

Council Meeting Minutes, May 5, 2025

The Council met in regular session on Monday May 5th , 2025, at 7:00 p.m. for the May council meeting. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Strange with Council Members Dunkin, Bailey and Taylor present. Absent Galivan and Truman. Minutes from the April meetings were approved after one correction to the April 28th minutes.

Old business: There was no old business to discuss.

Rhonda Guy, the new water plant operator, was present to review and discuss the sampling plan and daily water testing log binders. Rhonda will be working on getting everything in order throughout the month of May as well as taking some of the required monthly water samples and assuming and taking over all required duties June 1st, 2025.

The need for a water hydrant at the source entry point with Warren Water was discussed. A cost estimate for this will be obtained.

Judy Russell with the Warren County Historic Preservation Commission (WCHPC) was present and gave a presentation on what the WCHPC is and what they can do to help preserve older buildings in the community that qualify for the historic registry. There are three buildings in the downtown area that qualify for the registry.

Citizen Input: Diane Edwards with the New Virginia Garden Club was present to let the Council know the Garden Club put in some raised garden beds west of the Methodist Church. The project cost was \$3300.00. The Garden Club has paid off \$1600.00 to date. Edwards inquired if the City could possibly make a donation to help pay off the remaining balance of the raised garden project. The Garden Club also takes care of the flower bed in the southwest corner of the Old Settlers Park. Edwards inquired if she could have access to the water hydrant on the north side of the Lions Stand in Old Settlers Park to get water to water the flowers as needed. A key will be made and given to Edwards so she can have access to the water hydrant.

Steve Voltmer, Chairperson of the Trail Committee was present to give an update. The first trail phase the Committee is focusing on is past the Methodist Church south along West Street to the welcome sign and tie it in with the cemetery road that goes west off the highway. The road right-of-way will have to be determined for this area. Other trail areas being considered are possibly widening East Street for a trail and a section of the old railroad right-of-way on the northwest side of town. This section of the railroad right-of-way is owned by Warren County. Warren County is willing to deed it over to the City of New Virginia following the proper legal process that is required to do this.

There is a large tree and brush pile to the west of 101 Main Street. The property owner inquired if the pile could be burned. The fire department will look into getting the pile burned.

A property owner in the 600 block of Knotts Street advised of a stormwater drainage problem. There are washout holes developing in this area. The City will have this looked into to see what needs to be done.

A band holding the electrical conduit for the Christmas light in front of the Lions Hall fell down. Alliant Energy will be contacted to see if a crew can inspect all the light poles that have electrical connections for Christmas lights for any repairs that might need to be done.

Fire Department Business: Final insurance payment to Karl's Chevrolet and Reliant Fire Apparatus for fire truck 769 was discussed. The insurance adjuster will be given the ok to pay both Karl's and Reliant. The City of New Virginia will also pay Karl Chevrolet \$350.00 for the deductible.

The air packs sold for \$80.00. The trailer sold for \$3000.00.

Water Utilities discussed: There have been two different water leaks found at private residences since the April 28th meeting. Daily water usage is monitored and hopefully will see a drop in the daily usage in a few days after the water tower gets caught back up.

Law Enforcement: The Sheriff's Report for the month of April was reviewed. There were 18 calls for service received or initiated by Deputies for the month of April. No citations and/or warnings were written for traffic/parking violations within the City of New Virginia proper. Officers spent in excess of 46 hours in the City of New Virginia for the month. Officers patrolled in excess of 181 miles within the city limits for the month.

GAMP UPDATE

The screen printing design for the truck pull merchandise shirts was reviewed. There will be some staff shirts ordered. There will also be some hats made up to sell as merchandise for the truck pull.

A key for the announcer's stand was discussed.

There will be a meeting on Monday, May 12th at 7:00 p.m. to discuss the food venue, and a workshop for all other functions of the truck pull is scheduled for May 22nd at the GAMP Building at 5 p.m.

KEEP IOWA BEAUTIFUL PROGRAM

Upcoming Events in 2025: July 11-13 – NV Old Settlers; September 21, Sunday - End of Summer Social (confirmed – location Hickory Hills); October – NV Trunk or Treat; November – country dance (Tentative); December 12 (Friday) and December 13 (Saturday) Christmas Home Tour. Four homes have committed to the 2025 Christmas Home Tour. 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 updates.

TRI-CORNER-EXPRESS

The Tri-Corner-Express Committee presented officers for Council approval as follows: Co-Chairs Jennifer Baughman and Terry Garner; Secretary Kim McWilliams; Treasurer Jennifer Baughman. Bailey moved, seconded by Taylor to approve Tri-Corner-Express Committee Officers as follows: Co-Chairs – Jennifer Baughman and Terry Garner; Secretary – Kim McWilliams; Treasurer – Jennifer Baughman. A roll call vote was taken: 3 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.

The City has an upcoming routine IPERS audit. Jennifer explained the process to the Council.

Anna Young inquired about a memorial bench for Gail and Reba Reed in front of the Lions Hall. The sidewalk width will be measured to see if there is enough room to place a memorial bench.

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

With no further business to come forth, Taylor moved, seconded by Dunkin to adjourn meeting. A roll call vote was taken: 3 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

The June council meeting is scheduled for Monday June 2nd, 2025, at 7:00 p.m.

June meeting date – Monday June 2nd, 2025, at 7:00 p.m.



Jennifer Baughman, City Clerk

New Virginia Methodist Church

301 West St

would like to invite you to

Memorial Day Dinner

May 26, 2025, 11 am - 1 pm

Porkloin, Cheesy Potatoes,
Salads, Desserts, and Drinks

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

Red Hatters

Chattie
Hatties

You are invited to celebrate:

Donna Conway
20 years and
founding member of the
Chattie Hatties

Thursday, June 19th, 2025 at 12 pm
New Virginia Methodist Church

Meat and a beverage will be provided

Bring a dish for the potluck

RSVP on or before June 16th
to Dorothy Huss at 515-371-6411 or
Nindy Coles at 515.418.2297

NEW VIRGINIA MAY CLAIMS REPORT

VENDOR	CLAIMS REPORT		CHECK #	CHECK DATE
	REFERENCE	AMOUNT		
ALLIANT ENERGY	ELECTRIC/GAS/STREET LIGHTS	\$524.52	15681	4/29/2025
AT&T FIRSTNET	PHONE SERVICE	\$49.87	15682	4/29/2025
AT&T FIRSTNET	PHONE SERVICE	\$49.81	15705	5/14/2025
BRENT BAUGHMAN	MILEAGE MEDICATION PICKUP	\$65.28	15690	5/6/2025
ELAN FINANCIAL SERVICES	AMBULANCE - BOARD OF PHARMACY	\$172.90	15683	4/29/2025
HY-VEE	MEDICATIONS	\$4.00	15684	4/29/2025
INDEPENDENT ADVOCATE -RHT	PUBLISH LEGALS	\$191.71	15685	4/29/2025
IOWA PUBLIC RETIREMENT SYSTEM	IPERS	\$416.85	16326830	5/4/2025
INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE	FED/FICA TAX	\$582.56	16326831	5/4/2025
J&L SANITATION	GARBAGE SERVICE - CITY	\$62.00	15694	5/6/2025
JOSEY GALIVAN	ADDING PLYWOOD TRUCK PULL SIGN	\$62.50	15695	5/6/2025
MARY HUSS	GMAP CLEANING	\$100.00	15696	5/6/2025
ONE BILLING SOLUTIONS LLC	AMBULANCE BILLING	\$472.01	15697	5/6/2025
ONE BILLING SOLUTIONS LLC	AMBULANCE BILLING	\$433.98	15706	5/14/2025
LINDE GAS & EQUIPMENT INC.	OEPRATING SUPPLIES	\$135.41	15698	5/6/2025
R& R MOWING SERVICE	MOWING CITY AREAS	\$612.50	15699	5/6/2025
WASTE MANAGEMENT	RECYCLING	\$1,181.90	15701	5/6/2025
WEX FLEET UNIVERSAL	VEHICLE FUEL	\$192.01	15702	5/6/2025
WINDSTREAM	TELEPHONE/INTERNET	\$588.86	15703	5/6/2025
GENERAL FUND TOTAL		\$5,898.67		
ALLIANT ENERGY	ELECTRIC/GAS/STREET LIGHTS	\$1,106.25	15681	4/29/2025
IOWA PRISON INDUSTRIES	SIGNS	\$92.78	15693	5/6/2025
JOSEY GALIVAN	STREET MAINTENANCE STOP SIGN	\$12.50	15695	5/6/2025
ROAD USE TOTAL		\$1,211.53		
ANCEL KENNEDY	SERVICE	\$125.00	15689	5/6/2025
AT&T FIRSTNET	PHONE SERVICE	\$30.61	15682	4/29/2025
AT&T FIRSTNET	PHONE SERVICE	\$22.52	15705	5/14/2025
ELAN FINANCIAL SERVICES	WATER METER SUPPLIES	\$172.12	15683	4/29/2025
DES MOINES WATER WORKS	WATER TESTING	\$15.00	15704	5/9/2025
HUSTON'S LAWN/SNOW REMOVAL	WATER TESTING	\$100.00	15691	5/6/2025
IA ONE CALL	METER LOCATES - IOWA ONE CALL	\$23.50	15692	5/6/2025
IOWA PUBLIC RETIREMENT SYSTEM	IPERS	\$493.92	16326830	5/4/2025
INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE	FED/FICA TAX	\$732.79	16326831	5/4/2025
WARREN WATER DISTRICT	WATER USAGE/LOAN PAYMENT	\$5,710.50	15700	5/6/2025
WATER UTILITIES TOTAL		\$7,425.96		
GENERAL		\$2,124.38		
WATER		\$2,465.24		
Total Payroll Paid		\$4,589.62		
TOTAL FUNDS		\$19,125.78		

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.

