



Calmar Courier

Community News. Community Service.

Tuesday, Aug. 16, 2022 | Volume 44, Issue 34 Official Paper of Calmar, Fort Atkinson, Waucoma, Winneshiek County and Turkey Valley Community Schools



PIVO Brewery and Blepta Studios Owners Craig and Sara Neuzil hosted a round table with Sen. Joni Ernst, NICC President Herbert Riedel, Calmar Mayor Keith Frana and Decorah Chamber Executive Director Jessica Rilling. Photos by Michael Hohenbrink

Ernst Leads Round Table

By Michael Hohenbrink
Editor

Calmar’s business community is seeing post-lock-down recovery, but supply chain issues loom on the horizon.

Sen. Joni Ernst led a round table discussion Friday afternoon giving area business and government officials a chance to address their concerns.

Touring one of the city’s signature businesses, Ernst asked Craig Neuzil how the supply chain issues were affecting him as he works to produce product and care for customers.

“It’s been a....hiccup,” said Neuzil.

Given the size of the business, PIVO is less impacted than it would were it a more large-scale industry, said Neuzil.

Being small, means the business is a bit more agile. “I’m more flexible,” said Neuzil.

Business shutdowns and restrictions in 2020 came at an important time for the business. The loss of revenue for a small business was devastating.

The business had to work hard to recover, something in which the owners take pride.

“We’re on solid footing now,” said Neuzil.

The Neuzils gave Ernst a behind-the-scenes tour of the business and noted their connections to area communities, for example with aiding Sumner during its recent anniversary celebration.

Capping the day was a round table discussion with NICC President Herbert Riedel, Calmar Mayor Keith Frana and Decorah



Sara Neuzil (l) speaks with Sen. Joni Ernst (r) as Calmar Mayor Keith Frana and Craig Neuzil listen on.

Chamber Executive Director Jessica Rilling sharing their stories of the region’s growth and challenges.

Rising costs for fuel, rents and basics have presented a complicated chapter for business and economic development, both in this area and more widely.



Kids games, softball, food and drink and live entertainment re back for Czech Days. File photo

Czech Days Returning With Crowd Favorites

By Michael Hohenbrink
Editor

Holy Trinity’s Czech Days is back for the big 44.

The fun kicks off Friday, Aug. 19 and runs through Sunday, Aug. 21.

Friday’s events include a softball tournament at the ball park in Protivin, fireman’s water ball at the city park and “Tim the Music Man” at the community center, all at 6 p.m.

Saturday’s fun has a volleyball tournament at 8 a.m., softball tournament at 8:30 a.m. and bean bag tournament at 9 a.m.

The Antique Tractor and Car Show runs from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. while the Community Band performs in the main tent from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Inflatables will be available from noon to 5 p.m. while bingo and a cake walk are also planned.

“Barefoot Becky & The Invahoe Dutchmen” perform in the main tent from 1 to 5 p.m. with “Tim the Music Man” back from 6 to 8 p.m. in the community center.

“Cody Hicks” will be in the main tent from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m.

Sunday has the softball tournament at 9 a.m. with Mass at 10:30 a.m.

Bingo, kids pedal tractor pull and more kids activities are planned as well with the “Jim Busta Band with Mollie B” performing in the main tent from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. plus a cake walk and then the “Malek’s Fisherman Band” from 3 to 6 p.m. in the main tent.

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Meet the 2022 South Winn Staff



New SW staff pictured (l-r) are: Brennan Williams, Brandy Wenthold, LeVirgil Monroe and Ed Wadsworth. Photo by Michael Hohenbrink

Wenthold Joins SW After Subbing

**BY MICHAEL HOHENBRINK
EDITOR**

South Winneshiek’s new art teacher is Brandy Wenthold who might already be familiar to many students in the district.

She has previously worked as a substitute for both South Winneshiek and North Fayette Valley.

“I received my Bachelor of Arts from Western Governors University,” said Wenthold.

Wenthold has a flair for creativity.

“I’m really excited to be able to use my creativity in the art classroom and see what the students can share as well,” said Wenthold.

Coming to northeast Iowa was due to meeting someone special.

“I moved to the area 10 years ago after I met my now husband,” said Wenthold.

Wenthold has a unique talent.

“I have an amazing long term memory and can remember tiny details down to what someone said or was wearing 20 years ago,” said Wenthold.

She is excited about starting the new year.

“I look forward to not only teaching this year but learning from others as well, there is always so much more to learn,” said Wenthold.

Williams Feeling at Home in NE Iowa

**BY MICHAEL HOHENBRINK
EDITOR**

Brennan Williams is 9-12 Principal at South Winneshiek.

Williams comes to South Winneshiek after teaching junior high social studies at Mount Pleasant and serving as the Head Girl’s Soccer Coach while assisting with Varsity Football.

Then at Postville, he was the 7-12 At Risk Coordinator as well as 9-12 Athletic

Director.

He earned his Bachelor’s Degree with a major in History at Central College back in 2008 and then his Master’s with PK-12 Administration at Wayne State a decade later in 2018.

Williams reflected on what he is most excited about.

“The opportunity to join the district and provide high-quality education for the community,” said Williams.

“The community has been very welcoming to a

new principal.”

He is feeling at home in northeast Iowa.

“I had no prior ties to the area before moving north, but we are happy to call the area home now,” said Williams.

Something interesting about Williams includes time in Europe.

“After High School graduation I traveled abroad to Germany, Austria, and Switzerland,” said Williams.

Wadsworth Looking Ahead to New Year

**BY MICHAEL HOHENBRINK
EDITOR**

Ed Wadsworth comes to South Winneshiek as a new special education teacher.

“I taught 13 years at Edgewood-Colesburg as an agriculture teacher and one year at the LIED education center in Waverly as a Special education teacher,” said Wadsworth.

He earned his Bachelors from Iowa State University and undertook Masters work at Upper Iowa University.

Wadsworth is excited about joining the community at South Winn.

He comes with a big tie to the area.

“My Wife Danielle is 2003 graduate of South Winn,” said Wadsworth.

“Her dad Dave Johnson resides in rural Ossian.”

Wadsworth shared something interesting about himself.

“I enjoy gardening and hiking,” said Wadsworth.

Help Wanted
Part-Time Home Health Nurse Position

Winneshiek County Public Health has an opening for a part-time Home Health Nurse. Qualified caring individuals are responsible for providing patient care to Home Health clients. Must be currently licensed to practice as an RN in Iowa. BLS certification required. Previous experience preferred although newly graduated are also encouraged to apply. Successful candidate must be dependable, flexible, highly motivated, have excellent interpersonal communication skills, and be a team player. May become involved with some public health activities through agency work. Monday through Friday flexible schedule with rotating weekend and holiday call time. Benefits include IPERS pension, mileage, and vacation and sick time.

