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CONNECTING OUR COMMUNITY

Tuesday, August 8, 2023

Bolin family recognized with Good Farm Neighbor Award

Secretary of Agriculture Naig honors Clarksville farmers for stewardship



ANELIA K. DIMITROVA PHOTO

Iowa Secretary of Agriculture Mike Naig presented the Wergin Good Farm Neighbor Award to the Bolin family of Clarksville, the first Butler County family to receive this recognition. Naig is flanked by Dave and Pam Bolin and Dan and Lynn Bolin with kids Vance, Judah and Amara.



ANELIA K. DIMITROVA PHOTO

Edith Lantz, 4, is ready to pet one of the Bolin cows.

BY ANELIA K. DIMITROVA
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Farmers make great neighbors. That's a given in the heartland. They tend to the soil and the animals, they help each other in times of need, and stand in as pillars of their communities.

They work hard, give a lot and expect little in return. That, in a nutshell, sums the story of the Bolin family of Clarksville, whose farm and dairy operation sit on the land homesteaded by their ancestors in the late 1800s.

That history, and the family's commitment to farming, now in the hands of Lynn and Dan Bolin, the fifth generation to carry on the tradition, were recognized on Aug. 3 with a community celebration and an award.

The Bolins, including Dan's parents, Pam and Dave Bolin,

See **BOLIN, A3**

W-SR musicians toured Europe with 2023 Iowa Ambassadors of Music

Four students from the Waverly-Shell Rock High School band and choir programs experienced the trip of a lifetime this summer. The musicians toured and performed across Europe with the Iowa Ambassadors of Music, visiting England, France, Switzerland, Austria, and Germany in a

See **MUSICIANS, A3**

COURTESY PHOTO
From left: Mollie Hunzelman, Beckett Hunzelman, Jonah Nelson, Dr Lee Nelson, Lyla Pier-Atkinson pictured in front of the Matterhorn in Switzerland.



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Navigator wants carbon dioxide pipeline hearing in June 2024



IOWA UTILITIES BOARD FILING

The Navigator CO2 Ventures pipeline would bisect the state from northwest to southeast.

BY JARED STRONG
Iowa Capital Dispatch

The second company to propose an expansive pipeline system in Iowa to transport carbon dioxide seeks a final permit hearing next summer and a decision by state regulators in early October 2024.

Navigator CO2 Ventures recently filed a motion with the Iowa Utilities Board to set a procedural schedule that will guide the remainder of its hazardous liquid pipeline permit process.

Navigator wants to discuss the potential schedule with the board and others in a conference after the board's regular meeting on Aug. 15.

The company proposes to set its final evidentiary hearing to begin June 27 to "avoid any conflicts with other known hearings the board may have in 2024, and importantly avoid both the planting and harvest seasons for Iowa's farmers," according to its motion.

Harvest is one reason why some have objected to the start date of an evidentiary hearing for another company, Summit

See **NAVIGATOR, A3**

Trial for former Clarksville police officer set for Oct. 10

Court records show that Oct. 10 has been set as the date for the trial in the case of a former Clarksville police officer accused of sexual exploitation of a minor.

Michael William Tobin Jr., 35, has been charged with two counts of sexual exploitation of a minor, a Class C felony; one count of sexual exploitation of a minor, a Class D felony; and eight counts of sexual exploitation of a minor, an aggravated misdemeanor, according to court records.

Tobin has plead not guilty.

Tobin will be represented by Nellie D. O'Mara of O'Mara Law Office, PLLC in Mason City and will be prosecuted by Assistant Attorney General Monty Platz.

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Clarksville's Bolin family recognized with Wergin Good Farm Neighbor Award



A group of W-SR FFA Ambassadors attended the event. Aiden Dermody, 16, Bergen Henning, 16, Andy Britt, 16, and Autumn Kappmeyer, 17, posed for a photo. The students are advised by teacher Amy Mitchell.



Ellis Shear, 3, is discovering what it's like to meet a real life cow with the help of Pam Bolin, left, and is dad.

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were honored for their work with the Wergin Good Farm Neighbor Award, which recognizes Iowa livestock farmers "who take pride in doing things right, and go above and beyond as environmental stewards and animal caretakers," according to The Coalition to Support Iowa's Farmers, the nonprofit which administers the award.

