CITY OF NEW VIRGINIA IOWA
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NEW VIRGINIA, IA 50210

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TRI-CORNER-EXPRESS

OCTOBER

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Ghost Light Days Celebrates 40 Years of Small-Town Memories

Contributed by Katie Naert



ST. MARYS — Nothin' but a good time was had in St. Marys on Saturday, Sept. 26, as the community came together for the 40 th anniversary of Ghost Light Days.

With a nod to the 1980s, the theme for this year's celebration was "Nothin' But a Good Time," bringing plenty of nostalgia, fun and hometown spirit to the streets of St. Marys.

Ghost Light Days began in 1986 and was recently revived three years ago by a group of dedicated volunteers who wanted to bring back the special celebration they remembered from their own childhoods. Their goal was simple: to create those same core memories for their own children — and for the children of St. Marys and the surrounding communities today.

Even September's rainy stretch of weather wasn't going to stop Ghost Light Days. The event went on rain or shine, and fortunately, the rain moved through during the night and morning, clearing just in time for the 10 a.m. parade. It seemed like St. Marys had a little help from above.

The celebration featured several new additions this year, including "Ghost Light Days, Est. 1986" mugs, ghost and lantern lights adorning the town's light poles, and new signage throughout the community. A large Ghost Light Days banner stretched across the street, providing a nostalgic throwback to the celebrations of the 1980s.

The day began with a parade filled with floats celebrating the "Nothin' But a Good Time" theme and other 1980s nostalgia. MSTM's marching band and several St. Marys Fire Department trucks joined the parade before the crowd gathered for the National Anthem, performed by Jeremy Donohue, followed by the presentation of the Grand Marshals.



This year's Grand Marshals were especially meaningful. Patty Gavin and Kathleen Lippold, the two women who started Ghost Light Days 40 years ago, were honored for creating a legacy that has helped bring the St. Marys community together for four decades.

There was no shortage of activities throughout the day. West Homestead's Healing Herd was set up at Northside Tavern, where children could enjoy baby goat snuggles while the Tavern served drinks throughout the day. The St. Marys Fire Station hosted an open house complete with ice cream and fire truck tours.

Eleven food and drink vendors offered a variety of options, while longtime favorites such as the tricycle races and minnow races once again brought plenty of excitement. Kids squealed with delight as they dropped their minnows into the racing tubes and waited to see whose would reach the finish line first.

Face painting and Kids' Corner kept children entertained for hours with games and an impressive assortment of prizes. Bingo, Chicken Poop Bingo and the Car & Truck Show continued throughout the afternoon. A new game, Baton Drop, challenged participants to rely on their reflexes to catch a falling baton, while the Dunk Tank gave attendees the opportunity to send some of their favorite local personalities for an afternoon swim.



The Pie Baking Contest featured some delicious entries, with Lesa Dembinski taking first place with her Caramel Peach pie, Taylor Walker earning second place with Salted Caramel Apple, and Evie Rahm taking third with Snicker Apple. The always-popular Lip Sync Contest was also a hit, particularly with the younger crowd.

Later in the afternoon, Maria Gehringer shared the story and legend of the St. Marys Ghost, keeping alive one of the traditions that makes the celebration unique.

At the water tower, American Legion Post 716 held a flag retirement ceremony led by Tim Cochran, Ceremony Officer in Charge. The ceremony provided a respectful opportunity to properly retire worn and tattered American flags.

The afternoon continued with the Nail Driving Competition, featuring men's and women's divisions and prizes generously donated by Cindy Funderberg Seaba. Tina Minor, Jodi Broadbent and Emily Pins placed first, second and third, respectively, in the women's division. In the men's division, Joe Daniel took first, followed by Evan Hohenadel in second and Luke Klages in third.

As evening arrived, the celebration shifted into high gear with the street dance beginning at 7:30 p.m. Line dancing to the "Electric Slide" provided another perfect 1980s touch, and the dancing continued until 11 p.m.

Throughout the day, celebration-goers could also search St. Marys for ghost rocks hidden throughout town — another fun way to explore the community and join in the festivities.

After 40 years, Ghost Light Days continues to prove what makes small towns special. It is more than a parade, contests, food or dancing. It is generations coming together, neighbors volunteering, old traditions being remembered and new memories being made. In St. Marys, the best celebrations aren't just about looking back — they're about making sure the next generation has something worth remembering, too.

Thank you to the Ghost Light Days Committee for making the 40 year anniversary extra special!

Check out more photos from GLD on page 15!



Justin Strange
Mayor
mayor@newvirginia.com

CITY OF NEW VIRGINIA

Jennifer Baughman
City Clerk
641-449-3492
cityclerk@newvirginia.com

Council Meeting Minutes
October 5 th , 2026

The Council met in regular session on Monday October 5th, 2026, for the October council meeting. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Strange at 7:02 p.m. with Council Members Bailey, Chandler, and Dunkin present. Absent Galivan and Truman. Minutes from the September meeting were approved.

Old Business: Bailey presented the Council with a price quote of $2078.00 for replacing the 2-inch copper pipe in the fire station bay area. The price quote includes the pex pipe and fittings. Dunkin moved, seconded by Chandler to approve the $2078.00 price quote for replacing the 2-inch copper pipe with 2 -inch pex in the fire station bay area. A roll call vote was taken: 3 ayes, 0 ayes. Motion carried.

Most pot holes in city streets were filled over the past weekend.

Trees hanging over the roadway on Knotts Street have been trimmed.

Weeds and grass have been pulled from the playground equipment area in Lions Park.

Citizen Input: Steve Voltmer was present and gave an update on the walking/biking trail. A recent trail summit in Ames was attended with a lot of good information obtained.

Fire Department Business: A three-year service agreement from MacQueen for air packs and face masks was reviewed: pricing per air pack - $70.00; pricing per face piece - $10.00. Bailey moved, seconded by Chandler to approve the three-year agreement with Macqueen for servicing air packs and face masks. A roll call vote was taken: 3 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.

Water Utilities discussed: The September water report was reviewed. August water usage was 720,000 gallons averaging 23,000 gallons per day. Testing is in compliance with Iowa DNR permit requirements.

Law Enforcement: The Sheriff's Report from the month of September was reviewed. Officers received or initiated 14 calls for service during the month. Officers spent more than 33 hours in the City of New Virginia in September. Officers patrolled in excess of 113 miles within the city limits for the month.

-Mayor Strange gave an update on the proposed Lions Hall Building renovation. The application for the asbestos mitigation process is being worked on and will be submitted by October 9th, 2026.

-Dunkin moved, seconded by Bailey to pass and approve Resolution No. 2026-17 – A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF PUBLIC WAYS OR GROUNDS WITHIN THE CITY OF NEW VIRGINIA, IOWA. A roll call vote was taken: 3 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.

-Bailey moved, seconded by Chandler to pass and approve Resolution No. 2026-18 – A RESOLUTION ADOPTING AND IMPLEMENTING THE UPDATE OF A COMPREHENSIVE SOLID WASTE REDUCTION PLAN PREPARED BY HLW ENGINEERING GROUP. A roll call vote was taken: 3 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.

-Chandler moved, seconded by Bailey to approve Resolution No. 2026-19 – A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE NEW VIRGINIA STREET FINANCIAL REPORT FROM JULY 1, 2025 TO JUNE 30, 2026. A roll call vote was taken: 3 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.

GAMP UPDATE

Routine cleaning of the GAMP Community Building has resumed. Payment of $50.00 will be made to Mary Huss for her work done in September.

The urinal in the men's bathroom is out of order. Bailey assessed the problem and found an issue with the valve. Repairing the existing valve would cost approximately $60, but the current valve is uncommon, and parts are not readily available. Bailey suggested replacing the valve with a Zurn or Sloan valve would be a better long-term solution as these are common and parts are easily accessible. The council asked Bailey to obtain a price for a Zurn and Sloan valve for consideration.

It was discussed to purchase asphalt millings instead of gravel for GAMP parking. Mayor Strange will make some phone calls regarding asphalt millings.

KEEP IOWA BEAUTIFUL/HOMETOWN PRIDE UPDATE

The End of Summer Social was held September 20th and had to be moved from Hickory Hills to the New Virginia Legion because of rainy weather. Several people attended the event.

The committee is also looking for more members. If interested in joining, people are encouraged to attend the monthly meeting on the first Tuesday of the month at the library at 6:00 p.m.

ELF CLUB

No new information to present to the Council. Coming up with dates and times for checking Christmas lights will be worked on.

TRI-CORNER-EXPRESS

Fund balance $17,895.04. The Tri-Corner-Express Committee requested that the City Council provide written input regarding opinion pieces submitted by citizens for publication in the newspaper. These submissions may express opinions in favor of or opposed to a particular issue. However, as a city government-owned paper, the Tri-Corner-Express must maintain neutrality and ensure that published content remains impartial.

The Tri-Corner-Express Committee also inquired about the Council's position on including inserts from outside sources in the newspaper. The Committee noted that it does not have the resources to accommodate this request and expressed concerns regarding its ability to do so, as such inserts would be subject to the same consideration of neutrality and impartiality as opinion articles submitted for publication.

-There has been no information obtained regarding conex storage boxes.

