



The Wright County MONITOR

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

157th year Number 18

Thursday, April 30, 2026

\$1.25 per copy



Clarion's Super Sized Water Softener

Amanda Rink, Editor

For decades, Clarion's water system relied on a facility built during the Great Depression. Now, city officials say a \$12 million investment is bringing safer and cleaner water to residents in an efficient way.

"This plant replaces one that was built in the 1930s," said City Administrator Clint Middleton during the recent open house tour of the newly operational water treatment plant.

The new water treatment plant uses modern technology to treat a problem residents know well: hard water. Previously, water entering homes measured around 26 grains of hardness, requiring water softeners.

Today, that number has dropped to about 9 grains. "You really don't need a water softener anymore," said Water Treatment Superintendent Adam Russell while leading The Wright County Monitor on a detailed tour of the water treatment plant.

At the center of the system is a process called reverse osmosis, which removes impurities like iron, manganese, and bacteria by forcing water through filters under high pressure. The result is water so pure

that Russell and his crew actually have to add minerals back in the water to make it safe to drink.

"If you drank it straight after that process, it would taste flat," Russell said. "We blend it back so it is more like what people expect."

The plant also improves water quality in ways residents can notice right away. By adjusting its disinfection process, using a combination of chlorine and ammonia instead of chlorine alone, the city has reduced the strong odor some residents had experienced.

Behind the scenes, the job of keeping water safe has become data-driven. City workers now conduct more testing each day, ensuring the water is up to state standard.

"A lot of our day is data collection and testing," Russell said. "We're constantly monitoring to make sure everything stays within safe levels."

The facility operates much more efficiently than the previous water plant.

In the past, cleaning filters required dumping hundreds of thousands of gallons of water each week. The new system reduces that waste to just a few thousand gallons, with most of it being recycled back into the treatment process.



Water Treatment Superintendent Adam Russell compares untreated water with finished water during a recent open house tour of the new plant. (Photo: Amanda Rink)

"That's a big deal," Russell said. "We're saving a lot of water."

According to Russell, Clarion's water is drawn from deep underground wells, about 360 feet down, before going through a multi-step process that includes aeration, filtration, and reverse osmosis. The treated water is then stored, blended, and sent out to homes across Clarion.

For Middleton, the investment is about more than infrastructure; it's about the city's future. "If you look at other towns dealing with aging water or sewer systems, we're in a good position," he said. "These are things you have to plan for long-term."

For residents, the benefits are a simple improvement to everyday life: better-tasting water, less buildup on appliances and pipes, and fewer worries about what is coming out of the tap.



Water lines labeled "finished water" and "backwash supply" show part of the new treatment system, which significantly reduces water waste compared to the city's previous plant. (Photo: Amanda Rink)



Community members tour Clarion's new water treatment plant during a recent open house, learning how the upgraded system improves water quality and efficiency. (Photo: Amanda Rink)

Hog Site Raises Concerns, Board Votes to Remove Bridge Guardrail

Amanda Rink, Editor

From a disputed hog confinement location near a home under construction to safety concerns on a rural bridge, the Wright County Board of Supervisors spent much of its meeting voicing constituents' concerns.

Discussion surrounding the Buffalo Site hog confinement in Vernon Township, near Dows, focused on a house being built near the proposed confinement location and whether it should count as a residence when determining required setbacks and scoring.

State code ultimately guided the conversation. Since the home is not yet occupied and has not been lived in for six months within the last two years, it does not meet the formal definition of a residence under Iowa code. That distinction means it was not included in the official distance measurements used in the master matrix scoring process. Still, the supervisors expressed concern with relying strictly on that definition, with no Supervisors approving to accept the master matrix.

They pointed out the home has an established foundation, structure, and utilities underway, making it clearly intended as a permanent residence. In their view, ignoring it in the scoring process did not reflect the reality on the ground.

The distance between the confinement site and the home was estimated at roughly 2,600 feet, above the state minimum of 1,875 feet, but supervisors noted that including the home as a residence would reduce the number of points awarded in the matrix.

Even with that reduction, the site would still meet the minimum score required by the state. Supervisors still questioned if the original master matrix score correctly reflected the situation.

Concerns were also raised about impacts on other neighbors. Supervisor Betty Ellis referenced conversations with nearby property owners, including one who had signed a waiver after receiving payment, allowing the project. The property owner has now expressed reservations. Others in the area were described as unhappy with the proposed site, particularly with traffic patterns on their gravel roads.

Discussion then turned to the board's limited authority. Supervisors do not have the power to outright deny an animal confinement project that meets state requirements.

In the end, the board voted to reject the master matrix for the Buffalo Site, citing concerns that the scoring did not fully account for the nearby home under construction. The decision sends the matter back for further review, with the possibility of appeal to the state level.

The Wright County Monitor has reached out to property owners on this matter and hopes to publish a detailed article about this issue in an upcoming issue. If you are affected, please reach out. Safety concerns heard from residents traveling on the Taylor Avenue bridge, South of Belmond, drew discussion regarding a guardrail on the northeast corner of the bridge.

Residents in the area had raised concerns that the guardrail, combined with the curve approaching the bridge, creates a tight passage for traffic. According to Supervisor Lynn Loux, without painted center lines on the gravel road, drivers tend to drift, increasing the risk of vehicles crowding each other near the bridge.

Some supervisors agreed, noting that while the bridge meets standard design specifications, the location itself presents unique challenges. The combination of a curve, narrow feel, and unstable shoulder conditions led to concerns that the guardrail may actually reduce maneuvering space.

Supervisors Ashley Bosch and Rick Rasmussen felt the bridge was safe as is, pointing to the posted speed limit and adequate visibility for approaching traffic.

County Engineer Adam Clemons noted that while liability questions would need to be addressed separately, the county does have the authority to remove that portion. Cost also factored into the discussion, with removal expected to be under 6000.

Following discussion, supervisors voted to remove the northeast guardrail. The remaining structure will be adjusted accordingly, with required signage added to mark the bridge edge.

In other business, the board approved:
- The Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Wright County budget and the Wright County FY2025 Cost Allocation Plan
- Courthouse grounds use for the Clarion Farmer's Market
- Hog confinement matrix for the Larry Olson Site in Lake Township and the Huntley Site in Boone Township
- Wright County Economic Development Director Aaron Budweg to pursue the 2026 "Build with Bags" grant
The board went into closed session to "discuss information contained in records in the custody of the governmental body that are confidential." The Wright County Board of Supervisors will meet again on Monday, May 4 at 9:00 a.m. This meeting, along with past meetings, can be viewed online at youtube.com/@WrightCountyIowaOfficial8312.

Wright County at Work

Twice a month, The Wright County Monitor features those working hard in our area. This week, we're sitting down with someone whose work happens mostly behind closed doors, in living rooms or kitchen tables in the homes across Wright County.

Inside Wright County's HOPES Program



(Left to Right) Monica Figueroa, Naomi Rothman, Denise Schumacher, Elizabeth Bernal and Carrie Cruz Covington are the HOPES program family support workers in Wright County. "We're willing to help all that are willing to let us in," Elizabeth Bernal shared. (Photo provided)

Amanda Rink, Editor

The name of the program itself, HOPES, tells a story.

HOPES which stands for Healthy Opportunities for Parents to Experience Success, is a voluntary, community-based home visitation program. It is housed under Wright County Public Health. It serves expecting parents and families with children up to age three, pairing them with trained Family Support Workers who show up to help families find their footing.

Family Support Worker, Elizabeth Bernal described the

program to The Wright County Monitor without the brochure language: "We follow children's development and help families keep their children on track for their milestones, help them find resources in the area," she said. "Sometimes we are just a support system for families that are struggling and need someone that they can trust."

The program has been serving Wright County families for at least 15 years. It is affiliated with Parents as Teachers, a nationally recognized program, and works alongside Early Head Start and Wright County

Public Health, which also offers WIC clinic services, immunizations, and more.

Many families find their way to HOPES simply because they were already coming through the door for something else.

The families in the HOPES program do not fit a single mold.

First-time parents, families new to the area or the country, children with developmental delays, low-income households, families navigating open cases with state services, they all come through.

continued on page 2

Clarion Council Hears a Housing Push and Considers Park Plans

Amanda Rink, Editor

April 21, 2027 - The Clarion City Council met last Tuesday with an agenda focused on housing development, park improvements, and final approval of the city's upcoming budget.

No residents spoke during the public comment portion, though a bid was presented for improvements at the gazebo park. Rick Rasmussen outlined a proposal to reseed and improve grass conditions across the park. "If you want it looking decent for Festival it needs to be done ASAP," Rasmussen stated.

The council approved the consent agenda without discussion before moving into a public hearing on the FY27 budget.

continued on page 2



Melinda Anderson and Carol Haupt handed out plans for a new housing development in Clarion. (Photo: Amanda Rink)

CGD Prom 2026 Grand March



CGD Graduate Cael Routh and CGD Junior Madi Durham were dropped off to prom by the Clarion Volunteer Fire Department. (Photo: Amanda Rink)



Read Local, Advertise Local, and Lead Local.

City Council continued from page 1



Ring presented a sample layout of a 1,200-square-foot home. The proposed design includes two bedrooms, one bathroom, and a single-stall garage. Ring emphasized that while this would slightly lower projected valuations on paper, the current reality is that those lots are not generating tax revenue right now. (Photo: Amanda Rink)



Council Person Mike Ennis reviewing the handouts carefully before Megan Ring begins her presentation. (Photo: Amanda Rink)

budget. With no public comments offered, the hearing closed and the council adopted the budget.

Fresh Housing Data Heard

A major highlight of the meeting came during a housing and development presentation led by Megan Ring, alongside Carol Haupt and Melinda Anderson, who brought forward both fresh data and a clear push for action.

Ring told council the effort is the result of a recently completed housing study that drew 433 responses, with the majority coming from Clarion residents.

Of those surveyed, 64 percent have lived in the community for more than a decade. Despite their long-term investment, many reported limited options when it comes to buying a home.

The data showed that 31 percent of respondents are looking for homes priced between \$100,000 and \$175,000, while another 22 percent are targeting the \$175,000 to \$250,000 range. According to Ring these figures are lower than the cost of many newer homes currently being built in town.

More than half of those surveyed identified a lack of affordable housing as the biggest barrier to home ownership.

Using that data as a foundation, the group proposed adjusting development requirements in Phase 2 of the White Fox subdivision.

Specifically, they are asking the city to consider lowering minimum square footage requirements on select lots, from 1,400 square feet down to 1,200, and reducing minimum assessed home values to make construction more attainable.

Ring emphasized that while this would slightly lower projected valuations on paper, the current reality is that those lots are not generating tax revenue at all right now.

