

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

**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**  
**June 19, 2025**

# TRI-CORNER-EXPRESS

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**New Virginia, IA 50210**  
**Permit No. 99**

**NEXT AD DEADLINE**  
**July 9, 2025**  
**NEXT MAILING DATE**  
**July 17, 2025**

**Annual Subscription: \$20.00**

Contact Information: [tricorner@newvirginia.com](mailto:tricorner@newvirginia.com)

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

## May Publishing Costs

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## Trip To Thailand

by Celma Higgins

Planning a trip to a Far East country? You might find yourself actually flying west, halfway around the world and 13 time zones away from Iowa. On January 15, 2025, my husband and I landed in Bangkok, Thailand, having left Des Moines Monday, January 13, and following an air route from Des Moines to Chicago to Taipei, Taiwan, landing in Bangkok—13 time zones ahead of Iowa.

We do enjoy traveling, but must admit, Thailand was not on our bucket list or even appearing on our radar. When opportunity knocks, you still have to open the door. We received this invitation and were not convinced this was something for us. After all, it is a LONG trip and we are in the second half of the 70's decade. Our long-time friend and neighbor, also entrepreneur and philanthropist in southern Thailand and northern Cambodia, invited and convinced us the trip would be safe and enlightening. After all, he had been making this trip for over 35 years. So, the journey began!

Thailand, known as Siam until 1939, is the second largest economy in Southeast Asia. Thailand has a population of 66 million with 17 million residing in the Bangkok area. Myanmar, Laos, and Cambodia are neighboring countries.

We followed our itinerary of spending time in the cities and surrounding areas of Bangkok, Chiang Mai, (in northern Thailand and an area less densely populated and more mountainous), and Siem Reap, Cambodia.

A much-anticipated part of the trip was visiting the SCHOOLS in rural Cambodia that our friend was instrumental in building and maintaining. He works with an organization called Build Your Future Today (Google this title to read about their work). Their work is impressive! In this area, they have built classroom facilities including pre-schools, primary schools (one dedicated to our friend's sister), intermediate schools and a high school. We visited three different sites. They have, also, developed safe water drinking systems, built student and teacher dormitories, assisted in planting fruit trees and vegetables, contributed computers and learning tools for various subjects including English and much, much more (again, check out the website). All students appeared excited to attend school and to have our group visit. Some students presented us with flowers, and the younger students performed a traditional Cambodian dance. The schools have vacant land available around them, allowing for growing fruit trees, vegetables and various food sources. There are dormitories for high school students who live a certain distance or more from school. Others walk or ride bikes or scooters. Teachers, also, live in a dormitory with four occupants to a room. Many donors are working globally to build a better future for the youth and their families in rural Cambodia. It was inspiring to see the progress!

There were many more experiences: floating markets, Bridge Over River Kwai WWII Museum, monastery museum occupied by Khmer Rouge 1975-79, craft and gemstone factories, the traffic (its own story), and, of course, the food (delicious fruits and vegetables, fish rice; very limited sweets, chocolate, soda pop and beef).

The trip was truly amazing! Amazing people and amazing culture on the other side of the world—13 time zones AHEAD of Iowa. Many people we spoke with had a strong desire to visit the USA. Perhaps they would, also, find amazing people and amazing culture on the other side of the world—13 time zones BEHIND Thailand.

*Continued on page 24.....*

## Jury of Her Peers, Making a Movie

by Jim Stuart

In the fall of 2024, I received an email from one of my horse groups saying a film company was looking for a team and wagon to use in a film. I responded that I was interested, and after sending pictures of my horses and wagons, I was invited to participate in the film making. The scenes my horses were in were shot at an historic homestead south of Madrid. Other parts of the film were shot at Living History Farms. I was told the storyline was about an ax-murder at the turn of the century. My horses were tied in the stalls of the barn, and the sheriff and two others were in the barn looking for clues. It was interesting watching from the side as they shot this short scene. They must have shot 25 takes! They would adjust the angle of the camera, change the lights and do it again. We were near a highway so we had to wait if cars were going by. In the script it called for my horses to act startled when the sheriff came in. Beforehand, I told them I wasn't sure how we would be able to get that reaction, but I soon found out. They had a fog machine they used to give the scene a mysterious look, and it would puff out fog making a hissing sound right at the beginning of each take. My horses would shake and raise their heads every time. The actor who played the sheriff was scared of horses and was concerned because the script called for him to walk next to the horses and inspect them for injuries. I assured him he would be safe with my horses and showed him how to approach them. By the end of the filming, he was handling them like an old horseman. During the filming, I was working on an old lantern that was used as a prop. I was the only one there with pliers! The scene with the horses was in the basement of this barn, and the film crew moved up to the next floor to shoot a different scene. I'm in the basement getting my horses ready to go home. The haymow door above my head opened and the sheriff said, "Could you hand me that lantern?" I replied, "I gave it to one of the prop girls." He said, "I'm practicing my lines." I turned red and everyone laughed. A few weeks later I took the team and wagon to Madrid. In this opening scene of the movie, the neighbor was driving up to the house where he would soon find out a murder had taken place. I gave the actor a two-minute course on how to drive the team and he took over. It was raining that day, so we didn't do very many takes.

The filmmaker did a podcast that I listened to. That is when I found out the movie was somewhat based on a murder that took place near Medora in 1900. This piqued my interest and I had to look into it. "Midnight Assassin" tells the story of the Medora murder and trials that took place in Indianola and Winterset. This book can be found in the New Virginia Library. Susan Glaspell, a reporter covering the trial, was inspired to write a play called "Trifles." A couple of versions of the play can be found on YouTube. She, also, wrote a short story "Jury of her Peers" based on the play.

*Continued on page 24.....*

Actor in the wagon and director and sound girl (Jim's words!) on the ground, preparing for the opening scene.

Geraldine and Stormy. They were the "Iowa Farm Team Challenge" champions in 2024.



Council Meeting Minutes, June 2, 2025

The Council met in regular session on Monday June 2nd, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. for the June council meeting. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Strange with Council Members Dunkin, Bailey, Galivan and Truman present. Absent Taylor. Minutes from the May meeting were approved.

**Old business:** The red flashing beacon lights have been installed above the northbound and southbound stop signs on East Street at the intersection of East and Knotts Streets.

The sidewalk width in front of the Lions Hall is 7' 2". Mayor Strange will follow up with Anna Young and let her know that there is space for a bench and the City is in approval. Anna will still need to work with the Lions Club for final approval and placement of the memorial bench.

Rhonda Guy, the new water plant operator was present for a water operations update. The monthly city council report and daily waterlog were discussed. Service contracts for washout and inspection of the water tower were discussed. Galivan moved, seconded by Bailey to approve Viking Industrial Painting service contract for water tower inspection and interior cleaning every 4th year starting in 2025 at a cost of \$1850.00 after each service. A roll call vote was taken: 4 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.

Bailey moved, seconded by Galivan to pre-approve up to \$2500.00 for the installation of a hand operated water hydrant on Davidson Street at the source entry point with Warren Water. A roll call vote was taken: 4 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.

**Citizen Input:** A citizen within the New Virginia community has a group that plays music and has a new sound system. He inquired about using one of the parks to try it out. It was the Council's opinion that this can be done as long as it is not a noise nuisance and does not occur during quiet hours, or after 9 p.m.

At one of the recent graduation parties held at the GAMP Community Building, there was a group of youngsters that discovered the park had a disc golf course and played the course. This led to the discussion of a Udisc app that is available to upload the GAMP Park disc golf course information onto. Truman will research to see if the disc golf course can be uploaded onto the website app and if there is a cost involved.

**Fire Department Business:** No new updates.

**Water Utilities discussed:** Daily water usage has gone back down into the normal mid 20,000 gallon range from the low to mid 30,000 gallon range.

**Law Enforcement:** The Sheriff's Report for the month of May was not received for review before the June meeting.

Small towns spend \$8,000 to \$15,000 on 4th of July firework displays. According to CBS News, community fireworks can cost anywhere between \$8,000 to \$15,000 for those smaller celebrations and upwards of one million for larger displays.

**2025 Tri-Corner-Express Ad Prices**

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

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

Please email your ad to [tricorner@newvirginia.com](mailto:tricorner@newvirginia.com) or drop off your ad at the Black Mailbox labeled Tri-Corner-Express outside The Hen House - West Street, New Virginia

**GAMP UPDATE**

There are currently nine parking spots that have not been paid for yet. There is still one open spot. Pam will start contacting people this week (first week of June) regarding the outstanding parking spots. It was clarified that people who pay for a parking spot still have to pay an entry fee as well.

Kybos will be ordered for the truck pull.

There will be a final workshop for all functions of the truck pull scheduled for Thursday June 19th at the GAMP Building at 5 p.m.

**KEEP IOWA BEAUTIFUL PROGRAM**

**Upcoming Events in 2025:** 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**

No new updates.

The Council discussed the date for Trick or Treat Night. Trick or Treat Night for New Virginia is set for Saturday October 25th, 2025 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

The crash of the city computer with the billing software and all the other accounting software was discussed. The software is not web based and has to be loaded onto the new computer by the software company. The first step will be to get the software entered on the new computer. The City is contracted with the current software company through November 2025. There have been numerous customer service issues with this company.

New software companies will be researched between now and November.

Potholes on Veterans Road by the Legion Hall were discussed. In Roads will be contacted to see when they are planning on doing some re-work in town and other street work that has been discussed with the In Roads representative.

Norville will be asked where he has picked up asphalt cold-mix for filling potholes. It was discussed to talk to Norville Huston about doing a daily water chlorine test at the source entry point along with the current daily water chlorine test within the water distribution system at the \$100.00/month rate.

