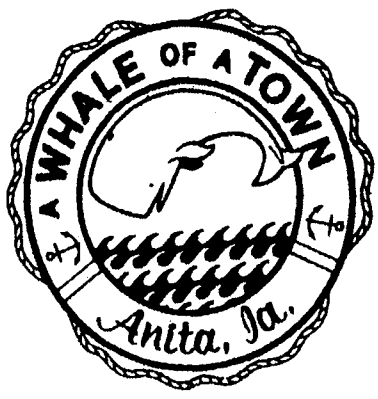


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The Anita Tribune



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"Hoops For Hunger" Donates To Anita Food Pantry



Thank you to those who donated to "Hoops for Hunger," sponsored by the CAM Student Council. Your monetary donation of \$1,000.00 and groceries will certainly help us help our neighbors facing food insecurity. We appreciate your support and the support of the CAM Student Council organizing this event. Pictured are Hilary Zimmerline, left, CAM school representative, and Verna Matthies, Anita Food Pantry volunteer.

Iowa Nursing Homes Accused of Abuse Are Added to Federal List of Worst Facilities

By Clark Kauffman
Iowa Capital Dispatch

Two Iowa nursing homes cited for resident abuse and dozens of other regulatory violations have been added to the federal government's list of the nation's worst care facilities.

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services has added Caring Acres Nursing & Rehab Center in Anita and Grundy Care Center in Grundy Center to its list of nursing homes eligible for inclusion on CMS' periodic list of Special-Focus Facilities.

At any given time, no more than two nursing homes per state appear on CMS' list of federally designated Special-Focus Facilities, which consists of homes that have recurring, serious problems with resident care.

In Iowa, those two homes are Pine Acres Rehabilitation and Care Center in West Des Moines and Garden View Care Center in Shenandoah. Those two homes have had special-focus status for eight months and six months, respectively.

The federal list also includes hundreds of other nursing homes - typically, 10 per state - where ongoing quality-of-care violations have made them eligible for special-focus status. Caring Acres and Grundy Care Center are among the homes added recently to the eligibility list.

Once a home is designated a Special-Focus Facility, it receives additional oversight and assistance from the government that's intended to improve resident care. The other homes that are merely deemed eligible do not receive that assistance. They

appear on the list, some for as long as 10 years, and then drop off without ever receiving the federal help.

Abuse and care issues cited at Caring Acres

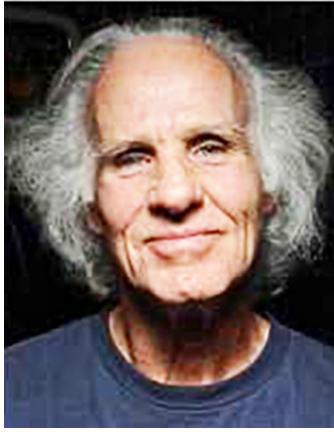
In February 2025, Caring Acres in Anita was cited with 17 regulatory violations, an exceptionally high number, including failure to maintain competent nursing staff; failure to keep residents free of unnecessary psychotropic medications; inadequate infection prevention and control; failure to meet COVID-19 immunization standards, and failure to provide the required training for nurse aides.

No fines were imposed at that time.

In June 2025, the home was fined \$9,000 and cited for failure to provide residents with required nursing services. In that case, inspectors alleged a male resident of the home underwent a change in condition during the day and evening shifts of May 8, 2025, and that the nurse on duty failed to assess the resident even after other workers reported concerns with the man's health. The man developed a fever about 7 p.m., but medication was not given and a physician was not notified until his vital signs worsened significantly eight hours later. At that point, the man was sent to the hospital, where he died five hours after admission.

Also in June 2025, the home was cited for resident abuse. A worker at the home reported that a male licensed practical nurse at the home was verbally abusive with a resident who had

Alan Kline, Noted Advocate of Indigenous People, Passes Away



Husband, Father, Grandpa, Uncle, Community Advocate, World-Traveler, and Friend of all people and cultures are just a sampling of the roles Alan Kline excelled in. Those roles allowed others to see his character, kindness, compassion, love, integrity and grace. He passed at age 83 in Toledo on February 4 at his home under the care of his family and Iowa River Hospice.

Born April 30, 1942, he was an Anita farm boy raised on a small acreage that his parents bought in the height of the Depression and tilled for the sustenance to raise seven kids. He attended country school taught by Marie Mailander, and graduated in the Class of 1960 from Anita High School.

An active and likeable student his work ethic paved the way for several achievements. He was a homecoming king, student council member, and class officer. He quarterbacked the football team to two winning seasons, including the 1958 undefeated squad. He also ran on relays for the 1958 and 1959 conference track and field champions. Although Anita did not have high school baseball at the time he loved the game. He did excel as a pitcher and infielder on the city's Pee-Wee (9-12) and Midget (12-15) teams. He dreamed of becoming a professional pitcher along with exploring the world.

