

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED
JANUARY 18, 2024

Contact Information: tricorn@newvirginia.com or
Drop Box Northeast Corner Hen House - New Virginia or
PO Box 302, New Virginia, IA 50210

DEADLINE: 2ND WEDNESDAY
OF THE MONTH
ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION - \$20.00

Clarke County Communities of the Past

Contributed by Karma Kimzey and Sue Stills

As the cold winds of January whistle through our eaves and the cracks in our barn walls, making a forlorn and lonely sound, many of us may not know that there are many towns in Iowa that have become forlorn and lonely. This article describes many of the abandoned towns, villages and Post Offices in Clarke County, Iowa, and close to our Tri-Corner-Express circulation area. As I did in the Warren County towns article in November 2023, I have included some towns still existing, as well as abandoned towns that may be of interest. 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, or an area landmark. In the years 1850-1853, pioneers purchased land from the government at the price of \$1.25 per acre and settled in Clarke County.

DOYLE TOWNSHIP

Hopeville: This village is in the extreme southwest part of the county. It was laid out in March 1861 and is one of the oldest towns in the county. Its original proprietor was David Newton. At that time, it had three general stores, one drugstore and tin store, two hotels, one harness shop, two blacksmith shops, two churches, one schoolhouse and four physicians. Its population was 250. There also was a Masonic Lodge.

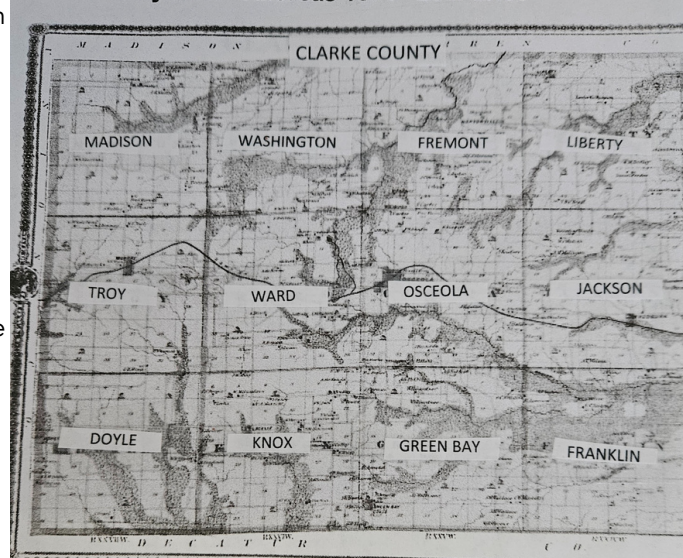
FREMONT TOWNSHIP

In 1848, James and John Langley made their farms in Fremont Township, two miles apart. They had no idea of settling there permanently. They merely wanted to get a stock of provisions and domestic animals with which to make the long overland journey to Utah. They remained for three years before selling out to Ben Woodman and Isaac Farley. March 15, 1899: Real estate transfer: James Campbell to Susan Mc Kinney, 80 acres in section F of Fremont Township, \$1200.00.

Jamison: This was an unincorporated community. In 1853, Jamison and Leslie were both stations of the narrow-gauge railroad. In 1902, the population was 61, and in 1925, it was 65. There was a general store, many dwellings, a Methodist Church and a one-room schoolhouse, with the school in operation as late as the 1950's. Some older New Virginians may recall attending the Jamison Homecoming.

Jay: The 1892 Farmer's Directory of Liberty Township listed 12 farmers getting their mail at the Jay Post Office. Here is an ad from May 3, 1898: I have 40 bushels of number one clover for sale. G. E. Young. Another newspaper excerpt stated that on July 20, 1916, Lewis and Company purchased the interest of C. C. Moore in the firm of Lewis and Moore in Woodburn and Jay.

Clarke County Iowa - Andreas 1874 - 23 x 29.83



February 3, 1919: The following letter of thanks was received by the Red Cross workers of Jay, Iowa, dated January 28, 1918: "Dear Co-workers, the two nice quilts were received and were at once put to use. I want to thank you on their behalf. Signed gratefully, Mrs. Desa Carlton, Ft. Des Moines." Another ad in Jay was the following: May 7, 1925 For sale: Loft dried seed corn \$2.50 per bushel. James Moran, Jay, Iowa.

Nortonville: This town was in the southwestern part of the township and had a Post Office from 1871 until 1875.

KNOX TOWNSHIP

Lacelle: This small post village was about 10 miles southwest of Osceola. It contained a school and dwellings. It was laid out by S. & J. French and D. Lindley in July 1855.

Its population was 30. In 1865, it had one general store and a population of 100.

Leslie: September 16, 1897 A plat of the town of Leslie, Iowa, was on record in the recorder's office for the past weeks. Mr. Eden Yates has recorded a plat as "Yates" first addition to Leslie. A special meeting of the Leslie Telephone Company will be held February 25, 1903. The purpose of the meeting is to decide if the switchboard shall be left open nights and Sundays. October 20, 1921 Knox, Green Bay and Ward Townships: I want to saw your wood. Satisfaction guaranteed. O. W. Karns, Leslie, Iowa.

UNKNOWN TOWNSHIP

LaHarpe: A Post Office in Clarke County 1877 until 1878. April 2, 1896 J. O. Mason and James Campbell, the former Mayor of LaHarpe, quarreled over politics, and Mason has been awarded \$35 for slander.

Jack's Creek: The exact township of this town is not known. On April 6, 1893, the State Register reported that a new Post Office was established at Jack Creek, six miles east of Groveland, with Thomas J. Mason as the Postmaster. Less than a year later, in August 1894, Uncle Sam closed the Post Office, along with the one in Green Bay. Balaka, Bell, Green Valley and Freehold were listed during the years 1855 through 1890's without a township location.

Council Meeting Minutes January 8 , 2024

The Council met in regular session on Monday January 8th, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. for the January council meeting.

Justin Strange was officially sworn-in as Mayor through December 31, 2025.

Pam Dunkin, Josey Galivan and Chris Truman were officially sworn-in as Council Members through December 31, 2027.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Strange with Council Members Dunkin and Truman present and Galivan present via phone. Taylor absent.

Minutes from the December meeting and Treasurer's Report were approved.

Old business discussed: The trees along North Street at the northeast corner of town have been removed.

The house in the 300 block of Main Street has been removed.

The Urban Revitalization Plan is nearing completion and is currently scheduled to be finalized at the February council meeting. The Warren County Assessor will be contacted regarding the February 1st deadline for tax abatement applications.

The financials for the summer and fall truck pulls will be finalized to compare income to expenses to help determine if there will be a fall truck pull this year.

Citizen Input: There was citizen input for the Council to consider doing work on the alley between Main Street and West Street at the start of the 500 block, the north/south alley behind 704 West Street, the alley on the south side of the Legion Hall, as well as consider asphaltting South Street. Other citizen input included solar panels to provide energy to the city. The final citizen input was the concern of the build-up of junk and the appearance of the property in the 100 block of Broadway Street.

Water Utilities discussed: The Council was informed of high water usage at the old school house building. The cause of the high usage is being looked into. An online water bill payment issue for a property in the 300 block of West Street is being worked on. The company that the City purchased the software from for the operation of the new sonic water meters and valves has filed for bankruptcy. There are two other businesses that are working on taking over the operation of the SET software so there will be no disruption in service.

Fire Department Business: Fire Chief Jake Zuercher was present to discuss the re-appointment of current representative and alternate or appointment of a new representative and alternate for the Warren County 911 Board. Truman moved, seconded by Dunkin to re-appoint Jake Zuercher as the representative and Dave Schaefer as the alternate for the Warren County 911 Board. A roll call vote was taken: 3 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.

Fire Chief Jake Zuercher discussed with the Council the possibility of hiring for staffed EMS positions to cover EMS calls in conjunction with the Warren County Board of Supervisors.

The positions would be hired by the City of New Virginia and under the operation of the City. The EMS positions would be funded by Warren County through LOST funds initially and then by an EMS Essential Service Tax if passed by Warren County voters. The Council is interested in this proposal to insure EMS services for citizens of the New Virginia community.

Fire Chief Jake Zuercher updated the Council on Rapid Response Truck 769 that was damaged in an accident on December 15th. The truck was totaled out by the City insurance carrier. A new truck will be ordered this week and projected to be in service in April. The truck had full replacement coverage minus a deductible.

Fire Chief Jake Zuercher reviewed the 2023 fire department call responses. There were 48 fire responses and 132 EMS/Ambulance responses for a total of 180 responses.

Fire Chief Jake Zuercher discussed some fire department members not meeting minimum attendance/response requirements. These members will be sent a letter regarding their lack of participation.

Law Enforcement: The report summary from the Sheriff's Office for the month of December was reviewed. Deputies received or initiated 41 calls for service during the month of December. Officers spent in excess of 40 hours in the City for the month. Officers patrolled in excess of 262 miles within the city limits for the month. Three citations and/or warnings were written for traffic/parking violations that occurred within the City of New Virginia proper.

Truman moved, seconded by Dunkin to pass and approve Resolution 2024-01 – A RESOLUTION APPROVING A NEW AGREEMENT AND CONTRACT FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT SERVICES BETWEEN THE CITY OF NEW VIRGINIA AND THE WARREN COUNTY SHERIFF LOCKING IN THE RATE AT THE SAME RATE AS FISCAL YEAR 2024 (\$12,596.00) FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025, 2026 AND 2027. A roll call vote was taken: 3 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.

Truman moved, seconded by Galivan to add Mayor Justin Strange and Deputy City Clerk Brent Baughman and to keep City Clerk Jennifer Baughman and City Council Member/Mayor Pro-Tem Chris Truman on all City State Bank bank accounts and remove former Mayor Norville Huston. A roll call vote was taken: 3 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.

Truman moved, seconded by Galivan to add Mayor Justin Strange, Deputy Clerk Brent Baughman, City Council Member/Mayor Pro-Tem Chris Truman and keep City Clerk Jennifer Baughman on the City safe deposit box signature card and remove former Mayor Norville Huston. A roll call vote was taken: 3 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.