Applications can be picked up at the Public Health office or from our website:
www.winneshiekhealth.org
Completed applications and a list of references will be accepted until 4pm, August 26, 2022 at the agency office. EOE
Winneshiek County Public Health Nursing Service
305 Montgomery St; Ste #3
Decorah, IA 52101
(top floor of the Smith Building)



MIKE FRANKEN FOR U.S. SENATE

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HOWARD COUNTY
MEET & GREET

Saturday, August 20th
4:00pm-5:00pm

Cresco Chamber of Commerce

101 2nd Avenue South West, Cresco, Iowa 52136

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Starts 11:30am CT on Aug 20th
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2022



Award Winning Newspaper

Calmar Courier

A Division of Mid-America Publishing and Printing

www.calmarcourier.com
news@calmarcourier.com
563-562-3488

Mailing Address:
P.O. Box 507
Calmar, IA 52132
USPS: 335-690

OFFICE LOCATION AND INFORMATION:

• Office hours:

Monday – By appointment
Tuesday - Closed
Wednesday - 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Thursday - 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Friday - 1 to 5 p.m.

• Office location:

110 N. Maryville St.
Calmar, IA 52132

• Physical product deliveries to:

9 2nd St. NW, Hampton, IA 50441

• Mail: P.O. Box 507, Calmar, IA 52132

DEADLINES:

• Obituaries: Mondays, 8:30 a.m.

• All others, Fridays, noon

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The Calmar Courier strives for accurate and complete news reporting but occasionally we get it wrong. In cases where an error has been made we will run a correction, clarification, retraction or editor's note in the next edition. Our goal in any event is to inform readers of corrections clearly and quickly, citing the incorrect information and updating with the correct information.

All corrections will be printed on page 2A in the next issue published. The correction will denote the issue, article and incorrect information along with the correction. Digital corrections will also be made and an editor's note will be added to the bottom of the article in question noting what was inaccurate and noting when the article was amended. If the article was posted on Facebook, Twitter or any other online medium controlled by The Calmar Courier, a post will be made linking to the corrected article, noting the correction.

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The Calmar Courier is produced weekly and distributed on Tuesdays by Mid-America Publishing Corporation, Hampton, IA 50441. Periodicals postage paid at the Calmar Post Office, Calmar, IA 52132. Send address changes to Calmar Courier, P.O. Box 507, Calmar, IA 52132. Postal Permit USPS 335-690..

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR POLICY

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• Your complete address
• Your telephone number
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It's All in the Motivation With the Offspring



EDITOR'S NOTES

Michael Hohenbrink

While I dread the eldest going off to college – and the first of the imminent departures of offspring leaving the nest – as the boys grow older, some good is coming out of this.

Starting with getting the boy to clean his room. “Mom wanted me to make sure nothing important was left under there,” said Matt.

Preparing to head off to college, he was getting things ready as he boxed up clothing and got ready to move out.

There followed two straight hours of a teenager cleaning up after himself.

Somehow, his room began to disgorge everything from LEGOs to clothing. Excitedly, he let me know he had found \$25.

Now, personally, I consider that a windfall. I let him know my theory that he was being well rewarded with his archaeological pursuits and suggested he allow his brothers to help, for a finder’s fee.

Give them 25 percent off the tip, and you’re still ahead. The more they find, the richer you are.

He turned down my idea, but I’m still intrigued at this idea.

Indeed, I’m also tempted to liberally seed the next cleanup project I have for the boys with a couple of dollar bills.

Particularly for the eight-year-old, I’m thinking this would be a great bribe.

Nor is it solely cash at stake. Old CD’s, books, et al. could be found.

Unfortunately, I don’t think the boy shares my taste in what makes a treasure.

Case in point, a moment ago the young man dismissed a Swing Revival band from the 1990s.

“Because that’s what you listen to,” explained the young man (who at this moment has not been cast out of any will on my part).

So, the prospect of good music isn’t a motivator. Still, I’m thinking I might employ the money gambit.

A well-placed dollar bill, and once he is home on break, I might well lure him into cleaning the basement.

That would be a dollar – or \$10 – well spent in my book.

Watch Just What One Wishes For Some Watching



AGE OF THE GEEK

Travis Fischer

The Marvel Cinematic Universe hit an interesting milestone recently.

With the release of “Thor: Love and Thunder” and the conclusion of “Ms. Marvel” on Disney+, the MCU has produced more than 100 hours of content to watch.

That’s a lot of super hero antics. 100 hours over 14 years is a lot, but it’s worth noting that nearly half of that amount has been produced in just Marvel’s Phase 4. With the introduction of Disney+ shows coming with three movies worth of runtime each, Phase 4 has already created as much content as the first three phases combined. It’s wild to think that half of runtime of the total MCU has been made in just the last few years.

Technically, this isn’t the first time the MCU has reached this milestone.

If you count the various TV spin-offs of questionable continuity, the MCU made the 100 hour mark several years ago. Heck, “Marvel’s Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D.” alone made 136 episodes across seven seasons, to say nothing about the half-dozen Netflix shows or all the other assorted TV projects over the years.

But those projects, produced by Marvel Entertainment, all had a one-way relationship to the movies. They may have referenced the events of the movies and maybe even brought in a movie character to cameo, but it never worked the other way around.

These more recent shows on Disney+ though are different. They’re directly made by Marvel Studios and, more often than not, directly impact the ongoing narrative of the MCU.

This was most recently demonstrated with “WandaVision” leading into “Doctor Strange and the Multiverse of Madness.”

It won’t end there either. “The Falcon and Winter Soldier” exists to set up the next Captain America movie and Ms. Marvel will return next year in “The Marvels.”

For those keeping up with the MCU, the TV shows are no longer optional media. This means, for a full rewatch, there is now 100 hours of content to binge through.

I know I go over this every few years or so, but it’s still astounding what Marvel Studios has accomplished.

Last May was the 10th Anniversary of the release of “The Avengers,” which at the time was one of the most ambitious films ever produced. Remember when making five individual movies to culminate in a major crossover event was an unheard of?

A mere decade ago it was a huge deal. Today it seems rather quaint.

Now we’re well into Phase 4, which has really changed the tone since the conclusion of the Infinity War saga.

A lot of Phase 4 thus far seems to be dedicated to setting up the pieces for the new status quo. If there is a criticism of this post-Endgame world, it’s that things have seemed kind of aimless. Unlike previous phases, which gradually teased the Infinity Stones, Phase 4 doesn’t seem to be building up to anything in particular. Sure, there are options.

“Loki” introduced us to Kang the Conqueror, “The Eternals” seemed to be setting the stage for the Secret War, and there are still a whole lot of Skrulls running around. Beyond that, it really looks like Marvel Studios is getting ready to introduce the X-Men and all their mutant drama to the MCU, which comes with a new supply of stories that could sustain them for another decade.

It’s hard to say where exactly the MCU goes from here, but I’ll have a better idea this Saturday when I attend the Marvel Studios panel at ComicCon International during my long awaited vacation.

Travis Fischer is a news writer for Mid-America Publishing and asks that nothing important happen for the next two weeks.

We Need Warren Harding Not Another FDR Clone

The Alternative

Fritz Groszkruger

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www.alternativebyfritz.com



The Senate passed the \$280 billion “Chips For America” bill. Well intentioned, but I think there are unfortunate unintended consequences down the road.

In Farm Show Magazine there was an entry about a farmer with a General Motors pickup that sits waiting for parts to honor a warranty claim concerning a DEF (diesel exhaust fluid) problem that crippled its Isuzu V6.

In my experience whenever I see an approaching pickup with one light out it identifies it as General Motors.

