

August 2023

Friendly ValleyTimes

Steamboat Rock, Iowa

www.steamboatrockiowa.com

"Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you."
~ 1 Peter 5:6-7

in this issue >>>

Welcome NEW City Clerk, Linda Whitt-Jensen

Book Signing

Having Perspective Awareness

God gives us Strength

Needing Names & Addresses

SO much Summer Fun at the Library

Happiest of Birthdays to You!

and Much More !!!



Monday, August 14th City Council Meeting 6:30pm @city hall

Saturday, August 19th Book Signing w/Lance Manshann 9:30-11:30am

Saturday, August 19th Jeep Jam ride starts @Noon

Live Music outside @Happenings 5-9pm w/Six Pack Jack

Recycling July 31st and August 14th & 28th

Every Wednesday @6:30pm- SRBC Awanas Club

Check the calendar on our website @ www.steamboatrockiowa.com

"You can do what I cannot do. I can do what you cannot do. Together we can do great things."
- Mother Teresa

STEAMBOAT ROCK COMMUNITY RESOURCES

City of Steamboat Rock

PO Box 366
Steamboat Rock, IA 50672
641-868-2240

srcityhall@heartofiowa.net

Steamboat Rock Baptist Church

107 2nd St.
Steamboat Rock, IA 50672
641-868-2458

church@steamboatbaptist.org

Steamboat Rock Presbyterian Church

401 Market St.
Steamboat Rock, IA 50672
641-868-2292

srpresby@gmail.com

Steamboat Rock Fire & Rescue

PO Box 174
Steamboat Rock, IA 50672
641-868-2314

srchief@heartofiowa.net

Steamboat Rock Historic Society

409 W. Market St.
Steamboat Rock, IA 50672
641-858-6085

jimkkramer@heartofiowa.net

Steamboat Rock Public Library

511 W. Market St.
Steamboat Rock, IA 50672
641-868-2300

srocklib@heartofiowa.net

Steamboat Rock Cemetery

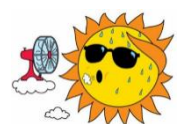
19325 Z Ave.
Steamboat Rock, IA 50672
641-751-5096

50672cemetery@gmail.com

Steamboat Rock Visionary Group/Pride & Betterment

PO Box 344
Steamboat Rock, IA 50672
641-868-2182

bhutchcroft@hotmail.com



The Blind Men and the Elephant

There were once six blind men who stood by the roadside every day and begged from the people who passed. They had often heard of elephants, but they had never seen one; for, being blind, how could they?

It so happened one morning that an elephant was driven down the road where they stood. When they were told that the great beast was before them, they asked the driver to let him stop so that they might see him.

Of course, they could not see him with their eyes; but they thought that by touching him they could learn just what kind of animal he was.

The first one happened to put his hand on the elephant's side. "Well, well!" he said, "now I know all about this beast He is exactly like a wall."

The second felt only of the elephant's tusk. "My brother," he said, "you are mistaken. He is not at all like a wall. He is round and smooth and sharp. He is more like a spear than anything else."

The third happened to take hold of the elephant's trunk. "Both of you are wrong," he said. "Anybody who knows anything can see that this elephant is like a snake."

The fourth reach out his arms and grasped one of the elephant's legs. "Oh, how blind you are!" he said. "It is very plain to me that he is round and tall like a tree."

The fifth was a very tall man, and he chanced to take hold of the elephant's ear. "The blindest man ought to know that this beast is not like any of the things that you name," he said. "He is exactly like a huge fan."

The sixth was very blind indeed, and it was some time before he could find the elephant at all. At last, he seized the animal's tail. "O foolish fellows!" he cried. "You surely have lost your senses. This elephant is not like a wall, or a spear, or a snake, or a tree; neither is he like a fan. But any man with a par-ti-cle of sense can see that he is exactly like a rope."

Then the elephant moved on, and the six blind men sat by the roadside all day and quarreled about him. Each believed that he knew just how the animal looked; and each called the others hard names because they did not agree with him.

People who have eyes sometimes act as foolishly. It's all about perspective awareness—awareness that each of us creates a unique view of the world based on personal experience, language, and culture.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOOOUUU!!!

