

CITY OF NEW VIRGINIA IOWA  
PO BOX 302  
NEW VIRGINIA, IA 50210

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

May 21, 2026

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June 10, 2026

**NEXT MAILING DATE**  
June 18, 2026

# Congratulations **2026** Graduates!



**I-35 School District**

Contributed by Brianna Fantz



**MSTM School District**

Contributed by Nicholas Schmidt

Hi, my name is Brianna Fantz, and I'm a senior at Interstate 35. I've been going to school at I-35 for 13 years, which feels so shocking to me. It really feels like just a couple of days ago I was in kindergarten, dreading the rest of school I had left. I remember thinking in 4th grade, "I have eight years of school left, this is going to take forever." When you're a little kid, looking forward in time, everything slows down, but now that I've made it to graduation, growing up felt like it went so fast. Going through each school year, I was living in the moment, could remember each day, and was waiting to finish each year to reach the end, but looking back, it feels so distant. I lived those moments, but it wasn't just a day ago; it was four years ago. You look back at the yearbooks, and everyone looks so young, so different from how they look now, but time flew, and now you're living in the present.

This final year, however, felt different. I felt I had so many things going on that I wasn't ever bored just waiting for school to end. As I jumped to each new deadline or activity, more and more time would pass, and it felt like time sped up, yet I lived in every moment. I enjoyed the football season, participating in the marching band, dancing at homecoming, hanging out with friends, and taking part in senior traditions. I really enjoyed senior traditions like senior sunrise, which seemed to bring us all together as a senior class. This has been our year throughout all our last moments. We've had our last homecoming, prom, sports seasons, and classes at I-35, all while remembering our firsts. Those beginning moments, like the first-day-of-school picture with our parents, felt so small when we were kids. Now all of us seniors have had our last first day of school and will go on to have our first days of college, trade school, full-time work, or any other path we take.

Despite our desire to hold on to every moment of our senior years, there have been sad, stressful, and tiring moments. We've had to end sports seasons, fill out so many scholarship applications under tight deadlines, and stay up late to compete. I play soccer with Winterset and have ended up driving home late and going to school the next day like a zombie. Despite that, I've still enjoyed every soccer game and practice, not wanting them to be over. We've all had our bad moments, but we've always persevered and found enjoyment with each other. One stressful moment that I assume most of us have experienced is getting accepted into the college you're aiming for. You hope that your application was good enough and stress out until you finally get an answer. When you get your answer, you find yourself surrounded by friends and family supporting you, regardless of the answer, and you find relief in their comfort. I felt that way when I got accepted to Northwest Missouri State University.

Continued on page 28...

There's something special about small-town schools that you don't get out of a bigger place. If you asked me in these last couple of weeks to name just about everyone that I pass in the hallway, I'm sure I could do it, and I bet whoever I pass could too. You get to know everybody in an environment like Martensdale-St. Marys, which is the school that I will be graduating from on the 17th of this month. That sense of community has shaped my entire experience at this place as I'm sure it has for the others that will be graduating alongside me.

For years now, we have all spent a lot of time together. The school consists of so many different people with different interests, backgrounds, stories, hopes, and dreams, yet we still come together and form a supportive group that is always there for each other. I dare say that everyone that goes here cares about everyone else in these halls. Even being a preschool through 12th grade district, we all interact and care about each other. For instance, we have a wonderful program called Best Buddies where high school students go hang out with the younger kids, spend time with them, help them with things, and just be their friends. This is a cool concept on its own, but the sheer amount of people involved with it makes it even better -- every student in the elementary has a buddy.

It isn't just the students that make up the community though. In all of our activities -- the energetic football games on warm September nights, the wrestling meets during the seasonal snow, the music concerts before major school events like breaks and holidays -- they all gather quite the audience. Even being a small town, the parents, grandparents, siblings, teachers, townfolk, and even former alumni with their many familiar faces are always there in whatever we are doing, and when I say they show up, I really mean it. What I didn't mention about the football games is the loud cheering and packed stadium, the wrestling meets with the people from all over coming to see the teams compete, the music concerts with phones at the ready to capture the moment on video... without the people that attend and are always there for us, none of it would be nearly as impactful. Their consistent support for us at all times is really something special.

I won't lie in saying that the lack of new faces can be a challenge sometimes. Being in a class with a total of 36 people, you get an idea of who everybody is pretty quick and make your close friends and have the rest as acquaintances. Being around the same people for 12 years of your life (or more) is fine, but without any new people to meet, the struggle in variety can definitely be real. Though seemingly a negative aspect, this limitation creates a unique environment where you get closer to people you never would have even interacted with before.

Continued on page 28...

# Happy Graduation Seniors



Abram Edwards



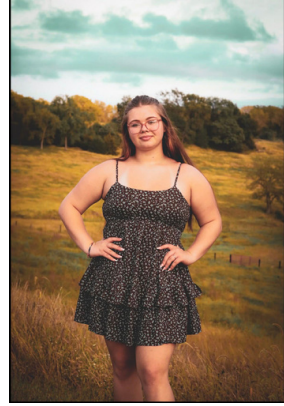
Addisyn Edwards



Addy Wilson



Amara Allsup



Amelia Chandler



Amy Blahauvitz



Andrew Howard



Anthony Cicero



Aurora Alery



Bella Griglione



Ben McCuddin



Braden Scheffers



Brandon Stansell



Brianna Fantz



Carl McMichael

More  
1-35  
Graduate  
Photos  
on  
Pages  
13, 14, 15, 16

# New Virginia Methodist Church

301 West St

would like to invite you to

## Memorial Day Dinner

May 25, 2026, 11 am – 1 pm

Fried Chicken, Cheesy Potatoes,  
Salads, Desserts, and Drinks

\*\*\* Free Will Donation \*\*\* Carryout Available \*\*\*

### DONATIONS STILL NEEDED FOR 2026 NEW VIRGINIA FIREWORKS

The Saturday evening fireworks are a big part of our Old Settlers Celebration.

We are planning a \$5,000.00 fireworks show, but we need your donations.

For those of you who like to do your business online, the New Virginia Old Settlers Association has set up a Venmo account for online donations.

Our link to donate is <https://venmo.com/NewVirginia-OldSettlers> please note in Venmo that your donation is for the fireworks fund.

You can also donate to the New Virginia Fireworks fund at City State Bank or you may also mail a check (please write fireworks in the memo) to the fireworks fund at the following address:

City Clerk of New Virginia  
PO Box 302  
New Virginia, IA 50210

Any questions feel free to contact, Deann Strange (515)210-8847 or [newvirginiaoldsettlers@gmail.com](mailto:newvirginiaoldsettlers@gmail.com)



**New Virginia Old Settlers  
2026 clothing store is now open!**

**ORDER NOW AT JONES CREEK APPAREL  
[HTTPS://NEW-VIRGINIA-OLD-SETTLERS.ITEMORDER.COM/SHOP/HOME/](https://new-virginia-old-settlers.itemorder.com/shop/home/)  
STORE CLOSES JUNE 19 AT 11:00 AM**

# Rodeo

## Clarke County Fairgrounds

Osceola, Iowa

May 29 & 30, 7:30 PM

### Advanced Tickets

Will be available  
through May 29 at

Southern Iowa

Saddle Shop

Adults \$8

Children 12 to 5 \$4

5 and under Free

### Gate Admission

Adults \$10

Children 12 to 5 \$5

5 and under Free

### Mutton Bustin'

May 29 & 30, 6PM

Only participants that have registered ahead of time will be allowed to ride.

No Horses allowed in the campgrounds.

Horse Stalls will be available \$15 a night. You are responsible for clean-up of the stall. Campgrounds available \$20 a night



### CHAMPIONSHIP EVENTS

BAREBACK

SADDLE BRONC

BULL RIDING

STEER WRESTLING

GIRLS BARREL RACING

OPEN CALF ROPING

FORTY & OVER CALF ROPING

BREAKAWAY CALF ROPING

TEAM ROPING HEADER

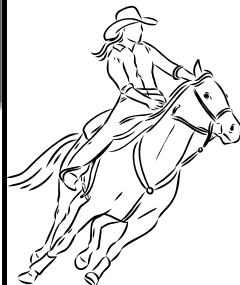
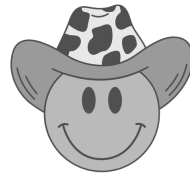
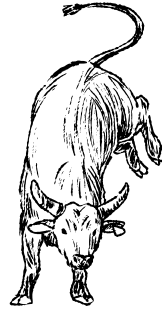
TEAM ROPING HEELER

IRCA RANCH BRONC

ADDED CLASSES:

NOVICE BAREBACK

NOVICE SADDLE BRONC



# OLD CITY CEMETERY WHEN HEADSTONES TALK

**Saturday, June 20  
10 a.m.-1 p.m.**

Help Clean Old Gravestones

Uncover Symbols & Words  
(Supplies Provided)

Watch "The Cemetery Guy" and Team  
Resurrect the Broken & Fallen

Learn About Residents ~ Old City Cemetery  
Picnic Lunch Provided

**Free Event - Donations Encouraged  
No R.S.V.P. - No Rain Date**

SPONSORED BY:  
INDIANOLA I.O.O.F. INDIANOLA PARKS & RECREATION  
WARREN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
D/2 BIOLOGICAL SOLUTION™ WYCKOFF HEATING & COOLING  
WEST SIDE OF I.O.O.F. CEMETERY  
- .5 MI SOUTH OF HWY 92 ON JEFFERSON WAY

West Side  
of I.O.O.F.  
Cemetery  
0.6 miles  
south of  
Hwy 92 on  
Jefferson  
Way

Thank you to our Event Sponsors:  
Creston Livestock Market  
Miller Quarter Horses, Lucas, IA  
Cody Miller Family, Thayer  
Superior Construction-Brian Short  
Randy Dunbar  
Playa Margarita  
Gilbert & Foltz Quarter Horses Osceola & Leon  
Halvorson Tax & Accounting Services Osceola  
D&D Pest Control  
Reyna Performance Horses (Chris & Stacy)

Thank you to the following sponsors:  
Rychnovsky Lawn, Inc  
Clarke Electric Cooperative, Inc

## Council Meeting Minutes

May 4th, 2026

The Council met in regular session on Monday May 4th, 2026, at 7:04 p.m. for the May council meeting. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Pro-Tem Truman with Council Members Bailey, Chandler, and Dunkin present. Absent Galivan and Mayor Strange. Minutes from the April meeting were approved.

