BOB'S ELECT, Srvc BORSHEIM, JANET, DpAp



Wilkening presents Lessons of the Holocaust

By Sara Stromseth-Troy TPD Staff

 \mathbf{CRESCO} - Retired social studies teacher Brad Wilkening of Ankeny, Iowa, presented his program 'Lessons of the Holocaust' at Cresco Public Library on Holocaust Survivor Day, Wednesday, June 4.

Wilkening said, "I have no Jewish background whatsoever; I was raised United Methodist; went to a Lutheran College and I'm a Catholic today. I'm a retired social studies teacher and coach. I got started in this in 2010, when I had to renew my teaching certificate. A flyer came across my desk from the Illinois Holocaust Museum in Skokie. So, I went there and studied, not knowing that it was going to change my life."

"I came back to my small school in Storm Lake/St. Mary's and created the only semesterlong class on the Holocaust and genocide for my juniors and seniors. Those kids and I went to the U.S. Holocaust Museum and the museum in Skokie as part of the class. There are 15 museums in the United States recognized by the Jewish Federation and each of them can select two individuals, and I got selected from Illinois to study at Columbia university in New York. The next summer I got chosen to study with the Jewish Federation in Newark, NJ.

Studies

In 2010, when I went to study the Holocaust at the museum, I had already been teaching for 35 years, so I thought I knew something. One of the things I wanted to hold onto, was that I wanted to believe that we did not know what was taking place. I wanted to think that if we in the United States knew what was happening in Europe, we could have done something to stop it. Well, that's not the case.

"We knew what was happening. We do have to recognize Roosevelt was in a tough spot: We're just coming out of the Great Depression. We're not going to let a huge number of immigrants into a country that is trying to get on its feet. We're not going to enter World War II to save Jews. Roosevelt's head of state was an anti-semite; he had a number of antisemites in his cabinet."

If you ever visit the U.S. Holocaust museum, you would see an inscription on the wall from Dwight David Eisenhower, who was our commander in Europe. inscription is going to end with the fact that we don't let this

happen again.

History The Americans liberated about four camps; most of the camps were in the east and the Soviets got there first, or in the north and Great Britain got there first. Eisenhower wanted as much press and photography as possible so that when the time came that people would say, 'This was just propaganda and it never really happened', that there would be eyewitness accounts that (the

Holocaust) really did occur." Hitler wanted to wipe out any historical evidence that Jews ever lived on the earth. He didn't get to that point because the U.S. entered the war and we saved number of Jews

from annihilation. "At the end of World War I, the allied forces created the Treaty of Versailles. Hindenburg is going to be elected President. What the treaty says it that Germany is totally responsible for all of the debts of the central power nations in World War 1. Ĥe thought he could get rid of the war debt by printing money faster. What he didn't realize is that by alleviating that problem, he is creating a much bigger problem. In 1923, Hitler and a few of his buddies are tired of the government not meeting the needs of the people, so they try to overthrow the government. The Nazis have 2.9 percent of the public supporting them. There's 8-10 political parties that are much stronger. Hitler and his cronies get arrested and throw in jail. While in jail, he writes (his book) 'Mein Kampf' ('My Struggle') which becomes the source of the rise of the Nazi Party. In the meantime, between 1923-1933, the Great Depression hits. While it was bad everywhere, it was astoundingly bad

"If we are trying to figure out how Hitler rose to power, the desperation of the German people was insurmountable. The government was not able to meet any of the needs theat they had. Hitler is promising to make Germany 'great again."

In 1933 Hitler becomes

chancellor, but not by force. He is appointed by Hindenburg. why would Hindenburg appoint Hitler, who tried to overthrow his government, to the second-highest position of power? By now, the Nazi Party has 48.7 percent of all of the votes. If he doesn't put Hitler in position of power, the Nazis are probably going to overthrow government anyway. Maybe he thought he could keep an eye on (Hitler). Well, here's the problem; The Reichstag is going to burn a month later.We still don't know who or what started the fire at the Capital. Within a month of the fire, Hitler is going to be granted enabling powers. it means that Hitler has been given the power to do what he wants, when he wants, for whatever reason he deems necessary. Wouldn't it make sense that the President would have that power? Why doesn't a President have the power? Well, Hindenburg wasn't a Nazi. They're going to surpass the president, give the highestranking Nazi all the power of the government, and Hindenburg is now just going to be a figurehead, and the Nazis are now in complete control. Within a year, Hindenburg dies and Hitler declares himself not only chancellor but president.

"In 1935, they are going to pass the Nuremberg Laws. The number that is most commonly used is that six million Jews were killed in the Holocaust. Five million others were also killed: Homosexuals, handicapped people, Roma, Christian Scientists, Catholics, political dissidents. The Nuremberg Laws were used to discriminate against Jews and Jews alone. They are going to classify Jews into a race. If you have any Jewish blood, you are all going to be persecuted.

