

OPINION: Ours, yours, theirs

MARK GARDEN

Acclaimed performance dedicated to his son

Find many things to talk about with my barber, Mark Garden, at MenTality in Eldridge. In addition to being an "old school" barber who's good at his craft, Mark has been a boxing corner man, a sheriff's investigator, and is currently a counselor at The Abbey in Bettendorf as well as in private practice.

At my last haircut on Nov. 12 (yes, I DO patronize the barber!), Mark mentioned that he was in a play,



Impressions
by Bill Tubbs

"Twelve Angry Jurors" at the Playcrafter Barn in Moline. I persuaded Linda to go with me, and Wow! Not only was Mark IN the play, he was the star, in the role of Juror No. 3, the angriest juror who was most determined to convict.

The play is based on the 1957 award-winning movie, "Twelve Angry Men," which starred Henry Fonda. The entire play and movie take place in the deliberation room as jurors weigh the facts in the trial of a young man accused of murder in the first degree.

On their first ballot, the vote is 11-1 in favor of conviction; the 11 wanting to lock him up and throw away the key. But one by one, as circumstantial evidence is considered, the vote flips to 12-0 in favor of not guilty. The entire cast of locals was superb, but Mark's authenticity as the angry juror was to me the most memorable.

Dedicated to his son

Even more remarkable is that it was Mark's first time ever on stage. How did he get into it, and why did he do it?

"I did this thing because my son passed away Feb. 24 and he used to talk to me about theater and doing theater," said Mark, of his son, Jacob, who had played Mr. Potter in the 2009 Lancer Productions' "It's a Wonderful Life."

(*The NSP's* Tracy Dunn's review of that show was published Nov. 4, 2009. Tracy wrote, "And Jake Garden? Here's a kid who makes it into his senior year in high school before deciding to participate in a theatrical production.

Loss of first caucus a kick in the gut

Losing Iowa's first-in-the-nation presidential caucuses is a kick in the gut for all of us who valued the process and privilege these past 50 years. The decision by the Democratic National Committee is not a surprise after the 2022 debacle when the national media were championing at the bit for results and Iowa couldn't deliver.

To be clear, there's fault on many sides. The Republicans had their trouble, too, in 2012 when Rick Santorum was declared the winner on election night, but first place was awarded to Mitt Romney 16 days later.

Republicans should not be smug. The Dems' loss could be a loss for GOP first caucuses, too. Stay tuned, and vote in our online poll at northscottpress.com: Should Iowa accept the loss, or fight?

CyHawk predictions

The big events in our state this week are the CyHawk basketball games, both at Iowa City. My predictions: ISU men's defense will dominate. Iowa will struggle to surpass last year's 53 points. Cy wins, 60-50. Caitlin Clark scores 30, but Fennelly's girls win a thriller, 80-79.

"I got the role and sat at his gravesite and studied my lines there. It was like he was channeling through me. It was a healing thing. It was something I was doing for me and my son."

Mark Garden

He wants to direct movies someday, and he thought it would be good to understand how things work from an actor's point of view. Donning a half-bald wig and moving across the stage in an antique wheelchair, Jake made a convincingly villainous Henry Potter.")



Mark Garden
Photo by Jesse Mohr

"I didn't expect to get a part. I just wanted to read and audition. It was a healing thing to bring us closer together," said Mark. "I got the role and sat at his gravesite and studied my lines there. It was like he was channeling through me. It was something I was doing for me and my son."

Mark's performance as the angriest juror won critical acclaim in a review by Roger Pavey Jr. in *The River City Reader*: "Juror Three is perhaps the angriest of the dozen, and Mark Garden's portrayal – his intensity of emotion, control of character, instincts, et cetera – is so impressive. What's perhaps more impressive is that this is Garden's first time on-stage ever."

Mark said he owes success to his son, and director Mike Schultz, who gave him the opportunity. "I'm just a struggling human being, trying to be a better man. I tried to put my heart and soul into it."

And the people said, Amen!

Gas prices: Depends where you are

Gas prices are down from their summer highs, but it depends where you look. I topped off my tank Sunday at Kum & Go in Urbandale for \$2.74⁹ a gallon (unleaded).