**Old Business:** The brush at the south end of Main Street has been cut and treated.

Ed Green will put up the new Hen House sign. Arrangements need to be made to get the sign to him.

The alley between Grand Avenue and Pine Street has been re-rocked.

The stop sign at East and North Street has been replaced.

Measuring has been done regarding the use of the cemetery for shooting off fireworks. If the fireworks are set up south of the cemetery road south of the helipad, the distance is 500 plus feet away from the closest house.

The Lions Hall door has been fixed/repared, and a new lock has been installed.

The New Virginia Garden Club is still working on a presentation for a possible farmers market in New Virginia. Members of the Garden Club will be present at the June council meeting to present their information about a possible farmers market.

**Citizen Input:** Two chevron signs on the west end of the alley by Lions Park and 410 Border Street have been broken off and need to be put back in place.

The border wall for the playground equipment in Lions Park is breaking at the hinged connections. There are two or three sections that have broken. Chandler will see if he can make repairs to the hinged connections.

There have been citizen complaints about a black dog with an orange collar running loose on the south end of town doing its business and growling at people in their own yards. The owner of the dog will try to be determined and be advised of the pertinent leash law and other ordinances regarding dogs running at large.

There have been complaints about unmaintained yards around town with two locations being in the 500 block of Davidson Street and the 100 block of Main Street. Letters will be sent to include sections of ordinances regarding unmaintained yards.

There have been complaints about dilapidated/junk vehicles and junk in the 100 block of Broadway Street and the 400 block of Felton Street. The property owners will be advised of the pertinent nuisance ordinances regarding junk vehicles and general junk.

A citizen inquired about using wooden pallets for a fence. The pallets will be painted and basket plants/flowers hung from the pallets. The ordinance on fences will be reviewed regarding this inquiry.

**Fire Department Business:** Fire Chief Jake Zuercher advised the Council of the need to purchase two new sets of fire gear, three helmets and three sets of fire boots at a cost of \$10,453.00 before shipping. After discussion, Bailey moved, seconded by Chandler to approve the purchase of two new sets of fire gear, three helmets and three sets of fire boots at a cost of \$10,453.00 plus shipping. A roll call vote was taken: 3 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.

**Water Utilities discussed:** Rhonda Guy, water operator for the City of New Virginia, was present to review the April water report. March water usage was 752,000 gallons averaging 24,258 gallons per day. The Annual Water Quality Report was reviewed. Rhonda will be submitting the Iowa DNR certification for the Water Quality Report. Nitrite testing will be completed this quarter in addition to the monthly bacteria tests. Testing is in compliance with Iowa DNR permit requirements. Rhonda advised she would like to train councilmembers on how to do the daily water testing.

**Law Enforcement:** There was no Sheriff's Report available for the month of April 2026.

Parking on the north side of the old hardware store building, 505 West Street, was discussed as part of the review of the license/use agreement for the Lions Hall restroom. Bailey moved, seconded by Dunkin to approve the agreement pending approval of sign placement by the Mousels, owners of the former hardware store building. A roll call vote was taken: 3 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried. The City Attorney will be contacted to see if the

no parking sign(s) requires an ordinance.

FY 2025-26 budget revenues and expenses were reviewed. A budget amendment will be needed for the General Government and the Public Safety areas of the budget.

### GAMP UPDATE

The school put out a message to students about helping at the truck pull. There has been some student interest in helping at the truck pull.

Information regarding the purchase of a gas grill for the truck pull was reviewed. The grill being considered is a Weber Genesis E-415 four-burner propane grill. The grill would be used for truck pulls only and not for use during GAMP Building rentals.

A spreadsheet will be made for kitchen workers and gate workers for the truck pull. Pam will be a gate worker and her sister, Jolene, will work the merchandise table.

Replacing boards on the bleachers on the south side of the pulling track was discussed.

Mike Strange will be contacted about checking the tires on the track packer.

The next truck pull prep meeting will be Thursday May 28th from 5:00 to 6:00 p.m.

### KEEP IOWA BEAUTIFUL PROGRAM

**Upcoming Events in 2026:** September 20 th – End Of Summer Social at Hickory Hills. Ideas discussed – Drive-thru dinner, Game nights @ Lions Hall. The Committee is looking for new avenues for getting information out to the public. New merchandise considerations include T-shirts and stickers.

### ELF CLUB

No new information to present to the Council.

### TRI-CORNER-EXPRESS

Fund balance \$22,556.65. The Interstate 35 and Martensdale-St. Marys seniors will have their pictures and graduation information in the May Tri Corner-Express.

A cost estimate from Savage Excavation for re-crowning South Street was reviewed and discussed. Bailey moved, seconded by Dunkin to approve Savage Excavation cost estimate of \$2500.00 for machine time and \$3200.00 for rock and three months of maintenance at no charge for re-crowning South Street. A roll call vote was taken: 3 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.

Mayor Justin Strange attended a small-town downtown development presentation on April 29 th . It was given by the Iowa Economic Development Authority. Lots of great information was shared and was especially helpful because they visited New Virginia in advance and took some photos. Mayor Strange would like to get a special meeting at the GAMP Building set up where he can share the presentation and information with community members, the city council, and any commercial property owners that own property in our downtown district to work on some potential initiatives, plans, etc. This would also be good for members of the local non-profits to attend as well – Lions, Old Settlers, Hometown Pride, Garden Club, etc. It will be attempted to schedule a meeting in early June.

Purchasing asphalt cold patch by the bag or purchasing a pallet was discussed. Dunkin moved, seconded by Chandler, to purchase what is needed for immediate pothole patching and get more information and details about the shelf-life and storage requirements before purchasing a pallet. A roll call vote was taken: 3 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.

Bailey moved, seconded by Chandler, 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, Chandler moved, seconded by Dunkin to adjourn meeting. A roll call vote was taken: 3 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 9:35 p.m.

The June council meeting is scheduled for Monday June 8th, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. **June meeting date – Monday June 8th, 2026, at 7:00 p.m.**

**City Of New Virginia**  
**Special Council Meeting Minutes**  
**April 20th, 2026**

The Council met in special session on Monday April 20th, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Pro-Tem Truman with Council Members Dunkin, Bailey, and Chandler present. Mayor Strange listened via cell phone. Galivan absent. Bailey moved, seconded by Dunkin to open the meeting at 7:15 p.m. A roll call vote was taken: 3 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.

Chandler moved, seconded by Bailey to open the public hearing to approve and adopt the FY2026-27 New Virginia City Budget. A roll call vote was taken: 3 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.

With no citizens present and no written responses or email responses received in response to the proposed FY2026-27 city budget, Dunkin moved, seconded by Chandler to close the public hearing. A roll call vote was taken: 3 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.

Dunkin moved, seconded by Bailey to pass and approve Resolution 2026-11 – A RESOLUTION APPROVING & ADOPTING THE FY2026-27 NEW VIRGINIA CITY BUDGET. A roll call vote was taken: 3 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.

Potholes are getting bad at Broadway and West Street. Asphalt cold patch material will be used to fill these holes as well as any other potholes around town.

The New Virginia Library submitted a budget increase request. This increase request is too late for the FY2026-27 budget process. A budget increase will be considered in the FY2027-28 budget process.

The restroom agreement for the Lions Hall Building is nearing finalization and will be ready for approval at the May 4th council meeting.

The current city budget and fund balances were reviewed. Expenses will be reviewed with the possibility of a budget amendment needed for the general government fund.

The front entry door to the Lions Hall Building was discussed regarding possible repair or replacement.

**Community Happenings:** The Council was advised the New Virginia Trail Committee received a \$5,000.00 grant this month from Warren County Philanthropic Partnership that will be used to initiate the north end of the phase one trail project. Another application has been submitted to Prairie Meadows for a Community Betterment Grant. This grant is awarded in July. If the Prairie Meadows Grant is received, it will be used to complete the phase one trail project.

The New Virginia Garden Club received a \$3,000.00 donation from the new Gun Club west of town for community beautification projects as well as dirt for their planter project.

The new Gun Club west of town is looking for clubs/groups/organizations to serve food for their upcoming events this spring, summer and fall. Profit is 100% of the sales with a potential match by the Gun Club of total sales.