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

-With no further business to come forth, Chandler moved, seconded by Dunkin to adjourn meeting. A roll call vote was taken: 3 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

The November council meeting is scheduled for Monday November 2nd, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. **November meeting date – Monday November 2nd, 2026, at 7:00 p.m.**

Jennifer Baughman

Jennifer Baughman, City Clerk

KEEP IOWA BEAUTIFUL
KEEP AMERICA BEAUTIFUL AFFILIATE

Interested in joining
New Virginia Hometown Pride?
Contact nvhp50210@gmail.com

Recycle
Oct 29
Nov 12
Nov 27

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.

NEW VIRGINIA OCTOBER CLAIMS REPORT

VENDOR	REFERENCE	AMOUNT	CHECK #	CHECK DATE
ALLIANT ENERGY	ELECTRIC/GAS/STREET LIGHTS	$966.58	16313	10/3/2026
AT&T FIRSTNET	PHONE SERVICE	$54.31	16351	10/8/2026
BRENT BAUGHMAN	MILEAGE	$182.15	16331	10/6/2026
ELAN FINANCIAL SERVICES	TECHNOLOGY GOOGLE SUITE	$92.40	16315	10/3/2026
CENTRAL IOWA PEST CONTROL	PEST CONTROL	$75.00	16332	10/6/2026
IA MUNICIPAL WORKERS COMPENSAT	WORKERS COMP INSURANCE	$1,303.00	16335	10/6/2026
IMAGETRED INC	LICENSE SUPPORT FEE	$782.26	16337	10/6/2026
IOWA PUBLIC RETIREMENT SYSTEM	IPERS	$581.32	16327184	10/3/2026
INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE	FED/FICA TAX	$961.57	16327185	10/3/2026
J&L SANITATION	GARBAGE SERVICE - CITY	$62.00	16338	10/6/2026
JOSEY GALIVAN	OTHER CONT SERVICE DISASTER MI	$87.50	16339	10/6/2026
JUSTIN STRANGE	OPERATING SUPPLIES KEYS LIONS	$23.96	16340	10/6/2026
MARY HUSS	GAMP CLEANING	$50.00	16341	10/6/2026
MID-IA PLANNING ALLIANCE FOR C	MEMBERSHIP DUES	$75.00	16343	10/6/2026
ONE BILLING SOLUTIONS LLC	AMBULANCE BILLING	$250.53	16352	10/8/2026
R& R MOWING SERVICE	MOWING CITY AREAS	$1,300.00	16345	10/6/2026
MACQUEEN EQUIPMENT LLC	OPERATIONAL EQUIP SCBA FLOW TE	$745.00	16346	10/6/2026
SARAH HOOVER	RETURN DEPOSIT	$125.00	16355	10/8/2026
STRANGE SPECIALTY TIRE & AUTO	TRK/TRCTR PULL EXPENSE PACKER	$342.00	16347	10/6/2026
WASTE MANAGEMENT	RECYCLING	$1,310.70	16353	10/8/2026
WEX FLEET UNIVERSAL	VEHCILE FUEL	$449.26	16349	10/6/2026
WIEGERT DISPOSAL INC	PORTA POTTIES CLEANING	$279.00	16350	10/6/2026
WINDSTREAM	TELEPHONE/INTERNET	$591.72	16354	10/8/2026
	General Total	$10,690.26		
ALLIANT ENERGY	ELECTRIC/GAS/STREET LIGHTS	$1,318.81	16313	10/3/2026
INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE	FED/FICA TAX	$9.12	16327185	10/3/2026
JOSEY GALIVAN	STREET MAINTENACE - POTHOLES	$450.00	16339	10/6/2026
	Road Use Total	$1,777.93		
AT&T FIRSTNET	PHONE SERVICE	$24.29	16351	10/8/2026
NEXT METERS	DATA & SOFTWARE HOSTING	$100.00	16333	10/6/2026
HUSTON'S LAWN/SNOW REMOVAL	TESTING - WATER	$100.00	16334	10/6/2026
IOWA DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE	WET TAX SEPTEMBER 2026	$532.20	16327190	9/29/2026
IA ONE CALL	METER LOCATES - IOWA ONE CALLS	$22.50	16336	10/6/2026
IOWA PUBLIC RETIREMENT SYSTEM	IPERS	$382.54	16327184	10/3/2026
INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE	FED/FICA TAX	$517.38	16327185	10/3/2026
MICROBAC LABORATORIES INC	WATER TESTING	$19.50	16342	10/6/2026
PROFESSIONAL OPERATIONS MANAGE	OTHER CONTR SERV WATER	$1,113.00	16344	10/6/2026
WARREN WATER DISTRICT	WATER USAGE/LOAN PAYMENT	$4,424.25	16348	10/6/2026
	Water Utilites	$7,235.66		
	General	$4,429.67		
	Water Utilities	$1,952.19		
	Total Payroll Paid	$6,381.86		
	***** REPORT TOTAL *****	$26,085.71		

FFA UPDATE

The I-35 FFA Alumni & Supporters met on Wednesday, October 7th at the St. Charles Lions Hall. The I-35 FFA Alumni & Supporters Chapter is currently accepting Annual Sponsorships, funds are used to support the I-35 FFA Chapter and its members throughout the year. More information can be found on the I-35 FFA Alumni & Supporters Chapter Facebook page. If you are interested in more information about the Alumni & Supporters Chapter or would like to be added to our e-mail distribution list, please e-mail i35ffaalumni@gmail.com. Our next quarterly meeting is scheduled for 7:00 pm on Wednesday, January 6, 2027 at the St. Charles Lions hall. Everyone is welcome to attend!

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Thank you for supporting the Tri-Corner-Express
and keeping local news alive in our communities.
Merry Christmas!

Public Notice

All New Virginia 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.

City of New Virginia	
Sep 2026	Deposits
General	$36,927.83
GAMP	$888.74
Fire/Amb	$6,957.13
Elf Club	$0.00
Road Use	$4,400.43
LOST	$7,881.50
Debit Service	$12.75
Water Utilities	$8,941.81
Grand Total	$66,010.19

Scarecrow Contest Winner



Mystie Carrington of New Virginia is New Virginia's first Master Straw Artist. Mystie with her scarecrow, Autumn. Well done, Mystie!



Why did the scarecrow win an award? Because he was outstanding in his field! Outstanding. Get it?



New Virginia Public Library

www.newvirginia.lib.ia.us



Please scan the QR code to fill out the New Virginia Library Survey. Help us help our library!

Library Hours:

Tues: 4 - 8 pm
Wed: 9 - 11 am/ 1 - 8 pm
Thurs: 4 - 8 pm
Fri: Closed
Sat: 9 am - noon
Sun & Mon: Closed



New Virginia Old Settlers

Trunk or Treat
Saturday,
October 31, 2026
5:30 - 7:30 pm

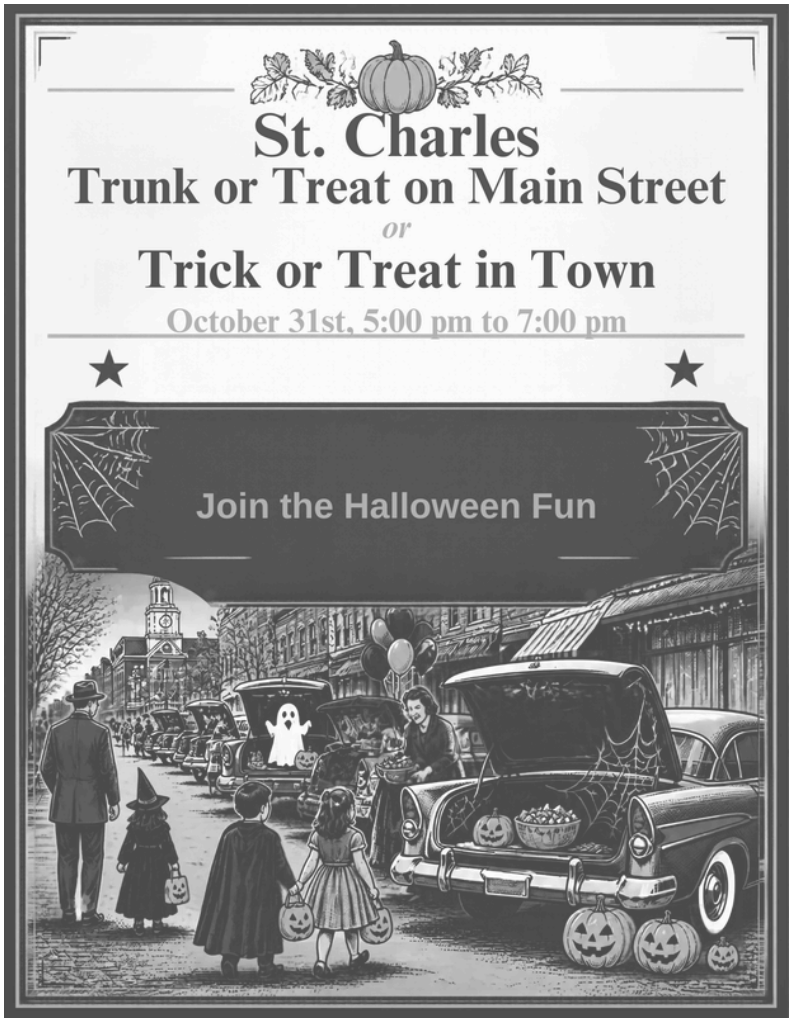


Free Will Donation Supper
Saturday, Oct. 31, 2026, 5-8 pm
New Virginia Fire Station
SOUPS, Hot dogs, chili dogs,
Drinks and Dessert