"If we can move forward, you'd begin to see tax revenue by mid to late 2027, with a full year impact by 2028," she stated.

To help visualize the concept, Ring presented a sample layout of a 1,200-square-foot home. The proposed design includes two bedrooms, one bathroom, a single-stall garage, all aimed at attracting both younger buyers and older residents looking to downsize but stay in the community.

Anderson, who also sits on the Clarion Development Alliance Board, noted: "Not everybody is ready to move into the Meadows [Senior Living Community] and this gives people another choice."

Ring shared that she and Josh Coe are already collaborating with the nearby community of Rowan on similar housing concepts.

Council members asked questions about lot locations, existing covenants, and whether nearby residents had been consulted. While no formal action was taken, the presentation sparked a broader discussion about balancing growth, affordability, and long-term community planning.

The developers stated they are ready to move forward as soon as the city gives direction.

Other Business

In other business, the council reviewed and approved recommendations from the hotel/motel tax committee, which currently has extra funds because of limited applications during the COVID-19 period.

During reports, council members discussed ongoing needs at Gazebo Park, particularly electrical capacity issues. "We don't have enough juice," Council member David Fluor stated, pointing to not enough power supply paired with under-sized wiring.

Council members agreed the issue requires a more comprehensive plan before moving forward. There was consensus to meet on-site and involve park board members and event organizers to plan future improvements better.

Additional updates included EMS efforts from Jennifer Littlejohn, with information shared about a new ambulance expected in June and ongoing work to secure county EMS funds. Littlejohn also highlighted a community effort supporting an officer who is undergoing cancer treatment. For more information, please reach out to the department.

The meeting ended with a closed session. The council will meet again on Tuesday, May 5th at 5:00 p.m. at the City Council Chambers.

CGD Prom 2026 Grand March continued from page 1



Cale Christensen, a junior, takes the driver's seat, with seniors Jackson Allen and Tessa Waddingham riding in the back. (Photo: Amanda Rink)



Nic Curry and Lydia Langfitt. (Photo: Amanda Rink)



Kalli Schermer and Brandon Stein. (Photo: Amanda Rink)



Senior Josue Martinez and Sophomore Hayden Rink. (Photo: Amanda Rink)



Chaz Lane hops over Ella Engstrom during their grand march entrance. (Photo: Crystal Engstrom)



Nala Widmer, 8, of Albert Lea, Minnesota, made a stylish statement in a formal gown and crown. While CGD doesn't name a prom king or queen, it's safe to say Nala would be a strong contender for Junior Queen. (Photo: Amanda Rink)

Wright at Work continued from page 1

Some seek help on their own while others are referred. HOPES has three Spanish-speaking workers on staff, making the program accessible to both English and Spanish-speaking families across the county.

Right now, Elizabeth says two challenges are showing up again and again at the doors of the families she serves are dental care and budgeting.

Medicaid-accepting dentists are a hot commodity in the area. For uninsured families, getting dental care is described as "nearly impossible." With the cost of everything continuing to rise, families are having to relearn how to stretch a dollar that doesn't go nearly as far as it used to.

"Everything has become so expensive. Our families have to relearn how to budget the money in their households because it no longer is enough," she said.

When a Family Support Worker arrives at a home, they come with gifts and parenting tools. They bring activities, books, and information for parents.

"When we arrive at the home, usually the child is excited to see us because they know we are there to give them attention," Elizabeth shared.

The toys and activities aren't just for fun, they're a teaching tool. The goal is to show parents different ways to interact with their child in ways that support development. "Children learn through play," she stated.

But sometimes visits don't go according to plan. Sometimes there is a crisis to help with like a family facing an electric shut-off or a that have ran out of food. When that happens, the HOPES team pivots. They do what needs to be done... they help. In a world where "the village" is

slowly fading, this type of help can mean the world to a parent.

By the end of every visit, the worker makes sure everything is covered, every question is answered, and the next visit is scheduled. Then they show up the next week to do it again.

Elizabeth doesn't have to think long about the moments that remind her why this work is important.

"There are so many moments," she said. "When I see the change in the parents, when they go from sitting on the couch watching their children play to actually sitting on the floor interacting with their children, it is a great feeling." Elizabeth also shared that seeing the children's development or master a goal they've been working on, is equally rewarding.

"We want to become almost like an extended part of their family," she said. "For them to be

comfortable with us and be able to share anything with us without fear of being judged."

HOPES is a voluntary program, which means families have to choose to walk through the door, or open it when someone knocks. Elizabeth's message to anyone in Wright County who might be struggling, expecting, or simply not sure where to turn is a simple one.

"We are here to help all that are willing to let us in. We love what we do and it shows. Just give us a call and we will be there for you too," she said.

If you or someone you know could benefit from the HOPES program, even if they're not struggling, reach out to Wright County Public Health and ask for a Family Support Worker. The program is free, it is local, and the people behind it care about your family's success.

Record Funding Awarded by Wright County Foundation Despite Canceled Ceremony

Amanda Rink, Editor

April 23, 2026 - Wright County locals are no strangers to spring's unpredictable weather. This year, storms capable of bringing tornadoes, heavy rain, hail, and strong thunderstorms forced the cancellation of what is normally described as our area's most uplifting event of the year: the Wright County Charitable Foundation grant awards ceremony.

While the seats at the Iowa River Players Theater in Rowan were empty on April 23, the impact of the grants is not something that can be diminished.

2026 marks a record-breaking year for the Foundation, with an extraordinary \$171,194.07 awarded to local organizations. It is a number that tells a bigger story of neighbors helping neighbors, volunteers stepping up, and small towns continuing to invest in their futures.

As reported before, the center of the Wright County Charitable Foundation is built on partnership. Each entity that applies for funding commits to a matching donor. That means

every dollar granted stretches further, and even better, that dollar is powered by local dedication.

This year's recipients reflect the full fabric of life in Wright County.

Supporting Essential Services

Several grants focused on keeping communities safe and prepared. The Woolstock Fire Department (\$9,000), City of Goldfield Fire Department (\$6,041), Belmond Fire Department Foundation (\$6,500), and Dows Rural Fire Association (\$5,000) all received strong support. The Eagle Grove EMS (\$12,000) was one of the largest individual awards this year.

Healthcare and wellness initiatives were also recognized, including Belmond Community Hospital (\$1,000), Clarion's Iowa Specialty Hospital (\$1,750), Wright County Public Health (\$1,000), and the Clarion Fitness Center (\$3,500).

Investing in Youth and Families

Programs supporting children and families remained an important focus of grant awards. Eagle Grove

Community Childcare Services (\$3,000), Kid's Korner Day Care Center (\$4,200), and Colts Corner Daycare Center (\$1,000) all received funding to strengthen childcare availability.

Organizations addressing food insecurity, like the Food Bank of Iowa (\$4,500), No Child Hungry (\$1,920), and First Lutheran Food Pantry (\$2,000), continue to play a vital role in supporting local families.

The Wright County District Junior Fair (\$12,000) was the single largest grant this year. This showed the importance of youth development and agriculture in the area.

Enriching Community Life

Community connection and culture were also celebrated through grants to organizations like the Iowa River Players Community Theater (\$1,750), Belmond Area Arts Council (\$1,500), and Studio Sol Art Outreach and Creative Space (\$1,057).

Local initiatives, from the Rotary Club of Eagle Grove (\$3,600) to the Belmond Fourth of July Planning Committee (\$1,000) and Santa House Committee (\$2,000), will continue traditions, outreach, and events that bring communities together.

Beautification and preservation efforts were also supported, including the Woolstock Betterment and Beautification Committee (\$7,200), City of Belmond Tree Board (\$2,000), and Belmond Historical Society (\$1,500).

While the ceremony was canceled, which normally gives grant recipients a moment to share what they plan to use their grant award for, the

sense of pride remains strong.

Leaders in the foundation not only noted the record-setting total of awards but also the growing strength of applications and community involvement. Plans are already underway for a grant-writing workshop later this year to help more organizations succeed in future cycles.

Also a note of positivity, the Foundation's Youth Committee contributed significantly, awarding \$15,000 of their own allotment to community projects.

The Foundation also noted a mix of continuity and transition within its leadership at their last meeting.

President Lennea Groom and board members Sandy McGrath, Dawn Barkema, Adam Vorrie, Kevin Cahalan, Alan Mattison, Pat Barz, Kevin Kakacek, and Treasurer Greg Schipull will continue serving in their roles.

The board thanked Interim Director Darrel Steven Carlyle for his work during the transition period and welcomed Nick Barrett, who will begin as Director in May. Aaron Budweg, Wright County Economic Development Director, will continue in his role as secretary.

All in all, the impact funded by this year's grants will show up, maybe without much notice to everyone, in the months ahead. The changes will appear in fire stations, food pantries, stages and parks, classrooms, and community centers. Even without applause, the impact will be seen in every part of Wright County.

Spring Craft/ Vendor Show

Saturday May 2 • 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.



VENDOR

CRAFT SHOW

Vendors have what you need for gift giving!



Heartland Museum
Clarion, Iowa
119 9th St. SW • 515-602-6000

2026 Wright County Charitable Foundation Grant Awards

WCCF Operating Fund	\$8,559.75
ISU Extension and Outreach Wright County/Farm Bureau	\$2,600.00
Clarion Volunteer Fire Department, Inc.	\$2,216.00
Belmond Community Hospital (Iowa Specialty Hospital)	\$1,000.00
Iowa Specialty Hospital - Clarion	\$1,750.00
Wright County Public Health	\$1,000.00
Eagle Grove Community Childcare Services (Eagle's Wings)	\$3,000.00
Iowa River Players Community Theater	\$1,750.00
City of Belmond Tree Board	\$2,000.00
Food Bank of Iowa	\$4,500.00
Belmond Area Arts Council (BAAC)	\$1,500.00
Dows American Legion	\$3,000.00
City of Dows	\$1,000.00
Dows United Methodist Church	\$2,400.00
Belmond Growth Alliance	\$1,500.00
Belmond Fourth of July Planning Committee	\$1,000.00
Dows Rural Fire Association	\$5,000.00
Colts Corner Daycare Center	\$1,000.00
Rotary Club of Eagle Grove	\$3,600.00
Upper Des Moines Opportunity	\$4,000.00
Down Memory Lane Park	\$1,000.00
Studio Sol Art Outreach & Creative Space	\$1,057.32
City of Woolstock	\$3,500.00
City of Goldfield (Fire Department)	\$6,041.00
Lazy J Rescue Ranch	\$1,200.00
Woolstock Fire Department	\$9,000.00
Eagle Grove Chamber of Commerce	\$3,500.00
Eagle Grove Senior Citizens, Inc.	\$4,000.00
Eagle Grove Music Boosters	\$2,000.00
Friends of Bruce Rholl	\$1,500.00
Crisis Intervention Service	\$1,100.00
First Lutheran Food Pantry	\$2,000.00
Belmond Historical Society	\$1,500.00
Woolstock Community Garden Group	\$1,200.00
Parent and Community Involvement Center	\$2,500.00
Woolstock Betterment/Beautification Committee	\$7,200.00
Wright County District Junior Fair	\$12,000.00
Santa House Committee	\$2,000.00
Clarion Church of Christ	\$1,000.00
Eagle Grove EMS (City of Eagle Grove)	\$12,000.00
Clarion Fitness Center	\$3,500.00
Eagle Grove Community School District	\$2,000.00
Wright County Historical Society - Rowan Chapter	\$6,000.00
The Leinbach Center (Belmond Community Center)	\$2,200.00
CGD Diamond Club	\$1,200.00
No Child Hungry	\$1,920.00
Belmond Fire Department Foundation	\$6,500.00
Dows Community Library	\$8,600.00
Gift of Giving	\$7,400.00
Kid's Korner Day Care Center (First Steps)	\$4,200.00

Primary Medical Care
- Including **Urgent/Walk-In**

Comprehensive dental
examinations and treatment

Mental Health evaluation,
diagnosis and
medication management

New Patients Welcome

Community Health Center

EAGLE GROVE
306 W Broadway
515-293-8111

CLARION
303 N Main St
515-532-3343

Open to all, regardless of insurance status.

