

CITY OF NEW VIRGINIA IOWA
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NEW VIRGINIA, IA 50210
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TRI-CORNER-EXPRESS

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New Virginia, IA 50210
Permit No. 99

DECEMBER 19, 2024

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or the drop box at the northeast corner of the Hen House in NV

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NEXT AD DEADLINE

January 8, 2024

NEXT MAILING DATE

January 16, 2024

THE VOLUNTEERS OF THE TRI-CORNER-EXPRESS WOULD LIKE TO WISH YOU ALL
A WONDERFUL CHRISTMAS SEASON FILLED WITH PEACE, JOY AND HAPPINESS.
MAY YOU FIND TIME TO CELEBRATE AND ENJOY THIS SEASON'S BLESSINGS.



MERRY
Christmas

AND HAPPY NEW YEAR



Council Meeting Minutes, December 2, 2024

The Council met in regular session on Monday December 2nd, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. for the December council meeting. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Pro-Tem Truman with Council Members Dunkin and Bailey present and Galivan present via cell phone. Mayor Strange also present via cell phone. Absent Taylor. Minutes from the November meeting were approved.

Old business discussed: The Sheriff was contacted about the problem of vehicles running the stop sign at Knotts and East Street. The Sheriff will have Deputies focus on this area, but it cannot be a targeted project. Continued discussion was held regarding the possible placement of stop signs with flashing LED lights at the Knotts and East Street intersection.

The city software onboarding project is progressing slowly. Direct deposit and maximum penalty for utility billing were discussed.

Citizen Input: There have been citizen complaints about the accumulation of several vehicles on a property in the 200 block of Main Street. This complaint will be looked into.

The Masonic Lodge Masons meet at GAMP Community Building and would like to put a sign up by the GAMP sign on West Street or on the building. The City received a DNR grant for the park and community building. DNR rules and regulations will have to be reviewed to see if this can be done.

Water Utilities discussed: No new updates and no items or issues to discuss.

Fire Department Business: Fire Truck 769 update – the emergency lights, siren and communication system have been installed. When the truck was taken to Reliant Fire Apparatus for installation of the skid unit, it was discovered that the skid unit is approximately 10 inches too long. The skid unit was not built to specifications. The manufacturer of the skid unit will build a replacement skid unit to the correct specifications, and have it delivered within the next two weeks.

The sheet rock for the storage room at the fire station has been hung. The storage room needs painted. After the room is painted, the project will be completed.

Bailey moved, seconded by Dunkin to appoint Jake Zuercher for Fire Chief for 2025. A roll call vote was taken: 3 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.

Law Enforcement: The report summary from the Sheriff's Office for the month of November was not available for review.

The 2023-24 City Annual Financial Report was reviewed. After the review, the Council was advised to start thinking about 2025-26 budget items. Ideas of ways to reduce energy costs including wind turbines and solar panels were mentioned.

KEEP IOWA BEAUTIFUL PROGRAM

Events for the remainder of 2024: December – Country Christmas Holiday Home Tour Friday December 6th from 4 to 7 p.m. and Saturday December 7th from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Event ideas for 2025 include: a dance in January, February, and March with specific dates to be determined; proposed date for Kite Flying Event Sunday, April 27th ; End of Summer Social Sunday, September 21st; Christmas Home Tour Friday, December 12th and Saturday, December 13th.

GAMP UPDATE

Dunkin moved, seconded by Bailey to approve Mary Huss for cleaning GAMP Community Building. A roll call vote was taken: 3 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.

Truck pull date(s) will be worked on by Mayor Strange.

GAMP Community Building parking was a muddy mess for election day. The drive and parking has been rocked with four loads of gravel. It was discussed to work on plans to asphalt the area.

ELF CLUB

The tree top ornament for the Christmas tree in Old Settlers Park has been designed and will be fabricated by Bortell Welding & CNC Plasma Cutting.

TRI-CORNER-EXPRESS

Updates to the Tri-Corner-Express By-Laws from last month's meeting were reviewed. After further discussion, additional updates will be made to be reviewed at the January council meeting.

One bid for snow removal from City streets, alleys and sidewalks for the 2024-25 season was received. Huston's bid – same as 2023-24 at \$85.00 per hour. Bailey moved, seconded by Dunkin to approve Huston's bid of \$85.00 per hour for snow removal for the 2024-25 season. A roll call vote was taken: 3 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.

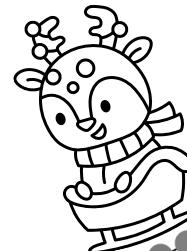
The City of New Virginia was selected by State Auditor for a periodic examination. The examination will start Wednesday, December 18th .

Dunkin moved, seconded by Bailey to approve payment of all City bills. A roll call vote was taken: 3 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.

With no further business to come forth, Bailey moved, seconded by Galivan to adjourn meeting. A roll call vote was taken: 3 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 10:00 p.m.

The January council meeting is scheduled for Monday January 6th, 2025, at 7:00 p.m.

January meeting date – Monday January 6th, 2025, at 7:00 p.m.



Jennifer Baughman
Jennifer Baughman, City Clerk

2024

**Tri-Corner-Express
Ad Prices**

Business Card-(3.5x2) \$30

Quarter Page-(5x4.5) \$45

Half Page-Horizontal (10.5x5) \$85

Half Page-Vertical (5x9.5) \$85

Full Page- (10.5x9.5) \$175

Thank You, Birth Announcement, Birthday & Anniversary:
0-50 words: \$5, 51-100 words: \$10, Over 100: \$.10/word, Photo: \$5
Obituary & Wedding (Including 1 photo) \$40, Additional photo: \$5

Please email your ad to tricornet@newvirginia.com or drop off your ad at the Black Mailbox labeled Tri-Corner-Express outside The Hen House - West Street, New Virginia

Public Notice

All City Water Payments need to be mailed or dropped off into the gray payment drop box located by the New Virginia Hen House and New Virginia Post Office.

The Sign

at the United Methodist Church in New Virginia
Please send messages to: newva-medora@outlook.com
Please put **SIGN** in the subject line.

**Gerry Allen Memorial Park
Community Building**

809 West Street, New Virginia, IA

N.V. City Limits All Other Renters

Full Day Rental \$125.00 \$150.00

Half Day Rental \$ 75.00 \$100.00

Hourly Rental \$ 20.00 \$ 20.00

Deposit \$125.00 due at time of reservation, rental fee due prior to event.

All Non-Profits groups - there will be no rental fee.

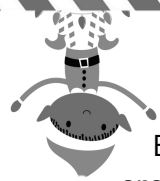
Signed rental agreement required.

Certificate of liability insurance for rental over 50 people is required.

All renters must cleanup at the conclusion of their event.

Visit us at www.newvirginia.com or call:

Jennifer Baughman 641-449-3492 for more information



Thank You
Bortell Welding for
creating an original star
and Jared and Doug of
Clarke Electric
Cooperative, INC for
installing the star on the
Old Settlers Park tree!!
-NV ELF Club



**Recycling Dates
New Virginia
Dec 27
Jan 9
Jan 23**

A big thank you to
B.S. Pack 119
for the goodie plate.
It was delicious!
The Scout who
delivered it was so
polite and sincere.
You made us feel
special!

Herb & Marilyn Taylor

thank you

THANK YOU TO ALL FOR SUCH A NICE
80TH BIRTHDAY SURPRISE!
THE CARDS, LETTERS, VISITS AND WELL WISHES
WERE GREATLY APPRECIATED.

