

EMPTY NEST

When Curt has to visit a tavern late at night, a prayer is answered

By Curt Swarm, Empty Nest

I had been clean and sober 15 years when I found myself out late, on a cold winter's night, on my insurance business. I had skipped supper (well, I had a Salted Nut Roll) so was more than hungry. I was cold, hungry and tired. Not a good situation for a person in recovery.

I was close to the Mississippi River near a tiny town called Oakville. If I remembered correctly, there was only one place open this late that served food, a tavern. I didn't really want to go into a tavern feeling like this. One of my sobriety rules was never go into a place alone that serves liquor. But what was I to do? I needed something to eat.

I thought I'd give my sponsor a call before I headed to the tavern. Just hearing his voice, I knew, would give me confidence and strength. Talking to another drunk will do that. It's like a shot of adrenaline, or the first cup of coffee in the morning.

My sponsor's phone rang and rang. He was probably at a meeting. Then it clicked into voice mail. "The mail box of the party you are trying to reach is full." Dang it! Why can't he delete his messages? My sponsor was a great guy, with over 30 years of sobriety, but was a little disorganized. He was a go-with-the-flow kind of guy.

I reached in my pocket for my sobriety coin. We

carry these for just such an occasion. It wasn't there. I turned my pocket inside out, change, pen knife and lint were all I found. I searched the other pocket. Same story. In a panic, I searched the crack of the car seat, and even felt around under the seat, in case the sobriety coin had slipped out of my pocket. Nothing. I must have left it in my other pants. Now what am I going to do?

I'm going to have to tough this one out. I can do this. I'm strong enough, and have been sober long enough, I can go into a bar, get something to eat, and go home. If I have to white knuckle it, I'll white knuckle it.

Who am I trying to kid? I was in a HALT, and

knew it—Hungry, Angry, Lonely or Tired. Halt. Take care of yourself. Use common sense. Are you going to blow 15 years of sobriety because you're stuck out late at night, hungry and tired? But no one will know. No one knows me in this town. I can get away with it. Yeah, right. When I come in the morning, in Missouri, in jail.

I drove within a block of the tavern, parked and studied it. I could see the Hamm's Beer sign flashing in the window, and catch the drift of jukebox music when the door opened and closed. "Pop-a-top again." This wasn't good. This was exactly the type of dive I used to get blind drunk in, and get arrested for public intoxication

DUI. I said a little prayer. "God help me. I don't want to drink. Help me be strong and not touch liquor, if it be Your will."

I drove to the tavern's parking lot, got out of the car, and walked to the door, like it was something I did every day. A deputy sheriff was just coming out as I was going in. There was his squad car. What's he doing here?

I opened the door and stepped inside. I swear, 20 heads turned and stared at me. Something was off kilter. What was it? Then I realized, no one had drinks in front of them.

The bartender, a woman, was rubbing a circular hole in the bar top with her white rag, as she stared at me. Finally, she spit out what she had

to say, "Sorry mister, we just got our liquor license pulled. Can't serve you. Got plenty of food though, and pop. What'll it be? Chicken fried steak, burgers, frog legs? I think there's some catfish left."

"Er, ah, gimme that chicken fried steak."

As I was eating (by the way, it was delicious) it hit me what had just happened. I had prayed for help in not drinking, and just like that, boom, God took care of everything. Why had I even worried?

Note: This is a true story. I've also written about it in my first book, "Protected."

Have a good story? Call or text Curt Swarm in Mt. Pleasant at 319-217-0526 or email him at curtswarm@yahoo.com. Curt is available for public speaking.

Fairfield's Gabrielle Ford to receive scholarship from Iowa Masons

Courtesy of Grand Lodge of Iowa

Fairfield High School student Gabrielle Ford will be awarded a \$2,500 scholarship from the Grand Lodge of Iowa, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons.

Twenty-six outstanding Iowa high school students were selected

to receive a scholarship award from a pool of over 440 applicants. Iowa Masons award scholarships each year in recognition of a student's academic performance, community activities, leadership, and financial need.

