

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

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January 22, 2026

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# TRI-CORNER-EXPRESS

Deliver to current resident

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February 19, 2026

## THE SCHOOLHOUSE BLIZZARD OF 1888

Contributed by Sue Stills

The monumental blizzard that hit the United States Great Plains on January 12, 1888 was known as the Schoolhouse Blizzard or Children's Blizzard. It was the world's 10th deadliest winter storm on record, with an estimated 235 human deaths. Many cattle, other animals and poultry were also lost. The blizzard came unexpectedly on a relatively warm day, and many people were caught unaware, including children in one-room schoolhouses. Some reported temperatures were 44° at 2 p.m., -11° at 9 p.m. and an overnight low of -42°. A cold wave and snow had been predicted for the states of Nebraska, Minnesota, Wisconsin and the Dakota Territory. When the immense Arctic cold front collided with warm moisture-laden air from the Gulf of Mexico, the temperatures dropped rapidly, and high winds and heavy snow blasted south from Montana, reaching Lincoln, Nebraska, at 3 p.m. The very strong winds and the powdery nature of the snow reduced visibilities on the open plains to zero. Since the hours preceding the storm had been relatively warm, people were involved in their normal activities of doing chores, going to town and attending school. As a result, when the blizzard hit, thousands of people were caught in it, including many schoolchildren. Teachers generally kept the children in their schoolhouses. A story from Plainview, Nebraska, gives a tragic account: "Lois Royce found herself trapped with three of her students in her schoolhouse. By 3 p.m., they had run out of heating fuel. Her boarding house was only 82 yards away, so she attempted to lead the children there. However, visibility was so poor that they became lost. The children, two 9-year-old boys and a 6-year-old girl, froze to death. The teacher survived, but her feet were frostbitten and had to be amputated."

Another story from Seward County, Nebraska, relates: "Etta Shattuck, a 19-year-old schoolteacher, got lost on her way home and sought shelter in a haystack. She remained trapped there until her rescue 78 hours later by Daniel D. Murphy and his hired men. She died on February 6 or 7 due to complications from surgery to remove her frostbitten feet and legs." "A 36-year-old Scottish immigrant farmer, James Jackson, just outside of Woodstock, Minnesota, discovered his cattle herd frozen to death in a 10-mile stretch." In 1967, for Nebraska's Centennial Celebration, a Venetian glass mural of the Schoolhouse Blizzard of 1888 by Jeanne Reynal was installed on the west wall of the north bay in the Nebraska State Capitol building. The mural, in a semi-abstract style, portrays Minnie Freeman leading 13 of her schoolchildren through the storm to safety in her home. In the 1930's, the WPA Federal Writers' Project interviewed survivors of the storm, resulting in the book *O.W. Meier Relates Experience He Had in the Blizzard of 1888*. In the 1940's, a group organized the Greater Nebraska Blizzard Club to write a book about the storm. The book is entitled *In All Its Fury: A History of the Blizzard of Jan. 12, 1888, With Stories and Reminiscences*. My first awareness of the blizzard was when I read the 2004 book *The Children's Blizzard* by David Laskin.

The Midwest was not the only area to experience the extremely low temperatures of that storm. Sub-zero temperatures reached all the way to Texas and Georgia, people could ice skate in San Francisco, and water mains froze in Los Angeles. Two months later, the East Coast experienced the Great Blizzard of 1888, also known as the Great White Hurricane, on March 11-14, 1888. The storm paralyzed the East Coast from Chesapeake Bay to

Maine, as well as the Atlantic provinces of Canada. Snow from 10 to 58 inches fell in parts of New Jersey, New York, Massachusetts, Rhode Island and Connecticut. Sustained winds of more than 45 miles per hour, with gusts of 80 miles per hour, produced snowdrifts in excess of 50 feet.

In New York, neither rail nor road transport was possible anywhere for days. Telegraph infrastructure was disabled, isolating Montreal and most of the large northeastern U.S. cities from Washington, D.C. to Boston for days. Following the storm, New York began placing its telegraph and telephone infrastructure underground to prevent their destruction. Similarly, underground subway systems were created so that the transportation gridlock that occurred during the storm could hopefully be avoided. Additional tragedies resulting from the storm were that more than 200 ships were either grounded or wrecked, with the loss of at least 100 seamen. With fire stations immobilized during the storm, property loss from fire alone was estimated at \$25 million (equivalent to \$870 million in 2024).

There was an historical documentary movie produced in 1999 entitled *Blizzards: Whiteout!* It was described as a look at several devastating snowstorms in the U.S., with emphasis on four: two in 1888, one in 1967, and one in 1979. A blizzard that "hit close to home" (I was born in Buffalo, NY) for me occurred on January 28, 1977 when the Southern portions of the province of Ontario and parts of western and northern New York State were struck by hurricane force winds that swept across frozen Lake Erie. Ten thousand square miles of snow powder blew inland and buried people in their cars and homes. My mother worked in Buffalo and lived alone 20 miles outside of Buffalo. She and thousands of others were stranded where they were, and she had to stay at her boss' house for several days. President Jimmie Carter declared the area a "major disaster area." The blizzard was chronicled with personal accounts by survivors in a book I have, *White Death – The Blizzard of '77* by Erno Rossi, M.A. and autographed with the warning "Beware of snowflakes." Nowadays, with the greatly improved National Weather Service and its ability to monitor and predict the impact of developing storms, the populace can at least be prepared and hopefully the tragedies of 1888 can be avoided.

Sources: Wikipedia.com; gilderlehrman.org

Postcard of Buffalo, New York depicting the Buffalo Blizzard of 1977.



Sue and her brothers in the aftermath of a typical Buffalo blizzard.



**Council Meeting Minutes**  
**January 5th, 2026**

The Council met in regular session on Monday January 5th, 2026, at 7:05 p.m. for the January council meeting. Justin Strange was officially sworn in as Mayor through the end of December 2027. Lee Chandler was officially sworn in as Councilmember through the end of December 2029. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Strange with Council Members Chandler, Dunkin, Galivan, and Truman present. Absent Bailey. Minutes from the December meeting were approved.

**Old Business:** There are issues with the pop machine at the GAMP building again. The cash mechanism is not accepting bills. However, it will accept quarters. The Atlantic Bottlers Representative will be contacted again about the pop machine not working appropriately. The company that the City purchased the blinking red lights for the East Street stop signs will be replacing them free of charge due to the current ones not working correctly. The New Virginia Sanitary Sewer Board will be looking into a sewer issue at 705 West Street.

**Citizen Input:** A citizen inquired if the City is ever going to consider asphaltting the remainder of South Street to G76 Highway. It currently is not planned to be asphalted anytime soon. The graveled portion of South Street will have gravel added to it. There were numerous citizen inquiries about fireworks at the end of the year and the first day of January. The Ordinance states that consumer fireworks can be discharged December 29 and December 30 from the hours of 5 pm until 9 pm; December 31 from the hours of 5 pm until 11:59 pm; and January 1 from the hours of 12 am – 12:30 am and 5 pm until 9 pm.

**Fire Department Business:** The fire department generator is not working, and the panel has an error code. Galivan moved, seconded by Truman to have Ziegler come down and service the generator and correct the error code on the panel. A roll call vote was taken: 4 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried. Fire Chief Jake Zuercher will contact Ziegler to schedule an inspection and service of the generator.

Fire Chief Zuercher advised the Council he would like to appoint Mike Hagen to Fire Lieutenant. Truman moved, seconded by Dunkin to appoint Mike Hagen to the position of Fire Lieutenant. A roll call vote was taken: 4 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.

Fire Chief Zuercher inquired about removing the guard rail and sign down on the north side of the fire station cement apron. It was the Council's opinion to remove the guard rail and sign.

The quote for the fire station door locks was reviewed. After discussion, it was decided that Councilman Galivan will take on the fire station door lock project.

Kid Ride To School in a fire truck for an after prom fundraiser was discussed. The fund raiser project will be allowed.

**Water Utilities discussed:** The December water report from POM was reviewed. Water usage was 701,000 gallons averaging 23,000 gallons per day. Water testing is in compliance and on schedule with IDNR testing requirements.

**Law Enforcement:** The Sheriff's Report for the month of December was reviewed. There were 21 calls for service received or initiated by Deputies for the month. Officers spent in excess of 42 hours in the City of New Virginia for the month. Officers patrolled in excess of 142 miles within the city limits for the month of December.

Dunkin moved, seconded by Truman to pass and approve Resolution 2026-01 – A RESOLUTION NAMING CITY STATE BANK AND IOWA PUBLIC TRUST AGENCY INVESTMENT TRUST (IPAIT) DEPOSITORIES OF CITY FUNDS. A roll call vote was taken: 4 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.