Galivan moved, seconded by Truman to pass and approve Resolution 2024-02 – A RESOLUTION NAMING CITY STATE BANK AND IOWA PUBLIC TRUST AGENCY INVESTMENT TRUST (IPAIT) DEPOSITORY OF CITY FUNDS. A roll call vote was taken: 3 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.

Truman moved, seconded by Dunkin to designate the Indianola RHT/Independent Advocate as official paper for publication of City Budget, State of Iowa Annual Financial Report, ordinances and any other necessary legal publications. A roll call vote was taken: 3 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.

Dunkin moved, seconded by Truman to designate the Tri Corner Express as official paper for publication of City Council Meeting Minutes, public notices and any other legal publications for 2024. A roll call vote was taken: 2 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.

Galivan moved, seconded by Dunkin to re-appoint Robert Stuyvesant as City Attorney for the City of New Virginia for 2024. A roll call vote was taken: 3 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.

Galivan moved, seconded by Dunkin to approve the re-appointment of City Clerk – Jennifer Baughman; Deputy City Clerk – Brent Baughman; Office Assistant – Stephanie Galivan; Mayor Pro-Tem – Chris Truman. A roll call vote was taken: 3 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.

The first half of fiscal year 2023-24 financials were reviewed.

The 2024-25 city budget was discussed. The Iowa Legislature approved legislation that will significantly reduce the levies available for use and implements a Combined General Fund Levy that may result in revenue reductions. Some items to be considered in the budget process include water main street valves, fire department building updates including new drywall in the laundry room, sidewalks, additional fence work at GAMP, movie rentals for movie nights in the park.

GAMP UPDATE

The persons name and phone number interested in cleaning GAMP Community Building has been obtained and will be contacted in January.

CLAIMS REPORT

VENDOR	REFERENCE	AMOUNT	CHECK #	CHECK DATE
ALLIANT ENERGY	ELECTRIC/GAS/STREET LIGHTS	\$681.33	15140	12/28/2023
BETSY REINECK	CHRISTMAS LIGHTING CONTEST	\$125.00	15162	1/9/2024
ELAN FINANCIAL SERVICES	TECHNOLOGY GOOGLE GSUITE	\$166.39	15141	12/28/2023
CHUCK BEEKER	CHRISTMAS LIGHTING CONTEST	\$275.00	15163	1/9/2024
FIRE SERVICE TRAINING BUREAU	TRAINING SERVICES	\$50.00	15166	1/9/2024
HUSTON'S STORAGE	RENT/LEASE STORAGE UNIT	\$960.00	15168	1/9/2024
HY-VEE	MEDICATIONS	\$136.00	15142	12/28/2023
IOWA DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE	PR WITHHOLDING TAX INTEREST3RD	\$23.28	16326508	12/28/2023
IOWA PUBLIC RETIREMENT SYSTEM	IPERS	\$437.75	16326515	1/8/2024
INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE	FED/FICA TAX	\$771.70	16326516	1/8/2024
J&L SANITATION	GARBAGE SERVICE - CITY	\$62.00	15169	1/9/2024
JOHN & AMANDA ALLUSP	CHRISTMAS LIGHTING CONTEST	\$175.00	15170	1/9/2024
NAPA AUTO PARTS PREMIER PARTS	VEHICLE REPAIR 768	\$27.99	15171	1/9/2024
NEW VIRGINIA PUBLIC LIBRARY	PAYMENTS TO LIBRARY ANNUAL 20	\$10,000.00	15172	1/9/2024
POSTMASTER	PO BOX RENTAL	\$118.00	15173	1/9/2024
LINDE GAS & EQUIPMENT INC.	OPERATING SUPPLIES	\$42.40	15174	1/9/2024
IMPACT COMMUNITY ACTION PARTNE	ANNUAL FUNDING	\$740.00	15175	1/9/2024
SANDRY FIRE SUPPLY LLC	FIRE EQUIPMENT	\$105.95	15144	12/28/2023
SANDRY FIRE SUPPLY LLC	ANNUAL SERVICE 2023	\$1,075.00	15176	1/9/2024
STUYVESANT, STRONG, KRAPFL & CA	LEGAL SERVICES	\$379.75	15178	1/9/2024
WASTE MANAGEMENT	RECYCLING	\$1,136.44	15180	1/9/2024
WEX FLEET UNIVERSAL	VEHICLE FUEL	\$271.54	15181	1/9/2024
WINDSTREAM	TELEPHONE/INTERNET	\$533.73	15182	1/9/2024
TOTAL GENERAL		\$18,294.25		
ALLIANT ENERGY	ELECTRIC/GAS/STREET LIGHTS	\$1,379.20	15140	12/28/2023
HUSTON'S LAWN/SNOW REMOVAL	SNOW REMOVAL	\$255.00	15167	1/9/2024
INROADS ASPHALT PAVING +MATERI	STREET MAINTENANCE	\$51,706.00	15183	1/9/2024
INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE	FED/FICA TAX	\$18.30	16326516	1/8/2024
MCGEE CCONCRETE LLC	STREET MAINTTENANCE	\$15,120.00	15143	12/28/2023
STURCO BUILDERS	TREE REMOVAL	\$2,000.00	15177	1/9/2024
TOTAL ROAD USE		\$70,478.50		
ANCEL KENNEDY	SERVICE	\$125.00	15161	1/9/2024
CITY STATE BANK	BANK/COLLECTION FEES	\$17.00	15164	1/9/2024
DES MOINES WATER WORKS	WATER TESTING	\$190.00	15165	1/9/2024
HUSTON'S LAWN/SNOW REMOVAL	TESTING WATER	\$21.60	15167	1/9/2024
IOWA DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE	TAXES WET TAX NOV 2023	\$475.05	16326509	12/28/2023
IOWA PUBLIC RETIREMENT SYSTEM	IPERS	\$295.20	16326515	1/8/2024
INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE	FED/FICA TAX	\$343.46	16326516	1/8/2024
WARREN WATER DISTRICT	WATER USAGE/LOAN PAYMENT	\$4,398.00	15179	1/9/2024
TOTAL WATER UTILITIES		\$5,865.31		
PAYROLL	GENERAL	\$2,532.18		
	FIRE	\$1,530.73		
	WATER	\$1,547.16		
TOTAL PAYROLL		\$5,610.07		
***** REPORT TOTAL *****		\$100,248.13		

The concrete pads for the disc golf course will be poured this spring.

KEEP IOWA BEAUTIFUL PROGRAM

The interested parties for the mural project on the north side of the old hardware store have been reviewed and a decision on the artist has been made.

There are several events being planned in 2024. One of the first events will be a kite flying event in April.

The Elf Club did a great job with the lighting of the tree and Christmas displays in Old Settlers Park. The Elf Club lights and displays have been taken down and placed in storage. The Elf Club is looking to make the Christmas display in Old Settlers Park even bigger and better.

The Warren County Auditor's Office is interested in using the GAMP Community Building for the November 2024 elections. The Council approved the use of the GAMP Community Building for the November 2024 elections.

Filling the vacant Council Member seat due to Justin Strange becoming Mayor was discussed. Proper procedures for appointing a new person to the Council seat will be reviewed.

The City Treasurer position was discussed. A search for the City Treasurer position will be done this month for Council approval at the February council meeting.

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

With no further business to come forth, Galivan moved, seconded by Truman to adjourn meeting. A roll call vote was taken: 3 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 9:19 p.m. The February council meeting is scheduled for Monday February 5th, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. February meeting date – Monday February 5th, 2024, at 7:00 p.m.

Jennifer Baughman

Jennifer Baughman, City Clerk

2024 Tri-Corner-Express Ad Prices

The Tri-Corner-Express ad prices are as follows. Please email us your ad at tricorneread@newvirginia.com or drop off your ad in the Black Mailbox labeled Tri-Corner-Express on The Hen House - West Street, New Virginia, IA

Business Card (3.5 x 2)	\$30.00
Quarter Page (5 x 4.5)	\$45.00
Half Page Horizontal (10.5 x 5)	\$85.00
Half Page Vertical (5 x 9.5)	\$85.00
Full Page (10.5 x 9.5)	\$175.00

Thank You's, Birth Announcements, Birthdays, & Anniversaries:
 0 - 50 words = \$5.00 51 - 100 words = \$10.00
 \$0.10 per word over 100 words \$5.00 for each photo
 Obituaries and Weddings (Including one photo): \$40.00
 Additional photo(s) \$5.00 each

Thank you
for being in
our Circle of
Friends!

*Make new friends but keep the old.
 One is silver and the other gold.
 A circle is round, it has no end.
 That's how long I want to be your friend.*

~ I-35 Girl Scouts ~
**Happy New Year ~
 Welcome 2024!**

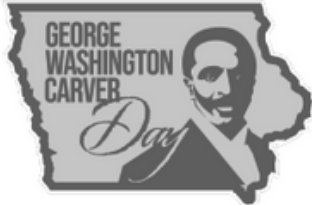
**Questions or for more
 information about your
 local Girl Scouts
 contact:**

**Sarah Lawyer at
 5SarahJL5@gmail.com
 / 515-480-004**

Can you hum
while pinching
your nose shut?
Try it.

Community Happenings

Press Release



Date: January 9, 2024
 Contacts: Amy Duncan Elodie Opstad
 Phone: 515-250-3698 515-240-8016
 Email: akduncan@me.com elodie.opstad@gmail.com

George Washington Carver Day – Indianola Community Celebration
 Saturday, February 3rd, 10am-12pm

In June 2022, Iowa’s Governor declared every February 1st (first day of Black History Month) as George Washington Carver Day.

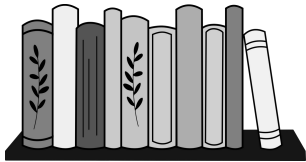
George Washington Carver attended Indianola’s Simpson College during the 1890/91 school year before transferring to Iowa State University. Returning to Indianola to visit friends and Simpson for art classes, Professor Carver would say later in life, “It was there I learned I was a human being.”

The Indianola community embraced George W. Carver long before he became a world-renowned agricultural scientist and inventor at Alabama’s Tuskegee University.

A flyer is attached detailing free family-fun activities taking place inside businesses locations Saturday, February 3rd from 10am-12pm. While activities are geared to elementary school students, anyone can join the fun and learning. Get a coffee, shop, and stay for lunch.