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

With no further business to come forth, Bailey moved, seconded by Dunkin, to adjourn meeting. A roll call vote was taken: 3 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

The May council meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 4th, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. **May meeting date – Monday, May 4th, 2026 at 7:00 p.m.**

  
 Jennifer Baughman, City Clerk

**National Egg Day is June 3, 2026**

Which came first, the chicken or the egg? Does anyone really know? But it's a fact, National Egg Day is on June 3<sup>rd</sup>. Eggs are an excellent source of protein and vitamin D. Eggs can have more than 17,000 pores and fresh eggs are hard to peel when hard-boiled. Storing your eggs upside down will make them last longer. Celebrate National Egg Day with eggs!

**Recycle**

May 29  
 June 11  
 June 25

**VENDOR**

**REFERENCE**

**AMOUNT**

**CHECK #**

**CHECK DATE**

ALLIANT ENERGY	ELECTRIC/GAS/STREET LIGHTS	\$806.56	16130	5/1/2026
AT&T FIRSTNET	PHONE SERVICE	\$51.31	16155	5/13/2026
ATLANTIC COLCA-COLA BOTTLING C	POP MACHINE PRODUCTS	\$170.52	16136	5/5/2026
BRENT BAUGHMAN	OFFICE SUPPLIES INK FOR PRINT	\$24.97	16125	4/21/2026
BRENT BAUGHMAN	MILEAGE MEDICATIONS	\$107.06	16137	5/5/2026
ELAN FINANCIAL SERVICES	OFFICE SUPPLIES ENVELOPES	\$1,290.11	16131	5/1/2026
HINDERS UPDEGRAFF FRANKLIN PLC	LEGAL FEES ALLEYWAYS/LION HALL	\$766.00	16126	4/21/2026
HY-VEE	MEDICATIONS	\$385.48	16127	4/21/2026
INDEPENDENT ADVOCATE -RHT	PUBLISH LEGALS PROPOSED BUDGET	\$236.25	16128	4/21/2026
IOWA BOARD OF PHARMACY	DUES RENEWAL MEDICAL LICENSE	\$90.00	16129	4/22/2026
IOWA PUBLIC RETIREMENT SYSTEM	IPERS	\$456.28	16327086	5/3/2026
INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE	FED/FICA TAX	\$603.92	16327087	5/3/2026
J&L SANITATION	GARBAGE SERVICE - CITY	\$62.00	16141	5/5/2026
JACKIE TAYLOR	RETURN GAMP DEPOSIT	\$125.00	16142	5/5/2026
JOSEY GALIVAN	MOVED ROCK AT GAMP	\$375.40	16143	5/5/2026
LEXIPOL	EMS PLATFORM/MOBLIE SOULUTION	\$700.88	16144	5/5/2026
MARY HUSS	GAMP CLEANING FOR APRIL	\$100.00	16145	5/5/2026
ONE BILLING SOLUTIONS LLC	AMBULANCE BILLING	\$659.05	16147	5/5/2026
LINDE GAS & EQUIPMENT INC.	OEPRATING SUPPLIES	\$149.56	16148	5/5/2026
R & R MOWING SERVICE	MOWING CITY AREAS	\$975.00	16150	5/5/2026
WASTE MANAGEMENT	RECYCLING	\$1,229.33	16156	5/13/2026
WEX FLEET UNIVERSAL	VEHCILE FUEL	\$353.88	16153	5/5/2026
WINDSTREAM	TELEPHONE/INTERNET	\$601.02	16154	5/5/2026
	<b>TOTAL GENERAL</b>	<b>\$10,319.58</b>		

ALLIANT ENERGY	ELECTRIC/GAS/STREET LIGHTS	\$1,209.78	16130	5/1/2026
INROADS ASPHALT PAVING +MATERI	STREET MAINTENANCE PATCHING	\$5,890.00	16139	5/5/2026
IOWA PRISON INDUSTRIES	SIGNS REPLACING STOP SIGN	\$61.60	16140	5/5/2026
JOSEY GALIVAN	STREET MAINTENANCE STOP SIGN	\$50.00	16143	5/5/2026
TERRY STUART	STREET MAINTENANCE PINE STALLE	\$603.88	16151	5/5/2026
	<b>TOTAL ROAD USE</b>	<b>\$7,815.26</b>		

AT&T FIRSTNET	PHONE SERVICE	\$23.09	16155	5/13/2026
ELAN FINANCIAL SERVICES	OFFICE SUPPLIES ENVELOPES	\$485.53	16131	5/1/2026
HUSTON'S LAWN/SNOW REMOVAL	WATER TESTING	\$100.00	16138	5/5/2026
IOWA DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE	WET TAX APRIL 2026	\$460.52	16327088	5/7/2026
IOWA PUBLIC RETIREMENT SYSTEM	IPERS	\$385.18	16327086	5/3/2026
INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE	FED/FICA TAX	\$537.92	16327087	5/3/2026
MICROBAC LABORATORIES INC	WATER TESTING	\$19.50	16146	5/5/2026
PROFESSIONAL OPERATIONS MANAGE	OTHER CONTR SERV WATER	\$1,113.00	16149	5/5/2026
WARREN WATER DISTRICT	WATER USAGE/LOAN PAYMENT	\$4,335.00	16152	5/5/2026
	<b>TOTAL WATER UTILITIES</b>	<b>\$7,459.74</b>		

GENERAL	\$2,361.75
WATER	\$1,969.67
<b>Total Payroll Paid</b>	<b>\$4,331.42</b>
<b>***** REPORT TOTAL *****</b>	<b>\$29,926.00</b>

**Public Notice**

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

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

**City of New Virginia**

<b>April 2026</b>	<b>Deposits</b>
General	\$ 35,981.51
GAMP	\$732.59
Fire	\$32,519.01
Elf Club	\$ 0.00
Road Use	\$8,197.21
LOST	\$5,956.92
Debit Service	\$ 12.80
Water Utilities	\$10,408.13
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$93,808.17</b>

Attendees: Officers- 3, Members- 1  
Meeting called to order at 7:04 pm.  
Agenda

Last Meeting Follow-up: Secretary's Report was read and approved. Treasurer's Report states balance at \$3,266.81. Taxes have been filed. Pancake Breakfast vs Taco Bar Fundraiser; host a taco bar this spring. Chapter Outreach: Application for senior awards due on 4/10 EOD to Hannah.

New Business: Fundraising opportunities at the shooting range; Nathan talked to Nate Gibson and as soon as April for opportunities to serve breakfast or lunch - Nathan will discuss further with Nate Gibson. Emily will setup Venmo for FFA Alumni to be used for fundraising. There was a discussion on how to boost attendance and state convention support opportunities.

Meeting adjourned at 7:52 pm.

Action Items:

- Update Senior Award Application
  - Create a banner with sponsor's name to display at sporting and FFA events
  - Send out sponsorship letters in June, with annual membership beginning in July
- Next meeting April 16, 2026 @ 7 pm, St. Charles Lions Hall

*Slinging Sparkle*  
LLC

Cleaning Business



Owner/Operator:  
Samantha Ruth  
(641) 414-4540  
slingingsparkle21@gmail.com  
www.slingingsparkle.com

**Gerry Allen Memorial Park Community Building**

809 West Street, New Virginia, IA 50210

	N.V. City Limits	All Other Renters
Full Day Rental	\$150	\$175
Half Day Rental	\$100	\$125
Hourly Rental	\$25	\$25

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](http://www.newvirginia.com) or call:

Kim McWilliams (515)321-0652 for more information

**NANCY'S**

**DOG GROOMING**

**BOARDING & TRAINING**

**Nancy Crabtree,**  
**Owner**  
**5145 Vermont St**  
**New Virginia, IA 50210**

**Home #: 641-449-3290**  
**Cell #: 515-313-6738**



**5-PAW RATING**



THE  
*Gateway*  
ST. CHARLES  
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**NEIGHBOR SPOTLIGHT**

I want to thank Jody Taylor and family for all the things they have done for Herb and me in the past and continue to do for me since his passing. Snow removal/vehicle repairs by Jody; electrical service by Jarad; computer help/orders by Jaci; thoughtful cards from Abby/homemade gifts from the grandkids. You are a blessing - thank God for you all.  
-Marilyn Taylor

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SUMMER READING PROGRAM  
1ST WEEK OF JUNE

SUMMER ACTIVITIES  
2ND WEEK OF JUNE



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## Book Review by Sue

*The Beekeeper of Aleppo*  
by Christy Lefteri

This author worked as a volunteer at a UNICEF-supported refugee center in Athens, Greece, in 2016 and 2017. It was her experiences with refugees from Syria and Afghanistan that inspired her to write this novel. Beekeeper Nuri and his wife Afra are devastated by the civil war in Syria.

After violence claims the life of their young son and Afra's eyesight, they are forced to flee their home in Aleppo. Their goal is to seek asylum in England, and their perilous journey takes them through Turkey and Greece. The encouraging emails from Nuri's cousin and fellow beekeeper, Mustafa, who has been able to get to England, give Nuri hope. Many of the conditions in the refugee camps are frightening and dangerous, and hope and love are major themes in this novel.



That  
"Love Thy Neighbor"  
thing...  
*I meant that.*  
-God



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RIKKI-STYLIST

KAMDIN-STYLIST

KAITLYN-ESTHETICIAN

# From the Kitchen of.....

## GRAPE SALAD

Check out this grape salad recipe from the Pioneer Woman. You could totally adjust the ingredients to suit your taste and needs.