Dunkin moved, seconded by Chandler to pass and approve Resolution 2026-02 – A RESOLUTION APPROVING PAY PER FIRE AND EMS REPORTS ENTERED IN EMERGENCY SERVICES SOFTWARE. A roll call vote was taken: 4 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.

Chandler moved, seconded by Truman to designate the Indianola RHT/Independent Advocate as official paper for publication of city budget, State of Iowa Annual Financial Report, ordinances, and other necessary legal publications for 2026. A roll call vote was taken: 4 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.

Galivan moved, seconded by Chandler to designate the Tri-Corner-Express as official paper for publication of city council meeting minutes, public notices, and other legal publications for 2026. A roll call vote was taken: 4 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.

Truman moved, seconded by Chandler to re-appoint Brent Hinders as City Attorney for the City of New Virginia for 2026.

Galivan moved, seconded by Dunkin to pass and approve Resolution 2026-03 – A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE PURCHASE OF 503 WEST STREET, NEW VIRGINIA, IOWA, AND AUTHORIZING MAYOR TO CLOSE REAL ESTATE TRANSACTION. A roll call vote was taken: 4 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.

The 2026-27 city budget was discussed. It was determined sidewalk removal will be the first priority and the walking/biking trail will be the second priority. Sidewalks in areas of school bus stops were discussed with the possibility of grants (Safe Route To School) to help with this project. The City Attorney will be consulted about big dollar budget purchases and the ramifications of House File 718 on these budget items.

**GAMP UPDATE**

There will be a truck pull this summer. It will be scheduled for Saturday, June 27th. GAMP rentals will be kept online. It will be looked into for auto-forward emails to Kim McWilliams for rental inquiries and a work flow that works for Kim.

**KEEP IOWA BEAUTIFUL PROGRAM**

Upcoming Events in 2026: January 11th – Music Jam 2-5 p.m. @ GAMP Community Bldg.; February 22nd, (Tentative) – Music Jam 2-5 p.m. @ GAMP Community Bldg.; March 8th – Music Jam 2-5 p.m. @ GAMP Community Bldg.; Spring – Country Dance? Contra Dance? The Committee is looking for new avenues for getting information out to the public. New merchandise considerations include T-shirts and stickers.

**ELF CLUB**

The Christmas lights and displays have been taken down. The star on the tree will be removed in January or February. Alliant Energy has turned the flood lights in Old Settlers Park back on.

**TRI-CORNER-EXPRESS**

Fund balance \$16,880.15. No new information to present to the Council.

Renting out the Lions Hall was discussed. It needs to be confirmed if the Lions Club already has rentals scheduled for this year and honor them. The Lions Bingo Nights will be scheduled and an upcoming scrapbooking event. The scheduling will be done just like the GAMP Building but at a lesser amount - \$100.00 full day; \$75.00 half day; \$25.00/hour; deposit \$100.00.

Mayor Strange advised he was contacted by Mande Shivers and he met with her. She will be running for the Iowa State Senate District 11 seat. She is interested in attending a future council meeting to get the Council and Mayor's input on government issues and local issues.

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

With no further business to come forth, Dunkin moved, seconded by Galivan to adjourn meeting. A roll call vote was taken: 4 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 9:27 p.m.

The February council meeting is scheduled for Monday February 2nd, 2026, at 7:00 p.m.



# Breaking News

Want to see the Tri-Corner-Express  
in a digital format?

[www.newvirginia.com/tri-corner-express](http://www.newvirginia.com/tri-corner-express)  
It's free and has current and past issues

Do you have a special  
neighbor you'd like to see  
spotlighted in the TriCorner?  
Email us at  
[tricorn@newvirginia.com](mailto:tricorn@newvirginia.com)  
and tell us in a few words just  
what makes your neighbor so  
special.  
We will share it with our  
readers.

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



**NEIGHBOR SPOTLIGHT**

**Wyatt and Jennifer Selsor**  
live just a stone's  
throw from us. Whenever  
we leave, we can count on  
Wyatt to do our dog chores  
and feed the bottle calves, and  
just generally keep an eye on the  
place. They have chickens and share  
the eggs with us, which makes us happy  
too! I do make noodles for Jennifer from time  
to time from the eggs, but I could never re-pay  
them for all they do for us. Thank you, neighbors!

**Roland and Terry Garner**

City of New Virginia	
Dec 2025	Deposits
General	\$ 2,991.51
GAMP	\$ 206.34
Fire	\$7,428.13
Elf Club	\$ 0.00
Road Use	\$4,143.30
LOST	\$11,187.19
Debit Service	\$ 14.37
Water Utilities	\$ 9,207.39
Grand Total	\$35,178.23

VENDOR	CLAIMS REPORT		
	REFERENCE	AMOUNT	CHECK # CHECK DATE
ALLIANT ENERGY	ELECTRIC/GAS/STREET LIGHTS	\$917.60	15978 1/2/2026
AT&T FIRSTNET	PHONE SERVICE	\$49.81	15976 12/17/2025
AT&T FIRSTNET	PHONE SERVICE	\$51.31	16027 1/9/2026
BETSY REINECK	CHRISTMAS LIGHTING CONTEST	\$275.00	15998 1/6/2026
BOUND TREE	MEDICAL SUPPLIES	\$597.39	16022 1/8/2026
BRENT BAUGHMAN	MILEAGE FIRE DEPT	\$56.40	15999 1/6/2026
ELAN FINANCIAL SERVICES	TECHNOLOGY GSUITES	\$234.84	15979 1/2/2026
CENTRAL IOWA PEST CONTROL	PEST CONTROL	\$75.00	16000 1/6/2026
CITY STATE BANK	RENTAL FEE LOCKBOX 2026	\$17.00	15980 1/2/2026
COURTNE COX	RENTAL DEPOSIT REFUND	\$125.00	16023 1/8/2026
DANKO EMERGENCY EQUIPMENT	FIRE EQUIPMENT	\$35,560.00	16001 1/6/2026
GREEN ROOFING	OTHER CONST SERV HEN HOUSE	\$18,200.00	15977 12/17/2025
HUSTON'S AUTO REPAIR	VEHICLE REPAIR 241 BATTERIES	\$479.90	16003 1/6/2026
HUSTON'S STORAGE	RENT/LEASE STOARGE UNIT	\$1,020.00	16005 1/6/2026
IOWA DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE	PR WITHHOLDING TAX 3RD QTR	\$16.42	16326994 1/6/2026
IA MUNICIPAL WORKERS COMPENSAT	WORKER COMPENSATION PAYMENT	\$614.00	16006 1/6/2026
IOWA PUBLIC RETIREMENT SYSTEM	IPERS	\$819.82	16326992 1/5/2026
INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE	FED/FICA TAX	\$1,255.28	16326993 1/5/2026
J&L SANITATION	GARBAGE SERVICE - CITY	\$62.00	16007 1/6/2026
JENNIFER BOYLE	CHRISTMAS LIGHTING CONTEST 2ND	\$175.00	16008 1/6/2026
KAITLYNN CARLSON	CHRISTMAS LIGHTING 3RD PLACE	\$125.00	16009 1/6/2026
MARY HUSS	GAMP CLEANING	\$100.00	16010 1/6/2026
NAPA AUTO PARTS PREMIER PARTS	VEHICLE REPAIR 241	\$141.93	16012 1/6/2026
NAPA AUTO PARTS PREMIER PARTS	VEHILE REPAIR-DEFFLUID 241-762	\$53.52	16028 1/15/2026
NEW VIRGINIA PUBLIC LIBRARY	ANNUAL FUNDING 2026	\$10,000.00	16013 1/6/2026
ONE BILLING SOLUTIONS LLC	AMBULANCE BILLING	\$216.32	16014 1/6/2026
PAY PLUS ARCHTRANS	CC FEES AMBULANCE BILLING	\$2.51	16326996 12/16/2025
POSTMASTER	RENTAL FEE PO BOX	\$126.00	16024 1/8/2026
LINDE GAS & EQUIPMENT INC.	OEPRATING SUPPLIES	\$145.03	16015 1/6/2026
IMPACT COMMUNITY ACTION PARTNE	ANNUAL FUNDING	\$740.00	16017 1/6/2026
STRANGE SPECIALTY TIRE & AUTO	VEHICLE REPAIRS 769 TIRES	\$1,460.44	16025 1/8/2026
WASTE MANAGEMENT	RECYCLING	\$1,229.33	16026 1/8/2026
WEX FLEET UNIVERSAL	VEHCILE FUEL	\$247.02	16020 1/6/2026
WINDSTREAM	TELEPHONE/INTERNET	\$601.63	16021 1/6/2026
TOTAL GENERAL		\$75,790.50	
ALLIANT ENERGY	ELECTRIC/GAS/STREET LIGHTS	\$1,199.94	15978 1/2/2026
HUSTON'S LAWN/SNOW REMOVAL	TESTING-WATER /SNOW REMOVAL	\$810.00	16004 1/6/2026
INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE	FED/FICA TAX	\$26.40	16326993 1/5/2026
TERRY STUART	SNOW REMOVAL WEST STREET	\$262.50	16018 1/6/2026
TOTAL ROAD USE		\$2,298.84	
AT&T FIRSTNET	PHONE SERVICE	\$22.57	15976 12/17/2025
AT&T FIRSTNET	PHONE SERVICE	\$23.14	16027 1/9/2026
FENIX USA	DATA & SOFTWARE HOSTING	\$100.00	16002 1/6/2026
HUSTON'S LAWN/SNOW REMOVAL	TESTING-WATER /SNOW REMOVAL	\$100.00	16004 1/6/2026
IOWA DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE	WET TAX DECEMBER 2025	\$496.98	16326995 1/9/2026
IOWA PUBLIC RETIREMENT SYSTEM	IPERS	\$375.04	16326992 1/5/2026
INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE	FED/FICA TAX	\$544.93	16326993 1/5/2026
MICROBAC LABORATORIES INC	WATER TESTING	\$17.50	16011 1/6/2026
PROFESSIONAL OPERATIONS MANAGE	OTHER CONTR SERV WATER	\$1,113.00	16016 1/6/2026
WARREN WATER DISTRICT	WATER USAGE/LOAN PAYMENT	\$4,807.50	16019 1/6/2026
TOTAL WATER UTILITIES		\$7,600.66	
GENERAL		\$5,527.27	
WATER		\$1,893.68	
Total Payroll Paid		\$7,420.95	
***** REPORT TOTAL *****		\$93,110.95	

