

Wild horses keep draggin’ me away

Those words open the chorus to “Wild Horses,” a simple song co-written by Bill Shore and David Wills and recorded by Garth Brooks in 1990 on his second album, “No Fences.” It is not one of his most popular songs, but it may have the strongest message.

I have it on CD, and many of you who were listening to Garth Brooks in the 1990s do, too. But, you don’t have to appreciate country music to appreciate this song. It connects with all of us who are distracted by things that keep us away from what is truly important in our lives. Having said that, the song does, of course, touch on the country music mainstays: love, heartbreak, horses and a name-dropping of America’s rodeo towns. More importantly, “Wild Horses” makes us reflect.

“And I’ll lose more than I’m gonna win someday.”

“Wild Horses” may appear to just be a song about a cowboy’s struggle between his love of rodeo, his love of a woman and his numerous broken promises, but its scope is much wider, as we all deal with our own wild horses.

For some of us, wild horses are our jobs, the aspect of our lives that so many of us deeply connect with and that we feel identifies us.

For others, wild horses are the golf courses or the shopping malls or the countless vacations we think we need.



THE DAILY UMBRELLA

SHANE GOODMAN

Still others are dragged away by bars or casinos or drug peddlers — or all three. On maybe a lighter note, TVs, computers, video games and our cell phones also distract us.

“Wild horses just stay wild, and her heart is all I break.”

When I heard this song recently, it made me think about what drags me away from the things in my life that I should be giving more attention to. What promises I break. Where my focus needs to be.

“Wild horses keep draggin’ me away.”

As we celebrate the Thanksgiving holiday with our family, friends and those we want to be closest to, it seems to be the right time to also reflect on what continues to distract us and how we can best deal with it. Our wild horses won’t go away, but we have the power to decide how to respond to them, which, hopefully, results in dedicating more of our time to what we know is truly important in our lives.

Shane Goodman is the publisher of CITYVIEW magazine in Des Moines and a native of Algona. His columns can be read at www.thedailyumbrella.com.

Reflecting on 2025: Gratitude and growth at KRHC

By Dar Elbert
KRHC

As we approach the holiday season and the end of another year, I want to take a moment to express my heartfelt gratitude to the community. Your trust and support allow us to fulfill our mission of providing exceptional care and serving as your home for healthcare. Together, we’ve accomplished so much in 2025, and it’s worth celebrating.

This year, we welcomed Kim Etherington, PA-C, to our clinic team, expanding access to acute care services for our patients. We also welcomed Emergency Medicine Nurse Practitioner Alex Farrell, strengthening our ability to provide timely, expert care in critical situations. In addition, we introduced Pain Management services with CRNA Jacob Miller, giving patients new options for comfort and

quality of life.

Our commitment to excellence was recognized nationally when Community Health was recognized with the

vation and heart. As we look ahead to 2026, we remain focused on advancing services, supporting wellness, and strengthening the health of our



HHCAHPS Honors-Elite Status for Exceptional Patient Care, a testament to the compassionate care our team provides every day. These are just a few of the many positive changes and achievements that have shaped KRHC this year.

These milestones reflect more than growth—they represent our dedication to meeting your needs with inno-

community.

From all of us at KRHC, thank you for allowing us to be part of your lives. We wish you a joyful holiday season and a healthy, happy new year.

Dar Elbert is the CEO of Kossuth Regional Health Center

Susan B. Anthony gives lecture in Algona

150 YEARS AGO

Town and County. ----- Ground was broken yesterday for the new telegraph line to the depot. ----- The lecture by Miss Susan B. Anthony on Tuesday evening was very largely attended. ----- Our home musicians added much to the enjoyment of the audience at the lecture on Tuesday evening, by discoursing some very pleasant music

125 YEARS AGO

Arrangements are being perfected whereby the Elwell M. E. church will be moved to Titonka and utilized by the two congregations combined. The Elwell church is situated four or five miles southeast of town. It will be moved onto a lot one block south of the Presbyterian church, the site having been donated by the Western Town Lot Co.

100 YEARS AGO

The Whittemore Independents, a newly organized basket ball team, composed of former high school players, will meet the Rodman Independents on the Whittemore public school floor Friday evening of this



OUT OF THE PAST

GENE MILLER

week. The boys in the team all gave a good account of themselves when they played on the high school team and they should develop into a fast aggregation. Turn out Friday night and see a classy game.

75 YEARS AGO

In a basketball game between Fenton and Lone Rock, last week, DeSart of Fenton got credit for scoring two points for Lone Rock . . . one of those freak incidents which can happen anytime, but don’t too often.

50 YEARS AGO

It is only speculation, of course, but there has been discussion at top levels of the U.S. Postal Service of attempting to stem the deficit by halting Saturday deliveries and curtailing special delivery services. The postal service has accumulated a deficit the past

three years of \$2.9 billion, or \$7 million a day, or \$250,000 an hour.

