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February 20, 2025



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

ABANDONED TOWNS AND POST OFFICES OF MADISON COUNTY

Contributed by Karma Kimzey

Here is the third and final article on the abandoned towns, villages and Post Offices in the counties of Warren, Clarke and Madison that are part of our Tri-Corner-Express newspaper circulation area. As in the previous articles, I have included a few facts on some existing towns in or close to our area.

UNION TOWNSHIP

Winterset/Independence: In 1849, Independence was the name of the Post Office for a short time that soon became the town of Winterset. After many discussions by the Commissioners who were hoping for the County seat to be on their farm or their chosen location, Winterset was finally picked as closest to the most populated areas of the settlers. Independence was the original name suggested by the Commissioners, but as there was another town with that name, it was changed. Summerset became the second suggestion, but as it was December and a colder one than usual, it was suggested that it be changed to Winterset. All of the Commissioners were not in favor of the name, arguing that future travelers would be concerned about having "Winter" as part of the name when deciding their new homestead's location. It was mentioned there was a Winterset, North Carolina, and that fact changed many minds.

Montpelier: In section 26 of Union Township, Montpelier was the first Post Office in the county from 1848 to 1849 at Tileville. It was moved to the center of the county where Winterset is now and renamed Independence.

Tileville: (Narrows) A hamlet in the late 1840's where the Montpelier Post Office was located. Tileville was also the name of a railroad station four miles east of Winterset where the original hamlet stood.

Gilpin: The Post Office was established November 9, 1885, and discontinued January 9, 1888. H. L. Bigelow was the first and only Postmaster.

CRAWFORD TOWNSHIP

The first permanent settler in Crawford Township was Hiam Hurst, April 1, 1846. He inhabited an old bark wick-i-up left partially by the Indians.

Ellsworth: A Post Office was established August 3, 1861, and discontinued August 19, 1873. Oliver Crawford was the first Postmaster, and the mail was supplied via a route leading from Des Moines to Winterset.

Bevington: A Post Office was established June 4, 1872. Bevington is a business point in Crawford Township and a part of it is in Warren County. It has a population of 125. It is 12 miles east of Winterset and on the Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific Railroad line. It was laid out on March 19, 1872, by John Williams, owner of the land and named after Dr. C. D. Bevington, a leading citizen of Winterset. The first home was built in 1872. That fall, Felix McManus erected a building and operated a general merchandise store. Later an independent school, church and bank were erected.

Patterson: The Post Office was established June 10, 1872, and the land platted March 5, 1872. It was the intent of the landowner, Alexander Pattison, to name the town Pattison, but the name was misspelled on the plat when it was filed and recorded. The town was located on the Winterset to Des Moines branch of the Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific Railroad. It became a good trading post and shipped large numbers of cattle and hogs annually. The first house was built on a lot purchased by L. C. Duane. S. I. Catterlin built a store building and stocked goods he bought in Winterset. A lumber yard, a drug store, doctor's office, an elevator, and hardware store were built. In 1877, the Eureka Flour Mill was erected. It was a two-story frame with a basement, had four run of stone, with a patent process and cost about \$6,000. The mill was later operated by Pattison and Bell, and in 1880, it was destroyed by fire. The first school was in 1874. A Methodist Church, Christian Church and Baptist Church were all built about the same time. It was incorporated on October 27, 1877.

LINCOLN TOWNSHIP

Ord: A Post Office was established in 1888 and went out of commission June 15, 1905. The Postmasters sold stamps and handed out letters at this location.

Price: A Post Office was established June 8, 1876 and discontinued in November of that year. L. C. McKibben was the Postmaster.

SCOTT TOWNSHIP

Buffalo: A hamlet on the southeast side of Middle River and about one and a half miles south of Winterset. Its mill was its main enterprise. It flourished from the 1850's into the 1880's.

Richmond/ Amazon: Laid out as a town in 1849. Its only building was a store. The Post Office was named Amazon.

Foster: The Post Office was established November 7, 1879, located first at the home of Nathaniel Foster in Walnut Township and then at the home of George Orr in Scott Township. The office was discontinued October 30, 1882. Mail from Winterset, Foster, Gear to Murray.

SOUTH TOWNSHIP

Bell's Ridge: The Post Office was established October 31, 1851, and discontinued November 27, 1854. Henry Bell was the Postmaster. It was learned from a letter that A. D. Bell was the mail carrier, that he was sworn in by Judge Pitzer, and the mail was brought every Thursday to Winterset.

Continued on page 22.....

Council Meeting Minutes, February 3, 2025

The Council met in regular session on Monday February 3rd, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. for the February council meeting. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Strange with Council Members Dunkin, Bailey, Taylor and Truman present. Absent Galivan. Minutes from the January meeting were approved.

Old business discussed: No new updates and no items or issues to discuss.

Citizen Input: Eric Brown was present to discuss with the Council his interest in possibly purchasing the 401 West Street property, formerly known as Bill's 1st Stop. Brown is interested in opening a small car lot of five or less vehicles. Brown is also considering selling fuel and a small convenience store with BBQ food items. Brown will need a zoning letter from the City of New Virginia for the Department of Transportation approving the location for a dealership license as well as a recycler/rebuilder's license. An approval letter will be drafted to the Iowa Department of Transportation.

Councilmember Dunkin was approached by a citizen about the possibility of the City hiring a maintenance person. Mayor Strange mentioned the need for planning meetings to discuss future needs and projects.

Updates to the Tri-Corner-Express By-Laws were reviewed. Bailey moved, seconded by Taylor to approve the Tri-Corner-Express By-Laws pending final updates from this meeting's discussions are reviewed by the Council. A roll call vote was taken: 4 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.

Water Utilities discussed: During the month of January, the top half of the water tower drain pipe fell to the ground. The bottom half of the drain pipe remains intact and secured to the riser pipe. Maguire Iron has been contacted about this issue. An onsite visit will be scheduled for repair recommendations and price quotes.

Fire Department Business: Fire Truck 769 update – Fire Chief, Jake Zuercher, was informed that the skid unit water tank was damaged and now the manufacturer is waiting for a new tank so the skid unit can be rebuilt again. After the skid unit is installed, the truck will have to go back to Karl's Chevrolet for some final work before it is ready to be put in service.

The Council was informed that during the process of working on the City budget, it was discovered during the re-estimation of the current 2024-25 budget, there has not been any tax monies received from Virginia Township other than \$122.08 in July, 2024. It appears the tax levy rate for fire and ambulance in Virginia Township did not get certified. The Virginia Township Clerk has a call into the Warren County Attorney for guidance on this major issue. The City Clerk was directed to contact the City Attorney regarding this matter.

Law Enforcement: The January Sheriff's Report was not received prior to this meeting. Mayor Strange was given an explanation of why the monthly Sheriff's Report shows rural address calls for service. Due to software changes with the GIS and Geo-Comm Mapping Systems, extra calls for service are currently being pulled into the monthly reports. The Sheriff's Office is working with Global/TAC10 to address this, but a solution could take a few months.

Dunkin moved, seconded by Taylor to approve the City of New Virginia assuming financial responsibility of all remaining New Virginia Area Development Corporation City State Bank accounts. A roll call vote was taken: 4 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.

The 2025-26 City Budget was reviewed and discussed. The Iowa Department of Management will be consulted to verify all rates and amounts are within the guidelines allowed.

The possibility of a middle school clean-up day was discussed.

There are various clean-up projects that can be worked on.

The City Clerk was given the ok to inform the school staff member to plan for the event.

GAMP UPDATE

Two bags of Ice Melt have been purchased for the GAMP Community Building. After numerous attempts at trying to contact Cintas requesting quotes for cleaning supplies and other services, there has been no response back. Other options were discussed including Aramark, Ecolab and Capital Sanitary Supply. The fire department has been using Capital Sanitary Supply for several years. Capital Sanitary Supply will be contacted about providing further cleaning supplies and other services for the City.

There will be a meeting on Thursday, February 20th at 6:30 p.m. to discuss the food venue for the truck pull scheduled for June 28th.

KEEP IOWA BEAUTIFUL PROGRAM

Upcoming Events in 2025: February 16, Sunday 2-5 p.m. music jam @ GAMP Community Bldg.; March 16, Sunday 2-5 p.m. music jam @ GAMP Community Bldg.; March 29, Saturday 7-10 p.m. – Country Dance @ NV Legion Hall; April 27, Sunday 2-4 p.m. - Kite Flying Event; July 11-13 – NV Old Settlers; September 21, Sunday - End of Summer Social (confirmed – location Hickory Hills); October – NV Trunk or Treat; November – country dance (Tentative); December 12 (Friday) & December 13 (Saturday) Christmas Home Tour. The consideration of an additional artwork mural has been tabled. The Committee is looking for new avenues for getting information out to the public. New merchandise considerations include T-shirts and stickers.

ELF CLUB

The star Christmas tree topper has been taken down and placed in the City storage unit. The lights on the Christmas tree only worked to about halfway up the tree due to a broken wire/bulb. This problem will be taken care of before next Christmas season. It was mentioned that the electrical plug-in below the Christmas tree only works sporadically. Councilman Taylor will trouble-shoot the electrical outlet.

TRI-CORNER-EXPRESS

Updates to the Tri-Corner-Express By-Laws were approved pending final updates from this meeting's discussions being reviewed by the Council.

Updates to the City software will go live on February 12th, 2025.

Old Settlers city-wide garage sale will be Saturday May 3rd, 2025.

City-wide curbside clean-up day will be Saturday May 10th, 2025.

Recommendations from accounting firm Denman & Company regarding the periodic exam of City financials and records were reviewed. A written report from Denman & Company listing the recommendations will be delivered soon.

Emails about House File 718, Iowa Finance Authority and property tax survey were discussed.

Truman moved, seconded by Dunkin to approve payment of all City bills. A roll call vote was taken: 4 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.

With no further business to come forth, Dunkin moved, seconded by Truman to adjourn meeting. A roll call vote was taken: 4 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 9:43 p.m.

The March council meeting is scheduled for Monday March 3rd, 2025, at 7:00 p.m.

March meeting date – Monday March 3rd, 2025, at 7:00 p.m.

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.



Jennifer Baughman, City Clerk

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.

BINGO

@ NV Lions Hall 503 West St

	Soup Supper		
		with Grilled Cheese	
February 16 2025		4:30 pm to 5:30 pm	
		BINGO	
Progressive Blackout = \$78.50		and half the sales	

Rent? Contact Ron Kirkpatrick 515-250-5116

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

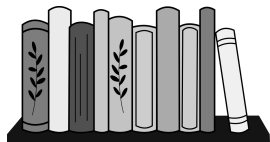
Deposit \$125.00 due at time of reservation, rental fee due prior to event.

