

Tama County Women, Land & Legacy to host upcoming walnut event

TAMA-GRUNDY PUBLISHING

TOLEDO — Who says money doesn't grow on trees? Tama County Women, Land & Legacy (WLL) announces its 54th event, "Nuts for Fall." The event will be held on Wednesday, Oct. 15 at the Eric and Michele Werner farmstead, 2867 P Avenue in rural Toledo. Registration will begin at 5:30 p.m. with the presentation beginning at 6 p.m. Find the event at <https://www.facebook.com/events/1535733680946545> and please share!

This event is free and open to the general public, both women and men. An RSVP is preferred by October 14 by phoning 641-484-

2703 or by emailing macbro305@juno.com. Please bring a lawn chair and dress for the weather, including sturdy footwear.

For over two decades, the Werner family has sourced premium walnuts for Hammon's Walnuts. Werner's Walnuts began as a family tradition and has blossomed into a thriving agricultural venture, and for the past five years, the business has been led by the next generation, high school senior Belle Werner.

Belle's Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE) project through FFA has been a game-changer for Werner's Walnuts. By combining business savvy with

agricultural innovation, she expanded the brand's reach and visibility, earning her a spot as a state finalist for her unique and impactful business model. Her project showcased how youth-led ag enterprises can thrive with creativity, hard work, and community support. Werner's Walnuts isn't just a business. It's a story of generational stewardship, youthful ambition, and the power of agriculture to shape futures.

Tama County WLL began in 2007, part of a statewide USDA outreach project. Over 500 individuals from in and around Tama County have attended at least one of the group's events. Statewide, WLL is currently active in

45 Iowa counties and brings together Iowans interested in agriculture, local food and natural resources to converse, listen and become empowered for involvement on their landscape and in their communities.

Persons with disabilities who require accommodations to participate in this event should RSVP at least 48 hours prior to the event or dial 7-1-1 to access telecommunication relay services. USDA is an equal opportunity employer, provider, and lender. USDA and Extension programs are available to all without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex or disability.

State Auditor warns of deepening budget crisis

NEWS CHRONICLE

DES MOINES — On Monday, Oct. 6, State Auditor Rob Sand issued a warning about Iowa's deepening budget crisis based on the latest revenue memo from the non-partisan Legislative Services Agency.

"I warned of a fiscal time bomb back in May, and now we are seeing it detonate before our very eyes," Sand said. "The decline in state revenues is even worse than anticipated, raising serious concerns about funding for services that Iowa's families and communities depend on."

According to a report released by the non-partisan Legislative Services

Agency, state revenues for fiscal year (FY) 25 dropped by \$816.6 million, or 8.4 percent, compared to FY24. This decline is nearly \$200 million more than the Revenue Estimating Conference projected in March and likely means that the General Fund took in less money than the estimated \$8.94 billion spent last year. This would be Iowa's first yearly budget deficit since 2017.

Even more alarming, the report notes that as of September 30th, total net receipts for FY26 are currently down 14.9 percent compared to the same time last year. If this trend continues, this will push the deficit for this fiscal year to well over \$1 billion.

Another economic warning sign: Iowa's share of the country's nonfarm employment has decreased for the last 53 months and is currently at its lowest level in recorded history.

"It isn't happenstance that created this crisis," said Sand. "State leaders and their irresponsible budgeting practices, which I warned about, inflicted this pain on Iowans by relying on one-time funds from the federal government for ongoing obligations, increasing spending on Education Savings Accounts with no oversight, and intentionally cutting revenue to the state. It's time to hold their feet to the fire for lighting the fuse on this fiscal time bomb."

Sen. Mike Klimesh elected Iowa Senate majority leader

ROBIN OPSHAL
IOWA CAPITAL DISPATCH

Sen. Mike Klimesh, R-Spillsville, was elected Wednesday, Sept. 24, to serve as Iowa Senate majority leader, taking over the role from Sen. Jack Whitver.

Republicans, who hold a 33-17 majority in the Iowa Senate, met that Wednesday and elected Klimesh to take on the top Senate leadership job.

Klimesh was first elected to the Senate in 2020 and defeated Democratic challenger Brian Bruening in the 2024 general election. Previously, he served as mayor of Spillsville for 22 years, in addition to having worked as plant manager for Graphics, Inc. in Calmar.

In the 2025 legislative session, Klimesh was chairman for the Senate Health and Human Ser-

vices Committee, in addition to serving as vice chair for the Local Government Committee and for the Health and Human Services Appropriations subcommittee.

Whitver announced Sept. 16 that he was retiring from the leadership position, which he has held since 2018, and would not seek reelection in 2026. The 45-year-old Grimes resident was diagnosed with a brain tumor in 2024, and has said treatment was ongoing.