Recycle
May 30
Jun 12

City of New Virginia

April Deposits

General	\$33,857.00
GAMP	\$206.78
Fire	\$16,597.17
Elf Club	\$ 0.00
Road Use	\$5,094.28
LOST	\$5,707.04
Debit Service	\$12.62
Water Utilities	\$11,887.74
Grand Total	\$73,362.63

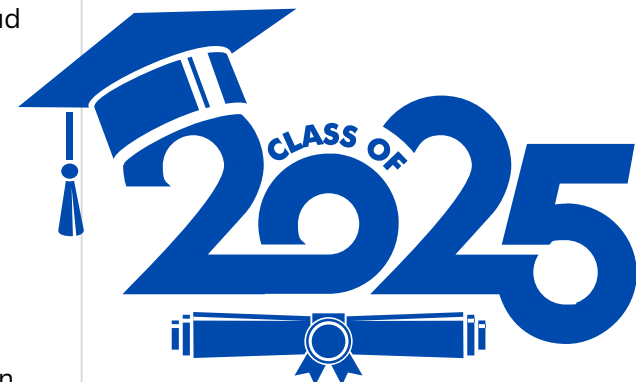



Congratulations

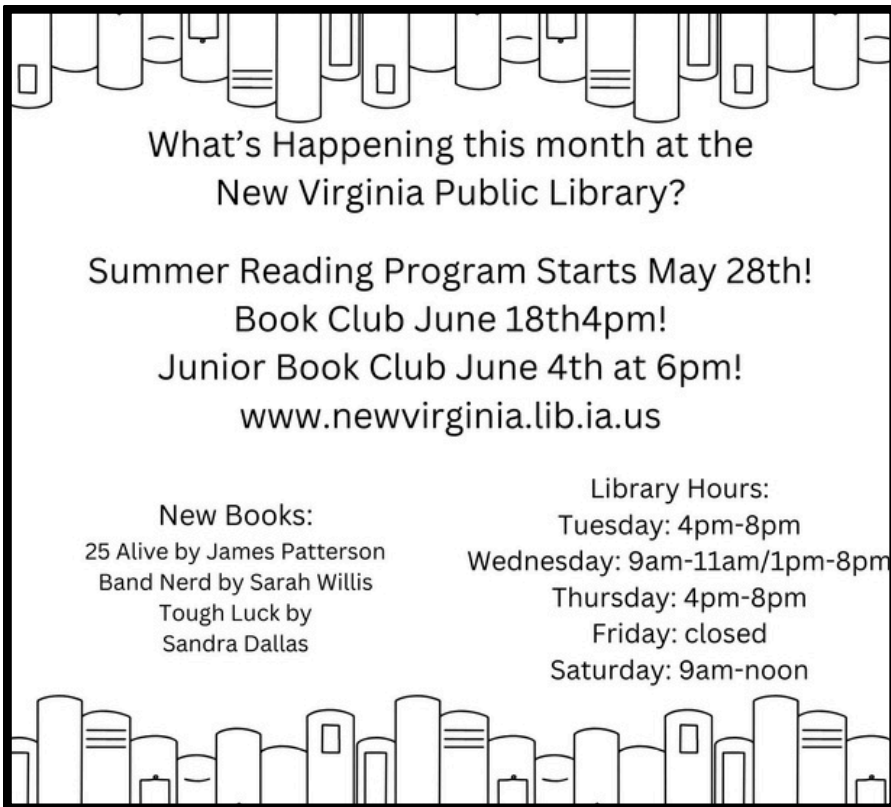


Ellie Grace Baker
 Sydney Jo Bears
 Gerardo Salvador Berber
 Auneliese Grace Berger
 Ava Michelle DiCesare
 Teegan Matthew Dorenkamp
 Autumn Elizabeth Elbert
 Jason Dean Fugate
 Sean William Gideon
 Shelby Lynée Gideon
 Kelin Gonzalez
 Maryann Elizabeth Hart
 Shay Landon Henson
 Abigail Christine Hughes
 Emily Mae Hughes
 Grace JoLee Johnston
 Bethany Rachel Meyer
 Hunter Scott Miller
 Cale Michael Morrow

Nathan Palar Mundil
 Thomas Corwin Mundil
 Graham Smith Nagel
 Mikaylee Marie Nairn
 Caleb Martin Rayman
 Harrison Edward Renaud
 Kaden Riley Searl
 Taylon James Squire
 Cameron Erick Steele
 Gabe Theodore Stott
 Ashlyn Noelle Trogdon
 Wesley Isaac Turner
 Alyvia Lynn Van Gundy
 Elley Grace Waters
 Devin Taylor Webb
 Elijah Richard Wheeldon
 Trey James Wight
 Taryn Shea Wolford



Names are not in order of appearance



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

Summer Reading Program Starts May 28th!
Book Club June 18th 4pm!
Junior Book Club June 4th at 6pm!
www.newvirginia.lib.ia.us

New Books:

- 25 Alive by James Patterson
- Band Nerd by Sarah Willis
- Tough Luck by Sandra Dallas

Library Hours:

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

Burlap & Roses and Friends
presents gypsy heart...junkin' love

Friday and Saturday
June 6th and 7th
10:00-4:00

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CITY OF ST. CHARLES

CLEANING DAY

*Spring Clean-up Day
is Saturday,
June 7th, 2025.
Mark your calendars!*

St. Charles City Council Meeting May 12, 2025

The St. Charles City Council met in regular session on May 12, 2025, at 6:30 p.m. at St. Charles City Hall. Mayor Smith called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m. with the following Council present: Brockett, Hutton, Blomme, Allison, and Kozak. Also present: Library Director Margaret Blair, Gateway and Old Settlers Director Seibert, Fire Chief Rick Schaffer, Emergency Management Director Mitch Johnson, and thirteen guests.

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

2. CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Council meeting minutes for 4-14-2025
- b. Treasurer's Report for April 2025
- c. Claims and Receipts Report for May 2025
- d. Approval of Liquor License for Tiger Lily Cafe

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

3. SHERIFF'S REPORT

There were 52.45 patrol hours, 26 traffic stops, and 7 calls during April. Emergency Management Director gave an update on his schedule and training.

4. SCULPTURE COMMITTEE

Becky Knight and Dawn Vetter updated the Council concerning the Heart of Iowa Sculpture for Imes Bridge Park. They received a grant from the Greater Madison County Community Foundation. No action taken.

5. PUBLIC FORUM

Residents living within the city limits along North Cross Street expressed concern over the condition of the gravel road and the amount of dust created. The Council said they would look into repairing the hump where the pavement meets the gravel. Plans for asphalt will be considered in the future. No action taken.

6. DEPARTMENT REPORTS

- a. Sewer – April's sewer report was submitted.
- b. Public Works – Councilman Allison asked to have the City Hall door turned to open from the outside. Mayor Smith will purchase new faucets for the City Park. Iowa contracting submitted a quote to repair handicap ramps on Main Street. Motion by Brockett, second by Kozak, to approve Iowa Contracting to repair handicap ramps on Main Street. Roll: Ayes-unanimous. Motion passes.
- c. Fire/Rescue – Chief Schaffer gave the Council updates for the Fire and Rescue Departments.
- d. Library – Board Director Blair updated the Council on Library issues.
- e. Gateway – The partnership with the Madison County Chamber of Commerce has dissolved. Other avenues to keep the Welcome Center open are being explored.
- f. Old Settlers – St. Charles Goes Safari will be held July 18th and 19th.
- g. Mayor – Mayor Smith will be attending the Madison County Assessor's meeting and the Emergency Management meeting.
- h. Clerk – City Hall will be closing early on June 5, 2025

7. ACTIONS AND RESOLUTIONS

- a. Resolution 5A-2025 A resolution approving a revenue purpose statement for expenditures of fee revenue from proposed electric and natural gas franchise fee. This will be in lieu of Local Option Sales Tax. Motion by Allison, second by Kozak, to approve Resolution 5A-2025. Roll: Ayes-unanimous. Motion passes.
- b. Setting a Public Hearing for electric franchise Ordinance 230, this includes franchise fees, for June 9, 2025. Motion by Allison, second by Brockett, to approve the Public Hearing date of June 9, 2025. Roll: Ayes-unanimous. Motion passes.
- c. Setting a Public Hearing for natural gas franchise Ordinance Amendment 231, this includes franchise fees, for June 9, 2025. Motion by Allison, second by Brockett to approve the Public Hearing date of June 9, 2025. Roll: Ayes-unanimous. Motion passes.
- d. Resolution 5B-2025 A resolution approving a Plat of Survey for Cox's Prairie Oaks. Motion by Blomme, second by Brockett, to approve Resolution 5B-2025. Roll: Ayes –unanimous. Motion passes.