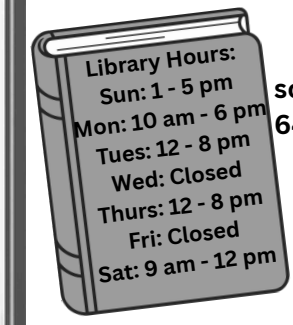
Carryout Available

In case of bad weather, we will move the trunk or treat sponsors to the New Virginia Fire Station also.
Questions, call or text
515-210-8847





St. Charles Public Library
113 S Lumber Street



scplibrary@myomnitel.com
641-396-2945

CONTACT INFO
Tracy Kozak
St. Charles City Clerk
641-396-2545
clerk@stcharlesia.us
Mayor: Brian Fitch







Residents may drop off items including:

- Household cleaners and aerosol paint
- Ammonia-based cleaners
- Antifreeze
- Batteries (rechargeable and household)
- Fertilizers and lawn chemicals
- Fluorescent and LED light bulbs
- Gasoline, kerosene, and motor oil
- Oil and lead-based paint, stains, and varnishes
- Metal polishes and rust removers
- Mercury-containing thermometers and thermostats
- Pesticides and petroleum-based adhesives
- Sharps or needles (must be contained)

Items Not Accepted:
Ammunition, asbestos, electronics, explosives, fire extinguishers, latex paint, medications, propane tanks or cylinders, and radioactive materials are not accepted.



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CONTACT INFO
Janelle Adams
Truro City Clerk
641-765-4586
trurocityclerk@gmail.com
Mayor: Bryan Arzani

Truro City Council Minutes
October 5, 2026
Community Center

Mayor Pro Tem Lyndsay Cannoy presided over and called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Ancel Kennedy, Jason Phillips, Julie McMichael were present, and Matt Masters and Mayor Bryan Arzani were absent. Fire Chief Terry Stills, Public Works Director Ronnie Hults, and Superintendent Dr. Gossen were also present. Bruce and Kathy Simmons, and Joe Sciarrotta from the public were present to speak. Cannoy asked for a motion to approve the Agenda. Motion to approve the agenda by Phillips/McMichael. All Ayes, motion carried. Public input from Bruce and Kathy Simmons voiced concerns about the School Bond as well as concerns for Truro to attract business and growth. Joe Sciarrotta from the Truro Area Boosters stated they are planning a possible Bingo and Poker Tournament on January 30, 2027. He also stated that for a time with Santa tentatively on December 19th with more details to come. Joe also asked Austin Sciarrotta to update the council on a possible "new" ambulance that will be available to purchase to replace the one we currently have. Fire Chief Terry Stills presented the Fire & Rescue Report with 1 fire call and 9 EMS calls. He also stated that the Harvest Fest was successful and the Side by Side (from Big Rack to Big Rack) will be held on November 7, 2026. The Council acknowledged the Sheriff's Report and the Emergency Management Director's Report. Public Works Director Hults presented the Water/Wastewater Report. Superintendent Dr. Gossen Ed.D. gave an update on the Bond Issue and also stated that I-35 is creating policies and procedures specifically on proactive maintenance of the building/grounds. A motion to open the Public Hearing for the Amendment of the Current Budget was motioned by Kennedy/Phillips. All Ayes, motion carried. A motion to close the Public Hearing for the Amendment of the Current Budget was motioned by McMichael/Kennedy. All Ayes, motion carried. A motion to adopt the Budget Amendment by Resolution FY 2027- Amendment #1, was motioned by Phillips/Kennedy. All Ayes, motion carried. A motion to approve Resolution 2026-18 to transfer money from LOST to other funds was made by Phillips/McMichael. Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Kennedy, Cannoy, Phillips, McMichael. No Nays. Masters Absent. Motion carried. A motion to approve a new Fire and Rescue recruit Richard McMichael III was made by Phillips/Kennedy. All Ayes, motion carried. Julie McMichael abstained. A motion to approve Resolution 2026-17 Comprehensive Solid Waste Plan was made by McMichael/Phillips. All Ayes, motion carried. No one from the Jacobe family was present to update the council on their progress of removal of Junk and Junk Vehicles from their property. Council acknowledged the agreement with the Jacobe's deadline to have it all cleaned up or the City of Truro will intervene by the next City Council meeting on November 2, 2026. The Council would like to acknowledge Ronnie Hults, Public Works Director, with his dedication and hard work overseeing the maintenance work at the end of South Street, and other streets in town as well as on Scenic Drive. They would also like to thank Jayden Rivas for his hard work for the city. The City Clerk presented the Clerk's Monthly Report. RAGBRAI sent applications to several cities to apply to be host city for RAGBRAI 2027. The Maintenance Department Monthly Report was presented by Ronnie Hults. A motion to approve the consent items by Phillips/McMichael. All Ayes, motion carried. City Council Input from McMichael suggesting ideas for the sign coming into town from the East. A motion to adjourn by Phillips/Kennedy. All Ayes, motion carried. Time: 7.44 p.m. Next regular City Council meeting is on November 2, 2026.

Bryan Arzani, Mayor Attested: Janelle Adams, City Clerk

Truro
Congregational United Church of Christ
155 E. Garfield St

Fall Dinner
Sat., November 7th

Serving from 5 to 7 p.m.

Auction Immediately Following

On the Menu:

**Roast Turkey, Smoked Pork Loin,
Gravy, Mashed Potatoes,
Sweet Potatoes, Dressing,
Green Beans, Salads,
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**Go to the front door of the church
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October 31
Halloween Trick or Treat
Truro
6:00-8:00 p.m.

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Wednesday: 3:30 - 6:30 pm
Thursday: 10 am - 6 pm
Friday: Closed
Saturday: 9 am - 12 pm

SEE PROGRAM CALENDAR LOCATED ON WEBSITE OR FACEBOOK FOR MORE DETAILS



Interstate 35 Area Youth Soccer Club Smashing Goals 5K







The Interstate 35 Area Youth Soccer Club hosted its first annual Smashing Goals 5K to raise funds and give back to Truro Fire and Rescue. The proceeds from the event were presented to the fire department during its Annual Harvest Fest fundraising event.

The club enjoyed a great turnout, with approximately 40 runners participating on the morning of September 12. The race provided a wonderful kickoff to one of the community's favorite events, The Truro Feeding Frenzy. Truro Fire and Rescue generously provided fire trucks to light the route for runners, and one firefighter even completed the course in full gear.

While every participant was celebrated at the finish line, the top five finishers were recognized with trophies following the race. The morning also featured a delicious breakfast provided by The Jones Family Diner and plenty of entertainment from the youngest Roadrunner soccer players at the soccer fields.

The soccer club looks forward to making the Smashing Goals 5K an annual tradition in partnership with the Truro Area Boosters. So, tie up those laces and start preparing for the Second Annual Smashing Goals 5K in 2027, where neighbors, friends, and families will come together once again to celebrate health, community, and raise funds for the Truro Fire Department.

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Gerry Allen Memorial Park Community Building
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	N.V. City Limits	All Other Renters
Full Day Rental	$150	$175
Half Day Rental	$100	$125
Hourly Rental	$25	$25

Deposit $125.00 due at time of reservation, rental fee due prior to event. All Non-Profits groups - there will be no rental fee.
Signed rental agreement required.
Certificate of liability insurance for rental over 50 people is required.
All renters must cleanup at the conclusion of their event.
Visit us at www.newvirginia.com or call:
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The Tri-Corner-Express offers an exclusive discount for advertisers who prepay for the entire year!
For the 2027 advertising year, you'll receive two FREE months of advertising when you pay upfront by January 13, 2027.
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llc

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New Virginia Christian Church

11 am Sunday Worship

604 Main St, New Virginia, IA
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That "Love Thy Neighbor" thing...
I meant that.
-God

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From the Kitchen of...

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to share your recipes with our readers!
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Chicken Tortilla Casserole

- 1 chicken, cooked and de-boned
- 1 large can cream of chicken soup
- 2 cans Ro-tel tomatoes and chiles
- 2 cups shredded cheese, your choice
- 3-4 cups crushed tortilla chips
- optional, green pepper and onion

Mix the soup, Ro-tels, cheese and chips together in a large bowl. Stir in the chicken. Turn out into a 9 x 13 pan or casserole dish. Bake at 350-400 degrees for 40-50 minutes. This is a great way to use up those left-over tortilla chips before they go stale. For a Mexican dish, substitute 2 pounds taco meat for the chicken, and use mushroom soup instead of chicken soup.

Contributed by Terry Garner

WASHING WINDOWS

When washing windows, use crumpled up newspaper instead of rags. It absorbs fast and leaves no streaks!

When making Tator Tot casserole, make an extra one in a foil pan, then freeze it. You'll have an extra to share with someone if you need to take a dish, or if you don't have time to cook. Sometimes I will leave it frozen and give it that way. The recipient can save it and bake it when they need it, preventing waste.