The Bolins are the first Butler



Bethany Schott, the manager of the Waverly Hy-Vee, enjoyed meeting the cows.

County family and the 176th Iowa farmers to receive the award.

Named for distinguished WHO Radio farm broadcaster Gary Wergin, the award was presented to the Bolins by Iowa Secretary of Agriculture Mike Naig during a live on-air program called The Big Show on WHO radio.

The Celebration

Low key in nature, as befitting an Iowa farm luncheon, the celebration showcased the connectedness of the earth to the plate and reinforced the real life contributions of the farming community in a quiet, but determined fashion.

"One farm has a huge impact," Naig said. "Every piece of this farm is connected to someone."

Everyone and everything during the celebration illustrated that point.

The huge white tent, which, for the occasion, offered a respite from the sun's furnace, came from a Sumner business called Celebrations.

The fresh flowers at the white tables, which guests were encouraged to take home afterwards, came from a nearby farm called Daisy Bell Acres.

The sloppy joes, which disappeared speedily as the lunch line formed after the official remarks, came from a Clarksville diner called Lizzie Lou's.

The ice cream and the milk came from the farmer owned cooperative

called Prairie Farms Dairy, which features products from 650 family-owned farms in the midwest.

And the bur oak tree, a symbolic gift that is part of the award, came from Frazier Nursery, a Vinton business focused on providing windbreak trees to Iowa farmers.

Guests came from near and far.

On the official roster, besides Secretary Naig, the offices of Iowa's elected officials in Congress were represented by staff members.

On the family front, sharing the family's joy, were Mary Jensen, Pam's mom; Deb White, Pam's sister and her husband, Dennis, from Clarksville; David Jensen, Pam's cousin from Johnston; Kathie Zoellner, Pam's niece, and her children, from Byron, Minnesota; Barb Peters, Dave's sister and her husband, David, of Plainfield; and Diana Klisch, Lynn's mom, from St. Cloud, Minnesota.

A network of local helpers, Emily Church, Maggie Lupkes, Cheyanne Troendle, pitched in and greeted guests as they signed in.

So did Emily Manweiler, the 69th Iowa Dairy Princess Alternate.

A handful of W-SR FFA students, Aiden Dermody, Bergen Henning, Andy Britt and Autumn Kappmeyer, also stepped in to help and represent their organization.

Jean Nass, a retired teacher in Clarksville, who has taught Dan and other extended family members of the Bolin family, was there with a friend, Dan Clikeman, a retired dairy farmer.

Young kids, like Edith Lantz, 4, and Ellis Shear, 3, had come with their families.

They enjoyed meeting the cows, and Rita, the robot which milks them several times a day.

Grownups, too, loved the tour, where they learned that the Bolins care for about 120 cows, and their milk is turned into cream cheese and swiss cheese.

What's unique about New Day Dairy, the farm under the management of Lynn and Dan Bolin, is that



Jean Nass, a retired Clarksville teacher, enjoyed the event as did her friend, Dan Clikeman, a retired dairy farmer. Nass said that she had had many members of the Bolin family as her students.



Caterer Tammy Krull prepared scrumptious sloppy joes for the event. She is the owner of Lizzy Lou's.



Pam Bolin poses with her mom, Mary Jensen, before leading the guests on a tour of the facility.

the cows there are part of an experience called "cow gaze," which is part of the family's enterprising Guest Barn venture. The decompressing off the grid in the guest barn while watching the cows has attracted families from over 35 states, since the space opened in 2020.

At the celebration, the guests, including Bethany Schott, the Waverly Hy-Vee manager, and Jeff Kolb, the Butler County economic development director, enjoyed learning about what the farm has to offer. They visited with the cows, who were as

curious about the visitors as the humans were about them. One of them, Fervor, was rather inquisitive, pulling on this editor's dress to be noticed.

The guests also watched Rita, the milking robot, do its job, as cows stepped into the area to be milked.

But visiting the farm is just a glimpse of what living on it and caring for the animals is.

"Dairy is not an easy job, it's a lot of work, but it's worth it," Mary Jensen, Pam's mom, said. "It's a good place to raise a family."

See more photos online.

Navigator wants CO2 pipeline hearing in June 2024

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Carbon Solutions, which is set to begin later this month and could go on for weeks or months.