8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- a. House on Main Street- Municipal Infractions will be reinstated.

9. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Sewer Bill Adjustments- Sewer bills will not be adjusted for pools or other water uses.
- b. Gravel for Streets- City streets will be graded, and gravel will be brought in where needed.

10. COUNCIL COMMENTS/DISCUSSION

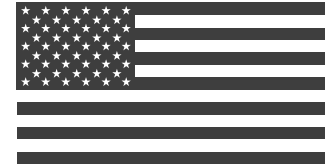
- a. A possible nuisance was considered by the Council. No action taken at this time.

11. ADJOURN

Being there was no further business; meeting was adjourned at 8:47 p.m. Motion by Allison, second by Kozak, to adjourn. Roll: Ayes – unanimous. Motion passes.

Dennis Smith, Mayor

Tracy Kozak, Clerk/Treasurer



Memorial Day

*** HONORING ALL WHO SERVED ***



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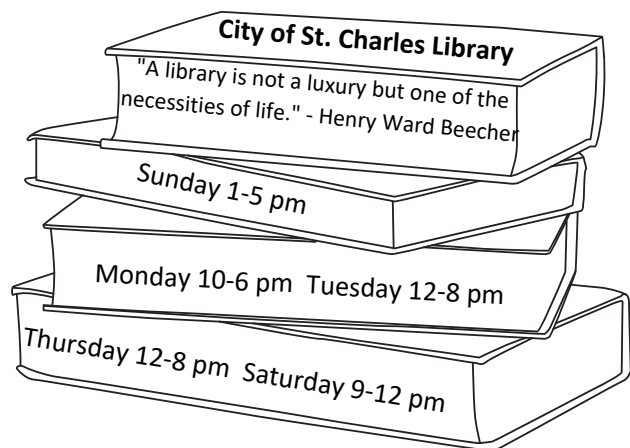
Book Club

May 27th at 6:30 pm
Borrowed Life of Frederick Fife
 by Anna Johnston

June 23rd at 6:30 pm
Facing the Mountain
 by Daniel James Brown

Check out our new arrivals

Watch the Facebook page for upcoming information on the Summer Reading Program, co-sponsored by Tiger Lily Cafe and featuring Build-A-Bear



Bring Ag 2 U Day was a success!

The I-35 FFA Chapter and the Roadrunner AG Club teamed up to host an unforgettable day of agricultural learning for our elementary students! Together, they organized Bring Ag 2 U Day, giving young learners the chance to explore the world of agriculture through four interactive stations:

- ◆ Equipment Station – Students learned about tractor safety and even climbed aboard real tractors!
- ◆ Animal Station – Kids got up close with farm animals and discovered how to care for them.
- ◆ Greenhouse Station – Students explored how seeds grow and planted their very own flower or seed to take home.
- ◆ Games Station – From AG Olympics to the Mystery Box Challenge, students had a blast while learning key ag concepts!

AG Club members led each station with help from our FFA members, sharing their knowledge and passion for agriculture. ☀️

It was a fun-filled day packed with hands-on learning, big smiles, and budding ag enthusiasts! 🌱❤️

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OmniTel Communication Grants for the 1st Quarter of 2025.

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

Saint Charles Old Settlers 5K

The next grants will be awarded in July.

Grant applications can be found at www.omnitel.biz/charities

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

Extension and Outreach

Madison County Extension & Outreach Summer Programs to be held at the St. Charles Library:

Astro Camp, June 3rd for grades 4 - 8
 Stem in Action Camp, June 12th for grades K - 3

To Register:
 -Call 515-462-1001
 -Scan the QR Code on Facebook
 -<https://www.extension.iastate.edu/madison/summer-programs>





**Truro City Council Minutes
April 7, 2025
Community Center**

Mayor Bryan Arzani presided over and called the meeting to order at 6:15 p.m. Ancel Kennedy, Julie McMicheal, and Matt Masters were present. Jason Phillips, Lyndsay Cannoy were absent. Public Works Director Ronnie Hults, Fire Chief Terry Stills, and Sheriff Jason Barnes were also present. Emily Hanna from the public was present to speak. Arzani asked for a motion to approve the Agenda. Kennedy/McMicheal motioned to approve the agenda. All Ayes, motion carried.

Public Input from Emily Hanna shared her vision for Truro to increase economic development. Emily discussed various grants and ideas.

Sheriff Barnes presented Sheriff's report and also stated the number of hours exceeded the number of hours allotted to Truro.

No verbal report from Emergency Management.

Fire Chief Stills reported there were 6 medical calls and 19 fire calls last month. He also reported the Tanker is still not working because parts were hard to find but had found some parts and hoped to get it going. Stills also stated that the Fireman's breakfast had a great turn out and there will be an Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 12, 2025 at 9:00 a.m. in the park.

Ronnie Hults presented the Water/Wastewater Report as well as stating the new meter installation is almost complete.

Motion made by Kennedy/Masters to set the Public Hearing on Adoption of Budget FY2026 with a special meeting on 4.28.25. It was recorded in last month's meeting minutes it was to occur on 4.14.25, but laws have altered the timeline.

Arzani stated Ego Dive will receive a letter from the city, via the city attorney, outlining the expectations the city has for the business in writing. No action taken. Brett Jones/Ego Dive presented his idea of a Street Dance/fundraiser on August 2, 2025. Discussion of expectations for Ego Dive and the City of Truro to be ongoing. Motion by Kennedy/Masters to approve the street dance contingent on the details being worked out prior to future meetings. All Ayes, motion carried.

Cody Reed and Ryan Marquardt from the Madison County Historical spoke on options of grants to help the city provide a new library/city hall. They submitted sample blueprints to the council for an idea around the old lumber yard and discussed various scenarios. A work session will be planned for the future.

Lane Sturtz updated the council with his plan for the new housing development across from the school with potentially 14 new homes.

Council discussed idea of making a storm shelter in the new library/city hall.

Arzani updated the Council of the water usage used by the school that was not metered. The city will present Interstate 35 with an invoice and the school has agreed to pay.

A motion made by McMicheal/Kennedy to have a City-Wide Garage Sale on 6.6.25 and 6.7.25 followed by a City Wide Clean up with a roll off trailer on 6.14.25 from 6:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. All Ayes, motion carried.

Motion by Masters/McMicheal to buy plants to beautify the city from the FFA at Interstate 35 within the budget. All Ayes, motion carried.

Tim Palmer presented an idea for Solar alternatives for the city to consider (city only, not residential). He is still gathering information.

The council wanted to acknowledge the following people for outstanding work installing the meters Ronnie Hults and Ancel Kennedy for his volunteerism. A special thanks to the homeowners in working with the city to schedule time for the new meter installation. The council would also like to recognize Ronnie Hults, Ancel Kennedy, and Mark Mease who discovered and fixed a water leak. Also recognizing Justin Goad, Terry Stills, Rick Finley, and Eric Schaffer for their assistance. The Council would also like to acknowledge Becki Morris and her invaluable knowledge for being a consultant and mentor to the new city clerk.

Motion to approve consent items by Kennedy/Masters . All Ayes, motion carried.

Motion to adjourn by McMicheal/Masters. All ayes, motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m. Next City Council Meeting 4.28.25 and 5.5.25.

**Truro City Council Minutes
April 7, 2025
Community Center**

Mayor Bryan Arzani presided over and called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Ancel Kennedy, Julie McMicheal, and Matt Masters were present. Jason Phillips and Lyndsay Cannoy were absent.

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

Motion was made to open the Public Hearing on Proposed Tax Levy by McMicheal/Masters. All Ayes, motion carried. There were no public statements.

Motion to close public hearing on Proposed Tax Levy by Masters/Kennedy. All Ayes, motion carried.

Meeting adjourned 6:00 p.m.