- |  |                          |
|--|--------------------------|
| 1/3 cup pecans                                       | 1/2 cup sour cream       |
| 4 oz. cream cheese, at room temperature              | 1/2 tsp. vanilla extract |
| 3 Tbsp. light brown sugar                            | Pinch of kosher salt     |
| 2 lb. seedless grapes (red, green, or a combination) |                          |

### Directions

1. In a medium skillet, toast the pecans over medium heat, stirring frequently, until fragrant and a deep golden brown, 4 to 5 minutes. Transfer to a cutting board to cool slightly, about 5 minutes, then roughly chop. Set aside.
2. In a stand mixer fitted with the paddle attachment or in a large bowl with a hand mixer, beat together the cream cheese, sour cream, vanilla, salt, and 2 tablespoons of the brown sugar until light and fluffy, about 2 minutes. Add the grapes and toss to coat.
3. Transfer to a serving bowl and sprinkle with the remaining 1 tablespoon brown sugar and the toasted pecans.

Grape minds  
think alike!

## Hawaiian Shredded Chicken

### Ingredients:

- 2 pounds boneless, skinless chicken breasts
- 1 20 oz. can crushed pineapple, drained
- 1/2 yellow onion, thinly sliced
- 1 cup BBQ sauce
- 1 tablespoon soy sauce
- 2 teaspoons Worcestershire sauce
- 2 teaspoons garlic powder
- 1 teaspoon onion powder
- 1/2 teaspoon ginger

### Preparation:

- Arrange chicken breasts in the bottom of the slow cooker.
- Add remaining ingredients to the slow cooker and mix to coat chicken.
- Cover and set slow cooker to low for 6 hours or high for 4 hours. Try to avoid removing the lid as chicken cooks.
- If sauce is still thin when chicken is done cooking, remove lid and allow more liquid to cook off.
- Use two large forks to shred cooked chicken before serving.

### What I did:

I had boneless, skinless chicken thighs on hand so used them instead of chicken breasts. Worked fine. We used this for a quick sandwich on a hamburger bun. I also made sliders with it, using shredded cheese and a blend of butter and spices for brushing the tops of the rolls.

sourced from [12tomatoes.com](http://12tomatoes.com)



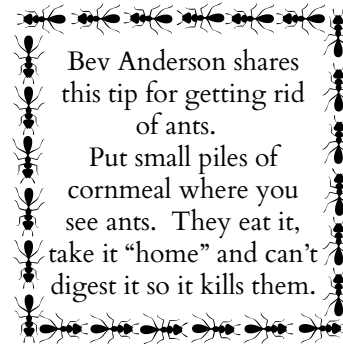
AHHH!!



## HUMMINGBIRD CAKE

### DIRECTIONS

- For the cake: Preheat the oven to 350 degrees.
- Whisk together the flour, sugar, cinnamon, salt, baking soda and baking powder in a large bowl. Stir in the oil, eggs, vanilla and pineapple until evenly combined. Mash the bananas, then add to the bowl with the pecans. Stir to combine.
- Spray 2 (8-inch) round baking pans with nonstick baking spray (or, butter and flour the pans). Divide the batter evenly between the prepared pans. Bake in the preheated oven until a wooden pick inserted in the center comes out with just a few small crumbs, 33 to 37 minutes. Cool the cakes in the pans on a wire rack for 10 minutes. Invert the cakes onto the wire rack and cool completely, about 1 hour.
- For the frosting: Beat the butter and cream cheese in a stand mixer fitted with the paddle attachment on medium until smooth and creamy, 2 to 3 minutes. Add the powdered sugar then mix at low speed just until combined. Scrape the sides and bottom of the bowl. Add the vanilla and salt. Beat frosting on medium-high speed until light and fluffy, about 2 minutes.
- Place one of the cake layers on a serving plate and top with about 1 cup of the frosting, spreading evenly to the edge. Top with the second cake layer. Spread the remaining frosting on the top and sides of the cake.
- To decorate the cake: Press the pecan halves along the base of the cake and around the top of the cake to create a ring. Slice and serve.



Bev Anderson shares this tip for getting rid of ants.

Put small piles of cornmeal where you see ants. They eat it, take it "home" and can't digest it so it kills them.



### Speedy version

I used a 10.5 x 15 inch pan with deep sides, and frosted it right in the pan after it cooled.

This is one fine cake! 4.9.

## Fiber Balls

- 2 c. toasted coconut
- 3 c. oatmeal
- 1 c. flax meal
- 1.5 c. peanut butter
- 1 c. honey
- 1 T. vanilla
- 1 c. chocolate chips
- 2 T. chia seeds
- 3/4 c. raisins

Toast coconut flakes in the oven until lightly browned. Combine all the ingredients and shape into balls. A good snack!

Contributed by Rosal Edna Schrock Durand, Wisconsin

A good snack to take along when hiking the trails!



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**CONTACT INFO**  
Janelle Adams  
Truro City Clerk  
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[trurocityclerk@gmail.com](mailto:trurocityclerk@gmail.com)  
Mayor: Bryan Arzani

**Truro City Council Minutes**

**May 4, 2026**

**Community Center**

Mayor Bryan Arzani presided over and called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Ancel Kennedy, Julie McMichael, Lyndsay Cannoy were present, and Jason Phillips and Matt Masters were absent. Fire Chief Terry Stills and Public Works Director Ronnie Hulst were also present. No one from the public was present to speak. Arzani asked for a motion to approve the Agenda. Motion to approve the agenda by Cannoy/Kennedy. All Ayes, motion carried. The Sheriff's Report and the Emergency Management Director's Report were acknowledged by the Mayor and Council. Terry Stills presented the Fire & Rescue Report with 6 fire calls and 7 EMS calls. Ronnie Hulst presented the Water/Wastewater Report. A motion was made to approve the road closure from North W and Center Street to Railroad Street for the Library Kiddie Train on 6.25.26 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. Motioned by Kennedy/McMichael. All Ayes motioned carried. Mayor Arzani updated the council on the status of the siren. The siren has been rebuilt and is in code compliance with a cost of \$8100.00. Arzani also discussed with the council a lease agreement with the I-35 School District regarding land currently where the soccer fields are located. Possible future work sessions were discussed. A motion to approve a seasonal worker for Public Works and to increase the wage to \$14.00 per hour not to exceed 24 hours a week per part time worker (2 workers) was made by Kennedy/McMichael. All Ayes, motion carried. A motion to approve Tiegen Wood as a backup and consultant for Public Works regarding the lagoons and water testing at \$25.00/hour was made by Cannoy/McMichael. All Ayes, motion carried. Mayor Arzani updated the council on the positive trend of our water consumption vs. what we are being billed for our water consumption. The Mayor and City Council would like to acknowledge the following: The I-35 Middle Schoolers, teachers for all the work they did around the community on 4.24.26. The MS planted flowers, painted benches, picked up trash, painted water hydrants and various other tasks. They did a great job! The Mayor and Council would like to acknowledge Rick Ashby, Steve Ashby, Lonnie Harper, Jessica and Ronald Hulst as well as Ethan Ashby for their dedication and volunteerism to our community. They would also like to thank Julie McMichael and Matt Masters for their commitment to working on grant opportunities for our community and Lyndsay Cannoy for helping with Facebook. A motion was made by Kennedy/Cannoy to approve the Consent items. All Ayes, motion carried. Council Comments were made by Julie McMichael explaining the possible grant opportunities they have found for the siren and storm shelter. One grant for the siren has been approved to apply. A Farmers Market is still in discussion.

Motion to adjourn was made by McMichael/Cannoy. All Ayes, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:11 p.m.

Next regular city council meeting is set for 6.1.26 at 6:00 p.m.

Bryan Arzani, Mayor

Attested: Janelle Adams, City Clerk



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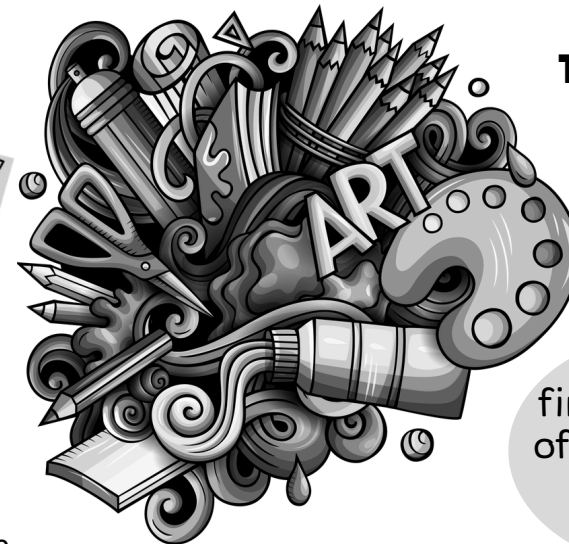


**SUMMER READING PROGRAM - 1<sup>ST</sup> WEEK OF JUNE**

**SUMMER ACTIVITIES - 2<sup>ND</sup> WEEK OF JUNE**



SEE PROGRAM CALENDAR LOCATED ON WEBSITE OR FACEBOOK FOR MORE DETAILS



**Truro Library Teen Craft Night!**

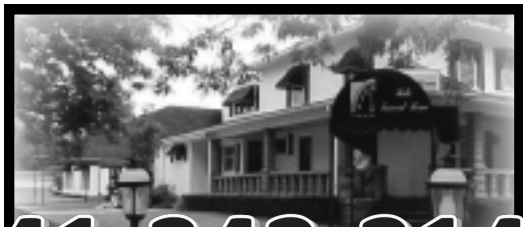
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# more to share

Contributed by Susan Miller

In the April edition of the Tri-Corner-Express, I mentioned that our rhubarb was up but not yet ready for harvest. What change a month can bring! I've been picking and have made several dishes with rhubarb. I've also had multiple people comment to me that their rhubarb isn't doing well. Stalks are short, stalks are thin or the patch has died or has shrunk. Despite the reputation for being a hardy vegetable, like other perennials, it is prone to issues.