HANK AND MARY HUSS
KEVIN AND PENNY HUSS AND FAMILIES
DANIEL HUSS



Virginia Boosters 4-H Club News
Written by Ella Scott, Reporter



CLAIMS REPORT		AMOUNT	CHECK #	CHECK DATE
VENDOR	REFERENCE			
ALLIANT ENERGY	ELECTRIC/GAS/STREET LIGHTS	\$428.46	15533	12/2/2024
ALLISON CARPENTRY	OTHER CONTRACTUAL SERV LIBRARY	\$155.90	15538	12/3/2024
BRENT BAUGHMAN	MILEAGE NOVEMBER 2024	\$33.13	15541	12/3/2024
ELAN FINANCIAL SERVICES	TECHNOLOGY - GOOGLE SUITE	\$67.59	15534	12/2/2024
CITY STATE BANK	LOAN PAYMENT GO BONDS	\$5,350.37	15532	11/25/2024
CLIA LABORATORY PROGRAM	CERTIFICATE FEE 20025	\$248.00	15542	12/3/2024
HOLIDAY OUTDOOR DECOR	CHRISTMAS LIGHT/SUPPLIES	\$604.15	15543	12/3/2024
HY-VEE	MEDICATIONS	\$753.50	15545	12/3/2024
IOWA DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE	STATE TAXES	\$189.28	16326721	12/2/2024
INDEPENDENT ADVOCATE -RHT	PUBLISH LEGALS AFRY24	\$172.91	15546	12/3/2024
IOWA PUBLIC RETIREMENT SYSTEM	IPERS	\$440.45	16326722	12/2/2024
INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE	FED/FICA TAX	\$499.27	16326723	12/2/2024
J&L SANITATION	GARBAGE SERVICE - CITY	\$62.00	15553	12/8/2024
KEY CONSTRUCTION SERVICES LLC	BUILDING REPAIR/MAINT	\$500.00	15529	11/22/2024
MARY HUSS	RETURN DEPOSIT	\$125.00	15530	11/22/2024
NAPA AUTO PARTS PREMIER PARTS	VEHICLE REPAIR	\$35.68	15528	11/21/2024
READY ROLLOFFS LLC	DUMPSTER	\$350.00	15547	12/3/2024
RENAE LOOMIS	RETURN DEPOSIT FEE	\$125.00	15548	12/3/2024
SHAILEY BEEM	RETURN DEPOSIT FEE	\$125.00	15531	11/22/2024
STRYKER	EQUIPMENT SMRT BATTERY PACK	\$1,281.50	15549	12/3/2024
WASTE MANAGEMENT	RECYCLING	\$1,181.90	15554	12/8/2024
WEX FLEET UNIVERSAL	VEHICLE FUEL	\$128.76	15552	12/3/2024
WINDSTREAM	TELEPHONE/INTERNET	\$560.05	15555	12/8/2024
Total General		\$13,417.90		
ALLIANT ENERGY	ELECTRIC/GAS/STREET LIGHTS	\$1,140.79	15533	12/2/2024
BLAKELY TREE SERVICES	TREE BRANCH REMOVAL-3 AREAS	\$8,400.00	15540	12/3/2024
TIM WEEKS	STREET MAINTENANCE-GAMP ALLEY	\$1,940.00	15550	12/3/2024
Total Road Use		\$11,480.79		
ANCEL KENNEDY	SERVICE	\$125.00	15539	12/3/2024
BRENT BAUGHMAN	MILEAGE NOVEMBER 2024	\$41.40	15541	12/3/2024
CITY STATE BANK	LOAN PAYMENT GO BONDS	\$4,400.63	15532	11/25/2024
HUSTON'S LAWN/SNOW REMOVAL	TESTING - WATER	\$100.00	15544	12/3/2024
IOWA DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE	WET TAX OCTOBER 2024	\$504.38	16326715	11/26/2024
IOWA DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE	STATE TAXES	\$196.43	16326721	12/2/2024
IOWA PUBLIC RETIREMENT SYSTEM	IPERS	\$364.15	16326722	12/2/2024
INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE	FED/FICA TAX	\$425.23	16326723	12/2/2024
WARREN WATER DISTRICT	WATER USAGE/LOAN PAYMENT	\$4,671.00	15551	12/3/2024
Total Water Utilities		\$10,828.22		
GENERAL WATER		\$2,331.21		
		\$1,913.25		
Total Payroll Paid		\$4,244.46		
****TOTAL FUNDS****		\$39,971.37		



The Virginia Boosters 4-H club held their December meeting at 7 pm, at the Lions Hall in New Virginia on Wednesday, December 11th. Brady Streeter called the meeting to order. Roll call was "What are you looking forward to during Christmas break?" Brianna Fantz read the secretary's report, and Drake Nelson gave the treasurer's report. This month's old business discussion was about the Santa visit in the New Virginia Lions Hall last Sunday. The Review of the monthly newsletter began the new business, sparking conversation about upcoming dates. There is a new county youth coordinator, and beef weigh-in is Saturday, December 21st, 7-9 am, and the 4-H scholarships are open now. Next, we discussed any other items unrelated to the Newsletter. The January hosts will be Jaden and Peyton McDonald and Sophie and Penelope Helgeson. January's presentations will be given by Charlotte Miller and Blake Erickson. Lastly, we held the installation of officers. Charlotte made a motion to adjourn the meeting, and Blake seconded. The first presentation was by Owen Ritchie. It was about St. Bernard puppies. The second presentation was by Ella Scott and Nora Nelson. Their presentation was Christmas bingo. The next meeting is January 8th, at 7 pm.

CITY OF ST. CHARLES

City Of St. Charles

Council Meeting Minutes, December 9, 2024

The St. Charles City Council met at City Hall on Monday, 12/9/2024, for a regular meeting. Mayor Dennis Smith called the meeting to order at 6:35 pm. Council members Tom Blomme, Megan Allison, Whitney Hutton, Travis Brockett, and Dan Kozak were present along with 4 guests.

Approval of Agenda: A motion was made by Megan Allison/Travis Brockett to approve the agenda. Voice vote passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes for Council Meetings 11/11/2024: Motion made by Dan Kozak/Megan Allison to approve the minutes. Voice vote passed unanimously.

Approval of November Treasurer and Budget Reports: Motion made by Tom Blomme/Whitney Hutton to approve the treasurer and budget reports for November. Voice vote passed unanimously.

Approval of December Bills: Motion made by Megan Allison/Tom Blomme to approve the December bills. Voice vote passed unanimously.

Sheriff's Report: During October there were 42.92 patrol hours, 8 calls, and 7 traffic stops in St. Charles.

Sculpture at Imes Bridge Park: Becky Knight along with Dawn Vetter, Jim Benedict, and Lily Kuonen presented the idea of a sculpture being placed at Imes Bridge Park. The Heart of Iowa stainless steel and bronze sculpture would be created by Jim Benedict and Lily Kuonen for St. Charles. Donations and grants would be used for the project. The group is asking for the City Council's approval to place the sculpture on City owned land. Motion by Travis Brockett/Tom Blomme to approve the use of city land at the Imes Bridge Park for the sculpture, with the exact location to be determined at a later date. Voice vote was unanimous.

Public Forum: No public wished to speak.

City Boards/Committees:

- **Sewer Report:** Rhonda Guy discussed the two options for replacing the now obsolete mission dialer at the east sewer lagoons. Motion by Megan Allison/Dan Kozak to approve Omni Site for the mission dialer. The three-year service agreement with Cummins is up for renewal. Motion by Megan Allison/Travis Brockett to approve a new three-year service agreement with Cummins for generator repairs at the sewer lagoons.
- **Fire/Rescue Department:** Minutes for November were submitted.
- **Library Board:** Margaret Blair presented the November minutes.
- **The Gateway/Tourism Board:** 16 trees are being decorated for the Festival of Trees. The Gateway will be open December 13th through the 15th for viewing of the trees.
- **Mayor's Report:** Mayor Pro Tem Megan Allison reported on Hinterland's plans for the future.
- **Clerk's Report:** City Hall will be closed on December 24th.

Resolution 12A-2024 A Resolution approving the Hiring of Temporary Snowplow Driver: Motion by Megan Allison/Travis Brockett to approve Resolution 12A-2024 the hiring of a Temporary Snowplow Driver. R/C vote was unanimous.

Resolution 12B-2024 Transfer of Funds to Capital Street Improvement: Motion by Travis Brockett/Whitney Hutton to approve Resolution 12B-2024 the Transfer of Funds to Capital Street Improvement. R/C vote was unanimous.

Waste Management Contract Renewal: After a discussion on using the Waste Consumer Price Index or a percentage rate that does not change to renew the City's contract with Waste Management, a motion was made by Megan Allison/Dan Kozak to accept the contract for 3.5% increase in 2025 and a 5% percent increase yearly for the remaining five years of the contract. Voice vote was unanimous.

2025 City Council Meeting Dates: Motion by Travis Brockett/Megan Allison to approve the 2025 City Council meeting dates and holiday schedule. Voice vote was unanimous.

Gworks: The accounting system used by the city clerk is going through some changes. Updates will be given after the changes are made and the City will determine if they remain with Gworks.

Budget Meeting Dates: Dates and timeline for the discussion and adoption of the Fiscal Year 26 Budget were set.

Nuisance and Opportunities: Nuisances within the City of St. Charles were discussed and property owners will be contacted.

Motion made by Travis Brockett to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 pm.

The next City Council meeting will be January 13, 2025, at City Hall.

Dennis Smith, Mayor

Attest: Tracy Kozak, City Clerk

Posted at: City Hall, Post Office, Montross, and Library

Happy Holidays





\$6,400 Monies Available in 2025 for Community Organizations

The Caring Neighbors Circle has gifted \$34,400 to community organizations and groups since 2020. Members meet quarterly for an hour or less, and after hearing three organizations give a 4-minute presentation of their

needs, votes to approve one organization to be awarded approximately \$1,600! Organizations not receiving the top vote are encouraged to return to present at later meetings.

Become CNC Member—Membership form/ByLaws on Facebook--Caring Neighbors Circle. Members pledge \$50/quarter to come together with community members to make a difference with organizations that promote or create opportunity for our communities.

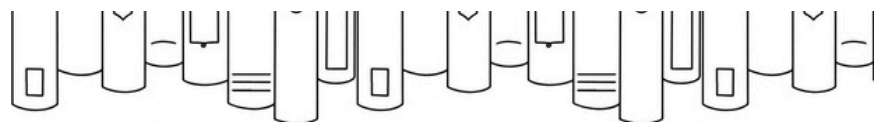
Next meeting of Caring Neighbors Circle-7 PM March 10, 2025 at St. Charles Lions Hall.

