

CWD threat nears Henry County

Chronic Wasting Disease reported in Burlington area could threaten Henry County herds

By AnnaMarie Kruse, Southeast Iowa Union

MT. PLEASANT — Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD), a fatal neurological illness affecting deer and elk, is drawing growing concern from local conservation officials after confirmed cases surfaced just north of Burlington.

“It is not [Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease], which is usually found during drought periods,” Henry County Conservation Director Caleb Waters said. “Unfortunately, we have our first case here in southeast Iowa last year, north of Burlington. So, it is in our neck of the woods.”

The disease, which affects the brains of white-tailed deer and other similar mammals, leads to severe weight loss, abnormal behavior, and eventually death.

Waters expressed concern about the CWD which spreads through saliva, urine, feces, and contaminated environments.

“It could be very detrimental to our deer herd here,” Waters said. “Because it is transmitted by saliva, urine ... it could, you know, pass on to the deer herd. Which for some people might be a good thing because they don’t like deer, but for hunters, not so much.”

Waters recently helped organize a two-part Chronic Wasting Disease awareness program alongside the Iowa Department of Natural Resources and Iowa State University Extension. The program aimed to inform both conservation professionals and the general public, particularly important in a region well-known for its robust whitetail hunting culture.

“Southeast Iowa is known for its whitetail hunting,” Waters said. “So, they also offered a public course, if you will, for anyone interested in learning more.”



Reports of Chronic Wasting Disease is already reported nearby north of Burlington. (Liz Martin/The Gazette)

Signs of a potentially infected deer include drastic weight loss, poor coordination, drooping ears, excessive salivation, and aimless movement such as walking in circles. According to the Iowa DNR, hunters or landowners noticing such symptoms should avoid approaching the animal and contact their local conservation officer or the DNR.

“The best way to test the deer, if they’re, you know, not acting like they should ... most likely that animal is going to have to be put down,” Waters said. “Then you can test, take the lymph nodes out and send that off to a lab.”

CWD poses no confirmed health risk to humans at this time, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. However, health officials advise against consuming meat from infected animals and recommend testing deer from known CWD areas before consumption.

The DNR emphasizes that proper carcass disposal of infected animals is essential to prevent

further environmental contamination, especially avoiding dumping remains in ditches, streams, or on the landscape. Those who harvest deer outside of Henry County but process them locally should take extra care to follow containment guidelines.

Hunters can also view maps of current CWD-positive zones, disposal site locations, and instructions for safely handling and processing harvested deer at www.iowadnr.gov

The Iowa DNR offers free CWD testing during the hunting season and strongly encourages participation from hunters in southeast Iowa. Waters said local staff in Henry, Des Moines, and Van Buren counties are now prepared to assist with sample collection and public education.

“For hunters like myself, you know, I’m all about managing the population. But unfortunately, yeah, Mother Nature says otherwise,” Waters said.

Comments: AnnaMarie.Kruse@southeastiowaunion.com

Lawsuit

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Jefferson County Attorney Chauncey Moulding said that Thomas’ claims against the county were “completely meritless and without grounds.”

“Motions to dismiss are only granted when a plaintiff like Mr. Thomas’ claims are so mislaid that they cannot prevail under any set of circumstances,” Moulding said. “Mr.

Thomas’ claims were simply a frivolous and vexatious abuse of the legal process from a former employee attempting to smear his former employer – this was all just legal ‘axe-grinding.’ It is great to see that the Court has declined to further entertain his meritless claims.”

Call Andy Hallman at 641-575-0135 or email him at andy.hallman@southeastiowaunion.com



Jefferson County Attorney Chauncey Moulding

Upcoming Kirkwood camp aims to build language, friendships

Submitted by Kirkwood Regional Center

WASHINGTON - This August, Kirkwood Community College is launching a brand-new summer camp aimed at helping young students build connections across cultures and languages. Camp Connect will take place August 12-14 from 9 a.m. to noon and is open to students who completed kindergarten through third grade in the previous 2024-2025

academic year. The camp will be held at the Kirkwood Washington County Regional Center in Washington.

With a focus on hands-on learning, bilingual exploration, and interactive play, Camp Connect brings English language learners and English-speaking students together to share experiences, make friends, and develop language skills in a fun and welcoming environment.

“Washington County

continues to grow more diverse, and this camp is one small way we can celebrate and support that,” said Tera Pickens, Regional Center Director.

Heather Mattocks Orr, Continuing Education and Camp Coordinator added, “We want kids to walk away with confidence—not just in their language abilities, but in who they are and how this camp experience helps them build connections and new friendships with others.”

Camp activities will include creative projects, outdoor adventures, team games, group discussions, and more—all designed to be bilingual and inclusive. Staff will use both English and Spanish to help campers learn from one another in a relaxed, play-based setting.

The cost to attend is \$80, but full scholarships are available for families who qualify. Those interested can call 319-653-4655 to learn more about scholarships and to register.