In a statement Wednesday, Klimesh thanked Whitver for his time leading the Senate GOP caucus.

"Leading a deep and talented group of senators is an honor, and with that honor comes a great responsibility," Klimesh said. "I want to thank Jack for his years of service, his exceptional example as a

leader, and most of all for his friendship. I can't imagine anyone leaving behind bigger shoes to fill."

As leader, Klimesh said he looks forward to "continuing to implement our agenda to reduce taxes, making it more affordable to live in Iowa, reduce barriers to work and invest in this state, expand the economy, and return Iowa schools to their status as the best in the country."

Gov. Kim Reynolds congratulated Klimesh in a statement Wednesday. "Sen. Klimesh's influence in the senate has steadily grown over the last four years, and I'm confident in his ability to successfully lead the Senate," she said.

"I look forward to working with him in the upcoming legislative session to further our conservative agenda and build upon our years of success," Reynolds said.

LEGAL PUBLICATION STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP MANAGEMENT AND CIRCULATION

Publication Title: North Tama Telegraph
Publication No. 636-160
Filing Date: September 22, 2025
Issue Frequency: Weekly
No. of Issues Published Annually: 52
Annual Subscription Price \$65.00 Local mail
Complete mailing address of known office of publication: 135 W Main St., Marshalltown, IA 50158
Contact Person: Terry Christensen
Telephone: 641-753-6611

Complete mailing address of Headquarters or General Office of Publisher: Same as above.
Publisher: Terry Christensen, 135 W Main St., Marshalltown, IA 50158
Editor: Robert Mahany, 135 W Main St., Marshalltown, IA 50158
Owner: Marshalltown Newspapers of Iowa, LLC, 135 W Main St., Marshalltown, IA 50158
Stockholders per list furnished to Postal Service: Known Bondholders, Mortgagees, and Other Security Holders Owning or Holding 1 Percent or More of Total Amount of Bonds, Mortgages, or Other Securities: None.
Publication Title: North Tama Telegraph
Issue Date for Circulation Data Below: 9-12-25

Extent and Nature of Circulation	Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months	No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date
Total No. Copies (Net Press Run)	426	418

Paid and/or Requested Distribution (By Mail and Outside Mail)

1. Mailed Outside-County Paid Subscriptions Stated on PS Form 3541.	309	306
2. Mailed In-County Paid Subscriptions Stated on PS Form 3541.	5	4
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4. Free or Nominal Rate Distribution outside the mail	0	0
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Total Distribution	395	389
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SALE PENDING

PRICE REDUCED!!
1008 Wilson St Dysart

This 1.5 story, 3 to 4 bedroom home comes with a nice two stall garage, newer furnace & AC, a newer roof & updated vinyl siding. Located close to schools & daycare. Nice corner lot. Main floor laundry. Screened in patio. Upstairs could use some updating, but offers lots of extra space. Only ~~\$129,000!!!~~ **PRICE REDUCED \$119,000!!!**

NEW LISTING!!
317 Main St. Clutier

This is a great opportunity to own a duplex that has potential for very good return. There is a main floor apartment that has two bedrooms and one bath. There is an upstairs apartment that could have 3 bedrooms and one bath. There is also a garage that can be rented. Could use some paint, floor coverings and a few updates and then would make 2 nice rentals. Should give a buyer a nice ROI. Only \$69,500!!!

SOLD

309 W 6th St Vinton

This nice 1.5 story 4 bedroom home has original woodwork, hardwood floors & newer windows, furnace & AC and vinyl siding. Main floor laundry. Very nice 30 x 32, 3 stall garage. The home does need to be finished upstairs, tape & mudding, wiring and floor coverings, along with the 2nd bath. Privacy fence. With a little work, this will be a very nice home for any buyer. Only \$109,000!!!

PRICE REDUCED!!
702 S Main St. Dysart

Beautiful Historic Brick Home that has just been renovated and updated from top to bottom. Everything from walls refinished, to new electrical and light fixtures, to flooring, plus much more! 3 bedroom, 1.75 baths & main floor laundry. Very nice original woodwork with ceiling beams, built-in china hutch, sun-room with French doors and leaded glass windows. 2 stall garage plus a carport, almost a 1/2 acre corner lot, located next to city park. Move-in Condition!! ~~\$299,000!!!~~ **PRICE REDUCED \$284,000!!!**

ACREAGE PRICE REDUCED!
2975 275th St. Clutier

2975 275th St. Clutier 10.68 Acres This is a beautiful country setting with a 1.5 story, 4 bedroom home. Original woodwork, hardwood floors, new metal roof 2020 & foundation spray foam 2023. Vinyl siding, some new windows. Large deck. Garden/storage shed, PWA rural water, immediate possession! ~~\$295,000~~ **REDUCED TO \$285,000!!!**

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SOLD

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SOLD

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