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



★★★★★
BOOK REVIEW

No Middle Name
The Complete Collected Jack Reacher Stories
by Lee Child
Reviewed by Sue Stills



City of New Virginia	
January	Deposits
General	\$2,743.06
GAMP	\$317.66
Fire	\$5,540.14
Elf Club	\$ 0.00
Road Use	\$4,431.90
LOST	\$8,435.86
Debit Service	\$12.30
Water Utilities	\$9,456.29
Grand Total	\$30,937.21

NEW VIRGINIA FEBRUARY CLAIMS REPORT

VENDOR	REFERENCE	AMOUNT	CHECK #	CHECK DATE
ALLIANT ENERGY	ELECTRIC/GAS/STREET LIGHTS	\$1,101.45	15599	2/2/2025
BOUND TREE	MEDICAL SUPPLIES	\$403.76	15606	2/4/2025
BRENT BAUGHMAN	MILEAGE - FIRE & WATER	\$117.23	15607	2/4/2025
ELAN FINANCIAL SERVICES	TECHNOLOGY/GOOGLE SUITE	\$158.78	15600	2/2/2025
HY-VEE	MEDICATIONS	\$635.24	15609	2/4/2025
IOWA PUBLIC RETIREMENT SYSTEM	IPERS	\$428.65	16326761	2/3/2025
INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE	FED/FICA TAX	\$479.40	16326762	2/3/2025
J&L SANITATION	GARBAGE SERVICE - CITY	\$62.00	15611	2/4/2025
ONE BILLING SOLUTIONS LLC	AMBULANCE BILLING	\$1,129.73	15617	2/9/2025
LINDE GAS & EQUIPMENT INC.	OPERATING SUPPLIES	\$135.41	15612	2/4/2025
IMPACT COMMUNITY ACTION PARTNE	ANNUAL FUNDING	\$740.00	15613	2/4/2025
T.R.M. DISPOSAL LLC	SPRING CLEANUP MAY 2024	\$1,260.78	15601	2/2/2025
WASTE MANAGEMENT	RECYCLING	\$1,181.90	15618	2/9/2025
WEX FLEET UNIVERSAL	VEHICLE FUEL	\$197.35	15615	2/4/2025
WINDSTREAM	TELEPHONE/INTERNET	\$550.30	15616	2/4/2025
Total General		\$8,581.98		
ALLIANT ENERGY	ELECTRIC/GAS/STREET LIGHTS	\$1,369.06	15599	2/2/2025
HUSTON'S LAWN/SNOW REMOVAL	SNOW REMOVAL JANUARY 2ND	\$297.50	15608	2/4/2025
Total Road Use		\$1,666.56		
ANCEL KENNEDY	SERVICE	\$125.00	15605	2/4/2025
BRENT BAUGHMAN	MILEAGE - FIRE & WATER	\$82.80	15607	2/4/2025
ELAN FINANCIAL SERVICES	OFFICE SUPPLIES - PAPER	\$19.49	15600	2/2/2025
HUSTON'S LAWN/SNOW REMOVAL	TESTING WATER	\$100.00	15608	2/4/2025
IOWA DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE	SALES TAX FOR 2024	\$378.00	16326759	1/31/2025
IOWA DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE	WET TAX DECEMBER 2024	\$479.47	16326760	1/31/2025
IA ONE CALL	METER LOCATES OCTOBER 2024	\$3.80	15610	2/4/2025
IOWA PUBLIC RETIREMENT SYSTEM	IPERS	\$362.57	16326761	2/3/2025
INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE	FED/FICA TAX	\$415.49	16326762	2/3/2025
WARREN WATER DISTRICT	WATER USAGE/LOAN PAYMENT	\$5,196.00	15614	2/4/2025
Total Water Utilities		\$7,162.62		
GENERAL		\$2,307.37		
WATER		\$1,945.43		
Total Payroll Paid		\$4,252.80		
***** REPORT TOTAL *****		\$21,663.96		

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

Book Club March 19th 4pm!
Junior Book Club March 5th at 6pm!
www.newvirginia.lib.ia.us

New Books:
Lie for a Million by Janet Dailey
The Stolen Queen by Fiona Davis
Shattering Dawn by Jayne Ann Krentz

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

CITY OF ST. CHARLES

St. Charles City Council Meeting February 10, 2025

The St. Charles City Council met in regular session on February 10, 2025, 6:30 p.m. at St. Charles City Hall. Mayor Smith called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m. with the following Council present: Allison, Brockett, Blomme, and Kozak. Also present: Fire Chief Schaffer, Library Board Director Blair, Gateway and Old Settlers Director Seibert, SICO representative Niestadt, and one guest.

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion by Allison, second by Blomme, to approve agenda. Roll: Ayes – unanimous. Motion passes.

2. CONSENT AGENDA:

a. Council meeting minutes for 1-13-2025 and 1-14-2025

b. Treasurer's Report for January 2025

c. Claims and Receipts Report for February 2025

d. Consider approval of Casey's Liquor License Renewal

Motion by Blomme, second by Brockett, to approve consent agenda. Roll: Ayes – unanimous. Motion passes.

Motion passes.

3. SHERIFF'S REPORT: There were 42.29 patrol hours, 31 traffic stops, and 2 calls during January.

4. SICO: Terry Niestadt from the Southern Iowa Council of Governments discussed opportunities available for the City of St. Charles and our residents.

5. PUBLIC FORUM: Randall Lane asked how often hydrant flushing took place. Mr. Lane also discussed North Cross St. and road grading with the Council.

6. DEPARTMENT REPORTS

a. Public Works – Snowplows have been prepped and ready for our first major snowfall.

b. Fire/Rescue – Chief Schaffer stated the Fire/Rescue department's heavy call volume continues with 30 calls in 2025.

c. Library – A new craft time will take place once a month for all ages. Patrons are encouraged to call the library for information. Councilman Blomme asked Board Director Blair for a 5-year report of library usage.

d. Gateway – A business directory is being assembled to be distributed throughout St. Charles. A May 10th Grab and Gab will be held in conjunction with the St. Charles Lion's BBQ competition.

e. Old Settlers – Board Director Seibert reported the 2025 Old Settlers dates will be July 18th and 19th.

f. Mayor – A SICO meeting will be held in Winterset on February 27th. Councilman Blomme will plan to attend.

g. Clerk – A possible new driveway will be installed at a property along Truro Road. The owner has been asked to follow the Madison County Ordinance for the installation.

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a. House on Main Street – A letter will be sent to the owner with a deadline given for the exterior work to be completed.

b. Hinterland Music Festival – A temporary rezoning meeting will take place in Warren County on February 13th.

c. G&H Asphalt was contacted about crack sealing. The Council discussed how to proceed with a fix.

8. NEW BUSINESS

a. Summer 2025 Road Projects – Bids will be sought to overlay the asphalt portion of Main Street.

b. Consider approval of Tax Levy Rate for FY 26 – A property tax levy rate of 10.5389 percent is planned. This is a small decrease from FY 25. Motion by Allison, second by Kozak to move forward with the planned property tax levy rate. Roll: Ayes – unanimous. Motion passes.

c. Set Public Hearing Date FY 26 Property Tax Levy for March 24, 2025, 6:30 p.m. Motion by Brockett, second by Blomme to approve the public hearing date. Roll: Ayes – unanimous. Motion passes.

9. COUNCIL COMMENTS/DISCUSSION: Budget for the fiscal year 26 was discussed.

10. ADJOURN

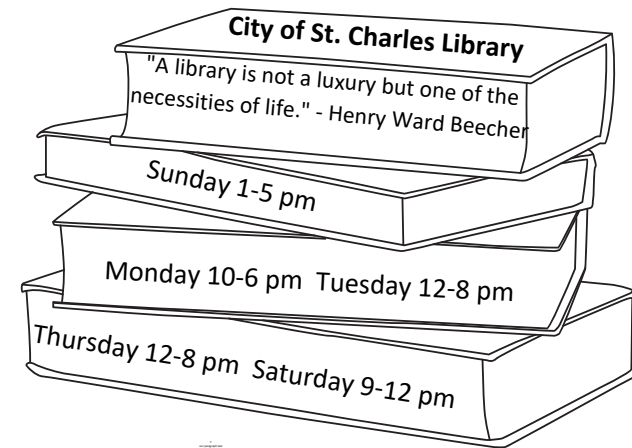
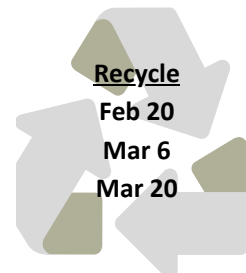
Being there was no further business; meeting was adjourned at 8:22 p.m.

Motion by Allison, second by Kozak, to adjourn. Roll: Ayes – unanimous. Motion passes.

THE
Gateway
ST. CHARLES
WELCOME CENTER & EVENT VENUE

CHECK OUT THIS UNIQUE VENUE
FOR GRADUATION PARTIES
OR
FAMILY GATHERINGS

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





Thank You!

TRURO PUBLIC LIBRARY/NEW VIRGINIA LIBRARY

Brownstone Book Fund FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Both of these libraries has just received a gift of 100 new children’s books, ranging from pre-kindergarten through early readers. These books were a donation from the Brownstone Book Fund, a private foundation in New York City, interested in fostering early reading, a love of books and encouraging parents and children to read together. Come to the Truro Public Library or the New Virginia Public Library to explore and enjoy their new collections!



LARRY & DIXIE LOW February 12 1965-2025

Interstate 35 Elementary School Awarded Grant for “Beep Beep Network” Student News Program

Interstate 35 Elementary School is thrilled to announce that it has been awarded a Foundation for Rural Service grant for its innovative “Beep Beep Network” student-run news program. Launched in 2023, the program has already seen significant growth and success this year.

Led by Library Associate Nicole Wilson, the “Beep Beep Network” is open to fifth and sixth-grade students who produce a new show every day. The program focuses on student-led writing and encourages kids to identify and research subjects that interest them. Students learn the objective journalistic process, gaining skills both in front of and behind the camera, from lighting to conducting interviews.

With the new grant, the school will be able to purchase new hardware and update its technology, enhancing the quality of the program. The group started the 2024 school year with 28 students participating; however, with the new semester they now have 48. Students dedicate two days a week, for about 50 minutes per session, to produce the daily show. The program is broadcast on the school website, and the team hopes to expand their network with more field trip reporting sessions in the future.

