



GO AND DO EVENTS

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GIRLS BASKETBALL

BEARS, MUSTANGS, INDIANS ON TO STATE/ PAGE 8

THE Messenger

www.messengernews.net

Friday, Feb. 24, 2023

Fort Dodge, Iowa



MASTER PORK PRODUCER

-Submitted photo

MARK SCHLEISMAN, OF LAKE CITY, was one of seven Master Pork Producer winners honored by the Iowa Pork Producers Association during the 2023 Iowa Pork Congress in Des Moines.

Schleisman embraces sustainable solutions

By DARCY DOUGHERTY MAULSBY

LAKE CITY – While Mark Schleisman's ag career has taken him around the world, he's also made a big positive impact back home in rural Lake City, where his commitment to pork production, his focus on embracing new ideas and his willingness to share best practices have earned him a 2022 Master Pork Producer award.

Schleisman was one of seven Master Pork Producer winners honored by the Iowa Pork Producers Association during the 2023 Iowa Pork Congress in Des Moines in late January.

"We believe the bottom line in pork production isn't just financial," said Schleisman, 58, of M&M Farms, who finishes 30,000 pigs annually in Calhoun County. "It must include a system that's safe and efficient at producing high-quality pork product that satisfies the consumer at an affordable price."

A third-generation farmer, Schleisman has been working with pigs

since age 10, when his father, Larry, gave him a runt to raise on his own. It wasn't long before Schleisman owned a couple sows, the first of which he affectionately named "Beth" after his sister.

"Money from raising pigs helped put me through Iowa State University," Schleisman added.

He didn't go into production ag right after college, choosing instead to start his career as an agronomist in western Nebraska. Then he got involved in the popcorn business, managing production for Conagra. Schleisman came back to pig farming 12 years ago, when his son and son-in-law indicated a desire to farm.

Today, Schleisman and his family farm 5,000 acres of corn, soybeans, and popcorn seed, in addition to running a 320-head cow-calf operation, a 720-head cattle feedlot and a swine operation.

Schleisman is an active member of the Calhoun County Pork Producers, which which restarted a few years ago, thanks to renewed interest from area pork producers.

"It's been great, because I see younger people getting involved and being proud of the pork industry," said Schleisman, who participated in the 2022 Pork Leadership Institute through the National Pork Board and National Pork Producers Council.

Farm integrates pork industry's We Care ethical principles

Schleisman's ag leadership has earned him accolades beyond the pork industry. He received the Iowa Soybean Association's Environmental Leader Award and the American Soybean Association's 2018 National Conservation Legacy Award.

His latest honor, the Master Pork Producer Award, has a rich history in Iowa. The program began in 1942, thanks to Herb Plambeck, a farm broadcaster on WHO Radio; Elvin Quaife with Iowa State College Extension; and Wilbur Plager with the Iowa Swine Producers Association.

In the early years, the program was

See SCHLEISMAN, Page 4

Black History Month event set for Saturday at AFES

Fort Dodge's Clayton hopes to educate the next generation

By DANA BECKER

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Charles Clayton's passion is centered around improving Fort Dodge's future.

That is just one of the many reasons why Clayton's organization is providing several events centered around Black History Month to inspire the community's next generation of leaders.

Clayton, the founder of Athletics for Education and Success, will be joined this Saturday at AFES, 712 Third St. N.W., by Stacey Silliman-Jones, Jonathan Roberts, volunteers, and staff members as they look to honor the past while inspiring the future.

The theme for this year is centered around the Harlem Renaissance.

The Harlem Renaissance focuses on a time between about 1910 and the 1930s when the Harlem neighborhood of New York City became the site of explosive Black talents in music, art, writing and overall creative genius.

"We want to engage both the youth and the community," Clayton said. "We want Black history to be important to them. People might know who I am, but I'm going to tell them why this is important to me and why it should be important to them."

"We want to educate and give them a sense of pride that will hopefully allow them to carry themselves better."

