

# Jim Carlin at the Pharmacy

Jim Carlin, candidate for US Senate, spoke at the Ida Grove Pharmacy Friday, March 20. Jim was formerly in the U.S. Army, was a State Senator, and is a lawyer. He and his wife Donna live in Sergeant Bluff.

When asked why he is running, he said it is because of what he calls "the squeeze" where because of government action, the price of nearly everything goes up. He related, in the 1970', 35 cents of the dollar went to the government. Today, 52 cents of the dollar goes to the government, which is now \$38

trillion dollars in debt. Jim says we are being robbed by our government. Jim says inflation is a billionaire's tax on us. And it is sad that 28,000 family farms are going away every year!

He and his wife have three grandkids which he says has a way of changing your perspective because you care about the future they will face!

He helped lead the passage of the Heartbeat Bill through the Iowa legislature and worked on a property tax freeze for seniors. Jim says, "People think

they are electing candidates but really they are electing the candidate's donors."

He wants to secure the border because 60% of illegal aliens in this country are getting government assistance. He also wants to ban sharia law before it's a problem, keep Iowa farmland in American hands, and ban Congressional stock trading.

Jim says he will listen and be honest with people. The primary election in Iowa is Tuesday June 2. His website is carlinforusenate.com



Photo by Brent Harm • Ida County Courier

**Ida County Conservation Board:** From left, Luke Collins - Director, Synda Jepsen - Chair, Dennis Leonard, Don Poggensee, Randy Vogt - vice chair. Not pictured: Sue Knop.

## —more about

## ... Luke Collins

(continued from page A1) about the Conservation Director position.

"I've always been interested in conservation," he stated. "I had multiple family and friends who were in the DNR and conservationists. One of our close family friends was the hatchery biologist in Spirit Lake, so we spent a lot of summers up there going through the hatchery."

"Another one of our close friends was a DNR officer at a couple of different parks throughout his career, so we spent time in state parks throughout Iowa. I always enjoyed hunting, fishing, camping, and all the outdoor fun stuff."

"Being a water and sewer superintendent, I learned about the budget process and public relations. I've also had that local tie with the community. We're a small conservation board, and we're one of the smallest counties in Iowa, as far as population and conservation budget. But we do have two good-size parks in Ida County."

Luke mentioned a few of his predecessors who have made his transition easier.

"Former conservation director Zach Hall left a very detailed binder of how to run different programs in the budget. Former director Rhett Leonard has been more than willing to help each director that's stepped in after him because of his long ties. Jerry Jensen has been here for a long time too, and he also supplied support and information. They were literally the ones who were laying the water lines, and setting up the campgrounds, and started out with the first couple mowers, and small pickups. What we've done since then is based on what they built, and they gave us something to build upon. They are very much respected."

Collins discussed the recent stocking of fish and how it has come to fruition.

"At the end of the year,

in November, we stocked rainbow trout in Moorehead, and we put walleye in Crawford Creek. The walleye will take a few years of stocking before we see any fruits from that, but with the trout stocking, we've seen an increased number of people throughout the early part of fall enjoying the park and coming out."

"We offered anyone who caught an albino trout, because there were a number of those stocked with the regular trout, if they took a picture of it, they could submit it and put it in a drawing for a cabin stay for this camping season."

"If we see the number of people coming out, we would like to keep the ponds stocked. It is costly, however, and we're certainly open to donations to help us with that. If people are finding fruit in it and have spent time doing it, any amount of support is appreciated. Our camping revenue and support from the board of supervisors is really our only income."

Luke mentioned some upcoming events and activities he is looking forward too.

"There are some new things this year that we're excited about," he stated. "When the splash pad was put in at the city park, they relocated the disc golf out here. So now we've got a course set up, and we've got signage that was donated through several businesses and individuals. We're going to get a list together and acknowledge the folks who did provide a lot of support, like Godbersen-Smith and GOMACO, who did the concrete pads for the tee boxes. The signs for each hole are going up this spring. On May 8, we're going to do a night disc golf event."

"The other thing we've updated this year is the shelter at Crawford Creek is now a cabin. It's a cabin that will sleep 10, with a full kitchen, air conditioning, heat, and two indoor

bathrooms. I recommend anybody interested in that to check out the "My County Parks" website. That website provides information for camping reservations and pictures of our facilities. There are at least 40 other counties that use the website, for anybody looking up information on county parks, camping facilities, events, and updates. Our conservation page on Facebook is another place to keep checking back for any updated information."

"We have a GPS Easter egg hunt coming up. That's a March 28 signup deadline date to participate in. We have a fly-fishing clinic on the 28th as well. A gentleman from Schleswig is putting on the clinic, and we're going to pick up a portion of the fee for individuals that attend. If you choose to try fly-fishing, we're going to have some fly rods here and a couple of kits. He also does fly-casting classes that are separate."