## 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.

"If you are interested in joining New  
Virginia Hometown Pride, please  
contact [nvhp50210@gmail.com](mailto:nvhp50210@gmail.com)"

## Recycle

Jan 22

Feb 5

Feb 19



Check out the  
New Virginia Lions  
on Facebook  
**Dinner**  
and  
**BINGO**

On January 18th  
Grilled Cheese & Soup  
will be served

Feb 15<sup>th</sup>, Mar 29<sup>th</sup>, Apr 19<sup>th</sup>

### 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



Orphan Train  
By Christina Baker Kline

Reviewed by Sue Stills

Although one of the main characters in this book, Vivian Daly, was fictional, her life story was based on an actual event, namely the Orphan Train. The train was a "social experiment" from 1854 to 1929 during which thousands of children from the East Coast who were orphaned, abandoned, ill-treated or otherwise living in wretched conditions were transported to the farmlands in the Midwest in the hope of finding appropriate homes and possible adoption.

This book intertwined the stories of two women in different time periods and places. Vivian was an Irish immigrant. Her name was actually Niamh Power, and at the age of nine, she was sent West on the Orphan Train. Over various placements, people changed her name. Her first placement was in Albans, MN, in 1929 in a harsh, home-sewing "industry." Her next placement was horrific in a decrepit shack with a couple with four small, neglected children. After rescue by her teacher, "Dorothy" was placed with a very kind family and became "Vivian." She knew happiness and heartache in her life, and I next read of Vivian in 2011 in Spruce Harbor, Maine, with Molly Ayer.

Molly Ayer, age 17, was a Penobscot Indian who had spent her youth in and out of foster homes. She was working off her required community-service time helping an elderly lady clean out her attic. The lady was Vivian Daly, and over the months together, the two ladies discovered parallels in their lives and found that the present can redeem the past and that love has the power to heal. This was a very touching and enjoyable book.




Why aren't koalas  
considered bears?

Answer on page 21



**VIRGINIA  
BOOSTERS**

*New Virginia Garden Club*  
Cultivating the New Virginia Community

Interested in growing or talking about  
flowers, gardening, trees, etc.?  
The next NV Garden Club meeting is  
February 17<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm at the GAMP  
809 West St, New Virginia



**NANCY'S**  
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New Virginia, IA 50210

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Cell #: 515-313-6738

5-PAW RATING



New Virginia

# LIBRARY

Tues: 4 - 8 pm

Wed: 9 - 11 am & 1 - 8 pm

Thurs: 4 - 8 pm

Fri: CLOSED

Sat: 9 am - Noon

Sun & Mon: CLOSED

To view our  
Wishlist:



[www.newvirginia.lib.ia.us](http://www.newvirginia.lib.ia.us)

## Adult Book Club

NV Library  
February 18<sup>th</sup> at 4 pm  
discussing

*Only if You're Lucky*  
by Stacy Willingham



### Who Was Harry Houdini?

This book talks about when Harry was born and when he died, what his life was like, and even his first experience as a young Magician.

The book also tells what his first trick is, where Harry is from and who his family members were. I would TOTALLY recommend this book for people interested in historical people!

Frankie Garner



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GRIMES  
INDIANOLA  
MADRID  
MARTENSDALE  
MOUNT AYR  
NEW VIRGINIA  
NORWALK

thank you

# 2026 THINK SPRING SEMINAR

Saturday, March 7, 2026

9 a.m. to 3 p.m. | Simpson College Kent Center  
701 N. C St., Indianola | Doors open at 8:30 a.m.



Join over 100 garden enthusiasts and hear inspiring speakers, win door prizes, shop with vendors, and enjoy a delicious catered lunch. Master Gardeners earn 4 CEU credits for attending.

## SPEAKERS



### 9 a.m. Getting to the Root of It: Managing Soil pH | Randall Vos

Randall has a wide range of experience in fruit production and other areas of horticulture. His commercial experience includes working at an apple orchard and in the floriculture industry. While in school in Michigan he worked with viticulture and other small fruit production. Prior to working in Extension, Randall taught production horticulture courses and served as the Coordinator for the Mid-American Wine Competition



### 10 a.m. Water-Powered Gardening: Your Hydroponic Guide | Amanda Kanehl

Amanda received her degree in Biological Conservation and Environment Science from Drake University along with a Horticulture degree from DMACC. Before taking charge of the Prairie Meadows Hydroponic Farm as a WesleyLife team member, Amanda put her passion for organic farming to work in the Aquaponics Greenhouse at Early Morning Harvest, a well-known farm in Panora.



### 1 p.m. 'The Heirloom Gardener': Traditional Plants and Skills for the Modern World | John Forti | Virtual Speaker

John is a garden historian and ethnobotanist who has directed gardens for Plimoth Plantation Museum, Strawberry Banke Museum, Massachusetts Horticultural Society, and Bedrock Gardens. He is the author of The Heirloom Gardener: Traditional Plants and Skills for the Modern World. John has served as chair for New England chapters of The Herb Society of America and Slow Food USA.



### 2:15 p.m. Fresh and Flavorful: Mastering Herbs in the Kitchen | Chef Steve Reed

With over 38 years of culinary experience, Chef Steve Reed brings a lifelong passion for cooking and teaching to every kitchen he steps into. Today, Steve serves as the chef for the Pi Beta Phi sorority at Simpson College, where he crafts wholesome, flavorful dishes that celebrate the beauty of fresh ingredients. A true advocate for cooking with fresh herbs, Steve often incorporates the herbs grown by his wife, Julie, into his recipes — adding a personal, homegrown touch to every meal.



Tickets: \$55 in person | \$30 virtual | Deadline: 02/21/2026

Register online at: <https://go.iastate.edu/HSILYW> or use the QR code

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LEGACY REALTY OF IOWA | LPT



**NEED REAL  
ESTATE SERVICES?**

Serving the real estate market with 34 years of  
real estate experience in Warren County.



# 2026 THINK SPRING SEMINAR

Saturday, March 7, 2026

9 a.m. to 3 p.m. | Simpson College Kent Center  
701 N. C St., Indianola | Doors open at 8:30 a.m.



The Warren County Master Gardeners will be hosting their annual Think Spring Garden Seminar on Saturday, March 7th, 2026, from 9:00am-3:00pm. The Think Spring Seminar is held on the campus of Simpson College in the Hubbell Hall of the Kent Campus Center.

Our Master Gardeners host over 100 garden enthusiasts, giving them the opportunity to learn from horticulture experts, shop with local vendors, win door prizes and enjoy a delicious catered lunch. You do not need to be a Master Gardener to enjoy this event! Think Spring is open to all who desire to gain a wide range of horticulture knowledge.

Our speakers for 2026 will include Extension Horticulture Specialist, Randall Vos. He will be educating on managing soil pH for healthy gardens. Randall has a wide range of experience in fruit production and other areas of horticulture. His commercial experience includes working at an apple orchard and in the floriculture industry, teaching production horticulture and serving as the coordinator for the Mid-American Wine Competition.

Amanda Kanehl will be presenting 'Water-Powered Gardening: Your Hydroponic Guide.' Amanda received her degree in Biological Conservation and Environment Science from Drake University along with a Horticulture degree from DMACC. Before taking charge of the Prairie Meadows Hydroponic Farm as a WesleyLife team member, Amanda put her passion for organic farming to work in the Aquaponics Greenhouse at Early Morning Harvest, a well-known farm in Panora.