One very lethal growing condition for us here in Iowa is 'Soggy Bottom Syndrome.' Rhubarb does not like to sit where it is wet, and our local clay soil can wreak havoc when growing most plants. If we are lucky enough to have precipitation, your rhubarb patch must drain, even in winter. So, if you see your plants grow but then suddenly turn mushy and collapse, poor drainage is probably the culprit. Dig the rhubarb and add 6-8 inches of good, nutrient rich soil with plenty of organic matter as in bits of leaves, straw, to help drainage. Replant the rhubarb. Let it rest a year before harvesting again.

Are you seeing very thin stalks? Your patch has probably become overcrowded. Rhubarb patches can exist for decades, but they like spreading joy. After five years, you may want to divide the crown in the spring at their first showing. Make sure each new section has at least one good bud, and always allow new starts a year to establish before pulling (always pull the stalks, don't cut, as a cut stub can invite rot).

And there are the inevitable pests and diseases. Slugs and snails can chew large holes in the tender new spring leaves. If you see sap seeping from a hole in the stem, you may have grey snout beetles in your patch. Or you could have a dog chase a rabbit around in your patch. All of these are annoying but rarely fatal to the patch.

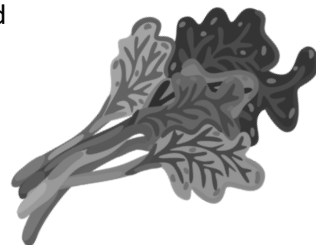
Personally, I haven't experienced this, but if a late spring frost should make the rhubarb leaves wilt, pick those stalks and dispose of them. Rhubarb leaves are poisonous to humans because they contain oxalic acid. Frost forces the acid down into the stalk from the leaves. Your patch will continue to produce healthy stalks.

Patience is the most difficult thing about growing rhubarb and asparagus. Do not harvest rhubarb the first year after planting. Respect your rhubarb patch and don't over pick it. Never harvest more than half of the stalks. Leave at least half the stalks to continue to feed the crown.

As I mentioned above, rhubarb is a vegetable, although in our kitchens we treat it as a fruit. It is tart, and when sweetened, it makes into flavorful pies, cakes, muffins, sauces, jams, cobblers, etc. Have you used it in a savory dish? Try this sauce recipe:

## Rhubarb sauce for your favorite protein - such as salmon, pork, chicken

- 2 Tbsp olive oil
- 3 Large stalks of rhubarb, washed and roughly chopped
- 1 medium sweet onion, chopped
- 2 inch piece of ginger, peeled
- 3 cloves of garlic, chopped
- ½ Tsp crushed red pepper flakes
- 3 Tbsp honey or maple syrup
- 3 Tbsp soy sauce or tamari
- 1 cup vegetable broth



Heat the olive oil over medium heat in a large pan. Add the chopped rhubarb and onion, saute over medium heat for 6-7 minutes, until vegetables are tender. Add the garlic, ginger and crushed pepper flakes and saute for 4-5 more minutes. Add the honey, soy sauce and broth. Simmer for 15 minutes. Add all of the sauce ingredients into a high speed blender and blend on high for a few minutes until the sauce has a thick consistency. Serve over your favorite protein and rice/grain.

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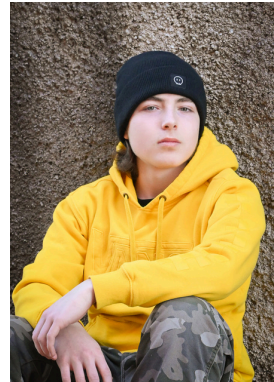
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# A MESSAGE FROM MR. GRANDON

## I-35 CSD SUPERINTENDENT

Greetings I-35 Community -

As another school year comes to a close, I want to take a moment to thank the Interstate 35 community for your continued support of our students, staff, and schools throughout the 2025-2026 year.

This year has been filled with learning, growth, accomplishments, and memorable moments across our district. Whether in the classroom, on the stage, in competition, or through service to others, our students continued to represent Interstate 35 with pride. I'm grateful for the opportunity to have witnessed so many examples of The Roadrunner Way throughout the year.

I also want to thank our staff for the care, dedication, and commitment they bring to their work each day. The positive impact they make on students and families is evident throughout our schools. To our families and community members, thank you for the encouragement and partnership you provide year-round. Your support helps make Interstate 35 a special place.

As summer begins, I hope everyone has the opportunity to relax, recharge, and enjoy time with family and friends. Congratulations to the Class of 2026 and best wishes to all of our students as they move into their next chapter this fall.

Thank you again for a great school year. Go Roadrunners!

Chad Grandon  
Superintendent, Interstate 35 CSD

## ACTIVITIES EARLY-MID JUNE 2026

### HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL

JV begins at 5:00 p.m. Varsity begins at 7:00 p.m. unless otherwise noted.

- 6/1: Away @ DM Christian; JV & Varsity
- 6/2: Home vs. Van Meter High School; JV & Varsity
- 6/4: Home vs. DMC, JV-R - 10:00 a.m.; Home vs. WCV, Varsity Double Header - 5:00 p.m.
- 6/5: Home vs. Creston, 10:00 a.m., JV-R
- 6/6: Away @ PCM, Varsity Double Header -11:00 a.m.
- 6/ 8 Away @ Earlham; JV & Varsity
- 6/9: Home vs. Pleasantville High School; JV & Varsity
- 6/11: Away @ AC/GC; Varsity Double Header - 5:00 p.m.
- 6/12: Away @ Dowling Catholic, JV-R - 10:00 a.m.
- 6/13: Home Invitational; 10:00 a.m.
- 6/16: Home vs. DM Christian; JV & Varsity

### HIGH SCHOOL SOFTBALL

JV begins at 5:30 p.m. Varsity begins at 7:00 p.m. unless otherwise noted.

- 6/1: Away @ DM Christian; JV & Varsity
- 6/2: Home vs. Van Meter High School; JV & Varsity
- 6/4: Home vs. West Central Valley HS; Varsity Double Header - 5:30 p.m.
- 6/8: Away @ Earlham; JV & Varsity (Varsity first at 5:30 p.m.)
- 6/9: Home vs. Pleasantville High School; JV & Varsity
- 6/12: Away @ AC/GC; Varsity Double Header - 5:30 p.m.
- 6/13: Home Varsity Tournament
- 6/16: Home vs. DM Christian; JV & Varsity

## THE ROADRUNNER CLUB

*Empowering Today, Sustaining Tomorrow*

The Roadrunner Club was created in 2023 to **give families and community members** a way to **support Roadrunner activities in one simple annual donation**. Since then it's helped provide Roadrunner activities with equipment, updated uniforms (sports, band, robotics, etc.), training camps, and more **while also eliminating 18 individual fundraisers**. Student activities aren't part of the school district's general fund, so they are powered through gate admissions, company donations, and The Roadrunner Club (RRC). In other words, the RRC helps keep gate prices lower for the entire community and ensures students can enjoy a full array of extracurricular opportunities.

### BECOME A RRC MEMBER

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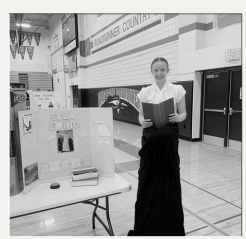
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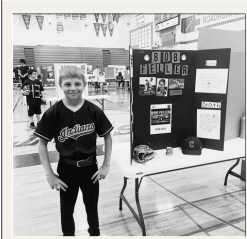


## I-35 ELEMENTARY WAX MUSEUM & SCIENCE FAIR EVENTS

Famous figures from Iowa came to life as I-35 CSD 5th grade students recently hosted their annual **Wax Museum**. Dressed in costume and standing proudly beside display boards, students shared their research about influential people from history, sports, science, entertainment, and more. Families, staff, and fellow students were invited to “tour the museum,” where each student shared facts and stories about the individual they represented. The project combined research, writing, public speaking, and creativity while giving students a chance to showcase their learning in an engaging and memorable way.



*“Ella Ewing”*



*“Bob Feller”*



*“Hailey Whitters”*

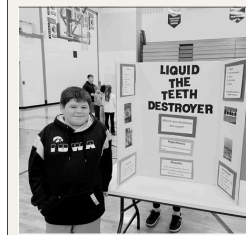
I-35 CSD 6th grade students recently showcased their scientific thinking and creativity during the annual **Science Fair**. Students developed projects centered around a question, then followed the scientific method by creating hypotheses, conducting experiments, collecting data, and presenting their conclusions. Displays featured detailed procedures, observations, and results as students shared what they learned through hands-on investigation. Families, staff, and fellow students had the opportunity to explore the projects and see the hard work and critical thinking demonstrated by the young scientists.



*Captivating Science*



*Liquid Density*



*Liquid The Teeth Destroyer*

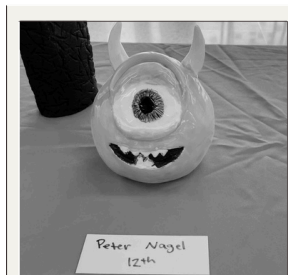
## INTERSTATE 35 CELEBRATES 2026 FINE ARTS NIGHT!

