



Students from the Rural Electric Cooperative Youth Tour attended the Capitol to meet with senators and representatives from their state, including Monona-area resident, Hayden Palmer. Here they are pictured with Iowa Senators Chuck Grassley and Joni Ernst.

Grassley meets with Iowa students participating in Rural Electric Cooperative youth tour

Photo and information courtesy of the office of Senator Chuck Grassley

BUTLER COUNTY, IOWA – U.S. Sen. Chuck Grassley (R-Iowa) met this week with Iowa students visiting Washington, D.C. to participate in the Rural Electric Cooperative Youth Tour. The tour encourages leadership development and provides learning opportunities in advocacy and history.

Students from rural com-

munities across the United States are selected by their state association to attend the national event. During the tour, students engage in electric cooperative advocacy activities, meet with federal agencies and hear from their U.S. senators and representatives. Additionally, the program allows them to learn more about American history and partake in civic engagement.

“Rural electric coopera-

tives keep the lights on in rural communities across the country, particularly in Iowa. Encouraging students to understand and advocate on behalf of these critical member-driven cops helps advance energy security,” Grassley said. “I’m grateful these students are getting involved and learning about the important role electric co-operatives play in Iowans’ everyday lives.”



A close-up of one of the tiny kittens.



Unbelievably, I was able to take a photo where all three of the kittens and their mama were looking at me at once. That aside—just look at those cute faces!

Cat updates



Behind the Desk

By Destiny Kapler  
The Outlook



A while back, I discussed some kitties that had changed my opinion about how I thought of cats in general and some kitties that were in my life recently.

Well, circling back with an update, I recently found a home for the very friendly orange cat that showed up at the newspaper office. No one ever came forward to claim him, so, Cheddar, as he would come to be

named, lived at the farm of my boyfriend’s parents for part of the winter and most of the spring. Now, while he had access to food, water, and shelter there, Cheddar was clearly someone’s only house cat, as he disliked being outside, other cats, accidentally stepping in puddles...all things that the farm cats were quite happy with but he definitely was not. We knew Cheddar was unhappy, and he was also making my boyfriend’s parents unhappy, as he would follow them around “screaming” (meowing endlessly), seeking a lap to sit on—which does not always work out when some family members are allergic to cats and/or trying to get work done. So I hoped maybe someday we could find a home for him, although I knew the chances were low as there are so many adult cats that need good homes.

I found out that one of my former bosses from Ossian was looking for a kitten (as it turns out, for her adult daughter) so I offered Cheddar if an adult cat was an option. Her daughter came to pick him up that afternoon, and said that all she heard that evening at first was “meow, meow, meow,” but that he soon settled down once he had a lap to rest in. Unfortunately, we were pretty sure he was fixed, which

did not turn out to be the case, and he also had an illness we were not aware of. However, after a couple of vet visits and lots of love from his new owner, I’m hopeful Cheddar will be a good pet and finally be happy--although his new owner reports that he is still quite noisy, especially when other people walk by the house.

On the sadder side, one of the farm cats that we really loved, Meatball, has stopped showing up near the house door for feedings and we think she may have gotten hit by a car on the highway. I’m hopeful that it was just a cat that looked like her, and that she ran away to have kittens, though sadly, I don’t think that’s likely.

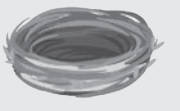
But, on the brighter side again, a black mama cat had three chunky kittens this spring. She kept them right by the house door—you know, as close to the food source, which would be the food bowl and the human who puts food in the bowl—as possible. These tiny babies are usually quite friendly but sometimes try to hiss at people looming over them, which is pretty cute when they can’t actually hiss and instead let out a little squeak of air instead. But now again, on the sadder side, this mama cat has also disappeared. Thankfully the kittens are old enough to eat on their own, though.

I’m hoping with a little taming from the cat whisperer—my boyfriend—these kitties will grow up to be just as friendly and tame as Meatball.

Where have all the flowers gone?



Empty Nest  
by Curt Swarm



Where have all the flowers gone? I’ll take and tell you where a good chunk of the flowers have gone: two places, at the intersection of Highway 34 and the Henry-Des Moines County Line Road on the east end of New London, better known as Heald Trucking; and all along Main Street in Mediapolis (Mepo).