*May you live a long life, Full of Gladness and Health, with a pocket full of gold as the least of your wealth,
May the Dreams you hold dearest, be those which Come True, May the kindness you spread, keep returning to YOU!*

August 8th Kristen Klein
August 22nd Sydnie Johnson
August 24th Kip Roelfsema
Nate Johnson

August 15th Marcia Frerich
August 23rd Tricia Frerichs
August 31st Derek Witt



from the Mayor

Investment in Steamboat Rock

On Thursday July 13th, the Iowa DNR held the 6th and final Steamboat Rock dam mitigation public meeting per IDNR protocol established in 2011 for low head dam removal all over Iowa. Over the five-year period these meetings have been happening, though I heard that the SR dam was #19 on the list.

Nate Hooegeveen, with the IDNR, led the meeting and described the stages of how the dam would come out. Nate has been instrumental in securing grants from the State of Iowa and other sources of \$400,000-\$600,000 for this project. Indicated there is a small amount of permitting still in process and talked about the over-all picture. Talked about how removal of the dam will reduce the Pine Ridge campground from flooding every two years to only being flooded every 5 years on the average per historical data and engineering estimates. From a historical standpoint, the old mill race that can be seen from the current viewing stand will stay right where it is. Plan is to continue to have a river viewing area, different, but still in the same area as the present dam overlook. First two-foot stage of removal should be in about October of this year.

Iowa Fisheries and Wildlife (F&W) staff, Scott Grummer, explained the fisheries science behind dam removal and explained in detail how fish move, travel, rest, and spawn. He explained how his staff has stalked game fish in the Iowa river below the dam in Iowa Falls and the shortage of game fish above the SR dam after a couple years of flooding events when fish go over the dam and are unable to move back upstream.

Louise Mauldin from the US Federal F&W spoke about how the SR dam mitigation project was chosen out of 80 applicants for the very competitive \$1,000,000 grant the US Federal F&W is investing in this project. She talked about the wide scope of this project and why it was chosen. Things like opening up 25 miles of river for fish migration, the importance of mussels and the rare mussel population just downstream from the SR dam and how that will be allowed to expand up river once the dam is out.

Wes Weise, Hardin County Conservation, spoke about the upgrades planned for the Pine Ridge campground including a new shower house, installation of an RV dump station, addition of 12-13 full hook-up RV sites, construction of a new Lodge at a slightly different location, the installation of three cabins on the old roadbed above, to the west, from where the existing Lodge (Boat Club) is now. Investment by Hardin County, local businesses, non-profits, fund raisers, and individuals in the \$1,500,000+ range.

From another local public meeting this week, Deb Crosser, Hardin County Economic Development referenced other grant sources very willing to invest in development of the Steamboat Rock area for Tourism and future potential housing developments.

Locally, Joan Schuller spoke at the City Council meeting about the approval of a \$100,000 State Community Catalyst Grant for a development along the River's Edge Bike trail and that this approval is being closely watched by the State because it is the first grant of this type to be awarded to a "non-downtown" restoration project and they are anxious to see it work.

In my travels, when folks ask where I am from and I tell them Steamboat Rock, Iowa, it is amazing the number of people from all over who just light up when they find out I live in Steamboat Rock. The range of responses are; that is such a beautiful area, that is a gold mine waiting to happen, you are so lucky to have the Iowa River and the River's Edge bike trail there, on and on. Many people know someone who grew up here or lived here for a while and how fondly they speak of this area- even from other states!

In summary, with investment coming into Steamboat Rock, let me say that again- *investment coming into Steamboat Rock*, from Federal, State, County, businesses, non-profits, individuals, and others, maybe calculated and cautiously your City could keep an open mind to where we can direct some more of those investments.