Presenters: Presenter form: Facebook—Caring Neighbors Circle (check-in at 6:30-6:45)



HOLIDAYS ARE QUICKLY APPROACHING CHECK OUT THIS UNIQUE VENUE FOR HOLIDAY PARTIES OR FAMILY GATHERINGS

The beautiful historic stained-glass windows, small stage, and wooden floor make it a unique and beautiful option for all types of events. For information on rental prices and available dates you may reach out to: Gatewaystcharles@gmail.com or call City Hall at 641-369-2545



What's Happening this month at the New Virginia Public Library?

Book Club December 18th 4pm!

The library will be closed December 24th, 25th, 31st and January 1st for the holiday season.

www.newvirginia.lib.va.us

New Books:

The Mirror by Nora Roberts
To Die For by David Baldacci
Tooth and Claw by Craig Johnson
A City Full of Santas by Joanna Ho

Library Hours:

Tuesday: 4pm-8pm
Wednesday: 9am-11am/1pm-8pm
Thursday: 4pm-8pm
Friday: closed
Saturday: 9am-noon



Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet
by Jamie Ford

Reviewed by Sue Stills

It seemed appropriate that I just finished reading this book around the time of the 83rd anniversary of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, resulting in the United States' declaration of war against the Empire of Japan. Mainly set in 1942 in Seattle, Henry Lee is a 12-year-old American whose very traditional Chinese parents only speak their native Cantonese language. Although Henry is bilingual, the difference in languages is only one factor resulting in the emotional distance between Henry and his father. Henry is the only Chinese boy attending an all-white school, and he develops a friendship and bond with a Japanese American girl, Keiko Okabe. The suspicion and FBI raids on the Japanese ultimately result in the evacuations of the Japanese residents to the internment camps. Henry and Keiko promise to reunite after the war. The basement in the Panama Hotel had become the repository of many of the possessions of the Japanese families, and in 1986, Henry searched that area for anything belonging to Keiko or her family that might help him reconnect with her. This book was very interesting, with its "bitter and sweet" story of commitment and hope.



Truro City Council Minutes December 9, 2024

Mayor Bryan Arzani presided over and called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM. Ancel Kennedy, Lyndsay Cannoy, Matt Masters and Julie McMichael were present. Jason Phillips was absent. Public Works Director, Ronnie Hults, was also present. From the public Rebeca Morris and Kolter Good. Arzani asked for a motion to approve the agenda. Cannoy/McMichael motioned to approve the agenda. All Ayes, motion carried.

Public: Rebecca Morris addressed the council in support of the council to move forward with the proposed ordinance to restrict use on Center Street between West Street and Railroad to Commercial only, to further the growth of Truro.

Kolter Good presented a plan to earn his Eagle Scout by landscaping a small plot by the library and building a flag drop for retired flags. He would need a construction permit and Bryan Arzani offered to personally cover the cost of the permit. McMichael/Masters motioned to approve the plan. All ayes, motion carried.

The **Sherriff's report** was reviewed. No Report from **Emergency Management**.

The Fire and Rescue Report received via text; 3 EMS calls, 2 Fire calls for November. Older tanker is broken and was towed to the station on 12.9.24.

Rhonda Guy presented the **Water/Wastewater Report**. She is working with the Public Works Director Ronnie Hults to reschedule the water WD1 test. Ronnie Hults stated we had roughly 50 new meters installed.

Hults addressed the Water flooding into agricultural grounds and presented solutions for the issue. He attained a \$4065.00 quote from Mark Mease to run drainage underneath the ditches. Kennedy/McMicheal motioned to go with the bid of \$4065.00, but not to exceed it to provide drainage under the ditches. All ayes, motion carried.

Council Member Cannoy addressed the council by reading a statement regarding the growth of Truro. Cannoy stated she would like to move forward with the proposed ordinance to restrict use on Center Street between West Street and Railroad Street to commercial only. McMicheal/Masters motioned to set a public hearing date of January 13 at 6:15 for the proposed ordinance to restrict use on Center Street between West Street and Railroad Street to Commercial only. All ayes, motion carried.

Kennedy/Masters motioned to set a public hearing to amend the budget for the purchase of the new city truck to January 13 at 6:00 p.m.

Emily Hanna asked for approval to move forward with the Community Catalyst Grant, which would aid her in renovating a commercial property in Truro to put her business.

McMicheal/Kennedy motioned to have a work session to explore the potential of relocating City Hall and Library on January 8, 2025. All ayes, motion carried.

Warren Water would like a decision if Truro will service a property (3005 Peru Rd Deed holder Joan Mease Revocable Trust) that is in a 2-mile radius of the city or will give it to them to service. Kennedy/Cannoy motioned to give the property (3005 Peru Rd) to Warren Water. All ayes, motion carried.

Cannoy presented ideas for the city to contract one company for garbage and recycling pick up in Truro. Needed further research and will be on the January agenda.

Review of the Codification of Ordinances will take place in January, and council members will split up the task.

Rebecca Morris will continue to stay on as a consultant for training the new city clerk to get through budgets and tasks that only happen annually.

Kennedy/Cannoy motioned to approve the bills and November minutes with modifications (correction on Phillips present at last meeting and McMichael absent). All ayes, motion carried.

Review of IPERS Compliance Review was reviewed, no action taken.

Part time employee applications will be reviewed by Arzani.

City Clerk notes, Budget and Treasurer report will be emailed out because our printer was down.

Cannoy/Masters motioned to adjourn the meeting. All ayes, motion carried.

End of meeting 7:41 p.m.

Next City Council Meeting, January 13, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.

Bryan Arzani, Mayor

Attested: Janelle Adams, City Clerk

TRURO PUBLIC LIBRARY
BOOK CLUB
December 19th
One Day in December by Josie Silver
Two people. Ten chances. One unforgettable love story.

January 16th
First Lie Wins by Ashley Elston
The stakes couldn't be higher, but then, Evie has always liked a challenge

February 20th
In the Midst of Winter by Isabel Allende
The lives of three characters collide during the biggest Brooklyn snowstorm in memory

*Once a month at 5pm

TRURO COMMUNITY FRIDGE

We accept non perishable food. Anyone in our community of Truro can take advantage of the food that is in the fridge or pantry. Open during library hours.

ITEMS NEEDED

- ▶ Canned Food
- ▶ Snack Foods
- ▶ Food & Vegetable
- ▶ Juice Pouches

Truro Public Library
114 E Center Street

For More Information: 641-765-4220 www.truro.lib.ia.us

Truro Public Library

New Books

The Waiting by Michael Connelly
The House of Cross by James Patterson
Now or Never by Janet Evanovich
www.truro.lib.ia.us

We will be closed December 24th and 25th

Library Hours:

Sunday Closed
Monday Closed
Tuesday 9:30-3:30
Wednesday 3:30-6:30
Thursday 10:00-6:00
Friday Closed
Saturday 9:00-noon



**What are your
favorite
holiday
stories?**



**Borrow ebooks
& audiobooks**



Libby.
The library reading app



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Daily Lunch Specials

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*Try our new cauliflower
crust pizza.
Guaranteed not to taste
like a vegetable!*

Ask us about
CATERING


HOURS

Monday through Friday
11:00 am - 1:30 pm
&
4:30 pm - 8:00 pm
Saturday 5:00 pm - 8:00 pm

-Closed Wednesdays and Sundays-



126 EAST CENTER STREET, TRURO, IOWA 50257
ORDER NOW : 515-468-5688



Not sure what to give someone for Christmas? Got that hard-to-buy-for person on your list who has everything? Know someone who lives away but would like to keep up with community news?

Why not give them a subscription to the Tri-Corner-Express for Christmas? Chances are, there will be something in every issue to peak your loved ones' interest since we cover news and events in the Interstate 35 and

Martensdale-St. Marys school districts and our local towns. Consider buying a subscription for your loved ones, and we can start delivery in December to run for a full year. Only \$20 for a year, and your shopping will be done!

Give Santa a break (and yourself!) and let us do the work for you. Mail your subscription fee of \$20 to P.O. Box 302, New Virginia, IA 50210 with a note telling us you want it for Christmas, and we will do the rest.

Thank you for supporting the Tri-Corner-Express!

HAVE YOU HAD A FINANCIAL PHYSICAL LATELY?



TRUST &
INVESTMENTS

Financial status, life events, and financial goals are constantly changing. Is your investment account changing with it?

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New Virginia, IA 50210

641-449-3314

www.citystatebank.com

Not FDIC insured. Not deposits or other obligations of bank and are not guaranteed by bank. Are subject to investment risk, including possible loss of principle.

A Visit from St. Nicholas

By Clement Clarke Moore



'Twas the night before Christmas, when all through the house

Not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse;
The stockings were hung by the chimney with care,
In hopes that St. Nicholas soon would be there;
The children were nestled all snug in their beds,
While visions of sugar-plums danced in their heads;
And mamma in her 'kerchief, and I in my cap,
Had just settled our brains for a long winter's nap,
When out on the lawn there arose such a clatter,
I sprang from the bed to see what was the matter.