I have a friend who swore he would never buy another General Motors product because of the bailout in 2008. This particular guy went broke with his excavating business during the 1980s Farm Crisis.

But he didn’t declare bankruptcy. He worked and paid every single creditor who had trusted him.

General Motors made a faulty ignition switch that ultimately cost 124 people their lives when their cars unexpectedly went out of control.

GM got a slap on the wrist even though it tried to cover up its mistake beginning in 2001.

The drone of underpaid and abused workers we hear from unions just might be true after all.

A big chunk of their paychecks goes to enable mismanagement at the corporate level similar to a parent enabling a dope or video-game addict.

Whether through inflation or taxation, we pay for shoddy products and poor business decisions with subsidies and mandates. I wonder, are these bailouts planned ahead of time by crony capitalists and their congressional pets, or are they just plain dumb?

In the “bailout-plan” column are the Ukrainian war and the COVID 19 pandemic. Ukraine has zero strategic value for the United States, yet tens of billions of American workers’ hard earned cash now reside in the pockets of so-called defense contractors.

Russia’s defense budget is only 13 percent of the United States’ defense budget. Yet gullible consumers of corporate propaganda actually believe Russia is on a march to rule the world.

With actual fatalities similar to those from a bad flu, pharmaceutical companies are fleecing the working class with a constant stream of vaccines that don’t work and have a largely unreported record of terrible, adverse reactions. Moderna and Pfizer are featured in the Wall Street Journal driving up real estate values with their executives and workers on a buying spree of penthouses and mansions.

The traditional bashing of welfare cheats dissolved to some extent when Republicans knelt before Bill Clinton, praising him for his welfare reform.

Interestingly, there was a huge increase in bad backs and mental illness accompanied by Social Security Disability checks about that time. But corporate welfare has these unfortunate individuals beat hands down.

Joni Ernst and Chuck Grassley have joined Bernie Sanders (Democratic poster-boy for stolen elections) in a losing effort to defeat “Chips For America.” This bill has to be one of the biggest rewards for incompetence ever invented.

This kind of thing is what really adds up to recession, which recent GDP data indicate we are in right now. Wage gains are four percent behind the inflation rate, an indicator of increasing wealth disparity between rich and poor. That disparity is facilitated by corporate welfare as in “Chips For America.”

When people like Grassley, Ernst and Sanders prove their commitment to America by further letting working families keep what they earn, recession will self-correct.

In 1920 there was a sharper downturn in the economy than the one in 1929.

President Warren Harding drastically reduced the size of the federal government.

After a year and a half of sorting out waste America had one of the most prosperous decades in its history. Contrast that with Hoover’s and Roosevelt’s numerous programs for helping put Americans to work.

But where did they lead? The Great Depression for 16 years.

Any arguments, compliments or additions are welcome through a letter to the editor, or to me at: 4selfgovernment@gmail.com, and past columns and other stuff are at www.alternativebyfritz.com

Election Integrity is a Need, Not a Want



To the Editor:

We are living in very stressful times these days. On November 3rd 2020 we all went to our polling places and cast our votes. Here in Iowa we had one race that was contested for awhile, but eventually was settled with the winner having only a 6 vote lead. But the federal election for president in 6 states went on for days and weeks.

If you would like to know what happened in that election that had never happened before, you need to watch the documentary 2000 Mules. You can watch it on the internet, and even order your own DVD. Several groups of concerned citizens have spent millions of \$ trying to get to the bottom of this 2020 election. I've paid to put a nice color ad in this week's paper directing you to go on the internet next week August 20-21 to watch a wonderful seminar for free and see a documentary by Laura Logan that will help you understand that nefarious people who know how to hack into your phone or computer also hacked into our vote counting machines in every state to flip votes. They are still doing it in our primary elections and will do it again in the mid term elections as long as there are vote tabulating machines. Please take time to watch these two days and see for yourself what needs to be done to make your vote count in the next election.

Shalom!
Rick Titus
Clarion

Deadline: Letters to the Editor should be submitted no later than noon Friday.

Submitting: Email letters to news@calmarcourier.com, mail them to P.O. Box 507 Calmar, IA 52175 or drop them off in the office at 110 N. Maryville St.

Questions: Call 563-562-3488

Worship Guide

- Eleventh Sunday After Pentecost
- Bethany Lutheran**
Rural Ossian
Sunday, Aug. 21:
10:30 a.m. Worship Service
- Calmar Lutheran**
Calmar
Sunday, Aug. 21:
9 a.m. Worship
- Holy Trinity**
Protivin
Thursday, Aug. 18:
8:45 a.m. Mass
Saturday, Aug. 20:
6 p.m. Mass
Sunday, Aug. 21:
8:30 a.m. Mass
- Our Lady of Mt. Carmel**
Lawler
Saturday, Aug. 20:
3:15 a.m. Confession
4 p.m. Mass
- Our Lady of Seven Dolors**
Festina
Saturday, Aug. 20:
3:15 p.m. Confession
4 p.m. Mass
Tuesday, Aug. 23:
5:45 p.m. Mass
- St. Aloysius**
Calmar
Friday, Aug. 19:
8:15 a.m. Mass
Sunday, Aug. 21:
10 a.m. Mass
- St. Benedict**
Decorah
Saturday, Aug. 20:
5 p.m. Mass
Sunday, Aug. 21:
7:30 a.m. Mass, 10 a.m. Mass
- St. Francis de Sales**
Ossian
Wednesday, Aug. 17:
9 a.m. Mass
Sunday, Aug. 21:
7:15 a.m. Confession
8 a.m. Mass
- St. John Nepomucene**
Fort Atkinson
Saturday, Aug. 20:
6 p.m. Mass
Tuesday, Aug. 23:
5:30 p.m. Mass
- St. John Lutheran**
Stapleton
Sunday, Aug. 21:
9 a.m.
- St. Luke**
St. Lucas
Wednesday, Aug. 17:
8:30 a.m. Mass
Sunday, Aug. 21:
10:30 a.m. Mass
- St. Wenceslaus**
Spillville
Thursday, Aug. 18:
9 a.m. Mass
Saturday, Aug. 20:
6 p.m. Mass
- Springfield Lutheran
Sunday, Aug. 21:
10:30 a.m.
- Trinity Lutheran
Calmar
Sunday, Aug. 21:
11 a.m. Worship Service
- Guadalupe Shrine
5250 Justin Road
La Crosse, Wisconsin
Sunday, Aug. 21:
9:30 a.m. Traditional Latin Mass, 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. Novus Ordo Mass

Church Notes
Pinhook Mass Scheduled

The annual Mass at the St. Bridget Pinhook Oratory in rural Sumner is set for Saturday, Aug. 20, at 10 a.m.

St. Agnes Will Have Mass

Mass at the Oratory of St. Agnes Plymouth Rock will return Sept. 3.
The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass will be offered at 6:30 p.m. with a meal following.

Holy Cross Mass Set

Mass at Holy Cross Cemetery in Schley will be offered Wednesday, Sept. 7 at 5 p.m.

Harvest Fest Planned

St. Joseph Harvest Festival is set for Sept. 17 in rural Harmony.