To join the “Beep Beep Network,” students must receive a recommendation from one of their teachers and apply for the news group, teaching them real-life job application skills. At the end of the semester, new students will have the opportunity to apply.

The grant was secured by I-35 Elementary School principal Danielle Woods, in collaboration with local company OmniTel Communications, a member of the National Telecommunications Cooperative Association (NTCA). The funds from the Foundation for Rural Service (FRS) will be used to continue to expand and improve the “Beep Beep Network” during the 2024-2025 school year and beyond!

About Interstate 35 Elementary: Interstate 35 Elementary School is a vibrant and innovative educational institution committed to providing a nurturing and engaging learning environment for its students. The school district is comprised of the communities for Truro, St. Charles, and New Virginia.

About Foundation for Rural Service (FRS): The Foundation for Rural Service (FRS) is a non-profit organization that aims to support rural communities across the United States by providing grants, scholarships, and educational programs. FRS is dedicated to promoting the quality of life in rural areas by supporting initiatives in business and economic development, community development, education, and telecommunications applications. Through its annual Community Grants Program, FRS provides financial assistance to local projects that enhance the well-being of rural residents and foster sustainable growth.

About OmniTel Communications: OmniTel Communications, based in Nora Springs, IA, is a locally owned and operated company that has been providing service to rural and urban Iowans for over 120 years. With its global reach and state-of-the-art 100% Fiber Optic Multi-Gig network, OmniTel continues to provide the most advanced and cost-effective service offerings in the industry for broadband Internet, digital voice and video solutions. For more information, please visit OmniTel.biz.

For more information, about the Interstate 35 Elementary and the “Beep Beep Network” please contact: Danielle Woods, Principal Interstate 35 Elementary School at dwoods@i-35.k12.ia.us , or Nicole Wilson, Library Associate at nwilson@i-35.k12.ia.us. For more information about OmniTel Communications, NTCA and the Foundation for Rural Service, please contact Michael Hanson at: mhanson@omnitel.biz 5





**Truro City Council Minutes
January 13, 2025
Community Center**



**Truro City Council Minutes
February 3, 2025
Community Center**

Mayor Bryan Arzani presided over and called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Lyndsay Cannoy, Matt Masters, Ancel Kennedy, Julie McMichael, and Jason Phillips were present. Public Works Director Ronnie Hults was also present, as well as, Sheriff Jason Barnes, Emergency Management Director Mitch Johnson and Terry Stills from Truro Fire and Rescue. From the public, Rebecca Morris, Carl Sells, and Lora Sims were signed in to address the council.

Arzani asked for a motion to approve the Agenda. Kennedy/McMichael motioned to approve the agenda. All Ayes motion carried.

Carl Sells from the public addressed the council regarding speed limit laws and safety concerns from coming into town from different directions to Truro. He read a statement and submitted it for the record to the city clerk.

Lora Sims addressed the council speaking on behalf of her father regarding he would like to keep serving the community for his business of garbage pick up. She stated they have served the community for 45 years and would like to continue doing business in Truro. This is in reference to the possible consolidation of garbage pick up for the city of Truro.

The Sheriff's report was reviewed.

No report from Emergency Management, but Barnes introduced Mitch Johnson, the new Emergency Management Director.

Fire Chief Stills reported there were 10 medical calls and 6 fire calls last month. He also reported the Tanker is not working and are working on grants to purchase another one. Stills also said Fire & Rescue shopped with kids for the holiday season in December. Stills stated two people are completing the EMT course and one is completing the paramedic requirements.

Public Director Hults gave the Waste Management and Water Report.

A motion by Masters/Cannoy was made to approve the Resolution 2025-5 Appointment of the City Clerk, Janelle Adams, the city Attorney, Jordan, Oliver, Walters & Smith, P.C. and the official newspaper the Winterset Madisonian. All Ayes motion carried.

A motion was made by Phillips/McMichael to set the date for a budget workshop for January 22, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. All Ayes motion carried.

A motion was made by Kennedy/Phillips to open the public hearing for the first reading for the proposed ordinance to restrict use on Center Street between West Street and Railroad Street to commercial only. All Ayes motion carried. Arzani read Ordinance No 150 aloud to the council and public. Shawn Smith spoke on behalf of his parents against the proposed ordinance for commercial only on Center Street questioning how much good this will really benefit Truro. Becky Morris read a statement in favor of the ordinance, and it would benefit the growth of Truro. Also stating she is against a permanent variance for the residents living on Center Street currently. A motion was made to close the Public Hearing for the proposed ordinance to restrict use on Center Street between West Street and Railroad Street to commercial only by McMichael/Kennedy. All Ayes Motion Carried.

Public Hearing for the purchase of the new city truck to be postponed until February due to proper protocols not followed. A motion to set a Public Hearing to amend the budget for the purchase of new city truck to February 3, 2025 was made by Kennedy/Phillips. All Ayes motion carried. A discussion was had on Garbage and Recycling consolidation. City reviewing a bid from Waste Management for recycling

only. Further research to be done and will be added to the February 3, 2025 City Council Meeting.

A motion was made by Phillips/McMichael to Approve Consent Items of December 9, 2024 minutes, Treasurer's and Budget Report, payment of bills. All Ayes carried. Motion to adjourn made by Connoy/Phillips. All Ayes motion carried. Meeting ended at 7:05 p.m. Next Council meeting on February 3, 2025 6:00 p.m.

Bryan Arzani, Mayor

Attested: Janelle Adams, City Clerk

Mayor Bryan Arzani presided over and called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Ancel Kennedy, Julie McMichael, Jason Phillips were present and Lyndsay Cannoy, Matt Masters were absent. Public Works Director Ronnie Hults was also present, as well as Terry Stills from Truro Fire and Rescue. No citizens from the public were present to speak.

Arzani asked for a motion to approve the Agenda. Kennedy/Phillips motioned to approve the agenda. All Ayes motion carried.

The Sheriff's report was reviewed.

No report from Emergency Management.

Fire Chief Stills reported there were 12 medical calls and 3 fire calls last month. He also reported the Tanker is still not working because parts were hard to find, and they are actively working on grants to purchase another one. Stills stated there will be a Fireman's Breakfast on 3.29.25 from 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. There is also an Easter Egg Hunt to take place on 4.12.25 at the Truro City Park. A date was also reserved for 4.19.25 in case of rain on 4.12.25.

Hults presented the Wastewater Report and reported there are under 50 new meters to be replaced in Truro.

Motion by Phillips/McMichael was made to open the public hearing for the second reading for proposed ordinance to restrict use on Center Street between West Street and Railroad Street to commercial only. All ayes, motion carried. The second reading was read aloud by Arzani. Motion to approve the second reading made by Kennedy/Phillips. All Ayes, motion carried.

A motion to close public hearing for the proposed ordinance to restrict use on Center Street between West Street and Railroad Street to commercial only was made by Kennedy/McMichael. All Ayes, motion carried.

Motion to open public hearing for the purchase of the new city Truck 2018 Dodge Ram by Phillips/Kennedy. All Ayes, motion carried. Motion to close public hearing for the purchase of the new city truck 2018 Dodge Ram by Phillips/Kennedy. All Ayes, motion carried. Motion to waive the second and third reading for the new city truck 2018 Dodge Ram by Kennedy/Phillips. All Ayes, motion carried.

Motion to approve Resolution #2025-7 for the purchase of the new city truck 2018 Dodge Ram by Phillips/Kennedy. All Ayes motion carried. Motion to amend the budget to approve resolution 2025-6 to transfer funds for the purchase of the new city truck 2018 Dodge Ram by Phillips/McMichael. All Ayes motion carried.

Motion to set third public hearing date for third reading for proposed ordinance to restrict use on Center Street between West Street and Railroad Street to Commercial only for 3.3.25 by Kennedy/McMichael. All Ayes motion carried.

Recycle outsource to Waste Management tabled to 3.3.25 city council meeting.

Motion to approve Resolution 2025-8 for Alliant Energy new streetlight on Atkinson south of the "S" curve on the west side of the street by Phillips/McMichael. All Ayes motion carried.

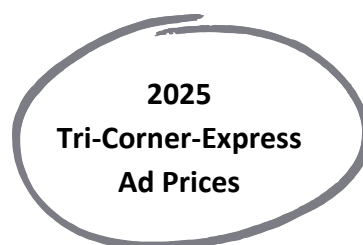
The council reviewed the budget.

Acknowledgments: Council thanked Public Works Director Ronnie Hults and Ancel Kennedy for all their hard work installing all the new meters being flexible with the public and getting it done efficiently. The council was also grateful for Ancel Kennedy's volunteerism and service.

Continued on next page....

Council also recognized Truro Fire & Rescue for being proactive in going after grants to purchase the equipment needed. Motion to approve the minutes from 1.13.25 and 1.22.25 by Phillips/McMicheal. All Ayes motion carried. Motion to adjourn by Phillips/McMicheal. All Ayes motion carried. Meeting adjourned 6:43 p.m. Next City Council Meeting 3.3.25 6:00 p.m.

Bryan Arzani, Mayor Attested: Janelle Adams, City Clerk

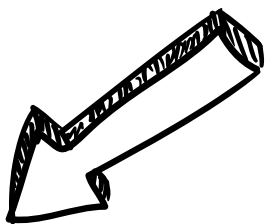


Business Card-(3.5x2) \$30
Quarter Page-(5x4.5) \$45
Half Page-Horizontal (10.5x5) \$85
Half Page-Vertical (5x9.5) \$85
Full Page- (10.5x9.5) \$175

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
tricolor@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

Squaw Creek Township is seeking sealed 2025 mowing bids for 3 cemeteries. Specifications and bid sheet are available online at squawcreektownship.com on the Township News and Events page or contact Clerk Misti Kosman at squawcreektownship@gmail.com or 515-321-5174. Submissions are due by March 25, 2025.