After a catered lunch, we will invite John Forti to join us virtually from his home on the east coast. John is a garden historian and ethnobotanist who has directed gardens for Plimoth Plantation Museum, Strawberry Banke Museum, Massachusetts Horticultural Society, and Bedrock Gardens. He is the author of *The Heirloom Gardener: Traditional Plants and Skills for the Modern World*. John has served as chair for New England chapters of The Herb Society of America and Slow Food USA.

Our last session of the day will be led by Chef Steve Reed. With over 38 years of culinary experience, Chef Steve Reed brings a lifelong passion for cooking and teaching to every kitchen he steps into. Today, Steve serves as the chef for the Pi Beta Phi sorority at Simpson College, where he crafts wholesome, flavorful dishes that celebrate the beauty of fresh ingredients. A true advocate for cooking with fresh herbs, Steve often incorporates the herbs grown by his wife, Julie, into his recipes — adding a personal, homegrown touch to every meal.

Among our vendors for this year, we have old favorites and new gems alike! Worm Wizards, Ted's Garden Center, Zanafel, Quilted Gardens Nursery, Warren Hill Farm, Profound Existence Herbs, Delaney Lynch, Carolyn Freese and Rubbish to Rubies are already confirmed for the day! We can welcome two additional vendors to the floor for shopping enjoyment.

The cost of the event is \$55 in person and covers speakers and lunch for the day. If you would like to join us for the speakers virtually, pay a discounted cost of \$30! Funds raised from ticket sales enable Warren County Master Gardeners to provide the educational seminar as well as provide horticultural grants and educational opportunities to Warren County non-profit organizations.

Reserve your spot by registering at: <https://go.iastate.edu/HSILYW> or by using the QR code below. For questions or issues please contact Bethany Cecot at the Iowa State Extension & Outreach Warren County office at 515-961-6237.



Bethany Cecot  
Adult Program Coordinator  
Iowa State University Extension & Outreach Warren County  
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**CONTACT INFO**  
Janelle Adams  
Truro City Clerk  
641-765-4586  
[trurocityclerk@gmail.com](mailto:trurocityclerk@gmail.com)  
Mayor: Bryan Arzani

## Truro City Council Minutes

January 5, 2026

### Community Center

Mayor Bryan Arzani presided over and called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Ancel Kennedy, Julie McMichael, Matt Masters, Jason Phillips and Lyndsay Cannoy were present. Fire Chief Terry Stills and Public Works Director Ronnie Hults were also present. No one from the public was present to speak. Arzani asked for a motion to approve the Agenda. Motion to approve the agenda by Phillips/Masters. All Ayes, motion carried. Arzani and the council acknowledged the Sheriff's Report and The Emergency Management Director's Report. Terry Stills presented the Fire and Rescue Report with 5 fire calls and 7 EMS calls. He also stated a new air compressor was purchased for the Fire Department. Ronnie Hults presented the Water/Wastewater Report and acknowledged the Inspection Report from the DNR. He also noted the mesh screen at the Lagoons needs to be fixed or replaced. A motion to approve Resolution 2026-6 to purchase Parcel R from Richard and Julie McMichael Jr. was motioned by Kennedy/Cannoy. All Ayes from Kennedy, Cannoy, Masters and Phillips, McMichael refrained from voting. Motion carried. Mayor Arzani and the Truro City Council would like to acknowledge the following: Beeler's Pure Pork for donating a ham for the Christmas Ham Giveaway; POM and an anonymous donor for the 1st place prize (paying the January 2026 Utility Bill) for the Christmas Light Contest; Brett Jones for donating the 2nd Prize (\$50.00 cash) for the Christmas Light Contest; Brad Blum for donating turkeys for families in the community. Janelle Adams presented the City Clerks Monthly report stating we received the final report from our Periodic Exam in July from the Auditor of State. Ronnie Hults presented the Maintenance Department Monthly Report stating the panel work is done and all four aerators at the Lagoons are working properly. A motion was made to approve the consent items by Phillips/Kennedy. All Ayes, motion carried. Council's comments regarding shelving the library were discussed, and who would be in charge of installation. Also mention of state water testing for the Public Works Director, Ronnie Hults to be completed by guidelines set by the DNR. Motion to adjourn was made by Phillips/McMichael. All Ayes, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 6:37 p.m. A special budget meeting is planned for 1.29.26 at 6:00 p.m. and **the next regular City Council Meeting is set for 2.2.26.**

Bryan Arzani, Mayor

Attested: Janelle Adams, City Clerk



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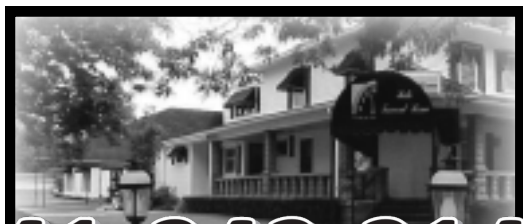
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## CHARLOTTE WICKETT



Charlotte Kay Wickett, a beloved wife, mother, grandmother, and friend, passed away peacefully at her home in rural New Virginia, Iowa, on December 22, 2025, at the age of 76. She was born on August 25, 1949, in Des Moines, Iowa.

Charlotte received her education in New Virginia, Iowa, graduating from Interstate-35 High School in 1967. Shortly thereafter, she was united in marriage to Douglas Dean Wickett on September 2, 1967, at the United Methodist Church in Indianola, Iowa and this union was blessed with two children, Sonya and Rhett. Charlotte was always a hard worker. She raised her children and after they were grown, she worked alongside her husband in their auction business, various other roles in the service industry, and she managed the family gas station, WOW Services Inc. in New Virginia until 2004. Charlotte enjoyed attending her grandchildren's sporting events, spending time with family and friends at the "40", antiquing, garage sales, refinishing furniture, reading, gardening, cutting wood, and working outdoors. In more recent years, she enjoyed sorting through storage units purchased by her son, Rhett. Charlotte was a member of the United Methodist Church in New Virginia, IA.

Charlotte was preceded in death by her husband, Douglas Dean Wickett; her parents Kenneth Sr. and Helen Ballard; brother Joe Ballard; her father and mother-in-law, Dean and Betty Wickett; nephews, Shawn Ballard and Kenny Dolan; brother-in-law, Jerry Boles; and sister-in-law, Patty Dolan.

She leaves behind her daughter, Sonya Ostling of West Des Moines, IA; her son, Rhett Wickett of New Virginia, IA; her grandchildren, Jessica Duggins, (fiancé Terry Wright) of Indianola, IA, Garrett (Jessica) Ostling of Buckeye, AZ, Dillion (Taylor) Wickett of New Virginia, IA, Dalton (Brittaney) Wickett of Indianola, IA, and Josie (Gracie) Wickett of New Virginia, IA; and great-grandchildren, Logan, Addison, Bristol, Braelynn and Walker. Charlotte is also survived by her siblings-brother Kenneth Jr. (Linda) Ballard, of St. Charles, IA; brother David (Linda) Ballard of New Virginia, IA; sister Cheryl Boles of New Virginia, IA; brother Steve Dolan of New Virginia, IA; and sister Norma (Geno) Cosner of Saint Charles, IA; Aunt Grace Reed of Van Meter - as well as many other relatives and friends.

A service to honor Charlotte's life was held at Kale Funeral Home in Osceola on Monday, December 29, 2025, at 1:00 pm, with Pastor Paul Burrow officiating. A live stream of the service will be available at [www.kalefuneralhome.com](http://www.kalefuneralhome.com) on Charlotte's tribute wall beginning at 1:00 pm, Monday. Interment followed in the New Virginia Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be directed to her family for a tribute to be decided later. Online condolences may be left for the family at [www.kalefuneralhome.com](http://www.kalefuneralhome.com)

Charlotte's spirit will remain in the hearts of all who knew her. Her memory will be cherished forever.



## GARY LEE RUDOLF



Gary Lee Rudolf was born on April 11, 1943 in Central City, Nebraska the son of Albert P. and Esther A. (Zlomke) Rudolf. He graduated from Palmer High School in Palmer Nebraska in 1961 and attended Northeast Community College in Norfolk, Nebraska. On June 27, 1965 he was united in marriage to Sandra Lea Smith. To this union two children were born, a son, Brad and daughter, Traci.

Gary began working for Chief Industries in 1968 in Grand Island, Nebraska and transferred with the company to Fort Dodge, Iowa in 1969. He then began working for Modern Farm Systems (MFS) starting in 1972 at Webster City, Iowa and eventually relocated to St. Marys, Iowa in 1977, working as a territory sales representative. He retired from MFS/Hutcheson Mayrath/Global Industries in 2014 at the age of 70. Gary also served in the Army National Guard in Nebraska and Iowa.