Since the program's inception in 1970, the Grand Lodge of Iowa

has awarded \$4,133,400 in scholarships to over 2,640 students. This year, \$105,000 in scholarships were awarded from an endowment fund established to recognize the accomplishments of young Iowans and to promote the education of future state leaders.

Masonry is an or-

ganization dedicated to building character among its members. Membership is open to men 18 years old and older. There are 213 Masonic lodges in communities across the state. For more information about Freemasonry in Iowa, visit www.grandlodgeofiowa.org.



Gabby Ford will receive a \$2,500 scholarship from the Iowa Masons. In 2023, Ford was chosen as one of the University of Iowa football team's honorary "Kid Captains," a program the school puts on with the University of Iowa Children's Hospital. (Image submitted)

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RENTALS

APARTMENTS, ROOMS FOR RENT

FAIRFIELD FOR RENT 1-bdrm upper apt. Stove/fridge furnished. \$400/month + heat & water. 641-472-2434

COMMUNITY

TICKETS, EVENTS

DANCE * Live Music * Dance Barefoot Becky & The Ivanhoe Dutchman Band, Sunday May 4 from 1 to 4pm. Malcom American Legion, 221 Main St., Malcom IA 50517. \$10 Person/Under 21 free. Family Friendly.

GARAGE SALES

MOUNT PLEASANT

HUGE GARAGE Sale - 1862 200th St., Mt Pleasant, 3 mi north of WalMart on 218 North. WATCH FOR SIGNS. 4/25 & 26 8a-4p

MULTI FAMILY Sale 4/24 4-7, 4/25 8-5:30, 4/26 9-noon. Baby clothes & items, children's toys, home decor, small kitchen appliances, hair salon rolling trolley, entertainment center, desk, coffee table & more. 508 E Walnut Ridge, Mt Pleasant

OUT OF AREA

LONE TREE CITY WIDE GARAGE SALES Sat., 4/26 8a-2p

SALES EVENTS

TAG SALE Wes Shutt - 17463 100th St, Wapello. 4/29 2:30-5:30, 4/30 & 5/1 8:30-5:30, 5/2 8:30-3:30, 5/3 8:30-12:30. Fishing, Boating, Camping, Tools, Yard, Garden & So Much More! Like & Follow Town & Country Tags on Facebook.

STUFF

WANTED

WANTED TO BUY: Complete junk cars & trucks. \$150/ton. Free pickup. 319-750-7050, Mt. Union

GOOD THINGS TO EAT

FRESH ORGANIC BROWN EGGS. May have some imperfections. \$30/12 dozen box. Kalona, 319-359-0389.

DOES YOUR basement or crawl space need some attention? Call Thrasher Foundation Repair! A permanent solution for waterproofing, failing foundations, sinking concrete and nasty crawl spaces. FREE Inspection & Same Day Estimate. \$250 off ANY project with code GET250. Call 1-866-554-1730

PREPARE FOR power outages today with a Generac Home Standby Generator. Act now to receive a FREE 5-Year warranty with qualifying purchase. Call 1-855-954-5087 today to schedule a free quote. It's not just a generator. It's a power move.