**Truro City Council Minutes
May 5, 2025
Community Center**

Mayor Bryan Arzani presided over and called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Ancel Kennedy, Julie McMicheal, and Jason Phillips (via phone) were present. Matt Masters and Lyndsay Cannoy were absent. Public Works Director Ronnie Hults, Rhonda Guy, Fire Chief Terry Stills, and Brad Blum were also present. No one from the Public was present to speak.

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

The Sheriff's report was acknowledged by the Mayor and Council.

No report from Emergency Management.

Fire Chief Stills reported there were 8 rescue calls and 9 fire calls last month. He also reported the Tanker is still not working but still searching for parts.

Rhonda Guy presented the Water/Wastewater Report and Ronnie Hults updated the council on the new meter transition being almost complete. He also stated he has lined up the roll off trailer for the City Wide Clean Up.

Brad Blum updated the status of the new library/city hall options. Madison County Historical is still working with the City of Truro to research grants as well as come up with options for a new or using an existing site for the project. Reed Park was discussed to remove the deteriorating wood flower beds. Motion to remove the deteriorating flower beds made by Kennedy/McMicheal. All Ayes, motion carried. Possible options for Reed

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Park to be revisited at a later date.

Siren testing to be done by the Madison County Sheriff's Office on the first Saturday of the month at 1:00 p.m. City Council members will report to the city clerk if it was heard, and an email will be sent with that finding.

A motion was made to approve the tobacco license for Umiya Foodmart/Shop & Go by McMichael/Kennedy. All Ayes, motion carried.

The Mayor and City Council would like to acknowledge the great work by Ronnie Hults, Ancel Kennedy, and Janelle Adams on the transition of the new water meters. They would also like to thank Tracee Dembinski for her great work and years of service as Library Director as she has turned in her resignation.

The city clerk has asked for volunteers from the council to test the new meter portal prior to public roll out. This will be rolled out to the public in the next couple of months.

Motion to approve consent items by McMichael/Kennedy. All Ayes, motion carried.

Motion to adjourn by Kennedy/McMichael. All ayes, motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 6:49 p.m.

Next City Council Meeting 6.2.25.



Daily Lunch Specials

Sandwiches
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American

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PLAN AHEAD
WE'LL TAKE THE FIRST
STEP WITH YOU

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25 Alive by James Patterson

The Wedding People by Alison Espach

The World's Fair Quilt by Jennifer Chiaverini

www.truro.lib.ia.us

**Borrow ebooks
& audiobooks**

Libby.
The library reading app



Library Hours:

Sunday Closed

Monday Closed

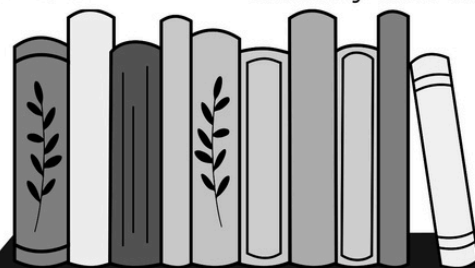
Tuesday 9:30-3:30

Wednesday 3:30-6:30

Thursday 10:00-6:00

Friday Closed

Saturday 9:00-noon



TRURO COMMUNITY FRIDGE



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

Truro Public Library
114 E Center Street

ITEMS NEEDED

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

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



We're ready for this year's
summer reading program!
May 28th in New Virginia and
May 29th in Truro will be
sign up days!

Like us on Facebook or checkout
our websites for updates!
We will be giving away free zoo
passes and other goodies!



JESUS' RIGHT HAND

Everyone has experienced a time when all hope is lost. A time when you feel like the walls are closing in, your mind goes numb and you're ready to walk away and throw in the towel. But then, a small glimmer of light shows up amid the darkness. Not something huge, but it's unmistakable in your mind. It may be nothing to others, but to you, it's a lifeline. And you cling to it with all your might, knowing without a doubt, that it was sent from God to encourage you not to give up. He may send encouragement in a way that you never expected, so totally unusual and random. Other times it is right under your nose, but you are struggling so hard trying to manipulate situations and come up with solutions that you simply miss it altogether.

One thing is true: God usually shows up when we've given up hope that we can do it without Him. When we have lost trust in ourselves, God does His work. I can imagine this is the type of hopelessness that Simon Peter and the disciples of Jesus felt after they had to witness His betrayal and crucifixion on the cross. They saw what they believed to be the end of their ministry on earth with Jesus, and they were just milling around, trying to figure out what was next in their life. In John 21:3-6, Peter told the disciples, "I am going fishing." What was their reaction? "We will go with you." So, they went out and got into the boat but caught nothing that night. Sound familiar? Even when they went back to do something familiar, they're still in the same situation with no solution. Early in the morning as they were approaching the shore, a figure shouted out and asked them if they had any fish. "No," they replied. Wow, talk about rubbing salt in their emotional wounds! He told them, "Cast the net on the right side of the boat, and you will find some." So they cast it there, and they were unable to haul it in because of the great number of fish. As the leader of the disciples, Simon Peter was struggling so hard to come up with solutions that he totally missed His sign of encouragement. It took John to point out to Peter that it was Jesus on the shore.

There are so many examples of glimmers of hope in the darkness of hopelessness between the covers of the Bible. The despair of Lazarus' family after he had been dead for three days (John 11). The crippling heartache of Jairus when his twelve-year-old daughter died and the hopelessness of the woman with the issue of blood (Matthew 9). When everything was hopeless, Abraham believed anyway for the son he was promised. Abraham's decision to choose to "believe anyway" was firmly grounded in the fact that God was able to do the impossible.

It seems like the take-away from all of this is that we need to stop relying on ourselves less and begin to rely on and trust God more. Our default setting as humans seems to be constantly set on "I do it myself." Have you ever tried to help a stubborn toddler do something they were determined to do themselves? They just seem to get more and more frustrated, usually ending in a full-blown meltdown. By that time, they are so frustrated that you usually must let the little one run out of steam. This just gives me a greater appreciation for God's patience with us, because quite truthfully, we all tend to act like stubborn toddlers with our problems.

What if we made a choice to quit rushing into situations and trust God FIRST? Would our troubles cease? No. We will always have troubles in this world, because this world is broken and filled with trouble. Whether it is a situation of our mistakes or no fault of our own, trouble will happen during

USDA to Open General and Continuous Conservation Reserve Program Enrollment for 2025

WASHINGTON, May 12, 2025 – The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) today announced several Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) enrollment opportunities for agricultural producers and landowners. USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) is accepting offers for both the General and Continuous CRP beginning today through June 6, 2025. CRP, USDA's flagship conservation program, celebrates its 40th anniversary this year. For four decades, CRP has provided financial and technical support to agricultural producers and landowners who place unproductive or marginal cropland under contract for 10-15 years and who agree to voluntarily convert the land to beneficial vegetative cover to improve water quality, prevent soil erosion and support wildlife habitat. The American Relief Act, 2025, extended provisions for CRP through September 30, 2025.

"With 1.8 million acres available for all CRP enrollment this fiscal year, we are very aware that we are bumping up against the statutory 27-million-acre statutory cap," said FSA Administrator Bill Beam. "Now more than ever, it's important that the acres offered by landowners and those approved by USDA address our most critical natural resource concerns. With the limited number of acres that we have available, we're not necessarily looking for the most acres offered but instead prioritizing mindful conservation efforts to ensure we maximize the return on our investment from both a conservation and economic perspective."

General CRP (Signup 64): Agricultural producers and landowners submit offers for General CRP through a competitive bid process. Offers are ranked and scored, by FSA, using nationally established environmental benefits criteria. USDA will announce accepted offers once ranking and scoring for all offers is completed. In addition to annual rental payments, approved General CRP participants may also be eligible for cost-share assistance to establish long-term, resource-conserving vegetative cover.

Continuous CRP (Signup 63): Unlike General CRP, Continuous CRP offers are not subject to a competitive bid process. To ensure enrolled acres do not exceed the current statutory cap of 27 million acres, FSA is accepting Continuous CRP offers on a first-come, first-served basis through June 6. However, should allotted CRP acreage remain available following the June 6 deadline, FSA will accept continuous CRP offers from interested landowners through July 31, 2025, and may be subsequently considered for acceptance, in batches, if it's determined that the offered acres support USDA's conservation priorities.

To read the rest of the article and for more information on CRP participant and land eligibility, approved conservation practices and detailed program fact sheets, visit FSA's CRP webpage.

our lifetime. There will be times when we are tempted to crawl under the covers, throw in the towel and totally give up. But choosing to continue to hope needs to be a deliberate decision. We must decide to pray vulnerably when our hearts are in this state. Vulnerability is where the change happens. This is where pain meets purpose. Sometimes, God wants to give us our heart's desire, but he is waiting for us to change our motives from selfish to spiritual.

I hope this has encouraged you to continue to hope when all seems lost. We are here for you if you need prayer, encouragement or even just a hug. Jesus' Right Hand is so much more than just food. We pray that we will always be a light in the darkness for anyone needing that glimmer of hope.