Please share this information with your students, patrons, customers and community.

Thank you in advance- The George Washington Carver Day Celebration Committee
 “A weed is just a flower growing in the wrong place.” - George Washington Carver



NEW VIRGINIA LIBRARY



Visit the New Kids Center

Games, Events, Storytime & Literacy for Children

Welcome to the New Virginia Public Library. The library is your one stop source for all of your informational needs. We have a large selection of books, magazines, newspapers, and electronic resources available to be checked out by our library card holders. Here you will also find electronic resources, news, announcements, and a calendar of upcoming library events!

Library Hours:

Tuesdays and Thursdays 4-8pm

Wednesdays 9-11am/1-8pm

Saturdays 9am-noon

Every Wednesday:

–Cribbage at 2 o’clock

–Stay and Play Awhile

at 10:00 o’clock



★★★★★
BOOK REVIEW

THE HOUSE ACROSS THE LAKE

By Riley Sager

Contributed by Terry Garner

Casey Fletcher is a famous actress, who after losing her husband to drowning, turns to booze to cope with her sorrow. With too much time on her hands, and too much to drink, she sits on her deck with her binoculars and spies on her neighbors. Thinking that foul play has befallen her newfound friend across the lake, she takes matters into her own hands, and mayhem ensues. The plot gets thicker and thicker, and twists and turns, keeping you on the edge. Just when you think you have it figured out, it changes. This book reminds me of “Where The Crawdads Sing,” if any of you have read that one. A thriller, and a good one!

GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER DAY CELEBRATION



INDIANOLA COMMUNITY DAY

Saturday, Feb. 3, 2024 - 10 AM to 12 PM

Look forward to George Washington Carver-centered ACTIVITIES FOR ALL AGES.

COCOA FOR KIDS & PLANT A SEED AT UNCOMMON GROUNDS

Grab a cup of cocoa and plant a few seeds to take home.

Sponsored by Warren County Historical Society & Museum and Warren County Health Preservation Commission and My-Map & Iowa State Extension & Outreach

MAKE A FRESH FLOWER POCKET POSEY AT MASON OUDERKIRK LAW OFFICE

Carver always wore a flower in his jacket lapel, you can too!

Sponsored by Indianola Park Friends and Middle's Gospel Science Classes, Irving School

STORYTIME & SPECIAL EXHIBIT AT CORNER GUNDRY

Join us for story times at 10, 10:45 and 11:30 a.m., with songs in between and trunk exhibit from Carver National Birthplace Monument Park.

Sponsored by Indianola Public Library

CIRCLE 'ROUND THE SQUARE SCAVENGER HUNT AT REGIONS BANK HALLWAY

Pick-up the clues and start your treasure hunt.

Sponsored by Indianola Parks and Recreation

TASTY CARVER TREAT & PHOTO DISPLAY AT SAVOR THE RISE AND PAGETURNERS

Special treat for kids using Carver recipe and photos of downtown Indianola when George Carver was a student. Books available for purchase.

Sponsored by Indianola Independent Advertisers

MOVIE & SPECIAL EXHIBIT AT SALEM CONNECTION

Enjoy a 20-minute film on Carver's life at 10:15, 11:00, 11:45

and view artwork by Indianola & George Washington Carver School students.

Sponsored by Indianola Independent Advertisers and Simpson College



Visit simpson.edu/gwc-day-celebration for more info.

MADISON TOWNSHIP

LaPorte: This is situated in Madison Township in the northwest part of the county. Its original proprietor was James Hall. It was surveyed into town lots in March 1855. Mr. McNeil established a store in LaPorte, along with one of the first Post Offices in Clarke County, and it had a population of 30.

LIBERTY TOWNSHIP

Liberty: This town was also known as Hickory Point, 1855-1862, and was in the northern part of the township. This place was laid out by Alfred Rhodes in July 1855 on land originally entered by John Brammer in the northeast township of the county. It is 11 miles from Osceola. It has a small population, but no longer has a Post Office. The first court was held at Osceola in 1854 by Judge Townsend. Every neighborhood seemed anxious to bring something before the tribunal, and one of the first cases was between Alfred Rhodes and his son-in-law, John Campbell, both of Liberty Township. They had traded horses, and each had accused the other of lying. Then each sued the other for slander. This was in a justice court of Squire Miller. Then it was transferred to a Circuit Court.

Hickory Grove: There was a Post Office there from 1853 until 1862.

Jacksonville: This was a village in the southeast corner of Liberty Township and appeared on an 1873 map.

Liberty Township Legend: The Pioneer Holt Family:

“Sterling Holt plowed a garden for Jacob Shively one day last week. Mr. Shively watched the black loam slide away from the plow share, and the two fine horses of Mr. Holt answered his every command. He was reminded of those pioneer days back in the early 1850’s when John Holt, Sterling’s father, was one of the few neighbors to Mr. Shively in Liberty Township.”

Captured Buffalo:

At one time, the pioneer John Holt did his plowing under much more adverse circumstances than those of his son today. He was at one time without animals with which to turn the soil, and he captured a young buffalo, and with a steer which he owned, did his plowing. Legend has it that the buffalo learned to lift up rails by pushing his nose between them and getting into stored corn. It was reported that the buffalo met his demise when he wandered into a neighboring farm, and after working at it for hours, he pushed his nose through the rails and was shot by the owner.

TROY TOWNSHIP

Milford: In northwestern Troy Township, there was a Post Office 1855-1869.

Murray: With the advent of the railroad into Clarke County in 1868, Murray, originally known as Oakland, sprang up. As there was another Oakland in Iowa, the village was renamed in honor of a railroad engineer. The town’s original plat consisted of 120 acres, divided into 48 blocks, each 316 feet square. Murray has extended three additions and is now a mile square. The Post Office was established in 1868 and was in the General Store building. A. B. Straub was appointed first Postmaster. The railroad reached Murray in 1868, and 16 team of oxen were used on the railroad as the railway pushed west. The railroad was built on to Afton in the fall of 1868.

Excerpts of primitive Murray as told by the pen of F. M. Martindale in the Murray News December 16, 1909: “In only after a lapse of nearly 40 years that I fully realize that many of the conditions then existent were not all commonplace but simply extraordinary and will never again be witnessed in Murray or perhaps the world. Old Main Street will never again see the endless caravans of “prairie schooners” with “Kansas (or somewhere) or Bust” emblazoned on their white canopies. It will never see again marching bands of Fox, Sac and other native Indians exiled by the government to the

Indian Territory that their ancient and beloved hunting grounds might be converted to the uses of the on-rushing pale faces.” These Indians used to enter Murray from the east by Main Street, halt near the Old Sargent livery barn while the braves visited the few stores for supplies, the squaws watered the ponies and the young bucks won dimes and nickels by their skills with bow and arrow. Fires plagued Murray in 1873. The first permanent building built by the railroad burned. It was rebuilt. It burned in 1886. In 1885, three businesses and a residence burned. In the years 1887, 1889, 1901 and 1930, additional buildings, the bakery, the opera house, the O. E. Garrett building and the millinery burned. Dr. Freel’s building burned in 1968. By 1900, Murray’s population was 949. In the 2020 census, it was 684.

Norris: There was a Post Office here in 1855, in the northwestern part of Troy Township. *To be continued next month*

Rental Rates		
Gerry Allen Memorial Park Community Building		
New Virginia, Iowa		
	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 rentals require cleanup at the conclusion of their event.

Visit us at www.newvirginia.com or call:
Jennifer Baughman 641-449-3492 for more information



4-H Meeting Minutes for
Ohio Future Feeders 4-H Club



The November meeting was called to order on November 12, 2023, at 6:02 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Lincoln Hawk, and the 4-H Pledge was led by Ira Hawk. Roll call was “Favorite Thanksgiving Food/Dish.” Secretary’s report was given by Brodey Hanrahan. Minutes were accepted to be approved with no corrections. Treasurer’s report was given by Caleb Puderbaugh.

Old business: Trunk or Treat discussed. Appreciation for Lions Hall use was posted on Facebook. Yearly budget was approved. Awards Banquet recognition was announced for those who received awards.

New Business: Officer training to be done on your own through email information sent by Lindsay. Beef weigh-in to be December 3. Christmas party planned. Club voted for \$10 maximum for gift exchange. Club voted to donate \$125 of club funds towards the “Adopt a Family” from Martensdale/St. Marys this year. Next year planning to donate towards I-35 family. Club voted to gift a fruit basket for a local fire department or police station.

February Planning: There is opportunity for Meals from the Heartland volunteer. January planning to have T-shirt committee create/brainstorm/plan a new club 4-H T-shirt--Lincoln Hawk, Grace Hanrahan, Delaney Dory, Tucker Dooley, Raylan Dolan, Dawson Dory and Carly Gehringer. Motion made by Caleb Puderbaugh to adjourn meeting. Seconded by Dawson.

Meeting adjourned at 6:31 p.m. Presentations given by Ira and Lincoln Hawk on 4-H record books. Snacks provided by Nehring family. Those wanting to YQCA training stayed for the training by Lindsey Young from Extension Office.

The December 10 4-H meeting for the Ohio Future Feeders was called to order at 6:06 p.m. at the St. Charles Lions Hall by VP Myla Nehring with 25 members and two leaders present. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Trax Beeler, and 4-H Pledge was led by Myla. Roll call was your favorite Christmas tradition. The Secretary’s report was given by Myla. Caleb Puderbaugh read the Treasurer’s report. OLD BUSINESS: discussion of beef weigh-ins; officer training to be done on your own; “Adopt a Family;” FFA fruit was delivered, and our thank-you gift was delivered to Traci Knoll. NEW BUSINESS: 4-H enrollment is due by December 30 to be paid without a late charge with a portion being paid by our club; we are excited to continue to welcome new members to Ohio Future Feeders 4-H Club; complete YQCA training; upcoming Meals from the Heartland volunteering; and T-shirt committee to meet in January. Our community service this month is Adopting a Family in need in the MStM area. Meeting adjourned at 6:12 p.m. Motion made by Trax. Seconded by Brayden Eads. Pizza was enjoyed by all. 4-Hers enjoyed their Christmas party decorating 5 sugar cookies and playing games.