"Jews now have to wear the Star of David in public. Jews can no longer do business with Nazis or German civilians. Jewish adults can no longer hold positions of power in society. Children can no longer go to public parks or swimming pools. During Kristallnacht, (Night of the Broken Glass) in 1938, 1,000 synagogues were destroyed in Europe. Books with any Jewish history were burned.

"How did the Nazi Party go from 2.9 percent of public support to 48.7 percent? It's a term everyone in the United States

should know really well: Prop-

up in Des Moines after the

liberation of the camps.

He continued, "December 7, 1941 changed the world: The United States entered the war after Japan bombed Pearl Har-

"When the war was over in 1945, Jewish people had nowhere to go. Their homes had been occupied by Nazis or destroyed. They had no jobs, money or family. The allied forces created displaced persons camps."

Survivors

Wilkening told the stories of Holocaust survivors he had known, most of whom had since passed away.

He said survivor Fred Lorber was riding his bicycle in Austria when he came upon a Hitler Youth Rally. He went home and soon after SS personnel were knocking on the door. Lorber said that an official had one of his arms and his mother had his other arm. Somehow, they managed to survive and eventually ended up in the United States. Lorber returned as an American GI to fight the

Another survivor Wilkening discussed was Harold Kasimow, professor emeritus at Grinnell College.

"His story happens when he is 3 years old. His mom and dad, his older sister and himself go into hiding in the forest. His father knows a man with a cattle barn with a wooden floor. He asks if he can dig a hole under the floor to hide his family. Harold stays in that hole for 19 months and five days.

"Celina Biaiaz is youngest survivor on Schindler's List. When she and her mom left the displaced persons camp, they ended up in Des Moines.

'She had only had two years of schooling. She graduated from North Iowa High School and then graduated from Grinnell College, and now lives in California. Until two years ago, she came back to central Iowa area to do Holocaust programs.

Making the world better Wilkening said he wants to help make the world a kinder, more compassionate place for future generations. He showed the audience an image of a circle, surrounded by concentric circles, each representing a ripple affect of how one's values extend beyond the individual.

He urged his audience to try to work past individual, family and friend concerns to extend doing good into the nation and

the world. "We are talking about doing something with nothing expected in return, because it's out of the goodness of our hearts and the kindness of our souls. I want us to leave this library and make Cresco a better place.

NAME

Amount Paid: (2 Years) _____

As attendees reflected on the importance of Holocaust Survivor Day, Wilkening told the story of a time one of his high school classes had visited the Skokie Holocaust Museum, where a survivor would sit down with the class and tell their story. He said one woman in particular was one of only three survivors out of a 32-person family, and that she felt tremendous survivors' guilt and could barely get through her talk.

Wilkening said that his wife put her arm around her, and said, 'You survived so you can tell these kids your story, and they'll tell their kids, and your story will never end."

Cresco City Council

Mayor Fortune called the Cresco City Council meeting to order on June 2, 2025 at 5:30 pm. Council Members Carman, Bouska, Fosaaen, McConnell, and Kriener were present. No council members were

Carman made the motion to approve the consent agenda which included approval of the: agenda; claims; minutes from the May 19, 2025 meeting; minutes from the May 27, 2025 special meeting; Retail Cigarette and Tobacco Permits for: Aaron & Sheila Wemark dba The Ox & Wren Spirits and Gifts, Kwik Trip, Inc dba Kwik Star #428, DOLGENCORP, LLC dba Dollar General #2400; Pay Request #3 for \$309,550.37 to Blazek Corporation for the Wastewater Treatment Plant Age Related Equipment Project; parade permit for portions of 3rd St East, 1st Ave East, Beaportions of 3rd of Edst, 1st AVe Edst, Beddle Park, North Elm St, North Park Pl, and 2nd Ave East for an Eucharistic Procession on June 22, 2025. Bouska seconded and it passed all ayes.

Public Works Director Brenno reported:

[a] we planted about 45 trees with help

Branching Out Grant Program; (b) attended a nuisance conference with Fosaaen and Kriener; (c) Street Dept is working on repairing pot holes and cleaning out the storm water basin in Websters Addition; (d) Blazek has been working on the Aging Equipment Project at the wastewater treat-Equipment Project at the wastewater treatment plant; (e) one incident of illegal dumping of ashes at the yardwaste site since May 19th; (f) Dirt Worx will be back this week to finish chipping.

Police Chief Ruroden submitted the monthly police calls report for May. Sergeant Welper and K-9 EmmyLou attended a multi-state training with other K-9 officers. The new Durango is now operational.

City Clerk Hill reported: (a) the focus group meetings for the comp plan update will be June 4th and 12th; (b) Amber is attending clerk school next week; (c) will be

tending clerk school next week; (c) will be attending the lowa Municipal Professionals Academy June 9-11th; (d) getting ready for fiscal year end.

Theatre Manager Lickteig reported on upcoming events at the Theatre. Joseph Hall will perform on June 7th and the musical will be in July. Donations are coming in for the Kiss the Pig fundraiser and bill stuffers. Work has begun on the Scene Shop, with the sewer connection scheduled for completion next week. The Theatre will be closed on Sundays during June and July, with Sunday matinees and Spanish films set to resume in August.