On the way home, I made notes of prices and share them simply because I find it interesting:

Urbandale: Kum & Go, Pilot, \$2.74⁹;
Newton: Love's and Casey's, \$2.98⁹;
Belle Plaine: Pilot, \$3.13⁹;
Williamsburg: Kum & Go, \$3.35⁹;
West Branch: Casey's, \$3.39⁹;
Tipton: Kum & Go, \$3.14⁹;
Walcott: Pilot, 2.99⁹;
Davenport: Flying J, Love's, Speedway, \$2.79⁹;
Eldridge: BP, Casey's and Big 10 Mart, \$3.09⁹.

Publisher emeritus Bill Tubbs is Iowa State University's 2018 recipient of the James W. Schwartz Award for distinguished service to journalism and communication. He can be contacted at btubbs@northscottpress.com.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

How is the public informed of something potentially dangerous?

Editor:

Are you for the CO2 pipeline or are you against it?

That seems to be the only question being asked.

Who is answering the question, "I just received a certified letter about a pipeline and I don't know why and what should I do?"

While waiting in line at our Donahue post office to receive my certified letter, I was asked these questions by some of our senior members of my community. I knew why we were getting the letters so I briefly told them, and they asked me if I was going to have a meeting to explain it to others.

Earlier this fall, my good friend and fellow landowner, Amy Nelson, and we attended the meetings held by the pipeline. Following the meetings, we both felt the same way, like we both were just run over by a bus and we just have to take it.

We set out to find out information. We

talked to neighbors, other CO2 groups, and farmers in other counties. I reached out to ADM, Ag Secretary Mike Naig, and legislators. Many online resources are there, but what about my neighbors that didn't know where to find information?

Amy and I were compelled to have a meeting. Our goal was to explain the "Who, What, Where and Why" of the process, but more importantly, we laid out the timeline, their rights, as well as what they needed to do in preparation for this pipeline slated to go through our land.

My takeaway from investigating this issue? How is the public informed of something potentially dangerous going through our front yards? Whose responsibility is it to communicate these concerns to the public? Or is it, "Landowners beware and guess what, you are on your own?"

Joan Maxwell
10600 275th St., Donahue

Carbon: If not a pipeline, then what?

Editor:

In reference to the article, "Pipeline opposition organizes at North Scott High School":

I remember as a child, growing up on a farm in the middle of Illinois, my dad practiced sustainable farming by using practices that came out of the Great Depression. Through the years since, knowledge about soil conservation and crop productivity improved. So did our understanding of the importance of carbon capture within the soil rather than releasing it into the atmosphere.

Farmers who engage in "carbon reduction policies" do so for the environmental benefits. Agriculture businesses, like Corteva Agriscience, partner with farmers to reach the goal of zero carbon emissions. This is the goal for all businesses. (See United Nations Climate Change Conference, 2022.)

Reducing man-made greenhouse gases is not a recent concept. As early as the 1970s scientists have warned about the dire consequences of burning fossil fuels. In the 1990s, my upper elementary class received a letter from Senator Grassley expressing his commitment to address this problem.

It has only been recently, when evidence of global warming is being observed, that governments and businesses have recognized the urgency to reduce carbon emissions.

Iowa has a carbon problem. There are nine coal power plants and other carbon emitting industries besides ADM. All contribute to unsustainable levels of carbon in the atmosphere. Continuing as is, isn't an option.

So if not a pipeline, then what?

Ida Weibel
205 S. Rose Hill Drive, Long Grove

Wrong to blame the 'Green New Deal'

Editor:

I am writing in response to the article in your paper on Nov. 30 about the opposition from the Maxwells and Ms. Nelson against the carbon capture pipeline.

I share their concerns about the pipeline, but I want to correct an error in Ms. Maxwell's comments. She stated that the pipeline project is "driven by the new green deal, sustainable agriculture or whatever you want to call it." While there are tax incentives in place for this technology from several bills, they are not from the Green New Deal, which never passed the Senate. Carbon capture pipelines are NOT embraced by most environmentalists, and have nothing to do with sustainable agriculture.

According to an article in *The Des Moines Register* (1/22/22), the Center for International Environmental law says, "Until now, carbon capture and storage have been primarily used to keep the coal industry alive ... and benefit gas and oil interests." The Iowa Sierra Club calls it "greenwashing" and states that, "We should be investing in solar, wind, battery storage, conservation and efficiency" instead.