Gary had a passion for raising and riding horses his entire life. As a young boy, he enjoyed switching out the work horse teams at mid-day with his father or uncle Amel. Later in life he participated in rodeo calf roping events, qualifying for the IRCA finals several years. He also enjoyed following the Nebraska Cornhuskers and Iowa State Cyclones. He played baseball in his youth, but his greatest joy was attending his kids' and grandkids' activities. Gary and Sandy enjoyed traveling domestically and abroad. In August 2025, Gary and Sandy traveled to the Teton National Park in Wyoming with their children and grandchildren to celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary. It was a very special celebration.

Gary was a member of the St. Marys American Legion Post # 716, the Iowa Rodeo Cowboys Association, United States Calf Ropers Association, Iowa Rodeo Association and the American Quarter Horse Association.

Gary is survived by his wife of 60 years, Sandra Rudolf; son, Brad (Penny) Rudolf of St. Marys, IA; daughter, Traci Rudolf (Phil) Hanrahan of St. Marys, IA; four grandchildren, Cassandra Rudolf of Norwalk, IA, Ali (Anthony) Graham of Norwalk, IA, Brodey Hanrahan of St. Marys, IA and Grace Hanrahan of St. Marys, IA.; two great grandsons – Hudson and Hayden Graham; sisters-in-law Lavonne Rudolf and Loretta Rudolf; brothers-in-law Tom Williams and Gary (Kristy) Smith and several nieces and nephews.

Preceding him in death were his parents, Albert and Esther Rudolf; infant sister Shirley Rudolf; sister Aileen (Jack) Rawlings; brothers Ralph Rudolf and Wayne Rudolf; parents-in-law Eldon and Lola Smith; and sister-in-law Shirley Williams.

Gary passed away on Monday, January 5, 2026 in Des Moines, Iowa at the age of 82. The family greeted friends from 4 to 7 p.m. Thursday, January 8, 2026 at Overton Funeral Home in Indianola, Iowa. Funeral services were held at 10:30 a.m., on Monday, January 12, 2026 at the Zion United Methodist Church in Archer, Nebraska under the care of Peters Funeral Home. The family greeted friends prior to the service from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. at the church. Burial followed services in the Rose Hill Cemetery, Palmer, Nebraska.

Memorials for Gary may be directed to the family for a memorial to be decided at a later date. To sign an online condolence, visit our website at [www.overtonfunerals.com](http://www.overtonfunerals.com).





## DOYLE BRUCE ELLIS



Doyle Bruce Ellis, born on October 3, 1952, in Mt. Ayr, Iowa, passed away at his home in New Virginia on January 10, 2026, at the age of 73. He was a beloved husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, brother, and friend.

Doyle was educated in Cromwell and Afton before attending Creston High School in Creston, Iowa, from which he graduated in 1970. He pursued further education in drafting for a year, laying the foundation for a versatile career dedicated to mechanics.

On February 7, 1971, Doyle married Beverly Jean Miller in Cromwell, Iowa, and they would have celebrated 55 years of marriage next month. Their union was blessed with four children.

Doyle's professional journey began as a mechanic for Charles Gabus Ford. He later owned and operated his own repair shop in New Virginia for a brief time and then followed with tenures at Stivers Ford, Quality Ford and Noble Ford before concluding his career with five years of dedicated service as a vehicle maintenance technician at the United States Post Office, after which he retired in 2018.

In addition to his work, Doyle had a passion for cars, golf, and NASCAR. He was an enthusiastic traveler, with cherished memories from trips to the British Isles, Italy, Alaska, the Caribbean, Germany, and Hawaii. He participated in SOLO racing and attended numerous car shows, sharing his love for automobiles with others.

Doyle was an active member of his community and held memberships with the New Virginia Neophyte Lodge #301 A.F. & A.M., the New Virginia Volunteer Fire Department, the Crown Victoria Association, Clarke County Old Iron, and SOLO Time.

Doyle is preceded in death by his biological father, George O. Ellis; his daughter, Mandy Ellis; his brother, Bill Page; his mother, Lois Palmer; his father, Clifford Page; his step-father, Warren Palmer; step-siblings Wilma Bowen, Leonard Page, Marion Page, Marla Page; sister-in-law, Karen Ellis; and his parents-in-law, Nile and Doris Jean Miller.

He is survived by his devoted wife, Beverly Ellis; children, Misty (Bob) Rush, Michael (Lisa) Ellis, and Mindy (Mark) Manges; grandchildren, Jessica (Walker) Tollefson, Jacklynn (Cain) Rush-Lugar, Jordann (Zach) Scharff, Samantha (Paden) Toole, Sheldon (Jordan) Ellis, and Shelby (Aaron) Weddell and Lola Manges; great-grandchildren, Paizley Walderbach, Emmy, Elliott, and Lainey Tollefson, Legend and Riot Lugar, Evelyn Scharff, Masyn Long, Cadence Toole, Eleanor Ellis, and Braxton Weddell. He also leaves behind siblings, Jeanette Page, George Ellis, Jim Ellis, Rick (Billie) Ellis, and in-laws Sheila Miller, Lila (Joel) Johnson, Nila (Robbie) Clark, and Beth Guinn, as well as other relatives and many friends who will cherish his memory.

Services to honor Doyle's life were held at Kale Funeral Home in Osceola on Thursday, January 15, 2026, at 10:30 am, officiated by Mike Taylor. Family and friends were invited to visit on Wednesday, January 14, 2026, from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm, with Masonic services following at 7:00 pm. A live stream of the service will be available on Doyle's tribute wall at [www.kalefuneralhome.com](http://www.kalefuneralhome.com) beginning at 10:30 am, Thursday. Interment was at the New Virginia Cemetery.

Memorial contributions may be directed to his family, and online condolences can be shared at [www.kalefuneralhome.com](http://www.kalefuneralhome.com).

Doyle Bruce Ellis will be deeply missed by all who knew him. His legacy of love, dedication, and enthusiasm for life will continue to inspire those he leaves behind.

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## A MESSAGE FROM MR. GRANDON

### I-35 CSD SUPERINTENDENT

Dear Roadrunner Families,

As we begin second semester, I want to thank our students, staff, families, and community members for their continued commitment to Interstate 35 CSD. I enjoy this time of year because it provides an opportunity to reflect on our progress and consider what's next as we move through the second half of the school year together.

I also want to share that the Board of Education continues its work related to the superintendent search process. This work is being approached with intention to ensure a smooth transition and continued stability for our district. More information will be shared with the community as the process moves forward.

With the start of the Iowa legislative session, conversations around school funding and education policy are increasing in our community and on social media. As such, here's a reminder that school finance is complex and the district remains committed to providing accurate, transparent information to our community. This way you can use local context to evaluate larger statewide discussions. We appreciate the thoughtful engagement and support of our community as these topics unfold. If you have questions about school finance or other operational items, stop by our **Community Conversations event on Jan. 26th, from 5:00 p.m.-5:45 p.m.** to speak with school administrators and board members in an informal, open-house style event. **These events will be held before each monthly board meeting** so community members can offer ideas, gain insights and ask questions.

Go Roadrunners!

Chad Grandon, Superintendent

## REMINDER: NO SCHOOL ON FEB. 27 DUE TO TEACHER IN-SERVICE.

### WINTER ACTIVITIES - FEBRUARY

*Bold text indicates home event.*

#### HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL

- **2/3: Boys (JV & V) & Girls (JV & V) vs. Earlham**
  - **SENIOR NIGHT** after Boys JV Game (5:30 p.m. approximately)
  - **JV Boys Start: 4:30 p.m.; Varsity Boys Start: 7:30 p.m.**
  - **JV Girls Start: 4:00 p.m. (2 Quarters); Varsity Girls Start: 6:00 p.m.**
- 2/6: Boys (JV & V) & Girls (JV & V) @ Madrid
  - JV Boys Start: 5:00 p.m.; Varsity Boys Start: 7:15 p.m.
  - JV Girls Start: 4:00 p.m.; Varsity Girls Start: 6:00 p.m.
- 2/10: Boys (JV & V) & Girls (JV & V) @ Pleasantville
  - JV Boys Start: 4:45 p.m.; Varsity Boys Start: 7:30 p.m.
  - JV Girls Start: 4:00 p.m.; Varsity Girls Start: 6:00 p.m.
- **2/12: Boys JV & Varsity vs. Nodaway Valley**
  - **JV Game: 6:00 p.m. Start**
  - **Varsity Game: 7:15 p.m. Start**

*Note: Start times can vary after printing. Please check online calendar for the most current info. If there are weather concerns, timing updates are also posted to social media.*

#### HIGH SCHOOL WRESTLING

- 2/3: Boys Varsity Duals, @ TBA, 6:00 p.m.
- 2/5-2/6: Girls Wrestling State @ TBA, 10:00 a.m., Coralville Xtreme Arena
- 2/5: Boys Varsity Wrestling Duals Tournament @ TBA, 5:00 p.m.
- 2/7: Boys Varsity State Duals @ TBA; 12:00 p.m.
- 2/14: Boys Varsity Districts @ I-35; 10:00 a.m.
- 2/18-2/21: Boys Wrestling State, TBD time; Wells Fargo Arena

#### MIDDLE SCHOOL WRESTLING

- 2/5: Middle School Wrestling @ Creston Middle School, 4:15 PM

#### SPRING SPORTS START PRACTICE DATES

**HS Track & Field: 2/23, HS Golf: 3/16, MS Track & Field: 3/23**

Good luck to our golf and track & field student-athletes as they start their seasons!