"Farm Bureau appreciates Navigator selecting June as the start date for the hearing because it is after planting season and should provide enough time to complete the hearing before harvest season starts in September," the Iowa Farm Bureau Federation said in a recent filing.

However, the group opposes finalizing the schedule until Navigator submits a preliminary list of properties for which the company is likely to seek eminent domain. That list — part of what is called "Exhibit H" of the pipeline permit applications — is required by state rules before the evidentiary hearing is scheduled.

"Navigator has failed to file any of its required Exhibit H filings despite previous representations that it would begin to make the filings in May 2023," Iowa Farm Bureau wrote this week.

Navigator has indicated it will finish submitting that exhibit by Oct. 4.

Summit's project would span more than 680 miles in Iowa and, a month ago, included eminent domain requests for 1,035 parcels of land for which the company had not obtained voluntary easements. That number has dropped to about 950, said Jesse Harris, a spokesperson for the company. He expects it will decline further before the evidentiary hearing later this month.

Navigator's proposal includes about 810 miles of pipe in Iowa, and the company has been reticent about its progress in obtaining voluntary easements. Andy Bates, a spokesperson for the company, declined on Tuesday to reveal the number of voluntary easements the company has secured but said it has spent about \$16 million in Iowa so far for the agreements.

"Without knowledge as to the number of parcels which would be subject to a request for eminent domain, there is no way to know what time period is necessary to allow for the parcel reviews to be completed prior to the (evidentiary) hearing date," said Richard Kimberley, whose Polk County farmland is in Navigator's path and who objected to setting a procedural schedule.

He continued: "The requirement of making Exhibit H filings is of heightened relevance in this matter given Navigator's previous representations that it would make such filings, followed by its subsequent failure to do so."

The use of eminent domain to complete the projects has been a unifying concern for people who are typically ideological opposites on other issues. In this instance, it has joined environmental groups such as the Sierra Club of Iowa with former Congressman Steve King, a conservative firebrand who has dismissed concerns about climate change.

King has sought to participate in Summit's pipeline proceedings because

of his concerns about "the use of eminent domain for private gain against the clear constitutionally protected property rights of his former constituents."

After the IUB rejected his request to participate as an "intervenor" because he is not directly affected by the project, he joined with several landowners who are close to Summit's route or who are directly affected by other pipeline proposals to form a group called the "King Intervenors." The board has not yet issued a decision on whether to grant the group intervenor status.

The pipeline projects are meant to transport captured carbon dioxide from ethanol plants and other facilities to other states for underground sequestration or commercial purposes. The ethanol plants can qualify for lucrative tax credits for sequestering their carbon that would otherwise go into the atmosphere or for producing low-carbon fuels.

Summit has forged profit-sharing agreements with the plants on its route, and Navigator will receive payment from the plants based on how much of their carbon dioxide it transports, the companies have said.

Senior reporter Jared Strong has written about Iowans and the important issues that affect them for more than 15 years, previously for the Carroll Times Herald and the Des Moines Register. This article appeared on Aug. 1 on the Iowa Capital Dispatch website and is being used under Creative Commons license.

W-SR musicians toured Europe with 2023 Iowa Ambassadors of Music

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whirlwind 15-day tour from July 6 to 21. Prior to the trip, the 99-member choir and 197-member band ensembles spent three full days rehearsing at Grinnell College.

Jonah Nelson, junior Lyla Pier-Atkinson, sophomore Beckett Hunzelman and sophomore Mollie Hunzelman took part in the experience. Wartburg College Director of Choral Activities Dr. Lee Nelson served as the trip's choral conductor.

The band and choir each performed five concerts during the trip — the band mostly in beautiful outdoor settings, and the choir in centuries-old churches. The performances showcased the talent in the ensemble and proved that these students truly were musical ambassadors. Each band performance ended with Sousa's "Stars and Stripes Forever" and students were overjoyed to see how their American pride was embraced by their European audiences.

Students from all over Iowa were nominated by their respective band or choir directors. Thirty staff members also joined the group, made up of band and choir directors from around the state who were invited to chaperone. Every other year, directors send in their nominations, and the trip happens on each odd-numbered year.

When the groups were not performing, they were very busy seeing the world — just a few of the highlights were: Buckingham Palace, Tower of London, the London Eye, the Eiffel Tower, the Louvre Museum, the Matterhorn, Chillon Castle, Dachau Concentration Camp, Salzburg Cathedral, and much more.