LEGAL NOTICES

April 10, 2025 Mt Pleasant, IA
The Board met in regular session at 9:00 AM. Members present: Chairman, Marc Lindeen, Vice Chair Chad White, and Steve Detrick.
Attended the meeting. Asst. County Attorney Steve Giebelhausen, County Attorney Darin Staler, Asst. County Attorney Blake Viera, County Attorney's Office Staff Cara Ferguson and Nicole Rose, Treasurer Kellie Sloan, Sheriff Dept. Office Manager Lacey Vandegriff, Recorder Lynnae Buffington, Conservation Caleb Waters, Engineer Jake Hotchkiss, Public Health Katie Reuter, and members of the public attended the meeting.
It was moved by White and seconded by Detrick, to approve April 10, 2025, Agenda, as presented. 3 ayes. Motion carried.
It was moved by Detrick and seconded by White to approve the minutes for April 3, 2025, 3 ayes. Motion carried.
County Engineer, Jake Hotchkiss, Maintenance Resurfacing in various locations. Contract Rock Haul - wrapping up contract haul with River Products today and switching to Douds out of Mount Pleasant Quarry working North of New London area. Old Hwy 34 - continued working on culvert extension and shaping. Seeding - Started seeding past projects various locations. Signs - working on various work orders. Miscellaneous & Construction: Norris Asphalt: Franklin Ave (W-55) - completed rumble strips on Franklin Avenue. The subcontractor started working on Sidewalk ADA crossing in Salem. Rowsa Bridge & Culvert: 235th Street Bridge - on hold. Douds Stone: Continues Crushing operation and have crushed 30,000 tons to date. Dust Control: sign up by April 15th, or a late fee will be applied. Stop Signs Salem School: flashing red beacon instead of LED flashing sign. I will be attending NACE next week in Illinois. Conservation Director, Caleb Waters gave his monthly updates.
It was moved by Detrick and seconded by White to go into public hearing for the adoption of Henry County's Budget FY2026, 3 ayes. Motion carried. After much discussion from the members of the public, it was moved by White and seconded by Lindeen to go out of hearing. 3 ayes. Motion was carried.
It was moved by White and seconded by Detrick to approve Resolution #12-2025 Approval of FY2025/2026 Budget & Certifications of Taxes. 3 ayes. Motion carried. Roll call was taken; Detrick aye, Lindeen aye, and White aye, and White aye. 3 ayes. Motion carried.
The Boards approved claims.
General Basic Fund
Access Energy Cooperative Util - Henry County \$168.30
Access Systems Supplies \$418.89
Advanced Correctional Health May Contract \$15,450.73
All American Pest Control Exterm \$85.00
Alliant Energy/IPL Util -County \$4,253.60
Amazon Capital Serv Billing De Office Supplies \$247.99
Bailey Office Outfitters Office Supplies \$258.38
Bell, Ori & Liechty Law Office JGJV003833 \$1,015.00
Dave Calhoun Service \$950.00
Capital One Building Repair- Maint \$59.96
Chicago Hollow Metal, INC Fix Door Locks \$2,035.00
Cintas Supply \$1,287.76
Clearly Tele - DHS \$141.26
Marion Conner Med Exam \$587.00
Copy Systems Inc Ink - Courthouse

\$227.15
East End Automotive Car Expense \$1,486.11
Elliott Bulk Services, LLC MTR VEH Fuel \$1,038.19
EMSLRC CPR Training \$76.50
Fellowship Cup Food & Prov \$500.00
Henry County Sec Road Dept Fuel \$3,861.76
ICRA Cedar Co Recorder's Summer School \$200.00
Iowa Department of Revenue Tax & Fee Dist \$82.50
Iowa Sportsman Advertising \$325.00
ISCTA Dubuque Co Treasurer May Schooling \$150.00
Jefferson County Sheriff Alft: JVVJ003624 \$47.00
Kempkers True Value & JAR Maintenance Supplies \$130.39
KILL Radio Advertising \$259.49
Lawson Products Inc Construction & Maint \$310.56
Charles Libby Veteran's Affairs \$100.00
Mail Services LLC April MV Renewal \$684.02
Amy Marlin Mileage \$23.00
Mastercard Pilot Grove Office Supplies \$528.77
The Master's Touch Postage \$1,373.10
Amanda McArtor-Morin Mileage \$30.00
Medico-Mari, Inc. Covid Vaccine \$1,008.42
Mt Pleasant Tire-Service Car Expense \$947.75
Mt Pleasant Utilities Utilities -County \$461.32
New England Mfg Company Veteran Graves Makers \$205.26
Stanley Newell Meeting - VA \$126.20
James R Onorato Meeting - VA \$113.10
Pinney Bowes Reserve Acct Mails \$684.02
Roger Pittsenbarger Mileage, Meals, Lodging \$51.80
PJ Greufe & Associates Monthly Fee \$1,570.00
PrintGroup USA Envelopes \$142.50
Quadrant Finance USA, Inc Post - Cth \$1,000.00
Rathbun Regional Water Water \$93.75
Angie Rhum Tele/Mlg \$68.00
Rise Vision, INC 3 Year Contact \$108.00
Risen Strun Dynamics Dusty Training \$68.00
Rock Valley Physical Therapy Pre-Employment \$130.00
Ryan Diagnostics Inc Lead Test Kit \$452.00
Rose Schabillon March Med Exams \$1,000.00
Schumacher Elevator Co. Elevator maintenance \$536.64
Solutions Inc, Harris Local Go County Software \$3,525.13
Stacy Jo Gray Reporting FECR008535 \$522.50
State Medical Examiner Med Exam \$3,482.00
Stephens-Peck Inc Peck Book 1 Year Renewal \$125.00
Swaites Auto Supply office supplies \$159.37
Swedesburg Lutheran Church Care of Graves \$378.00
The Company Tom Hassenfritz Mower Blades \$60.00
The Shredder Shred Services \$48.00
T-Mobile Telephone \$321.90
US BANK Office Expenses \$2,520.84
US Cellular Cellphone Service \$379.60
Verizon 16 Air cards HCSO \$172.90
Arlow Wallasper Med Exam \$173.25
Wilson Distributor Serv Office Supplies \$182.50
WMPF Group LLC Board Proceedings \$1,658.11
General Supplemental Fund