\$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)

Truro Public Library

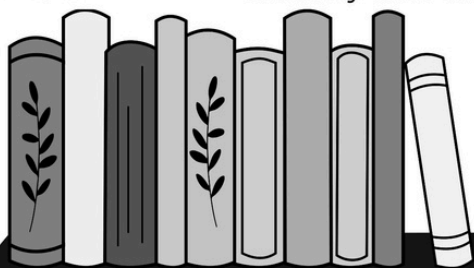
New Books

Never Say Never by Danielle Steel
Last Twilight in Paris by Pam Jenoff
The New Girl by Cassandra Calin
www.truro.lib.ia.us

Borrow ebooks & audiobooks

Libby.
The library reading app

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



HAPPY St. Patrick's DAY

Jones Family DINER

Daily Lunch Specials
Sandwiches
Pizza
American

126 E. Center St.
Truro, IA 50257
Orders to Go: 515-468-5688
<https://www.facebook.com/thejonesfamilydiner>

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

JESUS' RIGHT HAND



I was determined to write an article this month that was inspirational, uplifting and filled with hope. My determination was strong, but honestly, I have been sitting in front of the computer with a HUGE case of writer's block. You know the scenario, I'm sure. My top desk drawer is now clean, because I got distracted and organized it. My stack of filing is put away, because I got distracted and filed it. The paperclips are in their container, the rubber bands are nestled in their baggie and the email inbox has been taken care of. My office looks great, but all I have accomplished for the real task at hand is a few sentences. This is proving to be a real problem, because I've been struggling for over two hours, and the deadline is TODAY. I'm sure I have frayed on the nerves of more than a few of the wonderful volunteers at the Tri-Corner-Express with my last-minute submissions! (Thank you for your incredible patience!)

The past few weeks have been a blur of incredibly difficult life events for many people we know and love in this area. Everything from deaths in the family, critical medical events, fires, tragedies and financial crisis have turned their lives upside down. The mental exhaustion from this has been intense. But through it all, God has kept us in His loving embrace. He has given us the words to say, and He has given us strength for another day. God has provided the comfort, the peace and the hope. In a recent conversation, I heard someone say, "I guess as we get older, we need to get used to seeing this happen more often." That statement started the wheels turning in my mind, and I started thinking about some of the life lessons along the way. Fortunately, as I am replaying this conversation in my head, the writer's block is slowly dissolving. If I had to title this article, it would be "As I've aged, these are things I wish I had learned earlier in life."

My older self has learned to roll with the punches. It sounds negative since it's an old boxing term, but it's positive. It is all adapting, dealing with difficulties, and not being discouraged by challenges in life. I can't add a single day to my life by worrying, fretting or obsessing. I am not going to live forever, but while I am still here, I will not waste time lamenting what could have been or worrying about what will be. God is in control and I am not. Case closed.

I don't always need to convince others that I'm right. If someone wants to argue or debate, I will zip my lips and stay in the drama-free zone. If I catch myself being drawn into the drama, I remind myself of that saying, "It is better to remain silent and thought a fool, than to talk and remove all doubt."

I've become less critical of myself and have learned that comparison is the thief of my joy. If others want to stress out about impressing others, I will gladly give them space on the stage. There are too many voices in the courts of opinion to manage trying to please them all. Someone will always walk away disappointed, and it usually will be the one trying to impress everyone. Please God and live authentically. He loves you, the REAL you. If the others don't like your authenticity, well...that's just tough. The people who truly love you will stick around, I guarantee it.

Whose business is it anyway if I want to stay up until 4 a.m. playing solitaire on the computer, watch two hours of funny cat videos, or eat dessert at Pizza Ranch before I eat my salad and chicken? There is logic in that way of thinking, even if it is only in my own mind! It should never take place at the cost of others' well-being, but if you have the freedom to make those quirky choices, why not? I have lived long enough to know that there are consequences for my actions. I am prepared to be accountable and not lay blame on others.

I have learned that giant belly laughs can be painful if they last too long, but they are healing restoration for the soul. A small snort during the process only makes you laugh harder. Learn to enjoy the journey and quit stressing about the destination. So much of life is missed when you are focused on the next big thing.

Live in the moment. Tomorrow is never promised at any age.

Priorities are important. God first. Family second. Everything else falls into place if you keep those two priorities in place. (Seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness and all these things shall be added unto you – Matthew 6:13) God has a way of helping sort things out in your life if you keep the relationship with Him a priority.

Always remember to thank people. Whether it is a long-time delayed, or an acknowledgement of a recent effort, please remember to thank people. It does so much for a person to hear genuine words of appreciation, especially if they are having a bad day. After all, if God glories in our heartfelt thanksgiving, how much more does it do for the fragile human psyche?

When you were a child you knew you could ask your parents or any adult a question knowing they had the answers to everything. When you get older you realize that most adults are clueless and are figuring out life just like everybody else! This also applies to the Christian life. Don't think that you're the only one having struggles in your spiritual walk. We are all imperfect creations, but we serve a perfect and loving God who sees our imperfections and is there to help us if we fall.

There are so many more things I wish I could have told my younger self, but I wouldn't have listened. Experience is the best teacher. Please be encouraged by these words and feel free to add any other words of experience to this list. We must remain teachable.

In His Service,
Jesus' Right Hand

*New Virginia Hometown Pride
Presents*

Country Dance

MARCH 29TH 7-10PM
FREE LINE DANCING LESSONS AT 6PM

.....

Live Country Band
Dance Admission - \$5/person
*Food and drinks available for free will
donation*

.....

New Virginia Legion Hall
480 East St
New Virginia, IA





JERRY EUGENE BOLES

Jerry Eugene Boles, a devoted husband, father, grandfather, and friend, passed away peacefully at home on January 9, 2025, at the age of 74, following an eight-month battle with lung cancer.

Born on November 29, 1950, Jerry was a man of many talents and deep commitments. He graduated from I-35 High School in Truro, Iowa, with the Class of 1969. On October 16, 1967, he married his best friend and lifelong partner, Cheryl Ann Ballard, at

the Methodist Church in Indianola, Iowa. Together, they raised two daughters, Lesa and Lori, and shared a life filled with love and dedication.

Jerry's career in bodywork began at Iowa GMC Truck Center in Des Moines, and over the years, he worked with several notable companies, including McKenna-Davis Truck, O'Halleran Int'l, and Majestic Truck, where his remarkable paint jobs were featured in industry magazines earning him recognition as one of the finest body men in Iowa. In his spare time, Jerry was known to work in his own garage restoring vehicles and making one of a kind creations.

Beyond his professional achievements, Jerry had a passion for art. He attended a two-year art course while balancing his work and family life, creating drawings that captured the essence of his beloved daughters. His artistic talents extended into their home, where he spent cherished moments lying on the living room floor, drawing pictures for his girls.

Jerry's skills were not limited to bodywork and art; he was also a talented craftsman. In the early 1970s, he built the first rescue unit for the New Virginia Fire Department, showcasing his expertise by assembling and painting the vehicle himself, offering his labor free of charge to the community he cared for deeply.

A man of quiet demeanor, those who knew Jerry appreciated his depth of character and wisdom. His dedication to detail was evident in the home he created for his family, which he meticulously remodeled with his own hands.

Jerry was preceded in death by his parents, Gene and Ruth Boles; his in-laws, Kenneth and Helen Ballard; and his brother, Rick Boles. He leaves to cherish his memory his loving wife, Cheryl Boles of New Virginia, IA; daughters, Lesa Ouimet (Denny) of St. Marys, IA, and Lori Brommel (Richie) of St. Charles, IA; grandson, Zach Ouimet of Cornell, WI; granddaughters, Brooke Keeler (Wayne) of Osceola, IA, Bridgette Allen (Logan) of Winterset, IA, Taylor Brommel (Eli Nuzum) of Winterset, IA; and great-grandchildren Raigen Allen, Austin and Lauren Keeler; sisters, Rhonda Kirkpatrick of West Des Moines and Pamela Boles of Eddyville, IA; along with many other relatives and numerous friends.

Services to honor Jerry's life were held at Kale Funeral Home in Osceola on Monday, January 13, 2025, at 10:00 am, officiated by Mike Taylor. A Masonic service was also held at that time, and the family greeted friends on Sunday, January 12, 2025, from 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm at Kale Funeral Home. A live stream of the service will be available on Jerry's tribute wall at www.kalefuneralhome.com.



EVERETT RAY KEPHART

Funeral Services for Everett Ray Kephart, 73, who passed away Wednesday, January 15, 2025 in Des Moines, were held at 11 a.m., Friday, January 24, 2025, at the First Assembly of God Church in Indianola. Burial followed the service in the New Virginia Cemetery, New Virginia. Visitation was held 4 to 8 p.m., Thursday, January 23, at the First Assembly of God Church where family was present to greet friends.

Everett is survived by his wife, Elaine; children, Heather Richardson, Luke Kephart, Brad (Molly) Kephart; grandchildren, Jaden (Claire) Kephart, Holden Kephart, Jalen Richardson, Lincoln Kephart, Alder Kephart, Evren Kephart, Harper Kephart, Hayes Kephart; siblings, Ernest Kephart, Jerry (Sharon) Kephart, Dale (Connie) Kephart, Doris (Jeff) Dolton, Dorothy (Bill) McDonald; sister-in-law, Debra Kephart; and many nieces, nephews and other family and friends.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Anderson and Mary Kephart; brothers, Wayne Kephart and Harold Kephart; sisters-in-law, Carol Kephart and Joan Kephart.

Memorials may be given to the family in his name for a scholarship fund at a later date. To sign an online condolence, visit our website at www.overtonfunerals.com.



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641-877-4151 www.snydersofhumeston.com



New Virginia Christian Church
Happy moments, *Praise God.* Sunday Worship 11:00 am
Difficult moments, *Seek God.*
Quiet moments, *Worship God.* 604 Main St.
Painful moments, *Trust God.* New Virginia, IA
Every moment, *Thank God.* 515-250-5116



A MESSAGE FROM MR. GRANDON

I-35 CSD SUPERINTENDENT

Greetings I-35 Community -

Recently all of the households in the I-35 CSD received a postcard requesting feedback on facilities priorities. As part of this effort, we've also launched an I-35 Facilities website where you can find information and facts about the project, what's been accomplished in Phase 1, frequently asked questions and more. Learn additional details about both of these on the next page.

As the district explores next steps, I'd like to highlight the main goals below.

Overall Goals of the Project:

- Bringing our facilities up to current codes and standards through renovation and/or new facilities
- Supporting the long-term district health and viability by making I-35 CSD a place where families want their children to learn and grow
- Ensuring the safety for students participating in extracurricular activities, the fans watching them and the staff coaching them
- Be forward thinking about the needs of the district in the future and how we can best plan for these needs
- Be fiscally responsible as we look to meet the priorities of a wide variety of groups. We aim to address as many needs as possible for the most number of students and families through compromise and flexibility.

Go Roadrunners!
Chad Grandon

STATEWIDE OPEN ENROLLMENT DEADLINE MARCH 1, 2025!

Don't miss this opportunity to become a Roadrunner for 2025-26! Check out the Prospective Student brochure linked above to learn more about "Why I-35?" and the Roadrunner Experience. Contact us to learn more, schedule a tour and more!

I-35 CSD OUTPERFORMS THE STATEWIDE AVG. ACCORDING TO 2024 SCHOOL PROFILE SCORES.