The Graduation Bracelet

Dennis Hoffman
While CHS Superintendent C.J. Christiansen was winding down his commencement address to the Class of 1967, I sat ramrod straight in a metal folding chair, its legs scraping softly against the scuffed wooden floor of the old CHS gymnasium. The air was thick with late-spring heat, the faint smell of floor polish, and the restless energy of 100 graduates dressed identically in black caps and gowns but imagining very different futures. Parents fanned themselves. Tassels were fingered.

This was less a celebration of student voice than a moral instruction manual for adulthood. Rather than inviting us to dream, he warned; rather than applauding our achievements, he prescribed our conduct.

If memory serves—and memory insists—by this point in his talk Christiansen had already laid out a tidy list of do's and don'ts for life beyond the friendly confines of our school and hometown. Be respectable. Be careful. Know your place.

The tone of the ceremony fit Christiansen's personality: paternal and cautionary. He framed the world outside Clarion as orderly but dangerous. Success in that outside world required discipline, restraint, and conformity.

What made the Superintendent's framing historically important, however, is that it mirrored the broader

postwar civic lesson that defined what it meant to be an adult. Being an adult meant internalizing rules rather than interrogating power.

Caught up in the rapture of this milestone moment of graduating from high school, my

feelings ran wild. What made this moment so special? For one thing, it was a moment of connection. A moment that tied me to other people. The significant people in my life were on hand: my father, my mother, and my favorite uncle from Ohio.

Packed with emotional resonance, this moment heightened my awareness that I was "moving on." I realized that I was on the verge of leaving—leaving not only my school but also my parents and my beloved Clarion.

Staring directly at me, Christiansen posed a question. "Seniors," he said, "many

of you will be going away to college, moving to another city, or town for a job, or joining the military. You'll be on your own."

He paused. Silence can sometimes have more impact than an entire sentence.

"Promise me," Christiansen said in a stern and commanding voice, "that for one year after graduating, you will heed this advice I'm about to give you."

Christiansen's gaze remained fixed on me. It seemed he was singling me out.

"Promise me that every time you find yourself in a situation where you might compromise your Clarion values, you will ask yourself this simple question: 'If my parents were here, what would they want me to do?'"

When Superintendent Christiansen told us to imagine our parents standing beside us

whenever we faced temptation, I felt a deep sense of relief. It meant I wouldn't have to figure everything out on my own. Clarion would go with me, invisible but present, steadying me when the world felt uncertain. Only much later did I begin to understand how much power there was in that imagined presence, and how tightly it could hold.

I treated C.J.'s advice as if it were a single pearl of wisdom that I needed to connect to an imaginary safety bracelet that I would wear for life and never remove from my wrist.

C.J.'s question became my North Star—a guiding principle that oriented my thinking and decision-making over time. What would your parents want you to do? This simple question helped me navigate troubled waters and evaluate choices.



In The Sky During May* David Voigt

May will be an interesting month to enjoy the night sky. The Big Dipper, a part of Ursa Major (the Great Bear), will be about as high overhead as it ever gets. If you extend the curve of the dipper's handle, it will lead to Arcturus, the brightest star in the kite-shaped constellation Bootes (the Herdsman), then to the Spica, the brightest star in the hard to trace out constellation Virgo (the Maiden), and finally a short distance to the four stars of the small, squarish constellation Corvus (the Crow).

After enjoying this arc of bright stars, if you extend your gaze westward from Spica, you will be led to Regulus, the brightest star in the constellation Leo (the Lion), and then a similar distance to the bright twin stars of Gemini (the Twins). Castor is on the right (north) and slightly brighter Pollux is on left (south). If you have trouble remembering which is which, to the north of Castor is the bright star Capella (that also starts with a "C") in the five-sided constellation Auriga (the Charioteer) and to the south of Pollux and nearer to the horizon is the bright star Procyon (that also starts with a "P") in the tiny constellation Canis Minor (the Little Dog).

There will be two more even brighter lights in the evening sky during May. Very bright Jupiter will be close to the lower right of the twin stars and

brilliant Venus will be closer to the horizon. The Moon will also enter the sky at midmonth. This will lead to one of the best sights in astronomy on the 18th when the Moon will pass very close by Venus. Whenever the Moon is paired with, or has a conjunction with, a celestial object during its monthly orbit, it is a special sight, but when it is very close to the most brilliant stellar object it the sky, it is truly one of the best sights in astronomy.

There will be one final special event on May 31, but while it is not one of the best sights in astronomy, it will surely be hyped in the media. It is the second full Moon of May, which is called a "Blue Moon." It will not look blue unless a volcanic eruption or other event puts a lot of particles into the atmosphere that scatter much of the Moon's light. No one knows why the second full Moon in a month or, according to earlier accounts, the third full Moon in a season is called a Blue Moon. One possible explanation that I like is that in olden days when monks used full Moons to determine when religious festivals were held, the extra full Moon made this task difficult. This left the monks depressed or blue.

Highlights:
May 4 Antares, the brightest star in Scorpius (the Scorpion), will lead the Moon into the sky just after 11:00.
May 5 The Eta Aquariid

meteor shower will be seen during most of the night, but it should peak before dawn. Meteors will seem to have come from low in the eastern sky. You should see a meteor every few minutes.

May 13 The crescent Moon will lead Saturn into the sky before dawn. It will follow Saturn on the 14th.

May 16 Star Party sponsored by Grout Museum & Black Hawk Astronomy Club, Prairie Grove Park, Waterloo, 9-10:30.

May 18 The crescent Moon will be especially close to brilliant Venus.

May 20 The Moon will be to the left and in line with Pollux and then Castor, the bright twin stars of Gemini (the Twins), with much brighter Jupiter below.

May 22 The Moon will be just ahead of Regulus, the bright heart of Leo (the Lion), as they cross the sky.

May 26 The Moon will be to the right of Spica, the only bright star in the constellation Virgo (the Maiden). The Moon will be farther to the lower left of Spica on the 27th.

May 30 The Moon will lead the bright star Antares in the constellation Scorpius (the Scorpion) into the sky just after 9:00. This will be the second time the Moon has visited Antares this month. Notice also that the Moon and Antares will rise about two hours earlier than they did on May 4.

The Wright County Monitor

www.clarionnewsonline.com

PO Box 28
Clarion, Iowa 50525

Office Hours:
Monday-Friday
9:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m.

Clarion contact information:
Phone: 515-448-4745,
515-364-2344

We reserve the right to edit any and all copy presented to our news department.

We reserve the right to reject any advertising, request prepayment, and cancel at any time. Quantity discounts available.

Newsroom
515-851-2069 or email news@wrightcountymonitor.com

Use this contact to offer story tips, local news, church news, obituaries: 515-851-2069 or design@wrightcountymonitor.com

Dows News
Dows news can be emailed to design@wrightcountymonitor.com

Paper or Internet Advertising:
sales@wrightcountymonitor.com

Circulation and Subscriptions:
Subscriptions and renewals can take up to two weeks to process and may cause lags in service if not planned ahead. Didn't get your paper? If you did not receive your paper in Thursdays mail, call the Clarion Post Office, or email to: news@wrightcountymonitor.com

News Tips:
The Monitor welcomes any and all news tips. At the office, call 515-364-2344 or email news@wrightcountymonitor.com To request a photographer, please give at least a day's notice.

Deadlines:
Legal Notices Noon Friday
Classifieds 11:00 a.m. Friday
Display Ads 11:00 a.m. Friday
Submitted News Noon Friday
Obituaries 4:30 p.m. Monday
Breaking News 5 p.m. Monday*
Event coverage requests 24 hours
* This news may not be published in the current issue.

The Monitor Staff:
Regular employees in order of continuous years of service:
Sarah Duda, Composition
Amanda Rink, Editor
Taylor Smith, Sports Editor

Official Newspaper For:
City of Clarion
City of Dows
Clarion-Goldfield-Dows
School District
Wright County

Member of:
Iowa Newspaper Association
National Newspaper Association

Postal Information:
USPS ISSN 693-360 Weekly

Scan the QR Code for our e-edition
www.clarionnewsonline.com

Dear Reader by Jill Harrington

Dear Reader,
I hope you've been well since I last wrote. Recently, I sat down with one of our locals, Joanne. As promised, I'm writing to tell you a bit more. I hope you enjoyed her story in last week's Monitor. It wasn't easy to fit a life of family, love, faith, friendship, and heartache into a single article, but I gave it my all.

When I first sat down with Joanne, I asked her to be patient with me—it was my first interview, and I was nervous. She laughed and remembered her own first reaction to being asked to share: "Oh, heavens no, I don't want to do anything like that." Then we both laughed. In that moment, we recognized a shared vulnerability, and something softened. As I listened, I was humbled by our similarities—one being that she once wrote for the Monitor herself, focusing on our senior community.

We talked for a couple of hours that first day. Then came the task of shaping it for the paper—and that made me even more nervous. I respected Joanne's story and wanted to get it right. After much com-

piling and brainstorming, I had a rough draft—biographical, a little too neat, a little too final. It felt like an obituary (no slight to that tribute, Mike)—I wanted you to feel as if you were right there in the room with us, hearing her living words.

