

Jones County Democratic Party June Meeting

The Jones County Democrats monthly meeting will be Saturday, June 28th, starting at 10 a.m., at Diamond Pi Company - 601 S Main St, Monticello, IA 52310

Our agenda will be sent out a few days prior to the meeting to all Jones County Democrats receiving our newsletter via email.

If you are NOT receiving this newsletter in your "inbox," you can contact us at - jonescounty.ia.dems@gmail.com - and we will get you on our list.

All Jones County Democrats, and like-minded individuals, are welcome to attend.

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spirit of Glenda's late father.

"He had mixed dementia, but before he had that, he was very giving," Glenda said. "He liked to pay it forward. He would help anybody out—That got me thinking, if we would like to do something like that in his honor, and also give the town a place to get cheaper items, because I know everybody's struggling right now."

RightFinds offers a wide range of items, from clothing and shoes, including brand-name options like Jordan sneakers and Rock Revival jeans, to household goods and unique finds sourced from storage units the family has purchased. Glenda also sells items online through eBay under the same business name, but said they wanted to bring their passion out of the house and into the community.

Affordability is a priority for the store, especially as the family sees a need for budget-friendly options in the community.

"We want to keep our prices lower, affordable, but also have nicer stuff for people who can purchase it," said Heath. "You don't have to have the oldest, crappiest stuff. You can have really nice stuff and still keep (the price) down."

The shop accepts donations, but requests that items be clean and in good, sellable condition.

MINUTES

**JUNE 9, 2025 5:30 P.M.**

The Jones County Board of Supervisors met in special session at the Anamosa Library with the Anamosa City Council. Present Supervisors Schlarmann, Hall, Oswald, Swisher, and Zirkelbach.

The City of Anamosa Mayor called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

The City Administrator, Jeremiah Hoyt, and the City Engineer, Melissa Clow with HR Green, gave an update on the possible options for Dillon Military Bridge including restoration in place, relocation with TAP regional funding, relocation with other funding, or demolish bridge.

There were over 40 citizens in attendance for the public comment portion of the meeting. Sixteen citizens voiced their opinion on the future of the Dillon Military Bridge. The majority of those who spoke were in favor of restoring the bridge to some degree. There was a lot of discussion on the price of the restoration estimates. The County Attorney and County Engineer also

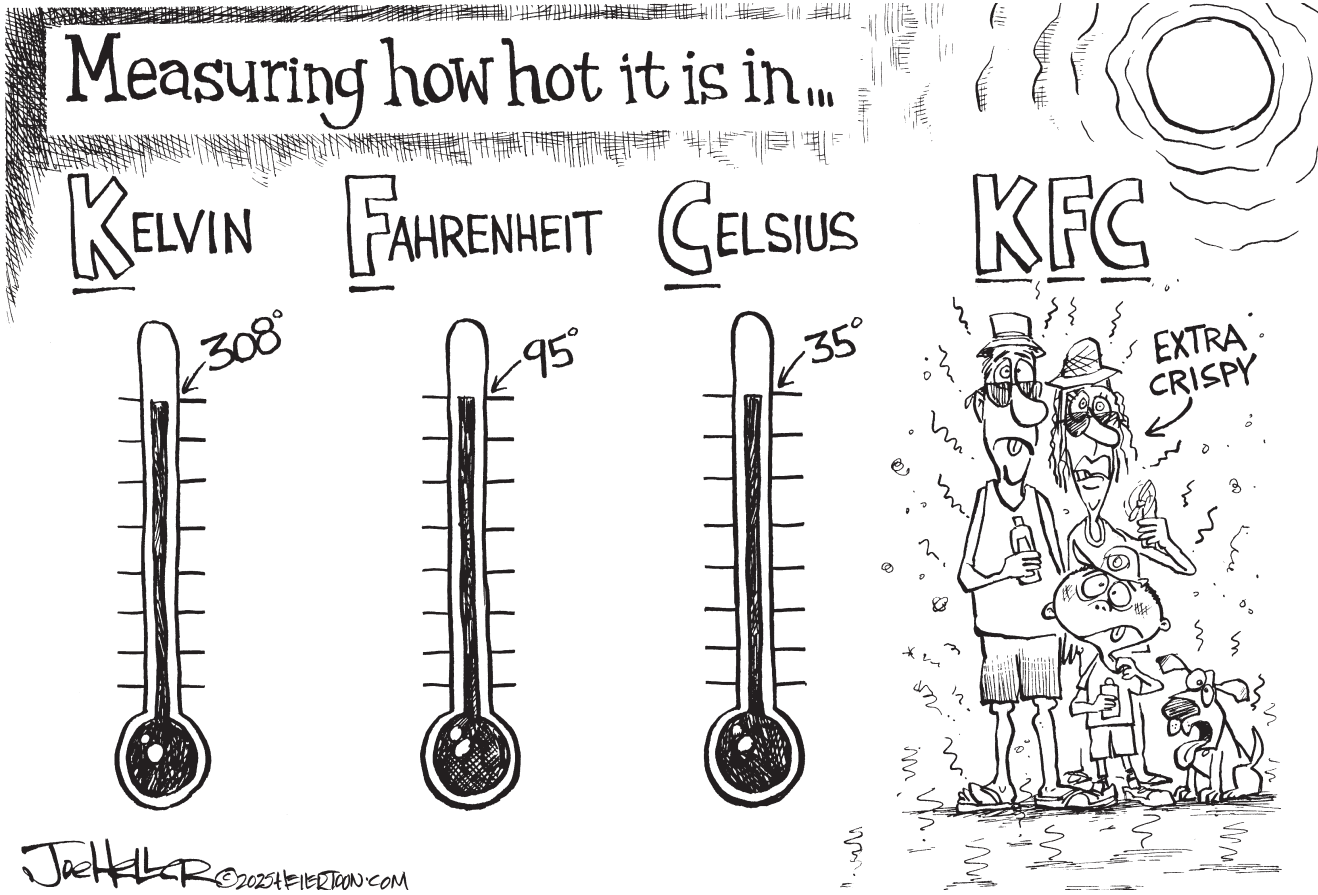
spoke on the topic. The public comment portion of the meeting ending at 7:22 p.m.