"Our camping season at Crawford Creek is going to be opening on April 24. I want to thank the Kiwanis, who provided a donation for some electronics updates for our outdoor movie programs, with a new projector and speaker system. We'd like to do a night canoe event sometime at Crawford Creek, too."

Finally, Collins explained what he likes most about his job so far.

"I'm lucky to have the small staff here," he said. "They're very knowledgeable, and they know what needs to be done. We really work well as a team."

"The other best part has been the interaction with the public and the kids at our programs, like when the high school came down for ice fishing. A lot of people who had never ice fished before got a chance too, during our ice fishing clinic. With the little kids, it really came down to, "I got to walk on the ice and now I get marshmallows," Collins laughingly recalled.



Photo by Brent Harm • Ida County Courier

**Carlin stops at The Farmacy:** Republican candidate for U.S. Senate Jim Carlin made a campaign stop at The Farmacy soda fountain in Ida Grove on Friday afternoon.

# Ridge View Superintendent Bisenius discusses budget process

by BRENT HARM  
IDA COUNTY COURIER

Ridge View High School Superintendent Adam Bisenius spoke with me recently about some of the factors that go into the school budget process. Bisenius answered a few questions on some of the challenges and choices faced by the School Board in making a budget.

**Who is all involved in making budget decisions? Is there a Fiscal Year for schools, or does it go by each school year?**

"The school business official, the school board, and myself are the ones in charge of the budget each year," explained Bisenius. "The fiscal year for schools runs from July 1 to June 30, and we have an initial budget for next year put together. Our budget determines property tax rates for our district, and we will have an upcoming budget hearing in March."

"All of the patrons are sent our proposed property tax rate," he continued. "The hearing allows for people to come and voice their thoughts to the school board about the tax rate. We work very hard to maintain a consistent tax rate and lower taxes whenever we are able. This is difficult to do, as our budget is impacted by enroll-

ment, which can be hard to predict at times."

**What about Galva-Holstein and Schaller-Crestland, compared to Ridge View High School? Is there an easy way to explain what is separate and what is together, as far as the budget process goes?**

"Galva-Holstein and Schaller-Crestland each manage their own budgets separately," stated Bisenius. "The high school falls under the Galva-Holstein jurisdiction, and the middle school falls under the SC jurisdiction. The expenses are a ratio between the districts based on the percentage of students from one district served by the other district."

**What are the biggest challenges you face when making budget decisions?**

"The biggest challenges include a decrease in enrollment, and budget impacts that come out of Des Moines," said Bisenius. "For example, setting the SSA at 2% really hampers districts. Potentially taking away SAVE dollars will have a large impact on districts."

"If the reduction in SAVE dollars forces districts to pay for things out of general fund, then the general fund gets depleted.

That is funded by property tax, which then means districts have to make cuts or increase property taxes in order to cover expenses that were formerly covered by SAVE dollars, which are sales tax revenues produced by everyone in the state rather than just the local district. It means an increase in the cost of everything from commodities to salaries."

**Do you have to decide on wages for school employees? Do you have guidelines for that, or how are those decisions made?**

"Yes, I meet with the negotiations group from each district to determine wages and raises," he explained. "This all has to fit responsibly within the budget, which is determined by many things out of our control, and which creates a large challenge."

**What are the main areas for expenditures by the school? What are the main ways the school brings money in?**

"As for expenditures, salaries are the major component to expenses," said Bisenius. "Enrollment brings money into the district, along with certain categorical federal funds, such as Title money and drop-out prevention dollars."

## RIDGE VIEW ACTIVITY Calendar

<b>Thursday, March 26</b> WVC Art Show at Kingsley.	Speech at UNI - Cedar Falls. 4 p.m. Girls Track & Field Meet at Audubon.	4 p.m. E-Sports competition at HS computer lab. 4 p.m. Girls Golf at Cherokee Country Club.
<b>Monday, March 30</b> All-State Large Group	<b>Tuesday, March 31</b>	

## OABCIG ACTIVITY Calendar

<b>Thursday, March 26</b> WVC Art Show at Lawton-Bronson	activities. <b>Saturday, March 28</b> 5 p.m. Key Club Father-Daughter Dance at OABCIG HS.	<b>Tuesday, March 31</b> 4:30 p.m. Boys Track at Audubon Relays. 4:30 p.m. Girls Track at Woodbine Relays.
<b>Friday, March 27</b> MS Quarter Holiday		

## Sports Coverage

**IDA COUNTY COURIER** will keep you up-to-date with all OABCIG & Ridge View Sports!

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IDA COUNTY FAIRBOARD

## MINI GOLF FUNDRAISER

**March 27 • 5 p.m.**

American Legion in Holstein

To register, please contact Peggy Gebers at 712-210-0110

**Teams of 4 \$10 per person**

**Must be 18 years old to participate**

DON'T FORGET TO BRING YOUR PUTTER AND BALLS!