Students, families, and community members filled Interstate 35 for the district’s annual Fine Arts Night, an evening dedicated to showcasing the creativity and talent of Roadrunner students.

Student artwork and ceramics were displayed throughout the High School Commons, giving visitors the opportunity to explore a variety of projects created across grade levels and artistic styles. The celebration also included performances by the I-35 band and choir, as students shared the results of months of practice and preparation.

Fine Arts Night continues to highlight the important role the arts play at I-35 while giving students a chance to share their work and performances with the broader community. Additional photos from the evening are available by scanning the QR code.

Thank you to all who attended in support of up-and-coming artists, vocalists, and instrumentalists.  
Go Roadrunners!



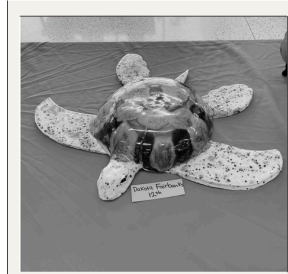
*Ceramics Project*



*Scratch Art Example*



*Artist Showcase Example*



*Ceramics Project*



*Photography Example*



*Scratch Art Example*



# JESUS' RIGHT HAND



# Interstate-35 FFA

Sometimes the hardest lessons are learned in the trenches. But they are usually the lessons that grant you the deepest and most valuable wisdom in life. Life itself is a daily lesson plan, and it's your personal choice to gain the wisdom needed to navigate it or reject the teaching moments to make a path that you think is better. That is a universal reality. I realize that the readers of this article include Christians and non-believers, carry all levels of faith and come from varying denominations and backgrounds. However, I write from a Christian viewpoint and firmly believe in the wisdom of God's Word. Proverbs 14:12 tells us, "There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death." Too many times we want to handle a situation our way, and it leads to negative consequences. We usually make decisions based on fear or based on faith. I've heard of people making informed decisions, but you always have a mix of past personal experiences and a lot of Google research involved, which we know is often skewed in one direction or another.

For this reason, any decision-making process must be tempered with a lot of prayer and wisdom. There is too much division going on in the world today. Whether it is political, cultural or even denominational, division is currently spreading its ugliness everywhere in the world. The division has created so much hatred in some people, that they have become unrecognizable. Therefore, I have chosen to become like Switzerland. Since I was young, I have known about Switzerland's status as a neutral country. In fact, since the mid-1800's, they have a self-imposed policy of not becoming involved in armed conflicts with other nations.

Romans 12:18 tells us, "If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone." This is wisdom that was learned when being caught in the middle of a conflict between two people. Each side tried to justify their viewpoint and reasoning, and quite honestly, it was making my life difficult. This was a moment when a teachable lesson was being presented, and a choice had to be made. So, I became like Switzerland. God had given me a job to do, and I made the decision to do it His way. Every effort was made to live at peace with everyone, but at the same time, I had to obey the call of God in my life and focus on that at the time. Neither of these people were particularly happy with that choice, and they quickly faded from my life because I'm sure they realized that I was not going to take sides.

As director of Jesus' Right Hand, I have a responsibility to provide food for those who come through our door for help. In addition, we love them, respect them, treat them with kindness. We are fair and treat everyone equally. No one gets a special advantage based on who they are or what they can do for us. Nobody is turned away unless it is completely out of our ability to help them. On the other side of the page, no donor or donation is turned away unless it is illegal or immoral according to the law or God's Word. For example, all but one of our retail/non-profit donors sells alcohol and tobacco products. What would it look like if we, as a Christian non-profit, would refuse their donations based on that fact? You would probably be shaking your head and thinking that is ridiculous. Are we condoning the use of alcohol and tobacco by accepting their donations of food? Absolutely not. Our focus is to feed people and demonstrate the love of God...plain and simple. That focus takes up most of our time and attention. That is why we are making every effort to live at peace with everyone. That's why we are Switzerland.

Human nature is revealed when resources are limited and people must make difficult choices. I see that every day as the director of Jesus' Right Hand. I see people sneaking extra food when they think I'm not looking. I get phone calls from people seeking an advantage over others by trying to come in early or people coming in trying to double up on food by providing false information. But we are also a place where people come if their lives are a turmoil seeking prayer, comfort and God's wisdom. In any situation, we want to be good stewards of what God has given us, whether it's food, comfort, prayer or our words. Most importantly, I know that God is watching; He is our source and provision for this ministry. He is our protector, our guide, and in case we happen to forget it, Jesus' name is above our door. Those who find out that we won't play the games of division or favoritism will slowly fade from our sight and will quickly be replaced with genuine, real people who don't have an agenda to be a part of what we do. That's just loving and respecting those who come through our doors, feeding those in need and showing the love of God without judgement to everyone we meet. We will let God be the ultimate judge. Until He decides to give us His job, we will remain as Switzerland.

In His Love and Service, Jesus' Right Hand

The Interstate 35 FFA chapter recently held its annual banquet, bringing together members, families, and supporters to celebrate a year of accomplishments and welcome new officer teams for both the middle school and high school chapters. The evening highlighted leadership, growth, and the continued dedication of our FFA members.

The middle school FFA chapter proudly introduced its new officers for the upcoming year. Kloeey Bortell will serve as President, leading the team alongside Vice President Josey Howe. Callie Bryant will take on the role of Secretary, and Aria Currie will represent the chapter as Reporter. These students are eager to build leadership skills and encourage younger members to get involved in agricultural education and FFA opportunities.

The high school FFA chapter also announced its newly elected officer team. Kenzie Stark will serve as President, with Keaton Good as Vice President. Eilan Naggar was named Treasurer, and Gaea Adix will take on the responsibilities of Secretary. Charlie Phillips will serve as Reporter, while Hayden Robertson steps into the role of Sentinel and Brooke Bortner as Historian. Together, this team is prepared to guide the chapter through another successful year of events, competitions, and community involvement.

The banquet celebrated new leadership and recognized the chapter's recent trip to the 98th Iowa FFA State Convention where members had the opportunity to attend leadership workshops, participate in competitions, and connect with other FFA members from across the state. The experience allowed students to grow their knowledge of agriculture, develop confidence, and represent their chapter with pride.

At the State FFA Leadership Conference, the chapter celebrated several outstanding accomplishments. Keaton Good received the Ferris George Rising Star award. Iowa Degree recipients included Jenna Rucker, Gunner Hommer, Kenzie Stark, and Betsy Jones. Gaea Adix and Lilly Petersen served as Delegates for the Business Session. Shelby Vyskocil, Abby Lyons, and Charlie Phillips served as Courtesy Corps. Addison Scrivner participated in the State FFA Band for the second year. Evolett Wells and Keifer Bedwell took the Greenhand Quiz, while Jack Kirk took the Discovery Quiz. The chapter received a Gold rating for the Superior National Chapter Award for the second year in a row. Brooke Bortner and Jenna Rucker's Reporter scrapbook received a bronze rating, and Brooke Bortner also participated in the chapter website contest. Additionally, the chapter was recognized for its 75th anniversary of becoming a chapter.



More continued on page 21

## FLOWER POWER

With May approaching, it is definitely time to start thinking about sprucing up our yards and gardens, and what better way to make things look happy than by using flowers! So, a few weeks ago, on a Monday morning, three of my friends and I took off for some road time and our annual flower fix. Food may have been involved, too..... I offered to drive my truck, so we'd have plenty of room for the flowers we were planning on buying, the girls all showed up to my house, and off we went.

Our plan was to drive to the F & S Greenhouse down by Seymour, Iowa, and then stop at more on the way back. I've been there before, and these folks have the most beautiful flowers ever. I asked Sylvie, the owner, if she put the baskets together herself, or if they came in that way, and she told me she does them herself. She definitely has an eye for color and the knack for combining different flowers that will complement each other in baskets and arrangements. The girls were amazed at the selection and the prices. Very reasonable. They are straight south of Promise City, as the crow flies. I'm not sure of the house number, but they're on 225<sup>th</sup>, so Google their name, you can find it. Remember, you're exploring!

We had all told ourselves to go easy, since there was still the danger of frost for a few weeks. We started filling up our carts, all the while yakking about not getting too much, since we wanted to stop at Yutzy's in Decatur City on the way home. However, when we went to organizing all our purchases in the back of the truck, we had NO room left for any more flowers. We went crazy on those baskets! Sherry wasn't going to buy anything, since it was still so early in the season, and she spent the most, and took up the most room! Famous last words, Sherry!

We finally got out of there and headed back to the west. We decided to stop in Humeston for lunch at what we call the "girly" restaurant. It's the Grassroots Café. We've eaten there before, and it's super good. I can't get away from their chicken salad sandwiches, I love them. We all had the grape salad and loved that too. And I don't even like grapes! Go figure. It's right on Broad Street (which looks like a Main Street) in Humeston, you can't miss it. Give it a try!

After lunch, we moseyed across the street to Snyder's. If you've never been there, you need to make it a point to stop by. They are an old-timey variety store with a touch of modern. I absolutely love the kitchen section. They have all kinds of kitchen gadgets and utensils to pick from. Lots of kitchen towels, cookbooks, that sort of thing. They have clothing, cards, books, toys, baby items, just about anything you can think of. As a matter of fact, they advertise in our paper and have for a long time. Look for their ad every month in the Tri-Corner-Express. Thank you, Snyder's!

We finally decided we needed to get home, so we gathered up our purchases from Snyder's and made our way west again. Since we had no room left for flowers, we decided to leave Yutzy's for another time. They are a really nice greenhouse too, so be sure to stop in there sometime.