Truman moved, seconded by Galivan to hire Malissa Cook for the position of Library Director. A roll call vote was taken: 4 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.

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

With no further business to come forth, Galivan moved, seconded by Truman to adjourn meeting. A roll call vote was taken: 4 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

The July council meeting is scheduled for Monday July 7th, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. **July meeting date – Monday July 7th, 2025, at 7:00 p.m.**

*Jennifer Baughman*

Jennifer Baughman, City Clerk

**Interstate 35 FFA Shines in Judging Contests**

Interstate 35 FFA members have kicked off the judging season strong, putting their knowledge and skills to the test at two contests this spring—and the results speak for themselves!

The team’s first contest of the year was at Mt. Ayr, where members competed in horse and livestock judging against schools from across the region. Interstate 35 showed up ready to work and brought home impressive results:

**Mt. Ayr Judging Contest Results**

**High School Horse Judging**

(28 teams, 79 individuals)

Team placed 4th overall

- Lilly Petersen – 10th place
- Kenzie Stark – 12th place
- Lilly Maxwell – 38th place
- Addison Scrivner – 39th place

**Middle School Livestock Judging**

(25 teams, 75 individuals)

Team placed 9th overall

- Drake Nelson – High point in placings, finished 39th overall
- Keifer Bedwell – 7th in placings, finished 59th overall
- Gus Erwin – 21st overall
- Easton Goering – 26th overall

**High School Livestock Judging**

(57 teams, 200 individuals)

Team 1 – 17th overall

- Keaton Good – 32nd
- Betsy Jones – 60th
- Blaine Cornelison – 75th
- Eilan Naggar – 104th
- Team 2 – Competed with a strong showing
- Brooke Bortner
- Elizabeth Longobardi
- Lily Howe
- Bryanna Bennett

**Gold Buckle Judging Contest Success**

At the Gold Buckle Judging Contest, the team had another fantastic day, racking up more awards and individual honors.

Highlights include:

7th Grade – Champion Goat Judging Team

8th Grade – Champion Questions Team

Hog Classes – Perfect scores from both the 7th grade team and HS Gold team; 8th grade and HS Blue were close behind with 148/150

HS Blue – 6th place in Goat Judging

Horse Team – Champion Team for Performance Classes

From first-year middle schoolers to seasoned high school competitors, all members represented Interstate 35 FFA with pride and skill. Congratulations to all participants for their hard work, dedication, and outstanding achievements this season. Keep up the great work—we’re excited to see what’s next!



CLAIMS REPORT			
VENDOR	REFERENCE	AMOUNT	CHECK #
ALLIANT ENERGY	ELECTRIC/GAS/STREET LIGHTS	\$413.26	15708
AT&T FIRSTNET	PHONE SERVICE	\$49.81	15733
A-D DISTRIBUTING CO INC	FLAGS	\$194.80	15709
BRENT BAUGHMAN	MILEAGE MEDICATION PICKUP	\$133.93	15736
CITY STATE BANK	GO BOND PAYMENT FIRE	\$5,350.37	15711
FAREWAY	TRUCK PULL EXPENSE	\$1,173.38	15742
ELAN FINANCIAL SERVICES	TECHONOLOGY - OFFICE SUPPLIES	\$117.93	15710
HIGHWAY LUMBER	SUPPLIES - PAINT FIRE DEPT	\$125.08	15713
HY-VEE	MEDICATIONS	\$61.90	15714
IA MUNICIPALITIES	WORKERS COMP INSURANCE	\$1,433.00	15715
ICAP	ANNUAL INSURANCE PREMIUM	\$25,305.40	3124881701
J&L SANITATION	GARBAGE SERVICE - CITY	\$62.00	15717
JONES FAMILY DINER	TRUCK PULL EXPENSE - MEAT	\$372.10	15734
KARL CHEVROLET	DEDUCTIBLE FOR CLAIM FIRE TRUCK	\$350.00	15719
LEXIPOL LLC	TECHNOLOGY - FIRE SOFTWARE	\$667.51	15720
MARY HUSS	GAMP CLEANING	\$100.00	15721
ONE BILLING SOLUTIONS LLC	AMBULANCE BILLING	\$339.14	15741
PODIUM INC	TRUCK PULL EXPENSE - MERCHANDISE	\$600.00	15730
PODIUM INC	TRUCK PULL EXPENSE - MERCHANDISE	\$3,909.28	15739
LINDE GAS & EQUIPMENT INC.	OEPRATING SUPPLIES	\$139.99	15722
R & R MOWING SERVICE	MOWING CITY AREAS	\$1,225.00	15740
RHONDA BRASS	RETURN DEPOSIT FEE	\$125.00	15723
SPRING POTTER	RETURN DEPOSIT FEE	\$125.00	15725
T.R.M DISPOSAL	GARBAGE SERVICE - SPRING CLEAN UP	\$1,275.88	15727
WASTE MANAGEMENT	RECYCLING	\$1,181.90	15732
WEX FLEET UNIVERSAL	VEHCILE FUEL	\$45.38	15728
WINDSTREAM	TELEPHONE/INTERNET	\$578.98	15729
GENERAL FUND TOTAL		\$45,456.02	
ALLIANT ENERGY	ELECTRIC/GAS/STREET LIGHTS	\$1,096.88	15708
ROAD USE TOTAL		\$1,096.88	
CITY STATE BANK	GO BOND PAYMENT WATER	\$4,400.63	15711
DES MOINES WATER WORKS	WATER TESTING	\$193.00	15731
FENIX	TECHNOLOGY -SETFLOW SOFTWARE	\$200.00	15712
HUSTON'S LAWN/SNOW REMOVAL	WATER TESTING	\$100.00	15737
ICAP	ANNUAL INSURANCE PREMIUM	\$5,394.60	3124881701
IA ONE CALL	METER LOCATES - IOWA ONE CALL	\$28.80	15716
SAVAGE GRADING & UNDERGROUND	WATER LEAK - OLD LAUNDRY MAT	\$624.00	15724
WARREN WATER DISTRICT	WATER USAGE/LOAN PAYMENT	\$5,563.50	15726
WATER UTILITIES TOTAL		\$16,504.53	
IOWA PUBLIC RETIREMENT SYSTEM	IPERS	\$814.81	
INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE	FED/FICA TAX	\$928.14	
		\$1,742.95	
GENERAL		\$2,306.01	
WATER		\$2,005.71	
Total Payroll Paid		\$4,311.72	
TOTAL FUNDS		\$69,112.10	



Due to the city’s computer software issues, the May deposits are not available at this time. We will print them as soon as they are available. We are sorry for the inconvenience.

**CELEBRATE OUR INDEPENDENCE**

**I pledge Allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with Liberty and Justice for all.**



The original Pledge of Allegiance was written by Francis Bellamy (1855 - 1931), a Baptist minister, in August 1892. The Pledge was published in the September 8th issue of The Youth's Companion, the leading family magazine and the Reader's Digest of its day. In 1892, Francis Bellamy was also a chairman of a committee of state superintendents of education in the National Education Association. As its chairman, he prepared the program for the public schools' quadricentennial celebration for Columbus Day in 1892. He structured this public school program around a flag raising ceremony and a flag salute - his Pledge of Allegiance.

**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.



## Friday, July 11

5:00 PM Vendors open in the park

5:45 PM Close off West Street for Kiddie Parade

6:00 PM Kiddie Parade line up at Fire Station

6:00 PM to 10:00 PM Lions stand is open

6:30 PM Kiddie Parade on West Street begins

7:00 PM to 9:00 PM Water slide is open

7:00 PM to 9:00 PM 50 cent Bingo in the Lions Hall

7:00 PM Bill Riley Talent Competition begins in Lions Park (behind gas station)

Honoring of the Volunteer of the Year, Crowning of King and Queen, Crowning of Little Miss and Mister New Virginia, and announcing of Kiddie Parade winners at Intermission of Show. (in case of rain held in Fire Station)

9:00 PM to Midnight- Street Dance with DJ X-Treme on West Street (in case of rain held in Fire Station)

(NO UNDERAGE DRINKING ALLOWED. ALL PERSONS 21 YEARS AND OLDER WILL NEED TO GET A WRIST BAND IN ORDER TO DRINK ALCOHOL AT THE STREET DANCE)

## Saturday, July 12

7:00 AM to 10 AM Breakfast at New Virginia Legion Hall by Legion Post 281

8:00 AM Interstate 35 High School Student Council 5K Color Run or Walk if you want. See our Facebook page flyer for info

9:00 AM to noon Book Sale at the New Virginia Library

9:30 AM Arts & Crafts Show drop off of items to display at New Virginia Lions Hall. All ages welcome to enter.

