City

Continued from front page

Once debated, the council agreed to accept the bid and the planned new housing project. The council along with City Manager Brent Wise roughed out the potential for tax revenue from the sale of the new home and agreed the long term outcome would outweigh the lower bid price.

Next up was the cities consideration of a change in the health insurance contract offered to city employees.

The planned approximately 10.4 percent rate increase was deemed the state of the insurance industry currently and was accepted by the council. As was previously proposed, the plan will be expanded to two different plan options and will continue to provide for 100 percent premium coverage for the employee and a shared cost for family coverage.

Rick Farrell was in attendance to field questions regarding his previously proposed plan to harvest a variety of trees that were deemed "over growth" on city property. The plan gave a breakdown of the number of trees targeted for harvest and the potential revenue they would generate. The proposal would allow the revenue to be shared on a 50/50 basis with the city. Most of the harvested trees were walnut trees that have significant market value. The shared revenue would then be used by the city to help offset the cost for removing diseased and dying trees throughout the city landscape. The proposal was accepted unanimously by council.

The council moved on to consider a donation request made by Mount Ayr Community Schools related to the current CTE Academy being constructed on the school grounds.

The fund raising campaign kicked off in October and has offered tax deductible contributions ranging from Bronze-$500 up to Diamond-$25,000 or more.

The council discussed the need to continue to support the school district and agreed to make a gold level contribution of $5,000 to be levied against the next fiscal budget.

Several housekeeping items were also covered during the meeting, including the approval of a one time pay adjustment of $200 for city employees. Once approved the city can release the adjustment at its discretion.

The last item addressed was the approval of board resolutions related to appointments for the Library Commission and the Airport Commission. The council again unanimously accepted these resolutions.

The final council item discussed was the approval for Jesse Ruby to effect repairs on one of the city trucks to be performed at his residential property. The city does not own the needed welding equipment in order to conduct the repair.

Farm aid bill signed

DES MOINES, Iowa (Dec. 8, 2025) – Iowa Secretary of Agriculture Mike Naig issued the following statement after the Trump Administration announced $12 billion in direct financial assistance to America's farmers impacted by the current economic conditions and ongoing trade disruptions:

"Iowa farmers are being squeezed by low commodity prices and near-record high input costs, and these pressures ripple through our rural communities and entire economy. I appreciate President Trump and Secretary Rollins providing some immediate, short-term relief as we work to strengthen trade relationships and expand markets at home and abroad.

Let's be clear: farmers want reliable markets for their products, not government aid. We urgently need to secure new, expanded, and fairer trade deals that grow market access for U.S. ag products around the globe, which the Administration has made a top priority. We also need Congress to pass a modernized Farm Bill, aggressively expand year-round nationwide access to E15, and address the root causes of historically high fertilizer costs. These steps would give much needed certainty and stability to the agriculture community in Iowa and across the nation."

To my family, extended family, so many friends, and my Clearview staff,

Thanks to all for the cards, phone calls, visits, and gifts; the personal comments and notes, they were most pleasing and appreciated. I have had 104 years of great living. Thanks to God and modern medicine, I've stayed in reasonably good health and mind. I am thankful and blessed to have gravitated toward those who are good, younger, and more intelligent than I! God bless you and God bless America. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Jake Dailey

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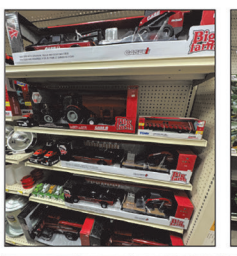

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211 S Grace St.
Afton, IA 50830

MOUNT AYR
3 - 4 pm
Ringgold County Fairgrounds
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