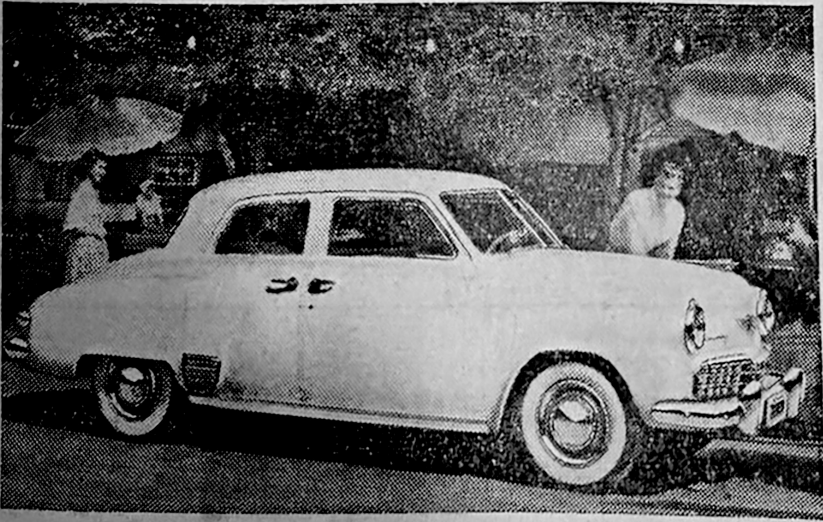
25 YEARS AGO

The Whittemore Community Club is once again sponsoring a “Holiday Lighting Contest” for town and rural Whittemore. Appearing in this issue, and the December 14th and 21st issues of the Whittemore Independent will be the official ballot, which will allow you to vote for your top five lighting displays. Please - one ballot per person! Deadline for returning the ballots is Friday, December 22nd. Enjoy the holiday season! Drive around, look at the lights and vote! If you have gone to the effort of putting up lights and decorations, we urge you to turn them on! Voting is open to everyone. Ballots can be returned to Farmers State Bank, City Hall, Elberts Chevrolet, or The Whittemore Independent.

Gene Miller’s *Out of the Past* is compiled from past editions of the *Kossuth County Advance*, the *Algona Upper Des Moines*, and their forerunners, and published as they were at the time. The column appears weekly in the *Advance*.

Throwback: So you wanna buy a car?
I mean a fine used car

America is buying Studebakers
at an all-time record rate!



JUST a look at the streets and highways and you know a Studebaker buying wave is sweeping the country.

All America is thinking Studebaker, talking Studebaker, buying Studebaker as never before

Take a proud place of your own in this Studebaker success parade.

Get Studebaker style that sings and Studebaker savings that count in your new car.

SCHULTZ BROS.
Algona

Yahnke Garage
Ledyard

STUDEBAKER'S REALLY ROLLING! 1949 IS A STUDEBAKER YEAR!

ABOUT LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

We encourage you to share your opinions on the issues of the day in a letter to the editor. Letters should center on a single topic. Please keep them to a reasonable length – 350 words or less is usually sufficient, but if it is a complicated matter, more words can be acceptable. We reserve the right to edit or refuse any materials submitted to the Advance for publication. Anonymous letters will not be published, and you should include your name, address, phone number and email with any submission. If you have questions, email us at news@algona.com or call 515-295-3535.

FIRST AMENDMENT

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

ACTIVE SENIORS

WINTER ITEMS NEEDED

Active Seniors of Algona are collecting and distributing coats and winter items for those in need. Distribution began Nov. 3 and will continue throughout the winter season.

Donations of gently used coats, hats, gloves, scarves and other warm clothing are appreciated. Items can be donated or picked up at the Active Seniors of Algona Center on Main Street in Algona, Monday through Friday, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Membership drive for new members

Starting Oct. 1, 2025 get Oct. Nov. and Dec. free with your 2026 membership cost of \$20 a year. Active Seniors of Algona 1306 N. Main St. Algona

Reserve your meal by noon the day before.
515-295-7956

Thursday, December 4

Tuna melt sandwich, potato salad, vegetable and fruit
11 a.m. Exercises
6 p.m. Euchre

Friday, December 5

Chicken pot pie, breadstick, vegetable and fruit
10 a.m. Bingo

Monday, December 8

BBQ chicken, potato, vegetable and fruit
10 a.m. Bingo

Tuesday, December 9

Potato soup, half meat sandwich, vegetable and fruit
11 a.m. Exercises
1 p.m. Devotionals

Wednesday, December 10

Spaghetti, breadstick, lettuce salad, fruit
1 p.m. 500 Cards

Thursday, December 11

Pork, stuffing, vegetable and fruit
11 a.m. Exercises
1:15 Board meeting

Friday, December 12

Sloppy Joe, potato, vegetable and fruit
10 a.m. Bingo
12 p.m. Potluck, bring your own table service, bring adopt a family items, vote for board members. Entertainment by Steve Lang.