Away to the window I flew like a flash,
Tore open the shutters and threw up the sash.
The moon on the breast of the new-fallen snow
Gave the lustre of mid-day to objects below,
When, what to my wondering eyes should appear,
But a miniature sleigh, and eight tiny reindeer,
With a little old driver, so lively and quick,
I knew in a moment it must be St. Nick.
More rapid than eagles his coursers they came,
And he whistled, and shouted, and called them by name;
"Now, Dasher! now, Dancer! now, Prancer and Vixen!
On, Comet! on, Cupid! on, Donder and Blitzen!
To the top of the porch! to the top of the wall!
Now dash away! dash away! dash away all!"
As dry leaves that before the wild hurricane fly,
When they meet with an obstacle, mount to the sky;
So up to the house-top the coursers they flew,

With the sleigh full of Toys, and St. Nicholas too.
And then, in a twinkling, I heard on the roof
The prancing and pawing of each little hoof.
As I drew in my head, and was turning around,
Down the chimney St. Nicholas came with a bound.
He was dressed all in fur, from his head to his foot,
And his clothes were all tarnished with ashes and soot;
A bundle of Toys he had flung on his back,
And he looked like a peddler just opening his pack.
His eyes—how they twinkled! his dimples how merry!
His cheeks were like roses, his nose like a cherry!
His droll little mouth was drawn up like a bow
And the beard of his chin was as white as the snow;
The stump of a pipe he held tight in his teeth,
And the smoke it encircled his head like a wreath;
He had a broad face and a little round belly,
That shook when he laughed, like a bowlful of jelly.
He was chubby and plump, a right jolly old elf,
And I laughed when I saw him, in spite of myself;
A wink of his eye and a twist of his head,
Soon gave me to know I had nothing to dread;
He spoke not a word, but went straight to his work,
And filled all the stockings; then turned with a jerk,
And laying his finger aside of his nose,
And giving a nod, up the chimney he rose;
And sprang to his sleigh, to his team gave a whistle,
And away they all flew like the down of a thistle,
But I heard him exclaim, ere he drove out of sight,
"Happy Christmas to all, and to all a good-night."



A MESSAGE FROM MR. GRANDON

I-35 CSD SUPERINTENDENT

Greetings I-35 Community -

I hope everyone was able to enjoy some time with family and friends during our recent break. In this issue of *TriCorner*, I would like to highlight a couple of different topics.

Up first, I want the community to know that at Interstate 35 CSD, we value the input of our students, families, and community members as we work together to support our school. If you are interested in providing feedback, here are some ways to share your thoughts and ideas:

- Attend Public Meetings
- Reach out Directly
- Participate in Surveys

If you have a community group that meets regularly and you would like to have District Representation present at any meeting, please let me know. I would be happy to come and share the great things happening at I-35 CSD or answer questions that you may have about the school district.

Second, we are proud to share that Interstate 35's Iowa School Report Card reflects significant academic growth and achievement. This progress highlights our students' hard work, the dedication of our educators, and the support of our families. Improvements in key performance indicators, such as proficiency rates and growth measures, showcase our commitment to fostering success for every learner.

Building on this momentum, we will use these results to guide our efforts in advancing student learning. By analyzing the data, identifying areas for continued improvement, and aligning resources, we are excited to springboard into even greater accomplishments in the future. Together, we will keep striving for excellence and creating opportunities for all students to succeed.

LEARN MORE ABOUT I-35'S SCORES

You can read more about the school performance scores by reading the school website's article about I-35 scores or see the infographic that was shared on social media and by email to school families. Simply scan one of the QR codes to access them.



WEBSITE ARTICLE



INFOGRAPHIC PDF

REMINDER: WINTER BREAK - DEC. 23-JAN. 3 SCHOOL RESUMES JAN. 6



JANUARY & FEBRUARY HIGH SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL

Boys JV at 5 p.m.; Varsity at 7:30 p.m. (typical start times)

Girls JV at 4 p.m.; Varsity at 6:15 p.m. (typical start times)

- 1/07 vs. Chariton | Boys JV & V | Girls JV & V
- 1/09 @ West Central Valley | Boys JV & V | Girls JV & V
- 1/10 @ Pleasantville | Boy JV & V | Girls JV & V
- 1/14 vs. Van Meter | Boys JV & V | Girls JV & V
- 1/17 @ Woodward-Granger | Boys JV & V | Girls JV & V
- 1/20 @ SE Warren | Boys JV & V | Girls JV & V
- 1/23 vs. Centerville | Girls JV & V (6:00 p.m. Start for JV)
- 1/27 vs. Woodward Academy | Boys JV & V (6:00 p.m. Start for JV)
- 1/28 vs. DM Christian | Boys JV & V | Girls JV & V
- 1/30 @ AC/GC | Boys JV & V | Girls JV & V
- 2/03 vs. Mount Ayr | Boys JV & V
- 2/07 vs. Madrid | Boys JV & V | Girls JV & V
- 2/10 vs. Lamoni | Girls JV & V (6:00 p.m. Start for JV)
- 2/11 vs. Pleasantville | Boys JV & V | Girls JV & V
- 2/13 @ Nodaway Valley | Boys JV & V (6:00 p.m. Start for JV)

HIGH SCHOOL BOYS WRESTLING

- 1/9 Home Triangular, 5:30 p.m. | JV & Varsity
- 1/17 @ Creston, 5:00 p.m. | JV
- 1/18 @ WCAC Conf. Event @ I-35 9:00 a.m. | Varsity
- 1/23 @ Panorama, 5:30 p.m. | JV & Varsity
- 1/25 Rich Gray Tournament, 9:30 a.m. | Varsity
- 1/30 Home Duals, 5:30 p.m. | JV & Varsity

HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS WRESTLING

- 1/04 @ Clarinda, 9:00 a.m. | Varsity
- 1/7 @ Panorama, 5:00 p.m. | Varsity
- 1/11 @ West Central Valley, 10:00 a.m. | Varsity
- 1/14 @ Pleasantville, 5:30 p.m. | Varsity
- 1/17 @ Creston, 4:00 p.m. | Varsity
- 1/18 @ Pella, 9:30 a.m. | Varsity
- 1/25 Rich Gray Tournament, 10:00 a.m. | Varsity

SETTING BIG GOALS AND WORKING COLLABORATIVELY TO SUPPORT RIGOROUS LEARNING:

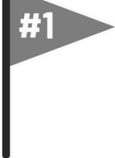
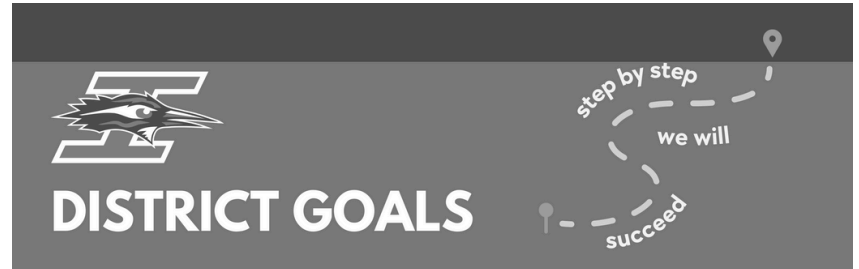
As we move into the second half of the school year, we'd like to explain more about the powerful framework we use to guide our focus and drive student success, *The 4 Disciplines of Execution®* by Sean Covey, also known as 4DX.

The 4DX philosophy emphasizes setting wildly important goals (WIGs), acting on lead measures, keeping a compelling scoreboard, and fostering a cadence of accountability. By narrowing our focus to the most critical goals, we ensure that both educators and students are working purposefully and effectively toward measurable outcomes. This approach not only builds clarity and motivation but also fosters the resilience needed to achieve challenging objectives.

The midpoint of the school year is an ideal time to evaluate current realities of our students and set meaningful goals. For some, this may involve reflecting on academic performance, such as improving proficiency in math or literacy. Others might focus on habits like completing assignments on time, staying organized, or enhancing their participation in classroom discussions. Engaging in these goal-setting and monitoring conversations with students is essential. It allows them to take ownership of their learning journey, recognize areas of strength, and identify opportunities for growth. By breaking goals into actionable steps and tracking progress, students gain confidence and develop essential skills for lifelong learning.

Achieving rigorous goals in the second half of the year requires a strong partnership between families, students, and teachers. Families play an essential role in supporting their child's progress, and when they work closely with educators, students benefit from a unified approach to their goals. Teachers can provide families with regular updates, practical resources, and strategies to reinforce learning at home, while also offering encouragement and targeted support during the school day. By maintaining open communication and celebrating milestones together, families and educators create a strong partnership that keeps students motivated and on track. This shared effort ensures that each learner feels supported both at school and at home, empowering them to achieve their personal best.

LOOK FOR OUR NEW BANNERS SHARING OUR DISTRICT GOALS



Continue to strengthen the culture of learning at Interstate 35 Community School District that lends to engaged learning and rigorous growth.

ACTIONS

Below are the actions I-35 CSD will take to achieve this goal.

- ENACT CORE VALUES FOR HIGHLY-EFFECTIVE STAFF TEAMS
- SHOWCASE STUDENT & STAFF ACCOMPLISHMENTS
- LESSONS PLANNED WITH DEEP LEVELS OF RIGOR & ENGAGEMENT
- DEVELOP RIGOROUS ASSESSMENTS & FEEDBACK LOOPS
- SUPPORT STUDENT GROWTH THROUGH DIFFERENTIATION

I-35 COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT MISSION STATEMENT

The Interstate 35 Community School District exists to develop life-long learners and responsible, productive, successful citizens in an ever-changing society.



