

Times Republican & New Era

Wayne County's Community-Oriented Newspaper

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Prairie Trails
Museum Fall
Pioneer Festival

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Lady Falcons see
improvements
on the court

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Around the Area

October 10, 11, 12
Wayne Theatre, showing The Conjuring, Last Rites, Rated R.

October 10
HS Football at Melcher-Dallas, 7 p.m.

October 11
Wayne volleyball tournament starting at 9 a.m.

October 13
Junior Class Wreath Sales
WCJH Football at Southeast Warren, 4:30 p.m.

POI volleyball pool play at Mount Ayr, 6 p.m.

October 14
Class Wreath Sales
WCHS JH/HS Girls/Boys XC, POI Championships at Nodaway Valley, 4 p.m.

WCJH Volleyball vs. Twin Cedars, at home, 4 p.m.

WCHS (TBD) POI volleyball championship round, location TBD

October 15
WCHS Junior Class Wreath Sales
Club Fair (JH gym)

October 16
WCHS Junior Class Wreath Sales
WCJH Volleyball at Melcher-Dallas, at home 4 p.m., Senior Night

WCHS Girls/Boys XC at Mount Ayr, 4:30 p.m.

WCHS JV/Varsity Volleyball vs. Clarke, at home, 5:30 p.m.

Briefs

WAYCO Arts Council artist for the month of October is Marilyn Burley. Burley will display her machine embroidery items and quilts in the north lobby at the Corydon State Bank.

The last day to request an absentee ballot to be mailed is Oct. 20 at 5 p.m. and that is the last day an eligible voter can preregister for the Nov. 4 election. You can get the form from the election website: <https://waynecountyelections.iowa.gov/> or the Secretary of State Website: <https://sos.iowa.gov/elections/pdf/absentee-ballotapp.pdf> or they can stop by the Wayne County Auditor's office. The first day absentee ballots will be mailed out is Oct. 15 and that is also the first day to vote absentee in person at the Wayne Co. Auditor office.

Circle of Freedom's Annual Celebration Fundraiser Dinner, Saturday, Oct. 11 at the Wayne County Fairgrounds Event Center in Corydon, dinner: 5-6:30 p.m. See ad on page 3.

The Nutman Company will be here soon and is sponsored by WCH Auxiliary. They offer over 200 fine quality nuts, chocolates, snack mixes, and Candies. The event will be at the Wayne Co. Hospital on Thursday Oct. 16, 8 a.m.-4 p.m. and Friday, Oct. 17 8 a.m.-2 p.m. at the Wayne Co. Hospital Cafeteria.

Mackenzie Miner
Associate Editor

In small-town rural Iowa, discovering hobbies and passions is often where local businesses are born—and how communities stay connected and thriving. Sedum & Sage Grow Co. is a testament to what happens when a passion is nurtured, brought to life, and used to foster community involvement and collaboration.

Sage Hinson found herself stuck in a toxic corporate environment, struggling with personal health challenges, and searching for light in the everyday. Her husband, Cody, recognized her struggle and offered both encouragement and unwavering support, nudging her to lean into her long-time hobby and rediscover peace in her daily life. From that spark, Sedum & Sage Grow Co. was born, officially becoming a business on July 20, 2024.

What began as a simple plan to grow fruits and vegetables in a greenhouse quickly

blossomed—both literally and figuratively—into something much greater.

Sage had always possessed a green thumb. As a young girl, she spent time with her grandmother, who tended rows of sedum plants. One day, Sage pulled a leaf from one of the plants, stuck it in the ground, and insisted that if her grandmother left it alone, it would grow. To everyone's surprise—and thanks to Sage's persistence—the plant took root. In fact, those original plants are still thriving today.

After starting her greenhouse, Sage began to envision a bigger future for her budding venture. She tilled a section of her yard and started cultivating her own flowers and herbs. She considers 2025 the first full season for Sedum & Sage Grow Co., with expanded offerings like fresh-cut flowers for bouquets and herbs for apothecaries and hydrosols. The possibilities for growth only continue to bloom.

Located in Wayne County, right off Highway



Sedum & Sage Grow Co. located in Wayne County offers a unique experience. (Photo by Mackenzie Miner)

65 and King Road, Sedum & Sage is ideally situated to give visitors a glimpse into Iowa's rural beauty and the origins of the products Sage so lovingly creates. Because she grows and crafts everything herself, she's able to provide high-quality offerings at lower costs. More than anything, Sage prioritizes the customer experience, ensuring that the community understands not only the prod-

ucts—but the heart and benefits behind them.

She also dreams of hosting regular, family-friendly events, giving people a space to gather, connect, and enjoy the charm of local living.

What began as a hobby—or even a side hustle—has evolved into a true calling. In the beginning, Sage doubted herself. But her “go-getter” spirit never wavered. Her advice for anyone

looking to start a business or pursue their passion?

“You have to believe in yourself so much that you don't care what other people think about you.”

Through every obstacle, Sage has remained authentic, resilient, and deeply grounded in her purpose. Sedum & Sage Grow Co. has much more on the horizon—and the community can't wait to see everything that's yet to bloom.

Up, Up and Away

Jodi Van Loon
Humeston Correspondent

This year's Humeston Watermelon Days raffle offered an unforgettable experience to one lucky winner, Janice Clark, who recently enjoyed a breathtaking hot air balloon ride. Janice and her husband took to the skies on the evening of Sept. 30, with Jeremy King's Team Flyin KOAT.

The adventure began at a church lawn in Milo, where Clark and her husband joined the crew in inflating the balloon, turning the preparation into a memorable part of the experience. Ascending northwest towards Indianola, they reached a maximum altitude of 1,200 feet, offering stunning views of the Iowa countryside. The serene journey included gliding just over treetops, catching the balloon's reflection on a large pond, and a gentle descent over a bean field where they waved to combines and onlookers below.

Clark described the ride as both noiseless and serene between the blasts of hot air, spotting an ultralight plane nearby. The soft landing

BALLOON RIDE
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High over Milo, Janice Clark and her husband enjoy the hot air balloon ride. (Submitted photo)



This year Humeston's Watermelon Day committee held a raffle for a hot air balloon ride. The hot air balloon is owned by Jeremy King's, Team Flyin KOAT. (Submitted photo)

Monarch Butterflies: Troubadours among insects



Monarch Butterfly shows tag that will help track its migration. (Submitted photo)

Mackenzie Miner
Associate Editor

Science continues to evolve, much like the natural world it seeks to understand. From mammals to marine life—and even among the tiniest creatures like insects—new discoveries are constantly unfolding. One of the most captivating subjects in recent ecological research is the monarch butterfly, a delicate yet determined traveler whose journey spans thousands of miles.

In a recent conversation with Anna Anderson, Naturalist for Wayne

County Conservation, we gained insight into how monarch research has grown in the past two decades. Anderson brought attention to these winged wonders and their vital role in our ecosystems through the conservation Facebook page.

Anderson's path in wildlife conservation began when she graduated from Iowa State University in 2015 with a degree in Animal Ecology. Since then, her career has taken her around the globe—from Iowa's Honey Creek Resort on Lake Rathbun to conservation work in

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