They say men are more finicky about their weight than women, and more gossipy. Men can also be more eccentric about flowers. Take Brad Heald of Heald Trucking in New London, and Herschel Smuck, owner of Main Street Tire in Mediapolis, for example. They both love flowers. They both go out of their way to tend and show off their flowers, in a dump-truck way.

For a number of years, off-and-on, Brad has bequeathed his Dad’s old dump truck with marigolds or chrysanthemums (mums) flowing out of the back end of the dump truck. He calls it his Mump Truck. It sits along the south side of Highway 34. Many motorists stop to take pictures and get the back story. This year, marigolds are flowing out of the back end of the Mump Truck, onto the ground, like a bride’s wedding train. In fact, that’s how all this got started in 2018, when his daughter, Coral, got married. Brad wanted to celebrate her betrothal, so he hired the planting of all these mums into the Mump Truck and spilling out onto the ground in honor of her. So unique and creative.

Then there’s Herschel Smuck in Mediapolis. He has a business on Main Street, Main Street Tire, so he has a particular interest in the beauty of downtown Mepo. He’s a member of the Lion’s Club, and every morning, before work, he sets out with his ATV pulling a water tank, and waters all the baskets of flowers hanging from light poles. It takes about an hour and two tanks of water, but it’s something he enjoys while he watches the sun rise. He also potted these flowers, with the help of the Lions.

But Herschel isn’t satisfied with just hanging baskets. No. Across the street from his tire shop sits an old farm elevator, a dump truck, and a flower pole. The dump



Brad Heald’s Mump Truck beside Highway 34, New London.

truck (Smuck Truck) is dumping flowers into the elevator, and the elevator is dumping the flowers into a “flower pole.” It’s a poignant sight, like a Granddad Barber Pole. People come from all over just to see the flowers in downtown Mediapolis.

BTW: Brad and Herschel know each other. Brad has bought truck tires from Herschel. They have lots of things to talk about, mainly flowers.

While I was in Mediapolis, waiting to talk to Herschel, I observed him move a semi-tractor and trailer, then a huge combine. (He’s a man of many talents, with hands gentle enough to caress a flower petal, but strong enough to wrestle a combine tire.) When he nearly knocked over a light pole with one of his flower pots hanging from it, he was more concerned about the flowers, than the light pole. There are certain priorities in life.

So, where have all the flowers gone? Brad and Herschel have picked them everyone. (Song, “Where Have All the Flowers Gone?” written by Pete Seeger and sung by Peter, Paul and Mary, still popular today.)

Have a good story? Call or text Curt Swarm in Mt. Pleasant at 319-217-0526 or email him at [curtswarm@yahoo.com](mailto:curtswarm@yahoo.com)



IOWA DISTRICT COURT  
FOR CLAYTON COUNTY  
PROBATE OF WILL  
GALE M. BISSELL

THE IOWA DISTRICT COURT  
FOR CLAYTON COUNTY  
IN THE MATTER OF  
THE ESTATE OF  
GALE M. BISSELL, Deceased  
CASE NO. ESPR007905  
NOTICE OF PROBATE OF WILL,  
OF  
APPOINTMENT OF EXECUTOR,  
AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS

To All Persons Interested in the Estate of Estate of Gale M. Bissell, Deceased, who died on or about May 30, 2025:  
You are hereby notified that on June 9, 2025 the Last Will and Testament of Gale M. Bissell, deceased, bearing date of May 25, 2022, was admitted to probate in the above-named court and that Mary E. Bissell and Jerry L. Bissell have been appointed Executors of the estate. Any action to set aside the will must be brought in the district court of said county within the later to occur of four months from the date of the second publication of this notice or one month from the date of mailing of this notice to all heirs of the decedent and devisees under the will whose identities are reasonably ascertainable, or thereafter be forever barred.  
Notice is further given that all persons indebted to the estate are requested to make immediate payment to the undersigned, and creditors having claims against the estate shall file them with the clerk of the above-named district court, as provided by law, duly authenticated, for allowance, and unless so filed by the later to occur of four months from the date of the second publication of this notice or one month from the date of mailing of this notice (unless otherwise allowed or paid) a claim is thereafter forever barred.  
Dated June 16, 2025  
/s/ Mary E. Bissell,  
Executor of Estate  
301 E. North Street  
Monona, IA 52159

/s/ Jerry L. Bissell,  
Executor of Estate  
465 W. Williams Street  
Postville, IA 52162