Mass will be offered at 11 a.m. with lunch and chili cook off at 12:30 p.m.

Games begin at 1:30 p.m. with a potato sack race, egg race, sponge race, egg toss and three-legged race with a hayride at 3 p.m. and supper at 5 p.m. with a campfire at 6 p.m.

For more information, call 507-429-4628.

Obituaries
Donald John Wenthold
1940-2022

Donald John Wenthold, 81, of Decorah, passed away Aug. 6, 2022 at Winneshiek Medical Center in Decorah. Donald was born to Margaret Hackman Wenthold and Felix William Wenthold Dec. 27, 1940 in Smith Memorial Hospital in Decorah. Donny attended school at St. Francis de Sales in Ossian. Donald grew up on the family farm in Winneshiek County and actively farmed the homestead until his retirement.

Donny enjoyed collecting tractors full size and toy models. He loved watching NASCAR racing and of course, his highly anticipated trips to the Mable Minnesota Steam Engine Days. Donny was a kind soul.

Donny was preceded in death by his mother, Margaret and father, Felix; his brother, Darrell; step-mother, Mary; sister-in-law, Tina and nephew, Graham Ness.

Surviving siblings are Kathleen (Conrad) Kriener, of Fort Atkinson; Elaine (William) Ness, of Atlanta, Georgia; Jean Wenthold, of Davenport, and Marilyn (Steve) Courtney of Lakeland, Florida.

Visitation was set for 10 to 11 a.m. Tuesday, Aug. 16, at St. Francis de Sales Catholic Church in Ossian with Mass of Christian Burial at 11 a.m. and burial following in the parish cemetery.

Schmitz-Grau Funeral Home and Cremation Service in Ossian is assisting the family with arrangements.



John Meyer

John Meyer, 94, of Calmar, passed away Aug. 2 at Aase Haugen Senior Services in Decorah.

A memorial Mass was set for 11 a.m. Aug. 13 at St. Aloysius Catholic Church in Calmar with burial the church cemetery and visitation from 9:30 a.m. until Mass.



NIBBLES

by NICHOL HOHENBRINK

Please Pardon the Parental Pun

Orange you glad you decided to read my column this week?

Okay, enough mom humor. Speaking of which, while dropping off out oldest at college this weekend for the first time, I spent the week with my parents. My mom gave me two more cookbooks, one of which is featured in this week's column

Overall, my family likes oranges. In fact, when I buy a new bag of them, often they immediately migrate to the desk of the other power that be in our household, joining his supply of cracker and cookies that helps to keep him fueled.

HOT FRUIT COM-POTE

SOURCE: "The Busy-Mom's Slow Cooker Cookbook"

YIELD: 12 servings

- 4 fresh oranges, peeled and sectioned
- 3 cups (about 3 pounds) fresh pineapple chunks
- 3 fresh pears, peeled and slice 1/4 inch thick
- 3 fresh peaches, peeled and sliced 1/4 inch thick
- 1 1/2 cups (about 1 pint) fresh cherries
- 1 1/2 cups (about 1 pint) seedless grapes
- 1/4 cup sugar
- 1/4 cup water
- 1 Tablespoon lemon juice
- low-fat ice cream, non-fat frozen yogurt, or angel food cake

Spray inside of slow cooker with cooking spray. Combine all ingredients in slow cooker and mix well. Cover and cook on low heat for 3-4 hours. Serve over ice cream, frozen yogurt or angel food cake.

ORANGE FRUIT BASKETS

SOURCE: "Taste of Home Kid Approved Cookbook"

YIELD: 8 baskets

- 10 large navel oranges
- 1 kiwifruit, peeled, sliced & quartered
- 3/4 cup fresh blueberries
- 3/4 cup sliced fresh strawberries
- 3/4 cup halved green grapes
- 3/4 cup halved red grapes
- Additional red grapes and blueberries, optional

Peel and section 2 oranges; set aside. Make baskets from remaining oranges. For handle, score 1/2-in.-wide strip over the top of each orange. Score peel from the base of the handle on one side to the opposite side. Cut along scored lines with a paring knife and remove peel. Repeat on the other side.

Using a paring or grape-fruit knife and spoon, scoop out pulp from under handle and inside of basket. Combine kiwi, blueberries, strawberries, grapes and reserved orange segments; spoon into baskets.

If desired, make a flower on top of basket handle with grapes and blueberries. Quarter six grapes; place three quarters on top of each handle with a blueberry in the center.

AGUA FRESCA

SOURCE: "Eat We'll on \$4/Day Good and Cheap"

- 2 cups chopped fruit
- 4 cups water
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- squeeze of citrus juice
- sugar
- mint leaves
- leaves of other herbs

VARIATIONS
blueberry and lemon
cucumber and lemon
mango and lime
melon
orange
papaya and pineapple
peach and vanilla
strawberry and mint

For a very lightly flavored agua fresca, just mix the fruit and water together. If you want more fruit flavor, then use less water; for more subtle flavor, use more water.

Serve over ice. If you store this in the fridge, it'll keep for about 3 days or up to a week, depending on the fruit.

Agua Fresca can be run through the blender. If you want the drink to be clear, strain the pulpy leftovers of the fruit after blending.

If you're using blueberries or oranges or other fruit with skin, you'll almost certainly want to strain it. For some fruits, you can also choose to leave the pulp. In the case of melons, the pulp purees so smoothly that you barely notice it.



Floral Arranging Workshop Held
Iowa State University Extension and Outreach Fayette County hosted a Floral Arranging Workshop Aug. 9. Participants had the opportunity to create floral arrangements under the remote guidance of Dan Brabec, ISU assistant professor. Pictured (l-r are: Jes Wegner, of West Union; Barb Schultz, of Hawkeye; Jan Grafenberg, of West Union; Susan Stevens, of Sumner, and Christine Harvey, of Wadena. The next Floral Arranging Workshop is set for Wednesday, Nov. 16, from 6 to 7:30 p.m. at the Fayette Community Library. Photo courtesy Extension

News Briefs

Dairy Center Will See Movie Night

Food Trucks & Moo-vie Night on the Farm is set for Friday, Aug. 19. This family-friendly event is open to the public and begins at 5 p.m. at Iowa's Dairy Center.

Free popcorn will be provided with the movie, which begins at dusk.

Decorah Chorale Hosting Auditions

The Decorah Chorale,

an adult mixed chorus with members from Northeast Iowa and Southeast Minnesota, is holding auditions for anyone interested in singing in the 2022-23 season Sunday, Aug. 21 from 6 to 8 p.m. in the Decorah High School Choir Room.

The eight-minute individual audition will assess vocal and musical skills – no prepared piece is necessary. Auditions will be held with the Chorale's artistic director, Jason Rausch. Enter the

high school from the west parking lot, door 29. Please email decorahchoraledirector@gmail.com with any questions or to arrange a different audition time. The first rehearsal for the fall term will be Sunday, Aug. 28.

Spillville Library Has Award Winners

The Spillville Public Library is hosting 2022 Iowa Junior Duck Stamp winners. The exhibit runs to Sept. 2.

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Fayette County Courthouse

All suspects are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law or by administrative action.