In His Love and Service, Jesus' Right Hand



Aden Dickinson



AJ Jelsma



Bella Waldron



Bode Stanley



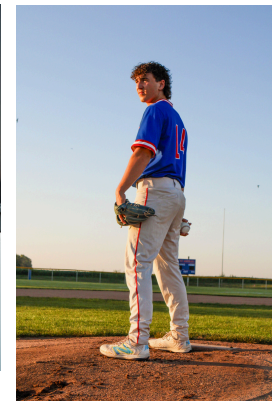
I-35
2025
Grads



Brady Streeter



Brendan Goering



Brock Stephens



Brody Coder



Cody Jacobs



Cora Keller



Ella Van Dyke



Ethan Nelson



Evan Williams



Ezabell Chandler



George Dutrey IV



Grant Jones



Jazmine Warsawski



Hannah Blake



Henry Gelner



Ian Schumacher



Jackson Ransom



Jacob Barrientos



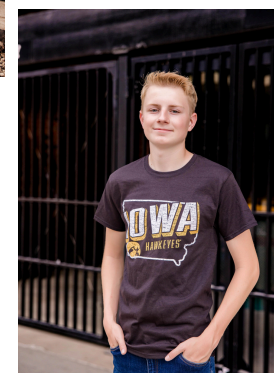
Jordyn Howell



Karen Guerrero



Keegan
Alery



Keegan Strange



Kaylee Festler



Walter "Herschel" Martin

Walter Herschel Martin, fondly known by those who loved him as "Herschel", was born on September 24, 1948, in St. Charles, Iowa. He passed away peacefully at his home in Truro, Iowa, on April 26, 2025, at the age of 76.

Herschel was a true son of Iowa, spending his entire life in the St. Charles and Truro communities. He attended Interstate-35 Community Schools as part of the 1966 graduating class. Following that, he dedicated nearly 44 years of his

life to his craft as a skilled meat cutter at Fareway and Dahl's grocery stores, retiring in 2010. Herschel took great pride in his profession, serving not only his loyal customers, but many people he knew personally with expertise and care.

Herschel was united in marriage to Donna (Brant) Martin on July 1, 1966, with whom he shared a loving partnership for 58 years. He had the joy of raising two daughters, Ranae and Erin.

Herschel's true passions lay beyond his professional life, as he found joy in caring for his horses and driving them with his buggies. A lover of the outdoors, Herschel enjoyed gardening, beekeeping, and mushroom hunting. Additionally, he raised many rabbits over the years and took great pleasure in assisting his grandchildren with their 4-H projects. Traditions were dear to Herschel and his family, particularly their annual trips to the Sidney Iowa Rodeo and the many birthday and holiday celebrations. Known for his culinary skills, he delighted family and friends with his famous chicken sandwiches and handmade tenderloins.

Herschel is preceded in death by his parents, Samuel Amos Martin, Jr. and Susie Kathryn (Breeding) Martin; his sister, Kay Hayden; brother-in-law, Carroll Hayden; and his parents-in-law, William and Bernice Brant.

He leaves behind a devoted family, including his beloved wife, Donna Martin of Truro, IA; his daughters, Ranae (Jeff) Pontier and Erin (John) Goering; grandsons Martin (Mikah) Pontier, Justin Pontier, Austin (Shelby) Pontier, Zach Goering; granddaughter Abbi Goering and her fiancé, Travis Allen; great grandchildren Rian Pontier, Collins Pontier, and Baby Hank Pontier (expected in July). He is also survived by his siblings, Sam (C. Jane) Martin, III, Gary (Debbie) Martin; Jane (Tim) Busby; his brother-in-law, Dean (Twila) Brant; and sister-in-law, Dixie (Ed) Murphy, as well as many other relatives and friends.

The family greeted friends at a visitation on Wednesday, April 30, 2025, at Kale Funeral Home in Osceola. Graveside services and interment were held at Ebenezer Cemetery on Friday, May 2, 2025, at 10:30 am, officiated by Pastor Darin Feikema and Chaplain Jason Pool.

Memorial contributions in Herschel's memory may be suggested to Suncrest Hospice, St. Charles Parish Church, or the Truro Fire Department. Online condolences can be shared at www.kalefuneralhome.com

Samuel "Sam" Wayne Walters



Samuel "Sam" Wayne Walters, son of Charles William and Elvina Gertrude (Garvin) Walters, was born on April 30, 1930, in Osceola, Iowa, and passed away on April 29, 2025, in Osceola, just one day shy of his 95th birthday.

Sam grew up in Van Meter, Iowa, where he graduated from high school in 1949. He was united in marriage to Mildred Theresa Deer on June 17, 1950 in Van Meter. Together, they were blessed with three children.

A proud veteran, Sam served in the United States Air Force during the Korean War from 1951 to 1955, achieving the rank of Airman First Class (A/1C). After his military service, he worked as a mechanic for the U.S. Postal Service in Des Moines from 1956 to 1985.

Sam enjoyed life's simple pleasures—he loved farming, RV camping, fishing, and square dancing. He was a member of Faith Fellowship Church. He especially cherished time spent with his family. He treasured annually wintering in McAllen, Texas, a tradition he continued until 2016.

He was preceded in death by his beloved wife, Mildred Theresa Walters; his parents, Charles and Gertrude; and his siblings: Pearl Walters, Blanche Huffman, Earl Walters, Lucille Heldenbrand, and Junior Walters.

Sam is survived by his children: Debra (Ed) Miller of Ottumwa, IA; Charlie (Mona) Walters of New Virginia, IA; and Matt (Dorenda) Walters of DeSoto, IA; his grandchildren: Eric (Anna) Miller of Oskaloosa, IA; Casey (Jennifer) Walters of Redfield, IA; and Clayton (Monica) Walters of Cedar Falls, IA; and his great-grandchildren: Julian Miller, Levi Grace Walters, Cora Walters, Jace Walters, and Owen Walters. He is also survived by his sister Mary Ann (Carl) Anderson of Altoona, IA; sister-in-law Grace Reed of Van Meter, IA; along with numerous nieces, nephews, other relatives, and many dear friends.

A funeral service was held at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, May 3, 2025, at Faith Fellowship Church, with Pastor Scott Davis officiating. Interment followed at 1:00 p.m. at New Virginia Cemetery. Visitation with the family took place on Friday, May 2, 2025, at Kale Funeral Home in Osceola.

Memorial contributions may be directed to Faith Fellowship Church or a charity of your choice.

Online condolences may be shared with the family at www.kalefuneralhome.com.



Memorial Day commemorates the men and women who died while serving in the **United States Armed Forces**, particularly those who died in battle or as a result of wounds sustained in battle. In other words, the purpose of **Memorial Day** is to memorialize the veterans who made the ultimate sacrifice for their country.

Veterans Day is the day set aside to thank and honor **ALL** who served in the United States Armed Forces—in wartime or peacetime—regardless of whether they died or survived. **Veterans Day** is always observed officially on November 11, regardless of the day of the week on which it falls.

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A MESSAGE FROM MR. GRANDON

I-35 CSD SUPERINTENDENT

Greetings I-35 Community -

As you are reading this message, the final bell of the 2024-2025 school year has rung (or will soon). With that, I want to take a moment to thank each of you for your continued support of Interstate 35 CSD.

This year brought new opportunities, challenges, and celebrations. Through it all, our students, staff, and families showed what it means to be a Roadrunner. Every day I saw, and continue to see, *The Roadrunner Way* in action and we accomplished a lot together.

I couldn't have asked for a better start to my time here at Interstate 35. I've truly enjoyed getting to know our students, staff, and community, and I'm excited for what's ahead as we continue to grow together.

To our students: we are proud of your hard work, growth, and resilience. To our staff: thank you for your dedication and passion. And to our families and community members: your care and involvement in our school community makes a difference every day.

We hope everyone enjoys a safe, relaxing, and fun summer. We look forward to welcoming you back in August, refreshed and ready for another great year.

Go Roadrunners!

Chad Grandon
Superintendent, Interstate 35 CSD



STAFFING NEEDS

Preschool Paraprofessional

- Full-Time Position Beginning with 2025-2026 School Year
 - High school diploma or equivalent required
 - Meets the Iowa Dept. of Education requirements for paraprofessionals in preschool settings
- Experience working with young children in an early childhood setting is preferred
- Great Benefits Package*
 - Health Care, Dental & More

*This graphic makes no guarantees related to insurance benefits, coverage or costs which are subject to annual changes.

LEARN MORE

Scan the QR code below to see the full job posting flyer.