10:00 AM to 2:00 PM Arts & Crafts Show (please pick up displayed items & award ribbons by 2:30 PM)

10:00 AM Saddle Club Judged Show at the Saddle Club grounds on East Street

10:00 AM Kephart Family Kids Races start on West Street (bring bikes, tricycles, and tennis shoes)

11:00 AM Vendors open in Old Settlers Park

Clarke County Old Iron Display on the former Reed Implement Lot

11:00 AM Water slide opens (Hours 11:00 AM to 5:00 PM and 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM)

11:30 AM to 12:30 PM Car Show Registration on West Street

12:00 noon to 10:00 PM Lions stand is open

1:00 PM Car Show starts

1:00 PM Cribbage Tournament- New Virginia Library \$5.00 buy-in

4:00 PM Car Show Winners Announced at the shelter house

4:00 PM Close off streets for parade route

# New Virginia Old Settlers 2025

## “Small Town, Big Happenings”

### July 11, 12 & 13

# SCHEDULE

## Saturday, July 12 Continued...

5:00 PM Parade sign-up begins (West of New Virginia old School)

6:00 PM Parade begins starting at New Virginia old School

7:00 PM to 9:00 PM 50 cent Bingo in the Lions Hall

7:00 PM Pedal Tractor Registration & Pull In front of Bill's 1st Stop on West Street

7:00 pm Saturday Night in the Park @ the Lions Park Local Talent Performance (in case of rain entire program held in the Fire Station)

Quilts of Valor presentation immediately following local talent

Boy Scout Flag Retirement Ceremony in Lions Park following the Quilts of Valor presentation

9:00 PM to Midnight Street Dance with the live band, Toaster (In case of rain entire program held in the Fire Station)

(NO UNDERAGE DRINKING ALLOWED. ALL PERSONS 21 YEARS AND OLDER WILL NEED TO GET A WRIST BAND IN ORDER TO DRINK ALCOHOL AT THE STREET DANCE)

10:00 PM Fireworks display

## Sunday, July 13

7:30 AM to 10:30 AM Masonic Lodge Breakfast at Lions Stand in Old Settlers Park

10:30 AM Old Fashioned Church Service/Lions Park Shelter House; Open to all denominations (Bring Lawn Chairs) Old Settlers Park.

Thank you to all the businesses and residents who support The New Virginia Old Settlers Celebration. All times and events are subject to change. Watch for updates on our Facebook Page

<https://www.facebook.com/oldsettlersnv/>







## 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](http://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

The Virginia Boosters 4-H club held their June meeting at 7 pm at the Lions Hall in New Virginia on Wednesday, June 11th. Our Vice President, Nora Nelson, called the meeting to order at 7. Roll call was 'What are you looking forward to most this summer?' Brianna Fantz read the secretary's report, and Drake Nelson gave the treasurer's report.

This month, we had no old business to discuss, so we discussed new business. The 4-H rabbit ID deadline is July 1st, with a max of 40 animals. Warren County Produced is also due July first, but the forms must be picked up and returned in person. Next, Warren County Fair t-shirts are available for \$10 per shirt, but our club will buy shirts for first-year members. The review of the monthly newsletter began the new business, sparking conversation about upcoming activities. There is a form for Senior 4-H members to sign up to help with events at the Fair. Fair Entry opened June 1st, clothing and communications projects are due June 14th, and static projects are due July 16th. The newsletter discussed the Warren County horse project, attire that needs to be worn, static projects must be entered in Fair Entry, and armbands are available. There are Wednesday night practices for the horse project; you must attend one. Dog project practice is Monday evening at 6 pm (beginners) and 7 pm (advanced). You can work in the funnel cake stand at the county fair, but you need to be 14 or older to work alone. Clothing and communications judging is June 28th from 8-2 pm, and pullorum testing is June 28th from 9 to 11 am. Our club is scheduled to host the 4-H exhibit building Friday, July 25th, from 5-7 pm. Next, our club decided we would like to set up a booth decorating committee. We would also like to have an achievement show.

Lastly, the club voted to reimburse Brenda for the pizza that was purchased for our pizza party. Our July presentations are Keifer, Drake, and Jase. Then our 4-H pledge was led by Jason. Charlotte made a motion to adjourn the meeting, and Scarlett seconded. We ended the night with a presentation by Blake Downs on farm equipment.

# HAVE YOU HAD A FINANCIAL PHYSICAL LATELY?



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# CITY OF ST. CHARLES

## St. Charles City Council Meeting

June 9, 2025

The St. Charles City Council met in regular session on June 9, 2025, at 6:30 p.m. at St. Charles City Hall. Mayor ProTem Allison called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m. with the following Council present: Brockett, Hutton, and Kozak. Also present: Library Director Margaret Blair, Gateway and Old Settlers Director.

### **1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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

### **2. CONSENT AGENDA**

a. Council meeting minutes for 5-12-2025

b. Treasurer's Report for May 2025

c. Claims and Receipts Report for June 2025

d. Approval of Tobacco License for Caseys General Store

Motion by Kozak, second by Hutton, to approve consent agenda. Roll: Ayes – unanimous. Motion passes.

### **3. SHERIFF'S REPORT/EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

The Sheriff reported 11 calls, 29 stops, and 56.97 hours for May. The May Emergency Management report was submitted.

### **4. PUBLIC FORUM**

No public wished to speak.

### **5. DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

a. Sewer – May's sewer report was submitted.

b. Fire/Rescue – The May minutes were submitted.

c. Library – Board Director Blair updated the Council on the summer reading program.

d. Gateway – Mary Seibert reported volunteers have started greeting visitors in the Welcome Center. A new lock was discussed for the building.

e. Old Settlers – St. Charles goes Safari will be held July 18th and 19th.

f. Mayor ProTem– Councilman Allison gave an update on Hinterland plans.

g. Clerk – The clerk reported the updates on fireworks in Iowa. The lease is up for the copier in City Hall. The City will advertise the 2025 election. There will be 2 Council seats and the Mayor position up for election.

### **6. ACTIONS AND RESOLUTIONS**

a. Resolution 6A-2025 A resolution approving temporary street closings for July 17-19 during Old Settlers. Motion by Brockett, second by Hutton, to approve Resolution 6A-2025. Roll: Ayes-unanimous. Motion passes.

b. Public Hearing for electric franchise Ordinance 230, this includes franchise fees, published May 28, 2025.

Motion by Mayor ProTem to open the public hearing at 7:32 p.m. No public wished to speak.

c. First Reading of Ordinance 230 Granting MidAmerican Energy Company the Electrical Franchise for the City of St. Charles, Iowa, possible final reading. Motion by Kozak, second by Brockett, to approve Ordinance 230 Electrical Franchise for MidAmerican Energy, Final Reading. Roll: Ayes-unanimous. Motion passes.

d. Public Hearing for natural gas franchise Ordinance Amendment 231, this includes franchise fees, published May 28, 2025. Motion by Mayor ProTem to open the public hearing at 7:36 p.m. No public wished to speak.

e. First Reading of Ordinance 231 amendment to MidAmerican Energy Company the Natural Gas Franchise for the City of St. Charles, Iowa, possible final reading. Motion by Hutton, second by Brockett, to approve Ordinance 231 Amendment to Natural Gas Franchise for MidAmerican Energy, Final Reading. Roll: Ayes-unanimous. Motion passes.

### **7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

a. House on Main Street- City Attorney is setting the court date for Municipal Infractions.

b. Gravel for alleys and roads- Patch roads with loads of rock where needed after grading.

### **8. NEW BUSINESS**

a. Grinding of concrete on Main Street- Iowa Contracting has been contacted to look at a hump where the asphalt meets the concrete.

b. Notice of Public Hearing Rezoning Warren County 1207 G50 Hwy- the Council was made aware of the public hearing.

c. Tiger Lily Hinterland Request- City Council agreed to let the Tiger Lily Café set up a service area in the parking area of Main Street during Hinterland as long as proper licenses from the State are received.

### **9. COUNCIL COMMENTS/DISCUSSION**

a. An email request was sent asking to notify the quarry of Old Settlers weekend.

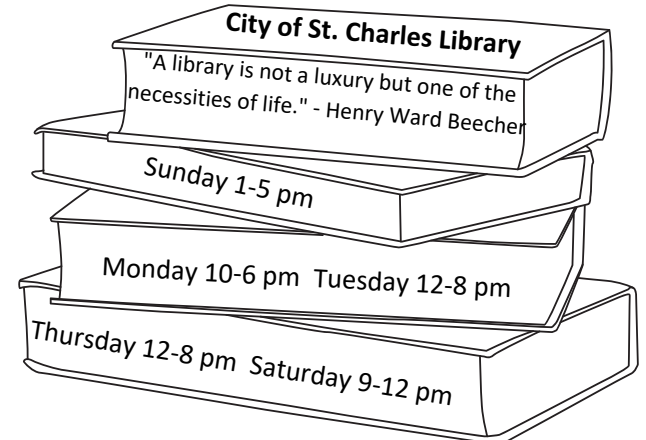
### **10. ADJOURN**

Being there was no further business; meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

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

Dennis Smith, Mayor

Tracy Kozak, Clerk/Treasurer



May 27<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm  
*Borrowed Life of Frederick Fife*  
by Anna Johnston

June 23<sup>rd</sup> 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**

# St. Charles Goes On Safari

St. Charles Goes on Safari is the theme for the 139th Old Settlers Celebration. Safari in Iowa?? We are always up for a challenge. The temperature will be appropriate. But of course, we will not have the big 5 safari animals- lion, elephant, rhino, leopard, and water buffalo. The weekend of July 18th-20th will be a “variation on a theme,” and there will be plenty for all ages to experience.

The Lions Club, St. Charles Parish, and the Boy Scouts will be serving the crowd favorites at the park starting Friday afternoon and through the weekend at scheduled times. We have also confirmed food trucks for additional choices on Friday and Saturday. They will be strategically set up around the grounds. Some different activities on Friday will include a Luv the Locals Safari Shuffle, a petting zoo and Toby the Balloon Dude for everyone’s enjoyment. The Friday night program will be the Old Settlers version of a Sundowner which is a classic safari experience that involves relaxing, enjoying a drink and light snacks, and entertainment at sunset after a busy day. Our Sundowner will begin with coronation of this year’s King and Queen - Ross and Sue Cornelison, followed by the awarding of Quilts of Valor and remembering the Old Settlers Button Honorees - Carroll and Kay Hayden. Continuing the relaxation theme, we are pleased to announce the entertainment for the evening is Royce Johns, a talented country artist from Central Iowa. He is a popular singer songwriter that describes himself as a rhyme collector and humor prospector. He will delight you with his music. You will also be able to enjoy libations from some of our locals. It will be a great way to wind down your week.

