



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

A group of children spanning grades 4-7 who attended a Tama County 4-H overnight camp in the summer of 2025. They participated in hands-on workshops, team building, hiking, fishing and more.

Tama County 4-H prepares to ‘Go Beyond Ready’ for National 4-H Week

TAMA-GRUNDY PUBLISHING

TOLEDO — Tama County 4-H is gearing up for an exciting celebration of National 4-H Week, taking place October 5–11. The National 4-H theme this year is ‘Beyond Ready: Building a Ready Generation in a World of Change’ which perfectly captures the energy and ambition of local youth who are already making an impact in their schools, communities, and future careers. Local clubs will share how 4-H equips young people with skills, confidence and resilience to lead in a world full of opportunity and change.

As America’s largest youth development organization, 4-H empowers six million young people nationwide with hands-on learning experiences through clubs, camps, school programs, and com-

munity events. Through the Beyond Ready initiative, 4-H will help prepare 10 million youth for work and life by 2030.

“This year’s theme reflects how our youth are not just preparing for the future — they’re already leading in their schools, clubs, and communities,” said Jenny Hulme, Tama County Youth Coordinator. “National 4-H Week is our chance to celebrate their growth and the impact of the 4-H program.”

Why 4-H matters

For our youth, the road ahead may be challenging—yet 4-H’ers are succeeding. Compared to their peers, data shows they’re:

- 2X more likely to have the goal of being a leader
- 3X more likely to participate in community ser-

vice

- 2X more likely to report living life with intentionality and purpose

*Source: Tufts University longitudinal study of Positive Youth Development, 2021

These outcomes reflect the heart of 4-H: preparing youth not just for the next step, but for a lifetime of impact.

Diverse Project Areas in Tama County

Tama County 4-H offers a wide range of project areas to match every interest and passion, including:

- Agriculture & Animal Science — livestock, pets, and farm management
- Natural Resources & Environment — conservation, forestry, and outdoor skills
- Communication & the Arts — photography, visu-

al arts, and public speaking

- STEM — robotics, engineering, computer science, and mechanics
- Healthy Living — nutrition, cooking, fitness, and mental wellness
- Leadership & Civic Engagement — community service, government, and personal development

Enrollment for the 2025–2026 4-H year is now open, and families who register by October 31 will receive a financial discount. Interested families are encouraged to contact the Tama County Extension Office at 641-484-2703, jhulme@iastate.edu or visit the website at <https://www.extension.iastate.edu/tama/4h>.

As the countdown begins, one thing is clear: Tama County 4-H is Beyond Ready — building a ready generation in a world of change.

Obituaries

Twylia Chizek, 78

Twylia Chizek was born September 4, 1947, in Vinton, Iowa, the daughter of Harold and Thelma (Schaefer) Stein. She graduated from Dysart High School and attended school in Milwaukee to become a Dental Assistant. Twylia was married to Duane Chizek on November 22, 1969, at St. Paul’s Catholic Church in Traer. She worked at the pharmacy in Traer, then together they farmed her family’s farm in Elberon. Later, Twylia worked in the cafeteria at Union Middle school, where she retired. Twylia loved watching her grandkids’ sporting events and she enjoyed cooking for her family.



Twylia passed away on Wednesday, September 17, 2025, at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics, at the age of 78. She is preceded in

death by her parents and a sister, LaTeresa Music. Twylia is survived by her husband, Duane, of Dysart; two sons, Kurt (Marshall) Chizek, of Belle Plaine, and Aaron (Ammie) Chizek, of Eldridge; a daughter, Amy (Steve) Zilmer, of Cedar Falls, and seven grandchildren: Kayla and Mandy Chizek, Andrew, Aidan, Alec and Asher Chizek and Henry Zilmer.

Memorials may be directed to the family.

Visitation: Tuesday, September 23, 2025, at St. Paul Catholic Church, 1102 Walnut St., Traer, from 10:00 am to 11:30 am.

Mass of the Christian Burial: Tuesday, September 23, 2025, at St. Paul Catholic Church, at 11:30 am.

Burial: Following service at St. Paul Catholic Cemetery.

Arrangements: Overton Funeral Home, 714 First St. Traer, IA. 319-478-2775. Condolences may be left at www.overton-funeralservices.com

PASTOR’S CORNER

REV. MIKE NODLAND
VINING CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP CHURCH

The day ‘Art’ stopped by!



Mowing our yard with our tractor-mower, I turned the steering wheel sharply, but my stiff, sore right hand slipped off the wheel, flew across into my left arm and my fingernail gouged me. The crazy injury bled like a nose-bleed! It healed, thankfully!

As aging runs ahead of me, I get soreness in places never before known. From head top to little toe, I ache every morning. “Art” won’t let go! I thought that folks who complained of their arthritis were namby-pamby, all in their heads. But they were partly right, the head but also the whole body! Yet my complaining gets me nowhere. And their condition was much worse than mine!

Oddly, I’ve known those who never complain about “Art.” Instead, they cheerily enjoy their day with a grateful heart. They’ve made a choice to either let the pain rule their day or push it aside. It’s no science, but a choice.

So, I’ve chosen to arise to a morning cup of joe, topped with whipped cream and a swirl of coffee creamer, watch weather forecasters justify their existence, news reporter’s speculations, and thank God with a grateful heart for this wonderful, free country we live in! It’s a choice! Above all, make the right choice: Kick ‘Art’ to the curb and choose Jesus!

Clutier Auxiliary hold Sewing Day

NORTH TAMA TELEGRAPH

CLUTIER — On Sept. 2, the Hora-Machacek Unit #453 of the American Legion Auxiliary held a sewing day which started at 9 a.m. Those helping to make lap quilts or work on plastic bags used for making mats for homeless veterans were Deb, Valerie, Collette, Pauline, Linda, Julia, Margaret and Diane. There were a total of 13 lap quilts made and

about 10 rolls of cut up plastic bags done. At noon a potluck lunch was enjoyed by those who could stay.