Pumpkin Spice Molasses Cookies

Contributed by Velma Borntrager

Ingredients

- 1 1/3 c. sugar (divided)
- ½ c. butter
- ½ c. pumpkin
- ¼ c. molasses
- 1 egg
- 1 t. vanilla extract
- 2 1/3 c. all-purpose flour (no substitutes)
- 2 t. baking soda
- ½ t. salt
- ½ t. cinnamon
- ¼ t. ginger
- 1 2/3 c. pumpkin morsels

Instructions

Beat 1 c. sugar and butter until creamy. Add pumpkin, molasses, egg, vanilla and mix until well combined. Gradually beat in the rest of ingredients; flour, soda, salt, cinnamon, and ginger. Stir in pumpkin morsels. Refrigerate for one hour. Shape dough into balls and roll in remaining sugar. Bake at 350 degrees for 11-13 minutes or until cookies look cracked.

Notes

Velma says the pumpkin chips seem to be seasonal, so you might want to stock up this fall. You could substitute chocolate chips, and they would still be good.

EGG BITES

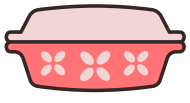
Contributed by Terry Garner

7 eggs
1 cup cottage cheese
bacon, sausage or other kind of meat, cooked of course
spinach and/or peppers
cheese if you like

Preheat your oven to 350. Spray a muffin tin with cooking oil. Mix up the ingredients, then spoon into muffin cups in equal portions. Bake 20 minutes or so, or until centers are set.

Friend Joy Clapp shared these with us for breakfast Friday morning while we were camping. She had made them ahead of time, then froze them. She just heated 'em up in the microwave for a quick breakfast before we headed up to the horse sale. Genius! And good!
Try her easy recipe!

TATOR TOT CASSEROLE



Best Ever

2 pounds ground beef
1 large can mushroom soup
1 32 ounce bag of Tator Tots

Crumble the raw ground beef (yes, raw) in the bottom of a 9 x 13 pan or casserole dish. Don't pat it down, just leave it crumbled, with its peaks and valleys. Spread the mushroom soup on top of the ground beef. Toss the Tator Tots on top of the mushroom soup. You can press them in a bit, but you don't have to. Bake uncovered in a 350-400 degree oven for approximately 1 hour. To test for doneness, take a fork and bring up some hamburger from the middle. If it's pink, let it bake a little longer. Whatever you do, don't put any vegetables in it. Vegetables will ruin it, as every grandchild knows. If you must have vegetables, do them as a side dish.

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A MESSAGE FROM DR. GOSSEN

I-35 CSD SUPERINTENDENT

Dear Roadrunner Families and Community,

Fall is here, and our students and staff continue to make the most of each day, learning new material, building skills, and representing Interstate 35 through their work in the classroom and extracurricular activities. Thank you to the families who took time to connect with teachers during parent-teacher conferences. Those conversations are an important part of the partnership between home and school and help us work together to support student success.

As we look ahead to **Election Day on November 3, 2026,** I encourage community members to become familiar with the I-35 bond proposal on the ballot. The proposal reflects priorities identified through community input and includes classroom realignment, new outdoor facilities, improved traffic flow and safety, and adds AC to the kitchen spaces and high school gym. There is also funding for repairs and maintenance, like to the building's EIFS. These priorities are part of our ongoing work to care for district facilities and plan responsibly for the future as we look to make these needed changes in a fiscally conscientious way.

Our goal is to make information about the proposal accessible and easy to understand. District communications have included project details, explanations of the identified priorities, and opportunities to learn more. You can find these resources at i35facilities.com and through the district's communication channels. I encourage everyone to review the information, ask questions, and make an informed decision.

Thank you for your continued support of Interstate 35. The partnership between our school and community is essential to providing opportunities for our students and planning for current and future Roadrunners.

With gratitude,
Michael Gossen, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

AROUND Roadrunner Country

UPCOMING STUDENT EVENTS

FALL 2026 PLAY | SAVE THE DATE

I-35 Performing Arts present *Bringing Down the House*; a musical comedy ***without*** songs. An up-and-coming musical team has rented a creaky old theater for six weeks to mount a production of their new show. Top Broadway investors are slated to attend, so the team is going to need every minute to rehearse the musical.

However, to their dismay, they discover that the theater is scheduled for demolition the very next day, and they don't have the money to rent another venue! There's only one thing to do: throw the show together in just two hours!

Show Dates & Times:

- November 6th, 2026 at 6:30 p.m
- November 7th, 2026 at 3:00 p.m.

SPORTING EVENTS

Football

- **10/23 | Playoff Game: I-35 vs. TBD; 7:00 p.m. @ I-35 Stadium**
  - *Additional playoffs games are TBD. Must win to keep playing.*

Girls Basketball

- 11/24 | Season opener: I-35 @ Central Decatur High School
  - *JV start-time: 6:00 p.m.; Varsity start time: 7:30 p.m.*

Boys Basketball

- **11/23 | Varsity Scrimmage: I-35 vs. Mormon Trail, 6:00 p.m.**
  - *Due to scrimmage, no JV. JV opener - 12/1.*

Girls Wrestling

- 11/19 | Season opener: I-35 @ Saydel High School, 5:30 p.m.

Boys Wrestling

- 12/4 | Season opener: I-35 @ Independence High School, 2:00 p.m.
  - *Varsity only. JV opener - 12/5.*

ELEMENTARY NEWS

Dear Roadrunner Families,
One of the most meaningful parts of elementary school is watching students begin to understand that they can make a difference in the lives of others. As we navigate this school year, I'm proud of the ways our Roadrunners are putting that lesson into practice.

Service-learning projects give students opportunities to connect what they learn in the classroom with the needs of their community. Our 5th and 6th graders participated in a meal-packing event. The 3rd graders helped out at Holland Farms, a local nursing home. Meanwhile, 2nd grade is supporting Meals on Wheels. Each experience helps students see the value of helping others and being an active part of their community.

Thank you for supporting the learning experiences that help our students grow academically, socially, and as caring members of our community. I'm grateful to be part of their journey.

The luckiest principal in the world,

Principal Woods

SECONDARY NEWS

Dear I-35 Students & Families,
The secondary years are an important time for students to discover their strengths as they begin thinking about the future they want to build. As we approach the halfway point of the school year, our Roadrunners are gaining real experience in the classroom and through extracurricular activities each day.

Learning at this level is about more than meeting academic expectations. Students are developing communication skills, practicing integrity, and learning the importance of kindness and accountability. Whether they are working through a challenging assignment, contributing to a team, participating in an activity, or supporting a classmate, these everyday experiences help prepare them for life beyond high school.

Thank you for the role you play in supporting our students and our school. The partnership between families, educators, and our community helps create opportunities for Roadrunners!

All the best,

I-35 BOND "OUR NEXT STEP" VIDEO SERIES

Scan to see video #1

Elementary Principal, Danielle Woods, shares information about how changes in the traffic flow and other safety concerns would be addressed within the proposed bond's projects.

Scan to see video #2

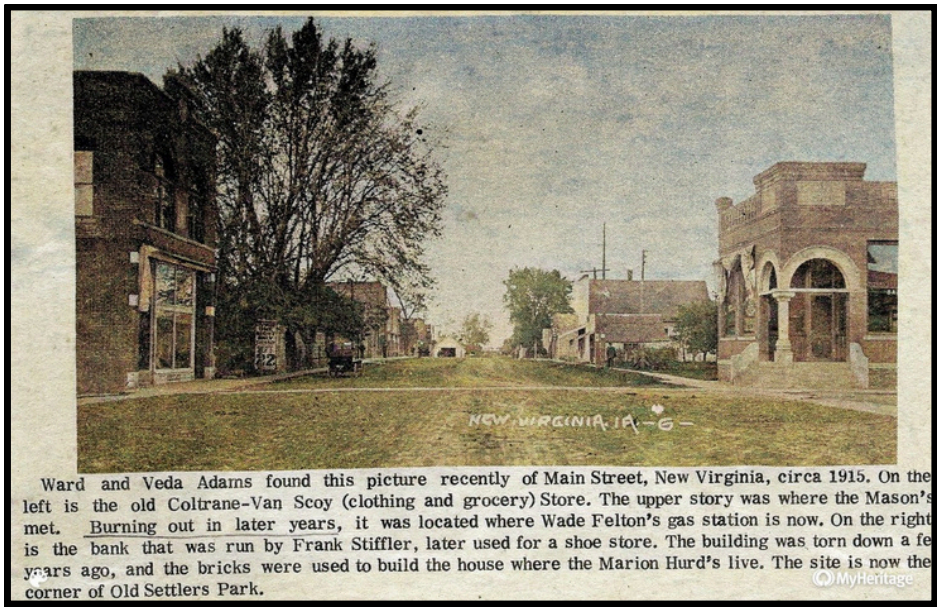
2025 I-35 alum, Keegan Strange, shares information about how the proposed bond would include classroom reconfiguration and change the travel that middle school students take as part of their day.

LOOK FOR MORE INFORMATIONAL VIDEOS

Additional videos will be shared Oct. 21 and Oct. 28 on the district's social media pages, the facilities website (www.i35facilities.com) and the school's website under the **I-35 Bond Resources** menu item.