After earning an undergraduate degree from Iowa State University in economics and business administration in 1966, Alan lived in the Amazon region of Brazil from 1967 to 1970, working as a Peace Corps volunteer. He returned to Iowa State to earn a 1971 MS degree in economics.

He developed a deep connection and admiration for indige-

fallen out of bed, saying, "Aww, did you fall out of bed? That was kind of a dumb idea," and "They need to stop feeding you so much. Your trunk is four times the size of the rest of you and it's getting gross."

Later that same night, the licensed practical nurse allegedly harassed another resident of the home, telling her that her cats and dogs were not at the facility and were either at the resident's home alone or were simply gone. The nurse then turned to a co-worker and allegedly stated, "Sometimes you gotta p--- them off to make the night more fun."

Other Iowa homes on the CMS' special-focus eligibility list and located in Perry, Des Moines, Johnston, West Des Moines, Keota, Davenport and Sergeant Bluff.

Community Meal March 3

The next community meal will be on Tuesday, March 3, 11:30 a.m. at the Congregational Church in Anita. Holy Cross Lutheran Church will be serving the meal.

We've been seeing some old and new faces lately and that's great. Come and enjoy a wonderful meal and stay for a card game after if you want. All are welcome. A free will donation is taken for the meal.

nous populations, and accepted a job with a new Indian-controlled college in Pine Ridge, SD. It was an area which he felt was home to some of the most beautiful people on the planet. He often humbly remarked that he may have been born and raised in Cass County, Iowa, but he grew up in Brazil and Pine Ridge.

Alan eventually returned to Iowa, and used his economic education to assist and promote the Meskwaki tribe in Tama County. He spent most of his professional life working with Native American people in Brazil and the United States. It was his honor to work with and learn from those durable cultures. In November of 1977, he married Patricia Podany.

In retirement, he used time cultivating his vineyard in Toledo, traveling the world, and playing with his grandkids. He also served as a member of the South Tama County school board and the Wieting Theatre Guild, was a voracious reader, an active United Way member, community volunteer, and a devoted Democrat.

Alan is survived by his wife, Patricia; his three sons, Chett, Chris, and Corey; his six grandchildren, Cael, Caeden, Lili-ana, Jasper, Theo, and Errol; his sister, Doris Heistand; his nephews, Brady, Dennis, Brian, Stephen, Kasey, and Kyle; and nieces, Barb, Linda, Leisa, Darla, Jana, Kella Jo, Tara, Tanja, Tracey, Eleanore.

Preceding Alan's departure were his parents, Chester and Edith, and his brothers, Delbert, Daryl, Duane, Ronald, and Larry.

The family plans to host a graveside service at Evergreen Cemetery in Anita, July 11 and a Celebration of Life event in Toledo, July 12.

Spring Burning At Lake Anita

Lake Anita State Park plans to perform controlled burns this spring to stimulate prairie areas and control invasive plant species.

Depending on weather, burning may begin in the middle of March, but could be as late as the end of April.

The plan is to burn along the north boundary of the park. Care will be taken to find a day with a northerly wind to prevent smoke in town.

If you have any questions or concerns then please call the park office at 712-762-3564.

Feb. is Responsible Pet Owners Month

CAM Community School District Special Election March 3

PLEASE NOTE: THIS IS NOT A NEW TAX!

The CAM Community School District is holding a special election on March 3, 2026, to RENEW the Physical Plant & Equipment Levy (PPEL) fund.

Voters will decide on Public Measure DH, a 10-year renewal of the PPEL tax. The measure allows the district to levy up to \$1.34 per \$1,000 of assessed property valuation beginning with the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026.

PPEL funds are used for school

construction and improvement, technology and equipment purchase, transportation equipment, energy conservation projects and other purposes authorized by Iowa law.

A lot of rumors have been going around about the measure, so here's some clarification:

1. This is a tax we have been paying for several years now to help maintain our schools.
2. Again, this is NOT a new tax we are voting on.

15th Annual BRR Tractor Ride Held Feb. 21



Shown above are just some of the tractors that took part in this year's BRR Tractor Ride. A breakfast was served at the Anita Legion Hall from 7-9 a.m., then the tractors took off for a ride around town to various businesses. The morning was finished off with a delicious meal held at the Weather Vane Café. We have had a relatively mild winter, but last weekend was definitely a "BRR" one!

Anita Food Pantry Hours

The Anita Food Pantry hours are the first and third Saturdays of the month from 8:00 to 10:00 a.m. at 208 Chestnut St. If you have questions or there is an emergency, call Pam Miller, 712-250-0410; or Jodi Irlmeier, 712-762-4234.

Anita Public Library Hours

The Anita Public Library hours are as follows: Monday & Tuesday, 12-6 p.m.; Wednesday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.; Thursday & Friday, 12-5 p.m. and Saturday, 9 a.m.-12 p.m.

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Zack Wahlert & Blake Butcher,

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