By the end of the 2024-25 school year, the school will ensure transparency and will achieve optimal resources management by aligning staffing levels with student enrollment, maintaining a balanced budget, and ensuring full compliance with Iowa taxation laws.

ACTIONS

Below are the actions I-35 CSD will take to achieve this goal.

- ALIGN STAFFING LEVELS WITH STUDENT ENROLLMENT
- MAINTAIN A BALANCED BUDGET AND TAX LEVY
- ENSURE TRANSPARENCY USING A VARIETY OF MEANS

ROAD TRIPPING

Contributed by Terry Garner

NORTH DAKOTA

I'm down to one full-blood redbone here at home and was looking for a good male redbone hound to breed Posie to. I want to keep my line of dogs going, and since things can go south in an instant, I figured I better be finding a daddy dog in a hurry. Through a friend of a friend of a friend deal, I found Matt in Carrington, North Dakota. We talked on the phone a few times, and he agreed to loan me Tank if I would winter him here and hunt him some. Agreed!

This is really not the optimal time for me to be taking off for parts unknown, since all our friends from out-of-state were showing up for the first shotgun deer season at the same time. However, they're all grown men and I figured they could take care of themselves for two days, surely. (Maybe....) Some of them showed up early Thursday morning, Rollie cooked our breakfast, I gave everyone hugs and off I went.

What a drive! Google Maps wanted me to go through Minneapolis, but I hate that road from Des Moines north, so I rebelled out and headed west on Interstate 80 after I got to Des Moines. From there, I took Interstate 29 North from Council Bluffs all the way to Fargo, North Dakota. Then I jumped on Interstate 94 West to Jamestown, then took some county roads into my new friend's place. Carrington wasn't far from there.

The speed limit on the Interstates from here through Nebraska is 70 miles an hour, so you know I went 80. Little did I know that when you hit South Dakota, it jumps up to 80 miles an hour! Holy cow! Yep, I ramped her up to 90, and the miles just flew by! I had trouble getting the signs read at that speed, believe me! There's hardly any traffic up there, compared to here, and you could fly. But what beautiful country! I know some would think it's boring and bland, but all I could think about was how much fun it would be to ride my mule out across there with my dogs out in front.

The landscape in North and South Dakota varied from pretty much flat to rolling hills. There were lots of huge corn and bean fields. I saw dozens of semis hauling hay the whole trip, so I know hay is a big crop up there too, although I didn't see that many hay fields. I only saw a few alfalfa fields, so that made me think that maybe a lot of the hay I did see was grass hay. But I WAS going pretty fast, remember?

In North Dakota, I started seeing these groves of trees and brush that were in straight lines. You could tell that they'd been planted that way on purpose. It looked like they were along old property lines maybe. Most of the ones I saw were lying east to west, but there were some that laid north to south. I suppose it may have just been due to the fact that I was traveling north that it seemed that way. I asked my friend Matt about it, and he said they were shelter belts. They planted them in the 30's and 40's during the dust storm era to slow the wind down and keep the topsoil from blowing away. Google says President Franklin D. Roosevelt started the project called Great Plains Shelterbelt in response to the dust storms during the Dust Bowl days. According to Matt, since farming has gotten bigger, a lot of them have been ripped out, and you could see evidence of that. There were big dozer piles of brush every so often, and you could tell that that's what happened. I don't know why they wouldn't have burned them up though instead of farming around them.

Continued on page 22.....



**Honey, are we lost?
No dear, we're just exploring.**



cribbings from



ue

Contributed by Sue Stills

Oh, my goodness, where has the year gone? It's December already, and the month will be half over by the time this issue of the Tri-Corner-Express comes out. Then Christmas will be here, the long-awaited birth of Jesus and hopefully the sharing of happy times with family and friends.

May I share my memory of one of my best Christmases? The movie *West Side Story* came out in 1961. It received the Oscar for Best Picture, as well as nine other Oscars. It was the second highest grossing film of the year in the United States. The storyline is based on Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*, and the musical premiered as a Broadway musical in 1957. According to Wikipedia, there have been multiple stage productions of it as recently as 2020. I went to see the movie when I was in either eighth or ninth grade. All I wanted for Christmas that year was the record album of the movie soundtrack. And Santa brought it to me! The first time I saw the movie, I paid attention to the cute "teenage" boys more than the "love story." When I saw the movie again when I was older, the love story meant more to me. No matter my age, however, I really liked the songs and the choreography. I consider it to be my favorite movie.

We did have a good Thanksgiving, and I hope all of you did too. There were 10 of us at our house, and we enjoyed the 22-pound turkey cooked by Mel and a lot of great food provided by all of our guests. Maybe I can lose these extra Thanksgiving pounds before Christmas!

Now that we have a golf cart, we participated in the annual Christmas golf cart parade on December 6, sponsored by two sectors of Sun Lakes, Cottonwood and Palo Verde. That sounds pretty boring, right? No, this was a parade of golf carts unbelievably decorated with lights, Santas, wrapped presents, Christmas trees, garland, wreaths, etc. Friends of ours had the planets suspended from their cart's roof, along with stuffed animals, having been decorated by their granddaughter. All of the participating carts were gathered at the Palo Verde Country Club by 4:30 p.m. There was free soup & cider, music, and many people who walked around looking at the carts. The carts were judged, and the parade began after dark. Mel had put 1,000 colored lights on our cart and a deer skull (from Iowa) on the front of the hood, decorated with lights, jingle bells and red lights in its nose cavity. There were at least 60 carts in the parade. My brother Bill led our little group with his yellow '39 Roadster, then Renee in her purple California Roadster, then us in our red '39 Roadster, then my brother Jim in his "low-rider" half-completed cart he is building. We were all lit up and glittering! The route through the neighborhood was lined with thousands of people, and we waved and called "Merry Christmas!" The winning cart had pulled a trailer; it and the cart were decorated with Elvis. The parade ended in the Cottonwood Country Club parking lot so people could walk around and view the carts glowing and sparkling in the dark. The evening ended with fireworks. It was all such fun and a fabulous community event!

On December 12, we all participated in the golf cart parade in the sector of Sun Lakes where all of my brothers and Renee live. There were at least 40 carts; we took a winding route through the neighborhood, waving and enjoying the residents' decorations and having fun in the chilly, moonlit night.

Our son John and wife Eileen visited us from Philadelphia December 6-9. We had a great time catching up, they rode in the parade with all of us, and they got to know my three brothers, my sister-in-law and Renee. They had left Philadelphia in 19°, so they really enjoyed our temperatures in the 70's.

We wish all of you a very Merry Christmas and a New Year full of happiness and good health!



New Virginia
Holiday
Lights
Competition



1st Place:
Jennifer Boyle
814 West St

2nd Place:
John & Amanda Allsup
202 West St



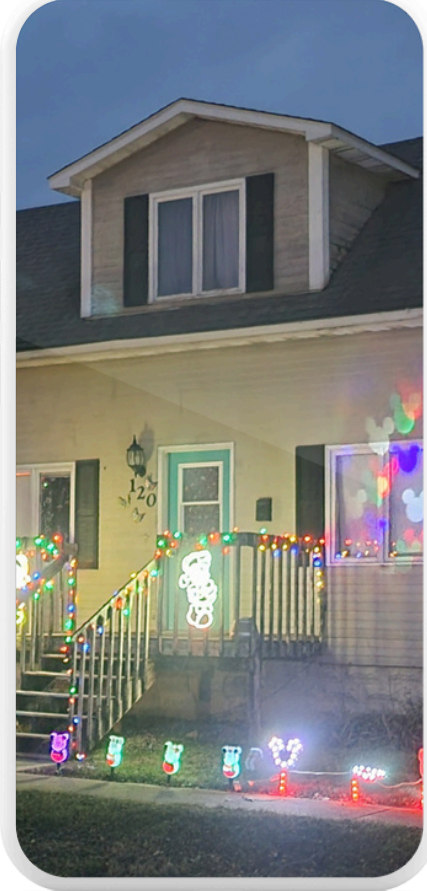
3rd Place:
Chuck & Lynn Beeker
202 Broadway St



Largest Inflatable:
Brad Jacobs 605 Grand St



Honorable Mention:
Betsy Reineck 405 East St





How Does Your Garden Grow?

Contributed by Susan King

About 10 years ago, I was diagnosed with Celiac Disease – which basically means my body does NOT like gluten (wheat, barley and rye). While this diagnosis required an immediate change to my diet, it certainly wasn't catastrophic (not being able to eat cheese, however, would have been a catastrophic diagnosis!). Thanks

to a mom and dad who instilled healthy eating habits from a young age, as an adult, I have always preferred food that is good for me vs food that tastes good, and gluten helps food taste good (you know what I mean!). The holidays are certainly the hardest on a Celiac, as around every corner, you are met with festive treats filled with the flavors of Christmas, and 99% of them are stuffed with gluten. So, while many kitchens right now are bustling with rolling pins, flour, caramel and chocolate, I'm pulling out my stock pot to start soup season. As a sidenote, wouldn't it be delightful to have a soup truck rolling down the streets of our small towns in the winter, doling out ladles of your favorite soup (there might be a small business idea here – ice cream in the summer and soup in the winter)?