COMMUNITY PHOTO CORNER



Ward and Veda Adams found this picture recently of Main Street, New Virginia, circa 1915. On the left is the old Coltrane-Van Scoy (clothing and grocery) Store. The upper story was where the Mason's met. Burning out in later years, it was located where Wade Felton's gas station is now. On the right is the bank that was run by Frank Stiffler, later used for a shoe store. The building was torn down a fe years ago, and the bricks were used to build the house where the Marion Hurd's live. The site is now the corner of Old Settlers Park.

Left: Karma Kimzey shares this old newspaper clipping with us of New Virginia.

Right: Nothing like a gorgeous Iowa fall sunset! This snapshot was taken on Highway 34 on September 8th. Contributed by Sue Meggers



Share your photos!

We'd love to feature YOUR photos! Send us snapshots of the outdoors, kids' adventures, pets, farm life, local events, or anything that captures fall in our Tri-Corner-Express communities. Please include a one-sentence description to go with it!

Email photos to tricorner@newvirginia.com. We can't wait to see what you've been up to!









Stuart Belgians have participated at the Iowa State Fair since 1991!

This year, Jim Stuart placed in six events, winning high point at the Iowa State Fair. Son, Joe Stuart, and granddaughter, Megan Eddy, also placed in four events. Jim and Megan also participated in the Iowa Corn Husking in September at Hastings, Iowa, winning their classes, and will be going to the Nationals later this month. Jim has participated in the Corn Husking contest since 1998, finishing in the top two every year in Iowa. He won the National three times and placed third twice. Megan has participated since 1998.

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JESUS' RIGHT HAND

FYI: This year, the Scouts will be having their annual food drive a month earlier so that they can avoid the weather problems of the past few years, and also give us a little more time to prepare for our busiest time of the year. They will be handing out the paper bags in the afternoon of Sunday, Nov. 8th and picking them up two weeks later, in the afternoon of Sunday, Nov. 22nd. This is a change from the usual Saturday morning food drives in December. Thank you in advance for all the donations that will be heading our way!

OK, now for the rest of the story. I heard recently that if you have problems when writing a paper or article, just start sloppy. Just start writing and let words fall where they land. No correcting, just plop them down and let them sit. Get the thoughts out of your head and edit everything later. Isn't that a lot of how we approach God in our lives? We try and try to maintain perfection to please Him, to earn our merit points, to gain entrance into Heaven, but none of that means anything. It's relationship, not religion. It's not a ritual or list of chores we need to complete to please God. God's love isn't earned…it's encountered. For people who have built their spiritual identity around doing, stopping feels like failure. Resting feels like falling behind. Just "being" feels like you are wasting the moment. However, "being" is always the point. We have heard words from those who have lost loved ones, and we most often hear, "I wish I had spent more time" (fill in the blank). At the end of life, time creeps up to the number one spot of regrets in relationships. Just "being" a part of someone's life, of someone's day, seems to magnify when the end of life is in sight. Why is it that the lack of time spent is always the number one regret?

We often see people on Mondays during our Fresh Food Giveaway who come in simply to be in the company of other people. They look forward to that day, the social atmosphere, just to have someone to talk to. The food is not a priority, but their contact with others is. They have learned the importance of being present and give their attention fully to conversations, comments, body language and mood. They are unbothered by phones, social media, status, or things that take other people's attention away from what is currently happening. They are fully invested and are fully present in that current time and place. Their presence makes people feel loved and valued. It brings comfort.

A relationship with God should work in the same way. To be present with God doesn't requires us to do anything at first except to come. Knowing that His love is not earned but is to be encountered would be a good mindset to put to practice. How many times has a child or grandchild wanted to just come and snuggle in your arms, not wanting anything but to be in your presence? No list of requests, no agenda, but simply to "be" with you? Kind of makes you feel good, doesn't it? Would you push them off your lap and demand that the chore list be done first, or that they perform some type of ritual in order to merit that time in your lap? Of course not. So why do we feel we have to perform for God? So many of us feel the need to complete a list of tasks before we can come to God. Do you feel the need to read your Bible for an hour, pray for another hour, and then "maybe" you'll be good enough to merit God's presence? Well, I tell you my friends, that there have been many times that I didn't have the spiritual strength to pray my way out of a wet paper bag, but God saw me where I was, and His presence and love came to my level and lifted me out of that dark funk! We need to get over that "I do it myself" mentality and trust that His love is unconditional and beyond our human reasoning. The work was done on the cross over 2,000 years ago, and there isn't anything we can add to it to make it any more complete. Do you know how much freedom we gain if we come without agendas to just "be" with God? Because truthfully, if spending time with God feels like a chore, then it's because we have made it a chore. Ouch!

Yes, it is important to read your Bible. Yes, it is important to pray and communicate with God. But if that is all you are doing, you're leaning toward a very one-sided relationship. You're doing all the work to merit a reward, while God is waiting for the most important thing: your investment in being fully present with Him, here and now. Let Him fully become a part of you, of your thoughts, your actions and most importantly, your heart and desires. Allow the closeness to God to become as if you were that child on His lap. Feel His breath on your face. Listen for His still, small voice in the quietness of just being in His presence. God is waiting. All you need to do is ask Him. Then take a deep breath, be still, and wait. He loves you so much and has been waiting longer for you than you have been waiting for Him. May these words be encouraging and uplifting to you today. We are here for you!

In His Love and Service,
Jesus' Right Hand

New Virginia HOMETOWN PRIDE
A KEEP IOWA BEAUTIFUL PROGRAM

Rain Couldn't Dampen New Virginia's End of Summer Social

A steady drizzle may have changed the location, but it did not dampen the community spirit at New Virginia Hometown Pride's fourth annual End of Summer Social on Sunday, September 20th.

Originally planned for Hickory Hills Park, the celebration was moved to the New Virginia Legion Hall because of the rainy weather. Community members still came out to enjoy an afternoon of music, food, and shopping.

Attendees enjoyed live performances from Ron Burchett, Kelli Kingrey & Crew, and High Country. The music helped create a festive atmosphere as neighbors gathered indoors and made the most of the changed plans.

Local vendors offered a variety of goods and handmade items, including Thrown Rose Pottery, Hancock Woodworking, Wayward Saints Farms, and John Geddes. Squaw Creek Township also provided township information for residents. Food was another highlight. People enjoyed delicious offerings from The Farm Creamery and Taqueria La Chatita.

New Virginia Hometown Pride appreciates everyone who attended despite the rainy conditions and helped make the event a success. We value the community partnerships and local sponsorships that helped make this event possible. Thank you to Dryseal, TruBank, J&L Sanitation, HyVee Indianola, Squaw Creek Township, Savage Excavation, Steve Russell, and Warren County Conservation Board.

The annual End of Summer Social continues to bring residents together to celebrate local talent, businesses, organizations, and community pride. We hope you will join us next September for our 2027 End of Summer Social!

ROAD TRIPPING

Contributed by Terry Garner



A Fun Time at the Waverly Horse Sale

Our friends are looking for a new team to pull their wagon, so they ended up at the Waverly Horse Sale last week. It's a four-day sale, with so-called "treasures" on the first day and horses following over the next three days. We headed up on Thursday to camp overnight with them and then head home on Friday. What a fun time we had!

There's a campground right there that charges $40 a night, but Joy, being frugal-minded, asked if we could camp in the parking lot where the stock trailers and such park. The office said, "Sure thing," so guess where we camped? 🙂 There were other folks there, too, so I guess Joy and I aren't the only cheapskates in the world! We both have generators with us, so having an electrical hookup is no big deal. And since we were only there for one night, we didn't even start ours up. It was a little longer walk to the sale barn, but we need the exercise, so it was really a win-win. Plus, they had golf carts running back and forth to give you a ride if your walker gave out, so why spend forty bucks?

Thursday night, we drove uptown to find a place to eat. Joy and I had looked online earlier at the selection of restaurants and decided on one called Sasquatch. It turned out to be a good pick. The service was good, our little waitress was very friendly and accommodating, and the food was top-notch. The next day, we picked Grumpy's for lunch. It was okay, but we definitely liked Sasquatch better.

Kenny and Joy were able to watch some of the equipment sale on Wednesday since they'd gone up a day before we did. There were lots of buggies, carriages, wagons, tack, and collectibles for sale that day. Believe it or not, you could even buy Cinderella's carriage there! I went back to their website and was able to look up the winning bids on the items. Cinderella could ride in style for $1,250. They had another carriage for her, but the wicked stepsisters bought it out from under her for $8,750.

Thursday was draft horse sale day, and Friday they sold the draft crosses. Saturday was reserved for light horses and ponies. Joy and I watched folks warming up their horses in the outside ring on Friday morning. Most people seemed to be eyeing a stocky blue roan. He was a nice horse, apparently trained to the nines (where did that saying come from?), but I had my eye on a taller blue roan. He was too tall for me, but he was lighter-built and looked to be more athletic. When I looked back at the sale prices, my pick brought $6,500, while the other, stouter little horse brought $30,000! I'm pretty sure Cinderella got her prince to buy that one to pull her carriage!

All too soon, it was time to leave. Rollie was driving, and like most farm couples, he took the wheel while I made suggestions. I don't know if you've ever ridden with a farmer before, but I'm here to tell you, the older they get, the less they look at the road when they're driving! They're always checking out the crops or cattle along the way, the amount of rainfall in the area, how big the tractors are, or why someone would farm those hills. And then, when you try to help them out with timely tips about oncoming traffic, they get all testy and act like you're just there to make their life miserable.