At 1:30, Vice-President Linda called the meeting to order with six members present. President Veronica was unable to attend. The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved. The treasurer’s report will be given next month.

Diane reported on the workshop she attended in Conrad on Aug. 9.

Obligations for Department, Third District and Tama County will be paid. Third District Conference is Sept. 6 at the Iowa Veterans Home. Collette reported that she delivered 35 lap quilts to the VA Hospital and Clinics on August 12.

The next meeting will be Oct. 7. Sewing will start at 9 a.m. and a potluck at noon followed by the meeting at 1:30 p.m.

AREA CHURCH SERVICES

DYSART

Calvary Baptist Church

Daniel Hartwig, Pastor

Sundays: 9:30 a.m.

Sunday School for all ages

Sundays: 10:45 a.m.

Worship Service

Wednesdays: 7 p.m. Bible Study

& Prayer Meeting

Weekly Bible Studies in various

locations

Dysart United Methodist

Indoor Worship Service Sundays

at 9:00 a.m.

Church office, 602 Tilford St. open

Mon-Thurs. A.M.

The church is locked the rest of

the days. For emergencies call Rev.

Mechille Boldt at 319-505-8366, or email

pastordumc@fctc.coop.

Zion Lutheran Church

Sunday worship

in-person at 10:00 a.m.

The Home and Health

Closet will be open from 9-11 am on

Mon. & Thur. or by appointment

(319) 476-5590

zion@fctc.coop

Crosspointe Church

Sunday service - 10:00am

Wednesdays - 7:00pm

TRAER

Traer

United Presbyterian

8:30 a.m. Adult Sunday

School

9:30 a.m. Worship

10:30 a.m. Youth

Sunday School,

Confirmation Class

Ripley United Church of Christ

Sunday Worship 9am,

Fellowship following Service

at 400 South Main,

RipleyUCCTraer@hotmail.com, 319-

478-2482.

St. Luke Evangelical

Lutheran Church

Pastor Benjamin Baker

Fellowship: 9:45 a.m.

Worship: 10:30 a.m.

Traer United Methodist

Sunday Worship Services - 9:30 a.m.

Fellowship after service

[facebook.com/](https://facebook.com/traerunitedmethodist)

traerunitedmethodist

Prince of Peace - Cluster

Father Anthony Boahen Nketiah

319-478-2222

St. Paul’s Catholic Church

1102 Walnut St., Traer

Father Anthony Boahen Nketiah

Services: Saturday 5 p.m.

319-478-2222

St. Mary of Mt Carmel

1435 E Eagle Rd., Waterloo

Pastor: 478-2222

Services Sunday 10:00 a.m.

Sacred Heart

1021 Poplar St.

La Porte City

Pastor 478-2222

Service is 8:00 a.m. Sunday

AREA

Clutier Community Church

Sunday- Worship at 9 a.m.

Vining Christian Fellowship

210 2nd Ave., Vining

Pastor Mike Nodland

Sun - 10:30 am worship

515-720-2142

Geneseo Methodist Church

Buckingham

3127-115th St, Buckingham

Pastor Melody Williams

(319) 478-8788

officegeneseo@gmail.com

Sunday Worship Service –

9:15 a.m.

facebook.com/geneseomethodist

geneseomethodistbuckinghamiowa.org

Church of Promise -

Buckingham

Pastor Ben Lindley

Worship: 8:45

Sunday School: 10:15

Elberon Christian Church

110 Main St., Elberon

Sun. Worship - 9:30 a.m.

After School Hangout

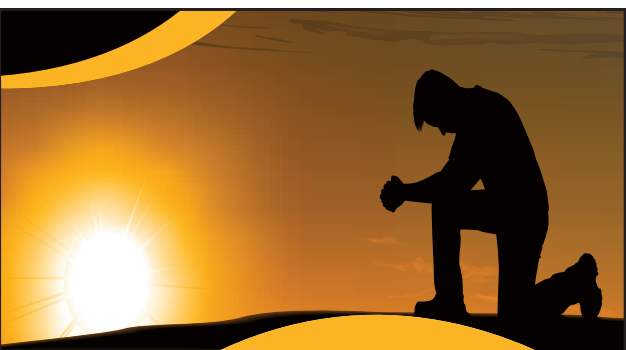
Wed. 4-5:30 p.m.

Amity Presbyterian Church -

Rural Reinbeck

Darryl Widmayer, CRE

9:30 a.m. – Worship



“Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother or sister has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to them; then come and offer your gift.”

Matthew 5:23-24 (NIV)

Seeking Forgiveness With Grace

Forgiving others for perceived wrongdoing against us can sometimes be a difficult undertaking. Something we often find harder, however, is seeking forgiveness from others. This can be tough for many reasons, ranging from a fear we will not receive forgiveness from someone we value our relationship with to feelings that someone is not deserving of our apologies to begin with. In seeking forgiveness, we must first make attempts to rectify our wrongdoings with sincere intention. We must also seek to understand the effect of our actions in these cases, ultimately striving to become better individuals in owning up to a mistake and learning from it. In the Gospel of Matthew, Christ emphasizes the necessity of this, essentially telling his disciples that they must forgo even the presentation of a gift at the altar (a significant ritual in Jewish tradition during His time) in order to seek out the forgiveness of someone they have wronged. Notably, Christ points out one way in which the Lord is served through our service to others, and that service, here, is simply acknowledging and reconciling a wrong with those we affect. We are absolutely taught to forgive, though we also must remember to seek forgiveness with grace, as Christ teaches.

–James Stone