ENROLL NOW

<https://5il.co/tq9j>

SHARE WITH FRIENDS & FAMILY!

We'd love to grow Roadrunner Country! Please consider sharing the open enrollment information with those in your circle.

We are happy to do school tours and answer questions from potential families interested in seeing I-35 CSD and joining the Roadrunner Experience.

ELEMENTARY UPDATE: FAMILY NIGHTS FOR STEM AND READING

Over the last few weeks, the Elementary hosted two family events - Family STEM Night and Family Reading Night!

Both events were very well-attended, and it was great to engage with so many families beyond the typical school day!

STEM Night participants were able to visit a variety of stations to create and utilize critical thinking skills. Stations included creating a board game, a straw maze, a "Bristle Bot" that vibrates and more!

Reading Night was an opportunity to dig into the various components of literacy and allow for resources and ideas to support individual literacy needs at home!

We are looking forward to Family Math Night as our final family night for the school year! Stay tuned for more details!



LEARN MORE: I-35 FACILITIES PROJECT

In early February, the I-35 CSD sent out a postcard to ask for feedback on facilities priorities. The QR code links to a survey run by OPN to gather input from the community. The goal is to gather key information as we plan the years and decades to come and help keep the I-35 CSD strong and stable for future Roadrunners.

There are two things to note about the survey:

- 1) There are not dollar amounts or specifics regarding the types of facilities being considered. This is because this information can't be determined until we have more community feedback on priorities.
- 2) There are no specific programs mentioned (ex: wrestling or daycare) because it was important that the survey doesn't provide undue influence on the community. You can add specific interests to your survey comments.



CHECK OUT NEW FACILITIES WEBSITE

There is a new I-35 Facilities website at www.i35facilities.com. It was created to put all the project information in one place.

Currently the website has Frequently Asked Questions, Project Timelines, Photos from Phase 1, School Funding Basics and more.

Visit www.i35facilities.com or scan the QR code to explore.



SECONDARY UPDATE: IT'S SCHOLARSHIP SEASON!

Ms. May and Mrs. Steinlage met with seniors to discuss applying for scholarships and the importance of APPLYING, meeting deadlines, and how lucky we are to have a community that supports our students. All scholarships can be found on the school's website under Secondary > Guidance Office. Seniors Awards Night is planned for May 14th at 6:00 p.m. in the High School Auditorium. This evening students will be awarded local scholarships and awards.

8th graders are working on exploring careers and completing their 4-year plans in Guidance class. We will be hosting 9th Grade Orientation on April 1st at 5:30 p.m. in the High School Student Commons. We will discuss high school expectations, class offerings, extracurricular activities, and students will register that evening for courses they want to take in their freshman year.

INTERSTATE 35 CSD IS HIRING!

Contact Jen Baughman (jbaughman@i-35.k12.ia.us) to learn more about these positions. Scan the QR code to see the job posting flyer.

Visit www.roadrunnerpride.org > Employment to view all of the current job postings for I-35 CSD.

ELEMENTARY MUSIC TEACHER

- 2025-2026 School Year
- Full-Time Position
- Valid Iowa Teaching License with K-8 music endorsement
- Great Benefits Package*
 - Health Care, Dental & More
 - Individual Coverage only \$30/month
- Strong and Supportive Team & Administration
- Recently built, amazing auditorium for performances
- Large, recently built music room close to the choir and band room for easy collaboration with fine arts peers

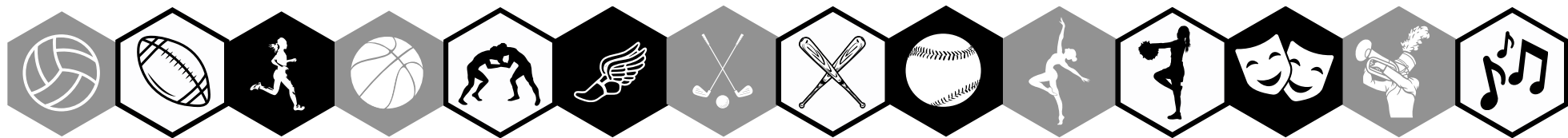


FOUR-YEAR-OLD PRESCHOOL TEACHER

- 2025-2026 School Year
- Full-Time Position
- Valid Iowa Teaching License OR Bachelor's Degree in Early Childhood Education
- Great Benefits Package*
 - Health Care, Dental & More
 - Individual Coverage only \$30/month
- Strong and Supportive Team & Administration



*Note: The benefits package is for full-time employees. This graphic makes no guarantees related to insurance benefits, coverage or costs which are subject to annual changes.



I-35 BOOSTER CLUB

IGNITING DREAMS & SUPPORTING TEAMS

The Interstate 35 Booster Club supports extracurricular activities for Roadrunner students. We donate to groups in support of coach requests, team wants, equipment and uniform upgrades, leadership camps and more! We also run the concession stand at home events and coordinate team apparel for coaches. Because the school Activities Department doesn't receive formal funding, it relies on the gate admissions, private donations and donations from us - the I-35 Booster Club! And we couldn't help say "yes" to the requests we receive without the amazing volunteers and donations from the community!

Activities provide Roadrunner students opportunities to learn important lessons related to hard work, teamwork, resilience and more in a space that's outside of the classroom. Through your support, you help keep these experiences possible. Most of our donation requests are for \$500 or less. Truly **every donation makes a real difference** for Roadrunner students and programs!

Learn more about the Booster Club, what we do, and how we do it by checking out our website at www.i35roadrunnerboosters.org.

Wed.
12

UP NEXT
MONTHLY MEETING

ATTEND OUR MARCH MEETING.

Do you have some ideas to share? We'd love to have new members join the Booster Club!

Corporate Donations Quick Sheet

1. Choose a donation option that fits your budget.

There are packages ranging from \$500-\$3000 per year. Each level has different perks. View full details at www.i35roadrunnerboosters.org

2. Send a check made out to the I-35 Booster Club.

You can mail it to the school, Attn: Brayton Weber. The address is: 405 E. North St., Truro, IA 50257.

3. Provide a logo for recognition.

You can email a print-ready version to i35boostersponsor@gmail.com

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING STUDENTS INVOLVED IN ALL THE ACTIVITIES IN OUR BANNER + MORE!

SCAN TO SEE THE DONATION TIERS. CHECK OUT MORE DETAILS ON THE B.C. WEBSITE.



THE RRC IS
OPEN NOW
FOR 2025-26!



Two pay options - full pay or split pay! Donate or learn more at www.i35roadrunnerboosters.org

RON & ANGELA SINCE 2023	DUSTIN & SARA SINCE 2023	DEAN & TAMMY DOWNS SINCE 2023	DENNIS & ROXANNE BEELER SINCE 2023	RICHARD & JESSICA BUCKLIN SINCE 2023	BENJAMIN & KATELYNN COOK SINCE 2023
CRISTINA SINCE 2023	JOE & JANE SINCE 2023	BRAYTON & TERECA WEBER SINCE 2023	RICH ANDERSON SINCE 2023	LEE & SHARON DENTLINGER SINCE 2023	NATE PHILLIPS & BROOKE MAXWELL SINCE 2023
MICHAEL & LARISSA ANDERSON SINCE 2023	ADAM & ANGIE BECKEL SINCE 2024	JUSTIN & BEV MURPHY SINCE 2023	EDDIE & KATIE VONNAHME SINCE 2023	THE VANDER WERFS SINCE 2023	
WEBER SINCE 2023	MATT MASTERS & JONI GRIGLIONE-MASTERS SINCE 2024	BLAKE & KEISHA JOBE SINCE 2024	CRAIG & CHARLOTTE SPEER SINCE 2024	THE O'HAIR FAMILY SINCE 2024	

JOIN THE ROADRUNNER CLUB TODAY!

The Activities Department is transitioning away from individual program fundraisers to reduce the "asks" from our community. Efforts like the Roadrunner Club mean a single (or split pay) annual donation funds everyone!

Your \$500 donation helps I-35 students chase their dreams.

HOW TO JOIN THE RRC

Scan the QR code to complete the form and donate online. Or email i35boostersponsor@gmail.com to get a paper form and send a check to the school office. A one minute How-To video for online donation is at www.i35roadrunnerboosters.org under The Roadrunner Club menu.

SAVE TIME!
DONATE
ONLINE.



THE PERKS

From your name on the Wall to exclusive shirts, learn more about the perks on the Booster Club website.

HAVE YOU HAD A FINANCIAL PHYSICAL LATELY?



**TRUST &
INVESTMENTS**

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OMNITEL COMMUNICATION MULTI-GIG NETWORK NOTICE

OmniTel Communications has recently made a major investment to complete construction of a 100% Multi-Gig Internet Network in the state of Iowa. This construction project ensures that OmniTel can provide true Multi-Gig Internet to 100% of the areas they serve, which is comprised of approximately 13,000 rural Iowa addresses.

“We are excited to have completed this Multi-Gig Network project, which reaches all of our existing and potential customers in rural Iowa with our state-of-the-art fiber network,” stated Josh Hveem, OmniTel’s CEO. “Customers served by our network will be able to access speeds up to 10GIG from day one.”

OmniTel’s Multi-Gig Internet brings significant benefits by enabling faster data transfer, improved access to remote work opportunities, enhanced education possibilities, increased business growth potential, and overall improved quality of life for residents; essentially bridging the digital divide allowing rural communities to compete with larger urban areas in today’s digital economy.

Key community benefits of OmniTel Multi-Gig Internet:

Economic development:

☑ Improving existing businesses: Local businesses can utilize Multi-Gig Internet for fast reliable internet access that allows businesses to leverage AI tools to increase operations, productivity, and revenue.

☑ Attracting new businesses: Multi-Gig Internet is a key requirement for rural communities wishing to entice new business and remote-work companies to establish operations; creating new jobs and boosting local economies.

Education benefits and opportunities:

☑ Remote learning: Students can access high-quality online education with no disruption, including live streaming classes and large file transfers.

☑ Digital learning tools: Teachers can utilize advanced educational software and online resources more effectively.

Healthcare access:

☑ Telemedicine: Multi-Gig Internet facilitates remote healthcare consultations with specialists, improving access to quality medical care in rural communities.

Community engagement:

☑ Online collaboration: Residents can participate in virtual meetings, online forums, and community projects more readily.

Improved quality of life:

☑ Remote work flexibility: Individuals can work from home with reliable internet connection, offering more career options.

☑ Enhanced connectivity: Easier access to online services, social media, and communication tools.

☑ Streaming entertainment: Access to high-quality streaming services for entertainment and leisure.