Other concerns include the risks of leaks, like the one in Satartia, Mississippi in 2020 that caused two dozen people to be

overcome and unable to breathe within minutes, and caused their vehicles to stop functioning due to the displacement of oxygen with CO2. Local emergency vehicles won't be able to help much if they can't operate.

With regard to sustainable agriculture, these practices focus on building healthy soil, preventing erosion, managing water wisely, minimizing air and water pollution, and promoting biodiversity.

My grandfather used many of these practices in the early 1900s, including crop rotation, use of cover crops, and integrating livestock with crops. Other sustainable practices may include no-till or reduced till methods, integrating pest management to reduce the use of chemical pesticides, use of bio-digesters, and using buffer strips to reduce run off of chemicals and soil erosion.

These practices have nothing to do with carbon capture pipelines, but are great ways that farmers can help solve the climate crisis, and save themselves money in the long run.

Lori O'Dell McCollum
3626 38th Street, #28, Rock Island

(Former educator in the North Scott Schools for nearly 20 years who worked for the MBAEA.)

Signed letters to the editor on any topic and from many points of view are welcomed. Send to: North Scott Press, P.O. Box 200, Eldridge, IA 52748, or e-mail: btubbs@northscottpress.com. Include your name, address (not just a Post Office box) and phone number for verification.

The North Scott Press was judged
First Place for Best Editorial Page,
Iowa Newspaper Association, 2018, 2020, 2021

OPINION

DEMOCRATIC PARTY CAUCUSES

Party's over: Iowa no longer first in nation

Barring a miracle, Iowa's first-in-the-nation status is over. On Thursday, President Biden asked the Democratic National Committee to put South Carolina first on the 2024 presidential nominating calendar, followed by Nevada and New Hampshire a week later; after that would be Georgia, then Michigan.



Guest opinion
by Ed Tibbetts

On Friday, the party's Rules and Bylaws Committee ratified the new lineup. There are some complications to this reordering of the calendar, and a final decision by the full DNC isn't expected until early next year.

But it would be shocking if the party repudiated its own president.

So, what now? My guess: Iowa will have to accept that it is going to lose its privileged place. (In the Democratic Party, anyway. Republicans are putting Iowa first on their calendar in 2024 just as they traditionally have.)

Scott Brennan, an Iowan who sits on the Rules and Bylaws Committee, objected Friday, but the writing is on the wall.

Proceed anyway?

Some folks in Iowa have urged state Democrats to stand fast and hold their caucuses first, anyway.

If it happens, it would be quite the turnabout.

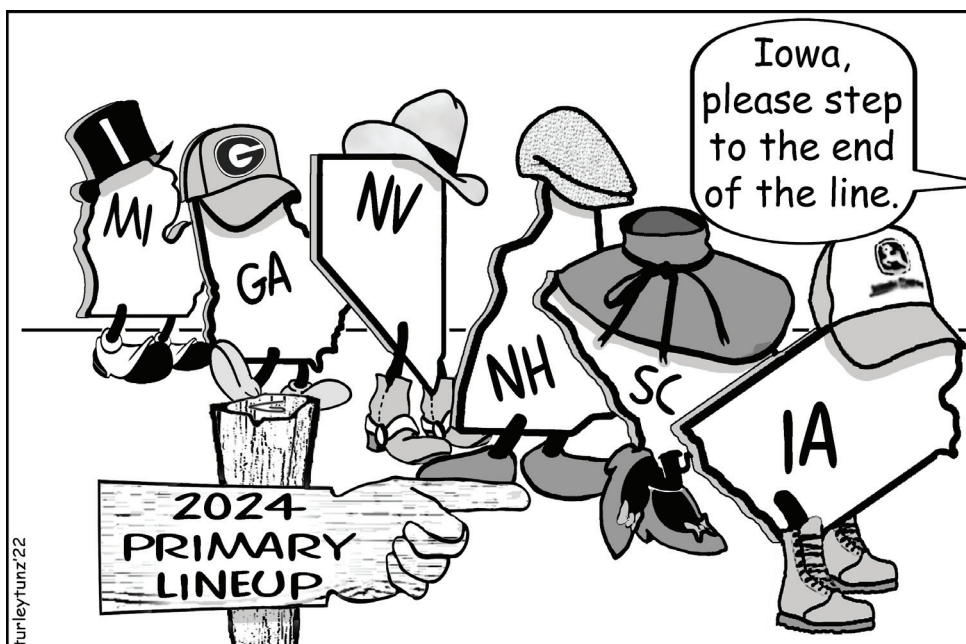
For years, other states have tried to barge ahead of Iowa and New Hampshire in contravention of party rules.