ACTIVITIES

LATE MAY & EARLY JUNE

HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL

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

- 5/20: Away @ Twin Cedars High School; JV & Varsity
- 5/22: Away @ Seymour; Varsity - 6:00 p.m., JV - 7:30 p.m.
- 5/23: Away @ Collins-Maxwell High School; JV & Varsity
- 5/24: Away @ Ankeny Christian Academy; JV - 12:00 p.m.; Varsity - 2:00 p.m.
- 5/28: Away @ SE Warren High School, JV & Varsity
- **5/29: Home Opener vs Ogden; Varsity Double Header - 5:00 p.m.**
- **5/31: Home vs. Wayne; JV - 11:00 a.m.; Varsity - 1:00 p.m.**
- **6/2: Home vs. DM Christian; JV & Varsity**
- 6/3: Away @ Van Meter High School; JV & Varsity
- 6/5: Away @ West Central Valley HS; Varsity Double Header - 5:00 p.m.
- 6/7: Away @ Iowa Falls-Alden; Ripley Park; JV & Varsity - 1:00 p.m.
- **6/9: Home vs. Earlham; JV & Varsity**
- 6/10: Away vs. Pleasantville High School; JV & Varsity
- **6/12: Home vs. AC/GC; Varsity Double Header - 5:00 p.m.**
- 6/13: Away at MSTM High School; JV-R - 10:00 a.m.
- **6/14: Home Invitational; 10:00 a.m.**
- 6/16: JV-R: Away @ Creston High School; JV-R - 12:00 a.m.
- 6/17: Away @ DM Christian High School; JV & Varsity

HIGH SCHOOL SOFTBALL

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

- 5/26: Away @ Norwalk High School; JV - 5:30 p.m. & Varsity - 7:15 p.m.
- **5/29: Home Opener vs Ogden; Varsity Double Header - 5:30 p.m.**
- 5/31: Varsity Tournament @ Winterset High School; Varsity - 8:00 a.m.
- **6/2: Home vs. DM Christian; JV & Varsity**
- 6/3: Away @ Van Meter High School; JV & Varsity
- 6/5: Away @ West Central Valley HS; Varsity Double Header - 5:30 p.m.
- **6/9: Home vs. Earlham; JV & Varsity**
- 6/10: Away @ Pleasantville High School; JV & Varsity
- **6/12: Home vs. AC/GC; Varsity Double Header - 5:30 p.m.**
- **6/17: Away @ DM Christian High School; JV & Varsity**
- 6/18: Away @ MSTM High School; JV & Varsity
- 6/19: Away @ Woodward-Granger HS; Varsity Double Header - 5:30 p.m.

INTERSTATE 35 CELEBRATES 2025 FINE ARTS NIGHT!

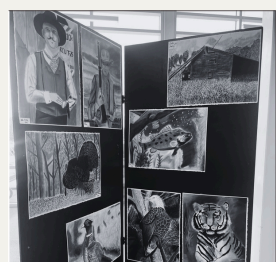
The creative spirit of Roadrunner students shone bright on Tuesday, May 13, 2025, as students, families, and community members gathered for the annual Fine Arts Night. This event highlights the artistic and musical talents of I-35 students and celebrates their dedication to the arts.

The evening began at 6:00 p.m. with a gallery opening featuring a wide range of student artwork, including visual arts and ceramics. The High School Commons transformed into a vibrant gallery filled with color and personal expression. Visitors were able to admire pieces like those pictured below, each reflecting the individuality and skill of its artist.

Following the gallery viewing, guests enjoyed a concert showcasing both the choir and band. The musical portion of the night included performances demonstrating the talent and hard work of I-35's vocalists and instrumentalists.

Fine Arts Night is a wonderful opportunity for our students to share their talents with the community. It's a night where we come together to celebrate creativity found within Roadrunner Country. Below are a few photos from the gallery. You can view more photos by scanning the QR code.

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



Artist Showcase Example



Scratch Art Example



Ceramics Projects

MAY 29, 2025 GAME DAY



VS



BASEBALL 5:00 PM & 7:00PM

SOFTBALL 5:30 PM & 7:00PM

Join us for our official opening of the new fields, concessions and more! Youth ball players can attend free of charge if they wear their Roadrunner jersey.

We hope you'll be there to cheer on the Roadrunners!



#FoundationForTheFuture

MIDDLE SCHOOL SUMMER SPORTS

Games start at 10:00 a.m. unless otherwise noted

- 6/3: Away @ Winterset High School; Softball - 9:00 a.m.
- **6/6: Home vs. MSTM; Baseball & Softball**
- 6/9: Away vs. WCV High School; Baseball & Softball
- 6/10: **Home vs. Clarke; Baseball & Softball**
- 6/11: Away @ Earlham High School, Baseball & Softball
- **6/12: Home vs. East Union, Baseball & Softball**
- 6/13: Away @ Woodward-Granger Baseball Field, Baseball
- 6/13: Away @ Woodward-Granger MS-HS, Softball
- 6/17: Away @ Indianola Pickard Park, Baseball - 10:00 a.m. & Softball - 9:00 a.m.
- **6/19: Home vs. Indianola, Softball**
- 6/23: Away @ MSTM High School, Baseball & Softball
- **6/24: Home vs. SE Warren, Baseball & Softball**
- **6/25: Home vs. West Central Valley, Baseball & Softball**
- **6/27: Home vs. Earlham, Baseball & Softball**
- **6/30: Home vs. Des Moines Christian, Softball**
- 7/2: Away @ Clarke High School, Baseball & Softball



WWW.ROADRUNNERPRIDE.ORG

How Does Your Garden Grow?

Contributed by Susan King



I lost my mom earlier this year, and it has been a DIFFICULT three months of missing her, sprinkled with moments of joy reminiscing about the woman she was and the love she had for all of us. As planting season is upon us, the stories my dad and I have shared about mom's gardening 'artistry' has brought us some much-needed smiles and laughter. My mom was never one for over-planning her garden, or ensuring rows were staked out and dead straight, or following any type of regular watering, fertilizing or pruning schedule. Mom's style was a little unconventional to say the least. She threw seeds in the ground, covered them and waited for produce. As you can imagine, some years, thanks to mother nature, she had a bumper crop. Other years, the garden looked like a scene out of the Grapes of Wrath – bleak! Those years we were thankful for our good neighbors who handed us produce over the fence. Given this 'roll of the dice' gardening upbringing I had, I believe no one was more surprised than my parents when I declared horticulture as my original major at Iowa State University (again, my original major). As I was helping my dad clear out some closets a couple of weeks ago, I happened upon some of my ISU college things mom & dad still had stored away. Inside this trove of goodies, I found a notebook from my Horticulture 101 class from 1988. Inside the cover, I had written "Drought Year." The first few pages were all notes about the concerning weather we were experiencing that year (before global warming was a term) and the impact the severe heatwave was having on lives, livelihoods, agriculture and related industries, national parks as wildfires were raging in areas, etc. Reading these notes, I recalled living in the dorms (with no air) and experiencing many sleepless nights due to the intense heat and during the day, campus buildings full of students seeking reprieve from the pounding temperatures. As I continued to explore the pages of this notebook, I was thrilled to come across a page on gardening during a drought.

Here is a section from my notes (remember I was 18 and certain to be 50% paying attention):

1. Water Early morning – less evaporation
2. Water at the roots instead of on the surface – less frequently so make it count
3. Apply grass clippings to keep soil moist (hay or mulch)
4. Pick the right plants
5. Pick weeds so they don't take the water
6. Condense your garden and plant closer together – shade
7. Add compost to help keep soil wet longer
8. If you fertilize the plants will grow and require more water
9. If it rains, collect it

Fast forward to today and while we are certainly not in a drought, we have gone several days without any measurable rainfall and the heat is definitely upon us. Many of you may have just gotten your garden planted and annual flowers in your pots. As seeds are waiting to spring to life and the fragile root system of young plants are working to become established, I thought sharing some of these gardening tips may be helpful as we wait on mother nature to do her thing.



BY TERRY GARNER



Area Greenhouses

This being the month of May, you all know what that means. Flowers! And lots of them! I've been making the rounds to the area greenhouses and wanted to share their locations with you. After all, you don't want to miss one!

There are three Amish greenhouses south of Murray. (That I know about!) Head south of Murray on the highway, (I don't know the name of it, but we're exploring, remember?) There will be a sign to the Valley View Greenhouse pointing you east. Rocking M is on the highway farther south. From there, head east on Elk Street to get to the Borntrager Greenhouse. There are signs showing you the way.

When you finish down there, head north of Lorimor to Hilltop Gardens. I'm warning you; this one is big! You can drop some serious dough here. Right Joanie? From there, you could head over to Howell's Tree Farm and Groth's Greenhouse northeast of Winterset. Then drive on over to Bedwell Gardens east of Norwalk, continuing on to Busy Bee Garden Center north of Indianola.