Saturday will start out with plenty of action. Get a good start on the day with breakfast sponsored by the St. Charles Community Foundation. Then ramp it up with the Gateway 5K at Imes Bridge, 3 on 3 Basketball, Disc Golf and Pickleball. Bringing the heart rate down a bit one can enjoy cribbage and the free Pedal Tractor Pull for kids 4-11 yrs. Blank Park Zoo is bringing in their traveling animal display at 11:00am for the kids to enjoy.

The afternoon action will begin with the SOCO Bags tournament in front of the old elementary building. Bags fly at noon. At 1:00pm Pit Stop Performance will host the Big Hunt on Wheels - a scavenger hunt on wheels taking you around the community looking for “Big Game” and other interesting sites. Decorate your side by side, golf cart or bike for the safari. There will be kids’ activities at Old Settlers Park also starting at 1pm - Mask painting, Safari Train rides, spelling bee, games, and races.

At 3:00pm we begin to ramp it up again. How about a Foam Party at 3:00pm at the Fire Station? Kids and adults will have a blast playing in the mountains of cool and clean bubbles! The foam cannon continually shoots a stream of foam into the air creating an unforgettable and interactive experience for all ages.

The parade will kick off our evening of activities. St. Charles on Safari should be an interesting theme for people to work on. There will be monetary prizes for first and second place in four categories- large float, small float, walking/animals/bikes, and car/truck/tractor. Get those creative minds going. Caseys Cowpie Bingo will be back. \$5 per chance to win \$200 in Caseys gift cards. Watch for the cow to plop at Old Settlers Park after the parade. Then head up to Rumble in the Jungle at 7:00pm on Main Street and join us for the Interstate 35 Alumni Dual. A special night honoring I-35 wrestling roots and reuniting the faces that helped build the program. Whether you were a state champ, team leader, or just loved the sport, this is your chance to lace up (or just show up!) and enjoy the fun.

After the rumble there will be a street dance on Main Street sponsored by Pit Stop Performance and All’s Done Inc. The dance will feature the live band Bad Decisions- A group of dedicated musicians from the Des Moines area covering rock, pop, and country music for their listeners.

Join us again Sunday morning at 9:45am for community worship and fellowship at Old Settlers Park as we close the travel book on another Old Settlers adventure.

As always, bring your lawn chairs and join us for a fun filled SCOS weekend. Things always change so watch our Facebook page and website for the most up to date information.

Facebook- St Charles Old Settlers Website- [www.scoldsettlers.org](http://www.scoldsettlers.org)



139th Old Settlers Celebration, July 18-20, 2025

## St. Charles on Safari

### Friday, July 18th

5:00 pm Lions Stand opens- serving til 8pm

St. Charles Parish Ice Cream & Desserts- Old Settlers Park Shelter-serving until 8:00pm

Food Trucks - serving until 8 pm

Bingo- Lions Hall until 8:00pm

Safari Shuffle- Luv the Locals on Main Street

6:00 pm Kids Rides & Slides Open – until 8:00pm

Exotic Petting Zoo- Old Settlers Park until 7:30pm

Toby the Balloon Dude- Old Settlers Park

7:00 pm Sundowner- a safari happy hour

Old Settlers Program - Old Settlers Park stage

King & Queen Coronation, Quilts of Valor, Button Honorees

8:00 pm Royce Johns – Live music on Old Settlers Stage until 10:30pm

### Saturday, July 19th

7:00 am SCCF Breakfast- St. Charles Parish Hall serving until 10:30 am

Vinyasa for Runners (Stretch out Yoga) -Gateway Welcome Center

8:00 am SCOS Gateway 5K and Fun Run - Imes Bridge Donut Den arrives at 7:30am

9:00 am Cribbage Tournament- Lions Hall BYO Board

3 on 3 Basketball – City Park

10:00 am Disc Golf-City Park

Pickleball- City Park

Pedal Tractor Pull - Check in at 9:30am am in front of old school

11:00 am Lions Food Stand opens

St. Charles Parish Ice Cream - closes at 8:00 pm

Food Trucks – 11 :00am to 8:00pm

Blank Park Zoo Animals on Parade- Old Settlers Park Stage

12 Noon Rides and Slides- until 8:00pm

Bags Tournament - hosted by SoCo Baggers, in front of old school

1:00 pm Safari Hunt on Wheels- PitStop Performance-Main Street

Family & Kids Activities - Old Settlers Park

Safari Train Rides- Main Street

Mask Painting- Old Settlers Shelter House

2:00 pm St. Charles Alumni Open House - Calvary Baptist Church

Spelling Bee- All ages, Lions Hall

3:00 pm Foam Party- Fire Station

4:00 pm 10Cent Bingo - Lions Hall

5:00pm Bingo- Lions Hall, will break for parade

Art Camp Art Show- Cornelison yard, West Main Street

6:00 pm Parade – St. Charles on Safari 5:30 pm registration at city park

6:30 pm Cow Pie Bingo - Chances available until 6:30 pm or until sold out. Old Settlers Park

7:30 pm Rumble in the Jungle – Main Street

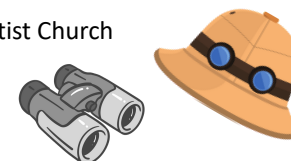
9:00 pm Street Dance –Bad Decisions, Live band on Main Street

### Sunday, July 20th

9:45 am Community Worship Service - Coffee & Donuts to follow

King/Queen – Ross & Sue Cornelison

Button Honorees – Kay & Carroll Hayden







**Truro City Council Minutes  
June 2, 2025  
Community Center**

Mayor Bryan Arzani presided over and called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Ancel Kennedy, Lyndsay Cannoy, and Matt Masters were present, and Jason Phillips and Julie McMicheals were absent. Fire Chief Terry Stills and Heith Hockenberry were also present. No one from the Public was present to speak. Arzani asked for a motion to approve the Agenda. Kennedy/Cannoy motioned to amend and approve agenda to remove Ego Dive and tabling it for another meeting. All Ayes, motion carried.

Cannoy/Kennedy moved to open the meeting. All Ayes, motion carried.

The Sheriff's report was acknowledged by the Mayor and Council. The report from Emergency Management was also acknowledged by the Mayor and Council.

Fire Chief Stills reported there were 12 medical calls and 3 fire calls last month. He also reported the trucks are getting routine maintenance and they have ordered more parts for the tanker. Stills also presented a new EMT member, Abby Mease, to be approved. Motion to approve new EMT Abby Mease by Masters/Cannoy. All Ayes, motion carried.

Arzani presented the Water/Wastewater Report. Reed Park was tabled to allow the council to consider options. No action taken. Heith Hockenberry from Jester Insurance/EMC presented insurance proposal for the city. Motion to approve insurance proposal by Kennedy/Masters. All Ayes, motion carried.

The City Clerk reported that the Auditor of State will be performing a weeklong Periodic Exam and The Iowa Financing Authority has required a 5-year Pro-Forma on the loans between the City of Truro and the State of Iowa. An SEC-Registered Municipal Advisor is required to complete this, we have attained one from Northland Securities with a fee of \$1500.00. Motion to approve Consent Items made by Cannoy/Kennedy. All Ayes, motion carried.

Motion to adjourn by Masters/Cannoy. All Ayes, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 6:37 p.m. Next City Council Meeting 7.7.25.

Bryan Arzani, Mayor

Attested: Janelle Adams, City Clerk

**SAVE THE DATE**

July 21- 23, 2025

6 - 8pm

Truro City Park

...more details to follow

**Vacation  
Bible School**



**PUPPIES FOR SALE**

¾ Chihuahua, ⅓ Mountain Cur,  
⅓ Red Heeler. Will make good  
little house dogs. \$100 each.  
Levi Sommers 515-468-0786

**Truro Public Library**

**New Books**

25 Alive by James Patterson  
The Wedding People by Alison Espach  
The World's Fair Quilt by Jennifer Chiaverini  
[www.truro.lib.ia.us](http://www.truro.lib.ia.us)

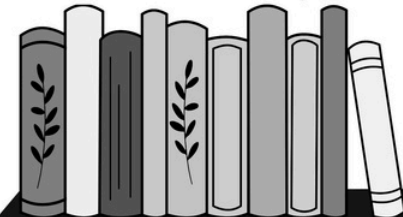
**Borrow ebooks  
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**Libby.**

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



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

**ITEMS NEEDED**

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

Truro Public Library  
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# TWIN RIVERS LITTLE LEAGUE MINORS SOFTBALL 2025



The I-35 White team finished their regular season games on June 5<sup>th</sup> in Carlisle with an undefeated regular season. The Twin Rivers Little League Minors Softball Tournament started in the evening of June 6<sup>th</sup> in Milo. The I-35 White team's first tournament game was on Saturday. They played Southeast Warren Green in their first game with a 6-0 win. Their second game was against Martensdale St. Marys Gold with a 4-2 win. Martensdale St. Marys Gold had to win their way back through the bracket to the championship game with a win over Southeast Warren Green. The I-35 White team also finished the tournament without any losses and won the Championship with an 8-0 win over the Martensdale St. Marys Gold team. Congratulations, I-35 White for a great undefeated season and tournament!



The I-35 White team celebrating at home plate with their Championship rings.



The I-35 White team with the winning bracket and Championship banner.  
 Pictured back row left to right:  
 Quinn Bortell, Madison Edwards, Kori Roan, Lydia Zetterberg, Kensley Bell-Griffin & coaches; John Bortell, Kellie Gehringer and Cass Roan.  
 Front row left to right:  
 Lyla Zetterberg, Vivian Vasey, Cori Gehringer, Braelynn Wickett, Addy Finley and Ava Crouch.