Gregory J. Schiller,  
ICIS#: AT0007042  
Attorney for Executors  
Schiller Law Office  
105 W. Center Street  
Monona, IA 52159  
Published in The Outlook, Monona on June 25, July 2, 2025

IOWA DISTRICT COURT  
FOR CLAYTON COUNTY  
PROBATE OF WILL  
KEVIN BRADLEY WELCH

THE IOWA DISTRICT COURT  
FOR CLAYTON COUNTY  
IN THE MATTER OF  
THE ESTATE OF  
KEVIN BRADLEY WELCH, Deceased  
CASE NO. ESPR007903  
NOTICE OF PROBATE OF WILL,  
OF  
APPOINTMENT OF EXECUTOR,  
AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS

To All Persons Interested in the Estate of Kevin Bradley Welch, Deceased, who died on or about September 26, 2024:  
You are hereby notified that on June 6, 2025 the Last Will and Testament of Kevin Bradley Welch, deceased, bearing date of September 23, 2024, was admitted to probate in the above-named court and that Lori Welch was appointed Executor of the estate. Any action to set aside the will must be brought in the district court of said county within the later to occur of four months from the date of the second publication of this notice or one month from the date of mailing of this notice to all heirs of the decedent and devisees under the will whose identities are reasonably ascertainable, or thereafter be forever barred.  
Notice is further given that all persons indebted to the estate are requested to make immediate payment to the undersigned, and creditors having claims against the estate shall file them with the clerk of the above-named district court, as provided by law, duly authenticated, for allowance, and unless so filed by the later to occur of four months from the date of the second publication of this notice or one month from the date of mailing of this notice (unless otherwise allowed or paid) a claim is thereafter forever barred.  
Dated June 11, 2025  
Lori welch  
Lori Welch, Executor of Estate  
21305 Hwy 18  
Monona, IA 52159

Dakota K. Moore,  
ICIS#: AT0014922  
Attorney for Executor  
Erickson Law Office  
127 S. Lawler Street  
Published in The Outlook, Monona on June 18, and 25, 2025

CITY OF MONONA • MINUTES 06.16.2025

**CITY OF MONONA  
Regular Council Meeting  
Monday, June 16, 2025**

The Monona, Iowa, City Council met in regular session on Monday, June 16, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. in the Monona City Hall Council Chambers. Mayor Grant Langhus presided with Bridget Schlein, Preston Landt, Timothy Wright, and Erin Friedley present.  
Guests Present: Austin Wille (Police Chief), Seth Olson (PeopleService), Heidi Landt (Library), Ardie Kuhse (MCED), Destiny Kapler (Outlook), Bill Benda, Kevin Brainard, and Joshua Ludwig  
1) Approve Consent Agenda  
Moved by Wright, seconded by Schlein, to approve consent agenda as submitted. Carried Unanimously.  
• Agenda  
• Council Minutes ~ June 5, 2025  
• Treasurer/Budgetary Reports ~ May 2025  
• Little Bulldog Child Care Report ~ May 2025  
• Utility Billing Reconciliation ~ May/June 2025  
• Darby Family Aquatic Center Endowment ~ April 2025  
• Approve Liquor License ~ Dollar General #19516  
2) Hearing of Delegations  
None  
3) PeopleService Report  
PeopleService operator Seth Olson, discussed written Operations and Maintenance (O&M) reports for Water and Wastewater Departments for May 2024.  
• MB Construction installed new fire hydrant at S. West St. and W. 1st St.  
• Flushed all fire hydrants Wastewater O&M  
• Bypassing stopped on May 3<sup>rd</sup>  
• MB Construction repaired force main at SE Lift Station