So I stepped away. By one of those small synchronicities I treasure, I found myself re-watching a favorite: Fried Green Tomatoes—remember that gem from 1991? A weary housewife meets an elderly woman in a care center, and the woman's storytelling transforms her. That's when it clicked: I should tell Joanne's story in her own voice.

I needed to fill in some missing pieces, so I asked to meet with her again. I brought a loaf of banana bread; she had a carafe of hot coffee waiting. Before I got down to business, and while holding back tears, I told her how much this meant to me. I'm not always good at saying what I feel, but I made myself tell her.

Joanne is part of a beautiful community, a light we've let dim, not from neglect but from the everyday weight of being

busy and tired. I don't just want to report on our elders; I want to know them, their stories. Like it or not, that's how we operate in our small towns: we know each other—or at least, we think we do. Day by day, I'm learning how things connect and how words can spark light.

A small sign in Joanne's apartment stayed with me. I laughed at myself because several were in Swedish, but the meaning of the one in English took the longest to sink in: "Flowers leave part of their fragrance on the hands which bestow them."

I repeated that in my mind until it made sense. The flowers are our acts of kindness. The fragrance is the goodness that lingers. And the hands of the givers carry a trace of that sweetness with them. It reminded me of how our small towns show up for one another.

Joanne lives her values: love your neighbor, forgive, and help people up. I learned it from her story, but more importantly, I watched her live them. She offered me cookies, poured a second cup of coffee, and made a connection just when it was needed.

I admire Joanne for her faithfulness, and I'm grateful for the way she reminded me of who we can be for one another. These conversations have already left their fragrance on me. I'm ready to make more friends.

Your friend, Jill Harrington
PS: I shared a few of my early drafts with my partner Brian. He's an artist, though he hadn't been using his gift much either. He came to me with an idea: "What if I do a charcoal drawing of the people you interview?" I loved it! It is a beautiful way for both of us to put our talents back to work, side by side.

When the first article was printed, though, my heart sank for a moment: Brian's last name was listed as Harrington. It's Oliver!

After my divorce, I kept the last name I share with my children. While Brian wasn't exactly thrilled to see my ex-husband's name tied to him, in the end, he found it funny and said we could pretend it was on purpose. Maybe he took my last name so he wouldn't be outnumbered by five Harringtons.

Free Community Garden Plots Available Now

Clowa Specialty Hospital-Clarion will once again have free garden plots available for anyone who is interested. The community garden is located north of the cement parking lot by The Meadows Assisted Living (1302 South

Main Street). The land will be plowed and tilled in advance. It is up to the participant to maintain the plot once they have signed the agreement. Sign up deadline is May 4th. Contact Duane Asbe at 515-532-9315 to reserve your garden plot.

CGD HS FINE ARTS NIGHT COLOR & SOUND

CGD Fine Arts Boosters @cgd-fab

**May 4, 2026
6:00 P.M.**

**Art Show Starts at 6:00 P.M.
Music Starts at 7:00 P.M.**

If you are unable to attend you can donate through venmo.

Art Show @Cgdart_hs
Live Music • Free Entry
Fine Arts Awards To Follow

**Get all your news online:
www.clarionnewsonline.com**

Lifeserve Blood Center offers students opportunities to earn Scholarships and Save Lives

LifeServe Blood Center wants to help students and their families save money while saving lives. Students who plan and execute a successful blood drive through LifeServe can earn scholarships and recognition while making a meaningful difference in their community.

LifeServe will award up to \$500 in scholarship funds to students who organize a successful blood drive between Memorial Day and Labor Day. To be eligible for the scholarship, students must recruit donors, act as the chairperson for the blood drive, and register 25 donors (\$250 awarded) or 40 donors (\$500 awarded).

"Growing up in a family who regularly donated blood provided me with the idea that I wanted to be a blood donor," said Logan Miller, LifeServe scholarship recipient. "Then when we found out about the opportunity to earn a scholarship by hosting a blood drive, that seemed like a win-win situation. Not only did the scholarships help with tuition costs, but as a nursing student, I think it's a really important thing to do."

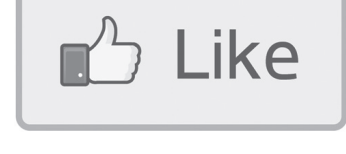
With schools out and regular routines on hold, blood donations tend to drop during the summer months. But that doesn't mean there's less need. Each blood donation has the ability to impact three lives. By hosting a blood drive and recruiting donors, students can maximize their impact and make sure local patients have access to the blood products they need.

"I held a blood drive in my community and encouraged people to donate because it

helps save lives," said Patience Winsor, LifeServe scholarship recipient. "I think this opportunity is amazing and everyone should give it a try. You have the opportunity to save lives and get a boost financially for college."

Learn more about LifeServe's scholarship opportunities at lifeserve.info/students. Those interested in hosting a blood drive should fill out the form on that page and a representative from LifeServe will reach out to set up the drive.

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



Residents close to the Taylor Ave bridge have raised concerns about the guardrail, combined with the curve approaching the bridge creates a tight passage for cars. Supervisors agreed to remove the guardrail and extend the area out with concrete. Article on page 1. (Photo: Michelle Hinman)



The Clarion Development Alliance hosted a spring market last week! Photographed here is Sally Woodley, owner of Sally's Sewing Room and Rachele Freybler. (Photo: Jill Harrington)

Legal notices

PUBLIC NOTICE City of Dows 2025 Water Quality Report

2025 WATER QUALITY REPORT FOR DOWS WATER SUPPLY

This report contains important information regarding the water quality in our water system. The source of our water is groundwater. Our water quality testing shows the following results:

Table with columns: CONTAMINANT, MCL - (MCLG), Compliance (Type, Value & (Range)), Date, Violation (Yes/No), Source. Rows include Total Trihalomethanes (ppb), Lead (ppb), Copper (ppm), 950 - DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM, 01 - S/EP WELL #4(48) & WELL #5(68)-TREATED, Combined Radium (pCi/L), Barium (ppm), Fluoride (ppm), Sodium (ppm), Nitrate [as N] (ppm).

Note: Contaminants with dates indicate results from the most recent testing done in accordance with regulations. DEFINITIONS Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) - The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water.

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) - The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology. Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG) - The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections.

Additional Health Information This is an alert about your drinking water and a cosmetic dental problem that might affect children under nine years of age. At low levels, fluoride can help prevent cavities, but children drinking water containing more than 2.0 milligrams per liter (mg/L) of fluoride may develop cosmetic discoloration of their permanent teeth (dental fluorosis).

Source Water Assessment Information This water supply obtains its water from the limestone and dolomite of the Mississippian-Devonian aquifer. The Mississippian/Devonian aquifer was determined to have low susceptibility to contamination because the characteristics of the aquifer and overlying materials provide natural protection from contaminants at the land surface.

Contact Information For questions regarding this information or how you can get involved in decisions regarding the water system, please contact DOWS WATER SUPPLY at 515-852-4327.

PUBLIC NOTICE Estate of Dennis L. Peterson

THE IOWA DISTRICT COURT FOR WRIGHT COUNTY IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF DENNIS L. PETERSON, Deceased. CASE NO. ESPR017802 NOTICE OF PROBATE OF WILL, OF APPOINTMENT OF EXECUTORS, AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS. To All Persons Interested in the Estate of Dennis L. Peterson, Deceased, who died on or about March 19, 2026:

PUBLIC NOTICE Estate of Gabino Reyna

IN THE IOWA DISTRICT COURT FOR WRIGHT COUNTY IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF GABINO REYNA, DECEASED. Probate No. ESPR017808 NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT OF CO-ADMINISTRATORS AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS. To All Persons Interested in the Estate of Gabino Reyna, Deceased, who died on or about April 26, 2026:

PUBLIC NOTICE City of Dows Special Meeting March 23, 2026 6:00 p.m.

DOWS CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING MARCH 23, 2026. The Dows City Council met on March 23, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. at Dows City Hall in special session with the following present: Council Members Lienemann, Worden, Stuck, Plendl, Russell and Mayor Klatt.

PUBLIC NOTICE City of Dows Special Meeting March 23, 2026 6:20 p.m.

DOWS CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING MARCH 23, 2026. The Dows City Council met on March 23, 2026 at 6:20 p.m. at Dows City Hall in special session with the following present: Council Members Lienemann, Worden, Stuck, Plendl, Russell and Mayor Klatt.

PUBLIC NOTICE City of Dows Special Session April 13, 2026

DOWS CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL SESSION APRIL 13, 2026. The Dows City Council met on April 13, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. at Dows City Hall in special session with the following present: Councilmembers Plendl, Russell, Lienemann, Stuck and Mayor Klatt. Absent: Council Member Worden.

PUBLIC NOTICE City of Dows Submittal of a CDBG Application

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON THE SUBMITTAL OF A CDBG APPLICATION FOR THE CITY OF DOWS NEW ROOFING PROGRAM Pursuant to the requirements of Section 508 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1987, as amended, the Dows City Council will hold a public hearing on May 4, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. at Dows City Hall, 119 E Ellsworth St, Dows, IA.

PUBLIC NOTICE Estate of Gary L. Ersland

THE IOWA DISTRICT COURT FOR WRIGHT COUNTY IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF GARY L. ERSRAND, Deceased. CASE NO. ESPR017805 NOTICE OF PROOF OF WILL WITHOUT ADMINISTRATION. To All Persons Interested in the Estate of Gary L. Ersland, Deceased, who died on or about September 20, 2025:

PUBLIC NOTICE Estate of Meredith C. Ersland

THE IOWA DISTRICT COURT FOR WRIGHT COUNTY IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF MEREDITH C. ERSRAND, Deceased. CASE NO. ESPR017806 NOTICE OF PROOF OF WILL WITHOUT ADMINISTRATION. To All Persons Interested in the Estate of Meredith C. Ersland, Deceased, who died on or about May 11, 2025:

PUBLIC NOTICE Carole I. Martin Trust

IN THE IOWA DISTRICT COURT FOR WRIGHT COUNTY IN THE MATTER OF THE CAROLE I. MARTIN TRUST U/A DATED APRIL 11, 2019, Carole I. Martin, Deceased. Probate No. ESPR017809 NOTICE IN COMPLIANCE WITH IOWA CODE SECTION 633A.3110. To All Persons regarding Carole I. Martin, Deceased, who died on or about March 20, 2026:

PUBLIC NOTICE Estate of Timothy J. Snyder

THE IOWA DISTRICT COURT FOR WRIGHT COUNTY IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF TIMOTHY J. SNYDER, Deceased. Case No. ESPR017803 NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT OF ADMINISTRATOR AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS. To All Persons Interested in the Estate of Timothy J. Snyder, Deceased, who died on or about March 21, 2026:

PUBLIC NOTICE City of Clarion April 21, 2026 Claims

CLAIMS REPORT VENDOR..... AMOUNT A.D TECH SOLUTIONS..... 732.65 AFLAC..... 223.1 AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES..... 510.62 MICHAEL ANDERSON..... 74.98 BROTHERS MARKET..... 398.49 CENTER POINT LARGE PRINT..... 98.28 CITY OF CLARION..... 416.8 CITY OF CLARION..... 416.8 CLARION DISTRIBUTING..... 78 CLARION HEALTH INS..... 1,569.07 CLARION VISION INS CLARION WATER & SEWER... 954.38 CO-LINE..... 335 COBRAHELP..... 40 COLLECTION SERVICES CENTER..... 369.23 CONVERSIGHT, AI INC..... 1,157.00 COUNSEL OFFICE AND DOCUMENT..... 476.17 COUNTRYHOME MAGAZINE..... 30 CRYSTAL CLEAN CARPET..... 1,077.68 EDMUNDS GOVTECH..... 4,250.00 ENNIS CORP. FLEET SERVICES..... 963.2

PUBLIC NOTICE City of Clarion April 21, 2026 Minutes

The Clarion City Council met in regular session Tuesday April 21st, 2026, at 5:00pm in the Council Chambers with Mayor Heiden presiding. Present were Council members Dave Flurer, Dan Hennigar, Nick McOllough, Mike Ennis and Elmarie Nel. Also, in attendance City Administrator Clint Middleton, Attorney Zach Chizek, PWD Jon DeVries and Chief Terhark.