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SCAN TO  
 PLAN AHEAD  
 WE'LL TAKE THE FIRST  
 STEP WITH YOU







## JESUS' RIGHT HAND

"For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me." This is a direct quote from the Bible, found in Matthew 25:35-36. Where we see catastrophic events, there will always be a flood of support descending upon the disaster zone to render aid. It seems as if the entire country rallies in support of the people who have been affected. You don't find naysayers and critics publicly criticizing the efforts to help these people get back on their feet. But try to build a city shelter or transitional housing? The city council meeting will be packed with residents who are "all for helping the homeless," but "not in my neighborhood." Bitter and sweet water flowing from the same fountain? (James 3:11) If not there, then where? Shall we just toss up a wooden shack down by the railroad tracks and call it good? Does that satisfy the moral duty to care for the homeless without inconveniencing the non-homeless population? These are difficult situations to navigate without any real solutions.

I watched a series of videos about the Appalachian crisis following Hurricane Helene. Even seven months later, the situation is devastating. There is a farmer named James who opened his pasture on a hill, was able to get donated campers and then allowed the displaced people to live on his land. He got donations and supplied the people with generators, fuel, propane and food they would need to get back on their feet. Farmer James poured his life into helping over 150 people, never asking anything in return. It was primitive, but this was the only home most of these people had now. James had to evict a couple of bad apples along with their donated camper from his land. False accusations and rumors began to fly, and these two people turned to the news media to tell the story of how they were heartlessly thrown out for no reason at all. James became a target, making his mission even more difficult, but he continued to provide for the needs of the people, despite the daily persecution. He simply kept giving without asking for anything in return.

My heart truly broke for Farmer James, probably because I can identify so closely with him. Are there times when JRH is the subject of gossip and needless persecution because of what we do? Yes. But I've never had anyone tell me directly that what we are doing is a waste of time or resources. But tongues have been wagging and misinformation has been circulating. Don't be fooled, these stories get back to us. The judgement and misgivings about the people who come to us for help are quite brutal. It's like bitter and sweet water flowing from the same fountain when we hear, "It's great they want to feed the hungry, but..." We've heard everything from a critique about the type of car they drive to a detailed list of what they had in their cart at Wal-Mart last week. Excuse me?? How do you know they didn't borrow a relative's car to come get food because they don't own a vehicle of their own? Maybe the person that was judged at Wal-Mart last week was shopping for an elderly neighbor or trying to make some money shopping for Instacart? Did you ever take time to call or visit the lonely senior who comes up on Monday afternoons simply to have someone to talk to each week?

My intention is not to be harsh or critical, because I would not be bringing honor to God in doing so. I am being honest and transparent without compromise. We work very hard to provide for the needs of the people who come to us for food because this is what Jesus would have us do.

In Matthew 25:40, Jesus said, "Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me." Let's step back a moment and think about this. Some of the biggest criticism comes from those who don't have any investment, any skin in the game that would entitle them to judge and critique who is worthy of coming to us for food. Almost all the food that we give out on Monday is perishable, fresh food donated by retailers and does not come out of the pockets or cupboards of donors. In fact, if it weren't for the Feeding America program, this food would still be ending up in the landfill, it is safe, perfectly good food because we've all been trained in how to handle, store and distribute it. I'm asking everyone to think very hard about this question: Are YOU desperate enough to wait for two hours in the rain, snow, cold or heat to get food that would have normally been thrown away by a store?

People who come through our doors will be treated with respect regardless of their status in society. The CEO of a corporate donor will be treated with the same level of respect as the person who comes to us every Monday for food. They will be offered a sandwich if they're hungry and a tasty day-old dessert off the shelf for the trip back home. Matthew 10:8b tells us "Freely you received, freely give." That's what we've always done and that's what we will continue to do. And to our critics? God knows you're hurting, and so do we. We forgive and put it behind us because of the sacrifice of Jesus Christ on the cross at Calvary. Do all that you can to live in peace with everyone (Romans 12:18), because you never know what tomorrow will bring.

In His Love and Service. Jesus' Right Hand

## 2025 NEW VIRGINIA TRUCK PULL



### GERRY ALLEN MEMORIAL PARK

809 WEST ST

#### MPA CLASSES:

Hot Street- 6000 lbs  
Super Street Clas 4x4- 6200 lbs  
Super Stock Clas 4x4- 6200 lbs  
Pro Street Class 4x4- 6200 lbs  
V8 Hot Rod Tractor- 6000 lbs  
Stock Diesel Class- 8500 lbs  
Work Stock Diesel 4x4- 8500 lbs  
Modified 2-Wheel Drive Class  
Pro Stock Class 4x4-6200 lbs  
Pro Modified Class 2x4- 6200 lbs  
Pro Modified Class 4x4- 6200 lbs  
Farm Stock Tractor- 13,000 lbs  
Altered Farm Tractor- 10,500 lbs  
Altered Farm Tractor- 8500 lbs  
Open Class

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### New Virginia Lions Hall 503 West St



Available for Rent:

Hall \$75

Tables and Chairs

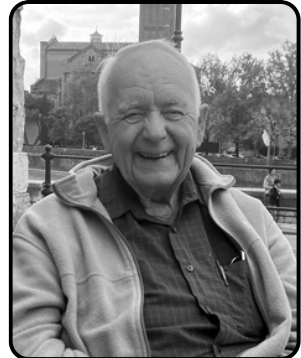
Medical Equipment for Loan



Contact Ron Kirkpatrick 515-250-5116







## Irvin Richard “Red” Taylor



Irvin Richard Taylor, affectionately known as “Red,” passed away on May 31, 2025 at his home in New Virginia, Iowa at the age of 89.

Irvin was born November 8, 1935 in Cedar Falls, Iowa, the son of Herbert and Laura (Bennett) Taylor. Red grew up in New Virginia, Iowa and graduated from New Virginia High School in 1953. He joined the Army in 1954 and was stationed in Germany. After the Army he worked for Otis Elevator until his retirement at age 57 at Montgomery Elevator in West Des Moines, Iowa. Red married Karen Williams on August 5, 1960 in New Virginia, Iowa. They had three children, Kimberly, Karla and Richard.

Red loved flying and got his pilot's license in 1972. He became a flying instructor and taught many people to fly. He was a member of the New Virginia volunteer fire department, New Virginia Lions Club, New Virginia City Council, Library Board, Grace Baptist Church in New Virginia where he served as a Deacon and also a member at Calvary Baptist Church in St. Charles.

Over the years, when he wasn't playing cribbage or telling his many stories, you could find Red working in his orchard, hunting, gardening, fishing, going to auctions, or tinkering around the garage. He enjoyed spending time listening to live music and enjoying the company of others. He also loved traveling around the US and abroad. Red and Karen spent many winters in Lake Havasu, California and Arizona. Red also did many fishing trips in Canada over the years.

Red was preceded in death by his loving wife of 60 years, Karen, his parents, his father and mother-in-law, Kermit and Helen Williams, son-in-law, Bill Tripp, brother-in-law, Dale Williams, brothers and sisters-in-law, Arnan and Faith Williams and Evelyn and Donald Wooge, sisters-in-law, Genie Andrews, Sue Taylor, Mary Taylor, and grandson, Seth Mathes.

Red is survived by his children, Kimberly Mathes of Winterset, Karla (Tom) Mitchell of Osceola, Richard (Julie) Taylor of Earlham; grandchildren, Amber Hill (Ashley), Elyse Turner, Blaine Mathes (Cayla), Josh Tripp (Christina), Lindsay Stanford (Nathan), Jacob Taylor, and Garret Taylor (Alexa); siblings, Herbert (Marilyn) Taylor, Vivian (Jerry) Schmit, and Robert Taylor; great-grandchildren, and numerous nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were held at 10:00 am, Wednesday, June 4, 2025 at Kale Funeral Home in Osceola. Visitation was Tuesday, June 3 from 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM at Kale Funeral Home in Osceola. Interment was at New Virginia Cemetery in New Virginia. Memorials may be directed to his family for a fitting tribute to be decided at a later date. The family invited everyone to the Methodist Church following the interment.



## Edgar Grant Llewellyn Jr.



Edgar Grant Llewellyn Jr. was born April 15, 1931 in Clarke County, Iowa to E. Grant Llewellyn Sr. and Ethel Lucille (Scott) Llewellyn and passed from this life on Tuesday, June 3, 2025, at his home in St. Charles, surrounded by his family, at the age of 94 years.

Grant was the oldest of 4 children and attended rural schools in Guthrie County and graduated from Guthrie Center High School in 1949. Grant enlisted in the Iowa Guard while still in high school and served from 1948 until 1951. He was united in marriage to Audrey Jeanette Stringer on September 1, 1949 at the GC Christian Church. Three children blessed this union, Linda, Debbie and Ron.

Grant moved his family to St. Charles in the fall of 1955. Grant worked construction most of his life, having his own business "Llewellyn Construction." He and Audrey enjoyed camping and were members of the Rolling Wheels Camping Club in St. Charles. They spent many years camping at the Iowa State Fair and after Audrey's death, Grant spent many years helping Greg Ayers with gate security at the fair. They were members of the St. Charles Parish Church.

Those relatives who preceded Grant in death were his parents, his loving wife of 57 years, Audrey, and his brother John.

Grant is survived by his daughter, Linda Beghtel and her husband Don, of St. Charles, daughter, Deb Deuel and her husband Randy of Des Moines, son Ron Llewellyn and his Life Partner, Paula Mehmen of Indianola, 9 grandchildren, 22 great grandchildren, 2 great great grandchildren, his sister Sharon Norton and his brother Jim Llewellyn, numerous nieces, nephews and many friends. Grant is also survived by Francis Durney, foreign exchange student, from Santiago, Chile who stayed with them for the 1976-1977 school year.