We pulled into a Casey's to fuel up, and I went back into the trailer to use the bathroom. Right away, I had to pick up my hats, which had flown off the shelf they ride on. When he'd gotten a coffee cup down that morning, he'd failed to shut the cupboard door all the way, so there were bowls and cups scattered all over the floor. I picked those up and put them away, then turned around to find that my utensil holder had tipped over, leaving all its contents in the sink. So, I gathered up my cooking utensils and put them back in the crock, took care of business, climbed back into the truck, and off we went for home.

We got the trailer backed into the shed, and I went in to collect the things I wanted to take into the house. Lo and behold, he'd dumped that utensil holder again! In the 12 years I've hauled that trailer, I think I've only tipped that thing over twice—and he'd managed to do it twice in one trip! Maybe I need to be timelier with my tips! 🙂

new virginia indoor farmer's market

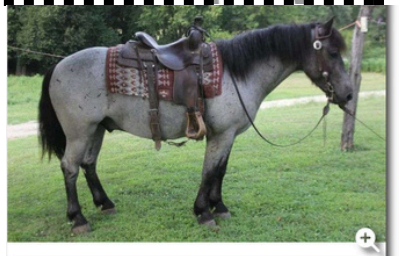
First Ever indoor farmer's market will be Saturday, Nov. 7th, 10 am - 2 pm at the GAMP Building, 801 West St. Lunch by the Lions Club, children's activity, and a variety of home grown and home made items.



Rollie and me with Kenny and Joy at Sasquatch.



Cinderella's Carriage



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TO HIS NEW WIFE

By Willow Rose

Reviewed by Sue Stills

I found this book in the New Books section at the New Virginia Library. Emma Caldwell is a successful advertising executive at Stone Advertising, achieving her position through talent and determination. Her boss and owner of the company, Robert Stone, is firm and demanding, yet caring toward Emma, especially after she marries his son, Benjamin, a successful pediatric surgeon. Benjamin's first wife, Alice, was killed in a tragic auto accident several years earlier, leaving a young daughter, Lily. Emma tries to fit into the Stone family, but she meets stony resistance from Lily.

Emma is blindsided by a handwritten letter that begins: "To Benjamin's new wife, with love from the wife he killed." The letter is only the first one she receives, and it describes Ben's cooling of affection and his controlling behavior that Alice experienced, and it warns Emma that this will happen to her. Emma's reaction to the letters seriously affects her performance at work.

Emma tries to learn more about Alice's death, and all of her actions are twisted up by Ben and Lily to the point that she is arrested for the murder of Alice. This book was a fast read, and it kept me interested until the end.

A LITTLE HISTORY ABOUT THE HELICOPTER IN THE SEPTEMBER TRI-CORNER-EXPRESS

Contributed by Mel Stills

YL 37, Yankee Lima 37, was part of HMM 362, a Marine helicopter squadron in Vietnam. 362 first served in Vietnam in 1962 and arrived again on 2 September 1965 aboard the USS Princeton. My Marine squadron, HMM 363, arrived the same day, on the same ship, at the same place in Vietnam, Ky Ha.

That helicopter that Jim Stuart has his Belgians hooked to had 54 bullet holes in it and was shot down twice during its tours in Vietnam. HMM 363 lost 33 squadron members during its tours in Vietnam. The 362 squadron called itself the "Ugly Angels."

The UH-34D helicopter, made by Sikorsky, was not pretty; she was loud, coughed and belched when started. She is the last piston-driven engine helicopter the Marine Corps flew. She carried a lot of troops and supplies during her time, and many wounded made it home because of her. Google YL 37 for her full story.





LIHEAP IMPACT accepting applications for Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)

DES MOINES, Iowa — IMPACT Community Action Partnership is taking applications for the 2026–2027 Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) that began October 1, 2026, and runs through April 30, 2027.

Those eligible to apply In October include households with elderly members age 60 or older, or a family member who is disabled. Applications for all other income-eligible households will begin November 1, 2026.

Families in Boone, Jasper, Marion, Polk, or Warren counties can apply online by visiting www.impactcap.org/energyassistance. Families who prefer a phone or in-person appointment can schedule an appointment online or by calling 515-518-4770. Families who prefer to apply by mail may request an application to be mailed to them by calling 515-518-4770 or emailing info@impactcap.org.

Applicants will need to furnish a form of identification; a copy of their most recent heating and electric bill; social security or I-94 cards; and proof of gross income for all household members for the past 30 days, the most recent 12 months, or for the past calendar year. More detailed information is available on IMPACT's website.

This assistance is based on household income and size, dwelling and fuel type and other factors. Eligibility income maximums for participation is established according to the following Federal Income Poverty Guidelines:

Household Size	Annual Gross Income* **
1	$31,920
2	$43,280
3	54,640
4	$66,000
5	$77,360
6	$88,720
7	$100,080
8	$111,440

*For households with more than eight members, add $11,360 for each additional member.
**All income will be annualized. Income will be collected for a 30-day period.

The program is funded by the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) through the Iowa Department of Health and Human Services, Community Access and Eligibility Division, Community Action Agencies Unit, and has been established to help qualifying low-income Iowa homeowners and renters pay for a portion of their primary heating costs. This program is not designed to pay a household's total energy cost. The program will provide supplemental assistance based on several factors. Those factors include total household income, household size, dwelling type, and type of heating fuel, among others.

IMPACT Community Action Partnership's mission is to reduce the barriers and burdens that families in poverty experience by increasing access to essential needs. IMPACT serves over 55,000 individuals annually in five Central Iowa counties: Boone, Jasper, Marion, Polk, and Warren. IMPACT collaborates with more than 400 community partners to deliver the following essential services: housing, energy, food and hygiene products assistance, and local community-based assistance including disaster assistance. IMPACT's key services include housing, energy, and food assistance.

IMPACT is one of 1,000 nationwide and 16 statewide community action agencies.

3226 University Ave | Des Moines, IA 50311 | Ph 515-274-1334 | Fax 515-274-9833 | INFO@IMPACTCAP.ORG



Come Hungry, Leave Inspired:
Iowa State University Extension and Outreach Brings Cyclone Kitchen to Warren County

Indianola, Iowa — Learning to cook just got a lot more fun. Iowa State University Extension and Outreach Warren County is launching Cyclone Kitchen—a hands-on community cooking program that promises new skills, good meals and even better company. No experience necessary.

Where Everyone Starts from Scratch

Each two-hour session brings neighbors, friends and coworkers together in a teaching kitchen to prepare seasonal dishes side by side, guided by food and nutrition experts from Iowa State University. "We know that people in Warren County want to eat well, but life gets busy and cooking can feel like one more thing on a long list," said Cathy Drost, Health and Human Sciences Educator of Iowa State University Extension and Outreach. "Cyclone Kitchen changes that. It's relaxed, it's fun and you leave with practical skills—and a real meal you can make at home."

More than Recipes

Each session weaves in nutrition science and practical technique, with the goal of helping participants build habits that stick long after they leave the kitchen. "Cyclone Kitchen shows that cooking can be joyful, practical and empowering," said Sarah L. Francis, professor and state specialist in food and health with Iowa State University Extension and Outreach. "When we cook together, we don't just nourish our bodies; we strengthen our communities."

A Cyclone Kitchen Post Thanksgiving workshop is planned for November 17 from 5:30-7:30 PM at the Warren County Extension Office located at 200 W. 2nd Avenue in Indianola. The cost is $30 to attend with sponsorship from Warren County Extension. Register at https://go.iastate.edu/SUPQ89 by November 6. For any questions about this offering, contact Elizabeth at eliza@iastate.edu or 515-961-6237.

The Perfect Excuse to Get Your People Together Private group sessions are also available—and Cyclone Kitchen can come to you. Whether it's your office, your venue or a nearby location, it's a fresh idea for team outings, book clubs, bridal showers and friend gatherings looking for something more memorable than the usual dinner out. Groups can reserve a session exclusively and tailor the experience to their occasion.

Browse the schedule and register at https://go.iastate.edu/RXERVB, where you can also submit a request to bring Cyclone Kitchen to your community or book a private event.



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Second Row: Debbie Kimzey Gebhardt, Luanne Voltmer Martin, Nathan Allen, Ramona Felton Rippel, Melinda Miller Brown, Vera Vickroy Terry, Renee Eshelman Hildebrand, Tim Williams, Steve Maxwell
Third Row: Mona Gamble Walters, Greg Minnich, Rhonda Ayers Minnich, Renee Gray, Cindy Crabtree Hendrickson, Joanie Husted Stuart, Joyce Norris, Karen Frueh Hildebrand
Fourth Row: Tom Bell, Larry Beeler, Leroy Kennedy, David Blackford, Gene Synder, Terry Stuart, Kevin Ingram, Greg Youmans

Caring Neighbors Circle News

- Jeff Dawson will replace vacated executive officer position.
- Two new members joined CNC: Stacy Schultz and Erin Goering
- Kim Downs, St. Charles Community Foundation president asked for volunteers/bakers for October 10th Covered Bridge Festival breakfast/bake sale.



