Cowboys maintained a comfortable cushion and triumphed, 76-63.

Paxton Lingenfelter finished with 18 points, 7



Huxley Lingenfelter finishes at the rim. (Photo: Taylor Smith)

boards, and 2 assists. Lane added 15 points, 13 rebounds, and 2 blocked shots.

Morrical chipped in 10 points, 5 assists, and 2 steals. Kakacek scored 5 in the win.

A night later, the Cowboys' winning streak came to the end on the road against Humboldt (7-5 overall, 3-3 conference).

The Wildcats led 36-26 at the half and eventually won, 66-53, to avenge their December 12 loss in Clarion.

Huxley Lingenfelter went off for another double-double with 19 points and 11 boards. Morrical scored 11, and Johnny Lomeli dropped in 5 off the bench.

Lane contributed 18 and 6 with a block. He shot 80% from the field.

After a day off, the Cowboys were in Fort Dodge on Thursday to face (1A) #1 St. Edmond (12-2 overall, 7-1 conference).

Clarion-Goldfield-Dows led briefly early on, but the experienced Gaels outlasted them and won, 80-49.

Huxley Lingenfelter scored a team-high 14, and Lane added 13 points, 3 blocks, and 2 assists.

After a Tuesday, January 27 contest against (3A) #2 Clear Lake (9-1 overall, 6-0 conference), the Cowboys (9-4 overall, 4-4 conference) will face Hampton-Dumont-CAL (5-8 overall, 3-4 conference) on Thursday.



Paxton Lingenfelter had 18 points, 7 rebounds, and 2 assists on the night. (Photo: Taylor Smith)



(L to R): Tristan Kakacek, Chaz Lane, and JD Morrical watch the action unfold. (Photo: Taylor Smith)

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Clarion - Goldfield - Dows
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Middle School/High School Sports Calendar

Thursday, January 29

Esports vs. Woodward-Granger, 4:00 p.m.
7th/8th Grade Boys Basketball vs. Webster City @ CGDMS, 4:15 p.m.
JV/Varsity Boys & Girls Basketball vs. HDC @ CGDHS, 4:30 p.m.

Friday, January 30

Varsity Girls Wrestling State Qualifying Meet @ Denver, 4:00 p.m.
JV/Varsity Boys & Girls Basketball @ IF-A, 4:30 p.m.

Monday, February 2

Esports vs. New Hampton, 4:00 p.m.
7th/8th Grade Boys Basketball @ Humboldt, 4:15 p.m.
JV/Varsity Boys & Girls Basketball @ Algona, 4:30 p.m.

Tuesday, February 3

Middle School Girls Wrestling @ Clear Lake, 4:15 p.m.

Peregrine Falcons Face New Threat



An adult peregrine – Noted for its blinding speed and spectacular aerial maneuvers, the peregrine falcon is considered to be the fastest bird in the world. (Photos: Lowell Washburn)

Lowell Washburn, Washburn's Outdoor Journal

The 2022 fall hunting season was shaping up to be one of the best since I began flying large falcons during the 1980s. Pheasant populations were strong and migrating waterfowl were becoming increasingly abundant. Best of all, I was holding two stunningly beautiful, adult female peregrine falcons on my federal falconry permit. Although I had flown more than a dozen peregrines over the years, this was the first time I had possessed two trained females at the same time.

Renowned for their blinding speed and unsurpassed courage, peregrines are simply the Top Guns of the bird world. When given a fair shot, the legendary “duck hawk” is capable of taking game up to, and including, rooster pheasants, prairie grouse and drake mallards. Feeling like the falconer equivalent of of a multi-billionaire, I was locked and loaded, armed and dangerous — sitting on top of the world. Gamebirds beware!

At then it all came tumbling down. The first hint

of trouble came one afternoon when my youngest bird — now a two-year-old — appeared to be a bit “off color”, lacking her usual energy and ravenous appetite. In less than 24 hours she was dead. Her last meals had been wild duck. I suspected that one or more of those ducks had been a carrier of avian influenza [bird flu] — a deadly virus that was being reported among waterfowl with increasing frequency.

Both of my peregrines had eaten wild duck, and a couple of days later, my second falcon began exhibiting those same symptoms. Within hours, she too had perished, a second victim of the deadly virus. I was in shock and couldn't believe that a disease could exact its toll so rapidly. Strong and powerful falcons one day; and then dead in a matter of hours. As I dealt with the loss of those beautiful falcons, I also began to wonder what impact the bird flu might be having on Iowa's recently restored populations of wild peregrines.

By the mid-1960's, Iowa peregrine populations had completely disappeared following cataclysmic crashes



Eyass Peregrine – A young-of-the-year peregrine perches on a cliff ledge near Lansing, Iowa. The ledge is only three river miles from where the last Iowa peregrines nested in the mid-1960's. When those birds disappeared, not a single peregrine falcon was documented anywhere in the eastern half of the U.S. from the Mississippi River to the Atlantic Ocean. DDT pesticides had left its mark.

due to the widespread, post World War II, use of DDT pesticides. But following a decade long [1989 – 2000] recovery program, fueled by the release of captive reared fledgling falcons, a sustainable peregrine population has been reestablished. The thought of losing the recovering population of these spectacular birds for a second time is, well, is unthinkable.

Migratory waterfowl and shorebirds are among the primary vectors of avian influenza, which has currently become a global threat to both wild and domestic birdlife. Unfortunately, ducks and shorebirds are an important food source for wild peregrines — especially for North American birds that winter in coastal South America.

Avian influenza is currently credited with peregrine declines in eleven countries, including the United States. In the U.S., as elsewhere, birds nesting in coastal regions — New Jersey, Virginia, California, and Washington state

— have shown the most dramatic declines. By contrast, peregrines nesting in more urban environments — skyscrapers, bridges, power plant towers — are maintaining more stable populations. Biologists theorize that while coastal falcons prey heavily on shorebirds and small ducks, urban peregrines are more dependent on things like pigeons and starlings — prey items that are less likely to be infected with influenza virus.

In Iowa, a total of 20 peregrine nests were monitored by volunteer wildlife enthusiasts during 2025. Nineteen of those nests were active. Thirteen nests were reported as successful, producing 28 young. Two nests failed; four nests had unknown outcomes and may have produced additional young. According to DNR wildlife biologists, the number of 2025 nesting territories and reproductive success was similar to the past four years indicating populations are remaining stable.

In Iowa, peregrine falcons utilize a contrasting mix of nesting habitats. While breeding pairs have been successfully recolonizing historic cliff ledge



A peregrine falcon watches over her sleeping chick on a ledge at the Dubuque County courthouse.



Adult Peregrine – Noted for their blinding speed and unexcelled courage, peregrine falcons are the Top Guns of the bird world.

nest sites on the Upper Mississippi River, other pairs have adapted to rearing their young on urban structures such as the Dubuque County courthouse and the Iowa state capital building.

Although one northbound [Iowa banded] peregrine was captured [in March] south of Mexico City, little is known about where Iowa peregrines actually spend the winter. Wherever they go, it appears as if their survival may be greater than birds that spend the winter hunting along South American coastlines.

Adult Peregrine – Noted for their blinding speed and unexcelled courage, peregrine falcons are the Top Guns of the bird world.

Although four Iowa peregrines were known to have died from avian influenza during 2025, the actual number was probably greater. That is alarming. And although the known mortality may not be enough to derail the peregrine's ongoing recovery, it is certainly cause for concern — especially when considering the dramatic population declines that are occurring elsewhere

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