Back then, states like Michigan were seen as the interlopers, as states that couldn't accept the rules of the game.

Will Iowa now be the one to fill that role, to flout party rules?

That may not be a good look, especially at a time when prominent forces in the Republican Party seem to think they can just rewrite the rule book to suit their own purposes, even to the point of refusing to concede elections they lose.

I wouldn't equate Iowa fighting for its leadoff spot with an insurrection, of course, but the state still would run



the risk of coming off like a spoiled child who has enjoyed the fruits of the system for 50 years, only to repudiate it when it didn't get its way.

Of course, what Iowa Democrats decide to do may not matter that much.

What really counts is whether candidates and the media show up if Iowa insists on being first.

If Biden runs again, this likely will be a moot question. But if he doesn't, there will be the temptation for some candidates to replicate what Jimmy Carter did in 1976, to leverage the state to elevate themselves.

It could happen, but I doubt there would be a meaningful number of credible candidates who would do it – and I wouldn't at all be surprised if they were largely ignored by the media.

Disaster in 2020

Iowa's disastrous 2020 Democratic caucuses turned off a lot of the national media, as if the state didn't have enough detractors already. Not being able to say who won until days later is a calamity few will want to risk repeating.

More importantly, many of these reporters have now turned their attention to places like Arizona and Georgia, which are the new electoral swing states. Iowa hasn't belonged to that category in a decade.

Candidates who may want to court

Iowa may also be threatened with a loss of delegates or banishment from debates if they don't stick to the DNC calendar.

That may or may not matter to some of them, but my guess is that it will. Why risk it, when there isn't much payoff?

More importantly, I think candidates who want to lead the Democratic Party will be more apt to spend their time courting the diverse voters that increasingly determine the course of the party's future, not a state whose largely white, non-college-educated voters are abandoning the party.

Besides, the Democrats are seeing some slippage among Black and Hispanic voters to the Republican Party. By elevating these voters in the party's nominating process, Democrats might be able to win some of them back.

With this new calendar, Biden is clearly telling these voters they matter.

Hate to see this

Personally, I'd hate to see the caucuses go away. Iowa has benefitted greatly from the attention the last five decades. And I think, for the most part, our state has been worthy. We do give candidates without huge TV advertising budgets the chance to compete. Activists also take their role seriously,

and the small gatherings that Iowa has traditionally hosted (but don't seem to be as common as they used to be) add value to the debate.

At the same time, there is nothing sacrosanct about Iowa going first.

Other states have voters who also are discerning, who care and who bring a valuable perspective to the debate. And many of them have ached to be given the opportunity Iowa has been privileged to hold for decades.

I've never thought that Iowans themselves see the caucuses as their birthright.

I'm not sure about New Hampshire, however. Party leaders there are donning their armor and have made clear since Biden's letter became public that, come hell or high water, they are going to be the first primary.

Iowa Democratic leaders don't seem to me to be as aggressive, even as they've said they will fight this, too.

Changed format

State party leaders were smart to change the format of the caucuses in an effort to keep their leadoff spot. Even if they aren't successful, I hope the changes to make the caucuses more inclusive are maintained. That will be good for Iowans, no matter what happens.

As of this writing, there still are some unresolved questions. Iowa law requires that the caucuses go before other states, although that isn't binding on the DNC, of course. I'm not sure how that will play out.

Also, it's historically been a risky bet to go against Iowa and New Hampshire.

Still, by all appearances, the party is over.

We'll have to wait to see whether Iowa leaves the festivities voluntarily.