A celebration of Grant's life was held at the St. Charles Parish on Tuesday, June 17, 2025 at 10:00AM, lunch and fellowship followed at the church.

Grant's family was at Grant's home in St. Charles on Tuesday from 5:00pm until 7:00pm to visit with friends who were not able to attend Grant's celebration.

Grant's cremains were buried in the St. Charles Cemetery next to his wife Audrey.

Memorials may be directed to Grant's family for a fitting tribute to be decided later.



# A MESSAGE FROM MR. GRANDON

## I-35 CSD SUPERINTENDENT

Greetings I-35 Community -

I hope your summer is off to a great start with time well spent with family and friends. I've especially enjoyed seeing Roadrunner victories on our new baseball and softball fields. Thank you to everyone who has come out to support our student-athletes!

At home events this summer, a member of our administrative team will be available to answer questions about Bond 2025. Guided by community feedback from forums and a district-wide survey, we've identified several key facility priorities:

- Modernize our facilities to meet today's educational and safety standards
- Reconfigure classroom space, including expanding areas for Pre-K and daycare
- Improve safety and traffic flow, including the addition of a loop road
- Enhance athletic facilities, including a new stadium, turf field, 8-lane track, restrooms, and updated lighting
- Add air conditioning in the high school gym and kitchen
- Address critical maintenance needs, such as repairs to EFIS, tunnels, and gym leaks

The school district's portion of the tax levy was recently lowered for FY26. This plan was designed with fiscal responsibility in mind and will not increase property taxes. We'll continue sharing information throughout the coming months so our community can make an informed decision in the upcoming vote regarding this investment in our students, school and community.

Sincerely,  
Chad Grandon  
Superintendent, Interstate 35 CSD

## I-35 Facilities Website

The Facilities Committee has been exploring options to update and repair I-35 facilities. With input from a community survey and public forums, priorities were identified and shaped into a project proposal. The School Board approved the plan, and it will now go to voters as Bond 2025.

Learn more at [www.i35facilities.com](http://www.i35facilities.com).

# ACTIVITIES

## LATE JUNE & JULY 2025

### HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL

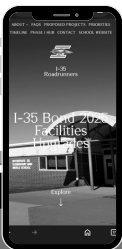
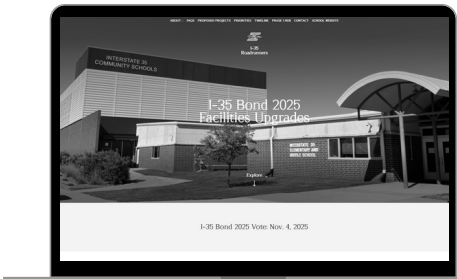
JV events begin at 5:00 p.m. Varsity events begin at 7:00 p.m. unless otherwise noted.

- 6/20: JV-R: Home vs Martensdale-St. Mary's - 10:00 a.m.
- **6/23: JV/V Home vs Van Meter - 5:00 p.m.**
- 6/24: JV/V @ Earlham - 5:00 p.m.
- **6/26: Varsity Doubleheader Home v Madrid - 5:00 p.m.**
- 6/28: JV/V @ Wayne (vs Van Buren) - 12:00 p.m.
- **6/30: JV/V HOME vs Pleasantville - 5:00 p.m.**
- 7/1: Varsity Doubleheader @ Panorama - 5:00 p.m.
- **7/3: JV/V Home vs Moulton-Udell - 5:00 p.m.**
- 7/5: Baseball Districts TBD

### HIGH SCHOOL SOFTBALL

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

- **6/23: JV/V Home vs Van Meter - 5:30 p.m.**
- 6/24: JV/V @ Earlham - 5:30 p.m. (Varsity first)
- **6/26: Varsity Doubleheader Home v Madrid - 5:30 p.m.**
- 6/28: Varsity @ Indianola Tournament - 10:00 a.m.
- **6/30: JV/V Home vs Pleasantville - 5:30 p.m.**
- 7/1: V DH @ Panorama - 5:30 p.m.
- **7/3: Varsity Home vs Southeast Warren- 6:00 p.m.**
- 7/5: Varsity @ Carlisle Tournament - 9:00 a.m.
- 7/7: Softball Regionals TBD



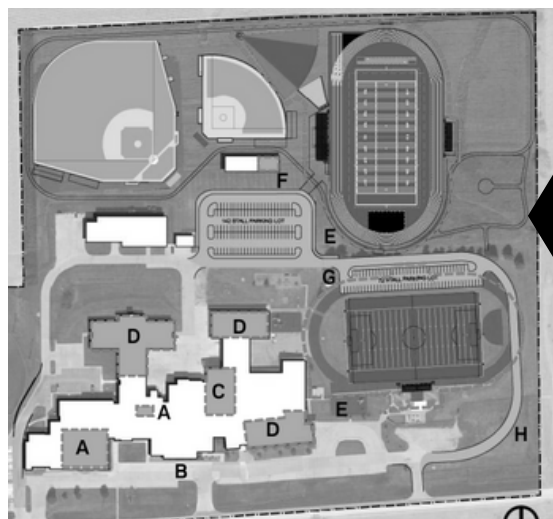
Scan To View the Website





## A FOUNDATION FOR THE FUTURE

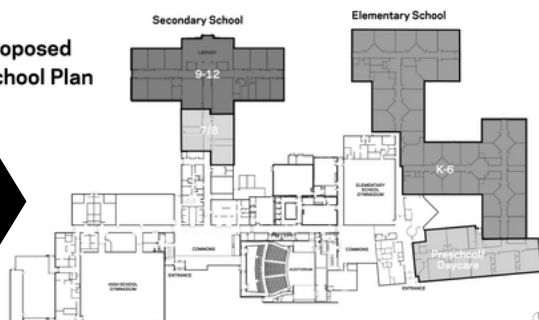
Over the last few years, we have gathered input from families, staff, and community members through a district-wide survey and public forums to better understand our most pressing facility and infrastructure needs. These priorities are now guiding the planning of several projects aimed at addressing critical repairs, enhancing learning spaces, improving traffic flow, and expanding athletic facilities. Before we move from ideas to actions, the Bond 2025 proposal will go to a public vote. Learn more about the Bond 2025 proposal below.



### AERIAL VIEW

To the left, you can see the aerial view of proposed changes. The image shows building changes, outdoor facilities changes and traffic flow changes.

### Proposed School Plan



### BUILDING VIEW

To the right, you can see the building view of proposed changes. The image shows how the classroom renovations would change the building flow.

## GENERAL FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### Bond 2025 Proposal

#### Q: Will passing Bond 2025 raise taxes?

No. In fact, the school's portion of property taxes was recently lowered from the current rate of 18.67340 per thousand for fiscal year 2025 to 17.50388 per thousand for fiscal year 2026. This was shared in a communication sent out by Mr. Grandon on March 7, 2025. Since then, two public readings happened at the March and April school board meetings this spring. Bond 2025 is designed to be funded within this new lower rate.

#### Q: What needs are the proposed projects addressing?

Based on the February 2025 survey, responses helped focus on priorities related to additional spaces for elementary and daycare, updating outdoor facilities, additional air conditioning to non-learning spaces, and future needs (like having a multipurpose practice field for I-35 programs and youth programs). There are items around the school facilities that need repaired, which are also addressed in the Bond 2025.

#### Q: How did the Bond 2025 proposal come together?

Key facilities improvement needs were identified over four years ago. Since then, there have been community forums, two facilities committees and a community-wide survey to gather feedback and create a plan to address community priorities and the needed improvements.

After this work was completed, the facilities committee made a recommendation to the Board of Directors. The Board voted to send the measure to the public for a vote in November.

See the list of proposed projects and more FAQs by scanning the QR code below or by visiting [www.i35facilities.com](http://www.i35facilities.com)



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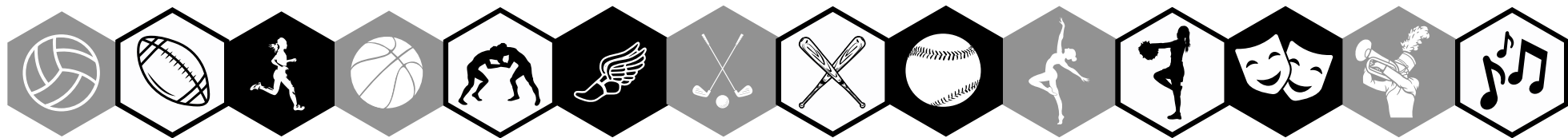
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# I-35 BOOSTER CLUB

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## WHO WE ARE

The Interstate 35 Booster Club is a volunteer-led organization dedicated to supporting all extracurricular activities within the Interstate 35 School District. Our mission is to enhance the student experience by providing financial and community support for athletics, arts, clubs, and other student programs. Through fundraising and active involvement, we aim to build school spirit, encourage participation, and promote the success of every student beyond the classroom.

## HOW WE HELP

We donate to groups in support of coach requests, team wants, equipment and uniform upgrades, leadership camps and more. When a program would like something to improve the student extracurricular experience, we step in to support where school cannot, due to funding constraints.

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# How Does Your Garden Grow?

Contributed by Susan King



It was a dark and stormy night..... the attacker made his way along the fence line. Pausing periodically as he made his way to the home's entrance. Eyes darting. Ears perked. Crouched on all fours, he slipped right through the homeowner's weak security system and made his way towards the bounty, his prize! That, what he had been coveting for weeks..... CABBAGE!