Traffic

Kyle Thomas Moon, of Oelwein, reckless driving, leaving the scene of an accident; Leonel Perez Varona, of Ossian, speeding; Kristen Diane Fravel, of Waukon, speeding; Melissa Vera Hoehn, of Waterloo, operation without registration card or plate, speeding; Cesar Adolfo Gomez Salazar, of Waterloo, speeding; Jason Allen Jarchow, of Dubuque, operation without registration card or plate; Lia Pe, of Waterloo, open container; Bradley Owen Knudson, of Center Point, operation without registration card or plate; Austin James Calonder, of Hampton, Georgia, speeding; Jared Michael Richardson, of Oelwein, failure to use child restraint device; Julie Ann Bradshaw, of Des Moines, speeding; Patrick Wayne Gibson, of Cleveland, Ohio, speeding; Tara Ann Bohr, of West Union, seat belt; Ryan Brent Mills, of Ettrick, Wisconsin, speeding; Rachael Lynn Brunscheon, of Oelwein, operating non-registered vehicle; David Eugene Hoth, of Postville, speeding; Shanell Kay Achenbach, of Center Point, speeding; Beverly Ann Westpfahl, of Oelwein, failure to maintain control; Mildred G. Godinez Pecina, of Grand Prairie, Texas, speeding; Rodney Duane Hanawalt, of Ionia, operation by unqualified driver; Steven Mark Matteson, of Hazleton, speeding; Brian Eugene Ingles, of Elkader, failure to maintain or use safety belts; Karen Kaye Rozeboom, of Springdale, Arizona; Kole Douglas Johnson, of Fayette, seat belt; Nathan Jon Gibson, of Maynard, seat belt; Ezra Lee Solheim, of Fayette, speeding; Nicholas Scott Shcarf, of Marion, speeding; Jacob Strand, of Oelwein, speeding; Alyson Cole Ewald, of Rutledge, Missouri, speeding; Marissa Raechel Bauer, of Zimmerman, Minnesota, speeding; Roger Elmer Quandahl, of Waukon, speeding; Marnol Maximiliano Meija Colo, of Postville, speeding; Terry D. Grapes, of Onalaska, speeding

OWI

Connie Francis

Popham, of Lamont, motion for continuance

Travis Patrick Berry, of Maynard, guilty plea, motion for continuance

Kyle Thomas Moon, of Oelwein, order of disposition, operating while under the influence – first offense, 60 days in jail with 58 days suspended, one year of probation, \$1,250 fine

Edgar Joel Torres Santiago, of Oelwein, order of disposition, operating while under the influence – first offense, two days in jail, two days time served, \$1,250 fine

Trynt Izek Alin Telsrow, of Decorah, motion for continuance

Criminal

Daryl John Shea, of West Union, hearing for an initial appearance

Keith Joseph Hauber, of Decorah, order of disposition, criminal mischief – second degree, five years in prison suspended, \$1,025 fine suspended, five years of probation, one year in a residential facility

Law Enforcement

Winneshiak County Sheriff's Office

Aug. 8

Scott Fjelstul, 34, of Ridgeway, was arrested and booked into the Winneshiak County Jail on a warrant for aggravated misdemeanor assault with a dangerous weapon and aggravated misdemeanor domestic abuse assault display or use weapon – first offense.

Aug. 9

Trisha Lee Kountkofsky, 39, of Ridgeway, was arrested for violation of pre-trial supervision.

Aug. 10

Cole Theodore Diesburg, 26, of Nashua, was pronounced dead at the scene following a motorcycle crash on Old Stage Road near Winnmakee Road around 8 a.m. as he lost control of his motorcycle while navigating a turn.

Fayette County Sheriff's Office

Aug. 9

At 12:46 p.m., the Fayette County Sheriff's Office received a report of an accident near the 8000 block of Filmore Road. Sean-Patrick Delaughter, 21, of Miami, Florida, was eastbound when he attempted to pass a vehicle and lost control. Delaughter's vehicle went into the south ditch and rolled. Delaughter was transported to Gundersen-Palmer Lutheran Hospital and treated for injuries and cited for failure to maintain control.

Aug. 10

At approximately 7:20 p.m., the Fayette County Sheriff's Office and Iowa State Patrol executed a search warrant at 415 E Burger St. Hawkeye. During a search of the residence, multiple firearms and paraphernalia were found and seized. Rusty Joe Barker, 38, of Hawkeye, was arrested and charged with being a felon in possession of a firearm, a Class "D" felony.

Aug. 11

Matthew Richard Seibert, 37, of Waukon, was eastbound on Highway 9 near Trout Creek Bridge when he struck a cow at 9:41 p.m. No citations were issued, and the cow was killed by the impact.

Real Estate Transfers

Ruth Huffman to Nicholas P. Yaneff and Erica H. Yaneff, warranty deed, 1828 Canoe Valley Road, Decorah; Decorah Township Erickson SDN Lot 3 and Decorah Township Erickson SDN Lot 2-2

Gregory M. Pterson and Ann Sponberg Peterson to Benny Volkmann and Michelle Volkmann, warranty deed, 312 Upper Broadway, Decorah; Decorah Updegraffs Addition Block 1 Lot 3 S 52.2'

Jason Klimesh and Chrsitina M. Klimesh to Mark C. Klimesh and Patricia J. Klimesh, warranty deed, 106 Oak St., Spillville; Spillville Original Lot 68 W 285'; Spillville Original Lot 7 S 5' of SDN-L's 69-73; Spillville Original Lot 8 S 5' of SDN-L's 69-73

Kent C. Simmonds Trustee, Margaret Lynne Sootheran Trustee and Kent C. Simmonds and Margaret Lynne Sootheran Revocable Trust to Calopteryx, LLC, trustee's deed, Pine Creek Road, Decorah; 33-100-9 SE SE L1; 33-100-9 SW SE L1-2; 33-100-9 SW SE L1-3; 33-100-9 SW SE L4; 33-100-9 SW SE L1-5; 33-100-9 SW SE L1-6

Joseph C. Labosky, Sr.; Linda C. Labosky to Joseph C. Labosky, Sr., Trustee; Linda C. Labosky Trustee and Labosky Family Trust, quit claim deed, 36-99-10 NW SW L1

Robert J. Vrtis and Chrstina E. Vrtis to Dakota Kieran Moore and Jordan Shae Moore, warranty deed, 405 Day St., Decorah; Decorah Winship/Kinyon Addition Lot 13

Chanda M. Humpal to Bruce C. Ventura and Chrisitine N. Hall, warranty deed, 603 Mechanic St., Decorah; Decorah Maynard/Snyder Addition Block 56 Lot 6; Decorah Maynard/Snyder Addition Block 56 Lot 7

Holly E. White to Jennifer E. Edinger, warranty deed, 704 Decorah Ave., Decorah; Decorah Wheelers Addition Block 2 Lot 17; Decorah Wheelers Addition Block 2 Lot 18

Daniel J. Klimesh and Diane L. Klimesh to Dawn Backes and Derrick Klimesh, quit claim deed, 12-98-10 SW NW L1; 12-98-10 SW NW L2-2

Fire and EMS Calls

Aug. 8

WMC Ambulance was dispatched at 12:45 p.m. to NICC childcare center for a 59-year-old woman who had fallen.