Pictured: Nicole Nichols, Bit of a Stretch

3 presenters were given 4 minute presentation time/4 minutes to answer questions from CNC members:
1. New Virginia Trails Committee; presenter Steve Voltmer, requesting monies for trail signage for walking trails to keep safe from traffic and walking for wellness
2. Bit of a Stretch; presenter Nicole Nichols, requesting monies safety-AED, equipment, and funding to allow access for all
3. Turning Point Evaluation-Hope Madison County; presenter Jennifer Jolly, requesting monies to create awareness, family engagement, community connections, and support
CNC members present to write $50 checks payable to Bit of a Stretch. Checks will total $1,650!

OHIO FUTURE FEEDERS

Club minutes written by reporter,
Elisabeth Pohlmann

September 13th was an exciting day for our club. Everyone was eager to see what would happen next because today marked the final meeting for our current leadership team. Our president, vice president, secretary, and treasurer were all getting ready to pass their roles to the next group. The afternoon started smoothly as outgoing President Delaney Dory called the room to order with a quick tap of the gavel.

To kick off the meeting with some autumn fun, members shared whether they would rather jump in a giant pile of leaves or carve a festive jack-o-lantern for roll call. It was a great turnout, with 30 members and 8 visitors filling the room with energy. Once everyone was settled, Tucker Dooley smoothly led the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by Presley Hawk who guided the club through the 4-H pledge. Wrapping up our quick opening details, Caleb Puderbaugh shared the Secretary's Report, and Ira Hawk gave a brief update on the Treasury.

Turning to old business, the club took a moment to look back at our fun team-up on August 30th at Beeler's Feed Mill in Truro. Our members made quick work of tidying up the grounds, easily clearing away debris, gathering up scattered tree limbs, and giving the inside a swift dusting and a fresh mop. Everyone pitched in together to set up chairs, turning our "Labor" Day donation project into a great afternoon of teamwork. In other exciting updates, our new club T-shirts have officially arrived and are ready for everyone to wear. A big thank you goes to Noah for designing them and the Dory family for getting them printed. Our club also had a wonderful time showing off their hard work at the county and state fairs, entering a variety of 4-H projects and Clover exhibits. To make things even better, our teamwork paid off with an incredible 2nd place finish in Herdsmanship!

On to new business, the club took a brief look at the 2026–2027 club budget, which was easily approved by everyone. Looking toward future community impacts, the club brainstormed a few helpful ideas for upcoming donations and charitable costs, highlighting a Mother's group, the Premium Auction, and Fairgrounds Renovations as great options. A lighthearted new committee was also quickly put together for the upcoming Chicken Poop Bingo event, bringing on Brayden Eads, Ira Hawk, Sutton Henson, Elisabeth Pohlmann, Lincoln Hawk, and a few others to help organize the fun. Then came the moment everyone had been waiting for: the Election of Officers. To keep things exciting, the club agreed to save the big reveal as a fun surprise for the start of our October meeting.

Looking ahead, getting ready for the new 4-H year is simple. Enrollment is officially open for 4Hers and Clovers, which can be quickly taken care of online at 4honline.com. If you run into any questions, the extension office is happy to help at 515-462-1001. Don't forget to write your quick thank-you notes to the extension office, fair board, superintendents, and premium buyers to show our appreciation. Finally, mark your calendars for a relaxed hour of community service as we help out with the Pork Producers roadside cleanup on Sunday, September 27th from 1:00 to 2:00 PM. We will meet up at the Jackson Building parking lot, and you can easily sign up at or before our next gathering. If you need a hand with anything, just ask any club leader. Be sure to join us for our next meeting on October 11th at 5:00 PM, where we will welcome our new officers and kick off a brand-new year together!

Scout Pack and Troop 119 will be handing out bags for our annual food drive on **Sunday, November 8th**, starting at **2 pm** in St. Charles, Truro, and New Virginia. We will pick the bags up starting at **2 pm, November 22nd**.
Note: this is a 2 week interval instead of one week as in previous years.

There is a great need for this drive. Jesus Right Hand will receive the non-perishable food donations and distribute to those in need.

Please call Pat Thornburgh with any questions at 515-681-0748.



Virginia Boosters 4-H Club Meeting Minutes and News





At our September 16, 2026 Virginia Boosters 4-H meeting, we started with taking attendance and the sharing the treasurer's and secretary reports. We discussed highlights from the fair and shared information about members who won prizes. We also talked about 4-H Week, including ideas for activities. Members discussed plans for the October meeting, such as a pumpkin decorating contest, a fall party, and possibly Trunk or Treat. We also talked about ordering club shirts for the year. Another topic was helping the Clover Kids program. We discussed volunteering at their meetings and possibly helping with funding. Also, we talked about getting signs for the fair and holding a club workshop with activities such as fishing, woodworking, quilting, ceramics, and animal-related projects. For community service and fundraising, we discussed possible activities such as adopting a family, flag and cemetery cleanups, helping at a nursing home, and other community events. Fundraising ideas included a chili cook-off, filling out Clover flyers, and a pancake breakfast. The meeting ended with year-pin presentations. We were reminded that officers will be elected at the next meeting, which will be October 21. Enrollment for 4-H is still open. Prospective members are welcome to come to the October meeting, which starts at 7 pm in the GAMP building.

Before the meeting, members helped at the Clover Kids Open House by working stations. Members helped with the animal station, coloring clovers, playing a game with kids, and making root beer floats for all. It was great to see the turn out of kids interested in Clover Kids.

Scribblings from Sue

by Sue Stills

Well, our area around Phoenix has certainly not gotten the winds and drenching rains of a hurricane, but we did get some rain and winds recently. The next seven days are forecasted to have temperatures ranging from 77° to 86°, with a couple of nights in the upper 50s. Wow! That will all be a welcome change from 100° days. The fall usually has very pleasant weather. Mel and I usually sit on the patio in the mornings, and we should now be able to do that in the evenings when we have "our gang" over.

A couple of months ago, I mentioned having to learn lines for a play I am in as a member of the Sun Lakes Community Theatre. There are five of us in the cast, and we had the script in April with instructions from the Director to start learning our lines over the summer. Our rehearsals started September 2, with rehearsals on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. The performances will be November 4-8 …. Yes, that will be five performances.

The play is Tennessee Wet Rub which refers to a method of preparing barbecued ribs, i.e., wet rub vs. dry rub. The story takes place at a small barbecue diner in northern Tennessee on a snowy January night in 1951. Hank and Bertha are the owners of the diner. A young couple's car slides into a ditch in the blizzard, and they seek refuge in the diner. The couple are a 16-year-old white girl (I am Arleta) and her black fiancé, Dunk. Arleta is welcomed in, but Dunk is viewed with extreme suspicion. After all, this was the age of discrimination against "the colored," and it was illegal for whites and colored to mix, not to mention getting married. Dunk is planning to take Arleta to Detroit where he has family and where it would be legal for them to marry.

In time, the men bond over barbecue recipes, and Hank comes to understand that Dunk is a well-educated, Christian man with aspirations of becoming a lawyer. Arleta has been sheltered and domineered (perhaps abused) by her Pentecostal preacher father. Her mother died when she was six, and she constantly carries a doll with her, showing her immaturity, insecurity and need for love. Arleta does a lot of crying throughout the play and is afraid to go back to her father. She naively takes money from the missionary box in the church to help with travel expenses, which has Dunk questioning his judgement in deciding to take Arleta with him to Detroit. Throw into the mix the deputy sheriff, Vern, who also gets caught in the blizzard and who is intent on taking Dunk to jail for kidnapping. Well, it all works out in the end: Hank gets a new wet rub recipe; Dunk goes on to Detroit alone; although she is heartbroken that Dunk left her, Arleta shows a new maturity and is allowed to stay with Bertha and Hank; and Bertha acquires the daughter she never had.

I will be wearing a blond wig with braids in the play which, surprisingly, makes me look younger…..well, not 16, but younger. The costume lady is still in the process of finding two costumes for me (think Salvation Army). One will be a knee-length skirt, a top, and a sweater. I have bought some funny-looking shoes (Walmart) for scene 1. The whole outfit is not supposed to be appropriate for a trip in a blizzard. So then I will change into a longer dress and warmer shoes/boots from Bertha's closet for the rest of the play.

We all are having fun doing this play, although it is frustrating at times when we do not say our lines correctly. The Director is a stickler about saying the words exactly as the playwright wrote them. All of us except Dunk speak "Appalachian," for example "I dint thank of it like that" means "I didn't think of it like that." And "I wanted to hep in case we needed sumpin fer gas 'n I's gonna pay it back."

The actors playing Hank, Bertha and Vern have been in many previous plays. Bertha is professionally trained and has been a Director. This is Dunk's first play, and he is doing well. He is a marvelous singer. He was first "discovered" by the theater group when he sang "Teach Me Tonight" in a variety show; all the ladies swooned! Mel has been supportive of this latest adventure of mine, even "running" my lines with me. Happy Halloween and happy fall!



more to share

From the New Virginia Garden Club
Contributed by Susan Miller

Ok, so we had a frost. Now what? Are you thinking 'Oh No! we had a frost!' or 'Thank Goodness, we had a frost!' Either way, it's not time to rest as there is work to do.