Ed Tibbetts, of Davenport, has covered politics, government and trends for more than three decades in the Quad Cities. A former reporter and editorial page editor for the Quad-City Times, he now is a freelance journalist who publishes the Along the Mississippi newsletter on Substack, distributed by Iowa Capital Dispatch. He is a member of the Iowa Writers' Collaborative. He can be contacted at edtibbetts@gmail.com.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

'We appreciated consistent coverage'

Editor:

Congratulations to all at *The North Scott Press* for new positions and promotions! Many congratulations to Bill and Linda Tubbs on their retirement! We appreciate the consistent coverage of our events over the years. And a special thanks to Scott Campbell for the much-loved Fair Edition! We wish him more nights and weekends with his family!

Becky Bray, director
Scott County ISU Extension Service
Tom Monroe, chair
Scott County Extension Council
875 Tanglefoot Lane, Bettendorf

Thanks for kindness of bus drivers

Editor:

Thank you, North Scott bus drivers and transportation department, for the lovely food basket. It is always appreciated as you all are keeping our children safe every day. God bless you all.

Alberta Gilbert
1699 E. Lomar St., Eldridge



Readers are invited to submit short editorial tributes, or "roses," to lift up friends and neighbors who are taking the extra step to help others and make our communities better. Submit your "roses" to: North Scott Press, P.O. Box 200, Eldridge, IA 52748, or email: btubbs@northscottpress.com.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Put up a parking lot and pave paradise

Editor:

"Wolf Carbon solutions pipeline delivers an opportunity to fortify Iowa's ethanol industry, and invite new industrial development to Scott County farmfields," wrote our *NSP* assistant editor Mark Ridolfi. And so, it does. His story appeared (modestly below the fold) on *The NSP* front page Nov. 30 issue.

I don't own any farm fields in question, so one might characterize my interest in this question as that of a bystander. Please allow this bystander to submit that the pipeline and the new industry it will draw will involve pavement. Lots and lots of pavement.

These Scott County farm fields are some of the richest croplands IN THE WORLD. That's crops, as in FOOD. Pavement will be the last crop your farm field

will ever grow, so I ask you to consider carefully what you as the current landowner will agree to do. I also ask you to remember that one cannot EAT MONEY.

We are all heading to the same future, where I fear there will be no "bystanders." All will be affected by decisions made in the present. I for one really pray there will be food there.

The lyrics to a song not heard in many years seem to fit here:

"Don't it always seem to go that you don't know what you've got 'til it's gone... you pave paradise; put up a parking lot..."

Nancy Goetsch
14850 300th St., Long Grove

The First Amendment

Congress shall make no law respecting the establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech or of the press; or the right of people peaceably to assemble and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

OPINION

1982: Four-lane Highway 61 opens; Bawden Printing closes in 1997

Dec. 6, 1972

• The Dixon Businessmen's Association was formed to act as a collective voice for the town's 21 businesses. Officers were Jerry Steffen, Dick Berodt, and Gerald Winckler.

• The Scott County Farm Bureau received an award from the Iowa Farm Bureau for having the most outstanding local affairs council in the state. Members of the committee included Jim Mohr, Allen Hartz, Mrs. Allen Robertson, Mrs. Hugo Holst, Kenneth Klindt, Alvin Kay, Delbert Blunk, Wilbur Moeller, Alvin Schaefer, Wayne Waetke and Glenn Sievers.



Our Past

From the files of *The North Scott Press* compiled by Erin Gentz in Los Angeles.

• H.W. "Heinie" Boll was celebrating 50 years in the grocery business in Princeton. • Mrs. James Mohr of rural Eldridge, chair of District 6, Farm Bureau Women, was named as one of nine delegates to the American Farm Bureau women's annual meeting in Los Angeles.

Dec. 9, 1982

• The stretch of the new Highway 61 from Interstate 80 to DeWitt officially opened to traffic. Five ribbons representing Eldridge, Long Grove, DeWitt, Davenport and Bettendorf were snipped during a ceremony. The \$36 million project had been under construction since 1980.

• Robert Arp, 43, of rural Dixon, died following a head-on crash on Old Highway 61 when another vehicle crossed the centerline and collided with his.