Council met at the Community Center

Mayor Bryan Arzani presided over and called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM. Ancel Kennedy, Julie McMichael, and Matt Masters were present. Lyndsay Cannoy and Jason Phillips were absent. Arzani asked for a motion to approve the agenda. Kennedy/Masters made the motion to approve the agenda. All Ayes motion passed. Two Cub Scouts and the father of a Cub Scout were present. Fire Chief Terry Stills and Ronnie Hults were also present. There was no public input. The Council reviewed the Sheriff's Report and the report from Rhonda Guy. Stills gave the Fire & Rescue Report: 5 fire calls and 10 EMS calls. The DNR grant for matching grant funds was mailed. The grant is for the purchase of pagers. Pagers are needed since cell phones do not always have coverage. The Department will pay 50% and the grant will pay 50%. 3 members of the Department are currently taking Fire Fighter 1 classes. Ronnie Hults gave the Maintenance Department report. One VFD at the lagoons is still failing. It was determined parts are not available to repair so the system will need replaced. Hults has received a quote from Automatic Systems and has requested quotes from other vendors. The cost will be significantly above the \$7,500 approved by the Council in December's meeting. Currently the operation is working, and vendors have said they can be down to help out if needed before a new VFD is installed. Hults reported he had completed the cleanup work that Astech had agreed to pay for and has given the billing information to the City Clerk. A request from Gary & Rebecca Knight was made to approve a split of 7 acres from the 29 acres located NW 1/4 of SW 1/4 of Section 27 T 74N, R26W, Madison County Iowa. Motion made by Kennedy/McMichael to approve the split. All Ayes motion carried. Publishing the Truro Council Meeting Minutes in the Tri-Corner-Express was discussed. The cost would be \$850 annually and the library would share \$300 of the cost. After discussion, a Motion was made by McMichael/Masters for the City to publish the Council Minutes in the Tri-Corner-Express. All Ayes motion passed. The minutes will continue to be published in the Madisonian as well. Arzani asked for a motion to approve Resolution No 2024-1 approving appointment of City Clerk, Rebecca Morris, Attorney, Mark Smith, and Official Newspaper of the City of Truro, Winterset Madisonian. Motion by Masters/Kennedy to approve Resolution 2024-1. Roll call vote: Masters Aye, Kennedy, Aye, McMichael Aye Motion passed. Placing stop signs at the intersection of Prairie and Hull Street was discussed. A resident of Truro has asked for the stop signs to help slow down traffic. Arzani asked for a motion to approve Ordinance amending the Truro Municipal Code by amending Chapter 65 Stop and Yield Intersections. Every driver shall stop as follows: Vehicles traveling west on E Prairie shall stop at Hull Street, Vehicles traveling east on E Prairie shall stop at Hull Street, Vehicles traveling south on Hull Street shall stop at Prairie Street. Motion by McMichael/Master Roll Call Vote: Masters Aye, Kennedy Aye, McMichael Aye. 2nd and 3rd readings will be discussed at the February meeting. A date for the Fy25 Budget workshop was set for January 16, 2024, at 6:00. Arzani asked for a motion to approve the consent items. Motion by Masters/Kennedy to approve the consent items. All Ayes. Motion carried. Next Council Meeting will be February 5, 2024. Motion by Masters/Kennedy to adjourn. All ayes motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 6:42 pm.

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

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DATE
Tuesday
February 13, 2024
5:30 - 7:00 pm

Location
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REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED
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This project was supported, in part by grant numbers 90AIP00044-01-00 and 90AIP00044-02-00 from the U.S. Administration for Community Living, Department of Health and Human Services, Washington, D.C. 20201

Bryan Arzani, Mayor

Attested: Rebecca Morris, City Clerk



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New Virginia

January 11
January 25
February 8

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Community Breakfast: 2nd
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An Iowa Winter Poem

**It's winter in Iowa,
And the Gentle breeze blows.
Seventy miles an hour,
At thirty below.**

**Oh how I love Iowa,
When the snow is up to your butt.
You take a breath of winter air,
And your nose gets frozen shut.**

**Yes the winter here is wonderful.
So I guess I will hang around.
I could never leave Iowa,
Cause I'm frozen to the ground!**

CITY OF ST CHARLES

January 8, 2024 City Council Meeting Minutes

The St. Charles City Council met at City Hall on Monday, 1/8/2024, for a regular meeting. Mayor Dennis Smith called the meeting to order at 6:34 PM. Council members Tom Blomme, Whitney Hutton, Megan Allison, and Travis Brockett were present along with one guest. Council member Dan Kozak was absent.

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

Approval of Minutes for Council Meeting from 12/4/2023: Motion made by Whitney Hutton/Megan Allison to approve the minutes. Voice vote passed unanimously.

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

Approval of January Bills: Motion made by Tom Blomme/Whitney Hutton to approve the January bills. Voice vote passed unanimously.

Sheriff's Report: During December there were 42.59 patrol hours, ten calls, and nine traffic stops in St. Charles.

City Boards/Committees:

- Sewer Report: Emergency repairs were completed at the west lagoons.
- Fire/Rescue Department: No meeting was held in December.
- Library Board: Margaret Blair was present. No meeting was held in December.
- Emergency Management: The December report was submitted.
- Mayor's Report: Dennis gave more insight into the sewer repairs at the lagoons.
- Clerk's Report: A tree inventory has been completed for the City. This was a complimentary service. Results were shared with the Council.

Resolution 1A-2024 Designate Publisher: Motion by Tom Blomme/Megan Allison to approve the Winterset Madisonian as the publisher for the year. R/C vote passed unanimously.

Resolution 1B-2024 Designate City Clerk: Motion by Tom Blomme/Megan Allison to approve Tracy Kozak as City Clerk. R/C vote passed unanimously.

Resolution 1C-2024 Designate Lawyer: Motion by Megan Allison/Whitney Hutton designating Stuyvesant, Strong, Krapfl & Carda as St. Charles City Attorney. R/C vote passed unanimously.

Resolution 1D-2024 Designate Bank: Motion by Tom Blomme/Megan Allison designating Farmers and Merchants State Bank of Winterset/St. Charles as the official financial institution.

R/C vote passed by majority.

Resolution 1E-2024 Designate Mayor Pro Tem: Motion by Tom Blomme/Travis Brockett designating Megan Allison as Mayor Pro Tem. Megan Allison abstained. R/C vote passed by majority.

Set Date for FY2024 Budget Amendment Public Hearing: The public hearing for the FY2024 Budget Amendment will take place on February 5th at the regular City Council meeting.

Budget Discussion: The City Council has planned budget workshops for January 16th at 6:30 pm and February 5th at the end of the regular City Council meeting. If a third is needed, a date will be set at the February 5th Council Meeting. A timeline of important budget dates was given to the Council for review.

Opportunity Forms: Megan Allison will follow up with a property owner concerning dog feces not being cleaned up. Two properties not in compliance were also discussed.

Public Forum: No public asked to speak.

Old Business: No old business.

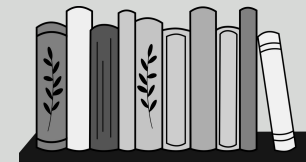
New Business: No new business.

Motion made by Tom Blomme to adjourn the meeting at 7:49 pm.

The next City Council meeting will be on February 5, 2024, at City Hall.

Megan Allison, Mayor Pro Tem Attest: Tracy Kozak, City Clerk

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



BOOK REVIEW

THE LAST OUTLAWS

THE DESPERATE

FINAL DAYS OF THE DALTON GANG

By Tom Clavin

Contributed by Terry Garner



The Last Outlaws is the true story about the Dalton brothers and the men who were part of their gang. The Dalton brothers were cousins to Jesse and Frank James and emulated the James brothers, starting out as common horse thieves, and ending up robbing banks and trains. The story inevitably ends up at Coffeetown, Kansas, where three of the Daltons and two of their gang members simultaneously rob two banks. Four of the outlaws are killed, as well as four others. Tom Clavin does a superb job telling the story of one of the last gangs of outlaws to terrorize the Old West. I will definitely be reading more books by this author! A good read!

St. Charles Library

"A library is not a luxury but one of the necessities of life." - Henry Ward Beecher

We couldn't agree more. Come visit your local library. A quiet place to study, relax, work or simply escape in a good book. It's fun, the old-fashioned way.

Hours are as follows:

Sunday 1-5 pm--Monday 10am-6 pm--Tuesday 12-8 pm --Thursday 12-8 pm (Story Time at 6:30 pm)

Saturday 9am-noon

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or visit our website at <https://www.stcharlesia.us/library>



ROADRUNNER PRIDE

INTERSTATE 35

COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Winter Weather--Don't dismiss the importance of games

The importance of playing games with your middle school child offers numerous benefits that contribute to their overall development and well-being. Following are some reasons why playing games with your middle school child is important. Playing games provides an opportunity for you to promote spending quality time together, fostering a stronger emotional connection. It creates a relaxed and open environment, making it easier for your child to share their thoughts and feelings.

Games where there are multiple players encourage teamwork and communication, helping your child develop essential social skills. Board games and group activities teach them about cooperation, compromise, and the importance of fair play. There are many games involving strategic thinking, problem-solving, and stimulating



cognitive development. Games challenge your child to analyze situations, make decisions, and adapt to changing circumstances.

Outdoor games or sports can provide an avenue for physical activity, promoting a healthy and active lifestyle. Physical play is crucial for developing coordination, motor skills, and overall physical well-being. Many games, especially imaginative or role-playing ones, encourage creativity and the use of imagination. This fosters creative thinking and helps your child develop a broader perspective on different scenarios. Successfully completing challenges or winning games can boost your child's self-esteem and confidence. It teaches them the importance of perseverance and the value of setting and achieving goals.

Games often require following rules, respecting others, and accepting both wins and losses gracefully, imparting important life skills. In summary, playing games with your middle school child is a multifaceted approach to fostering their emotional, social, cognitive, and physical development. It provides a platform for learning, enjoyment, and building a strong parent-child relationship.