PUBLIC NOTICE Wright County Supervisors April 13, 2026 Minutes

April 13, 2026 Chairperson Bosch called the regular meeting of the Wright County Board of Supervisors to order at 9:00 a.m. Members present were Kluss, Rasmussen, Bosch, Loux, and Ellis. Motion by Rasmussen and seconded by Ellis to approve the tentative agenda. Minutes of the previous regular meeting of April 6, 2026 were read and approved with one correction.

PUBLIC NOTICE Estate of Carole I. Martin

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF IOWA AND FOR WRIGHT COUNTY IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF CAROLE I. MARTIN, Deceased. Probate No. ESPR017809 NOTICE OF PROOF OF WILL WITHOUT ADMINISTRATION. To All Persons Interested in the Estate of Carole I. Martin, Deceased, who died on or about March 20, 2026:

PUBLIC NOTICE Douglas A. Denio Revocable Trust

TRUST NOTICE IN THE MATTER OF THE TRUST: Douglas A. Denio Revocable Trust dated of the 15th day of September, 2011. To all persons regarding Douglas A. Denio, deceased, who died on or about March 23, 2026. You are hereby notified that Darin V. Denio is Trustee of the Douglas A. Denio Revocable Trust dated on the 15th day of September, 2011.

PUBLIC NOTICE Estate of Timothy J. Snyder

THE IOWA DISTRICT COURT FOR WRIGHT COUNTY IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF TIMOTHY J. SNYDER, Deceased. Case No. ESPR017803 NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT OF ADMINISTRATOR AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS. To All Persons Interested in the Estate of Timothy J. Snyder, Deceased, who died on or about March 21, 2026:



Legals are your right to know!

Courthouse news

BIRTHS

Julia Kate Paulson was born on April 6, 2026 to Lydia and Alex Paulson of Garner.

Hazel Grace Thompson was born on April 6, 2026 to Liliana and Andrew Raya-Thompson of Humboldt.

Parker Darla Fiddelke was born on April 7, 2026 to Andrea and Joshua Fiddelke of Garner.

Noah Sebastian Hernandez Benitez was born on April 7, 2026 to Yaremar Benitez Reyes of Eagle Grove.

Oliver James Fliche was born on April 7, 2026 to Jasmine Fliche of Humboldt.

Sloane Rue Homann was born on April 9, 2026 to Leah and Joshua Homann of Garner.

Colton Jerry Van Thomme was born on April 10, 2026 to Julia Van Tomme of Forest City.

Miles Xavier Alanis was born on April 11, 2026 to Jacqueline and Jay Alanis of Clear Lake.

Ryder William Russell was born on April 12, 2026 to McKennan and Zane Myott of Livermore.

Jack Henry Edwards was born on April 13, 2026 to Maria and Joshua Edwards of Bode.

Carmello James Spencer was born on April 13, 2026 to Rhiannah Henry of Jewell.

Maria Fernanda Chavez Garcia was born on April 14, 2026 to Miriam Garcia Jimenez and Elias Chavez Duenas of Webster City.

Benson Lee Soesbe was born on April 15, 2026 to Reyana Hahn of Clarion.

Clara Renee Robertson was born on April 15, 2026 to Leah and Caleb Robertson of Forest City.

Brighton Renee Beck was born on April 16, 2026 to Mikayla and Taylor Beck of Clear Lake.

River Elizabeth Wilson was born on April 16, 2026 to Mia Sandoval of Eagle Grove.

Madison Mae Anne Gose was born on April 17, 2026 to Siera Keenan of Webster City.

Jailany Darissa Lopez Mendez was born on April 18, 2026 to Hitalia Mendez Gomez of Eagle Grove.

Baylor Eugene Nelson was born on April 21, 2026 to Darien Warnke-Holland of Belmont.

DEATHS

Carl Edward Wibholm of Dows was born on April 13, 1937 and died on April 16, 2026 at the age of 88.

Jack Roy Lee Ades of Eagle Grove was born on October 11, 1949 and died on April 13, 2026 at the age of 76.

Betty Marie Herzberg (Nicholas) of Clarion was born on June 8, 1930 and died on April 21, 2026 at the age of 95.

Gabino Reyna of Clarion was born on January 29, 1942 and died on April 14, 2026 at the age of 84.

Thomas Dean Fischer of Eagle Grove was born on June 28, 1935 and died on April 16, 2026 at the age of 90.

Lois Josephine Thul (Holm) of Eagle was born on January 27, 1936 and died on April 15, 2026 at the age of 90.

Kathleen Diane Huling (Schroeder) of Garner was born on January 22, 1961 and died on April 16, 2026 at the age of 65.

Richard Dean Beebe of Eagle Grove was born on July 25, 1929 and died on April

17, 2026 at the age of 96. Judith Rose Conner (Pending) of Clarion was born on January 29, 1942 and died on April 21, 2026 at the age of 84.

MARRIAGES: Arickzel Gonzalez Nicolas, 38, of, was wed to Jorge Alonso Rios, 44, of, on March 7, 2026.

Adi Hernandez Cruz, 29, of Eagle Grove, was wed to Efrain Gomez Lopez, 35, of Eagle Grove, on April 21, 2026.

Jacob Arbaugh, 25, of Eagle Grove, was wed to Lakeisha Smith, 21, of Eagle Grove, on April 18, 2026.

TRAFFIC William Rico Johnson III, Troy, Michigan, failure to change lanes upon approach to emergency vehicle, charge disposed April 10, 2026.

Ana Victoria Martinez Perez, Iowa Falls, failure to use seat belt (minor), charge disposed April 14, 2026.

Roy Bang Hoang, Clarion, angling laws violation for over-limit catch, charge disposed April 10, 2026.

Keyli Odalis Ambrocio Lopez, Clarion, speeding, charge disposed April 10, 2026.

Juan Diego Alvarez Perez, Hampton, speeding, charge disposed April 10, 2026.

Mikya Oliver, Fort Dodge, failure to provide proof of financial liability, charge disposed April 15, 2026.

Michael Lee Packard, Renwick, speeding, charge disposed April 13, 2026.

Michelle L. Powers, Clarion, speeding, charge disposed April 13, 2026.

Leticia Fernandez Cisneros, Clarion, failure to have valid driver's license or permit, charge disposed April 10, 2026.

Lester Gabriel Jimenez, Clarion, failure to have valid driver's license or permit, charge disposed April 14, 2026.

Matilde Arnoldo Vasquez Gomez, Clarion, failure to have valid driver's license or permit, charge disposed April 13, 2026.

Scott W. Rasmussen, Goldfield, excessive speed, charge disposed April 13, 2026.

Elder Lisandro Rodas Esquit, Clarion, speeding; no valid driver's license, charges disposed April 22, 2026.

Mohamed Abdinas Hirsi, Columbus, Ohio, maximum group axle weight violation, charge disposed April 22, 2026.

Darwin Ernesto Ordenez Gomez, Clarion, speeding, charge disposed April 22, 2026.

Loren Thomas Scheidel, Cresco, failure to maintain or use safety belt, charge disposed April 22, 2026.

Melik M. Matthias, Conyers, Georgia, speeding, charge disposed April 22, 2026.

Anthony Thomas Olson, Eagle Grove, speeding, charge disposed April 17, 2026.

Luis Fernando Garcia Acabal, Clarion, speeding; no valid driver's license; failure to provide proof of financial liability, charges disposed April 21, 2026.

Noah Ivan Camp, Ames, failure to provide proof of financial liability, charge disposed April 22, 2026.

Morgan Leigh Schlichting, Belmont, speeding, charge disposed April 19, 2026.

Seth John Cswercko, Ankeny, speeding, charge disposed April 22, 2026.

David Ronald McGuire, Webster City, speeding, charge disposed April 22, 2026.

Gabriel Emmanuel Vicente Cardona, Hampton, failure to change lanes upon approach to emergency vehicle; no valid driver's license, charges disposed April 16, 2026.

Corey E. Tweeten, Woolstock, failure to comply with safety regulations, charge disposed April 21, 2026.

Linda Marie Halbach, Clarion, speeding, charge disposed April 18, 2026.

Marco Arnulfo Rubi Jimenez, Bedford, Texas, speeding, charge disposed April 22, 2026.

Holly Noel Morrison, Comfrey, Minnesota, speeding, charge disposed April 20, 2026.

Daniel Patrick Mattimore, Saint Paul, Minnesota, speeding, charge disposed April 19, 2026.

Ana Elisa Lozada Hernandez, Belmont, operation of motor vehicle with expired license, charge disposed April 22, 2026.

Nensy Saray Dubon Perez, Belmont, no valid driver's license, charge disposed April 17, 2026.

Elder A. Madrid Hernandez, Fort Dodge, angling laws violation for over-limit catch, charge disposed April 23, 2026.

David Alexis Mejia Medrano, Fort Dodge, angling laws violation for over-limit catch, charge disposed April 20, 2026.

Ever Santos Perez, Fort Dodge, angling laws violation for over-limit catch, charge disposed April 23, 2026.

Neil Thomas Barduson, Carlos, Minnesota, speeding, charge disposed April 21, 2026.

Tanya Ann Norman, Pleasant Hill, operating non-registered vehicle, charge disposed April 16, 2026.