Check out the grape salad recipe on the Kitchen Page in this issue. Super easy, and a hit!



## Interstate 35 FFA Shines at State Convention

That's a wrap for the State FFA Convention! A total of 32 Interstate 35 FFA members spent April 20–21 in Ames attending the 98th Iowa FFA State Leadership Conference & Convention, bringing home a long list of accomplishments.

Gunner Hommer, Jenna Rucker, Kenzie Stark, and Betsy Jones (not pictured) earned their Iowa FFA Degrees—an honor achieved by only about 5% of Iowa FFA members. This prestigious degree requires at least two years of membership and agricultural education, the Chapter FFA Degree, and significant achievement in work experience, community service, and leadership.

A standout moment for the chapter was Keaton earning the Ferris George Rising Star Award. Presented in memory of Ferris George, this award recognizes exceptional leadership demonstrated during a member's freshman year. Applicants go through a competitive selection process, with finalists chosen from each of Iowa's six FFA districts. Those finalists are then interviewed, with one overall winner selected and recognized—making this a significant and distinguished honor.

Additional highlights include:

- Gaea and Lilly serving as Delegates during the Business Session
- Shelby, Abby, and Charlie participating in Courtesy Corps
- Addison performing in the State FFA Band for the second year
- Evolett and Keifer competing in the Greenhand Quiz, and Jack in the Discovery Quiz (results pending)
- The chapter receiving a Gold-rated Superior National Chapter Award for the second consecutive year
- Brooke and Jenna earning a bronze rating for their Reporter scrapbook
- Brooke competing in the chapter website contest
- The chapter being recognized for its 75th anniversary

Outside of convention sessions, members enjoyed bowling, swimming, touring the Iowa State campus, and a stop at the ISU Creamery for ice cream.

Congratulations to all members on a successful and memorable convention!



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### New Virginia Legion Post 281

Meeting: 2nd Thursday of the  
Month, 7 pm

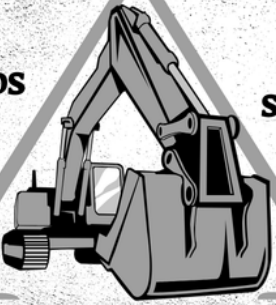
Community Breakfast: 2nd  
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# ALL THINGS AG



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# ALL THINGS AG

## UPCOMING FAIR DATES

### WARREN COUNTY FAIR

#### MONDAY, JUNE 1

- ENTRIES WILL OPEN FOR ALL OPEN CLASSES (OPEN CLASS APPLIES TO ANYONE LIVING IN WARREN COUNTY) AND 4H AND FFA LIVESTOCK ON JUNE 1 AND CLOSE AT MIDNIGHT ON JULY 1.
- ONLINE ENTRY ON THE WWW.WARRENCOFAIR.COM WEBSITE THROUGH FAIR ENTRY. THE FAIR BOOK, WITH ALL CLASSES LISTED, IS AVAILABLE ON THE WEBSITE AT WWW.WARRENCOFAIR.COM.

### MADISON COUNTY FAIR

#### MONDAY, JUNE 15

- 4H/FFA POULTRY & RABBIT IDENTIFICATION DUE
- ALL 4H/FFA LIVESTOCK EXHIBITS, COMMUNICATIONS, AND CLOTHING FAIR ENTRIES DUE AT 11:59 PM ON FAIR ENTRY WEBSITE

#### MONDAY, JUNE 22

- FINAL DAY FOR FAIR ENTRIES (WITH LATE FEE) - SEE PAGE 39 IN FAIR BOOK

### CLARKE COUNTY FAIR

#### JUNE 13

RABBIT TATTOO 9AM-10AM

#### JUNE 20

POULTRY PT TESTING 9AM-10AM

ANIMALS WILL BE TAGGED AT WEIGH-IN  
RETINAL IMAGE FEE: \$8/HEAD

#### RODEO IS MAY 29 AND 30

MUTTON BUSTIN' AT THE RODEO

TO BEGIN AT 6 PM

EVENT WILL BE OPEN TO

AGES 7 AND UNDER

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## CORNY-ISMS



"Plant in the dust, and your bins will bust." [Planting in dry soil is better than mud.]

"Plant in the mud and your year is a dud!" [Wet soil causes compaction and poor germination.]

"Plant when the redbuds bloom." [A phenology indicator that the soil is warming.]

"Plant when oak leaves are as big as squirrel ears." [Another indicator for optimal soil temperature.]



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# SCRIBBLINGS FROM SUE

by Sue Stills

May 8th is bringing us southern Arizonans temperatures in the low 100's, after a couple of weeks of pleasant weather, weather nice enough for sitting on the patio. As the heat gets more intense, many of us will be heading for northern climates for part or all of the summer. Our choice is Iowa for July and August.

In spite of being hot outside, there is a lot to celebrate in May. Mel and I just celebrated our 46th wedding anniversary, going to a great restaurant with my three brothers, my sister-in-law and our friend Renee. We all chose Italian dishes, and I was reminded that in our early years together, Mel and I always chose to go to an Italian restaurant to celebrate our anniversary. The reason was that we had our honeymoon in Italy. Actually, the Italy trip was four months after our wedding, and it was a professional trip, but we called it our honeymoon. Instead of a honeymoon in May, we drove to New Virginia, IA, (from Dallas, TX) because Mel's Dad had a heart attack. Lama recovered well, and it was my opportunity to meet Mel's family, including his cousins, and to see where Mel was raised. It was my first time in Iowa.

We are all familiar with some of the special days in May, namely: May Day on May 1; Cinco de Mayo on May 5; Mother's Day on May 10 this year; and Memorial Day on May 25 this year. The Kentucky Derby was run on May 2, and May 6 was National Nurses Day. May 16 is Armed Forces Day. On August 31, 1949, the Secretary of Defense announced the creation of that day that combined honoring all branches of the military together. In 1962, President John F. Kennedy established the third Saturday in May as the official holiday.

I hope Star Wars fans celebrated Star Wars Day on May 4 (May the 4th Be With You). May 7 was the National Day of Prayer. As far as eating goes, May 11 was National Eat What You Want Day. The day was created by Thomas and Ruth Roy of wellcat.com as a day of indulgence with no regrets, a day to enjoy life with friends and family. Take a look at this website and the list of quirky holidays the Roys created. The third Friday of May is National Pizza Party Day (May 15). Our modern pizza had its beginnings in Italy as the Neapolitan flatbread. The first U.S. pizza establishment opened in New York's Little Italy in 1905. The Guinness World Record for the largest pizza ever made weighed 26,883 pounds, in Norwood, South Africa, on December 8, 1990. Any day is a good day for a pizza party, right?

May 15 is also National Chocolate Chip Day. In 1937, Ruth Graves Wakefield of Whitman, MA, added cut up chunks of a semi-sweet Nestle chocolate bar to a cookie recipe. They were a huge success, and in 1939, she signed an agreement with Nestle to add her recipe to the chocolate bar's packaging. She received a lifetime supply of chocolate. She was working at the Toll House Inn at the time. The Nestle brand Toll House cookies were named for the Inn. Nestle initially included a small chopping tool with the chocolate bars. Starting in 1941, Nestle and other competitors started selling the chocolate in chip or morsel form. Today these chips come in a variety of flavors. Source: [nationaldaycalendar.com](http://nationaldaycalendar.com)

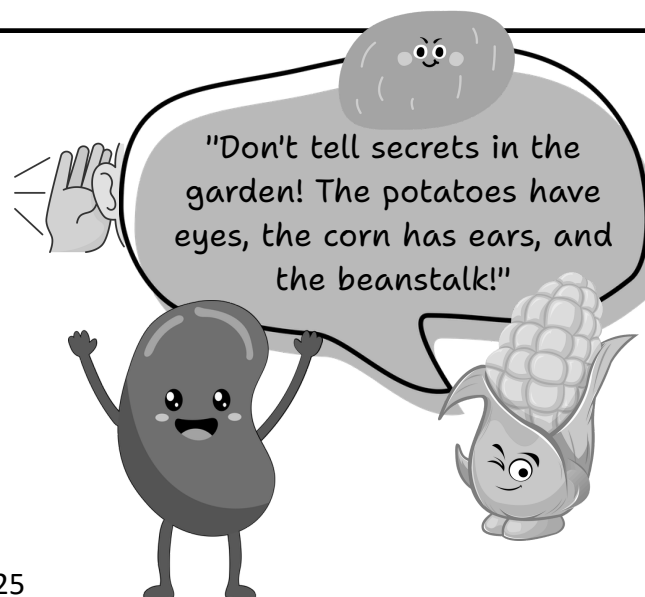
Farmer/landscaper Mel has added three rose bushes and two trees to our back yard. The trees are a blood orange and a Mexican lime. The lime tree is advertised to produce limes twice a year. There are already many small limes on the tree. I guess I will be researching what to do with limes, other than Key Lime Pie.

Happy May! And congratulations to all of our graduates!



## DRIVING FOR DEVIN AND THE JELSMA FAMILY

I-35 Birdie Club Golf Outing Will Take Place on June 20th at 8:30 AM at Deer Run Golf Course in Indianola, IA. All Proceeds Go to the Jelsma Family. Nobody Fights Alone in Roadrunner Country!!!!