Darn rabbits! I thought my garden fortress was secure. I had checked the chicken wire perimeter a couple of different times this spring and felt confident that bunnies would not be a problem this year. Then, right before I put my garden in, there was a tragic mishap with my rototiller getting too close to the wire. The wire 'jumped out' right in front of me and into the blade (it made a beautiful piece of abstract art). Post a few cuss words and begrudgingly asking for my husband's help, six wire cuts later, Jaws, the rototiller, was free. I felt pretty good about my chicken wire patchwork job, but post-apocalyptic cabbage slaughter, I now realize my critical error. Rabbits dig! Of course, I knew they dug burrows for protection and nests to raise their young, but to get into my garden - ARGH!

Gardeners are a savvy bunch who are willing to try a host of ideas to keep rabbits locked out of their gardens. Last summer, my dear friend Sue Stills shared some alpaca fleece with me that I placed along the fence line to keep out the rabbits and I believe it worked. My daughter, for the last three years, has grated Irish Spring soap around her hostas to prevent the rabbits from munching on the leaves and she swears by it. My mother-in-law made her own bunny preventive spray by mixing water, castile soap, garlic powder and cayenne pepper (make sure to label your homemade concoctions!). I have also heard of people just using red pepper flakes around the plants that bunnies find tasty. My greenhouse friend owns stock in Liquid Fence (great if you can stand the smell). Lastly, when all else fails, pray a stray cat adopts you!

It seems we have a bumper crop of kits (young rabbits) on our farm this year. If anyone is interested in a part-time security job guarding my garden, I'm currently taking applications. If you are successful, I will gladly share my harvest with you!

**Cut your thistles before St. John (June 24),  
and you will have two instead of one.**



BY TERRY GARNER



## Road Trippin' In the Slow Lane

Sometimes in life, we get going so fast that we forget to notice the little things all around us. It's amazing how much more you see when you slow down—the catalpa tree with blooms that look like popcorn, a baby colt in the pasture, your neighbor's hostas growing under a big old shade tree, or an ancient piece of farm machinery tucked away in a fence row.

Last weekend, the Ox Bow Club held their ride in New Virginia. The Ox Bow Club is a group of horse folks who drive teams and wagons, with a few of us riding alongside as outriders on our horses or mules. For three days, we left the fast lane behind and meandered through the countryside, visiting with friends, stopping for lunch on dirt roads, and resting under shade trees while the animals cooled off. What a peaceful way to spend a weekend.

Most of us arrived Thursday night to set up camp and stake out the horses and mules. My plan was to bring my camper up Friday morning, then head back home to bake brownies and make scotcheroos for the group to enjoy when they stopped at my place that afternoon. Afterward, I was going to hop on my mule and ride with them into town. But plans changed. After lunch at Zach and Ashley's, Duane had a "senior moment" and missed the turn to my house. (How do you miss your turn when you're in the slow lane, Duane?) He called and said to meet them at the bottom of the hill south of New Virginia. So, I jumped on Ace and took off. Let me tell you, I am not used to riding without my dogs, and it just didn't feel right to ride out and leave my pack howling in the pen. But we got after it, and in a little bit, I could see them waiting as I came down the hill. Boy, were they disappointed! Duane had meant for me to drive the truck and bring the brownies! Instead, I showed up on my mule! Haha!. After we arrived at the saddle club grounds in town, I grabbed the car, dashed home for the desserts, and high-tailed it back.

Friday night, we had a fish fry courtesy of Duane, with everyone else contributing potluck dishes. At dusk, we set off for a nighttime ride around town. Kenny and Duane both have lights on their wagons—quite a sight, with all of us clip-clopping along in a twinkling parade. Kenny even has light-up "ankle bracelets" (not that kind!) for his Haflinger mares. They trotted proudly through town, drawing smiles and waves from folks on their porches.

Saturday found us riding out to the Broadhorn area by way of the depot on the northwest side of town. We took the dirt road to go by the Strange and Dolan farms, then across South River, and on up to Broadhorn. We went by the old Collins farm east of the Truro exit, and Vicki has the most beautiful flower beds in her yard. She has really kept up her folk's farm; they would be proud of their place. Thanks for the view, Vicki!

It had been years since I'd seen Broadhorn Church. It's privately owned now but lovingly maintained, and the peaceful setting was as scenic as ever. You can learn more about it at [broadhorn.org](http://broadhorn.org) or on their Facebook page. We tied up the teams and had lunch on the church grounds. My little mule, also named Vicki (no relation to the other Vicki!), was glad for the break—so were the teams. From there, we rode east and south to the dirt road north of town, eventually circling back into New Virginia.

Saturday night was potluck again, with everyone bringing their own meat for Duane to cook on his griddle. (Thanks again, Duane!) We capped it off with another evening ride through town; it just never gets old.

Sunday, they rode northeast of town, but since I had a lot on my plate this week, I took off for home and the lawn mower. Our Amish friend is getting married this week, and we are leaving for Delmar, Iowa, mid-week. Lots of yards to mow and food to cook before I get gone! I bet my mules are glad I'm driving the truck and not riding them to get there!





## **GROWING UP ON THE FARM IN THE 40's - 50's Going Fishing Contributed by Mel Stills**

Our old pond was located between two hills, with a short dam. It was maybe a quarter acre, not fenced, and the cows stood in water during the summer months to cool off. The water was pretty muddy. I don't remember ever stocking the pond, but we had fish. I guess the birds carried fish eggs into the pond. If they did, they only brought bullheads in. I don't think bass or bluegill would have survived in that muddy water.

My early fishing equipment was a willow branch with 10 feet of sturdy fishing line attached to one end. I never understood those fishermen who would stand on a pond bank and cast their line to within 10 feet of the opposite bank. I think the concept was the farther you casted, the better the fishing. I liked fishing, but I knew I wasn't going to catch anything big in our pond, but I always held out hope that something big was out there. I never caught a big bullhead. Google tells me that there are different species of bullheads and that some species can get up to 24 inches long. I thought a 10-inch bullhead was something to brag about. I've caught a lot of 6 to 8-inch bullheads, and I thought they were good eating. My palate has gotten more sensitive in my old age, and I don't know what I'd think about eating a plate of *Ameiurus nebulosus* these days.

I've used worms, grubs, grasshoppers, little frogs, whatever a young mind thought a fish might eat; they all worked most days. These days you might wait till just before it rains, or after it rains. I've fished while it's raining, early evening, night, it didn't seem to matter when you were fishing for bullheads. I was in high school, and I went fishing with the Smalley boys, and one of their ponds was fenced and had cattails and a boat dock. I caught my first bass. It jumped out of the water and fought a good fight. I knew then there could be sport in fishing. I never got into ice fishing. I was never that warm during winter, but with today's gear, I'd give it a try if I were younger and didn't live in Arizona. Do you remember the pond talking to you in the winter when the ice would groan and the ice would crackle when you stepped on it?

Lots of ponds today are really small lakes, 4, 6, 8 or bigger acres, stocked with all kinds of game fish. These ponds attract all kinds of waterfowl and nuisance critters like muskrats, beavers and river otters. I sort of got away from fishing while we lived South of New Virginia, but I enjoyed watching fishermen fish our pond. With Buck and his buddy there was a constant banter, back and forth about what the other one was doing or should be doing. They were grown men having fun.


Our friend Frank couldn't walk very well, and he could drive right down to the water's edge, sit in his chair and fish all morning. Frank was a World War II Army Medic, was all over Europe and helped in the liberation of one of the concentration camps. I think that was the only thing he said about his wartime experience. It was a great comfort for me to have him enjoy our pond. Frank's fishing method was to cut about one inch of worm off and slide it onto his hook. The rest of the worm went in his pocket for use the next time. Frank always used a bobber. The bobber would start to dance, and Frank would yank on the line and reel in whatever he caught. Frank was so happy if he had a load of bluegill to take home. It was even a better day if he had a couple of big catfish to take home.

Buck and his buddies had a different fishing technique. They all used the whole nightcrawler on their hooks, with a bit hanging off the hook. They also used a bobber, but they let the fish play with it for a long time.

*Continued in next column.....*

The bobber was all over the pond surface, and they would suddenly set the hook. Both Frank and Buck always seemed to catch the same number of fish. Buck's group smoked, but they picked up after themselves, and I never found a cigarette butt on the ground.

I've fished rivers, lakes, bays, and oceans for striper, salmon, sturgeon, tuna, and bullhead dolphin, but nothing was as exciting as a kid bringing a stringer full of bullheads home for supper.



### **New Virginia Fireworks**


**DONATIONS STILL NEEDED FOR 2025 NEW VIRGINIA FIREWORKS**

**The Saturday evening fireworks are a big part of our Old Settlers Celebration. We still need donations to pay for the 2025 fireworks. We are planning a \$5000.00 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  
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Any questions feel free to contact, Deann Strange (515)210-8847 or [newvirginiaoldsettlers@gmail.com](mailto:newvirginiaoldsettlers@gmail.com)



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scribblings from



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Contributed by Sue Stills

I really enjoy having fresh cut flowers in the house. When we lived South of New Virginia, our fields yielded wonderful wildflowers, and I picked some for the house throughout the spring, summer and fall. Through our years living there, the variety of flowers changed due to variations in rainfall, temperatures and whether the fields were burned to stimulate growth, or maybe some flowers were just cyclical. We found at least 60 different wildflowers on our acreage. Mel always had various flowers in our flowerbeds, and I picked iris, peonies, roses, daisies, lilacs, zinnias, gladiolas, tulips, and daffodils. When the hostas shot up their flowers, I also picked those. There are some flowers that can be found in the prairie that are also cultivated for your flowerbeds, such as butterfly milkweed, asters, blanket flower, daisies, coreopsis, and coneflowers, and we had those as well. I loved seeing flowers along the roadsides and the fields.