You can finally mow off the peonies! (not tree peonies) And, not the asparagus!

Several vegetables can tolerate a light frost such as spinach, kale, chard, endive, mustard, peas, collards, Brussels sprouts, kohlrabi, broccoli, cauliflower and cabbage. Root vegetables like turnips, sweet potatoes, beets and carrots, the tops may wilt but the root is fine to harvest after a light frost. But for annual flowers and vegetables like tomatoes, corn, beans and vines-remove the plant debris from the garden and burn it if you can or compost if your compost pile reaches 140 degrees. Do make note of where you planted in your garden and rotate crops. Why remove debris and why rotate crops? This helps with pest and disease management. Some crops deplete the soil of nutrients and others add to the soil.

Then till your garden. Why till in the Fall over Spring? As a gardener, our goal is to annually work to build good soil. Before tilling, add in amendments to your soil, such as compost, manure or minerals, then till them in. A tilled garden dries and warms faster in the Spring to allow for early planting.

Don't be tempted to cut back perennial flowers and plants. Let them wilt naturally, and many will lend to a natural winterscape. Perennials can benefit from mulch. Don't use leaves as leaves tend to mat and will smother the plant. Remove excess mulch in the spring to give the crown the ability to grow.

Do continue to water young trees, wrap trunks or fence trees to protect from deer and rabbits. Don't prune trees in the fall.

Now for the fun part. Start planting! Now is the time to plant garlic for a July 2027 harvest. Mulch well with straw. Mulch your strawberries with straw too. And for Spring color, plant tulips and daffodils and seeds that need stratification (we've talked about this!) Larkspur, Bells of Ireland, Baby's breath, Columbine. You will be glad you did! Happy Gardening!

We have SO much to be thankful for.

Please join the 10 churches that make up the
Madison Warren Ecumenical Association (MWEA)
as we gather together
and share our thanks to God for another blessed year!

Thanksgiving Service and Fellowship
Tuesday, November 26 – 7 PM
Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, St. Marys, IA

***** All non-perishable food items and proceeds will go to one of three local Food Pantries.**



Iowa State University
Extension and Outreach

Warren County Master Gardener Mini Grants Open

Warren County, Iowa – The Warren County Master Gardeners are now accepting applications for their annual Mini Grant program through October 31, 2026. A total pool of $1,500 in grant funds will be distributed among selected community projects. To qualify for funding, applying organizations and their projects must be physically located within Warren County.

Eligible Groups:

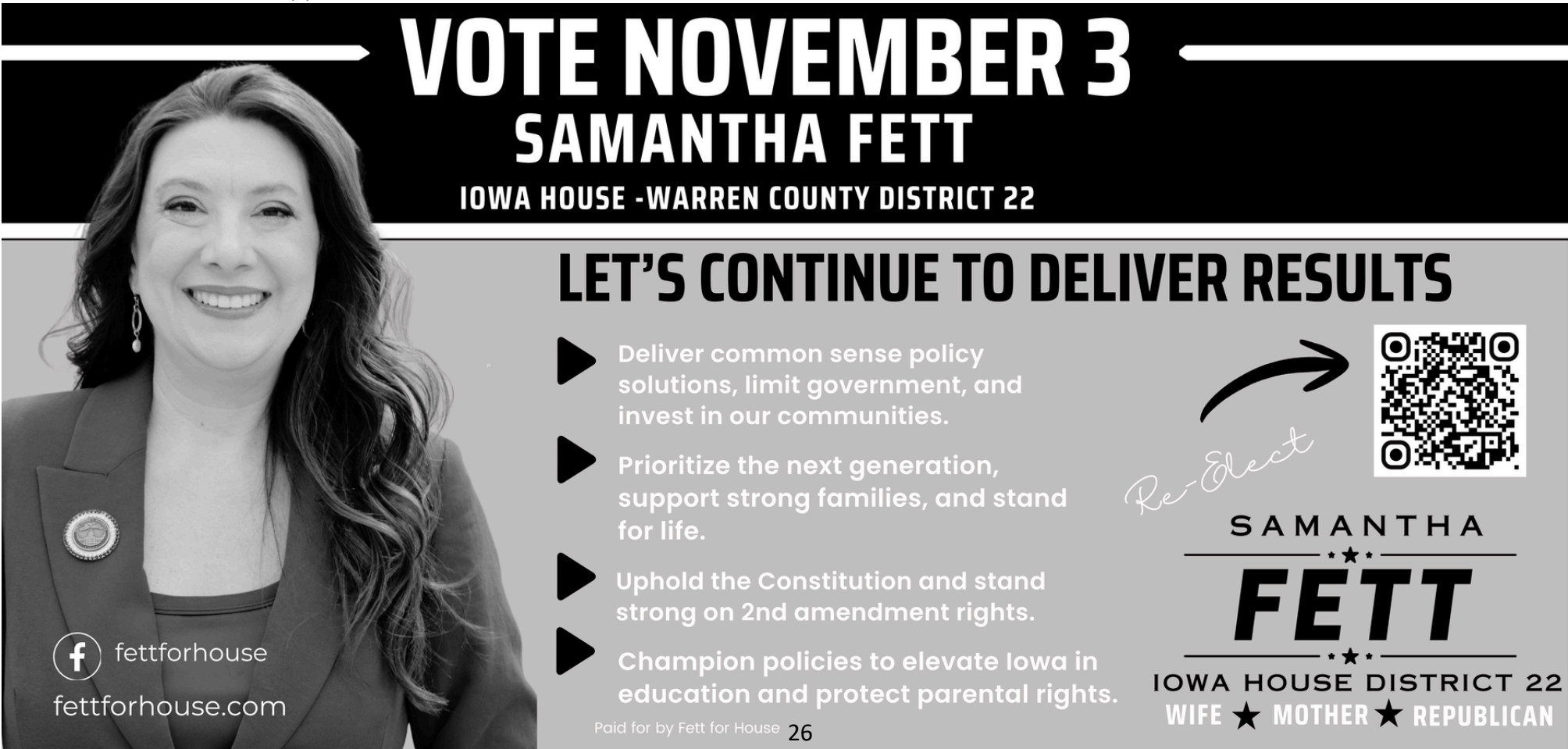
- Nonprofit organizations
- Service and youth groups (including scouting groups, 4-H clubs, classroom initiatives, and church organizations)
- Local government entities (such as public libraries, municipal property developments, and downtown beautification projects)
- Note: For-profit businesses and private individuals are not eligible for this grant.

Grant funds are intended to support local horticultural and community-enrichment initiatives. Example projects include (but are not limited to) community gardens growing produce for local food pantries, educational youth gardening projects, and public space beautification efforts.

How to Apply:

Applications are accepted now through October 31, 2026 and can be accessed here: https://forms.cloud.microsoft/r/kttD7hBwmZ. Questions about the grant itself or the application process should be directed to Elizabeth Smith, Adult Program Coordinator, by email at eliza@iastate.edu or by phone at 515-961-6237.









Madison County - at the hospital (515) 462-5370
Clarke County - at the hospital (641) 223-4346

"Find A Counselor" https://shiip.iowa.gov/

Medicare Open Enrollment is Approaching

As Medicare's Open Enrollment Period approaches, we are hearing that phone calls and mailings have started. This can cause confusion!
Medicare and Social Security will never ask for your information. Keep your information private. This includes your birthday, Social Security number, Medicare number, and address. Answering "Yes" and "No" gives the wrong people your information. Disregard your Iowa-nice manners and Hang-Up!
Medicare's Open Enrollment Period for Part D prescription drug plans is Oct 15-Dec 7, with changes taking effect January 1, 2027. Without checking cost and coverage, you could be missing out!
Volunteer SHIIP counselors are available at the Indianola Activity Center by appointment. Call 515-962-5375 and leave a message. A volunteer counselor will return your call.

Medicare's Open Enrollment is Oct 15th - Dec 7th

Do You Have Questions?
SHIIP/SMP Can Help

Every year between Oct 15th–Dec 7th, persons with Medicare Part D have the opportunity to review their drug plan coverage. SHIIP/SMP volunteer counselors are available for a free, confidential and unbiased review of cost and coverage, with changes taking effect January 1st 2027. Call 515-962-5375 to schedule your appointment at the Indianola Activity Center (2204 West 2nd Ave).

Phone appointments also available.
SHIIP/SMP is a service of the State of Iowa.
Volunteer counselors do not sell or promote any insurance companies, policies or agents.

Church Directory

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: truroucchurch@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. David Nkrumah
Rectory Phone 641-534-4691
712-304-5966 (Emerg. only)
dnkrumah@dmdiocese.org
Mass: Sunday 10:00 a.m.
Kristin Hook (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

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

Faith Fellowship Church
1694 Hwy 152,
Osceola, IA 50213
641-414-3935
Pastor: Scott Davis
Youth Pastor: Tyler Murrow
ffcosceolapastor@gmail.com
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
Like us on Facebook:
New Virginia United Methodist Church

Medora United Methodist Church
10804 Hwy G-76 / Box 301
New Virginia, IA 50210
641-449-3779
Pastor Paul Burrow
515-402-1802
Pastor's email: burrowpi@yahoo.com
Church email;NewVA-Medora@outlook.com
Sunday School: 9:15 AM (children)
Worship: 9 AM

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