#### INTENSE CAMP WEEK - MARCH 2-6, 2026 from 6:45-7:45 a.m.

Register by February 20, 2026 to be guaranteed a finisher T-shirt.

#### SAVE THE DATE: SPRING MUSICAL MARCH 27-28, 2026

Participants in the 7th-12th musical are already hard at work to prepare for the performances in March. Good luck!

2026-2027 INTERSTATE 35  
PRESCHOOL REGISTRATION

SAVE THE DATE:  
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2026!

SCAN FOR  
MORE DETAILS:



## ELEMENTARY NEWS:

### HELLO 2026, VOCABULARY GROWTH & MORE

Dear Roadrunner Families,

The new year is a great time to reflect on priorities and progress, and there is a lot to celebrate at Interstate 35 Elementary as we begin 2026. Our students have shown strong growth throughout the first half of the year! We all - students, staff and families - are working together to achieve new heights.

This school year, we identified shared goals to unite as a learning community. One of those goals centers on vocabulary development. With a target of 3,000 vocabulary words for the year, **students have already learned more than 1,400**. We recently celebrated our first major milestone and are excited to continue! Families can support this work at home by asking, "What vocabulary word did you learn today?" It has been wonderful to see students' confidence as they use and explain new words.

We have also spent the first half of the year introducing and exploring **The Roadrunner Way habits**. While these habits are new to many students and staff, they were piloted in upper elementary last year. Supporting habit development at home as a family can further reinforce and strengthen connections between school and home.

I am also pleased to **welcome Mr. Rob Banger** as our librarian aide and **Christy Rolfe** as a preschool aide. Looking ahead, we are hiring for counseling and art positions in elementary for next school year. We are excited for Mrs. Maiers to move into the secondary art role following Mrs. Haines' retirement. Congratulations Mrs. Maiers on your new role!

Thank you for your continued partnership and support. We look forward to a strong and meaningful second semester together.

The luckiest principal in the world,

**SCAN TO READ THE LATEST  
ELEMENTARY NEWSLETTER  
(JAN. 5-16, 2026).**

*Principal Woods*



## SECONDARY NEWS:

### WELCOME TO SECOND SEMESTER!

Dear I-35 Students and Families:

As we begin second semester, I want to welcome students back and thank our families and community for their continued support of Interstate 35 Schools. A new semester brings a renewed opportunity for growth, reflection, and setting goals. Our entire secondary team is excited to continue supporting students in, and beyond, the classroom.

At the secondary level, our work is **guided by core values** that help shape both learning and school culture. We emphasize **integrity** by encouraging students to act honestly and take responsibility for their actions. Through strong **communication**, we work to ensure students feel informed, heard, and involved. We also prioritize **kindness**, reminding students to extend grace to themselves and others and to treat people the way they want to be treated.

One structure that supports these values is our advisory period, which is built into the school day. **Advisory provides students with dedicated time to connect** with a trusted adult, **build important life skills**, and **receive additional academic support** when needed. Lessons focus on areas such as time management, communication, problem solving, teamwork, and personal well-being. Advisory also gives students space to check in with teachers, ask questions, and get extra help.

As we move through the second half of the year, we remain **committed to helping every Roadrunner** stay engaged, supported, and prepared for what comes next. Thank you for being a vital part of our school community.

All the best,

*Ab Buhl*





# more to share

Contributed by Susan Miller

What is the New Years Resolution for the New Virginia Garden Club? Ultimately we want to grow our club! Why is this important for our community? The New Virginia Garden Club, founded in 1932, is nearly 100 years old. The club is responsible for care and maintenance of Karen's Korner flower garden at Old Settlers Park and the garden area surrounding the New Virginia sign on the south edge of town. In more recent years, the club took on the responsibility of the Plant-Grow-Share community garden on the Methodist Church property. We believe these projects are worthy of our volunteerism. Could we do more within our community? With your help, yes!

Just as we make changes in our gardens to make them more productive, the club is open to change with the focus being to attract more gardeners. The next meeting will be February 12th at 6:30 pm at the GAMP building.

If you like gardening, learning and sharing of ideas within our community, please consider a membership with the New Virginia Garden Club. Dues are \$20 per year. We take pride in beautification of our community and providing healthy produce to our neighbors. All are welcome to join. You aren't required to be a gardening expert or to live in New Virginia or even Warren County.

Don't like bending over to grow vegetables? We don't either! The Plant Grow Share garden has raised beds. We also encourage you to Like and Follow the New Virginia Garden Club Facebook page, Being a New Virginia Garden Club member is rewarding and fulfilling. Help our community grow!

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## JESUS' RIGHT HAND

This is the time of looking back in reflection and a time of looking forward in anticipation what God has prepared for us this coming 2026. We would have never known the year that God had in store for us here at Jesus' Right Hand for 2025! It was a challenging year to say the least, not only for the ministry, but for all of us involved. It was a year of heartache and loss, personal health battles, government shutdowns which increased our numbers and small little battles which seemed to never end. We had great victories and life changing events, deepening faith and increasing spiritual strength. Through it all, God was so faithful to keep us and continue to bless us, and He never let us down. Sometimes it was a matter of looking at the glass as half-full, and other times it was just simply deep faith combined with a generous shedding of tears. We were simply amazed at His timing when our need was at its greatest, and our connection as a ministry family grew stronger, as did our faith in God's faithfulness to us.

Although the numbers have not yet been tallied, it felt like a record-setting year as far as people we have helped with food and other needs. God supplied that need through so many different individual donors, organizations and overall community support. The community came together to support the Scouts with their annual food drive, donating a total of 149 bags and boxes that came to the ministry to feed those in need. Hams for Christmas were donated by Beeler's just in time for the giveaway the following day. Extra meat, milk and eggs were provided by our retail and non-profit organizations so that our clients would have these much-needed items in their refrigerators and freezers, even during the 2025 egg crisis! You see, God isn't limited by egg prices, toilet paper shortages (remember the TP crisis of 2020?), or government shutdowns. In fact, I believe that His faithfulness shines the brightest in the darkest of circumstances. We have met the most incredible, generous and faithful people in this past year. Our volunteer staff has been growing because God has been working on the hearts of people to fill our staffing needs; the perfect abilities to fill the needs we have at just the right time!

We are so grateful to have your prayers, encouragement and support this past year. Oftentimes, people don't realize that the bag of groceries they bring in is an answer to someone's immediate need. They don't realize the toy or gift they drop into one of our Christmas boxes is the answer to a child's wish list. Countless times we have heard someone remark about how they needed a certain food item, only to find it during our Fresh Food Giveaway or in our emergency food pantry. Most of the time, it was an item we had just received within the past couple of days. This really reinforces our faith in God's timing and faithfulness. God doesn't rain the items down from the sky...He moves on the hearts and minds of His creation to supply the needs, and many times the results are miraculous! This past Christmas Giveaway was an example; we had donations of three bikes in different sizes, and we had three requests for bikes...in the exact size and styles that they needed! You can't make this stuff up!

God is so faithful, in so many ways, and it leaves us speechless at times. But we want to thank you all for being the vessel that God used this past year to make 2025 such a wonderful year for Jesus' Right Hand and for helping to supply the needs for the countless people who came to us for help. You have helped us love people right where they are, treat them with respect and bring them the Good News of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. That's what this is all about. Food is the tool God has provided to bring them through the doors. Jesus is the one who changes their lives for the better, who encourages them and helps them find a better life on this earth. For some, it may take a little longer; for others, the change is immediate and miraculous. Remember, everyone is deserving of God's love, because everyone is one of His creations. It doesn't matter whether we like or dislike them. Jesus died on the cross for everyone's sins, not just the select few that fit into society's opinion of deserving grace. In full transparency, there are some who come through our doors that are extremely difficult for us to be around. However, these are the people who need the most love and are usually the people who undergo the greatest transformation in their lives once they experience God's unconditional love.

Regardless of who we meet along the way, we will keep in our mind that we are ambassadors of God with a hurting, hungry world. Please be encouraged in all you do this 2026!

In His Love and Service,  
Jesus' Right Hand

SCRIBBLINGS FROM  SUE  
by Sue Stills

Ah! 2026, a New Year! What lies ahead for us, our families, our country and our world? Let us all work toward good health, peace and harmony, and love toward one another.

