

BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT ...



James Edward Wright

Parents Rachel and Zach welcome Baby James Wright

James Edward Wright was born to parents Rachel and Zack Wright of Moorhead, Minnesota, on May 13, 2026, at Sanford Medical Center in Fargo, North Dakota.

James' grandparents are Greg and Kari Wright of Davenport, Clarence and Sally Marvin of Charles City and Todd and Deanne Sullivan of Sheffield.

DNR urges boaters to stay alert as summer activity increases on Iowa waters

To The Press

As warmer temperatures draw more people to Iowa's rivers and lakes, state officials are reminding boaters to prioritize safety as the summer recreation season gets underway.

The Iowa Department of Natural Resources reported that Iowa waters became increasingly busy over the Memorial Day weekend, with conservation officers and water patrol officers responding to more than 200 calls for service during the holiday period.

DNR officials said boaters should remain alert to other water users and potential hazards whenever they are on the water. Operators are encouraged to slow down and watch for swimmers, skiers, other boats, floating debris and other obstacles.

When towing water skiers or tubers, boat operators should be aware of the participant's skill level and adjust their activities accordingly, the agency said.

The DNR also highlighted several key boating safety reminders for the season:

- Wear a properly fitted life jacket. Iowa law requires children younger than 13 to wear a life jacket whenever a boat is underway. Boats also must carry enough life jackets for everyone on board.
- Do not exceed a boat's passenger or weight capacity. Capacity limits are established

by manufacturers and the U.S. Coast Guard.

- Leave a float plan with a friend or family member that includes the destination, expected return time and type of vessel being used.

- Carry required safety equipment in addition to life jackets, including a charged fire extinguisher, horn or whistle, a U.S. Coast Guard-approved throwable flotation device and a stocked first-aid kit.

- Stay away from dams and other waterway hazards and obey posted warning signs and regulations.

- Avoid alcohol while operating a boat. The DNR noted that wind, sun, glare and heat can intensify the effects of alcohol and impair decision-making.
- Drink plenty of water to avoid dehydration. Early symptoms can include dizziness, lightheadedness and nausea.

The DNR also encouraged boaters to complete a boating education course. Iowa law requires anyone ages 12 to 17 who operates a motorboat with more than 10 horsepower or a personal watercraft to successfully complete a state-approved boating education program.

State officials said taking basic safety precautions can help ensure a safe and enjoyable summer on Iowa waterways.

Heyer graduating from South Dakota law enforcement course

To The Press

Justin Heyer of Charles City will be among the 36 graduates from the South Dakota Basic Law Enforcement Certification Course today, Friday, June 3, in Pierre, South Dakota.

The 13-week certification course is required to become a fully qualified law enforcement officer in South Dakota.

Heyer, who graduated from South Dakota State University last December and is a 2021 Charles City High school graduate, is working toward becoming a conservation officer with South Dakota



Heyer

Game, Fish and Parks. He will spend the next 18 weeks in field training before being assigned his own duty

station, likely in the Hot Springs/Custer area, according to information from his father, Jeremy Heyer.

"He was drawn to serving in this capacity by working as seasonal water patrol for the Iowa DNR (Department of Natural Resources) at Okoboji for the past four summers," Jeremy Heyer said.



Photo by Christopher Gannon/Iowa State University.

Nathan Soley (left) and Brian Wilsey adjust bags covering plants in a plot of prairie. The bags prevent animal pollination, part of their research studying how pollinators affect plant diversity.

ISU researchers find that pollinators are key to maintaining plant diversity

To The Press

A four-year study by Iowa State University researchers has found that pollinators do more than benefit from diverse plant communities – they help create them.

The study by ISU ecology professor Brian Wilsey and doctoral graduate Nathan Soley, published this month in the journal *Ecology*, found that when wildflowers in restored prairie plots were shielded from pollinators, viable seed production among animal-pollinated plants fell by 50% and species diversity dropped by 27%.

"Our study is the first we are aware of to show that plant biodiversity at the community level can be limited by a lack of pollinators," Wilsey said.

The experiment was conducted on about 50 acres of university land south of Ames. Researchers covered flowers in some plots with sheer fabric bags to exclude pollinators, hand-pollinated flowers in others using Q-tips and small paintbrushes, and left a third set undisturbed as controls.

Over four growing seasons, they bagged or hand-pollinated about 68,000 flowers.