WMC Ambulance was dispatched at 9:18 p.m. to the 900 block of Mill Street in Decorah for a possibly suicidal man.

Aug. 9

Tri-State Ambulance and West Union were dispatched to the 8500 block of Filmore Road at 12:47 p.m. for an accident.

Aug. 10

WMC ambulance was dispatched to NEIBH to transport a girl to the Emergency Room at WMC at 2:52 p.m.

WMC ambulance was dispatched to the 2000 block of Rogers Creek Road Fort Atkinson for a young boy with a diabetic episode at 3:22 p.m.

Aug 11

WMC Ambulance was dispatched to 4 Ohio St. in Decorah for an elderly woman requesting to be taken to the emergency room at 2:09 p.m.

Tri-State Ambulance was requested to be on standby for an intoxicated man in the 10000 block of Y Avenue at 2:14 p.m.

Reach the Calmar Courier
at 563-562-3488 or news@calmarcourier.com

NOTICE

TURKEY VALLEY CSD BOARD OF EDUCATION AUG. 8, 2022

The Turkey Valley School Board met in a regular session on Monday, August 8, 2022. The meeting was held in the Elementary Media Center at Turkey Valley School, Jackson Junction, IA. Don Blazek, Jr. called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. The following Board Directors answered roll call: Leon Shatek, Katie Stika, and Don Blazek Jr. Ernie Schmitt joined via zoom (7:05PM) and Jody Steinlage was absent.

Moved by Shatek and seconded by Stika to approve the agenda as presented. Carried unanimously.

Moved by Stika and seconded by Shatek to approve the consent agenda items. Board Minutes: July 11, 2022, regular meeting; Appointments: Brittany Schmitt - Preschool Associate; Dalton Hackman, and Frank Wilson- vol. asst. football coaches; Tammy Vrzak and Jackie Novotny-volunteer asst. volleyball; Jr. Hackman-varisty softball coach. Resignations: None. Carried unanimously.

Moved by Stika and seconded by Shatek to approve the financial reports and bills. General Fund \$348,540.98, Hot Lunch \$673.95, Clearing \$4,637.79, PPEL \$21,245.06, Capital \$79,180.57. Carried unanimously.

No public forum and no unfinished business.

The board discussed the pros and cons of holding Jr. Hi sports practices during school hours vs after school. The board asked Mr. Jurrens to survey the parents, students, and coaches on this subject. This item will be brought back to the board in September.

Moved by Shatek and seconded by Stika to approve the CSIAC (Comprehensive School Improvement Advisory Committee) list as presented with corrections of town mayors. Carried unanimously.

Moved by Shatek and seconded by Stika to approve the NICC Health Occupations and College Course Contracts 2022-2023. Carried unanimously.

Moved by Shatek and seconded by Stika to approve the purchase of new computers for the high school computer lab. Quote from CDW-G of \$13,650.00 was accepted. Carried unanimously.

Moved by Shatek and seconded by Stika to approve the gas and diesel bids from Farmers Union Coop for 22-23 school year. Carried unanimously.

Principal Hoy told the board that she was happy to be at Turkey Valley!

Thanks to John and Lynnie Reicks for teaching the summer school program. It is a great opportunity for our students. Mrs. Hoy has the PD days schedules in place.

Mr. Jurrens thanked the custodians for a job well done. The building looks amazing! Due to a bus driver shortage, we will have 6 routes instead of 7 this year. The bus grant is almost complete. He has been in contact with the architect for the shop plans. Hoping to get bids soon. Financially in a position to move forward with this project. Construction of the Greenhouse will begin this fall. Mr. Jurrens asked the board to consider attending the IASB Convention.

Thanks to Farmers Win Coop, Mitch Balik and Ernie Schmitt for the use of their forklifts and their help in unloading polycarbonate sheets for the greenhouse. Their help was greatly appreciated.

Thanks to Betty Backes and Phyllis Boeding for cutting, weeding, and trimming the plants and cleaning the landscape around Turkey Valley for many years. As these two "retire" from this job, the board would like to thank them for their donation of time and dedication to Turkey Valley. The next regular school board meeting will be held on Monday September 12, 2022 @ 7:00 PM.

Moved by Shatek and seconded by Stika to adjourn at 7:34 PM. Carried unanimously.

ATTEST
President
Secretary
Checking Account ID 10
Fund Number 10
GENERAL FUND
AMSTERDAM PRINTING AND LITHO staff planners...203.48
BMO Financial Group heavy duty door closer x 3...440.19
CARQUEST OF NEW HAMPTON for air compressor...127.76
CEV Multimedia, Ltd VoAg instructional licensing...1,250.00
COME AND SAVE HERE, INC. bldg/grnds supplies...353.71
Decker Inc. School Fix pencil sharpeners x10, etc...241.31
DECORAH COMMUNITY SCHOOLS 21-22 Spec Ed billing...89,076.28
DISCOUNT SCHOOL SUPPLY preschool supplies...9.91
EASTON'S WATER CONDITIONING RO cooler...84.50
Eurofins Env. Testing North Central LLC waste sampling...208.00
FASTENAL COMPANY misc supplies...247.08
GreenLawn football field...220.42

Hageman, Shelby preschool supplies...44.16
Hoy, Michelle transp cost - Mentor mtg...45.00
HUBER'S STORE INC. transportation supplies...19.95
IOWA DNR FY23 annual water supply fee...53.97
IOWA DNR NPDES annual fee...340.00
Iowa Pupil Transportation Association IPTA conference...200.00
isolved Benefit Services WDM flex fees...45.20
JOHN DEERE FINANCIAL bldg maintenance...37.55
KEYSTONE AEA FY23 AEA online fee/SeeSaw...1,086.45
L & R MANUFACTURING bldg maint...168.02
MARCO paper supply fee...58.00
Marv Smith Electric, Plbg, Htg-material pickup...23.87
MID-AMERICA PUBLISHING CORP minutes published...171.77
MiEnergy Cooperative electricity...2,941.57
MIND Research Institute renewal ST Math...2,209.68
NEW HAMPTON COMM. SCHOOL DIST Shared positions/21-22 Spec Ed...179,785.83
Northeast Iowa Community College Spring 2022 contracted classes...25,801.04
PITNEY BOWES postage refill...421.52
Savvas Learning Company LLC K-6 Math...38,508.55
School Datebooks elementary planners...1,156.26
SHERWIN-WILLIAMS paint/supplies...231.43
Shimek Sanitation Service garbage service...310.00
SOUTH WINNESHIEK COMM. SCHOOL Spring 22 Concurrent enrollment 1,299.01
STAPLES paper supplies...445.20
THOMPSON TRUCK & TRAILER, INC bus maint - brake/core credit...187.19
US CELLULAR hot spot...29.49
WINDSTREAM telephone...357.63
Winter, Tammy bus driver physical...100.00
Fund Number 10...348,540.98
Checking Account ID 21
Fund Number 21
Activity Fund
Best Guest House Missoula Rental Home Fee...500.00
BMO Financial Group Athletic Supplies...70.92
BRITTAIN, CHARLES FB & BB Officials 2022-2023...425.00
Diamond Vogel Warehouse Field Paint...64.32
FAREWAY Football Camp Supplies...17.98
FARMERS WIN COOP FFA Supplies...324.75