Elementary teachers are moving mountains

There are a couple of phrases that continue to take priority over the second half of our school year at Interstate 35 Elementary: We are truly better together, and when we know better, we do better.

Each phrase is a part of how far we have come and what we are continually working towards. Being “Better Together” truly means that we recognize the strengths in each adult and student on our team. It means we utilize the strengths of each other to help boost the success of all. It means recognizing our own weaknesses and having the vulnerability to take risks and get support from others. When we truly believe and live the phrase, “We are Better Together,” it becomes much more attainable to reach the rigorous goals we’ve set for our school team.

Education in elementary today looks very different than it used to. The state and national standards push the students further in each grade level than in the past. We know so much more about how to develop foundational literacy and math skills than we used to. And, with that development, comes a heavy weight on staff members to help students reach those grade-level targets. A double-edged sword as the saying goes. It goes without saying the school staff members are under an extreme amount of pressure as they feel passionately that they want every student under their care to be successful. With close inspection, you can see teachers adjusting practices and routines to build up student skills in different areas; the great news is we have a teaching team that is willing to put in the time and take risks to support each student in his/her learning journey. We have moved mountains over the last year and a half, and the teaching staff are forging ahead with students a whole-lot closer to end of year skill levels than we have experienced in the past. It is not easy work, but it is work that needs to be done, and we have a team putting the time in each and every day.

It has been such a fun first half of the school year being able to see student growth in action. It will be even more exciting this second half of the year to see the outcomes of all of that strategy and effort. We will continue to build student-autonomy as learners which will further enhance student learning, and we will continue to celebrate and recognize our students and staff. If you would like to be a part of the work we are doing, please reach out to me, and we can get you involved in a capacity in which you feel great. After all, we are better together.

I-35 Vocal Department Makes Beautiful Music for Their Winter Concert

On Monday, December 18, the I-35 Vocal Music Department presented the 2023 Winter Concert. The evening featured our young Roadrunner vocal musicians between 5th and 12th grades.

The evening began with the 5th grade students singing the American folk song "Shenandoah" arranged by Andrew Parr and a fun number called "Pizza!" by Kirby Shaw. The 5th grade choir was led by Director Kelley Dugger.

The program then transitioned to the Middle School Choir which is directed by Mrs. Danae Coleman. The developing middle school singers shared three holiday songs - "French Carol Duet" which was arranged by Mary Donnelly and George L. O. Strid, "Up on the Housetop" and finally "Deck the Halls" which were both arranged by Vicki Tucker Courtney.

The next group to showcase their talents was the High School Choir. This group performed the easily recognized "Winter Wonderland," arranged by Kirby Shaw; "Still, Still, Still," arranged by Victor C. Johnson, a unique piece called "Pat-a-Pan" which allowed the vocalists to demonstrate their wide talents, arranged by Greg Gilpin, and finally "That's Christmas to Me," arranged by Audrey Snyder, which also featured Hailey Cormeny as a soloist.

The evening ended with all the students singing "When the World was at Peace" by Franz Gruber and Douglas E. Wagner. Prior to singing "When the World was at Peace", Avaya Clark, Kaedence Currie, and Emi Gutierrez shared that this song was written to commemorate a ceasefire which occurred the Christmas of 1914 during World War I.

All the students did a wonderful job of showcasing their grown vocal music talents, and the choirs continue to grow, and we're currently up to 41 students. In addition to our choir directors, Anne Johnson served as the students' accompanist throughout the evening. Both Director Dugger and Director Coleman want to extend their thanks to the parents, administration, staff, and students for all their work to make the concert a success. They also appreciate all the parents and community members who attended the concert to show their support for our students in the fine arts.



Roadrunners Celebrate Military and First Responders

On Thursday, January 4th Interstate 35 hosted both Nodaway Valley and Moravia's high school wrestling teams. The Roadrunners came away with two big victories and took time to recognize all members of the Military and First Responders in attendance.



Upcoming Events

Come out and support the ROADRUNNERS over the next few weeks!!!

- Thursday, Jan. 18 B Wrestling at Van Meter
- Friday, Jan. 19 B Basketball at Woodward Academy
- Saturday, Jan. 20 B/G Wrestling RICH GRAY
- Monday, Jan. 22 Board Of Education Meeting
- Monday, Jan. 22 Boys Basketball vs. Woodward Academy
- Tuesday, Jan. 23 Boys/Girls Basketball at DSM Christian
- Tuesday, Jan. 23 Boys Wrestling Duals vs, Earlham
- Thursday, Jan. 25 Boys Wrestling Duals at Saydel
- Friday, Jan. 26 Girls Wrestling Regionals TBA
- Friday, Jan. 26 Boys/Girls Basketball vs. AC/GC
- Friday, Jan. 26 Dance Team Performance
- Tuesday, Jan 30 Boys Wrestling Duals TBA
- Tuesday, Jan. 30 Boys/Girls Basketball at Earlham
- Thursday, Feb. 1 Girls Wrestling State
- Friday Feb. 2 Girls Wrestling State
- Friday, Feb. 2 Boys/Girls Basketball at Madrid
- Saturday, Feb. 3 Boys Wrestling at Coralville
- Monday, Feb. 5 Boys/Girls Basketball at Mt. Ayr
- Tuesday, Feb. 6 Boys/Girls Basketball at Pleasantville
- Thursday, Feb. 8 Boys Basketball vs. Nodaway Valley
- Saturday, Feb. 10 Boys Wrestling District TBA
- Saturday, Feb. 10 Girls Basketball TBA
- Monday, Feb. 12 Boys Basketball Districts TBA
- Tuesday, Feb. 13 Girls Basketball Regional TBA
- Wednesday, Feb. 14 Boys Wrestling State
- Thursday, Feb. 15 Boys Wrestling State
- Thursday, Feb. 15 Boys Basketball Districts TBA
- Friday, Feb. 16 Boys Wrestling State
- Friday, Feb. 16 No School-Professional Development
- Saturday, Feb. 16 Boys Wrestling State

ALL athletic competitions are VARSITY contests. For all sport and activity calendar please visit www.roadrunnerpride.org

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February 26 — May 3



Master Gardeners come from many different backgrounds, but have a few key things in common: they love gardening, they love learning, and they love contributing to their local communities. If you want to deepen your horticultural knowledge and serve your community, join us this year!

To be awarded the coveted Master Gardener title, there are a few things you'll be asked to do:

- Complete a 10-week online training through Canvas
- Take a pre- and post-test at the beginning and end
- Participate in 4 in-person sessions with your county/region
- Volunteer 40-hours in your county by December 31, 2025

Ready to apply?
Scan the QR code to get started.
Applications due February 12.

IMPORTANT DATES:

February 12 Applications due
February 26 Online materials available
March 9 Pre test due
May 3 Online portion ends
May 18 Post test due

IN-PERSON SESSIONS:

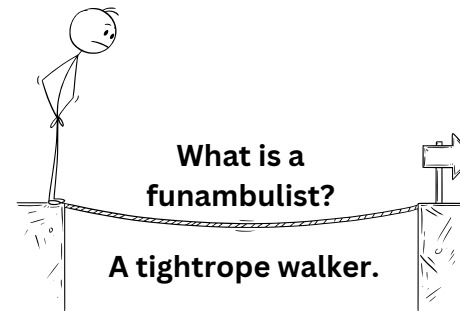
Please contact office for full syllabus that includes 11 In-Person sessions.

CONTACT INFO:

Bethany Cecot
515-961-6237 or boecot@iastate.edu

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ADK28.04U July 2020.

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with Chris Clark,
 Beef Specialist for Iowa State University
 Extension and Outreach



MARKETING CATTLE & LRP OPTIONS



See topics that you'd like to learn more about?
 If so, plan to join us.

Monday, November 13: Marketing Cattle & LRP Options
Tuesday, December 5: Nutritional Needs
Tuesday, January 9: Calving Management w/ a model
Monday, February 5: Pasture Prep

each session will start at 6:00 pm
 @ the Afton Community Center
 (240 N. Douglas; Afton IA)

OPEN TO EVERYONE ~ NO CHARGE


Pre-register or ask questions about any session by contacting:
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WALK-INS AT EACH SESSION ARE ALSO WELCOME


Light refreshments will be provided.

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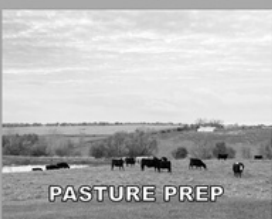
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SPECIAL CATTLE SALES:

- January 22, 2024
- January 29, 2024

Weigh cows @ 9:00am, feeders @ 11:00am

SPECIAL BRED COW SALE:

- February 10, 2024

Weigh cows @ 10:00am, breds @ noon

FIELD REP
 Brian Mitchell
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 (641) 449-3334 (Home)

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 @ 6:30 pm

Russell Livestock Market

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ALL THINGS AG

Updated USDA Plant Zone Hardiness Map Available for Planting Decisions
Experts discuss the process of developing hardiness map for 2023

January 5, 2024, 1:21 pm | Aaron J. Steil

AMES, Iowa – A newly updated version of the Plant Zone Hardiness Map, a key resource that informs the planting decisions of gardeners and growers across the country, was recently released by the United States Department of Agriculture. The new map provides a more precise picture of the average annual minimum temperature conditions across the state thanks to GIS technology.

According to Aaron Steil, consumer horticulture specialist with Iowa State University Extension and Outreach, it shows an average temperature shift of about one-quarter zone (about 2.5 F), placing more of the state in zone 5.

In this article, experts with ISU Extension and Outreach discuss the change and provide insight into what it means.

2023 Update

Using data from thousands of monitoring stations across the United States, the map is put together as a standard reference for a plant's cold tolerance. The map uses data from the past 30 years, which has been reviewed by horticultural, botanical and climatological experts to reflect average coldest winter temperatures and smooth out year-to-year fluctuations.

"The map indicates the average lowest temperature for a particular region, which is really helpful in selecting the right kind of plant for your garden," explained Steil. "It's been around for many years and is updated on a regular basis as things change over time."