Henry County Health Care Plan Retired Employees \$14,970.07
SIADSA Lee/ Lucas Defent - Juvl \$3,420.00
American Rescue Plan Fund Alliant Energy/IPL Util -County \$3,155.31
Secondary Road Fund
ABC Fire Extinguisher Fire Extinguisher Sec Rd \$72.65
Access Energy Cooperative Lighting Sec Rd \$30.15
Access Systems Office Supplies Sec Rd \$80.78
Agriland FS Inc Additive/DEF Sec Rd \$601.78
All American Pest Control Pest Control Sec Rd \$60.00
Alliant Energy/IPL Lighting - Shed Sec Rd \$231.57
Banner Auto & Hardware Shop Tools Sec Rd \$665.11
Calhoun-Burns & Associates Consultant Fees Sec Rd \$14,575.50
Douds Stone LLC Granular Resurfacing Sec Rd \$35,831.53
Electronic Engineering Co Communication Sec Rd \$574.00
Fastenal Co Shop Supplies Sec Rd \$38.75
Grainger Engineer Supplies Sec Rd \$398.04
Iowa Department Trans. Crack Seal Sec Rd \$1,502.58
Iowa State University Sherrie MUTCD Class Sec Rd \$350.00
Kempkers True Value & JAR Buildings Sec Rd \$44.63
Erica Martin Janitor Sec Rd \$255.00
Mt Pleasant Utilities Shop & Office Sec Rd \$559.92
Pro- E Ready Mix LLC Box Culverts Sec Rd \$497.85
Resco USA LLC Steel Sec Rd \$15.30
Sadler Power Train Parts Sec Rd \$607.79
Swaites Auto Supply Shop Supplies Sec Rd \$338.50
The Company Tom Hassenfritz Sec Rd \$271.51
T-Mobile Cell Phones & Tablets Sec \$258.65
Walmart Office Supplies Sec Rd \$184.79
WMPF Group LLC Publications/Permits Sec \$145.50
Community Betterment Fund
Ahlers & Cooney Professional Services \$748.00
Dave Calhoun Service \$260.00
Diamond Mowers LLC Parts Sec Rd \$1,853.10
Henry County Solid Waste Manag
Landfill Quarter \$6,319.00
Cole Kellogg Safety \$211.99
Mark Haan Mark Haan IT IT Contract \$1,575.00
Pete Nelson Safety \$305.88
Regional Utility Serv Systems Sanitation \$5,021.25
Matt Schinostock Safety \$329.98
Solutions Inc, Harris Local Go County Software \$214.00
State Hygienic Laboratory Water Test \$79.00
K-9 Fund
US Bank Office Expenses \$25.09
Emergency Management
Alliant Energy/IPL Util -County \$163.30
Dave Calhoun Service \$225.00
Dascher Designs Spring Retreat \$30.00
Henry County Sec Road Dept Fuel \$40.76
Jesse Howard Leadership Seminar \$165.00
Joan Dagherly Joan's Clean Serv - EM \$195.00
Mt Pleasant Utilities Utilities -County \$228.47
Co. Assessor Agency Fund