This project provides and will provide Multi-Gig Internet to all and parts of many communities in central Iowa including but not limited to: West Des Moines, Norwalk, Indianola, Winterset, St. Marys, St. Charles, Truro, New Virginia, Patterson and Prole.

OmniTel is working to create Multi-Gig “Test Locations” in several communities where consumers will be able to experience the functionality of Multi-Gig Internet service. We will be publishing the locations of these “Test Locations” as they become available. Residents and businesses may place an order and schedule installation appointments through OmniTel’s website at Connect.OmniTel.biz.

About OmniTel Communications: OmniTel Communications, based in Nora Springs, IA., is a locally owned and operated company that has been providing service to rural and urban Iowans for over 120 years. With its global reach and state-of-the-art 100% Fiber Optic Multi-Gig network, OmniTel continues to provide the most advanced and cost-effective service offerings in the industry for broadband Internet, digital voice and video solutions. For more information, please visit OmniTel.biz.

Contact – Central and SW Iowa

Mike Hanson

877-666-4835

mhanson@omnitel.biz

All about Valentine's Day

By Frankie Garner

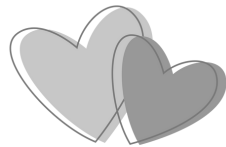
Valentine's Day has multiple origins including a Roman festival, the Martyrdom of priest, and the celebration of courtly love.

We celebrate the Roman festival of Lupercalia, which was pagan fertility celebrated in mid-February. The festival was eventually transformed into a Christian holiday.

We celebrate the Martyrdom of Priest to commemorate a Roman priest named Valentine, who was executed for performing secret weddings in defiance of the emperor and against the Authorities in the third century.

In the 14th and 15th centuries, courtly love was popular, Courtly love emphasized chivalry and secretive relationships.

This is my story on the history of Valentine's Day. Hope you have a wonderful Valentine's Day with your loved ones!



Happy
Valentine's
Day



Churchville Assumption Shrine Hall
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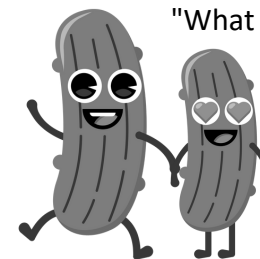


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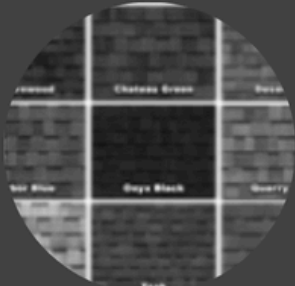


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ROAD TRIPPING

Contributed by Terry Garner

GROWING UP ON THE FARM IN THE 40's - 50's

All Work and No Play

Contributed by Mel Stills

I wish I had thought to keep track of my mileage this past month or so. I have put more miles on in a month than I usually do in a year, I think!

In December, I wrote about driving to North Dakota to pick up a dog. The round trip to my friend's house is 1370 miles. I did drive into town and back from there so added a few miles doing that. The plan was for me to winter the dog here, but in the meantime, Matt got him sold to a family in Colorado and needed to have him back right away. So, on December 27th, I loaded up and took off again. My plan was to drop Tank off at his home, then start the drive back until I got tired, then get a room for the night. Well, I didn't get tired, so I just kept driving and by 10:30 that evening, I was home again. 1400 more miles!

The following week, I drove our Amish friends out to Delmar, Iowa, to look at a property they were wanting to purchase. We made several stops out there and then headed back that evening.

January 18th, I took off for Texas with three dogs to go hog hunting for a few days. It's a little over 600 miles one way. Since I was driving down by myself, I left my mule home and just rode one of Roy's. We hunted a couple of days, then back home again.

On Wednesday of the following week, I jumped in the truck again and headed to Wisconsin for a funeral. Five hours up, five hours back, and time out for the funeral. I think I was home again by 8:30 or so.

The next day, Rollie and I each drove a truck and trailer and hauled our Amish friends out to Delmar, Iowa where they are moving to. It's about a 3-and-a-half-hour trip from their house over by Podunk. We left the trailers and Rollie's truck and came home together. On Monday, we jumped back in Hilda and took off for Delmar again to pick up the trailers and Willis and the kids. We checked out their property with them, ate lunch, then back on the road. Home by 7:30ish.

Tomorrow, I'm leaving again for Texas for more hog hunting. I reckon after this trip, I will have put almost 7000 miles on my truck since early December. I better be saving my money for some new tires, I think.....

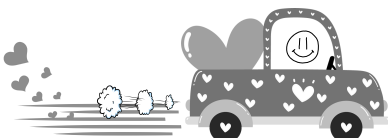
And speaking of going to Texas, when I left the first time, there was snow all the way from Iowa to Texas. Some of the really flat fields were completely white with snow. In other places, you could see where it had built up next to fences and hedgerows and around buildings in the shade. It was still there all the way through Iowa, Missouri, Oklahoma and Texas. That was one big snow storm!

Update on the eagles.....I rode Vicki by the nest on February 7th but didn't see any eagles with or around the nest. According to Google, eagles in Iowa usually lay their eggs in mid to late February. With an incubation period of 35-40 days, this means the eggs should hatch sometime in the last half of March. I'll have to leave my binoculars in the truck for scoping out the nest from afar. It'll be hard to get any pictures from that far away, but maybe I can see how many eaglets they hatch out. Stay tuned.....



Crossing the muddy creek.

Killing a hog by the Red River.



We didn't only work growing up on the farm; there were times of great fun. At times you had to humor yourself, but with two younger sisters, there was little time alone. I think the only time alone I had was fishing in our pond in the summer or hunting in the fall or winter.

With Jane and Joan, there were puzzles, Monopoly, checkers, Old Maid, hide the thimble, anti-anti-over or tag. We sometimes made up the rules as we went, but it was always noisy around the house. So while fishing or hunting, I got my quiet time, me by myself time. On the weekends, there were always family get togethers. I was with my cousins every weekend. That always included a big meal, lots of stories. We would go out and shoot shotguns at tin cans that someone would throw into the air. Grandpa had a long-barrel 22 pistol, and we would shoot at cans with it. In the fall/winter, we all went hunting.

In the summer, we all gathered under a big tree, and invariably two of my older cousins would start fighting, and my uncle always broke it up. He always brought along a set of boxing gloves, and the two cousins would really go at it. The fight stopped when someone got a bloody nose.

In high school, there were organized socials for us to go to. I didn't dance and was too afraid to learn, so lots of us stood around and the girls danced together. This was the era of rock and roll, and my spirit and my feet never got the rhythm. There were no lessons; I thought you needed to be good to get out there. I was limited to the slow dances and the selection of partners dwindled quickly. Thankfully, I gained confidence in later years, but it was too late for high school.

The New Virginia and Saint Marys Legion Halls alternated square dancing every other Saturday night, but again, I was afraid I'd make a mistake and screw everyone up. There were no square dance lessons to build your confidence, so again there was a lot of standing around watching everyone else having fun or making a fool out of themselves but still having fun. I wasn't a fast learner. In much later years, we were holding a World Congress in Chicago, and there were 1,000 participants from around the world. The organizer was originally an Illinois farm boy, and there isn't anything more American than a barn dance. I was going to be President of the Society at that Congress and was expected to square dance. Sue dragged me off to square dance lessons in Dallas, and I was dosey doe-ing and allemande lefting in Chicago for the night, but not again since.

I probably had a driver's license before I ever asked a girl out on a date. The date was a movie, something to eat and maybe a chance to sit in her driveway. Not a lot happens after 10 p.m. on Saturday night in New Virginia. On one date, we were sitting in her driveway, and her Dad sneaked up on us and jerked the car door open and announced it was time for her to come in the house. I don't know why he didn't flash the yard light or knock on the car window. It was cold outside, and he didn't need to do all that just to get a message to us. I had a high school friend who on a Saturday night date, they had parked someplace and both fell asleep. After the sunrise woke them up, they had some explaining to do. Farm kids are smart, and we sometimes learned from our mistakes and the mistakes of others.

Having a date was a good reason to get cleaned up. I didn't need to shave, but soap and water and a comb made me look presentable. I never wore a shirt while working all summer, but date night brought out a clean shirt.

We had hay rides we could take a date on. Snuggling up under a blanket on straw bales on a wagon going down a country road with a zillion stars overhead made the heart skip. I later learned I had AFIB; so much for romance. Our hay wagon rides occurred over by Medora, and the wagon was pulled by a tractor. Maybe in your day the wagon was pulled by a team of horses, but there were not many working teams in 1958, so we had a slow tractor going down a dirt road.

The Interstate 35 FFA Chapter has had an eventful start to February, with 33 members competing in a variety of contests at the Sub-District FFA Contest held Monday, February 10th, at East Union High School. The chapter earned impressive results, including several gold, silver, and bronze ratings.

Notable achievements included Kolter Good's gold rating in Ag Broadcasting, which secured his spot at the district contest. Four members earned gold ratings for the Greenhand Quiz, while the Program of Activities team and the Conduct of Meetings team both received silver ratings. Addison Scrivner also earned a silver rating for her Creed Speaking performance, as did the Parliamentary Procedure team and Brady Streeter in Public Speaking. Gunner Hommer earned a bronze rating in the Job Interview contest.

Looking ahead, 21 members will advance to the District Contest on March 1st to participate in even more events.

In addition to the contests, the I-35 Middle School FFA Chapter attended the Ag Expo in Des Moines, gaining valuable insights into advancements in agriculture. The I-35 FFA Alumni Chapter also awarded SAE scholarships to Lily Howe, Christopher Wagner, Eilon Naggar, and Blaine Cornelison. Congratulations to all recipients!

Upcoming events for the chapter include National FFA Week, where members will celebrate agriculture's impact with dress-up days, a staff breakfast, "Drive Your Tractor to School" day, and a new event—Ag Olympics. The chapter is also hosting a coloring contest for elementary students to get them excited about agriculture.

The I-35 FFA Chapter continues to demonstrate the importance of leadership, learning, and community involvement.

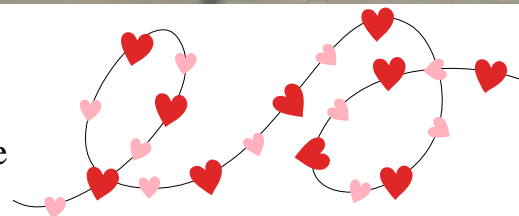


scribblings from



ue

Contributed by Sue Stills



In addition to February 14th being Valentine's Day, it is also a special day for the state of Arizona. On February 14, 1912, Arizona became the 48th state and the last of the contiguous states to be admitted to the Union. Historically part of the territory of Alta California and Nuevo México in New Spain, it became part of independent Mexico in 1821. After being defeated in the Mexican-American War (1846-1848), Mexico ceded much of this territory to the United States in 1848, where the area became part of the territory of New Mexico. The southernmost portion of the state was acquired in 1853 through the Gadsden Purchase.