First up on the King soup menu was Chicken Tortilla soup. Remember all those roasted and canned tomatoes from the plethora of tomatoes we had this summer? What a perfect base for a soup. I thought I would share my Celiac friendly (gluten free) homemade Chicken Tortilla soup recipe with you:

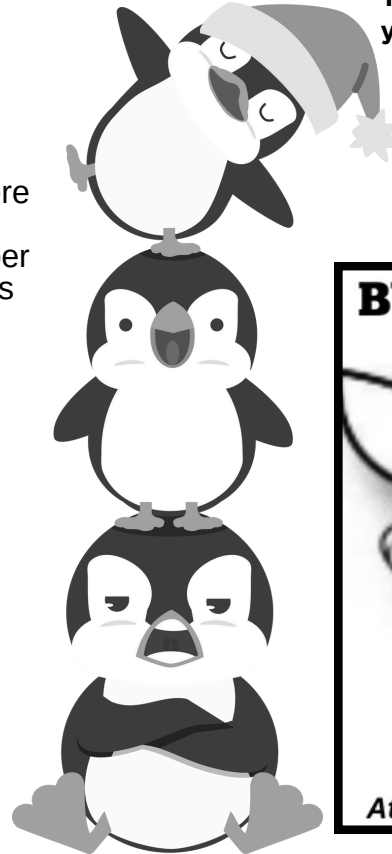
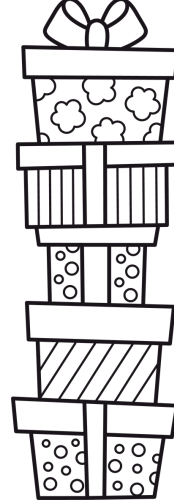
- 4 C of chicken stock
- 3 C of roasted or canned tomatoes
- 1 C of salsa verde or green enchilada sauce
- 1 4oz can of green chilies
- 1 small sautéed yellow onion
- 1 small can of corn – drained and sautéed
- 2-3 minced garlic cloves – sautéed
- 1 can of black or pinto beans – drained
- 2 tsp each of chili powder and ground cumin
- 1 tsp each of smoked paprika and oregano

Plenty of shredded rotisserie chicken (don't skimp. If it is in the title, you must add a healthy amount.)
Salt and pepper to taste.

Once your soup is done, I like to pour it over a bowl of rice and top it off with all your favorite goodies (lime juice, cilantro, cheese, avocado and of course, tortilla chips or strips).

A little more education on Celiac disease and soups - many of the store-bought soup varieties contain gluten. They use flour to thicken the soup.

You all enjoy your holiday treats and your favorite soups – Merry Christmas!!



ATTENTION PLEASE

If you do not receive a copy of the paper, or you know of someone who did not, please let us know. You can reach us via email at tricorn@newvirginia.com or call Terry at 515-249-6371.

We will see that you get a copy of the current issue. Remember, everyone living in the Interstate 35 and Martensdale/St. Marys school districts is entitled to a free subscription to the Tri-Corner-Express. Make sure you are getting your copy!

Please share this information with anyone you may know who is not receiving their issues. Thank you, The Tri-Corner-Express Team

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Christmas on the Farm

Contributed by Mel Stills

Were you naughty or nice for the last year? I'd hoped the folks had forgotten about my naughty times. We didn't start thinking about Christmas until after Thanksgiving.

Decorating focused on our tree. We never had a store-bought tree in the years I remember. Our tree was a cedar tree, cut from a nearby fence row or along a ditch on the farm. I can remember walking to the Jamison hill to find the perfect tree and dragging it back to the house. The decorations for the tree were the same as last year and the years before that. Fragile glass metallic balls of different colors. At first there were no lights on the tree but plenty of tinsel and sometimes popcorn garland. There was an old manger scene that we assembled for under the tree.

Don and Evelyn and their girls always came for Christmas. Frank and John were away in the Navy and Marines, but the house was full, and I'm sure it was loud.

I don't know what the churches in New Virginia did for Christmas Eve services, but we always went to the Methodist Church in Jamison. I don't think the church was still active at the time, but there was a Christmas Eve celebration. Ruth Norris put together a program, Bible readings, songs. The church seemed big, and everyone in the surrounding community was there. Later in the program, Santa Claus would come and pass out some little gift to each kid. Santa Claus had a strong resemblance to Frank Barnard, but I wasn't taking any chances. We would drive home after the program and gather in our kitchen for milk and cookies. There were the home-made candies, stuffed dates, fudge, divinity, peanut brittle, enough to wind up a kid. Bill Beardsley was our neighbor, and he always gave us a large sack of Christmas candy. I remember the ribbon candy and the taste of cinnamon and spice.

About 9 o'clock, a light was spotted coming over the Jamison hill, and we kids were made to believe it was Santa Claus headed our way, and we kids needed to go to bed. When I got older and Santa Claus wasn't bringing me anything, I was able to stay up later with the adults. The adults all talked, and last-minute Christmas packages were wrapped. Don Norris always had something for Evelyn that was hard to wrap. One year it was a metal chair/step stool combination. Lots of laughing at Don.

Christmas morning was filled with the noise of kids discovering what Santa Claus had brought them. The cookies and milk left on the table for Santa overnight were gone. Some packages were carefully unwrapped so that the paper could be saved for next year.

When I was little, I'd get some toy and a game I could share with my sisters. New socks, underwear, PJ's, maybe a new shirt were common. When I was about 10, brother John got me a Daisy BB gun. There wasn't a safe sparrow, starling or bluejay on the farm after that. When I got older, it was mostly clothes, and some of the magic of being a kid was gone. We spent almost every holiday with family, Hez and Helen and their kids, Donny and Chet and their girls. Evert Heinrichs seemed to show up just before we ate. Uncle Chet loved to find out how some mechanical toy we had gotten worked; it generally didn't work after he checked it out.



Virginia Boosters 4-H Club News

Written by Ella Scott, Reporter



The Virginia Boosters 4-H Club held their November meeting at 7:00 PM at the Lions Hall in New Virginia. The meeting was called to order by Brady Streeter, president. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Rosemary Seward. Our roll call for this meeting was "Favorite Thanksgiving Food" and our secretary's report was read by Brianna Fantz, secretary. Our treasurer's report was read by Drake Nelson, treasurer. There was no old business to discuss so we moved on to new business. We reviewed the newsletter. There is a backyard chickens workshop tomorrow from 6 to 7:00 p.m. 4-H Awards Night will be held November 17-- refreshments are at 4:00 p.m. and awards start at 4:30 p.m. Beef weigh-in is December 21 from 7 to 9:00 a.m. Beef and Equine Blast is December 7-- enrollment deadline is November 15. We will "Adopt a Family for Christmas" this year and the price limit per child is \$100. Our 4-H club will have a gift exchange for the December meeting. We are going to participate in the Lions Christmas Celebration on December 8, and we voted to spend \$60 on ornaments. Everyone will bring snacks to share and members giving presentations in December will be Ella Scott, Nora Nelson, and Owen Ritchey. Lastly for new business, we will have our installation of officers in December. Our 4-H Pledge was led by Charlotte Miller. Rosemary motioned to adjourn the meeting and then Lauren Miller seconded. To end the meeting we had two presentations; the first was Rosemary about butterflies. Then Sophie did a presentation on flutes.



Turkey, ham, and roast beef were part of our special meal. Each housewife brought her favorite side dishes. Cakes and pies covered one end of the table. I'd eat so much I was almost sick. After dinner, it was common for the adult males and older boys to go hunting. Nothing was safe, but we were looking for quail and pheasants. We didn't have bird dogs, but we had young boys who could go in and bust brush in hopes of flushing something out.

Christmas was a grand time on the farm. Our little house was full of people sharing sincere wishes of Christmas and the New Year. I now need to be politically correct and wish everyone Happy Holidays and a heathy New Year. Healthy seems to be our greatest gift these days.

JESUS' RIGHT HAND



By the time the Tri-Corner-Express reaches its readers, we will have completed this year's Christmas Giveaway here at Jesus' Right Hand. At the time of this writing, we have received 60 applications for help, the most we have received to date, and still have two days left until the deadline. We are preparing to receive all the food that our I-35 communities will be collected by our local Boy Scouts, and we will spend the better part of that Saturday sorting and restocking our food pantry shelves. In the busy rush of this time of year for the ministry, I sometimes find myself on autopilot, without much time to focus on anything but the tasks at hand. It is during these busy times of life that somehow God finds the time to remind me about the important things. It may be at 3 am when I'm unable to fall back asleep, or when I'm behind the wheel of Big Red on a donation run to Des Moines. It's then when God begins to show me what He has accomplished in my life and in the time span of this past year for Jesus' Right Hand.