Thanks

Tim Stearns, Mayor

Steamboat Rock Historical Society

President: Jim Kramer **Vice President:** Dennis Holmes **Secretary:** **Treasurer:** Kitty Hemmen

At Large: Keith Griffen Email: jimkramer@heartofiowa.net

OUR Mission: “To preserve and promote the history of Steamboat Rock and the surrounding area”

Vietnam War Veterans

The Steamboat Rock Historical Society is searching for the names and addresses of all the Vietnam War Veterans who at one time lived in the 50672-zip code for Steamboat Rock. Grace Starr, a high school student at AGWSR, has volunteered her time to prepare an exhibit that would honor these veterans by telling their stories and experiences from serving in this war. At the Veterans Monument at the Steamboat Rock Cemetery, the men and women from this area who served in this war, are listed on one of the stones. These names are listed below:

Army

Asher, David L.	Heard, Thomas Claude	Pierson, Ron
Berends, Alan K.	Heckman, Lee Ann	Prescott, William C.
Bright, Dean Leroy	Hemmen, Jake	Rose, Donald C.
Brown, James	Hoffman, Steven	Rose, James
Callaway, Robert Dale	Jordening, David	Ruby, Laurie Pingle
Fisher, Arnold Dean	Kies, Eugene Donald	Sapp, Mary
Fisher, Jon M.	Lawler, James R.	Stupp, Clayton Corydon
Folkerts, Michael R.	Lawler, Patrick M.	Thoms, Norman Keith
Frerichs, Wayne George	Luiken, Arnold Dean	Truesdale, Warren T.
Geerdes, Don	Moore, John E.	Van Hove, John
Hansmann, Paul	Newby, John	Van Lengen, Craig A.
Heard, Michael Rex	Oliviera, John	Van Heiden, Richard
Heard, Susan Jane	Pekarek, Tom	Weichers, Gordon

Marines

Heard, Jonathan L. Lawler, Myron P. Springer, Douglas D. Lawler, Joseph Miller, Ronald

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Book Signing

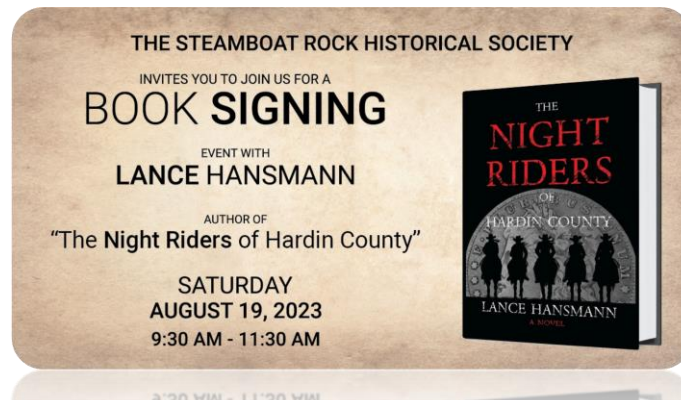
The Night Riders of Hardin County

By Lance Hansmann

The Steamboat Rock Historical Society will be hosting a book signing for “The Night Riders of Hardin County” on Saturday, August 19th from 9:30 AM – 11:30 AM. There will be a tent and chairs set up across the street west of the Museum in Steamboat Rock. After a brief reading and Q & A session outside, you can walk through the museum to look at the Rainsbarger and other exhibits as well as having your copy of the book signed.

In case of bad weather, we will move inside at “Happenings” across the street. Meet and greet starts at 9:30 with a reading beginning at approx. 10:00 AM. There will be a limited quantity of books available for purchase at the museum, but those who attend are encouraged to bring their own copy if possible.

Jim Kramer, President—Steamboat Rock Historical Society



Steamboat Rock Visionary Group / Pride & Betterment

*Members: Toni Nederhoff, Mary Gast, Dave Hagberg,
Mariah Schurman, Sandy Trampe, Mike Finger, & Bob Hutchcroft*

B Friendly Valley Times!

Remind your friends and neighbors to send their email addresses so they don't miss any community news. The address is hry@heartofiowa.net. A hard copy will be available at the library. A small fee will be charged so expenses can be covered.

Brisket Supper!

Thanks to all those who supported our group with your donations. We greatly appreciate it.

The VG pays to have the porta potty at the playground in the warm months, the electricity for the shelter house and the basketball court, upkeep at the park (trash bags, new mulch, weed spraying, new equipment, tree health, etc.). We also maintain the community welcome signs. In addition, we reimburse the city for any costs involved with the FVT. We spend several thousand dollars a year on average so that the city does not have these expenses. So, thanks again to those who support our efforts with your donations.