The City Council and Board discussed the future of the bridge, costs of restoration, potential funding and the next steps. HR Green needs to know which option the City wants to move forward with in order to find funding sources. The County urged the City to follow the 28E Agreement language that states the City must make a proposal and submit it to the County in writing. The City Council voted to move forward with the restoration in place option and will submit the written proposal to the Board of Supervisors within the next fourteen days.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:17 p.m. by the City Council.

Attest: Whitney Hein, Auditor  
John Schlarmann, Chairman

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STRAY THOUGHTS by Randy Evans

There's more at stake in Iowa than brown lawns

People living in central Iowa received a wake-up call last week that should drag water-quality back in front of the state's 3.2 million residents.

Iowa's largest water supplier, one serving a fifth of the state's homes and businesses, ordered its 600,000 customers to immediately reduce water demand by ending lawn-watering and cutting use in other ways.

Such orders typically come during persistent drought when water supplies are short. This time, water is plentiful. But Central Iowa Water Works is struggling to remove enough nitrates to make its water safe for human consumption.

This is not just a Des Moines area problem. This is an all-of-Iowa problem.

While fertilizing lawns and golf courses in urban areas contributes to the nitrate problem, the primary reason, by far, for elevated levels of nitrates is excess application of commercial nitrogen fertilizer and manure on farm ground.

This focus on nitrates in drinking water is not some arcane concern motivated by fans of lush lawns. The heart of the issue is public health.

Nitrates are of special concern for infants under 6

months of age and pregnant women. Studies also suggest even nitrate levels below the federal safe-drinking-water standard could contribute to an increase in colon and rectal cancers, thyroid disease and some birth defects.

Statistics from Central Iowa Water Works illustrate the scope of the current problem: Federal regulations limit nitrates in public water supplies to no more than 10 milligrams per liter (mg/l). Nitrates in the "finished water" last week were at 9.8 mg/l after passing through the utility's treatment plant.

Nitrates in the Raccoon River's untreated water edged over 20 mg/l, the highest since a record of 24.39 milligrams was set in 2013, utility officials said. Nitrates in the Des Moines River last week stood at 17.15 mg/l.

Des Moines has operated a sophisticated nitrate-removal system, one of the world's largest, since 1992. The system is used when nitrate levels jeopardize the utility's ability to comply with federal water standards.

The system has run at capacity this spring more for than 50 consecutive days. The utility cannot keep up with customer demand because of the high nitrate levels in water entering the treatment plant.

There is no mystery what needs to be done. The "how" is contentious.

The mandatory water conservation steps announced last week put the spotlight on the chief cause of those high nitrate levels — agricultural runoff carrying nitrates from farm fields into Iowa's streams, rivers and lakes.

Therein is the nub of the issue.

Scientists and politicians developed Iowa government's plan for dealing with elevated levels of nitrates and phosphorus — called the nutrient reduction strategy — a dozen years ago. The plan is strictly voluntary, and improvement has been negligible.

Ted Corrigan, general manager of the Des Moines Water Works, told Iowa Capital Dispatch in 2022 after a progress report came out: "The real solution is upstream. The landowners there are the solution-holders. They have the ability to make changes to the way they use their land in order to keep nutrients on the land and in the soil, where they belong."

There is more to this issue than lawn esthetics, the hours city "splash pads" operate, and the ability to wash cars whenever drivers want.

High nitrate levels affect every Iowan, regardless of where they live. They pay more for tap water, and evidence suggests they may pay with their health, too. The latest report by the Iowa Cancer Registry shows Iowa is one of two states nationally with rising rates of new cancers cases.

Sarah Green, executive director of the Iowa Environmental Council, a nonprofit

group, said recently, "We know that our environment and our health are inextricably linked. With so many Iowans' lives touched by cancer, it's important that we explore every link and find ways we can work together to mitigate all potential sources of risk and save lives."

Environmental groups criticize the nutrient reduction strategy as a solution that relies on "magical thinking."

An Environmental Working Group study in 2021 found that three-fourths of the data showing high nitrate and phosphorus levels in rivers and lakes were in counties where at least 70 percent of cropland is fertilized.

That year, Iowa Capital Dispatch looked at the environmental group's data for Hardin County in north central Iowa. Seventy-eight percent of the county's farm acres were treated with commercial fertilizers, and 23 percent were fertilized with animal manure. Nitrate readings for river samples were as high as 34.8 mg/l, far above the federal standard, the group said.

Chris Jones, a retired University of Iowa research scientist, said Iowa's water quality problems are not going away.

"This vulnerability is going to increase, there's no doubt about it," Jones told the Des Moines Register. "Until the state's leaders come to grips with that, we

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