HUBER'S STORE INC. Concession supplies...28.83
IOWA GIRLS COACHING ASSOCIATION 2022-2023 Membership...75.00
Johnson, Mike Officiating BB...110.00
Nolt's Midwest Produce Supplies Greenhouse Supplies...16.83
Pfaffle, Steve Reimbursement...45.98
RIDDELL/ALL AMERICAN SPORTS CORP. MS Football Helmets Conditioning...1,804.18
Sports World Baseball Hats...1,147.00
SUPERIOR WELDING SUPPLY CO. FFA Supplies...7.00
Fund Number...21 4,637.79
Checking Account ID 61
Fund Number 61
School Nutrition Fund
BMO Financial Group Kuehn SNA conference...261.06
CASPER PLBG & HTG INC freezer service...170.10
EASTON'S WATER CONDITIONING softener rent/salt...109.00
Kuehn, Diane travel expense...42.98
PaymentSprings ach debit fee...3.01
PRESTO-X COMPANY pest control...41.80
School Nutrition Association membership...46.00
Fund Number 61...673.95
36 PPEL Fund
Marco, Inc copier lease...1,443.82
Staples Technology Solutions chromebooks/Google chrome mgmt...15,910.70
Hillyard/Hutchinson floor scrubber...2,420.54
Notable, Inc Kami School plan...1,470.00
21,245.06
33 Capital Fund
Northeast Iowa Carpet Cleaning HS, Elem entry rugs...2,159.70
Moss Roofing & Insulation Inc music aud/multi purpose roofs...45,730.00
Align Architecture & Planning estimated services Bus Barn...4,041.66
Blazek Corporation building pad for greenhouse...5,665.26
Perry Novak Electric excavate/trench for greenhouse...3,068.95
Bookbins/Sue Hennek 6 Sidekick book bins for library...4,650.00
Apple, Inc Ipad cases x 20...699.00
Bluum Smartboards x 3...10,800.00
CDW Government chromebook cases...1,700.00
Marco Technologies charging station...666.00
79,180.57

WINNESHIEK COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MINUTES AUG. 1, 2022

The Board of Supervisors met at 9:30am Aug. 1, 2022 with Vick, Beard, Langreck, Vermace, and Rustad present.

Dan Marx, County Sheriff, met with the Board to discuss Sheriff's Office staffing. He is considering the hire of an additional Deputy to be able to dedicate one Deputy as an investigator. This would help scheduling so that when investigations are taking place there isn't a shortage. He is working out the budget and timeline details and thanked the Board for their support and consideration.

Lee Bjerke, County Engineer, met with the Board to discuss road matters.

Moved by Vermace and seconded by Beard to adopt resolution 23-07, a speed limit resolution for Twin Springs Road. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Karen Schluter and several other residents of Middle Calmar Road met with the Board to request consideration of repairs to Middle Calmar Road. They voiced support for a bond referendum to make road repairs, since current funding mechanisms are not adequate.

Moved by Rustad and seconded by Vick to open the public hearing on the Farmers Win Coop rezoning request. Motion carried unanimously. Several comments were received. Neighbors of the area cited several safety concerns. Operators and consultants of the Coop outlined several benefits of the new location versus the existing one. Farmers Win Coop signed an Owner Rezone Agreement that outlined maximum capacity for the storage tanks and vegetative screening along the highway. Moved by Rustad and seconded by Vick to close the public hearing. Motion carried unanimously. Moved by Rustad and seconded by Beard to schedule consideration of the rezoning ordinance for two weeks to provide additional time to gather information from the Turkey Valley School District, Fire Departments in the area, and other concerned citizens. Motion carried unanimously. The agenda topic will be help at 10 a.m. Aug. 15, 2022, with discussion by the Board members only, no additional public hearing time.

Andy Van Der Maaten, County Attorney, met with the Board to discuss county issues.

Moved by Rustad and seconded by Vermace to approve the minutes of the last meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Rustad and seconded by Vick to adjourn to 9:30am Monday, August 8, 2022. Motion carried unanimously.

ATTEST
Benjamin D Steines
County Auditor
Daniel Langreck, Chairman,
Winneshiak County Board of Supervisors

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NOW HIRING

Winneshek County is accepting applications for Clerk in the Treasurers office.

Applications are available in the County Treasurers office or online @ www.winneshekcounty.iowa.gov

Customer service and strong computer skills along with Associates degree or two years work experience preferred.

Send completed application and resume to the Winneshek County Treasurers office, 201 W Main St, Decorah IA 52101 or email treasurer@co.winneshek.ia.us by August 26 th 2022.

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HELP WANTED

WINNESHEK COUNTY will be accepting applications for the position of "Equipment Operator II" for the Secondary Road Department until 4:00 p.m. Friday, August 19, 2022 at the office of the Winneshek County Engineer, 201 W. Main, Decorah, IA 52101.

Applications and job description are available at the Engineers Office and www.winneshekcounty.org/jobs.html.

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THANK YOU

We would like to give a big thank you to Chris and Ashlyn Heins for calling the fire department.
A special thanks to the Calmar, Fort and Ossian fire departments.
Thanks to all the people who were concerned.
Tom and Joyce Huiker

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Highway 64 Auction Pre-Harvest Consignment Auction

Consignments Wanted!
Accepting Consignments August 1st

Last Day To Consign August 13th @ Noon – Accepting Consignments Monday-Friday 8:00am-4:00pm / Saturday 8:00-Noon

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Keep Industrial Solar Off Farm Land

To those it should concern,

My name is Joe McGrath. I live and farm southeast of Clear Lake in Cerro Gordo County, Iowa. I am the 5th generation on my family’s farm and have two children that I hope can have the opportunity to continue and grow the family legacy. This dream is being threatened in our area and put at risk with blinding dollars from solar developers to cover our precious farmland with Industrial Solar Farms. I want to be clear that

**For More Information visit:
Iowa For Responsible Solar on Facebook**

I am not against the idea of solar energy or trying to better the planet, but I am against the careless decision to cover an asset like our farmland, that we cannot produce any more of, with solar panels.

Our family was approached by developers to consider a long-term lease to fence in and cover our farm ground with Industrial Solar. By signing up for the long-term lease, as a landowner you not only give up your rights, but are made promises that hopefully are fulfilled. These promises are a yearly payment per acre, and at the end of the lease to return the land to how it was before the project began. I was told the initial lease will be sold a couple of times during its duration to other solar companies, therefore leaving the hands of the initial developers who made these promises. The developers were wanting a lease for 30 to 35 years and looking to sign up over 3,000 acres in our area!

The power produced on our local farmland will not be used at a local level, but instead be put on the power grid and sold to other states and cities. After doing more research and finding articles and Facebook groups, I realized that this is happening all over the Midwest. The big push now is because of the federal government’s tax credits and funds for these projects to start up. After discussing potential issues with the developer and hearing his grey, vague promises, I was left more concerned. There are no examples of decommissioning a solar farm after 35 years, or what negative impacts that will have to the farm’s soil, fertility and unexpected cost to put the land back into production.