Cesar Andres Gutierrez, Mason City, no valid driver's license, charge disposed April 21, 2026.

Jaxen Joshua Engstrom, Renwick, speeding, charge disposed April 17, 2026.

Armando Vasquez Hernandez, Webster City, speeding, charge disposed April 20, 2026.

Brian Keith Peterson, Norwalk, speeding, charge disposed April 20, 2026.

Eugene J. Drury, Rowan, speeding, charge disposed April 20, 2026.

Sherri Jalene Hughes, Forest City, speeding, charge disposed April 23, 2026.

Audelio Velasquez Mendez, Clarion, nuisance, charge disposed April 22, 2026.

Hamilton Geovany Azurdia Gomez, Clarion, failure to have valid driver's license or permit, charge disposed April 22, 2026.

Jayne Michael Simonsen, Dakota City, excessive speed, charge disposed April 17, 2026.

Luis Alberto Garcia Antonio, Badger, failure to have valid driver's license or permit, charge disposed April 22, 2026.

Yonatan G. Vasquez Acabal, Clarion, failure to have valid

driver's license or permit, charge disposed April 22, 2026.

Edwin Lucas Hernandez Lux, Clarion, failure to have valid driver's license or permit, charge disposed April 17, 2026.

Heidy Leticia Chiquita Zamora De M, Eagle Grove, failure to prove security, charge disposed April 20, 2026.

CRIMINAL Jesus Martinez, Clarion, interference with official acts, motion to dismiss filed April 14, 2026.

Colt Allen Richardson, Ankeny, telephone dissemination of obscene material to a minor (two counts) and first-degree harassment, pleaded guilty April 3, 2026; sentenced to fines, 30 days in jail on one count, suspended prison terms on remaining counts, one year of probation, and required to register as a sex offender.

River Edmund Parker T. McNealey, Fort Dodge, operating without interlock and driving while license denied or revoked, arraignment scheduled May 8, 2026, at 9 a.m.

Melvin Robert Tiffany, Ellsworth, driving while barred, pretrial conference set for June 26, 2026, at 9 a.m.; jury trial set for July 16, 2026, at 8:30 a.m.

Linkon Michael Hobart, Goldfield, third-degree burglary (motor vehicle) and conspiracy to commit an aggravated misdemeanor, pretrial conference set for May 29, 2026, at 9 a.m.; jury trial set for June 18, 2026, at 8:30 a.m.

Denton Roy Sanders, Eagle Grove, assault on persons in certain occupations, assault with intent to inflict serious injury, assault causing insulting or offensive contact, and interference with official acts, arraignment scheduled May 15, 2026, at 9 a.m.

Eric R. Sorenson, Goldfield, domestic abuse assault involving display or use of a weapon (first offense), warrant issued for initial appearance.

Malachi Romero Montes Deoca, Webster City, violation of a no-contact/protective order (contempt), pleaded guilty April 16, 2026; fined \$105.

Logan Casady, Badger, four counts of violation of a no-contact/protective order (contempt), continued to May 21, 2026, at 2 p.m.

Rodney Scott Roosa, Thor, assault causing insulting or offensive contact, nonjury trial scheduled June 4, 2026, at 2 p.m.

Daniel Eleso Rojop Oxlaj, Clarion, public intoxication, pleaded guilty; fined \$105.

LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE: Garage door sales, service and repairs. Farm, home and commercial garage doors and operators. For prompt service, phone Mike Sampson in Kanawha at 641-762-3330

MISCELLANEOUS Jacuzzi Bath Remodel can install a new, custom bath or shower in as little as one day. For a limited time, waiving ALL installation costs! (Additional terms apply. Subject to change and vary by dealer. Offer ends 12/27/26.) Call 1-866-456-3917

MISCELLANEOUS Audien Hearing. The world's first hearing aid with touchscreen controls. No tiny buttons, apps or prescriptions. 45-day risk free trial. Free shipping. Lifetime support. More than 1.5 million happy customers. Call Audien 1-855-304-1545

MISCELLANEOUS Does your basement or crawl

space need some attention? Call Thrasher Foundation Repair! A permanent solution for waterproofing, failing foundations, sinking concrete and nasty crawl spaces. FREE Inspection & Same Day Estimate. \$250 off ANY project with code GET250. Call 1-866-554-1730

MISCELLANEOUS Prepare for power outages today with a Generac Home Standby Generator. Act now to receive a FREE 5-Year warranty with qualifying purchase. Call 1-855-954-5087 today to schedule a free quote. It's not just a generator. It's a power move.

FOR RENT 1&2 BD Apartments in Goldfield. 62 and older or disabled/handicapped at any age. Income Based, rental

FOR RENT: KANAWHA APTS. 2BR/1BA \$450. 1BR/1BA \$375. Updated Property, New Appliances, on site Laundry. Landlord Pays Water and Sewer. CALL AL 641-494-7965

FOR RENT 1&2 BD Apartments in Goldfield. 62 and older or disabled/handicapped at any age. Income Based, rental

FOR RENT Safe Step. North America's #1 Walk-In Tub. Comprehensive

LEGAL NOTICES Noon Friday

Classifieds 1:00 p.m. Friday

Display Ads 1:00 p.m. Friday

Submitted News Noon Friday

Obituaries Noon Monday

LEGAL NOTICES Noon Friday

Classifieds 1:00 p.m. Friday

Display Ads 1:00 p.m. Friday

Submitted News Noon Friday

Obituaries Noon Monday

LEGAL NOTICES Noon Friday

Classifieds 1:00 p.m. Friday

Display Ads 1:00 p.m. Friday

Submitted News Noon Friday

Obituaries Noon Monday

LEGAL NOTICES Noon Friday

Classifieds 1:00 p.m. Friday

Display Ads 1:00 p.m. Friday

Submitted News Noon Friday

Obituaries Noon Monday

LEGAL NOTICES Noon Friday

Classifieds 1:00 p.m. Friday

Display Ads 1:00 p.m. Friday

Submitted News Noon Friday

Obituaries Noon Monday



The Thompson Times

REPRESENTATIVE MARK THOMPSON
HOUSE DISTRICT 56

Property Tax Reform Update

The House passed a property tax relief proposal on Wednesday, April 22, aimed at delivering meaningful reform for Iowans. The plan incorporates elements from both legislative chambers as well as the Governor's original proposals, reflecting a good faith effort to find common ground while staying focused on a central goal: providing certainty for the taxpayer. Prior to the vote, I reached out to county supervisors, city managers, superintendents, mayors, economic development, treasurers and others to get their feedback.

For years, Iowa's property tax system has placed greater emphasis on ensuring predictability for government budgets than for family budgets. The reforms outlined work to reverse that trend. Not all counties, schools and cities are fiscally irresponsible. Many work hard to find ways to keep the budgets manageable so property taxes do not rise drastically. Just as any household tightens their budget, some things may not be continued and need to change. You could say that with our counties, schools, and cities budget.

To deliver this certainty and real tax relief, key provisions of the proposal include:

- Cap revenue growth at 2%, slowing the growth of government spending. The cap excludes new construction—ensuring cities and counties remain incentivized to grow—and includes exceptions for schools and the debt levy.
- Convert the homestead credit into an exemption and triple the exemption to \$15,000. Funds from the previous homestead credit would be used to buy down the \$5.40 levy, providing direct relief for taxpayers.
- Eliminate the backfill of the business property tax exemption and transfer approximately \$125 million to the Taxpayer Relief Fund to support additional tax relief efforts.
- Shift the burden of proof to the assessor when a property's valuation increases by 10% or more, requiring justification for significant increases in a taxpayer's bill.
- Introduce new fiscal responsibility standards for local governments, including restricting the use of debt service funds for operating expenses

and limiting reserve accounts to 35%. The proposal also allows local governments to create a separate account for funds above the 35% threshold, enabling them to save for major infrastructure or equipment needs—such as fire trucks—without inflating general reserves.

• Revamp the informational mailer sent to every property taxpayer, improving transparency and helping residents better understand where their tax dollars go and how they are used.

The plan represents a significant step toward a more predictable, transparent, and taxpayer focused property tax system. By rebalancing priorities and strengthening accountability, the proposal aims to ensure that taxpayers—receive

the certainty they deserve.

The proposal focuses on real, tangible relief for all Iowans. We don't shift one person's tax burden to another. We deliver real relief for Iowans that will provide an estimated \$435 Million in savings just next year and \$4 billion in relief over the next six years. The bill, originally passed by the Senate and now amended by the House, passed the House with a vote of 64-23—the bill now goes back to the Senate. No legislation will be universally agreeable for everyone, but what was passed by the house was the result of many extensive discussions. Those discussions will continue this coming week.

In other debate action, the House passed HF2758 to create a Pediatric Cancer Research Program at University of Iowa appropriating \$3 million.

This coming week we will continue with more bills brought to the floor for debate centered around budgets for several departments within our state. The House will vote to help the disabled and the blind, the justice system, veterans assistance and others.

Classifieds

NOTICES

NOTICE: Garage door sales, service and repairs. Farm, home and commercial garage doors and operators. For prompt service, phone Mike Sampson in Kanawha at 641-762-3330

MISCELLANEOUS Jacuzzi Bath Remodel can install a new, custom bath or shower in as little as one day. For a limited time, waiving ALL installation costs! (Additional terms apply. Subject to change and vary by dealer. Offer ends 12/27/26.) Call 1-866-456-3917

MISCELLANEOUS Audien Hearing. The world's first hearing aid with touchscreen controls. No tiny buttons, apps or prescriptions. 45-day risk free trial. Free shipping. Lifetime support. More than 1.5 million happy customers. Call Audien 1-855-304-1545

MISCELLANEOUS Does your basement or crawl

space need some attention? Call Thrasher Foundation Repair! A permanent solution for waterproofing, failing foundations, sinking concrete and nasty crawl spaces. FREE Inspection & Same Day Estimate. \$250 off ANY project with code GET250. Call 1-866-554-1730

MISCELLANEOUS Prepare for power outages today with a Generac Home Standby Generator. Act now to receive a FREE 5-Year warranty with qualifying purchase. Call 1-855-954-5087 today to schedule a free quote. It's not just a generator. It's a power move.