• Replaced chlorine pump for the chlorine contact chamber  
• Started draining EQ Basin back into wastewater treatment plant  
• HM Cragg inspected WWTP generator  
4) June Police Report  
Police Chief Wille supplied the council with the May report breaking down the 65 calls, with 2 follow-ups, 4 trainings, and 8 agency assists. Chief Wille will also be speaking with the county about the 28E agreement that ends on June 30<sup>th</sup>.  
5) Approve Police Car Upfit Invoice  
It was moved by Landt, seconded by Wright to approve an invoice to Karl Emergency Vehicles for the upfit package for \$32,311.01.  
6) Quote to Fix Fire Station Roof  
The fire department has been having issues with the roof leaking. The station was built in 2001. After finding out what was causing the problem, they received a quote from Cresco Building Service for \$1,755.00 for the supplies needed for the roof ridge. It was moved by Wright, seconded by Schlein, to approve the amount of \$1,755.00. Carried Unanimously.  
7) Installing New Monona Billboard Public Works Director, Adam Jones, was looking for approval to obtain a telehandler or two bucket trucks to hang the billboards and to add grommets to the vinyl signs to help with securing the sign to the billboard. It was moved by Schlein, seconded by Landt, to approve whatever is needed to get the signs hung securely and safely. Carried Unanimously.  
8) Consider Resolution #2025-08 Setting Employee Wages for FY 2025-2026  
It was moved by Wright, seconded by Schlein to approve Resolution #2025-08 setting the fiscal year 2025-2026 wages for Monona City

Employees. ROLL CALL: Ayes – 4, Nays – 0 Motion Carried and resolution was adopted.  
9) Consider Resolution #2025-09 Authorizing Official Appointments #2  
Moved by Friedley, seconded by Landt, to Approve Resolution No. 2025-02 Authorizing Official City Appointments #2 Police Chief Austin Wille retroactive to February 10, 2025, and Tim Wright’s appointment to Police Committee to replace John Elledge. Roll Call Vote: Ayes – Three, Nays – None and Tim Wright Abstained. Motion carried and resolution was adopted.  
10) Review Letters of Interest and Approve Resolution #2025-10  
The city received three “Letter of Interest” to fill the vacancy of John Elledge. The mayor allowed each candidate to say a few words to the council. After, it was moved by Landt, seconded by Wright to appoint Kevin Brainard to the council. ROLL CALL: AYES – Four, Nays – None. Motion carried and resolution to appoint Kevin Brainard to fill the vacant council position was adopted.  
11) Oath of Office for New Appointed Council Member  
Mayor Langhus delivered the “Oath of Office” to newly appointed City Council Member, Kevin Brainard.  
Mayor/Council/Administration Notes:  
• Talked about parking issues on Franklin Street  
• Talked about Clayton County’s Farm to Fork. Dinner  
• Adding above ground pool to permissible accessory items

Hearing no further comments, Mayor Langhus declared the meeting adjourned at 6:59 p.m.  
Next regular council meeting is scheduled for Monday, July 7, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. at the Monona

City Hall Council Chambers.  
Barbara Collins, City Administrator  
**Monthly Revenues for May:**  
ACCOUNT TITLE.....BALANCE  
GENERAL TOTAL ..... 103,734.30  
ROAD USE TAX TOTAL .....  
..... 16,602.16  
TRUST & AGENCY TOTAL .....  
..... 9,816.22  
T.I.F. TOTAL ..... 8,083.90  
MONONA PUBLIC GARD & TRL  
TOTA..... 1,000.00  
DEBT SOURCE CASH TOTAL .....  
..... 7,753.21  
WATER TOTAL ..... 25,160.88  
SEWER TOTAL ..... 48,863.87  
GARBAGE TOTAL ..... 19,489.01  
LITTLE BULLDOG - SINKING  
TOTA..... 1,058.00  
LITTLE BULLDOG - RESERVE  
TOTA..... 106.00  
**MONTHLY REVENUES .....  
..... \$241,667.55**  
**Monthly Expenses for May:**  
ACCOUNT TITLE.....BALANCE  
GENERAL TOTAL ..... 128,589.25  
LIBRARY TOTAL ..... 14,276.62  
ROAD USE TAX TOTAL .....  
..... 7,623.48  
TRUST & AGENCY TOTAL .....  
..... 17,812.00  
LIBRARY MEMORIAL TOTAL .....  
..... 372.28  
MONONA PUBLIC GARD & TRL  
TOTA..... 146.61  
DEBT SOURCE CASH TOTAL .....  
..... 327,842.14  
24/25 DOG PARK TOTAL.....  
..... 16,420.13  
REUSSER IMPROVEMENT  
TOTAL..... 3,020.00  
WATER TOTAL ..... 20,472.59  
SEWER TOTAL ..... 65,426.52  
GARBAGE TOTAL ..... 20,473.70  
LITTLE BULLDOG - SINKING  
TOTA..... 2,116.00  
HEALTH TOTAL..... 5,006.25  
**MONTHLY EXPENDITURES.....  
..... \$629,597.57**  
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