Here in Arizona, there are many flowers to enjoy along the streets and yards, with oleander, bougainvillea and Mexican bird of paradise being the most prevalent right now...and the ones I know the names of. I am content to pick oleander, roses, and coral fountain from our yard. Bougainvillea doesn't last long after being picked, and they have thorns longer than rose thorns, so watch out! Other than that, I buy bouquets of flowers at the grocery store. They are available year-round, and after a holiday such as Mother's Day, you can get beautiful bouquets at a bargain: \$4.60 for an \$18.00 bouquet. Then I'll buy two or three!

Vital for growing flowers, or any plant, is sufficient water. Prairie grasses and wildflowers depend on Mother Nature for their water, and fortunately, even in times of drought, they can survive because their root systems are buried deep in the soil. Drought is a serious condition in Arizona, with the Arizona Drought Report indicating that as of May 27, 2025, 99% of the state is in drought, ranging from moderate to exceptional drought. Phoenix has an average rainfall of seven to eight inches per year. Arizona gets its water supply from aquifers underground, snowmelt from its mountains that flow into the Salt and Verde Rivers and then into reservoirs/lakes, and from the Colorado River. The Colorado River system supplies 36 percent of Arizona's total water use, and it also has experienced extensive drought conditions for the past 19 years. Phoenix has, however, implemented innovative water management strategies and has been designated by the State as having a 100-year assured water supply for existing customers and additional growth. That may be comforting to know, but with the constant building we see everywhere, there may certainly be a water crisis in the future. Sources: arizonawaterfacts.com; srpnet.com.

We had a water filtration/softener system installed because we have lime and other minerals in the water that are detrimental to our water pipes and faucets. Here is a curious fact about our water in the summer: we use less hot water because the extreme outdoor temperatures preheat the water coming into the house. We really found this out when we lived in Jim's house in August-September 2023 while he was away. Our floors had been torn up and new tile was being laid, so we could not live in our house. When taking a shower at Jim's, absolutely no hot water was needed. In fact, the "cold" water was almost too hot to stand. Jim lives in Phase 1 of the Sun Lakes community where most of the homes are double-wide trailers, so those water pipes are not buried as deeply as they are in our sector of "stick-built" homes. Jim says he turns off his hot water heater during the summer. And "cold" tap water is certainly not cold!

We will be escaping some of Arizona's summer heat again this year. We will be renting the Country Peace Airbnb just south of St. Marys for July and August, as we did last year. We hope to see many of our family and friends, and we may even need to put on a sweater occasionally!



## **LITTLE MISS AND MISTER NEW VIRGINIA CONTEST**

"Small Town, Big Happenings"

New Virginia Old Settlers 2025

If you would like your child to participate in the Little Miss & Mister contest for the New Virginia Old Settlers Celebration, the child must be 3-6 years of age and reside in the New Virginia area. The child may enter more than one year but cannot re-enter after winning the contest. Entries should be received by June 24, 2025.

The pictures and voting containers will be displayed at The New Virginia City State Bank, Monday through Friday from 9AM to 4PM June 25 through July 10, 2025. Voting will be available at the Hen House from June 25 through July 10 when the Hen House is open. For those who are not aware of the voting process, anyone who wishes to vote for a contestant may do so by making a monetary contribution to the New Virginia Old Settlers by placing money in the voting container of the child of their choice. You may also vote starting June 25 through July 10 at 4PM with a contribution using Venmo @NewVirginia-OldSettlers by including the child's name you are voting for in your comment. All money raised will go towards the New Virginia Old Settlers Celebration. Voting will end on Thursday evening, July 10, 2025 at 4PM. The boy and girl with the most money contributed to their voting container will be crowned Little Miss and Mister New Virginia at the Friday, July 11, 2025 evening program in Lions Park (In case of rain in the New Virginia Fire Station). This is a fun contest and a great fundraiser for the New Virginia Old Settlers. Each child entered will receive a goodie bag on Friday evening when the winners are announced. The Little Miss and Mister New Virginia winners will ride in a convertible in the Saturday night parade.

To enter, please send a photo of your child (preferably a 4"x6") or a digital image with the information below either by mail or e-mail to: Deann Strange, P.O. Box 504, New Virginia, IA 50210 or to newvirginiaoldsettlers@gmail.com or text to 515-210-8847

Child's Name, Parent's Name, Age, Favorite Activities, Parent contact info (phone number, address, e-mail address)

The display will only have the child's name, age, and favorite things listed. If you have any questions, please e-mail Deann at the address above or call/text (515)210-8847.



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Continued from page 1, column 1.....

Wherever we traveled, the PEOPLE were extremely hospitable. They are known to be a calm, soft-spoken, peaceful people. Even the babies on the airplane seemed to cry softly! We became customized to doing their traditional greeting, the “wai,” which is putting palms together and bowing. This has several meanings including “hello,” “good-bye,” and “thank you.” We were mostly in the touristy areas, and street vendors were abundant selling food, clothes, carvings, paintings, flowers and anything imaginable. We, also, became customized to doing a little bartering! Service jobs such as hotel staff, waiters/waitresses, chefs, tour guides, and taxi drivers make up about 48% of their economy (tourism). Tipping was not required, but a small tip to show appreciation was always accepted.

The CURRENCY in Thailand was the Baht, and they like their Baht. Most places did not accept American money, but money exchange machines were plentiful. One Baht is three cents of American money, so prices seemed extraordinarily cheap. A very nice motel cost about 1700 Baht (\$50). We hired a taxi driver/tour guide for 4,000 Baht a day (\$120) which was a bargain as he maneuvered through the heavy traffic and picked up and delivered at our exact destinations. The Cambodian money was the Riel. One dollar was worth 4,000 Riel. The dollar was widely accepted in Cambodia.

The official LANGUAGE of Thailand was Thai and in Cambodia was Khmer. Thai and Khmer are from different language families but share many similarities. Their language appeared very complicated. Our taxi driver, who spoke fairly clear English, said, “You have a,e,i,o,u, but we have 44 of those and 88 symbols altogether.” Most people spoke some English, and Google Translate was a valuable asset. Communication was always possible.

Spring and Autumn were words totally unfamiliar to them when discussing WEATHER. This area has three seasons: Cool Season, Hot Season, and Rainy Season. We were there during the Cool Season, and temperatures were always between 80 and 90 degrees with lots of sunshine and no rain.

If your interest is TEMPLES, this is a “must see” destination. This region is 95% Buddhist and has over 55,000 temples. The oldest temples we saw were located around Siem Reap, Cambodia. They were built from the ninth to the thirteenth centuries during the Khmer Empire. Angkor Thom and Angkor Wat were two of the major regions in the Empire where many temples were built and their ruins remain today. Angkor Thom contains 72 major temples. Angkor Wat is 500 acres surrounded by a moat and is considered the Eighth Wonder of the World. There are more modern temples, some built as recently as 2005. The brilliant White Temple with glass mirrored chips, the Blue Temple signifying purity, wisdom and the path to enlightenment, and the Red Temple with major Chinese influence, are popular tourist attractions. When entering temples, respect was shown by removing shoes and keeping shoulders and knees modestly covered.

Angkor Wat Temple



White Temple



TOM & CHRIS BROMMEL  
*Happy 40th Anniversary*

June 15, 1985  
Parents of  
Lindsay, Blake & Zach  
We love you!

Continued from page 1, column 2.....

While writing for newspapers in her native Iowa, Susan Glaspell covered a murder trial in which a wife killed her husband. This trial became the basis not only of “Trifles” but also of “A Jury of Her Peers” (1927), the story version of the play. “Trifles” is a one-act play written by Susan Glaspell that explores the investigation of a murder case involving John Wright, with the narrative unfolding in the kitchen of the Wright farmhouse. While male characters, including a county attorney and sheriff, conduct the official investigation, female characters engage in their own subtle inquiry, examining domestic items that reveal deeper insights into the life of Mrs. Wright. The play contrasts the men’s dismissive attitudes towards what they consider “trifles” with the women’s understanding of the emotional significance of their surroundings. Central to the story is the discovery of a dead bird which symbolizes Mrs. Wright’s lost spirit and serves as a crucial piece of evidence that the men overlook.

Glaspell’s work critiques societal norms, particularly the roles of women, and highlights the themes of isolation, empathy, and domestic life. The play utilizes dramatic devices that showcase the disparity in how men and women perceive their environment, ultimately leading to a poignant commentary on gender dynamics. “Trifles” is recognized as a pioneering piece of feminist theater in America and remains significant for its thematic depth and social critique. The play’s lasting influence is reflected in its revival and study in contemporary discussions of gender and theater.

**“Midnight Assassin”  
Published in: 2007**

In 1900 Margaret Hossack, the wife of a prominent Iowa farmer, was arrested for bludgeoning her husband to death with an ax while their children slept upstairs. The community was outraged: How could a woman commit such an act of violence? Firsthand accounts describe the victim John Hossack as a cruel and unstable man. Perhaps, Margaret Hossack was acting out of fear. Or, perhaps, the story she told was true—that an intruder broke into the house, killed her husband while she slept soundly beside him and was still on the loose. Newspapers across the country carried the story, and community sentiment was divided over her guilt. At trial, Margaret was convicted of murder, but later was released on appeal. Ultimately, neither her innocence nor her guilt was ever proved.

Patricia Bryan and Thomas Wolf examined the harsh realities of farm life at the turn of the century and looked at the plight of women—legally, socially, and politically—during that period. What also emerges is the story of early feminist Susan Glaspell who covered the Hossack case as a young reporter and later used it as the basis for her acclaimed work “A Jury of Her Peers.”

Midnight Assassin expertly renders the American character and experience: our obsession with crime, how justice is achieved, and the powerful influence of the media.

Will Do Films (Facebook page) filmmaker Will Rock