Future Projects!

The committee is currently working in coordination with River Valley Landscaping on developing an awesome entrance here in Steamboat to the Rivers Edge Trail. More details will be forthcoming.

Steamboat Rock Presbyterian Church & East Friesland Presbyterian Church



Quick trivia question. Who was Rocky Balboa?

That one's pretty easy as the cinematic sagas of Rocky Balboa have covered more than 45 years. In case you don't know, Rocky Balboa, played by Sylvester Stallone, was the main character of the "Rocky" movies that began back in 1976; continued throughout the 80's and 90's and was kept alive in the more current "Creed" movies.

In the premier movie back in 1976, Rocky was a little-known club boxer, known as the "Italian Stallion", who lived in Philadelphia. He was strong as a horse, but not a particularly good fighter. By a stroke of sheer luck, the world boxing champion at the time, Apollo Creed, picks Rocky out of bunch of unknowns to give him a shot at the world title. It was an inspiring movie, if not very well written. Inspiring enough to win the Best Picture Oscar in 1976. Inspiring enough for a 15-year-old me to go out and purchase a half-dozen white tank undershirts and a sparked a real desire to be able to do one-handed push-ups.

The key to Rocky's inspiration in the movie was the line, "I just want to go the distance." In other words, he wanted to finish the full 15 rounds of boxing and not get knocked out. It meant that he wasn't the failure everyone thought he was if he could only go the distance, finish the fight. "I just want to go the distance."

Don't we all just want to "go the distance"? Don't we all just want to finish the entire course of our lives set before us and not get "knocked out" by the hardships of life?

We all know somebody who has or who can "go the distance," and not just go the distance, but do it in a way that makes those that know them admire and want to be like them.

People who live to be 100 years old; workers who finish 20, 30 or more years at the same job; marriages that last 50 years or more, people who stand strong for their beliefs their entire lives- these are the people who are admired for their ability to "go the distance."

However, every one of us, even the successful ones, have issues or struggles that might make them want to quit, to take the easy path, to give up, or to compromise their beliefs or the way they do things. People that persevere and "go the distance" without doing these things are looked up to, respected and seen as successful. Everyone admires those who continue in the journey and finish the race strong, whether it's the athlete who's had a long and storied career, or the person who's completed some daunting task or assignment.

As the Apostle Paul faced the end of his life here on earth; he wrote to his protégé, in 2 Timothy 4:7-8 in the NIV Bible, "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day— and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing."

Paul knew what it was like to suffer during his lifetime. He was beaten and tortured, imprisoned numerous times, even suffered from a "thorn in his flesh" that he pleaded with God to remove. God didn't. In fact,

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U.S.A.F.

Blosch, Harry Dean
Blythe, Wayne L.
Cervetti, Franklin H.
Farley, John Robert

Gast, Roger G.
Hartman, Clarence E.
Hartman, John A.
Klatt, Gary

Kruse, Curt
Pixler, Gordon
Wiles, James Jr.

Navy

Bartholomew, Don
De Neui, Robert
Heller, Patrick
Luiken, Ronald
Snittjer, Jack R.

Caldwell, Stan
Havens, Lawrence T.
Leverton, David W.
Moore, James A.

Claassen, Craig
Havens, Robert E.
Luiken, George A.
Rainsbarger, George

Coast Guard

Bisset, David Peter

We need the addresses of the above men and women or a close relative. If you have any information on any of the above, would you please send me that information at the following address: jimkkramer@heartofiowa.net

MAYOR

Tim Stearns

*"A valley
of
Friendliness"*



COUNCIL MEMBERS

Adam Blackburn
Dave Mull
Kevin Pieters
Cory Schurman
Jon Schurman

The Steamboat Rock City Council met in regular session July 10, 2023 at 6:34 p.m. in the City Council Chambers and available via zoom. Present were Mayor Stearns and the following council members: Adam Blackburn, Dave Mull, Kevin Pieters, Cory Schurman and Jon Schurman. Also present were JJ Veld, Linda Whitt-Jensen, Denise Voy, Melissa Johanson, Bob and Vickie Hutchcroft, Arlene Finger, Mary Gast, Tam Eldering, Heidi Young, Trent Lambert, Bryan Meints, Wes Wise, Deb Crosser, Paul DeVries, Joan Schuller, Suzie DeVries, Bill and Sandy Trampe, Steve Pence, and Laura Carr, Mayor Stearns called the meeting to order.