PUBLIC NOTICE

Phillips Auto Clinic Vehicle Repair \$52.00
Mt. Union Sewer Revenue Fund
Regional Utility Serv Systems Sanitation \$4,270.72
E911 Surcharge Fund
Electronic Engineering Co Speaker Cables for Dispat \$207.08
KCTC Telephone KALONA \$220.29
Verizon 16 Aircards HCSO \$640.16
WINDSTREAM Telephone Windstream \$1,026.26
Grand Total \$164,938.99
Supervisors' Sub-committees, Detrick attended Russ and Lindeen attended Southeast Iowa Community Action. It was moved by Detrick and seconded by White to adjourn the meeting. 3 ayes, Motion carried.
/s/ Robin Detrick
Robin Detrick, County Auditor
/s/ Marc Lindeen
Marc Lindeen, Chairman

NOTICE

In the Matter of the Judicial Magistrate Appointing Commission For HENRY COUNTY
The HENRY County Magistrate Appointing Commission will meet on Tuesday, May 27, 2025, at 2:00 p.m. at the HENRY County Courthouse, for the purpose of appointing two magistrates for HENRY County for the term beginning August 1, 2025, and ending July 31, 2029. All Applicants must be personally present for interviews on that date.
1. The magistrate must be a resident of HENRY County or a resident of a county contiguous to this county during the term of office and does not qualify for appointment if at the time of

appointment, the applicant will have reached age seventy-two (72).
2. A magistrate shall be an attorney licensed to practice law in Iowa, except for magistrates who have held office since April 1, 2009.
3. To qualify for appointment, one must file a certified application on the forms approved by the Iowa Supreme Court. The application forms may be obtained from the office of the District Court Administrator between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. The completed application forms (with letters of interest and resume of qualifications attached) must be returned by email to: Cathy Reck at cathy_reck@iowacourts.gov. The deadline for applications is Wednesday, May 21, 2025 at 4:00 p.m.
4. The present salary for a Judicial Magistrate is \$45,484.00 per year.
5. The magistrates shall work in other counties of the district, when necessary, as assigned by the Chief Judge. The magistrate may be required to handle mental commitment hearings.
6. The person appointed shall attend the annual school of instruction for magistrates.
7. For information on judicial magistrate appointments, jurisdiction and procedures, see Iowa Code sections 602.6403 through 602.6405.
By order of the Judicial Appointing Commission
The Honorable Judge Wyatt Peterson, Chairperson
Dated this 7th day of April, 2025

SELLING A CAR? HOME FOR RENT? LET US HELP YOU! PLACE YOUR CLASSIFIED WORD AD USING OUR NEW PACKAGES.

Package 1:
Southeast Iowa Union, Fairfield Ledger, Mt. Pleasant News, Washington Evening Journal, Clarion Plainsman, Winfield Beacon/Wayland News, and New London Journal
Starting at \$15/week • **Deadline: 11am Mondays**

Package 2:
Southeast Iowa Shopper
Starting at \$15/week • **Deadline: 11am Fridays**

Package 3:
All publications above
Starting at \$28/week • **Deadline: 11am Fridays**

Union 319-653-2191 Shopper

REGISTER TO EARN A \$1,000 SCHOLARSHIP

All new and currently registered SP3 participants will be eligible for a one-time drawing for a chance to win a \$1,000 529 college savings deposit.

▶ Register online by April 30, 2025 at www.IowaStudentLoan.org/SP3

▶ Ten random winners will be chosen

SP3
Student Planning Pointers for Parents
a service from ISL Education Lending

www.IowaStudentLoan.org/SP3

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