While much of Iowa remains in zone 5, some areas of the state did see a shift in classification between 2012 and 2023. "Previous to the 2023 release, there were still large chunks of the state in northwest and northeast Iowa that were zone 4B. Now, essentially the bulk of the state is either zone 5A or 5B, with only small pockets of northeast and northwest Iowa in zone 4B. In addition, three or four counties in southeast and southwest Iowa are now in zone 6A, which is definitely a change," Steil said.

According to the USDA, another big change in the 2023 version is that the updated map includes more precise data, which can better account for complicating factors, such as elevation and large bodies of water, which can influence temperature.

While the USDA's Plant Zone Hardiness Map is a reliable and research-backed resource, Steil reminds gardeners that the temperature ranges it lists serve as an average lowest temperature, and it is still possible for temperatures below those listed to occur, especially in more extreme years.

"The map simply tells you what the average lowest temperature for a given area is," explained Steil. "That doesn't mean it can't get below a certain temperature; it just means that in a typical year it won't."

2012 Update

The first major update to the map occurred in 2012, following feedback from researchers, horticulturists and representatives from the nursery industry. Mark Widrlechner, affiliate associate professor of horticulture at Iowa State, was instrumental in the development of the 2012 map, and assisted with the 2023 update.

"In my time at the North Central Regional Plant Introduction Station, one of my main tasks was to coordinate a regional testing program for new trees and shrubs," said Widrlechner. "The plant introduction station is part of a network of long-term trial sites that plant new trees and shrubs and report on how they perform. As I compiled the data from that program, it was obvious that climate was a really important determinant of plant survival for trees and shrubs, so I ended up working with other researchers to publish scientific papers about what I was seeing."

Having published papers on what he was observing with climate, he was known within the USDA Agriculture Research Services as a person who was studying the relationship between climate and tree and shrub performance.

"When it was decided that the 1990 map needed to be updated, I was approached by the USDA administration to chair a national technical review team," he said.

In addition to assisting with the 2012 map, Widrlechner also served as a resource in the development of the 2023 map. "I've been retired from the USDA for 12 years now, but when they decided that they were going to update the map for 2023, they asked me if I was interested in participating in a new review team, so I provided some insight based on my experiences working on the 2012 map," added Widrlechner.

Continued on page 14...



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Continued from page 13...

Developing a Protocol

As Widrlechner explained, because an outside contractor was hired for the development of the 1990 map, the 2012 team had very little insight into how the 1990 map had been created. “It was clear that no one knew the protocol that was used to make the map, so in developing the 2012 map, we decided to create something more scientific and repeatable,” he said.

As Widrlechner and the other researchers worked on the 2012 map, they discovered that they were lacking some of the sophisticated mapping methods that would be needed for the updated map. This led to collaboration with a team at Oregon State University, who also partnered with the USDA in producing the 2023 version.

“We were attempting to do all of the work in house, but what we were putting together didn’t seem good enough,” explained Widrlechner. “So we decided to consult with some experts, which turned into a really good relationship with Oregon State University. I had a wonderful experience working with them the first time I was involved, so I was happy to work with them again in developing the 2023 map.”

To access the USDA Plant Zone Hardiness Map, visit the USDA website. For more information on the USDA Plant Zone Hardiness Map, visit the Home and Horticulture Pest News Website.

Category:

Crops, Environment, Yard and Garden

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JESUS' RIGHT HAND

With 2023 in the rearview mirror, we embark upon a brand new 2024 with hopes that this upcoming year will be better than the last. I've heard many people mention that this past year was not a good one for them, and they hoped this coming year would be better. Looking back, I think this has been something we have been saying since 2020. After dealing with the issues of a worldwide pandemic, we hoped each year would be better than the last. As the calendar turned to each new year, we were met with a new set of challenges, some that we could never have imagined. Sometimes these experiences threw us into a tailspin and caused us to temporarily lose focus and direction. But we persevered, and we are still here. Some years serve as monumental markers that are burned into our memories forever, and other years are quickly forgotten. The past few years have been tough, I admit that. In fact, I sailed into 2020 much like everyone else with a heart filled with hope and ambition for what this decade would hold for the ministry and my personal life. Then reality slapped us full in the face, and we had to scramble to merely keep up with everything that was so quickly changing. But we persevered, and we are still here. The ministry faced the loss of leadership due to death on two separate occasions, structural issues, rumors and betrayal and complete chaos more times than we care to remember. Our staff endured personal losses, injuries, accidents, financial and medical crises, betrayal, and total life disruptions. But we persevered, and we are still here.

So how are we supposed to evaluate a year once the calendar page has been flipped? Is it a good year simply because we came through without any heartache, tribulations, or loss? Or is it a bad year because we were faced with unimaginable circumstances? We must take several steps back from a yearly view and see that life needs to be measured within ourselves instead of judging periods of time based on what has happened "to" us. Personally, the year 2022 was absolutely the worst year of my entire life, without a doubt. I lost the love of my life, my girls lost their daddy, and we were faced with some really harsh realities. Our lives were turned upside down, and normal had to take on an entirely new meaning. However, as I look back at that time, I realized that I had grown strong in ways that would never have been possible without the love and grace of God, holding me up when I couldn't stand, and giving comfort to those whom I was incapable of comforting while dealing with the loss. With that perspective in mind, I soon realized that a year isn't simply good or bad because of what happened during those 365 days. The true measure of a year is seen in this: we persevered, and we are still here. We grew. We matured. We survived. We have overcome. We came across the stormy ocean in a boat without oars and are now standing on the other shore, a little wet and disheveled, but we are standing and have a confidence that with God, nothing shall be impossible. We can do all things through Christ who gives us strength. Life will go on, and the battles may rage, but we will be armed with a new strength and maturity to endure the bad and celebrate the good, because we persevered, and we are still here!

The ministry has undergone a tremendous growth spurt this past year. The addition of several new retail donors has brought in much-needed food for the growing demands. We picked up over 68,000 pounds of donated food from the four retail locations through the Feeding America program this past year and approximately an additional 10,000+ pounds of donated food from other agencies and sources. This did not even include the generosity of the organizations and communities which filled our emergency food pantry with shelf-stable foods and toiletries. The result: Food was provided for 3,924 households with 9,687 individuals. We worked with other agencies and organizations to form a network of distribution when we received an excess of fresh food so nothing would go to waste. There were many times when Big Red returned from a pickup, packed to the top, and we scrambled to find refrigeration and freezer space for everything. It was a blessing, but nonetheless, it was extremely stressful. But through it all, we are persevering, and we are still here! There has been growth, strength and maturity seen in every area of our lives, and to that, we give God all the glory.

We are looking forward to 2024, not because we want to put 2023 behind us as a bad year. We look forward because we are excited to see what God is going to do through a little-known ministry located in a small town in southern Iowa. As each new change comes, we will do a course correction, tweak a little here and there and jump the hurdles that stand in our way. When bad things happen, we will view them as an opportunity to learn, overcome and then keep going. After all, we have all persevered, and we are all still here! Please be encouraged by these words and know that we are here for you, no matter what life may bring your way.

MINDING OUR OWN BUSINESS(ES)

Contributed by Beth Voltmer



Originally opened as Two Saints Winery and sitting on the very west edge of St. Marys on 20th Avenue, north of G50, in the rolling hills of Warren County, this venue is now known as The Vineyard at St. Charles. Under new ownership, the Post family have made many changes, and Hannah is at the helm of this beautifully refreshed event space that primarily focuses on wedding celebrations. With that being said, birthday parties and showers have been held there, as well.

Hannah and her parents lived in Northeast Iowa while she was growing up. Hannah had an eight-year stint in Colorado but now calls Iowa home. While in Colorado, she enjoyed her vocation as a wedding planner. Now, though, it's "day of" services she enjoys. So, with her experience as a planner, she knows weddings in and out and has designed her venue and event packages accordingly.

You may be asking what does "day of" services mean? As Hannah put it, what sets her venue apart is offering the wedding hosts and their guests a day of "celebration and fun" without the worry of the "day of details" acting as the wedding coordinators. "The Vineyard" is on-site the day of; "The Vineyard" handles the production part for you.

In addition, although not a winery any longer, the venue does offer the "vineyard" atmosphere with rolling countryside dotted with rows of grapevines to add to the ambience and atmosphere. There are both indoor or outdoor ceremony options to choose from, too!

Upon purchasing the venue in August of 2022, Hannah and her parents set out to do a total refresh of the interior, moving the décor from a winery aesthetic to a wedding centric one. What was once a tasting room is now used for the "cocktail hour" lounge before or after the ceremony, where guests can mingle, moving from the indoors to outside to the expansive deck overlooking the gorgeous scenery of the 20-acre spread. This smaller area is great for smaller gatherings, too. Showers, corporate parties, birthdays...how could this venue work for your next event?

The all-inclusive event space's décor is a combination outdoor aesthetic with upscale furnishings you'd find in an elegant boutique hotel. Gorgeous chandeliers, a beautiful fireplace and upgraded seating offer an intimate setting, yet, accommodates up to 200. I encourage you to look at the website: www.vineyardatstcharles.com to see their full range of services. But, just to entice you, some of what is available is: complimentary centerpieces, linens, bar services, a full catering kitchen, outdoor games and more. Depending on the package and services you choose...a biggie for me is setup and take down. That's huge! Looking for vendors for your special event? They provide a "preferred partner" list for your convenience to help with this, too. In addition, there's a band shelter and full bar service, as well.

What was once used for making wine has been transformed into stunning suites for both the bride and groom and their wedding party. Having the venue from 9 a.m. to 11 p.m. is especially nice, too. All you must worry about is enjoying one of the most memorable days of your life...The Vineyard at St. Charles is your "one-stop" special event spot. For more information, contact Hannah at 515-344-4545.

Although not open regular business hours, phones are answered during normal business hours and email is: info@vineyardasc.com.

Hannah tells me she's quite thrilled with the growth of the business but still finds those in our area not aware it's even here. So, just what this monthly article's focus is, getting the word out and letting people know what is available in our own back yards...we're simply minding our own business(es).



Conversation hearts got their start as medical lozenges.

Weirdly enough, the story of conversation hearts first began when a Boston pharmacist named Oliver Chase invented a machine that simplified the way medical lozenges — used for sore throats and other illnesses — could be made. The result was America's first candy-making machine, because the pharmacist soon started shifting his focus from making lozenges to candy instead! Chase founded the New England Confectionery Company, or Necco, and the candy lozenges soon became what we know today as Necco wafers.