C. Schurman moved, seconded by Mull to approve the posted agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

Pieters moved, seconded by C. Schurman to approve the minutes from May 8, 2023. Motion carried unanimously. C. Schurman moved, seconded by Pieters to approve the minutes from June 12, 2023. Motion carried unanimously. J. Schurman moved, seconded by Blackburn to approve the minutes from June 26, 2023. Motion carried unanimously. C. Schurman moved, seconded by Mull the motion to approve City bills with clarification (Stupp). Motion carried unanimously. No hours were presented. New City clerk, Linda Whitt-Jensen, welcomed.

Public comments: Wes Wise from Harden County Conservation spoke in favor of the sewer project and stated that Harden County is willing to pay a \$75,000.00 surcharge contingent on a contract with tentative start date. Deb Crosse, Harden County Economic Development Director, spoke in favor of the sewer project and indicated that there are LOST funds available up to \$25,000 for this project and intends to help us achieve that. Tam Eldering, HCCEF Program Director, gave historical information on funds being contributed to Steamboat Rock for improvement proposed over a number of years. Steve Pence reported that the trail counter at the River Edge Trails tallied 5000 people indicating excellent trail use. Steve encouraged Steamboat Rock to continue development. Heidi Young spoke about the importance of continued economic development investment in our small community from the trail, the river, the Lodge, and the event center. Bob Hutchcroft spoke in favor of moving forward with the West Side Sewer project. Paul DeVries detailed the benefits of economic development in small towns. Melissa Johanson spoke in favor of the project.

Steamboat Rock Public Library

Everyone young and old had a great time this summer with summer reading. We are now done with the official program, but I believe Dar and I will come up with some things for the kids still to do at the library including Marshmallow Gun Fights, Lazer Tag and Chalk Painting. Keep your eyes posted on Facebook for dates and times.

One of the most exciting programs was the Reptiles that Lindsey Butkofer brought. And, yes, that was me with a snake around my shoulders. Can't believe I actually did that while Dar was in the kitchen!

We are looking into getting Hoopla here that will be available only to Steamboat Rock zip code patrons. This is a digital streaming service where you can borrow and enjoy audiobooks, eBooks, comics, movies, TV, magazines, or music everywhere you have a screen-your computer, your phone, your car, even your TV. All you need is a library card. hoopla syncs across all your devices, so you can stream titles immediately or whenever you're in the mood. Most titles can also be downloaded to your phone or tablet. hoopla offers more content, in more places, than any other digital library platform and it's all FREE thanks to your public library! Titles may vary based on library catalog. It is similar to Libby with more items available. Please check out the address here and let us know what you think. <https://www.hoopladigital.com>

www.youseemore.com/nile/steamboatrock
or on Facebook @SteamboatRockLibrary

Just some of the links for our patrons through our website:



Tuesday 1:00-6:00 PM
Wednesday 2:00-5:00 PM
Thursday-Friday 12:00-4:00 PM
Saturday 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM

511 W. Market St;
Steamboat Rock
Phone/Fax: 641-868-2300

New to the Library

Fiction

Palazzo by Danielle Steel
Tom Clancy's Flash Point
by Don Bentley

Mystery

The One by Audrey J Cole
Red Flags by Lisa Black
The Last Sinner
by Lisa Jackson
Chasing Justice by G J Berger
Jury of One by John Warley
Portrait of an Unknown Woman
by Daniel Silva

The Only One Left by Riley Sager

Private Moscow by James Patterson and Adam Hamdy
Zero Days by Ruth Ware
Trial

by Richard North Patterson

Romance

The Happiness Plan
by Susan Mallery
The Five-Star Weekend
by Elin Hildebrand

Historical Fiction

The Night Riders of Hardin County by Lance Hansmann

Children's Fiction

The Forest Where Ashley Lives
by Mark Vitosh

Alma Speaks Up by Scholastic
Knight Owl

by Christopher Denise

Hot Dog by Doug Salati
Berry Song by Michaela Goade

(Just a reminder there is no charge to check out DVDs to our patrons)

Cont'd from page 4 Presbyterian Church & East Friesland Presbyterian Church

Paul in 2 Corinthians 12:9, again in the NIV, says that God told him, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness."