I am again involved in the Children's Theatre, one of the volunteer activities of the Sun Lakes Community Theatre. There is a cast of 20 people, and we will be going to 21 elementary schools in our area where we will perform Dr. Seuss' story "Horton Hatches the Egg." SLCT has been doing this for many years. I was involved in this for the first time last winter when we performed "Horton Hears a Who" at 28 schools. These two stories alternate from year to year. We meet at 8 a.m., load the large duffel bags of costumes and the props, then carpool to the school, unload, set up, put on our costumes and perform at 9 a.m. Our audiences are kindergarten and first grade children, and they are very enthusiastic about our performance. Our narrator, dressed as the Cat in the Hat, encourages the children to participate by saying "One hundred percent" every time that Horton says "I meant what I said and I said what I meant, an elephant's faithful one hundred percent." Hopefully, this is teaching the children to be true to their word and mean what they say.

The story involves a lazy bird, Mayzie, who convinces Horton the elephant to sit on her egg while she takes a vacation. After a while, Mayzie is seen playing on a beach with a few of the teachers from the classes in our audience. The kids really like seeing their teachers performing. Then a few of Horton's Friends (dressed as animals) walk around the children and proceed to laugh and make fun of Horton sitting in the tree (in a wagon). After that, three Hunters capture Horton in his wagon and plan to sell him to a circus. There is an interlude with a Clown and his tricks. Then Mayzie returns, the egg hatches, bringing forth a baby elephant bird, and all the cast returns to take their bows while the children clap. Then we all walk among the children, waving and "high-fiving." Our first performance was January 8th, and our last will be March 5th, performing two or three days a week. With such a large cast, not every person needs to go every day, since there are only 10 characters in the performance.

My role is that of a Friend, dressed as an animal. There are three Friends, and each one has one line to say. The available costumes are: lion, two monkeys, leopard, giraffe, tiger. I chose the leopard costume. Here is some information about leopards. The leopard (genus *Panthera pardus*) is the smallest of the five big cat species that also include lions, tigers, jaguars and snow leopards. Pound-for-pound, it is the strongest. The leopard is a slender and muscular cat, with relatively short limbs and a broad head. Its body length can be 36-72 inches with a 26-40-inch-long tail and a shoulder height of 24-28 inches. The leopard has pale yellowish to dark golden fur with dark spots grouped in rosettes. Leopards are adapted to a variety of habitats ranging from rainforest to steppe, including arid and mountainous areas. They are found in sub-Saharan Africa, NE Africa, Central Asia, India and China. The leopard is a solitary and territorial animal, with adults associating only in mating season. Females continue to interact with their offspring even after weaning. Leopards are opportunistic predators and rely on their spotted pattern for camouflage as they stalk and ambush their prey which they sometimes drag up a tree. They can climb trees skillfully, often resting on tree branches and descending headfirst onto prey. They can run at over 36 mph, leap over 20 feet horizontally, and jump up to 9.8 feet vertically. They rely on their acute senses of hearing and vision when hunting. In Africa, the leopard coexists with a number of other large predators including lions, cheetahs, spotted and brown hyenas and African wild dogs. It is dominant only over the cheetah while the others have the advantage of size, pack numbers or both. Leopards are listed as Vulnerable on the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List which estimates a species' risk of extinction. Leopard populations are currently threatened by habitat loss and are declining worldwide. A noble animal, the leopard represents strength and power, stealth and patience, independence and self-reliance. Wikipedia.com  
Be safe and enjoy the winter.



# ROAD TRIPPING

Contributed by Terry Garner

## Breakfast in Winterset, Flower Fever, a Small-Town Grocery Store, a Stop at a Quilt Shop, And a Shave And a Haircut

During one of my online searches, a small-town grocery store called Baker's Pantry popped up. It's located in Dallas Center, a town I don't think I'd ever been to before, just north of Adel. I'd been wanting to check it out for some time, and with deer season and the holidays behind us, I finally had the time. Rollie needed a haircut, and since he likes to frequent the Northside Barbershop in Winterset, off we went last week—just doing a little driving and crossing a few things off our list.

We started the day with breakfast at Montross's in Winterset. They serve breakfast and lunch at an old-time lunch counter and soda fountain. My grandparents used to take us there back in the day—about 60 years ago. Yes, time flies! They cook your food on a small griddle right in front of you. You can sit at the lunch counter on stools or at tables in the back. The food is really good, and it's the cheapest place around to get breakfast. They offer a few numbered specials along with a short menu. I like omelets, and they make a good one. Our breakfast cost \$14 and some change—with coffee. They also make a mean cheeseburger basket if you're there around lunchtime. Check them out.

After waddling out of Montross's, we headed northwest out of town toward the Hogback Covered Bridge area and eventually found the Allendan Seed Company. They specialize in native prairie grass and wildflower seeds. While they don't offer a hands-on shopping experience right there in the office, I did pick up a catalog to take home and start my wish list. Dan and Sonia Allen started the company in the 1980s, and it's still family-owned and operated, with all four of their children involved in the business. Check out their website—you can order directly from them.

After leaving Allendan Seed Company, we headed north on Highway 169 toward Dallas Center. What a beautiful drive. All those new homes are sure fine to look at, but I do miss just having wide open country to run my eyes over. Oh well—times are changing. Still, it's a pretty drive.

We found Baker's Pantry on the main drag in Dallas Center. It's a small place, but they have a great selection of bulk food items and spices, along with large 50-pound bags of flour and sugar. There's a seating area, and they serve breakfast items, deli sandwiches, and all the coffee fixings. I ordered a BLT, and I can honestly say I don't think I've ever had a better one. The bacon was paper-thin and just the right amount of crispy, and they didn't skimp on the mayo! Rollie had a deli sandwich—who knows what all he put on that thing—but it was made to order, and he said it was good. What a quaint little place. We will definitely be back.

Once again, we waddled our way out and started to leave town when I suddenly remembered a quilt shop that had been closed the day my quilt buddy and I were out searching for places to squander our kids' inheritance. After much yelling and hand-waving, Rollie got the car turned around, and we found Mashe Modern, the quilt shop in Dallas Center. It's a great little place. I bought a new pattern to add to my collection of old (dusty) patterns and picked up some batting I needed. After a nice visit with one of the employees, we were on our way again.

Back in Winterset, Rollie got his hair cut at the Northside Barber Shop, located at 1221 E. Buchanan Street. It's owned by Lindsie Hutton from New Virginia, and he enjoys going there.

You just drop in and get your hair cut whenever—kind of like when Spike was in town.

Since no food was offered with the haircut, we headed for home. If Lindsie served food, we'd probably still be there...



## Upcoming Fair Events:

### Warren County Fair

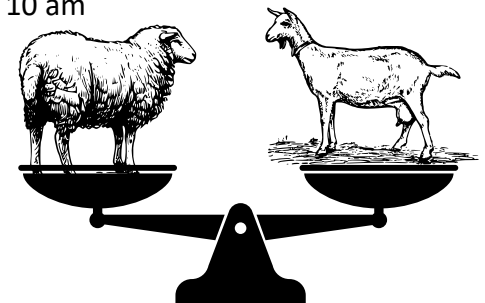
- Scholarship applications are due March 1st.

### Clarke County Fair

- Clarke County Youth Committee 4-H Scholarship applications are due February 27<sup>th</sup> for Clarke County Seniors

### Madison County Fair

- February 1st- Deadline to ID market beef (4-H & FFA)
- March 28th - Swine Weigh-Ins, 8-10 am
- May 2nd - Sheep & Goat Weigh-Ins, 8-10 am





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the Month, 7 pm

Community Breakfast: 2nd  
Saturday of the Month,  
7 - 10 am,  
Take-out available

Hall Rental: Contact Roger  
Kitner 515-230-8494



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# From the Kitchen of.....

Kerry Johnson sends in this recipe he found in an old magazine. He says "While it's somewhat different, it was surprisingly very good!"

## Crown O' Gold Meat Loaf

### The Meat Loaf

1.5 cups fine soft bread crumbs — 2 T. French's Minced Onion  
1.5 pounds ground lean chuck beef 1/3 cup ketchup  
4 egg yolks

1.5 t. salt  
2 T. French's Mustard  
1.5 T. prepared horseradish  
3 T. finely diced green pepper

### The Topping

4 egg whites  
¼ t. French's Cream Tartar  
4 T. French's Mustard

Splash  
some vinegar in  
your canner along with the  
water and you won't have  
that limey build-up or  
that stinky smell!

T.G.

Mix bread crumbs with meat. Combine remaining ingredients. Blend into meat-bread mixture. Pack lightly into a 9-inch casserole and bake in a moderate oven (325 degrees) 30 minutes. To make topping: beat egg whites until foamy; add cream tartar; beat until very stiff. Fold in mustard gently. Swirl on hot meat; return to oven; bake 20 to 25 minutes longer or until tipped with brown. Makes 6 to 8 servings.