4-Person Best  
Shot

June 20th, 2026

Deer Run Golf  
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Cost: \$300 Per  
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## New Virginia Trails Update May 5, 2026

The New Virginia Trails Committee has been making progress on your community trails. We have spent a substantial amount of our time planning, discussing, drawing, changing, talking with landowners, and redrawing proposed trail routes. We are excited to be at the next step of the process.

Our ultimate long-term goal is to have a designated walking/biking trail that goes around town. We plan to work on different segments of the main trail over time. For now, we are prioritizing a small section that will connect parts of the route. We feel this piece of trail will be a good bang for the buck as it will connect the parks and parking downtown with the existing pavement of the cemetery.

The planned trail will start on the Southwest corner of Broadway and West Street (South of the old gas station) and continue along the West side of West Street in front of the Methodist Church to Church Street. Portions of this section are in good condition, and other sections are planned to be repaved.

The remainder of the trail from the south side of Church Street to the cemetery will be new construction of eight-foot-wide pavement. This connective trail will allow people to park at Lions Park and walk or bike safely approximately 1 mile to and through the cemetery and back.

Our goal is to complete construction this year, dependent on funding. We have applied for two non-state grants and will be in the process of requesting donations in and around our community. Our funding goal is \$35,000. We plan to cover most construction costs with grants but may require additional local funding.

We have been awarded one of those two grants, in the amount of \$5,000 from the Warren County Philanthropic Partnership Community Grant. This grant will allow us to break ground and begin with the first section of the North trail head, spanning from Broadway to Church Street, along the West side of West Street. Our second grant is still pending.

We are also in the process of designing a feature that will showcase those who contribute to the trail. Our goal is to have the feature and memorial contribution projects be designed to have a consistent look for now and in the distant future as we add to the trail system.

At several of our meetings, we invited city staff from neighboring towns to talk about trail planning. They pointed out introducing amenities such as trails can make small towns more attractive to homeowners.

The townspeople don't NEED amenities, but they make our town more convenient and appealing for visitors and potential residents, thereby improving quality of life and a sense of community.

As Des Moines grows toward the south, amenities like trails can attract homeowners who desire the charm of small-town living along with its advantages. This expansion could bring financial benefits to New Virginia through increased tax base and economic development.

We all know and have seen hundreds of studies on the benefits of walking, biking, and being outside away from screens. Enough said.

This community trail, when complete, will be available for everyone to use and enjoy, from a tiny baby in a stroller to the elderly in an electric scooter and all in between. The Trails Committee and the City would welcome comments and feedback on your trail.

To close, here are two quotes from Robert Searns, a renowned trails developer in the US and beyond, and author of *Beyond Greenways*. "One of the top 3 things young people want in towns are trails." "10,000 years ago, and 10,000 years from now, people will be walking here."

Thank you for your support in this project for our community.



Many special events  
in honor of  
**America**  
250th Celebration



**JULY 22-27, 2026**

### Fair Entries Open Class Exhibitors

Entries for 4-H, FFA & open classes exhibitors will be done online from June 1st to July 1st. Please use the link below to create an account & submit entries online.

Refer to the fair book for correct divisions & classes.

If you have questions about the process, feel free to give us a call at 515-961-6687 during regular business hours for assistance.

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Culinary  
Department's  
New Division  
& Classes

**Class 1** - Sugar cookie decorated red/white/blue

**Class 2** - Cake decorated red/white/blue

**Class 3** - Bring an old cookbook and write about why it's your favorite

**Class 4** - What food do you think of as America's baked item? (written)

**Class 5** - What food do you think of as America's baked item? (bring the food for display)

**Class 6** - What is your favorite 4th of July food? (Written memories & include a photo)

**Class 7** - Oldest utensil you use in your kitchen. (Written history & include a photo)

**Class 8** - Recipes from years ago. (Handwritten/photocopy is optional)

**Class 9** - Juniors (6 - 10 years old) - Cook with Grandma/Aunt/Mom and document the experience, what you learned. (Include a photo)

**Class 10** - Intermediate (11 - 17 years old) - Cook with Grandma/Aunt/Mom and document the experience, what you learned. (Include a photo)

**Class 11** - Adult (18 years old and older) - Cook with Grandma/Aunt/Mom and document the experience, what you learned. (Include a photo)

# MARTENSDALE-ST. MARYS



Alexander Hanrahan



Bailey Trogdon



Carly Franey



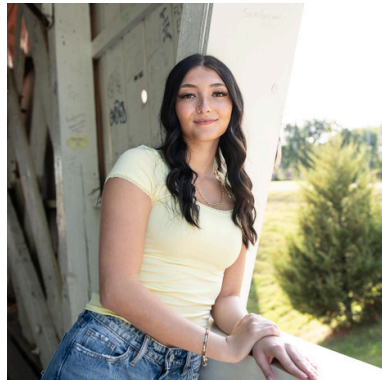
Charles Watson



Finley Pearson



Hunter Flactiff



Hailey Flactiff



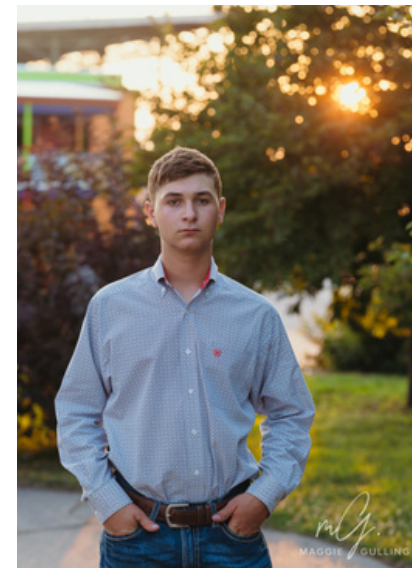
Hannah Keagle



Ilya Craven



Jack Gavin



Jacob Pilcher



Jensen Dyer



Jesse Myer



# MARTENSDALE-ST. MARYS



Levi Minella



Nicholas Schmidt



Samantha Couch

## Not pictured:

Kaylynn Anderson, Kathryn Ballard, Samantha Blaisdell, Sophia Chopard, Zoey Donehoo, Cody Doornenbal, Abigail Ernst, Maclaine German, Mara Gomez, Asher Henson, Skylar Johansen, Keeley Johnson, Carly Krogman, Ezekiel Milligan, Desiree Mulinix, Reese Nichols, Karson Oberender, Mylie Parker, Clayton Pedersen, Emry Rayman, Brenton Rose, Abigail White, Travis White, Colton Wight, Dominic Yates

**Congratulations,  
MSTM Class of 2026!**



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I'm so excited to study at Northwest and learn something new. I plan to major in Pre-Veterinary Studies with a concentration in Animal Science, with the eventual goal of applying to Vet School. I've been passionate about animals through my involvement in 4-H and want to help people care for their animals. I am so excited for life at Northwest as I plan to join a music ensemble, do some plays, and maybe play some soccer, so I can keep doing the things I love. I, of course, am nervous for my "first" day of college, but I'm sure it will work out, since despite the challenges, I have people to help me figure it out.

I'd like to thank those people who are always there and guided us to where we are today. Thank you to the teachers who helped us learn and decide our future paths. The teachers who would take the time to make sure we're okay. Thank you to the administrators who ensured the school ran well and kept us safe. Thank you to our parents for pushing us to stay in school and supporting our decisions. Thank you to our community, who supported the school and allowed us a place to grow up loved. Thank you to all the other people in our lives, our friends, acquaintances, and relatives, who filled out the rest of our lives. All these people contributed to our making it to our graduation, and I am extremely grateful.

Now, as Senior year comes to a close, I'm writing this with only eight days left. I intend to soak in every day with my friends and classmates and spend those final moments of high school doing what I enjoy most. I'm going to stay strong until the end, and with the final curtain closing on high school, open up a new door to the rest of my life. Congratulations to all graduating classes of 2026. Good luck with your future endeavors, and remember to cherish every moment!

Sincerely,  
Brianna Fantz

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Years ago, you couldn't have convinced me that the people I would currently consider my best friends would have any sort of association with me other than the fact that we go to the same place. Of course people change over the years, and folks you're close with at one point may not be so close later and vice-versa, but those people are still in the community, and I believe they still care about you whether you're as close as you used to be or not.

We're all set to head our separate ways here soon; I personally will be heading to Grand View University in Des Moines to double-major in Graphic Design and Game Design. I know many of my friends will be going much farther away than I am, but I feel that sense of community is still going to linger no matter how far we travel. The compassion and genuine care from the people we grew up with will never be lost on us and has helped shape our outlook on the world as a whole. The way that many of us treat people and interact comes directly from witnessing and being a part of that. I know there are a lot of Martensdales out there -- or communities like it at least. The folks reading this out of the Interstate 35 district, for instance, probably understand what I'm talking about and have a strong community of their own. The places that we are going have their own communities too that we will soon be a part of, and I hope we can all take some of that care and compassion with us. In all the chaos and confusion that seems to be out there nowadays, the world could use a lot more communities like that of Martensdale.

For my friends that are graduating alongside me in the Class of 2026, I hope that we can take these ideas of community, care, and compassion with us wherever we end up... but don't let them stay stagnant. You'll encounter new ideas, practices, ways of life, and more after we head out of here, and those will help you grow. With that growth, I challenge you to apply new ideas to the concept of community you've got and build off of it to create new communities with the new people that you meet. You can spread that same sense of love you got from MSTM or I-35 to people who may have never had anything like that before -- you can help create that light for others. Remember, no matter how far away you go, you'll always have that piece of home with you, and this community will always be there for you no matter what.

--Nicholas Schmidt