Mayor Fortune recognized three employ ees with service anniversaries in June and thanked them for their dedication and years Moore - Library 4 years; Shawn Erickson – Sewer Dept 4 years; David Godman - Po-lice Dept 22 years.

Mayor Fortune asked for comments from the audience and there were none.

the audience and there were none.

Rachel Spellerberg from ProSource explained that Alliant is updating some overhead service lines, transformers, switches and installing two new poles next to the Theatre. An easement is required to allow the lines to cross City property. Fosagen made a motion to approve a resolution authorizing the Mayor and City Clerk to sign an electric line exement. Krieper seconded and it passed all ayes.

Public Works Director Brenno explained that Council can grant contingent approval

to the developer of the York Street housing development. Requirements to grant full approval would be a looped system that is paid by the developer, DNR approval of the water, sewer, and storm sewer permits, along with easements for flushing, storm sewer maintenance, and the water main loop. A formal resolution will be drawn up

For Council to review at a future meeting.

Mayor Fortune opened the public hearing for proposed Ordinance No. 524 to amend Chapter 92 Sections 02 and 03, Chapter 99 Section 02, and Chapter 106 Chapter 108 (2) in the Code of Ordinances. section 08 (2) in the Code of Ordinances of the City of Cresco, lowa, pertaining to water rates, sewer service charges, and yardwaste fees. There were no written or oral comments and the public hearing was closed. The Mayor performed the second reading of Ordinance No. 524. Bouska made the motion to approve the second reading. Carman seconded and it passed

Mayor Fortune performed the first reading of proposed Ordinance No. 525 amending Chapter 35 Sections 02 and 03 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Cresco, lowa, pertaining to the fire department. McConnell made the motion to approve the first reading. Bouska seconded and it passed all ayes.

Carman made the motion to waive the

second and third reading and considera-tion of Ordinance No. 525 pertaining to the fire department. McConnell seconded and it passed all ayes.

Bouska made the motion to approve Ordinance No. 525 pertaining to the fire department. Carman seconded and it passed

Carman made the motion to approve the resolution naming depositories. Fosaaen seconded and it passed all ayes. Council discussed dates that supervised

Display fireworks should be allowed. Display fireworks require a permit approved by the Fire Chief and Council and shall be handled by a competent operator as dehandled by a competent operator as defined in City Code. Reminder that consumer fireworks are only allowed to be discharged within city limits on July 3rd from 9 am to 10 pm and July 4th between 9 am and 11 pm. Kriener made the motion to allow Display fireworks applications for July 3 – July 4 with any other dates reviewed by Council on a case-by-case basis viewed by Council on a case-by-case basis McConnell seconded and it passed all

Carman moved to adjourn the Council Meeting at 5:56 pm. Fosaaen seconded and it passed all ayes. The next regular Cresco City Council meeting will be June 16, 2025, at 5:30 pm at Cresco City Hall.

Mayor Alexander Fortune City Clerk Nicole Hill

Following is a list of claims approved for

PAYROLL	82,385.75
AHLERS & COONEY, Attny	
ALLIANT, Elect	
AM RED CROSS, Cert	658.00
ANDERSON, Attny	432.00
ATLANTIC COKE, Concess.	952.06
BAM SAM JAM, DpAp	100.00
BARCO, Supp	957.00
BESABE, DIAMANO, DpAp	78.09
BINA, JAYCE, DpAp	62.50
BLACK HILLS, Gas	2,961.25
BLAZEK CORP, Srvc	309,550.37

GALLS, Boots
GILLUND ENT, Supp
INSPIRE(D) MEDIA, Ads
IA DNR, Cert
IA DOT, Oil MONDELUS, IVROSE, DPAP
NICOLL, COLLIN, DPAP
NEIA MOTORS, Srvc.......
POSTMASTER, Pstg PUSH PEDAL PULL, Equip7,858.00
RACOM, Srvc......247.50
RHODAS, MICHAEL, DpAp62.30
SASS, ART & PHYLLIS, DpAp65.72 SOLAR PRO, Solar THE STEEL SHOP, Srvc TRUCK COUNTRY, PartVALLEY RADIATOR, Srvc **BY FUND:**

RYSTAILON BLOG 399-93

DRUG DOG 12.38

CRESCO COMM FIRE 594.14

ROAD USE TAX 18,452.44

EMPLOYEE BENE 253.21

FITNESS CENTER TRUST 7,858.00

STREET ASSESSMENT 62.00

SCENE SHOP PROJ 66.90

FITNESS CENTER PROJ 17,450.00

SEWER AGING EQUIP 318,794.13

WATER 12,913.08

 SEWER AGING EQUIP
 318,794.13

 WATER
 12,913.08

 WATER DEPOSIT
 1,069.18

 WATER EQUIP RPLC
 122.40

 SEWER OP
 14,090.37

 CAP IMPROVE
 36.49

 YARDWASTE
 2,421.85

TOTAL EXPENDITURES REVENUE 5/20-6/2/25......252,832.17

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