FOR RENT 1&2 BD Apartments in Goldfield. 62 and older or disabled/handicapped at any age. Income Based, rental

FOR RENT: KANAWHA APTS. 2BR/1BA \$450. 1BR/1BA \$375. Updated Property, New Appliances, on site Laundry. Landlord Pays Water and Sewer. CALL AL 641-494-7965

FOR RENT 1&2 BD Apartments in Goldfield. 62 and older or disabled/handicapped at any age. Income Based, rental

FOR RENT Safe Step. North America's #1 Walk-In Tub. Comprehensive

LEGAL NOTICES Noon Friday

Classifieds 1:00 p.m. Friday

Display Ads 1:00 p.m. Friday

Submitted News Noon Friday

Obituaries Noon Monday

LEGAL NOTICES Noon Friday

Classifieds 1:00 p.m. Friday

Display Ads 1:00 p.m. Friday

Submitted News Noon Friday

Obituaries Noon Monday

LEGAL NOTICES Noon Friday

Classifieds 1:00 p.m. Friday

Display Ads 1:00 p.m. Friday

Submitted News Noon Friday

Obituaries Noon Monday

LEGAL NOTICES Noon Friday

Classifieds 1:00 p.m. Friday

Display Ads 1:00 p.m. Friday

Submitted News Noon Friday

Obituaries Noon Monday

No Kings Rally



Protestors stand around the Dows Freedom Rock on March 28 at the Dow's "No Kings" rally. (Photo: Marlo Watts)

The Wright County MONITOR

Legal Notices Noon Friday

Classifieds 1:00 p.m. Friday

Display Ads 1:00 p.m. Friday

Submitted News Noon Friday

Obituaries Noon Monday

DEADLINE:

Legal Notices Noon Friday

Classifieds 1:00 p.m. Friday

Display Ads 1:00 p.m. Friday

Submitted News Noon Friday

Obituaries Noon Monday

OLDSON'S

Plumbing, Heating and A/C, Inc.

114 N Commercial, Eagle Grove

515-448-3456

Informed citizens build stronger communities

IOWA PUBLIC NOTICES

IOWA NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION

Support Easteerseals and make an Iowa impact together.

Scan the QR code or visit easteersealsia100years.com to sign up for updates on events throughout the year.

iowapublicnotices.com

HUGE MOVING SALE

Thursday, April 30 - 5 to 8 pm

Friday, May 1 - 8 am - 5 pm

Saturday, May 2 - 8 am - 1 pm

Evans Residence - 234 6th Ave. NE, Clarion

Get all your news online:

www.clarionnewsonline.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.

Celebrating 100 years

easteerseals Iowa

100

Easteerseals Iowa is celebrating 100 years in 2026

Save the Date for our celebration on **Saturday, June 6, 2026**

Support Easteerseals and make an Iowa impact together.

Scan the QR code or visit easteersealsia100years.com to sign up for updates on events throughout the year.



SPORTS

CGD Track Boys Battle at Poky Relays

Taylor Smith,
Sports Editor

Last week, the Clarion-Goldfield-Dows boys track and field team competed in meets in Hampton, Belmont, and Pocahontas.

Monday night, they finished seventh in the Bulldog Invitational with 61 points. Middle-distance man Logan Torsell came in fourth in the open-800 after clocking a time of 2:18.14, and Huxley Lingenfelter earned fourth in discus with a toss of 142'11".

Tuesday in Belmont, CGD placed eighth with 53 team points.

Huxley Lingenfelter discus throw of 135'9" was enough for second place. North Iowa's Cale Lorenzen threw for first (138'11").

Torsell's time of 2:13.16 earned him a fourth place finish in a competitive open-800 field. Torsell's PR this season is around 2:12.

"The team had a great week last week," first year Head Coach Cory Yoder told the Monitor. "The distance medley team of Maxton Downing, Jared Hernandez, Paxton Lingenfelter, and Logan Torsell won back-to-back races at the Bulldog Relays and Bronco Relays with a season best time of 3:54.13 and finished second at the Poky Relays this past Friday night."

"The 4x1 team and sprint medley team of Maxton Downing, Colin Sesker, Jared Hernandez, and Paxton Lingenfelter set season best times at the Bronco relays in 1:41 and 45.6," Yoder continued. "The shuttle hurdle team (Eduardo Rivera, Huxley Lingenfelter, Paxton Lingenfelter, and Daven Duncalf) has been on a good

roll as well finishing second twice this past week, and Brian Tevalan Ajtun has been improving each week in the high jump. He cleared 5'6" just last week while barely missing out on 5'8".

Friday night in Pocahontas, Huxley Lingenfelter would be CGD's lone champion.

"Huxley has been lighting it up in the discus [this season], winning the Manson Relays with a throw of 153'11" and winning the Poky Relays this past Friday," Coach Yoder commented. "He has a season best throw of 155'9", which he accomplished at Clear Lake, just missing out on a trip to the Drake Relays."

Torsell made a move in the last 200-meters of his open-800 race and placed second overall in a time of 2:13.79 at Poky. Storm Lake's Heath Kampbell was first in 2:12.77. He also anchored the second place finishing distance medley relay.

Like most schools in the area, the Cowboys had to deal with uncooperative weather earlier in their outdoor season, so Coach Yoder was just pleased his boys had the opportunity to get out and compete three times in five days last week.

"With three meets being canceled [this season], it's been frustrating," Yoder admitted. "But the kids are improving each meet," he added. "We are such a young team with 15 freshmen, six sophomores and six juniors. We're competing each meet with some of the top competition, and I'm super proud of our kids."

The team will travel to Roland-Story on Thursday after a Tuesday, April 28 meet at Garner-Hayfield-Ventura.



Huxley Lingenfelter fires off an attempt in the discus. (Photo by Taylor Smith)



Maxton Downing passes the stick to Reed Campbell in the 4x2. (Photo by Taylor Smith)



Huxley Lingenfelter hands the baton to Jared Hernandez in the 4x200-meter relay. (Photo by Taylor Smith)



Junior Logan Torsell had a second place showing in the open 800 last Friday night. (Photo by Taylor Smith)

RESULTS:

100m	
7 - Kohen Langfitt	12.09
16 - Blake Bilyeu	13.1
17 - Maxton Downing	13.83
200m	
9 - Blake Bilyeu	28.82
10 - Zach Caquelin	29.37
400m	
9 - Calder Grandgeorge	1:08.86
10 - Cristian Santis	1:13.51
800m	
2 - Logan Torsell	2:13.79
5 - Juan Murillo Velasquez	2:20.13
1600m	
7 - Carson Gump	5:37.86
400mH	
4 - Eduardo Rivera	1:04.32
5 - Daven Duncalf	1:04.78
4x100	
8 - Clarion-Goldfield-Dows	50.29
9 - Clarion-Goldfield-Dows	53.72
4x200	
4 - Clarion-Goldfield-Dows	1:40.03
4x400	
4 - Clarion-Goldfield-Dows	3:48.68
4x800	
5 - Clarion-Goldfield-Dows	10:20.38
5 - Daven Duncalf	1:04.78
Sprint Medley	
5 - Clarion-Goldfield-Dows	1:49.2
Distance Medley	
2 - Downing, Hernandez, P. Lingenfelter, Torsell	4:00.29
Shuttle Hurdle	
2 - Rivera, H. Lingenfelter, P. Lingenfelter, Duncalf	1:11.86
Shot Put	
6 - Armando Melendez	40'10 1/2"
7 - Huxley Lingenfelter	39' 1/2"
8 - Traesyn Cope	37'7"
15 - Jaxun Pohlman	32'10"
Discus	
1 - Huxley Lingenfelter	136'1"
8 - Traesyn Cope	114'7"
High Jump	
3 - Brian Tevalan Ajtun	5'6"
Long Jump	
6 - Jallen Stewart	16'11"
7 - Reed Campbell	16'9 3/4"



Maxton Downing finishes the 100-meter dash. (Photo by Taylor Smith)

Ladies Race in Garner

Taylor Smith,
Sports Editor

On April 21, the Cowgirl track and field team made their way to Garner for the annual Cardinal Relays.

The team finished sixth in Class A with a team score of 32. Forest City (204), Garner-Hayfield-Ventura (147), Lake Mills (130), Hampton-Dumont-CAL (75), and Eagle Grove (46) were all in the top-five.

CGD's top finisher was junior hurdler Aleena Schaffer, who earned third in the 100-meter hurdles.

RESULTS:

100m	
14 - Lydia Langfitt	15.77
15 - Olivia Meyers	17.23
200m	
8 - Audrey Eglund	29.43
16 - Sydney Munoz-Cruz	45.38
800m	
12 - Yaquelin Bobadilla	3:20.9
1500m	
6 - Samantha Seaba	6:07.83
100mH	
3 - Aleena Schaffer	18.31
4x100	
6 - Schaffer, Matul, Espinosa, Langfitt	59.08
4x400	
4 - Morris, Tijull, Hoelsing, Eglund	4:49.72
4x800	
4 - Perez, Hoelsing, Bobadilla, Seaba	12:57.18
Sprint Medley	
6 - Schaffer, Morris, Tijull, Eglund	2:08.96
Distance Medley	
8 - Matul, Espinosa, Hoelsing, Perez	5:26.33
Shot Put	
8 - Taylor Johnson	27'1"
Discus	
6 - Lea Charlson	87'2"
10 - Dianna Martinez-Santiago	71'2"
Long Jump	
8 - Mynae Espinosa	11'8 1/4"

Broncos Tie Bulldogs: Guzman Scores 12th Goal of Season



Freshman Kennedy Puac looks for a teammate to pass to. (Photo by Taylor Smith)

Taylor Smith,
Sports Editor

After their fourth week of spring play, the Wright County boys soccer team still has not been beaten.

The Broncos hold a record of 7-0-2 after tying Hampton-Dumont-CAL 1-1 on Tuesday, April 21.

On the road against the

Bulldogs (2-2-3), Wright County attacked early and often and sent HDC goalkeeper Joseph Cruz scrambling for much of the first half.

Wright County freshman Luis Guzman set sophomore Adam Dak up beautifully about fourteen minutes into the contest, but Dak missed just left.

Guzman later missed a few



Luis Guzman dribbles by a Bulldog. (Photo by Taylor Smith)

shots of his own, but he cashed in on his team-high twelfth goal of the season with seven minutes remaining in the first half.

The penalty kick was a no-doubter all the way through and gave the Broncos a 1-0 lead going into halftime.

In the second half, Bulldog captain Christian Zavala tied

things up with an unassisted goal, and time expired before either team could command the lead.

Senior goalkeeper Juan Ulises Medina had four saves for Wright County.

The team's home match scheduled for April 23 vs. Iowa Falls-Alden (0-7) was rescheduled for May 2.



Juan Ulises Medina protects the goal. (Photo by Taylor Smith)



Anir Akdim navigates through a group of defenders. (Photo by Taylor Smith)

Clarion - Goldfield - Dows School District

Middle School/High School Sports Calendar

Thursday, April 30

8th Grade Girls T&F @ Webster City, 4:30 p.m.
Varsity Boys T&F @ Roland-Story, 4:30 p.m.
Varsity Girls & Boys Soccer @ Charles City, 5:00 p.m.