Source: godhousekeeping.com



Delores Prather

On January 4, 2024, Delores Elaine Prather passed away at 87 years of age, surrounded by the love of her cherished family in Fort Worth, Texas. Though her passing was quick, those who knew her know she left this world just how she wanted to, spending her final days with her sons, daughters-in-law, grandkids and great-grandson.

Born on August 10, 1936, in Winterset, Iowa, to Elvis and Fern Kirkpatrick, Delores was the second oldest of their eight children and the beloved eldest daughter. Despite the challenges of the Great Depression, the Kirkpatrick family was rich in values and love-- a legacy Delores and her siblings passed on to subsequent generations. Her early days on the family farm were

filled with helping "Mommy and Daddy" caring for younger siblings, cooking alongside her mother and sharing joyous adventures with her brothers and sisters--stories she would later joyously share with her children and grandchildren. Delores graduated from Geneseo High School in 1953, having completed her junior and senior years simultaneously after overcoming rheumatic fever.

As Delores entered adulthood, her life unfolded with new experiences, including the joy of dancing at Danceland in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, where she would meet Gilbert Prather, her future husband. This led to a union that brought two wonderful sons into the world, Gregory Lee and Steven Van. The Prather family journeyed through multiple states before finding their home in Southern California, where Delores's sons would later raise their own families. Her devotion to her boys was unparalleled. Delores supported them through challenging times, celebrated the good times and everything in between, appreciating the unique qualities of Greg's detailed mind and Steve's mechanical aptitude. Despite their differences, both sons inherited her wit and loving nature.

Even while living in the city, Delores's farm-girl spirit persisted. She expressed her love through home-cooked meals, the sweet melody of country music in the background, and home remedies known to cure any family ailment. Delores's kitchen became a haven for shared stories and laughter, creating a solid foundation for enduring family bonds. Her wisdom, generously shared with her family, became the foundation for enduring values that generations will carry forward.

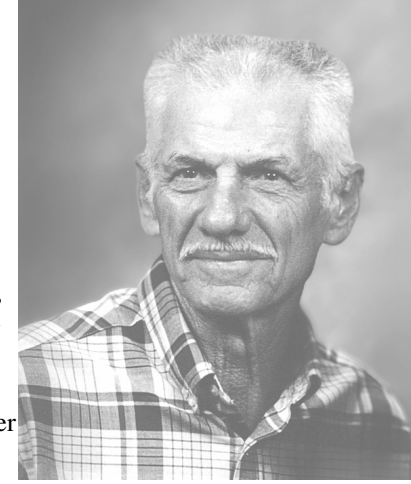
After a fulfilling 35-year career at Rockwell, Delores retired in 1998. Before her career there, some of her fondest memories were working at a local bakery in Iowa and even graced TV screens selling goods for a short time. No matter what, she always visited her family on the farm, bringing them something special to enjoy. In the later years of her life, she found her final life partner, Pete Martinez, and together, they transformed their home into a haven for grandchildren. Delores hosted sleepovers, created countless Halloween costumes, and engaged in various activities with the grandchildren. She often helped babysit or take the kids on a memorable adventure. Many nights were spent rocking her grandchildren and singing to them in her sweet and soft voice.

Delores possessed an extraordinary creative side that was primarily expressed in her artwork. Whether it was a simple doodle or a page from a coloring book, her paintings and drawings reflected the beauty she saw in the world around her. This artistic flair extended beyond her art and into her everyday life where she showcased an ability to find creative solutions to various challenges. Delores was known for her resourcefulness in problem-solving. Her granddaughter affectionately dubbed her "Lady MacGyver" because of her uncanny knack for finding imaginative and effective solutions to any problem that crossed her path. Delores's ability to think outside the box and approach challenges with creativity became a defining aspect of her character, leaving a lasting impression on those who witnessed her ingenuity. Her creative spirit will undoubtedly be remembered as a remarkable part of her legacy.

Renowned for her gentle and charming wit, Delores endeared herself to everyone she met. A beacon of pure, selfless kindness, she guided with love, patience, and understanding sprinkled with the occasional sassy, quick-witted, yet perfectly-timed quip. Delores displayed unwavering resilience in life's challenges, leaving an indelible mark on those fortunate to have crossed paths with her.

continued in column 2.....

LaVon Howell



LaVon Merle Howell, son of Charles Benjamin Howell and Minnie Marie Friesen Howell, was born December 12, 1932, on the family farm at New Virginia, Iowa. He passed from this life on January 8, 2024. LaVon grew up in New Virginia and graduated from New Virginia High School in 1951. He joined the Army in February 1953. He spent most of his enlistment in Alaska and was discharged in February 1955. He was joined in marriage to Clyta Marie Folger in April 1955. Three sons were born to this union: Benjamin Charles, Mark Steven, and Scott Folger.

LaVon farmed until his retirement, first with his father and then on his own after he purchased the family farm. LaVon was a member of the New Virginia United Methodist Church, American Legion Post #281, and the New Virginia Lions Club. He was very active in these organizations until his health failed. He was also very active in the Boy Scouts as a leader and went on many campouts with the Troop.

LaVon was preceded in death by his parents, his sister: Mildred and Salmer Wicks of Minnesota, his brothers: Kermit and Madge of Missouri, and Charles (Jake) and Ruth of Texas.

Those left to cherish his memory include his wife, Clyta, of New Virginia; sons: Ben (Janice) of St. Charles, Iowa, Mark (Patricia) of New Virginia, Iowa, and Scott (Laura Hanson) of New Virginia, Iowa; and many nieces, nephews, and friends.

Services were held at Kale Funeral Home on Saturday, January 13, 2024, at 2:00 p.m., with Pastor Paul Burrow officiating. The family greeted friends at Kale Funeral Home Thursday, January 11, 2024, from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. A live stream of the service was available at www.kalefuneralhome.com on LaVon's tribute wall beginning at 2:00 p.m. Saturday. Interment was at the New Virginia Cemetery on Monday, January 15, 2024. Memorial contributions may be directed to New Virginia Fire and Rescue. Online condolences may be directed to the family at www.kalefuneralhome.com.

The family of Gertrude Benedict wishes to thank everyone for all the thoughts, prayers, flowers, cards, food, and memorials. Special thanks to the NVUMC for the luncheon, Pastor Paul Burrow, and the Kale Funeral Home team.



Bev Jones and family

Wes & Sheryl Benedict and family

Lloyd & Chris Benedict and family

Roger & Kathy Benedict and family

Continued from column 1.....

Delores loved her family dearly. They were the light of her life. She was a fantastic and cherished mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, daughter, sister, aunt, and friend.

Delores leaves a legacy of love, laughter, and enduring values. Those who knew her will always hold her dear in their hearts, remembering her as a shining beacon of kindness and warmth.

She will be cherished in memory by her sons, Gregory Prather (Elizabeth) and Steven Prather (Kyla); grandchildren, Megan Prather (Bradley), Ashley Millam (Patrick), Race Prather, Holt Prather, Laci Prather; and her great-grandchildren, Miles Millam and soon-to-be-born "Baby Girl" Millam; siblings, Aletha House (Fred), Ladonna Smith, Dale Kirkpatrick (Kyle), Ronnie Kirkpatrick, Bonnie Smith (David), sister-in-law Judy Kirkpatrick and many nieces, nephews, great-nieces, great-nephews, great-great nieces and great-great nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Elvis and Fern Kirkpatrick; husband, Gilbert Prather; partner, Pete Martinez; brothers, Eddie Kirkpatrick and Vernon Kirkpatrick; sister-in-law, Marilyn Kirkpatrick and brother-in-law, Terry Smith.

Final respects were held at Kale Funeral Home at 301 S. Main St., Osceola, Iowa, 50213 on Saturday, January 13, 2024, at 11:00 a.m.

ROAD TRIPPING

Sport Wade's Diner

Contributed by Terry Garner

I guess you know you're old when eating out is considered a form of entertainment! That's what Rollie and I do for fun now, since we can't stay up late and hoot and holler like we used to.

The other day, we were dropping off some deer meat to have processed, and we stopped at Sport Wade's Diner on Hwy 69 south of Osceola just west of Weldon for lunch. I had a cheeseburger and fries; Rollie got the tenderloin and onion rings. The food was nothing fancy, just typical diner fare from what you remember in the past. Service was fast, and they took good care of you. The staff was very friendly. It was a breakfast and lunch spot for many of the locals, and you could tell that they felt at home there, which is always a good sign!

The building was old and had been there a long time. The décor was typical of an old-fashioned diner. There were small tables and some old-time bar stools at the counter. You know, those old twisty-turny kind that you used to spin around on as a kid, and your mom would smack you! Someone had baked a cake and frosted it pretty. It was sitting on the counter on a cake pedestal, waiting for someone to tear into it. There were old signs and memorabilia scattered about and an old jukebox sitting in the corner. The flooring was that old checkerboard linoleum that you remember from way back. Farmers and truck drivers were coming and going getting some lunch. There were even working gas pumps outside right in front of the building.

We've been by there many times and always wondered about it. I'm glad we stopped that day; it was a nice place to grab a quick lunch. Stop in sometime when you are out and about and check them out. We'll definitely go back, maybe for breakfast next time!



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

ANOTHER MILKING STORY

Contributed by Terry Garner

Mel Stills wrote an article for this month about memories he had of growing up on the farm. His story of milking cows brought back one of my memorable moments of the same chore. I shared it with Sue and Mel, and he thought I ought to put it along side of his story. So...here goes.

Milking cows was one of my favorite chores. I just loved balancing on that one-legged milk stool, probably just like the one Mel sat on, with my head leaning into the cow's flank and absorbing the odor of warm cow and fresh milk. Unlike Mel, I milked the two closest to me, then the two farther back. And just like Mel, I was a pretty good shot when it came to aiming that milk at something other than the bucket. Yes, I dearly loved milking, until it came to milking this one cow. I think she was a Guernsey, dark orangey-red. I can't remember what we called her. I probably couldn't print it anyway.