• The North Scott Jazz Band took first place in the Class A division at the Augustana College High School Jazz Band Festival. It was the third year in a row the band had won the competition. Rob Smer-

illo (drums), Dave Lindaman (trumpet), Allen Radcliff (trombone), and Cathy Meier (vibraphone) all received awards for outstanding solos.

• Harold Meggers of Eldridge was Scott County's top corn grower, and Roy Keppy of rural Davenport was the top soybean grower in the Master Grower contests. Kenneth Klindt of rural Walcott won the conservation corn and soybean contests, and John and Art Wiese of Dixon won the contour corn contest.

Dec. 10, 1997

• Eldridge's largest employer, Bawden Printing, was sold to St. Louis-based Von Hoffmann Printing. President Mike Bawden said there would be little change in the present operation of the company.

• Larry Rauch won the runoff election to become Eldridge's mayor. He defeated his opponent, Brian Dockery, by 36 votes. A record 914 voters went to the polls.

• Lancers Grille opened its doors to diners. The restaurant employed 40 people, many of them high school students. Participating in the ribbon cutting were Larry Henson of Valley State Bank, Dan Schneckloth, Scott Illingsworth and Tom McCarthy of Mel Foster, Eldridge mayor Brian Roesler, manager Bret Dalton, and assistant manager Kelle Schone.

• Frank Proske Sr. of Blue Grass planned to celebrate his 102nd birthday with a family dinner. He was born in 1895 and farmed until his retirement in 1970, and was the father of Frank Jr. and Walter of Blue Grass, Ella Ehrecke of Walcott, Ruth Pitts of Preston, Marge Lilienthal of New Liberty, and Joan Lilienthal of Durant.

• Bessie Sierk, Elma "Tib" Stewart, Ellen McFate, Bob Carter and Dorla Schroder were honored for 50 years of membership at Princeton Presbyterian Church.

Dec. 12, 2007

• Bonnie Spainhower (drama), Marcia Wulf (vocal music), and Manny and Te-

wanta Lopez (instrumental music) received North Scott Fine Arts Awards, sponsored by the Rotary Club of North Scott and *The North Scott Press*.

• North Scott superintendent Tim Dose told the school board that sixth-grade students at Ed White would continue attending classes at the junior high until the district could come up with a more long-term solution for ongoing space issues at the Eldridge elementary school.

• Members of North Ridge Community Church gathered to help make improvements at Larry and Nancy Morely's Eldridge home. Pastor Doug Evenhouse said the congregation had been looking for more ways to serve the community.

• The North Scott wrestling team finished fourth at the Sterling Invitational. Taking home individual titles were Adam Perrin (103), Walt Gillmor (160), Brooks Smith (152), Garrett Hamilton (215), and Chris Henningsen (285). Henningsen was crowned the meet's Outstanding Wrestler.

Dec. 6, 2017

• The Scott County Conservation Board announced plans for \$2.5 million in proj-

ects for 2018, including more than \$1.1 million for restoration at West Lake Park, and a new, \$1.3 million campground at Scott County Park.

• Students at North Scott Junior High participated in a financial literacy day, sponsored by DuTrac Community Credit Union.

• North Scott football stars Cole Ernst and Jared Rus participated in the third annual River Battle Bowl in Council Bluffs. Participation was based on performance throughout the year and was by invitation only. The Iowa team beat Nebraska 21-3.

• The North Scott Silver Shakers finished first in the Lyrical category, and second in Contemporary and Pom at the Iowa State Dance Team Competition in Des Moines.

Erin Gentz is a life resident of Eldridge who has been employed at The NSP since 2013. She is a graduate of North Scott High School and Simpson College. She can be reached at egentz@northscottpress.com.

READERS' POLL:

BIG 10 or BIG XII?

With 21 votes counted, here is what readers said when asked, Who had the tougher football schedule in conference play this year?

81 Percent: Iowa State in the Big XII

19 Percent: Iowa in the Big 10

New Question: IOWA CAUCUSES

Should Iowa accept the fact that we will no longer host the first presidential caucus, or fight?

Vote at www.northscottpress.com. Results will be published next week.

Attention All Area Businesses:

You are invited to be part
of The NSP's
'Business-In-Review' issue
Published on December 28, 2022

You can use this easy-to-fill-out form to reserve
your space now for our Business-In-Review issue:

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