DANNY CLARK Oskaloosa

Danny Clark, 64, of Oskaloosa, died Wednesday, July 9, 2025, at the MHP Hospice Serenity House in Oskaloosa. He was born on November 13, 1960, the son of William Dean and Ruth Rhoads Clark. He graduated from Fairfield High School with the Class of 1980. Following graduation, he enlisted in the United States Air Force and served for four years. He was honorably discharged from the Air Force in 1984. He returned to southern Iowa and worked as a machinist at various factories. Last he worked for Jasper Construction operating heavy equipment on various road improvement projects. Danny had an adventurous side that led him to a passion for gold panning. He was a member of the Iowa Chapter of the Gold Panners of America Iowa Chapter where he held various leadership positions. He also enjoyed old hot rods and was a proud member of the Rollin Oldies Car Club in Oskaloosa and was very proud of his 1978 Mustang. He also enjoyed doing stain glass projects with his family. Danny had a kind spirit and was quick to make friends with co-workers and neighbors.

His family includes his mother, Ruth Clark of Oskaloosa; a sister and her husband, Deb and Dean Foster of Lockridge, Iowa; a niece, Celina (Michael) Fleming; two nephews, Jesse Foster and Cody (Cassie) Foster; four great-nieces, Olivia, Maisey, and Emma Foster; and Katie Fleming; two great-nephews, James Fleming and Andrew Fleming; and many aunt, uncles, cousins, and friends.

He was preceded in death by his father; his grandparents; and a brother, Mike Clark.

As was Danny’s wish his body has been cremated. Danny’s family will be at the Bates Funeral Chapel on Friday, July 18, 2025, from 3-5 p.m. to greet friends and relatives and share stories about Danny. Military Honors will be given by members of the Oskaloosa Honor Guard at 5:00 p.m. following visitation. The Bates Funeral Chapel is in charge of the arrangements. Memorials may be made to the MHP Hospice Serenity House.

Cowen to celebrate 100th birthday

Roy Cowen will be celebrating his 100th birthday on July 21! He has been a lifelong farmer, living on his farm in Van Buren County since 1938, raising hundreds of cattle, sheep, pigs and chickens Early in his life

he served his country as a Marine in WWII.

He would be excited to receive cards at:

Roy Cowen
c/o The Oaks
2235 Business Hwy 34
Apt 5
Fairfield, Iowa 52556



Roy Cowen

Crawfordsville News

By Billie Jo Rose

Fletcher Family Reunion

The Cleo and Arlene Fletcher family reunion was held at Sunset Park in Washington, IA. on Saturday, July 5, 2025.

Attending were Larry and Donna Fletcher and their family of Crawfordsville: Steve and Pam Green of Washington; Brad and Carol Fletcher of Cedar Falls; Clinton, Caitlin and Callum Fletcher and Emma Fletcher and Ryleigh Reed, all of Hudson.

Kathy and Mick Garris of Winfield and their family: Jennifer and Charlie Dill and Sienna and Erik and Becca Garris, Clinton and Calvin, all of Webster Grove, MO.

Robin Fletcher and Mike Rollings and family, Amy and Cory Mellies, Lily, Oliver and Claire, all of Ames; Linsey and Kaleb Zimmerman, Henry, John, Kate and Sam of Cedar Falls.

The day was spent sharing pictures and the kids playing. Fun gifts were presented to Linsey Zimmerman who was celebrating her 40th birthday on July 6th.

United Church Women

The United Church Women met Tuesday, July 8, 2025 at 2 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall of the United Church of Crawfordsville with eight ladies present.

Debbie shared a meditation from Joyce Meyer's book, "Learn to Love Yourself" from Jeremiah 31, Verse 3.

The meeting was called to order by Debbie and the Opening Creed was read together.

Minutes from the May 13, 2025 meeting were read by Billie Jo

and approved as read.

The treasurer's report was given by Pat Miller and will be filed for audit.

Correspondence: None.

Committee Reports: Local Activities: It was reported a Celebration of Life had been held in May and the ladies had served refreshments and in June a funeral luncheon.

Dorcas: Donna reported several quilts had been handed out.

Cards, Flowers and Gifts: Billie Jo reported the usual cards had been sent.

Mission Outreach and Old Business: Nothing.

New Business: The Fall Rummage Sale was discussed and the following dates of Aug. 27,28, 29 and 30 were decided upon with the Wednesday, Thursday and Friday dates running from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturday, 8.m. to noon.

It was decided to disburse monies to eight missions at this time.

Upcoming Events:

Next Meeting: Sept. 9 at 2 p.m. Meditation: Cathy; Hostess: Rachel. There will be an Election of Officers and the Nomination Committee is Marlene, Linda and Billie Jo.

Work Committees: July: Debbie; August: Carol. Fall Rummage Sale: Donna and Billie Jo; September: Carol.

Following a motion to adjourn the Closing Creed was read in unison.

Debbie closed with the following thought: " Life is a coin. You can spend it any way you wish, but you can only spend it once." For what is your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away- James 4:14.