It seemed like every night she would think up new ways to make my job miserable. She would kick, dump my bucket, swat me, just never co-operated. And just when I let my guard down, WHAM, she'd get me again. One day she kicked me again, and it was on! I grabbed a two by four and started beating on that old girl. She finally yanked her head out of the stanchion (a feat in itself,) and I continued chasing her around the milking room whacking on her, screaming and cussing as loud as I could.

Continued in column 2.....

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

MILKING COWS

Contributed by Mel Stills

Because of WWII, my farm growing up years didn't start until 1946 when we moved back to Iowa from California. I don't remember my first chores, but in the summer, it was pulling weeds from Mom's garden and probably feeding chickens and gathering eggs. When I got old enough to really do the "real" chores, I was slopping hogs, feeding the cows and milking six, mixed-breed milk cows. That's milking by hand, twice a day. It wasn't a big deal in warmer weather, but come winter, a little more work was involved.

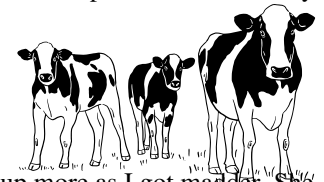
Getting the cows into the barn was easy, or it could be challenging. Sometimes all would be standing near the gate, waiting to get it over with. Other times, there was one old cow that might be as far away as possible. Time was a factor; all the chores needed to get done before the school bus came at 7:30 a.m.

The cows would always need to get cleaned before milking could start. Some cows were kickers, and you had to put the kickers on them to avoid them knocking over the milk bucket. You generally tried to include their tail in the kickers in order to avoid that wet tail across the face. We milked sitting on a one-legged stool. I started on the back two teats and moved to the front. No matter how hard you tried, sooner or later for meanness, a cow would put her foot in the bucket, and you hadn't cleaned that part. You learned the signs of pending disaster. Don't let your guard down, and some things just couldn't be trusted. Much the same as in my working years.

Milking cows wasn't a big deal unless one kicked over the bucket, and that only happened if the bucket was full. One old cow delighted in stepping on my foot. I would unlock the stanchion, she would step back, put her big foot on top of mine and turn, a wonderful feeling. The barn was full of cats also, and every now and then, she would step on a cat, and that was the end of the cat. The barn always had kittens, and they would sit there waiting for me to pour some milk in a bowl for them. I always squirted some right from the cow on them, and they would get into position waiting their turn to get some milk. It was hard to ignore the kittens' meowing.

Winter added new elements to milking. In real cold weather, we would keep the cows in overnight. The barn always felt warm those cold mornings. We had windows on the East side of the barn, and the morning light coming through the window had these dust particles floating around. The barn had a smell. If you took the cows out, the hay had this great sweetness to it. Add the cows, and you needed to scoop out the trough before you started. There was always a pile to the left of the side door. The other smell is warm milk right from the cow.

It was common to find cats sleeping on top of cows. When you finally got around to milking and got the stool all set, you could rest your head in a hollow spot in the cow's side. There is a rhythm to milking, and your hands and forearms developed good strength. After I had been away in the Navy, and I helped someone milk, I was surprised how much my arms ached after just one cow. Milking every day for as long as I can remember, I had built up some pretty good hand strength. I'm sure every kid growing up on the farm can tell milking stories.



I was using every swear word I'd ever heard and making up more as I got madder. She finally busted through the south barn door, which was closed by the way, with me right on her tail, still swinging my club and cussing and swearing at the top of my lungs. Right then, my dad, who I had no idea was anywhere around, said, "Having trouble, Terry?" I thought, "Oh no, here it comes." But I just looked at him and said, "If you don't sell her, I'll kill her." And he said, "Ok, we'll sell her." I know my mouth dropped open. I was thinking anytime he was gonna let me have it for my trash mouth, but he never did. And he did sell her. That's when I figured out why I was milking her instead of him. He hated her too! Hahaha! I sure did love to milk, just not her! I'd still have a milk cow if I could just milk her on Tuesdays and Thursdays, maybe. Mel could milk her the other days! How 'bout it, Mel?

We were glad to receive Christmas cards from so many friends and family. We still miss our place in Iowa and our friends and family there. I must say that I do not miss the cold weather and snow that are expected there this month. We have had a couple of weeks of 30's to 50's, but the weather forecast is for 60's beginning on January 13, with 72° by January 19. Not quite "sunbathing" weather, but enough mildness for sitting in the sun in the afternoon.

My brother Tom and wife Gwen, both 77 years old, began their drive from their home in Tucker, GA, to their "new" home in Sun Lakes, AZ, on December 18. That drive is 1,847 miles, and the drive time is 26 hours, barring complications. Well, unfortunately, they had complications, and it was a very discouraging and exhausting trip for them. Tom was driving a large U-Haul truck, pulling a U-Haul trailer, and Gwen was following in their SUV, with all three packed with their possessions and Christmas gifts. On the first day, in western AL, Gwen fell asleep and took out a dozen guardrail posts in the center of the highway, totaling the car. Fortunately, she only sustained a sprained thumb. The car was towed to Meridian, MS, they transferred their possessions into a rental car, and they continued on. Further complications ensued in the next couple of days with a flat tire on the trailer, Gwen fell, and the trailer axle broke, with the rear tire coming off after hitting a curb. By this time, they were in Deming, NM. Unable to get a replacement trailer from U-Haul, they would have to leave the trailer there. On December 22, our brothers Jim and Bill drove to help, meeting them in Deming, and Tom got a welcome respite from driving the big truck. They all arrived in Sun Lakes that night. During that exhausting journey, Tom and Gwen had their doubts that their move had been a good decision. I hope they will be happier once they are settled and established here.

In spite of all the above calamities, we were together for Christmas Eve and had fun visiting, eating and opening gifts, many of which were quite silly, and we all laughed a lot. Mel and I hosted Christmas dinner, and we all went out for a prime rib dinner at the country club restaurant for Tom and Gwen's 54th anniversary on December 26. The next day, Tom and his son Tom who lives west of Phoenix, drove a U-Haul truck to Deming and retrieved the contents of the trailer that had been left there. Unfortunately, my nephew Tom had Mr. COVID riding on his shoulder when he spent the day with his dad, and they both got sick. I had a mild bout, and Gwen also got sick. That disease is not something we thought about anymore, but it is still around. Mel has been battling a cold and a lung infection that produced an awful cough. He is improving.

On a happier note, on December 29, I finally got my new car that we ordered a couple of months ago. It was built in South Korea and then was in California quite a while so GM could install some additional components. It is a 2024 Buick Encore Avenir. The exterior color is cinnabar metallic (red), and the interior is whisper beige with black and tan accents. It is very pretty and small enough to fit in our garage. It seats five, and the rear seats fold down so that we can pack what we need for a road trip, hopefully to Iowa this summer.

Our "snowbird" friends from NY, CO and MN have arrived. Sadly, our WA friends sold their Sun Lakes house, so they were only here for a while in November. We anticipate a happy, busy winter season here, and we wish you all a safe, enjoyable winter.

HAPPY
Valentine's Day

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ridges are on the edge of a quarter?
119.
The ridges, or reeds, are there
to make counterfeiting
more difficult.

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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 am)

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 Congregational

Christian Church UCC

155 E Garfield Box 17 Truro, IA 50257

Rev. Hugh Stone

Cell:641-414-4876

Email: hugh8@juno.com

Worship 09:00 am

Coffee & Fellowship: 10:00 am

Immaculate Conception

101 St. James St PO Box 88

St. Marys, IA 50241

Fr. Eze Umunnakwe, C.S.Sp.

660 215-0757

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

Faith Fellowship Church

164 Highway 152 Osceola, IA 50213

641-342-6603

Pastor: Sheldon Lorenson

Youth Pastor: Tyler Murrow

oefc@iowatelecom.net

Sunday School 9:00 am

Worship: 10:00

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

New Virginia Christian Church

(Disciples of Christ)

604 Main Street. / Box 112

New Virginia IA 50210

Pastor: Darin Feikema

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

Sunday Worship: 11 AM

New Virginia United Methodist Church

301 West Street / Box 301

New Virginia IA 50210

641-449-3779

Pastor Paul Burrow

515-402-1802

Pastor's email: burrowpi@yahoo.com

Church email:NewVA-Medora@outlook.com

Sunday Worship: 10:30 AM

Fellowship following Worship Service

Quilters Tuesday 1-4 PM

Necessities Pantry open 2nd Wednesday

10-11 am & 6:00- 7:00 p.m.

Like us on Facebook:

New Virginia United Methodist Church

Medora United Methodist Church

10804 Hwy G-76 / Box 301

New Virginia IA 50210

641-449-3779

Pastor Paul Burrow

515-402-1802

Pastor's email: burrowpi@yahoo.com

Church email:NewVA-Medora@outlook.com

Sunday School: 9:15 AM (children)

Worship: 9 AM

Quilters: 1:00 P.M. Thursday

Church of Christ

10985 44th Lane Prole IA 50229

Sunday Worship: 10 AM & 6 PM

Wednesday Worship: 7 PM

Elder: Duane Proudfit 515-961-4470

Elder: Mike Penick 515-989-4165

Deacon: Fred Bown 641-764-2484

Deacon: Richard Bown: 641-764-2765

Linn Grove United Methodist Church

7483--50th Ave

(4 miles north of Martensdale)

(1 block east of Hwy 28)

Prole IA, 50229

Pastor: Bernie Colorado

515-981-4062

Sunday Breakfast: 8 - 9:30 AM

(free will offering)

Traditional & Children Sunday Worship 10 AM

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

Pastor's email: bernieco2003@yahoo.com

St. Paul Lutheran

(Evangelical Lutheran Church in America)

ELCA

615 Iowa Ave / P.O. Box 290

Martensdale IA 50160

641-764-2752

office@mystpaullutheran.com

Worship: 10:00 AM

LifePoint Church

801 N. Fillmore St.

Osceola, IA 50213

641-342-2334

Pastor Chuck DeVos

www.lifepointministries.net

info@lifepointministries.net

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

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

Peru Murray United Methodist Church

Pastor Brandon Campbell

No Sunday School

Peru Worship 9:00 am

Murray Worship 10:30 am