But that didn't mean that God ever left Paul to finish the race on his own. No, God was there with Paul through all his suffering, persecution, and difficulties. In fact, Paul made it through because of the strength God gave him. Paul says in Philippians 4:13, "I can do all things through Him who gives me strength."

We can hang in there because even if our hardships are undeserved, we know that God won't leave us and that He can use those hardships for His glory. Just like Paul, God will use your hardships for His glory if you let Him.

Going the distance because God gives us the strength to do so. Now that's an inspiring story!

And in case you're wondering, was I ever able to do those Rocky inspired one-handed push-ups? "Yo, Adrian! I did it!"

May God bless you this month and always.

Pastor Lynn Arends



Opening to public hearing on abandonment of alley. Motion to abandon alley (resolution #2023-9), Pieters moved, seconded by J. Schurman. Motion to vacate alley, Pieters moved, seconded by J. Schurman. Motion to convey the alley to adjoining property owners. J. Schurman moved, seconded by C. Schurman. Motion for parties involved to pay for all expenses. C. Schurman moved, seconded by Pieters.

Motion to authorize the May and City Clerk to sign all related documents to said property. J. Schurman moved, seconded by Pieters.

Melissa Johanson, Librarian indicated excellent attendance and summer programs going well. Fire Department report - no report.

Public Works Report: JJ Veld reported that the snow plow is at Shawn Rogers for repair. Then reported that the end loader will go to Ag Repair next week. Plans to replace the Market Street manhole cover scheduled for Thursday - 07/13. Main Street will be closed while Harden County Secondary Road Department replaces a culvert in the 300th block. JJ requested a company to review repairs to bring the sewer plant to full capacity.

Distressed Properties - no report, City Financial – report pending,

Old Business: Street repairs – new upgraded bid from DENCO \$25,410.00. Blackburn moved, Mull seconded with roll call vote Blackburn, J. Schurman, Mull, C. Schurman, and Pieters. All ayes with motion carried unanimously. Nuisance Ordinance – no report, Municipal Infractions Ordinance – no report, Animal Control Amended Ordinance – no report, EMC Insurance policy new info to review, and State Periodic Audit – no report.

New Business: Joan Schuller reported on acceptance of the Iowa Community Catalyst grant application. City has some responsibility in this project.

Resolution 2023-10 to approve Linda Whitt-Jensen, new city clerk to have full information access as signer on all City financial accounts at Greenbelt Bank & Trust and Hardin County Savings Bank. Motion to authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to sign all related documents. J. Schurman moved, seconded by Pieters. Roll call with aye by C. Schurman, Mull, Blackburn, J. Schurman, and Pieters. Motion carried unanimously.

Further discussion on West Side Sewer Project (WSSP). Mayor Stearns stated that a sewer project is always a precursor to community development. Other benefits include increase real estate tax revenue, hotel tax from Airbnb and county cabins. The increased usage by WSSP customers uses pays for the variable costs of operation. C. Schurman moved to use CGA as the engineering firm for this project.

Resolution 2023-10 to approve the new clerk, Linda Whitt-Jensen, to have full information access and be a signer on all City financial accounts at Greenbelt Bank & Trust and Hardin County Savings Bank

Mayor's Comments: Final IDNR SR Dam removal meeting July 13, 2023 - 6:30 at the Lodge. This meeting will be primarily information from federal and state fishery and wild life staff. Mayor Stearns thanks all that helped with the successful community clean up dates. Mull moved, Piers second, meeting was adjourned at 8:14 PM.

Timothy A. Stearns, Mayor

Linda Whitt-Jensen, City Clerk



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