Farther south, you'll find the Ellis Greenhouse in Lucas, Iowa, and Yutzy's in Decatur, which is just off the Interstate west of Leon. I haven't been to Yutzy's yet this year, but am planning on going soon. I got a great planter there last year for my back door entry.

Get together with some friends and enjoy some time together while searching out your favorite greenhouses. After all, even if you come home without any flowers, you'll have made some good memories with some good friends!

And speaking of road tripping, don't forget to check out the ad this month for the area quilt shops! Load up some friends and go have some fun!

make your
own
ADVENTURE

Continued from column 1.....

One additional pointer a friend shared with me that I found helpful last year was, if you do place a sprinkling system on your garden, make sure to place something to capture the amount of water you are putting on your garden – rain catcher, cup, saucer, etc. In general, gardens should receive about an inch of water a week. Sprinklers can be deceiving!

Happy growing season to everyone and to all the Moms out there, I pray you had a blessed Mother's Day. If you can, hug or call your mom today – she'll be overjoyed!

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

The Wily Mushroom

Contributed by Mel Stills

As a kid growing up in the 40's and 50's, I never hunted morel mushrooms. I'm sure they must have been around, but mushroom hunting wasn't the thing it is today. Dead elm trees seem to be the key for a good harvest, but if conditions are right, you can find them anywhere.

Dutch Elm Disease was first identified by three Dutch scientists in 1921, and the disease devastated the American Elm during the 1960's. I don't know when hunting morels became such a sport, but it's directly associated with the dying elm tree, since the ground under those trees is often a prime spot where morels grow. One early morning in the 1950's, it had rained the night before and it was a warm morning. Dad made a comment that it would probably be a good day to look for mushrooms. We never looked for them, and it wasn't until 1999 that I got into it when Sue and I moved to Iowa from Texas.

I knew about mushroom hunting from cousin Charlie. He was finding them during spring turkey season. We still lived in Texas, and on several trips to Iowa in the spring, we had fried mushrooms while staying with Charlie and Jody. Unfortunately, Sue found out the hard way that she was allergic to morels.

I don't have any childhood stories to share, but I can tell a few that happened after we moved back to Iowa. We moved onto a piece of land that had never had a house on it and had kind of gotten wooly after years of not being pastured. I think it was sort of free picking for those who lived around there. Our first spring I was out in the woods looking for morels. I heard a car stop on the gravel road, a door slam and someone crawling through what's left of a barbed wire fence. I went to investigate, ready to really raise Cain with this trespasser. I find this old guy, who can hardly walk, using his cane, looking for mushrooms. All of my thunder was gone. He was an old neighbor and a great friend. He was so embarrassed that he had gotten caught mushroom hunting. I helped him back across the fence, and I picked him a batch of mushrooms every year until he died.

You get serious about protecting your land from mushroom hunting thieves who roam Iowa in the spring. One year I spotted a car parked in a driveway down by the highway that goes past. The car was locked, and I saw bags of mushrooms in the back seat. Missouri plates on the car, so it's no one we know. Red Taylor had been fishing in our pond and was headed home, and I asked him to block the car in. I headed into the woods looking for this no-good so-and-so. I'm yelling "come out you ----," nothing; I'm up and down the hills, in the ditch, everywhere, nothing, no perpetrator. I headed back to talk to Red, and I spotted this guy laying on the ground. I only hoped he's laying in poison ivy. I told him what I was going to do, and now I'm worried if I have the ability to follow through with my threats. He was pretty meek, willingly gave what mushrooms he had picked and heard my instructions to never come back again.

There was one walnut tree across the pond that for some reason always had mushrooms under it. I checked it frequently every year. One spring I had the neighbor boys at my backdoor. They were holding out their hands, asking "can we have these?" They had found my walnut tree mushrooms, all of them, and they were less than an inch tall. That was the end of my harvest in that special spot.

My final story is about my brother John and his wife. They loved morels, and I would pick and share them with them. They would come down from

Des Moines and could never find any. I'd go with them, find a mushroom, point it out, then look for the next one. One year I decided to make it easier for them and put red flags out next to the mushrooms. Morels are elusive; they seem to suddenly appear where you have been looking. The season is now over with, and I hope I've not divulged any secrets.



by James Patterson and Gabrielle Charbonnet

Reviewed by Sue Stills

This 2008 book was a delight to read. I enjoyed the short chapters, and the story was so heartwarming. Jane Margaux is a lonely little girl whose successful, overbearing mother makes time for her only once a week for their Sunday trip to admire the jewelry at Tiffany's. So Jane finds friendship and solace in her imaginary adult friend, Michael. His mission is to help children until they are old enough to manage on their own. Thus, Michael leaves Jane on her ninth birthday. They do not forget each other or their special bond in the intervening years. When Jane is in her thirties, Michael finds her, yet she questions whether he is real or perhaps an angel who will leave her again. This book tells us about the timeless and transforming power of love.

NEWS

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<http://www.iahsaa.org>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Andrew Wheeler, Iowa Farm Bureau, (515) 225-5414
Chad Elsberry, IHSAA, (515) 432-2011

EMILY HUGHES RECOGNIZED BY GOVERNOR REYNOLDS FOR ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

WEST DES MOINES, IOWA – May 2, 2025 – Emily Hughes, a student at Martensdale - St. Marys, was recognized by Gov. Kim Reynolds and Lt. Governor Chris Cournoyer for outstanding academic achievement at the 23rd Annual Governor's Scholar Recognition Ceremony on April 27 at the Iowa Events Center in Des Moines.

The statewide program, sponsored by the Iowa Governor's Office, Iowa High School Athletic Association (IHSAA) and its title sponsor the Iowa Farm Bureau Federation (IFBF), honored 424 high school seniors from across Iowa.

Visit <http://www.iahsaa.org> for the complete article.





Keely Hills



Kolter Good



Korey Kirkpatrick



Korbyn Maxwell



Liliana Cummings



Logan Heaberlin



Logan Palmer



Louis Vonnahme



Madaline Cole



Maleah Alery



Margherita Amelio



Mia Greve



Michael Hackley



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



The Virginia Boosters 4-H club held its May meeting at 7 p.m. on May 14th at the New Virginia Lions Club building. Our vice president, Nora Nelson, called the meeting to order, and Elsa Meggers led the Pledge of Allegiance. The May roll call was, “What is your favorite ice cream flavor?” The Secretary’s Report was read by Brianna Fantz, and the Treasurer’s report was read by our reporter, Ella Scott. We then discussed old business. The bake sale went okay, but it needed to be advertised more. We decided we should do it again in the future. Next, we discussed new business. We reviewed the newsletter, the YQCA deadline is June 1st, the livestock ID deadline is May 15th, the 2025 summer day camps, the June 3rd challenge workshop, the June 11th project crash course, the June 21st learning to sew, and the June 19th photography workshop.

There is a sheep and goat workshop on May 17th at 10 AM, and there is a pre-fair rabbit workshop on May 27th at 6:30 PM. The Iowa 4-H Fishing Club is for 4th through 12th graders. Lastly, we discussed the Club Tour, which is on Wednesday, June 11th.

We will have a pizza party after it at the New Virginia Lions Hall. Next, Charlotte led the 4-H pledge, then she made the first motion to adjourn the meeting, and Lauren seconded. Finally, we ended the meeting with this month’s presentations on beaches, by Lily and Scarlet.



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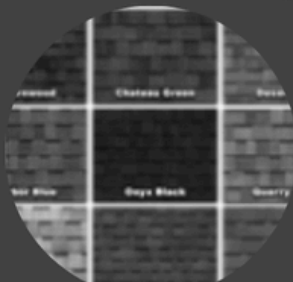


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New Virginia Chapter

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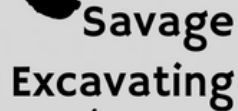
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Springtime is well underway, such a wonderful time of rebirth after the winter. You should be seeing green grass again, trees leafing out, & many trees blooming. Daffodils, tulips and other spring flowers are bringing color to flower beds. Are the hostas beginning to come up? What about the peonies? There are many peony plants in the New Virginia Cemetery, and those flowers will welcome additional flowers that you may be putting on your loved ones' graves for Memorial Day. Have you had good luck in finding morels?

Have you seen any Canada geese goslings on the ponds? There are bald eagle cams in many areas of the country, and maybe some of you are watching local eagle nests for the appearance of the chicks. Many migratory birds have returned, or they will soon. The rural areas of Iowa are home to many animals, and some may be seen in towns and cities too: deer, skunks, racoons, foxes, coyotes, rabbits, squirrels, otter, muskrats, mink, and the list goes on. Arizona, as well, is home to a diverse array of wildlife, including both native & introduced species. Here are some of them: cougars, black bears, elk, bighorn sheep, desert bighorn sheep, javelinas, gila monsters, coyotes, & wild horses. Neighborhood critters that have been spotted in my area are gray foxes, skunks, coyotes, racoons and rabbits. Sun Lakes is bordered on the south and west by the Gila River Indian Reservation with many wide-open spaces where these animals live. We enjoy seeing doves, hummingbirds, owls, desert quail and other birds. I hear a woodpecker every morning close by.