It seems like only yesterday when we were beginning a new year, seeing increasing numbers of people coming to us for help, and wondering how we were ever going to keep up with the need. But it seemed that week after week, the supply came in...just the right amount, at just the right time. If our food donations were down that week, we just didn't have as many people as usual. But when we unloaded a lot of food, we knew that the number of people coming through the door on Monday for the giveaway would be larger. It was just so perfectly proportioned, and there was absolutely no way we could have orchestrated a more perfect outcome each week. You know, if we just stopped for a moment and thought about how perfectly everything was working together to accomplish God's purpose for what we do, there would be no denying that it was God Himself, and no one here at the ministry, that could bring it all into order. We can't even begin to count the number of times we have had someone find that one item they really needed, placed there by God for that exact time so they would find it. It's just amazing, and we see this happen every week!

We have seen such incredible changes at Jesus' Right Hand this past year. We are missing some of our volunteers who are not able to be with us regularly, and we have welcomed in some new faces that have brought a fresh perspective and renewed energy to what we do. Some of the things we have been doing for so many years have been phased out to make way for growth. But one thing has not changed; it's our commitment to reach the lost, hurting, broken-hearted, lonely and hungry with the love of God through His Son, Jesus Christ. Sometimes the method of reaching them changes, but the core of JRH will always be the love of God shown in a practical and compassionate way.

We couldn't have done it without everyone who prayed for us, encouraged us, and donated in all the wonderful and creative ways that we have experienced. God has used you to bless the people who are in need, to show them there is hope and someone who truly cares. Every box of food that goes out with someone is the food that they have chosen for their family. Those boxes may contain a bag of lettuce that was donated by a retail store, a package of hamburger buns that was donated after a big holiday picnic, some eggs that a local farmer brought by when the hens were being productive, or a box of pasta that someone

thought to drop off earlier in the week. It truly takes a village, and we live in the most generous, compassionate and caring area. You have taken care of us, so we can take care of those in need. We have been visited by directors of other food pantries, executives from the Food Bank of Iowa, CEOs of various corporations and even those serving in government office. They have all been amazed at how Jesus' Right Hand has been able to operate without resorting to fund-raising, government grants and federal subsidies. We tell them that we are blessed to live in an area where people have our backs and are there for one another when times get tough. We tell them that faith in God and trusting in His provision combined with the generosity of those who He has brought into our lives has kept the doors open since 1986. I guess that's one reason why I just love giving tours to anyone who wants to see what we do. It really keeps us grounded and reminds us that it isn't just our efforts and knowledge. If anything, just sharing what God does for us builds our faith and reinforces the history God is building with us. Plus, it strengthens us for the next mountain we will face. And for that we are truly thankful. Remember Proverbs 3:5-6, which tells us to trust in God with all our heart, and not to rely on our own understanding (and knowledge). If we acknowledge Him in all our ways, He will show us and direct our paths.

Have a wonderful Christmas and a blessed New Year. We look forward to 2025 and what God has waiting for us all!

In His Love and Service,
Jesus' Right Hand

HAPPY
HOLIDAYS

New Virginia Christian Church

Happy moments,
Praise God.

Difficult moments,
Seek God.

Quiet moments,
Worship God.

Painful moments,
Trust God.

Every moment,
Thank God.

Sunday Worship 11:00 am

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- Mitch & Anna Johnson

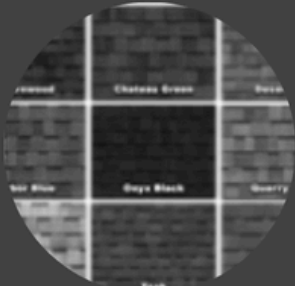


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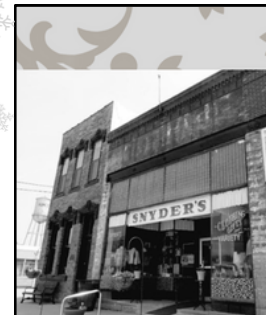


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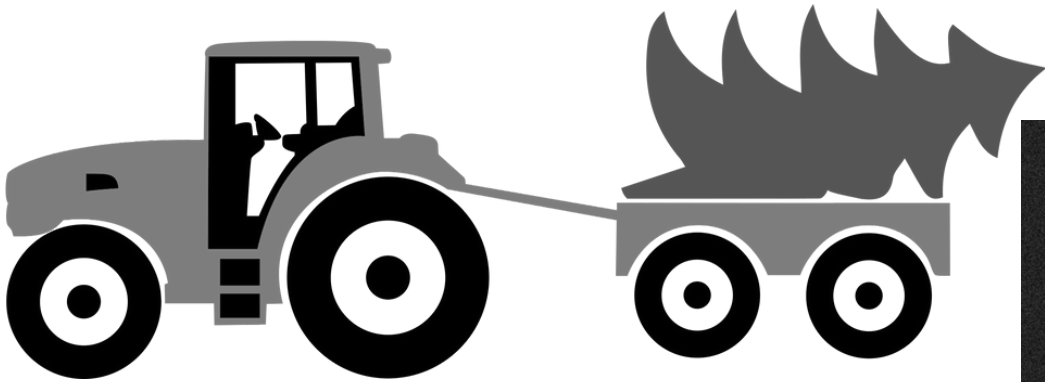
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Community Breakfast: 2nd
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News Release

Loans Now Available to Agricultural Producers for Controlled Atmosphere Storage to Extend the Shelf Life of Perishable Commodities

DES MOINES, Iowa, Dec. 4, 2024 – Agricultural producers of perishable commodities including fruits, vegetables and floriculture can now get funding for controlled atmosphere storage through Farm Storage Facility Loans (FSFL) offered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA). Controlled atmosphere storage regulates the concentrations of oxygen, carbon dioxide and nitrogen in a storage room to increase the shelf life of crops.

In addition to now supporting controlled atmosphere storage, FSFLs also provide low-interest financing to help producers build or upgrade storage facilities and to purchase portable (new or used) structures, equipment and storage and handling trucks.

The low-interest funds can also be used for controlled atmosphere storage monitoring equipment, designed to notify facility owners immediately if potential atmospheric concerns are detected. Producers may renovate existing storage facilities to include controlled atmosphere storage monitoring equipment. Authorized loan terms for FSFL renovations are three and five years only.

To assist with monitoring gases and particle concentrations for controlled atmosphere storage, the following equipment, but not limited to, is eligible for an FSFL:

- Optical oxygen sensor.
- Low power CO2 sensor.
- Air quality sensor.
- Gas detection devices.
- Air temperature and relative humidity sensor.
- Water activity meter.
- Temperature stabilized water activity analyzer.
- Precision and performance humidity and temperature transmitter.

Loans of up to \$50,000 can be secured by a promissory note/security agreement, loans between \$50,000 and \$100,000 may require additional security and loans exceeding \$100,000 require additional security. FSFL borrowers do not need to demonstrate lack of commercial credit availability to apply. The loans are designed to assist a diverse range of agricultural operations, including small and mid-sized businesses, new farmers and ranchers, operations supplying local food and farmers markets, non-traditional farm products and underserved producers.

For more information, see the FSFL fact sheet and contact FSA at your local USDA Service Center.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender.

Creating and Expanding Your Small Food Processing Business

Join us for a two-hour program covering several topics on Thursday, January 30th, from 6-8 pm. Two Iowa State University Extension experts will present topics important to small Iowa food processors. Presentation information will include:

1) Starting a small food processing business in your home/farm – learn about Iowa's cottage/home-based food law and how it supports building small businesses from your home.

2) When creating processed foods to sell to the public, what is essential to have on your food label to meet the current Iowa law.

3) Food safety discussion covering topics such as:

- (1) The Importance of Food Safety
- (2) Proper Food Handling Practices
- (3) Cleanliness and Sanitation
- (4) Pest Control Measures
- (5) Common Food Safety Hazards and Prevention

In addition to this program, from 5:30-6 p.m., 4–15-minute slots will be open to meet with our experts. Penny Brown Huber is the Iowa Food Business Specialist, and her role is to work entirely with small Iowa food processors, assisting them in building their businesses. Daniela Lopez is a food safety specialist working for Iowa State University Human Sciences.

Thursday, January 30th, 2025
6:00-8:00pm
**CREATING & EXPANDING YOUR SMALL
FOOD PROCESSING BUSINESS**
Free Workshop-Light Snacks Provided

Location:
Warren County Extension & Outreach
200 W 2nd Avenue
Indianola, IA 50125

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Continued from page 11.....

Another thing I noticed were these grassy pothole looking places out in the fields. They call them sloughs, (pronounced slew), which we do too, but theirs were mostly roundish, and just laying out in the middle of a field (like a pothole). Seems the glaciers left them there along with a bunch of rocks, and they just farm around them. Some were big and covered a good-sized area, and others were small, circular things that didn't amount to much. Good ol' Google says I was right in the middle of the Prairie Pothole Region (PPR). They fill with water in the spring, creating wetlands, some temporary and some permanent. Migrating waterfowl use these during breeding and nesting season.

And there were plenty of cattle. Where you saw big herds of cattle, you also saw windbreaks (not the tree kind), placed out in those vast pastures. I mentioned to Matt about the blizzard they had a few years ago up there when they lost huge amounts of cattle. He called it a snirt storm. Snow and dirt. The wind gathers up the snow along with the dirt blowing around, and it gets up in their noses and they suffocate. Usually, they bring the cattle home from the summer pastures to winter close to home, and the blizzard rolled in early, and they couldn't get to them in time. The snow just covered them up.