The magazine article had this to say:

Friendly warning: Because French's Mustard is made with rare spices, specially grown mustard seeds and finest vinegar, it has a special flavor, texture and color all its own. Don't expect the best results from this recipe with any other mustard.

### Mirepoix:

pronounced meer-PWAA

A mixture of diced vegetables, usually onions, carrots and celery, that is cooked in butter, and used as a base for soups. The ratio is 2:1:1, two parts onion, one part carrot, and one part celery. There's your French lesson for the day!

## PLEASE PASS THE POTATOES!

### Easy Baked Potatoes

Wash a bunch of potatoes suitable for baking and put in a large cake pan. It's okay to heap them up. Then cover the whole thing with aluminum foil and bake at 450 degrees (yes, 450) for 1 hour.

Cut the oven off and leave the pan in there for awhile, maybe another hour or so. Take out and remove foil. Let the potatoes finish cooling, then store in a ziploc bag or other container in the refrigerator. You can use these to make potato salad (skins and all), slice and fry for fried potatoes, pop them in the microwave for baked potatoes or cut them up and add to a soup recipe. I especially like having these on hand in the summertime. I've even baked them in the smoker outside when it's too hot to run the oven in the house.

T.G.



### A TIP FROM THE BORINTRAGER GALS.

Save those big gallon jugs you buy mayonnaise and Ranch dressing in and use them for brining meat. You won't need as much brine as you would in a bigger container, and you can shake it around to move the meat since it has a lid on it.

## Another Biscuit Recipe



2 cups self-rising flour  
heavy whipping cream

Add enough whipping cream to your flour to make a nice dough, not too wet, not too dry. Turn out onto a lightly floured sheet pan and pat it out flat, about ½ to ¾ inch high. Take a spatula or scraper and score deeply into squares. (think tic-tac-toe) Bake at 400 degrees for 20 minutes or until lightly browned. You can also use a cookie cutter to make round biscuits if you prefer.

## Brine Recipe

½ gallon plus 1 cup water  
¼ cup rounded brown sugar  
¼ T. black pepper  
¼ t. red pepper

1 ½ T. liquid smoke  
⅓ cup salt  
½ T. soda  
1 ½ T. vinegar



Mix ingredients together, then drop your chicken pieces into the brine and refrigerate for 1-3 days, turning pieces occasionally to make sure all sides are covered. Drain, then grill. The only way to grill chicken!

from Verna, Velma and Rosa Borntrager

### Welcome to Our New Kitchen Page!

Do you have a kitchen question or a cooking tip you'd love to share with our readers? Maybe you have a favorite recipe or a clever technique that makes meal prep easier and more enjoyable.

We'd love to hear from you!

Email us at [tricorn@newvirginia.com](mailto:tricorn@newvirginia.com) to share your favorite recipes, cooking tips, and tricks for spending quality time in the kitchen.

Have a question? Send it our way — your topic might be featured in an upcoming article!

# Church Directory

## **Assumption Shrine, Churchville (Formerly Church of the Assumption)**

2841 South Street,  
Churchville, IA

Business Office:

c/o St. John the Apostle Church

720 Orchard Hills Drive,  
Norwalk, IA 50211

Fr. Daniel Kirby

Mass Monday evenings at 5:30 p.m.

(During Lent.)

Mass : First Sunday of the month at 10:30 a.m.

(Rosary at 10:10 a.m.)

## **St. Patrick's Irish Settlement**

3396 155th St., Cumming, IA 50061

Fr. Thomas Dooley 515-462-1083

Mass: Sunday 8 am

Religious Ed: Ginny Darr, ginginery@aol.com

or call 515-707-9243

## **Martensdale Community Church**

(An Evangelical Free Church)

3953 Hoover St. PO Box 200

Martensdale, IA 50160

1 mile north of Martensdale on Hwy 28

Pastor: Jeremy Kidder

641-764-2491

Associate Pastor: Daniel Moore

Sunday Worship 9:00 am

Bible Study: 10:30 am

Sr. High Youth 6 pm Sunday

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

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

www.mcc-church.com

## **Fairview Community Church**

19705 Hwy 69 Indianola, IA 50125

515-961-6069

Pastor Gearold McElwee

Cell 515-669-5519

Sunday School: 9:30 am

Sun. Morning Worship 10:30 am

Sun. Evening Worship 5:30 pm

Cubi Club & Twenty/20 - 5:30 pm

Adult Endeavor - 6:00 pm

Wed. Bible Study & Youth Classes 7 pm

## **Grace Baptist Church**

304 Knotts Street

New Virginia, IA 50210

Pastor Michael Mattson

www.gbcnv.org

Sunday Worship: 10:30 am

Thursday Evening:

Bible Study 6:30 pm

## **St. Charles Parish**

305 W. Main St., PO Box 208

St. Charles, IA 50240

Pastor: Darin Feikema

641-396-2441

www.saintcharlesparish.org

Sunday School 9 am

Worship Service 9:45 am

Fellowship Time: 11 am

## **Truro United Church of Christ**

155 E. Garfield St., P.O. Box 17

Truro, IA 50257

Contact: Riley Dykstra, Student Pastor

Cell: 515-865-9392

Church: 641-765-4524

Email: truroucccchurch@gmail.com

Worship 10:00 am

Coffee & Fellowship: 11:00 am

## **Immaculate Conception**

101 St. James St., PO Box 88

St. Marys, IA 50241

Fr. George BoachieNyarko

515 210-2490 (Emerg. only)

gnyarko@dmdioocese.org

Mass: Sunday 10:00 a.m.

Sarah Gehringer (Office Manager)

641-297-2359

immacula@myomnitel.com

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

Religious Ed - Sunday morning

following Mass

Michelle Fick (Director) 641-297-2259

## **Calvary Baptist Church**

109 N. Hartman St. Charles, IA 50240

641-396-2234

Pastor Doug Helton 641-396-2747

Sunday School - 9:30 AM

Worship - 10:30 AM

Wed. Prayer, Adult Bible Study - 6:30 PM

## **Faith Fellowship Church**

164 Highway 152,

Osceola, IA 50213

641-342-6603

Pastor: Scott Davis

Youth Pastor: Tyler Murrow

oefc@iowatelecom.net

Sunday School 9:00 am

Worship: 10:00 am

## **New Virginia Christian Church**

(Disciples of Christ)

604 Main Street. / Box 112

New Virginia, IA 50210

Pastor: Darin Feikema

515-250-5116

Sunday Worship: 11 AM

## **New Virginia United Methodist Church**

301 West Street / Box 301

New Virginia, IA 50210

641-449-3779

Pastor Paul Burrow

515-402-1802

Pastor's email: burrowpi@yahoo.com

Church email: NewVA-Medora@outlook.com

Sunday Worship: 10:30 AM

Fellowship following Worship Service

Quilters Tuesday 1-4 PM

Necessities Pantry open 2nd Wednesday

10-11 AM & 6:00-7:00 PM

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New Virginia United Methodist Church

## **Medora United Methodist Church**

10804 Hwy G-76 / Box 301

New Virginia, IA 50210

641-449-3779

Pastor Paul Burrow

515-402-1802

Pastor's email: burrowpi@yahoo.com

Church email: NewVA-Medora@outlook.com

Sunday School: 9:15 AM (children)

Worship: 9 AM

Quilters: 1:00 P.M. Thursday

## **Church of Christ**

10985 44th Lane Prole, IA 50229

Sunday Worship: 10 AM

Wednesday Worship: 7 PM

Elder: Duane Proudfit 515-537-9142

Elder: Mike Penick 515-989-4165

Deacon: Dave Henderson 515-250-5760

Deacon: Richard Bown: 515-681-0491

## **Linn Grove United Methodist Church**

7483 50th Ave

(4 miles north of Martensdale)

(1 block east of Hwy 28)

Prole, IA 50229

Pastor: Bernie Colorado

515-981-4062

Sunday Breakfast: 8 - 9:30 AM

(free will offering)

Traditional & Children Sunday Worship 10 AM

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

Pastor's email: bernieco2003@yahoo.com

## **St. Paul Lutheran**

## **(Evangelical Lutheran Church in America)**

ELCA

615 Iowa Ave / P.O. Box 290

Martensdale, IA 50160

641-764-2752

office@mystpaullutheran.com

Worship: 10:00 AM

## **LifePoint Church**

801 N. Fillmore St.

Osceola, IA 50213

641-342-2334

Pastor Chuck DeVos

www.lifepointministries.net

info@lifepointministries.net

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

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

## **Peru United Methodist Church**

301 Brown St.,

Peru, IA 50222

Pastor Sharman Eaton

Social Time @ 8:30 am

Coffee and Snacks

Worship 9:00 am