The state's name appears to originate from an earlier Spanish name, *Arizonac*, derived from the Indian tribe O'odham name *alī ṣonak*, meaning "small spring." To the European settlers, this pronunciation sounded like *Arissona*. Another possible origin resulted from the Basque shepherders in the area. Their phrase *haritz ona*, "the good oak," sounded like Arizona. Located in the Southwestern region of the United States, Arizona shares the Four Corners region with Colorado, New Mexico and Utah. Other neighboring states are Nevada and California, and it shares an international border with the Mexican states of Sonora and Baja California. It is the sixth-largest state by area and the 14th-most-populous of the 50 states. The capital and largest city is Phoenix, which is the most populous state capital in the United States. There are 15 counties in the state, with the largest county being Maricopa where Phoenix is located. The state nicknames are The Grand Canyon State, The Copper State, and The Valentine State. The state bird is the Cactus Wren, the flower is the Saguaro Cactus Blossom, and the tree is the Palo Verde ("green stick"). Source: Wikipedia.com.

My current involvement with the Sun Lakes Community Theatre is called Children's Theater. We are a group of 18 performers and two sound technicians who are performing the Dr. Seuss book *Horton Hears a Who* at 28 elementary schools, three mornings a week, for all of January and February through March 6th. Our shows start at 9 a.m., and we are finished in about 30 minutes. Our audience is kindergarten and first grade children, most of whom are quite enthusiastic about us people wearing animal costumes (elephant, monkeys, lion, gorilla, kangaroo, bird, eagle) and acting out the story about Horton, his ability to hear tiny voices calling for help (the Who people), and his determination to save them. I wear a bird costume in the opening song, then change into a Who costume. We Who people accompany our Mayor and raise a ruckus in our effort to be heard by all of the jungle animals. I share the role of the Who "Jo-Jo" alternately with another lady, and our role is to nonchalantly bounce a yoyo, then proclaim the final "Yopp!" which enables all the Who people to finally be heard. It is an effort to lug all the scenery and costumes into the schools, unpack, perform, pack up and lug it all out every day, but it is fun to see the children's reactions, and the performers are fun too.

We are having springtime weather, with 40's in the mornings and 70's in the days. We are so dry; except for a little rain recently, we have had no measurable rain since August 22nd. Be safe and healthy as this winter season comes to an end. 19

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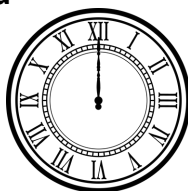
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GROWING UP continued from page 18...

None of my high school romances lasted long, but the Navy brought a new kind of Mel out. Some good and some not so good, but I got over my bashfulness and fear of making a fool of myself. At times I came close to really making a fool of myself, but all I can say is that "after 20 years in the Navy, I never was so foolish that I got a tattoo." There is a Garth Brooks song "Thank God for Unanswered Prayers," and I really appreciated that in later life. The good old days.

**Daylight Saving Time starts March 9, 2025 and
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2025 WCPP GRANT CYCLE DATES

-Jan. 13 - Grant Application & Intent to Apply Form Opens (see below) - Jan. 31 - Virtual Grant Writing Workshop from Noon-1:00pm
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Continued from page 1.....

Queen's Point: A Post Office was established May 16, 1854, at the residence of Hogan Queen on the road leading from Winterset to St. Charles. It was discontinued in 1867.

Hanley: The Post Office was established December 6, 1889, and discontinued May 1, 1911. It had 11 different Postmasters.

Fairview: In the fall of 1850, Samuel Comstock had Simmons Rutty lay out a town in South Township about one quarter mile northeast of the present St. Charles and named it Fairview. He built a log cabin in the fall and headed to Oskaloosa for merchandise stock. Upon his return and with his cabin not being finished, the goods were kept at Joel Clanton's home west of St. Charles. As it was winter, Sam Comstock sold what he could but was unable to meet his bills when they were due. His creditors came in the following spring and took what he had left. The store building was never finished and later moved to St. Charles after that town was laid out in 1852, becoming its first building.

St. Charles: It was platted in 1852 and named after the city of St. Charles, Missouri. The first settler in St. Charles was John Byers. He bought the unfinished home vacated by Comstock in the fall of 1852. Milton Thompson put in the first general store in the spring of 1853, followed by a second store in the fall. A log home became the third store location by Mr. Burnside in 1854 who later sold the store, and the stock was moved to Afton. The Post Office was established December 13, 1853, with David Downs as Postmaster.

Bridgeport: This town was described in a Winterset Madisonian advertisement September 30, 1871, as being two miles west of St. Charles on Clanton Creek. The advertisement was for a sawmill located there, operated by Daniel Daniel. The location would put it in the northwest quarter of section 22 in South Township.

Banner: This was the name of a Post Office established in June 1874 and closed the following year. It was in Virginia Township, Warren County, but was thought to be in Madison County. Mail was brought from Bevington via St. Charles, Banner, New Virginia to Osceola.

MONROE TOWNSHIP

Grand View: Laid out as a town in 1855 in Monroe Township. It never had but two small buildings and was soon abandoned two years later. As few lots were sold, and since the town did not prosper, the lots that were sold reverted or were resold to the original owners. In 1877, another Grand View was laid out in Lee Township but died before building began.

Gear: This Post Office was named in honor of Governor John Gear and was established November 18, 1879. It was located in the home of John Reasoner and then at the home of William Bowman. It was on the mail route from Winterset to Murray. Later, mail was brought from Barney. It was discontinued September 12, 1903.

Kasson: This Post Office was named in honor of J. A. Kasson who served several terms as a member of Congress from our district. The Office was established September 4, 1861, and was discontinued June 30, 1905 due to the institution of rural free delivery.

Clanton: A Post Office was established in February 1859 in the homes of various farmers living near the center of the township. The post office closed in March 1894.

McPherson: The Post Office was launched under the supervision of Charles Polk in June 1876. The Office remained at the hospitable home for about one year before it moved across the road to the home of E. B. Thompson where it remained until it was discontinued April 21, 1900. It was on the direct road from Winterset to Macksburg and was supplied by the daily route which operated between the two cities. It was named after a popular and well-remembered pioneer lawyer of Winterset, M. I. McPherson.

WALNUT TOWNSHIP

Peru: Peru was laid out in 1855 near the center of Walnut Township about one mile northeast of the present town of East Peru. For years, it was one of the important points on the Winterset to Osceola routes. The village had one store, one blacksmith shop, one cabinet and wagon shop, one shingle manufactory, one steam sawmill, one church, a stone schoolhouse and 70 inhabitants. The Post Office was established April 18, 1853 but was discontinued in 1903 with the establishment of rural free delivery.

East Peru: The Post Office was established November 7, 1888. When the Chicago, St. Paul & Kansas City Railroad (Chicago Great Western) built a mile south of "Old" Peru, the new town of East Peru was formed. Peru is one of the best shipping points in the country. The town has several general stores, hardware, furniture, drug meat establishments, a blacksmith shop, livery stable, hotel, garage, cement and tile works, implement and harness stores, telephone exchange, restaurant, elevator, lumber yard and a very neat and clean depot. When East Peru became incorporated, it had a population of 400. A school, banks and churches were built, and various Lodges were organized. For a new town, East Peru was quite advanced. In the summer of 1903, F. A. Herwehe established and built an electric light plant. This utility was a small affair, costing about \$1,500 and built as an experiment. The present owner L. F. Clinton, having purchased it in October 1914, made expensive and permanent improvements and alterations to the machinery, feeling it would be profitable.

Brooklyn: A town in the southwest quarter of Walnut Township. It was platted and recorded April 15, 1856. The town was located on the main traveled road from Winterset to Osceola, and the stage stopped there. From 1850 to 1860, the town was thriving. There were two general stores, one blacksmith shop and a brickyard. The Post Office was established February 19, 1857. During the 1860's, the village began to decline, and people began to leave, taking some buildings with them. Others began to dispose of them as they could.

Ohio: The Post Office was in the vicinity of the Ebenezer Church and cemetery. It was established February 10, 1862 and discontinued in 1889. For many years, the Office was in the store of S. M. Walker and was presided over by J. W. Smith for nearly 20 years.

Continued on page 23.....

It was discontinued in April 1888. The mail was carried along the well-known and much traveled road leading from Winterset to Ohio.

Barney: It was an unincorporated community laid out in 1887. Barney was a hamlet and station on the Great Western Railroad. It had a store, shops and a Christian Church. The Post Office was established in November 1888 with one rural route.

Foster: See Scott Township.

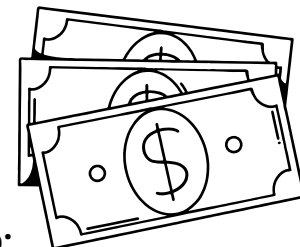
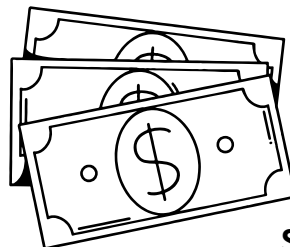
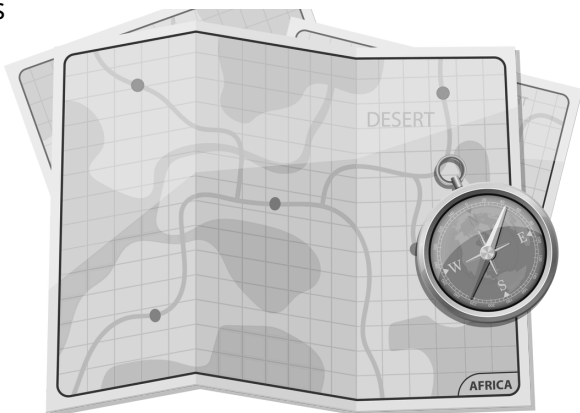
OHIO TOWNSHIP

Reed: This Post Office was established in 1881 on the farm owned by Isaac Holmes who was also the Postmaster. In 1882, it was moved to the new town of Ego. In 1884, Ego was renamed Truro and the name of the post office was also changed.