I got to Matt's house late in the afternoon on Thursday, we visited some and I met his dogs. Then I drove into Carrington and got a room at the Chieftan. Matt came in that evening, and we had supper together. Friday morning, I headed back out to Matt's house, picked up Tank, and we flew home again, taking in all that beautiful scenery. Another thing I noticed about the drive, was no one was loafing in the passing lane. If you needed to pass someone (and I did), you passed them, then got back in the right lane and got after it. No left lane loafers up there! I could tell when I got back in Iowa because everyone was hanging out in the passing lane (my lane) like they were standing in line to get the last biscuit. The next time I go up there, I'd like to stay longer and do more exploring!

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~ References Available ~

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720 Orchard Hills Drive,

Norwalk, IA 50211

Fr. Daniel Kirby

Mass Monday evenings at 5:30 p.m.

(During Lent.)

Mass : First Sunday of the month at 10:30

a.m. (Rosary at 10:10 a.m.)

St. Patrick's Irish Settlement

3396 155th St., Cumming, IA 50061

Fr. Thomas Dooley 515-462-1083

Mass: Sunday 8 am

Religious Ed: Ginny Darr, ginginery@aol.com

or call 515-707-9243

Martensdale Community Church

(An Evangelical Free Church)

3953 Hoover St. PO Box 200

Martensdale, IA 50160

1 mile north of Martensdale on Hwy 28

Pastor: Jeremy Kidder

641-764-2491

Associate Pastor: Daniel Moore

Sunday Worship 9:00 am

Bible Study: 10:30 am

Sr. High Youth 6 pm Sunday

Awana: 6:30 pm Wed., Sept. thru Apr.

Jr. High Youth 6:30 pm Wed., Sept. thru Apr.

www.mcc-church.com

Fairview Community Church

19705 Hwy 69 Indianola, IA 50125

515-961-6069

Pastor Gearold McElwee

Cell 515-669-5519

Sunday School: 9:30 am

Sun. Morning Worship 10:30 am

Sun. Evening Worship 5:30 pm

Cubi Club & Twenty/20 - 5:30 pm

Adult Endeavor - 6:00 pm

Wed. Bible Study & Youth Classes 7 pm

Grace Baptist Church

304 Knotts Street

New Virginia, IA 50210

Pastor Michael Mattson

www.gbcnv.org

Sunday Worship: 10:30 am

Thursday Evening:

Bible Study 6:30 pm

St. Charles Parish

305 W. Main St., PO Box 208

St. Charles, IA 50240

Pastor: Darin Feikema

641-396-2441

www.saintcharlesparish.org

Sunday School 9 am

Worship Service 9:45 am

Fellowship Time: 11 am

Truro United Church of Christ

155 E. Garfield St., P.O. Box 17

Truro, IA 50257

Contact: Riley Dykstra, Student Pastor

Cell: 515-865-9392

Church: 641-765-4524

Email: truroccchurch@gmail.com

Worship 10:00 am

Coffee & Fellowship: 11:00 am

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Religious Ed - Sunday morning

following Mass

Michelle Fick (Director) 641-297-2259

Calvary Baptist Church

109 N. Hartman St. Charles, IA 50240

641-396-2234

Pastor Doug Helton 641-396-2747

Sunday School - 9:30 AM

Worship - 10:30 AM

Wed. Prayer, Adult Bible Study - 6:30 PM

Faith Fellowship Church

164 Highway 152,

Osceola, IA 50213

641-342-6603

Pastor: Scott Davis

Youth Pastor: Tyler Murrow

oefc@iowatelecom.net

Sunday School 9:00 am

Worship: 10:00 am

New Virginia Christian Church

(Disciples of Christ)

604 Main Street. / Box 112

New Virginia, IA 50210

Pastor: Darin Feikema

515-490-4444 Cell: 515-770-3713

Sunday Worship: 11 AM

New Virginia United Methodist Church

301 West Street / Box 301

New Virginia, IA 50210

641-449-3779

Pastor Paul Burrow

515-402-1802

Pastor's email: burrowpi@yahoo.com

Church email: NewVA-

Medora@outlook.com

Sunday Worship: 10:30 AM

Fellowship following Worship Service

Quilters Tuesday 1-4 PM

Necessities Pantry open 2nd Wednesday

10-11 AM & 6:00-7:00 PM

Like us on Facebook:

New Virginia United Methodist Church

Medora United Methodist Church

10804 Hwy G-76 / Box 301

New Virginia, IA 50210

641-449-3779

Pastor Paul Burrow

515-402-1802

Pastor's email: burrowpi@yahoo.com

Church email: NewVA-

Medora@outlook.com

Sunday School: 9:15 AM (children)

Worship: 9 AM

Quilters: 1:00 P.M. Thursday

Church of Christ

10985 44th Lane Prole, IA 50229

Sunday Worship: 10 AM & 6 PM

Wednesday Worship: 7 PM

Elder: Duane Proudfit 515-961-4470

Elder: Mike Penick 515-989-4165

Deacon: Fred Bown 641-764-2484

Deacon: Richard Bown: 641-764-2765

Linn Grove United Methodist Church

7483 50th Ave

(4 miles north of Martensdale)

(1 block east of Hwy 28)

Prole, IA 50229

Pastor: Bernie Colorado

515-981-4062

Sunday Breakfast: 8 - 9:30 AM

(free will offering)

Traditional & Children Sunday Worship 10 AM

Adult Sunday School-1st & 3rd Sunday 11:15 AM

Pastor's email: bernieco2003@yahoo.com

St. Paul Lutheran (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America)

ELCA

615 Iowa Ave / P.O. Box 290

Martensdale, IA 50160

641-764-2752

office@mystpaullutheran.com

Worship: 10:00 AM

LifePoint Church

801 N. Fillmore St.

Osceola, IA 50213

641-342-2334

Pastor Chuck DeVos

www.lifepointministries.net

info@lifepointministries.net

Sunday Worship @ 9:00 am & 10:30 am

Classes @ 9:00 am Wednesdays @ 6:30 pm

Peru United Methodist Church

301 Brown St.,

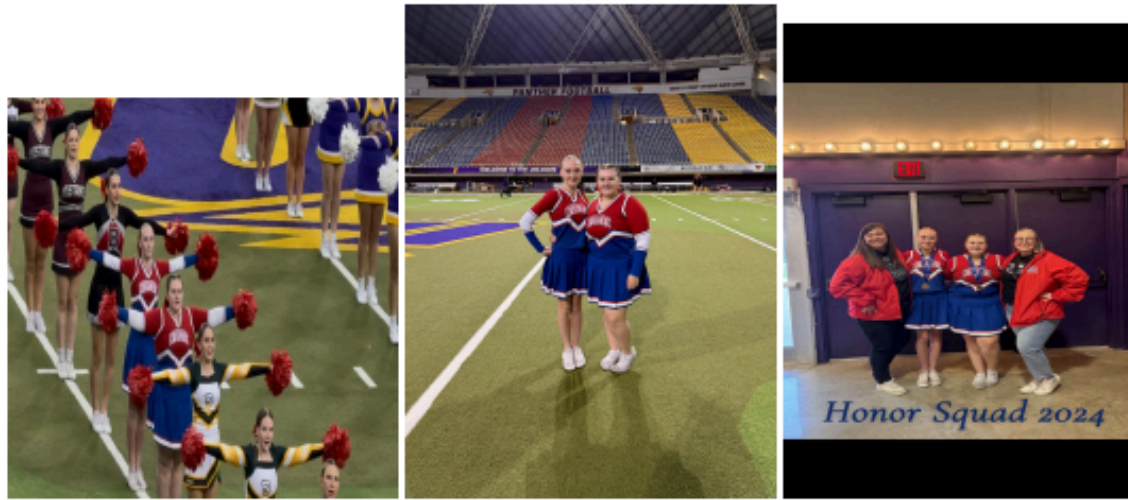
Peru, IA 50222

Pastor Sharman Eaton

Social Time @ 8:30 am

Coffee and Snacks

Worship 9:00 am



Interstate 35 Cheerleaders went back to the dome after 10 years

of not being there! We sent two cheerleaders, Madaline Cole and Kiera O'Hair to represent us in the Iowa Honor Cheer Squad. On November 22nd we watched them walk on the field where the High School District Football Championships were held. They performed twice at the 2A and 3A championship halftimes. The girls had three practices before performing. There were 250 cheerleaders who participated from around the state of Iowa who came to Cedar Falls to perform! There was a dance, cheers, chants and stunts all performed for fans and players. The last time I-35 was able to send cheerleaders was in 2013. Coaches Shandara Beener and Nicole Faith decided to take the leap and send two of our cheerleaders to represent our school and team. It was a huge honor and success. We hope to join in more activities, community events and competitions like these to gain exposure for our wonderful school and what we represent. We hope to keep raising the bar for the cheer program in high school and beyond.



HAPPY NEW YEAR!

HAVE YOU HEARD THE NEWS?

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**HAPPY
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