Most people are just hearing promises and seeing dollar signs, and not thinking of the long-term impacts and their fellow neighbors. I know a lease is a legally binding contract, but if promises and terms are broken or the company goes bankrupt, what costs and legal battles would landowners have to go through? What will it cost to remove thousands of acres of solar panels, wire, and fence? Anyone can sign a lease, but what will it cost in legal battles to hold them accountable to that lease?

I have been doing research on Industrial Solar Farm projects in other areas. I have been thinking about our local county, and what impacts – whether positive or negative – it would have in covering prime farmland with Industrial Solar.

As a local resident I agree with the people that I have talked to. We do not live in rural Iowa to look out our windows and off our front porches to see the glare of acres and acres of fenced in solar panels. Without argument, that is destructive to the beautiful landscape of our rich countryside. This will not only hurt local property values for these local residents, but will kill the opportunities for young farmers for generations to come.

I think of us farmers who currently rent land from non-farming owners, and the negative impact it will have on us if we lose that land and source of income to Industrial Solar. With inflating input costs and tighter margins, it takes more and more acres to provide for a family and keep up a farm.

**No Farms
No Food
No Future**

**See website:
americanfarmland.trust**

Today this farmland is not only a source of income for the farmer and landowners, but also circulates income to our local businesses and provides many jobs. Covering the farmland in solar panels, will have a negative effect to our local economy and job market. A quick few that come to mind are the co-ops, seed salesmen, fertilizer salesmen, fuel delivery, equipment dealers, ethanol plants, soil labs, feed mills, repair shops,



Solar site on 60 acres of Iowa land. -Photos by Joe McGrath

construction contractors, banks, clothing stores, and insurance. With agriculture being the bread and butter of our local economy, solar will not be good for our local businesses and job growth. The agriculture jobs in our local economy are good paying careers.

I know allowing Industrial Solar to take over and cover that many acres in our county will hurt the growth of our schools and rural families. It will send a negative message to our school districts who have established agriculture programs and FFA chapters, like Clear Lake. It will hurt the local schools on the verge of starting and having their own agriculture programs.

Being a young farmer and having a family, it makes me second guess whether I want to build a house here and keep investing back into our property, if we are going to turn our area of the county into an industrial energy park. The changes started small with sub stations, wind farms, pipelines and the Alliant Energy Emery plant, however we are becoming more about utilities than agriculture.

Some might argue that if my neighbor covers his farm in Industrial Solar and I keep farming mine that it will not affect me. I strongly disagree and can prove in our area how important drainage and drainage tile is to our land. It is safe to say that most land in our area could not be farmed, or the productivity would be destroyed, if we did not have the drainage tile infrastructure we do. This infrastructure is aging and continually needs maintenance and upgrades. I have seen too many examples in our immediate area where utility companies have damaged drainage tile on construction sites and road right-of-ways. This affects the neighboring farm land in a negative manner. This is small scale compared to the infrastructure that will be damaged and destroyed during the building of solar farms. So when my neighbor gives up his rights to his farm, allows it to be surrounded in fence, have miles of wire plowed into the ground, destructive compaction from heavy equipment and be covered in solar panels, the tile that carries the water from my farm across his to the outlet are destroyed. It will cost me in yield and profit and a burden for me to try to fix.

I have seen in my research negative examples of wind and water erosion to the land during construction of the solar farms. It will also have a negative effect on wildlife and hunting in our area. Industrial Solar fields are a place for weeds to seed out and spread, such as Water Hemp and Wild Parsnip. These weeds are already plaguing our road sides and fields.

We live in an area that has storms such as hail, tornadoes and derechos. If

and when a solar farm is damaged or destroyed, what harm can be done to the soil and water from the materials and chemicals used in solar panels? Who is going to clean up the damage, especially on the neighboring land that is still in production?

When I try to think of positives, there are very few that come to mind. In the case of a land owner, they would receive a yearly payment for Industrial Solar that is more competitive than the rent income they could receive for renting their land to local farmers/ranchers, although some land owners are absentee and don’t live in the area. Also, I assume it will change the tax assessment on that land with solar panels.

“Urban sprawl is paving over American farmland at a rapid rate.

If rural sprawl accelerates, America could squander 1 million acres of agricultural land every year and over 24 million by 2040 (an area the size of South Carolina). But if Americans choose a better path - if we embrace smart growth and minimize sprawl, we can save up to 13.5 million acres of the nation’s irreplaceable farmland for food production.”

-Credited to Farms Under Threat, farmland.org

There is no way that the padding of pockets for a few land owners is worth the list of negatives that will come with the unwise decision to cover prime Iowa farmland with Industrial Solar Panels. Industrial Solar on this scale is too new for us to risk farmland to promises. In a world full of shortages, farmland needs to be kept producing food and fuel for the world’s population. The American Farmland Trust reported that we lost 11 million acres of farmland from 2001 to 2016. They are predicting losing 1.0 to 1.5 million acres a year in the future to urban sprawl alone. There are better places in this country that would allow everyone to benefit from solar and are not placed on productive farmland. Farmland is an asset that is being taken for granted.

I hope we can protect our farmland, local businesses, farmers/ranchers, property owners, drainage districts, schools and neighborly relationships and keep Industrial Solar off our farmland, CRP, and wildlife refuges.

Thank you for reading!

**Joe McGrath
Find me on Facebook**



Drainage tile is damaged due to expansion at a utility site in rural Iowa.

**Contact Your Local State Elected Officials to
Protect Our Farms, Food, Future**

Habitat Hosts Golf Tournament

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Top left: Winners of First Flight: Arnie Meyer, Al Ellickson, Terry Ramlo and Ron Humpal.
Top right: Winners of Championship Flight: Mark Klinkenfus, George Rhinehart, Karl Wiltgen and Linda Paulson.



The ninth, annual Winneshek County Habitat for Humanity Golf Tournament took place at Oneota Golf Club Aug. 4 with 60 golfers and lots of enthusiasm.

After golfing eighteen holes, golfers enjoyed dinner and a raffle drawing, followed by the announcement of the flight winners.

First in Championship flight: Mark Klinkenfus, George Rhinehart, Karl Wiltgen and Linda Paulson

Second place: Dave Siefken, Roger Koenig and Skip New

Third place: Marc Nichols, Lew Eells, Dom Bockman and Ben Bockman

Winner of First Flight: Arnie Meyer, Al Ellickson, Terry Ramlo and Ron Humpal

Second place: Mary Klimesh, Jane Jakoubek, Paul Gardner and Floyd Ashbacher

Third place: Ron Thiele, Cindy Mensink, Mike Schwarz and Debbie Schwarz.



Second place, First flight: Mary Klimesh, Jane Jakoubek, Paul Gardner and Floyd Ashbacher.

Photos courtesy Habitat for Humanity

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The Youth Services Workers at the STS are integral to the successful outcome of young men at the facility. They work to ensure the activities of daily living are complete and are responsible for the safety and security of the cottages they work in. If you enjoy challenging, yet rewarding work helping students find stability in their lives and security in their future and you are physically and emotionally strong, then you will want to have a career at the STS.

As an employee of the STS, you are a State of Iowa employee and eligible for a comprehensive benefits package that includes the following and more.

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Contact - State Training School • Ed Gilliland or Larry Cranston
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