The findings help explain

a pattern familiar to prairie restorationists: newly planted areas often start with a varied mix of wildflowers and grasses, but wind-pollinated grasses tend to crowd out other species within a few years.

A shortage of pollinators may drive that shift, the researchers said.

The study also suggests that significant pollinator declines could trigger a self-reinforcing cycle – falling pollinator populations reduce plant diversity, which in turn further reduces pollinators – a dynamic the researchers call a "plant-pollinator extinction vortex."

Wilsey said the results changed his thinking about how important pollinators are to ecosystem health. "Before this study, I would have never thought that pollinators were this important to maintaining biodiversity. It really opened my eyes," he said.

One practical implication is that the proximity of pollinator habitat should be a factor when siting prairie restoration projects, particularly in urban areas, Wilsey said. The experiment is now in its seventh year and continuing at the Ames study site.

EDUCATION NEWS BRIEFS ...

Floyd student named to Kirkwood Dean's List

Kirkwood Community College has released its Dean's List for the spring 2026 semester. Included on the list from this area is Nathan Ferch of Floyd.

Morningside University lists spring 2026 graduates

Morningside University in Sioux City has announced its May class of 2026 spring graduates.

Area graduates are:

- Payton Reams, Charles City, Master of Arts in Teaching.
- Tiffany Landrum, Clarksville, Master of Arts in Teaching.
- Joy Anderson, Greene, Master of Arts in Teaching.
- Marnie Schmidt, Greene, Master of Arts in Teaching.

CLUB NOTES ...

City Improvement Association

The City Improvement Association met Tuesday, May 26, 2026, in the meeting room of the Iowa State Extension Office with 15 ladies present. The meeting was called to order by President Yolanda Van Ausdall. She read our mission statement, and she thanked the hostess committee, Andres Park, for the delicious treats that were served.

The April meeting minutes were emailed to members and reviewed by those present. There were no corrections to be made and the minutes were approved as printed.

Jodi Hammond's presented the April Treasure's report and the Endowment report for Susan LeMaster. Jodi asked members when turning in their parks expenses to make sure they have the Park name on the receipt and if any questions about the bill to contact her. Jodi reviewed both reports with members. The financial reports were approved as presented and will be filed for audit.

Juanita Hughes reminded the park chairs their spring park reports were due at this meeting. Juanita will remind the chairs to send their spring park reports to her. The park chairs present shared their May park activity to this date. They discussed what they had done and any problems they were dealing with in their parks. Memorial Park after some repair and painting had the fountain turned on in May for summer. The parks require time and effort to keep them looking nice and we need to thank all who share with the park work including our husbands.

Yolanda asked what CIA parks were still wanting to plant trees. Bayou Bend, Andres and Merten Klaus requested trees. Yolanda will contact the district forester for his help in the tree selection and the planting location of the trees for each park.

The Master Gardener minutes this month reviewed what perineal plants grew best in areas that might get some neglect through the summer.

A motion was made and approved to adjourn the meeting. The June meeting will be on Tuesday, June 23, 2026, at 1:15 p.m. in the meeting room of the Iowa State Extension Office.

— Submitted by Rosie Pieper

Floyd County Medical Center Auxiliary Executive Board

The FCMC Auxiliary Executive Board met Tuesday, June 2, 2026, with nine members present: Char Greenzweig, JoAnn Peterson, Dianne Blackburn, Terry Schrader, Linda Lindaman, Becky Meyer, Bette Murray, Pam Stewart and Rosie Pieper. The Auxiliary prayer was read by all.

The secretary's report was read and approved with a motion by Pam and second by JoAnn.

The gift shop continues to be closed but is looking forward to an open house on Saturday, July 18. Hours for the gift shop when it opens will be Monday-Friday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Fundraising Chair Rosie gave the dates for the two summer sales to be held in the Veteran's Room at the Medical Center. Fingers and Toes/Scentsy will be Thursday, June 18, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and the Nutman sale will be Wednesday, July 8, 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. and Thursday, July 9, 9 a.m. to noon.

New Business: List of names were presented to take the place of those members who are resigning from the Executive Board.

President Char Greenzweig, Treasurer Terry Schlader, Scheduling Bette Murray. The new officers were approved with a motion by Becky and second by JoAnn. The board thanked those who resigned for their time given to the Executive Board.

The Executive Board will meet Tuesday, July 7 at 9 a.m.

— Submitted by Dianne Blackburn, Secretary

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