With more people getting outdoors in the warm, spring weather, Arizonans need to be mindful that there are 13 species of rattlesnakes that can be found in the state. The Western diamondback is found throughout Arizona, mostly in the southwest desert areas. It is the longest rattlesnake in the state at three to six feet. It is protected by Arizona state laws and cannot be collected or hunted without a license. The state has more rattlesnake species than any other state. The snakes are most active from March through October, with April being the month when most rattlesnake bites occur in Arizona.

My rattlesnake research found this interesting facility in Cave Creek, AZ, north of Phoenix. It is called Rattlesnake Ready, LLC, and it is Arizona's #1 realistic rattlesnake aversion training facility for dogs. Dogs new to the training, as well as previously trained dogs, can benefit from the training through these four steps: exposure to juvenile snakes; scent recognition; basic sound aversion; & exposure to adult snakes. Having your dog trained in this way can aid you and your dog in avoiding rattlesnakes. Source: rattlesnakeready.com.

Have you ever heard of rattlesnake roundups? These are contests for hunters to bring in as many snakes as they can. The snakes are then killed, often with the focus on entertainment or profit. Some of the snakes are sold for meat and skin, but most of them are disposed of. Some states where these roundups are held are Texas, Oklahoma, Georgia, Pennsylvania and Arizona. There is a unique establishment in Sun City West, AZ, called Rattlesnake Roundup where, instead of rattlesnakes being killed, experienced professionals safely relocate the snakes from residential and commercial properties. An educational program is offered to raise awareness about rattlesnake behavior & safety precautions in rattlesnake-prone areas.

My latest involvement with the Sun Lakes Community Theatre was as Assistant Director & props manager for a one-act play that was performed April 30-May 4. The event was billed as "A Showcase of Comedy!" and featured three one-act plays. Our play was "The Naked Man on the Couch," the funniest of the three. The storyline was that a man was drunk, came into a house he thought was his, and fell asleep on the couch, covered by a quilt. It was the home of three ladies who discovered him, held him at gunpoint, called the police, peeked as he put on his clothes, then accepted his offer to drive them to Las Vegas when their driver-friend was unable to do so. I had fun in rehearsals with the four actors who are also my friends, and I learned some about directing and about props and set changes between the plays. The cast party on May 5 was a lot of fun. Mel & I celebrated our 45th anniversary on May 3.

Enjoy all the wonders and beauty of spring!



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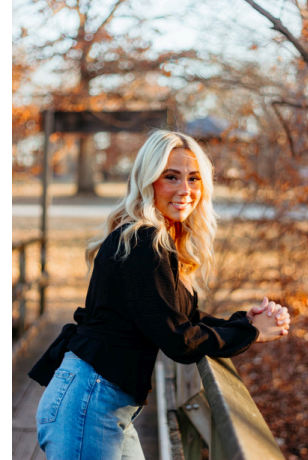
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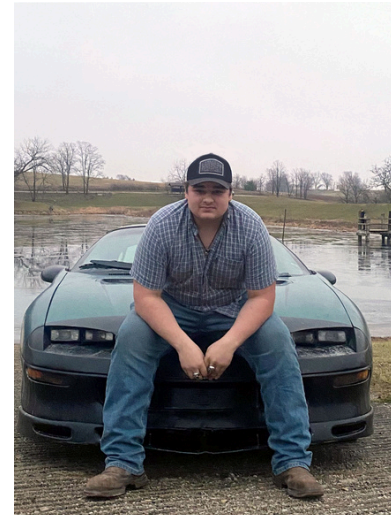
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PARKS + PICNICS 2025

Contributed by Mackenzy Scrivner, Homegrown with Grace

If you're a local woman, mom or caregiver, I invite you to join us for the Summer 2025 Parks + Picnics program! Parks + Picnics is in its third season, and we're adding a few fresh features to the tour this year. You can join the "Parks + Picnics" private group on Facebook for more information (yes, you need to use the "+" sign). This is a free tour of local parks (don't forget to pack a picnic!) throughout the summer.

As a rural-living, stay-at-home-mom of almost 8 years, I wanted to create a community for others like me who don't have an easy, quick "village" that many city-dwellers often do. We have to work a bit more to find community as rural-living mothers. We don't have 20 neighbors when we step out the door. Instead, we have beautiful country-side and tractors rolling by. We don't have the convenience of a five-minute Target run or quick walk to a playground to break up our days. Instead, we have space to call our own and quiet moments where we can actually hear the birds chirp and kids playing in the yard.

As with anything in life, there are pros and cons to where we choose to live. While we love raising our family in rural Iowa, I know it can oftentimes feel lonely and isolating as a stay-at-home-mom. Enter: Parks + Picnics!

The idea is simple (on purpose) - I determine the date/time/location for stops, and moms and kiddos show up! The kids get to play and explore together, while the moms visit and get to know one another. Then, we enjoy a picnic lunch together and go about our day!

I specifically wanted this tour to highlight many of the awesome small town playgrounds and county parks - the hidden gems - in our area. The tour is heavily focused in Warren and Madison Counties, but we do scoot into Polk/Dallas County a few times. This year, I've added a few fresh features to the program that I hope will be well-received. The biggest change is that I've broken our stops into four categories this year.

Let's take a look:

- **Local Wednesdays:** These Wednesday stops are very typical of what we've done in previous years. They highlight local, small town playgrounds. The local parks we're visiting this year include New Virginia Lions Park, St. Charles City Park, Truro City Park (Hull Park), Warrior Park (Norwalk), Waterworks Park (Grimes), Winterset City Park, Barrett Boesen Playscape (Urbandale), and McCord Park (Indianola).
- **Learning Thursdays:** I'm excited to collaborate with Warren County Farm Bureau's Ag in the Classroom representative, Keisha Thompson, to bring the P+P group a bit more of a learning experience on a couple of stops this year! We'll be visiting the Warren Co. Historical Museum and Hickory Hills County Park for these stops. I'm also hoping to include a stop at the new Madison County Conservation Center.
- **Day Trip Fridays:** This is another new category that I am very excited about! We're adding three Day Trip Fridays to the tour. These take us a bit farther out of our usual bubble, but are still in central Iowa. We'll be day-tripping to the Iowa Arboretum's Treehouse Village (there is a cost for this one) by Madrid, the North Overlook Playscape by Pella, and Thomas Mitchell Park by Mitchellville.

We'll meet for an extended timeframe on these trips, so we have time to really explore the area, but we'll still have a picnic together. These day trips are geared toward an enhanced hiking/exploring nature experience instead of playground play.

- **LADIES Parks + Picnics:** This is the last piece to this year's tour - a LADIES only mini-tour! This is open to all women (not just moms and caregivers). We'll have three stops - one in June, July, and August - on Sunday evenings. We're visiting Lake Ahquabi State Park, Cedar Lake (Winterset), and Raccoon River Park this year. We'll gather, hike around the trails, and then finish our evening with a grownup picnic! These are intended to be a time to wind down the week with connection, nature, and nourishment, while welcoming in a new week of success!

Please note, I purposely do not share all details of the stops publicly for safety and security reasons. Please join the private Facebook group (Parks + Picnics) for all information (you need to answer the membership questions). I also have an email list that you can join if you prefer that or don't have Facebook. You can email me at info@homegrownwithgrace.com and request to be on the email list and/or inquire about other details of the program! ***I look forward to seeing you on the tour!***



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

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

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Sunday School: 9:30 am

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Sun. Evening Worship 5:30 pm

Cubi Club & Twenty/20 - 5:30 pm

Adult Endeavor - 6:00 pm

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www.gbcnv.org

Sunday Worship: 10:30 am

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Pastor: Darin Feikema

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New Virginia United Methodist Church

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Pastor Paul Burrow

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Pastor's email: burrowpi@yahoo.com

Church email: NewVA-Medora@outlook.com

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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

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Deacon: Richard Bown: 641-764-2765

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Traditional & Children Sunday Worship 10 AM

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

Pastor's email: bernieco2003@yahoo.com

St. Paul Lutheran

(Evangelical Lutheran Church in America)

ELCA

615 Iowa Ave / P.O. Box 290

Martensdale, IA 50160

641-764-2752

office@mystpaullutheran.com

Worship: 10:00 AM

LifePoint Church

801 N. Fillmore St.

Osceola, IA 50213

641-342-2334

Pastor Chuck DeVos

www.lifepointministries.net

info@lifepointministries.net

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

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

Peru United Methodist Church

301 Brown St.,

Peru, IA 50222

Pastor Sharman Eaton

Social Time @ 8:30 am

Coffee and Snacks

Worship 9:00 am