Friday, May 1

Varsity Girls Golf @ Humboldt Country Club, 4:30 p.m.
Varsity Boys Golf @ Clarmond, 4:30 p.m.

Saturday, May 2

Varsity Girls Golf @ Clarmond, 9:00 a.m.
Varsity Boys Golf @ Britt, 9:00 a.m.
Varsity/JV Boys Soccer vs. IF-A @ BKHS, 9:00 a.m.

Monday, May 4

Varsity Girls Golf @ Lincoln Valley Golf, 4:00 p.m.
Middle School Boys T&F @ CGD, 4:15 p.m.
Varsity/JV Girls Soccer @ Webster City, 5:30 p.m.
Varsity/JV Boys Soccer vs. Webster City @ BKHS, 5:30 p.m.

Tuesday, May 5

Esports vs. TBD, 4:00 p.m.
Middle School Girls T&F @ Algona, 4:30 p.m.
Varsity Boys Golf @ Veterans Memorial Golf Club, 4:30 p.m.
JV/Varsity Boys Soccer @ Iowa Falls-Alden, 5:30 p.m.

Get all your Sports online:
www.clarionnewsonline.com

Sports continued on page 8





SPORTS

Askelsen and Kirstein Medal at Home Meets



Blaire Askelsen lines up a drive on the fourth hole at Oakridge. (Photo by Taylor Smith)

Taylor Smith, Sports Editor

A week ago, the Clarion-Goldfield-Dows girls golf team hosted meets on Monday, Tuesday, and Friday, and the team had a medalist on all three days.

In a head-to-head against Southeast Valley at Goldfield's Oakridge Golf Course on Monday afternoon, junior Blaire Askelsen was victorious after scoring a 50 through nine holes and a 14 over par for the day.

Senior Claire Kirstein placed third with a score of 54, and sophomore Jada Weets finished with a 64.

However, the visiting Jaguars narrowly edged out CGD, 235-237.

Askelsen enjoyed another winning finish the next afternoon, this time at Clarmond Country Club. She fashioned



Senior Claire Kirstein shows off her short game. (Photo by Taylor Smith)

Monitor. "It's not easy to come out on top, even on your home course, so that's something we're especially proud of."

"On Friday, we saw a big step forward for Tess, who turned in her best round of the season," Kahler continued. "It's great to see her hard work paying off and her confidence growing on the course. Jada and Quinn have also been playing well, consistently con-

tributing solid scores. Avery [Fiscus] has also shown improvement. The ladies have shown good course management and stayed patient."

"We have a huge week coming up with some 18-hole meets and a lot of golf in this next week," Coach Kahler added. "I'm excited to see how the girls will answer the challenge."

4/20 TEAM RESULTS AT OAKRIDGE:

1 - Southeast Valley	235
2 - Clarion-Goldfield-Dows	237

4/21 TEAM RESULTS AT CLARMOND:

1 - Iowa Falls-Alden	215
2 - Charles City	227
3 - Clarion-Goldfield-Dows	251

4/24 TEAM RESULTS AT OAKRIDGE:

1 - Webster City	217
2 - Clarion-Goldfield-Dows	236
3 - Hampton-Dumont-CAL	261



Tess Wibholm and the rest of the CGD golfers had to deal with windy conditions Monday in Goldfield. (Photo by Taylor Smith)



Quinn Brooks putts on the third hole. (Photo by Taylor Smith)

Patty Stockman's Panther Jersey Retired

CEDAR FALLS, Iowa — UNI Athletics and Panther softball recognized Patty Stockman, regarded by some as the best pitcher in the state of Iowa women's softball history, on Wednesday, April 22, during the Panthers' midweek matchup against the University of Iowa.

Stockman, who played for the Panthers from 1973 to 1977, was in attendance for the pregame ceremony, and was recognized for her accomplishments with a banner bearing her name and number 20 jersey, along with a banner plaque.

"Patty is the perfect person for UNI's first softball jersey retirement," said head coach Ryan Jacobs. "We still use her as an example of what type of person and player we are looking for, someone who flourishes at UNI. Hardworking, humble, loyal, and competitive ... what a perfect example of what UNI softball is all about!"

The ceremony for Stockman was the fourth of 19 planned jersey retirements for UNI Athletics in 2026, following the announcement of the department's jersey retirement program as part of UNI's sesquicentennial celebration. The Panther wrestling program retired Bill Smith's jersey during their Feb. 14 dual against West Virginia, while the UNI men's basketball team recognized AJ Green on Feb. 15 vs. Drake, and the women's basketball program celebrated Jacqui Kalin on Feb. 28 in a matchup with the UIC Flames.

UNI will retire jerseys of iconic Panthers for other teams later this year, as well as for athletes whose sports are no longer sponsored by the university during the 2026 homecoming celebration at its All-Sports Reunion.

A native of Oxford, Iowa, Stockman came to UNI from Clear Creek High School in Tiffin, Iowa in 1973. A dominant pitcher at Clear Creek, Stockman led her high school team to two state titles in the fall of 1972 and the summer of 1973. She was an All-State athlete in three sports at Clear Creek in softball, track and field and basketball.

Stockman compiled an impressive 83-15 record in high school, pitching in every game during her three years at Clear Creek. She was named to the Iowa State Softball All-Tournament Team twice, the All-State team three times and the basketball All-Conference squad four times. During her senior year, she served as captain of all three squads for softball, basketball and track and field.

Stockman's dominance on the softball diamond continued when she arrived at UNI. Over four seasons with the Panthers, she posted a staggering 60-5 record and led the team to three state IAAW titles and three Women's College World Series (WCWS) appearances. Behind her pitching, Northern Iowa placed second in the WCWS in 1975, finished in the top six in 1976 and won the national

championship in 1977.

In her junior season, Stockman was nearly perfect in the circle, going 13-1 while pitching 95 innings. She faced 321 batters, striking out 120 and walking just ten. At the plate, she batted an outstanding .405. During the 1977 WCWS title series, Stockman threw 31 innings, allowing just one hit and striking out 32 batters. Over the entire tournament, she allowed only ten hits with no earned runs, while also leading batters with five RBIs.

Stockman consistently demonstrated a UNI-first mentality. In an interview with The Northern Iowan, Stockman said, "we play 84 games from May 28 through about August 20, but I told them I wouldn't be able to start right away. I am hoping UNI will be playing in the World Series again..." This came when she was asked about being drafted to one of the six professional women's softball teams at the time, the Buffalo (N.Y.) Briskies.

In the same interview, head coach Jane Mertensdorf noted that, "when you've got two pitchers like Pat and Michelle [Thomas], you don't ever have to worry about hassles on the field. They don't get wild or rattled and they never get tired so we can play one pitcher the entire game. They're both so great in handling all situations. Both are playing more intelligently this year than last and working to improve themselves all the time."

During her summers, Stockman pitched in the Amateur Softball Association, spending three years with Langhurst Motors in Marion and two years with the Des Moines Bomberettes. The Bomberettes finished with a 57-7 record and won an ASA title in 1976.

After graduating from UNI in 1977, Stockman played professionally for the Buffalo Briskies, compiling a 14-11 record in one season and earning All-Star Team honors. In 1979, she became the head coach of softball, girls' basketball and field at Crestwood High School in Cresco, Iowa, where she posted a 40-22 record over six seasons on the softball diamond. She was inducted into the Iowa Girls Softball Hall of Fame in 1982 for her high school achievements.

Stockman later returned to school to earn her master's degree at the University of Iowa, where she served as an assistant softball coach from 1983 to 1985. She continued to be a dominant pitcher during this time, including a stint in 1985 pitching internationally in New Zealand for the Porirua Softball Club.

Stockman was inducted into the UNI Hall of Fame in 1988 as an individual, and again in 2008 as a member of the 1977 WCWS championship UNI softball team.

Mattress Fundraiser Raises Significant Funds for CGD Fine Arts Program



The Fine Arts Booster raised a little over 7 thousand dollars for CGD's students.



Aerial views

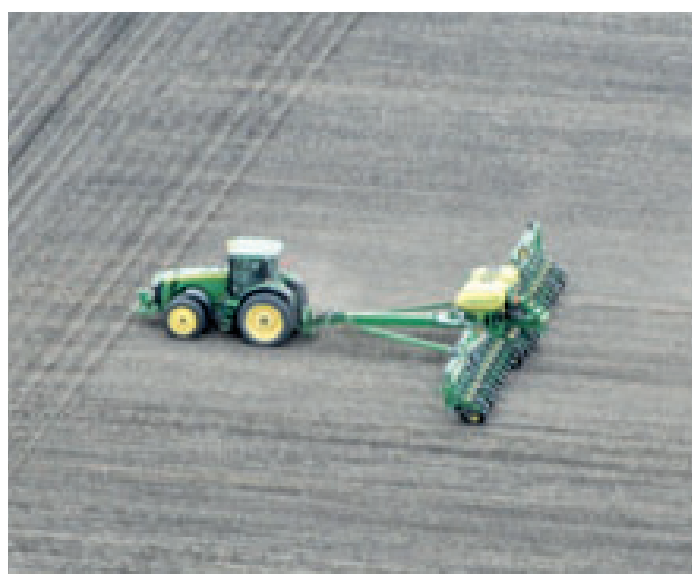
Bruce Voigts, Aerial Photographer (Photos taken April 25, 2026)



Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) grasslands and established prairies continue to be burned in the Clarion area. This day had over 3 areas north of Clarion having burning going on. The burning is mimicking the natural processes to invigorate the beneficial grasses and hinder weeds and trees from getting established.



A spring "ritual" at Lake Cornelia is putting the boat lifts back in their previous places after the ice has gone off the lake.



Planting continues in the area. Very little, if any, corn has emerged yet.



A red roller just north of Clarion hooked up to the tractor that can be pulled over recently planted soybean acres. One benefit of land rolling is to prepare the field for fall harvesting by pushing small and medium-sized rocks down into the soil and crushing soil clods and corn root balls. This allows the combine head to be set low to the ground, reducing the risk of picking up damaging rocks, root balls and soil.

BINGO NIGHT

Join us for Bingo this Friday May 1st at the Dows Legion from 6:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Like

Dows Business & Professional Directory

Muhlenbruch Insurance
Shannon Muhlenbruch, Agent
515-852-4156

MORT'S WATER 1-800-HEY-MORT (439-6678)
Kinetic
Local Authorized Franchise Dealer
Well Systems • Water Conditioning • Backhoe Sewer Systems • Trenching/Horizontal Boring
Drain Line Auger & Jetting • Plumbing
www.mortsonline.com | Kent Morton - Owner
Geothermal • Heating • Air Conditioning
Air Quality Control • Plumbing • Duct Cleaning
1-800-579-6678