Truro: (Ego) It was laid out and platted in 1881 and the first settlement in Ohio Township in the early 1850's. The town was named after Truro in Cornwall, United Kingdom, by the suggestion of the local train conductor whose hometown was Truro in Cape Cod, Massachusetts. Truro was situated on the summit between Clanton Creek and the South River. It stands near the center of Ohio Township on the line of the Des Moines and Kansas City Railroad. The first person to engage in business was J. W. Smith in the grocery business, followed by the Truro State Bank in 1899. In 1902, the town incorporated.

As this article reveals, during the mid-1800's, most of the Post Offices were in the homes of the early settlers and carried the name of the farm owner, who was also the Postmaster. Most of these town names are now just words in historical books and old newspapers, but we should not forget that they represent generations of early settlers whose hopes and dreams and hard work laid the foundation to build the great state in which we now live.

References: History of Madison County and Its People Volume 1; Warren, Madison and Clarke County digital libraries; Winterset Madisonian newspaper; Osceola Sentinel; New Virginian; IAGenWeb Project; Madison County Town and Post Offices History; Iowa Ghost Towns



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MARCH						
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APRIL						
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AUGUST						
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SEPTEMBER						
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28	29	30				

OCTOBER						
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19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

NOVEMBER						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
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16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29

DECEMBER						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
30	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

For Questions about Recycling Pick up Call 515-361-0008
Acceptable & Unacceptable Items are shown on the next page

RECYCLE RIGHT

To learn more, visit wm.com/recycleright



Always Recycle



Plastic Bottles & Containers



Food & Beverage Cans



Paper



Flattened Cardboard & Paperboard



Glass Bottles & Containers

Do Not Include In Your Mixed Recycling Container



No Food or Liquids



No Foam Cups & Containers



No Loose Plastic Bags, Bagged Recyclables or Film

Empty recyclables directly into your bin.



No Green Waste



No Clothing, Furniture & Carpet



No Hazardous Waste or Batteries

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I recently attended the funeral of a friend in Wisconsin who committed suicide. Most of us in our hunting group, he had suffered from mental illness stemming from a chemical imbalance since high school. His family and close friends knew, but those of us who came into his life later, did not. It came as a complete shock to most of us when he took his life.

Many of you may have known Linda Banger and that she wrote articles for the local newspaper and the Indianola Record Herald for some time. Linda is gone now, but her stories live on in the book she wrote. Her daughter Bethany shared her book with me and permission to reprint her stories occasionally in the Tri-Corner-Express. I thought it might be a good time to share her story on living with mental illness in the family. Here is her story reprinted with permission by her family.

Terry Garner

MY DAD'S MENTAL ILLNESS

by Linda Banger

I've seen many commercials and billboards which I've considered vulgar and tasteless, but I have never yet encountered one as offensive to me personally as a billboard I drive by regularly in Des Moines.

"Persons with Mental Illnesses Enrich All of Us!" claims the message on the billboard. In the background of the message are the names of greats in the arts and entertainment world – names like Ernest Hemingway, Sylvia Plath, Charles Dickens, Vincent Van Gogh and dozens of others. What these talented yet wretched souls had in common, aside from their works, was that all of them were mentally ill – usually manic depressive. Many committed suicide to escape their unhappiness or particular demons. The ad on the billboard is sponsored by the Alliance for the Mentally Ill.

Sadly, in the world of mental illness, my family and I were front row spectators. When I was in high school, mental illness hit close when one of my friends' dads was murdered by a neighbor who was mentally ill. Other families in our community were touched by tragedy and sudden, violent death from murder and suicide evolving from mental illness. Years earlier, when I was 10, I had experienced my own worries when my dad began acting strangely. He hadn't lived with us very long – I had been eight when he was brought home from a veterans hospital where he'd been for three years.

A generous and loving, jolly sort of man at first, as the months passed, he became dour and unsmiling. He began talking to himself; sometimes he'd sit, grinding his teeth, talking to himself and raise his arm up in the air and leave it there. One day I upset him, and he turned me over his knee and began spanking me. He didn't stop. He just kept spanking, even after I'd cried all the tears which were in me and all the time he sort of stared off in the distance like he wasn't even aware of what he was doing.

It wasn't long after that when one afternoon he lurched out of his chair and backed my mother against the wall and began choking her. It's been 40 years since that happened, and I still clearly recall that time. My brother, who was eight, and I raced to help Mama, as we jumped up on Daddy's back, pounding at him and pulling on his overall suspenders, crying and screaming all the time, while Mama was trying to pry Daddy's hands loose.

As abruptly as it began, so too did it end with Daddy throwing Mama across the room where she crumpled and landed on her ankle, breaking it. He turned away as if nothing in the whole world had happened. I imagine, although I can't recall how the day ended exactly, that he went outside to

do chores as usual. And it would have been natural for me to run across the way, while my brother looked after Mama, and tell my uncle and aunt what had happened.

I do know that my mother's uncle, Kenneth, who lived across the field, and a neighbor man, each of whom had watched daddy change and worsen, had a visit with my mom, later contacted the sheriff and soon Daddy was taken away to the state mental hospital in St. Joseph.

And that was the end of my brief experience of living in a two-parent family. A few years later, my dad came home a few times, but only on 30-day or 60-day furloughs or passes, and they were never particularly happy times.

It wasn't until after Daddy died in 1987 that Mama and I even talked much about his illness and what he had been like before he became sick. The conversation occurred one day when Mama said, "Your Daddy wasn't always like that, you know...." And yes, I had known that. Relatives had told stories of the man they knew, the hard-working, jolly, joking one. And in the two years he was well and living at home, I remember even now the love and affection he showed my mom, my brother and me.

Mama told me some of what had led up to his first hospitalization. And I've tried to imagine what it would have been like to be in her position then, a young farm wife in the late 1940's, early '50s, with two small children and a husband who was acting strange, and all the while being hundreds of miles away from family. Mental illness wasn't much discussed then, but it was right after the war and many GIs were having problems. My dad was in a GI young farmers' class and his instructor recognized something was going wrong with him, Mama told me.

I've tried to imagine what it was like to live with a man who was acting so odd and frightening, who slept on the floor with a shotgun and ate only cold, canned food because he thought someone was trying to poison him. And all the time having farm and household chores to tend to, along with two young children.

Then came the night, my mother told me, when she sent my brother and me to stay with neighbors. The sheriff came with other law officers, and had the

Continued on page 27.....

Continued from page 26.....
electricity turned off so the house was dark. They shined headlights at the house, grabbed my dad and took him to the jail. He was later taken to the nearest veterans hospital. The following years Daddy went through the most primitive, horrible, painful treatment, from electric shock to drugs.

The message on the Des Moines billboard about mental illness enriching us all was written I imagine by some young talent in an ad agency. I doubt, however, that it was created by anyone even remotely familiar with mental illness. That “enriching experience” robbed my mother of the joys and even sorrows of a normal married life. Taking her marriage vows “in sickness and in health” seriously, she never sought to sever the ties that bound her and my dad together.

My brother, shortly after Daddy was taken away that early spring day of 1956, lost the ability to walk, and at the age of 10 crawled or had to be carried everywhere. In those days of polio, that was the big fear, that he had polio. Tests at the University of Iowa, including excruciating spinal taps, found that my brother did not have polio or any physical disorder. He was suffering from hysterical paralysis. Perhaps seeing Daddy try to harm our mom triggered his emotional responses.

And what has been the effect on me? It’s hard to say – certainly it’s never too far from my mind. Watching a person you love suffer from schizophrenia and paranoia, even when you’re too young to have ever heard of the words leaves a lasting impression.

Every life Daddy touched was somehow or other altered by the “enriching” experience of mental illness. When I think of the word “enriching,” I think of something joyful and wonderful or awe-inspiring. And while knowing my dad was a memorable experience, a frightening experience, a sad, tragic, painful, hurtful experience, I’m not sure I would ever call it an enriching experience.

OmniTel Communication Grants for the 4th Quarter of 2024

The Board of Directors of OmniTel Communications has awarded grants to the following organizations:

City of Floyd, NIACC Collegiate Entrepreneurs Organization (CEO Club), Riverside Community School District, **Interstate 35 FFA Alumni**, St Ansgar Community Chamber, Stacyville Fire Department, NS-RF Class Of 1970- Connie Hearn, St Ansgar Aquatic Center, Fossil & Prairie Conservation Foundation, CS eSports League, Mitchell Co Ducks Unlimited, and The Elf Shop.

The next grants will be awarded in April. Grant applications can be found at www.omnitel.biz/charities

OmniTel Communications invites public and private non-profit organizations to submit applications for funding to help with specific projects and events in your community. The purpose of OmniTel’s Charity Grant Program is to positively impact the quality of life in the communities which we serve. Greatest consideration is given to the projects and events that benefit the most people. No Charity Grant will be awarded to individuals for personal gain (i.e. pageants, school trips, etc.). All applications are reviewed at the first board meeting of each quarter. Completed applications may be submitted at any time during the year. Civic organizations may request up to \$1,000, non-civic related organizations may request up to \$500, school activities and summer youth programs may request up to \$250

If you know of someone struggling with mental illness or coping with life....

There are resources available.

**Mental Health
is just as important
and can affect
Physical Health**

**Struggling is not weakness;
the fear of judgement is.**



CHECKLIST FOR DAYLIGHT SAVING

- **Set your clocks ahead one hour. Remember, fall back, spring ahead.**
- **Replace batteries in smoke detectors and carbon monoxide alarms. Test them to be sure they work properly.**
- **Test your thermostat.**
- **Inspect fire extinguishers and get them serviced if the pressure gauge reads low.**
- **Reverse your ceiling fan’s direction to blow down in the winter and up in the summer.**
- **Replace batteries in flashlights and remote controls.**
- **Check your medicine cabinet for expired prescriptions. Dispose of properly.**
- **This could be a good time to start your spring cleaning regimen.**



CHURCH DIRECTORY



Assumption Shrine, Churchville (Formerly Church of the Assumption)

2841 South Street,
Churchville, IA

Business Office:

c/o St. John the Apostle Church

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: truroucccchurch@gmail.com

Worship 10:00 am

Coffee & Fellowship: 11:00 am

Immaculate Conception

101 St. James St., PO Box 88

St. Marys, IA 50241

Fr. George BoachieNyarko

515 210-2490 (Emerg. only)

gnyarko@dmdiocese.org

Mass: Sunday 8:00 a.m.

Sarah Gehringer (Office Manager)

641-297-2359

immacula@myomnitel.com

Office Hours: Tues. & Thurs. 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

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

515-250-5116

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

Wednesday Worship: 7 PM

Elder: Duane Proudfit 515-537-9142

Elder: Mike Penick 515-989-4165

Deacon: Dave Henderson 515-250-5760

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