The Black History Month program begins at 9 a.m. on Saturday with a freewill donation breakfast. A presentation of African-American



Charles Clayton

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Charges to be dismissed for 2014 robbery suspect

By KELBY WINGERT

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Nearly a decade after allegedly robbing the Downtown Sinclair at knifepoint, a South Dakota man was brought back to Webster County to face felony charges, only for those charges to be dismissed.

Nathaniel Lee Altman, 36, was charged with first-degree robbery and first-degree theft following a March 2014 armed robbery in downtown Fort Dodge.

According to previous reporting from The Messenger, at 10:51 p.m. on March 16, 2014, clerks at the Downtown Sinclair, 309 Second Ave. S., were preparing to close the store when a suspect came in with a large kitchen knife. The employees told officers the suspect ordered them to the floor and demanded money. He also threatened to hurt both employees.

After receiving an undetermined amount of money, the suspect fled the store and was not immediately located. Then-Fort Dodge Police Chief Tim

See ALTMAN, Page 3

Senate passes trucking company liability limits

By ROBIN OPSAHL

Iowa Capital Dispatch

The Iowa Senate passed legislation Wednesday to limit the noneconomic damages a victim in an accident involving a trucking company can receive.

Senate File 228 puts a \$2 million cap on noneconomic damages in lawsuits against trucking companies whose employees caused injury, death or other damages while on the job. That amount is an increase adopted during floor debate from the previous \$1 million cap proposed.

Noneconomic damages might include pain and suffering, emotional distress and loss of consortium of a spouse or a parents' loss of a child.

The bill passed 30-19, with one senator absent. GOP Sens. Mark Lofgren, Sandy Salmon, Jeff Taylor and Cherielynn Westrich voted against the legislation alongside Democrats.

Opponents argued the limits prioritize trucking companies over Iowans. While supporters said the limits will protect companies against "nuclear verdicts" where juries award millions in damages, Senate Minority Leader Zach Wahls said the bill does nothing to protect the "nuclear" consequences families live with in the aftermath of these accidents.

But Sen. Adrian Dickey, R-Packwood, said those speaking against the bill did not understand the realities of Iowa's commercial motor vehicle industry. Dickey, who serves as chairman of the Iowa Motor Truck Association, said claims that these verdicts do not happen in Iowa are untrue.

The association has 50 board members, and the vast majority are or have defended their companies in "bogus" cases the bill targets, he said.

"I am personally aware several of these. They're taking place in Iowa right now," Dickey said. "For every one of these bogus claims that gets filed, a legitimate claim gets put off or delayed."

The Senate approved two amendments from the bill's floor manager Sen. Mike Bousset, R-Ankeny, including one to expand the types of vehicles that could receive liability protection under the bill. Proposals from opponents of the bill failed, such as requiring trucking companies to meet minimum hiring standards to qualify for liability limits.

One of the failed amendments proposed only giving liability limits to trucking companies based in Iowa. Wahls said by voting this measure down, his colleagues showed that the legislation was not about Iowa businesses.

"This bill takes Iowans on a very dangerous road," Wahls said. "And it's going to leave Iowa families to pick up the pieces when an out-of-state trucking company and the insurance industry win the legislation lottery."

It's the second liability limit bill approved by the Senate this session. Gov. Kim Reynolds signed a law limiting noneconomic damages against doctors and hospitals to medical malpractice cases earlier in February. The law imposes caps of \$1 million for clinics and doctors and \$2 million for hospitals in noneconomic damages for medical malpractice cases where the injury

caused the loss or impairment of a bodily function, disfigurement or death of the patient.

The same debates over whether the government should put a financial limit on a person's life apply to the trucking bill, Lofgren, R-Muscatine, said. He proposed eliminating the damage caps if the accident resulted in death, but his amendment failed.

"Medical malpractice and this bill are really similar," Lofgren said. "And obviously, families that lose their family members from a truck, an injury that happens or whatever, they love their families just like those that lose their family with medical malpractice."

Supporters of the bill argued that liability limits in these accidents do not devalue human life. Bousset emphasized that economic damages — compensation for the financial losses and medical care costs caused by an accident — and punitive damages are not limited by the bill. He said this bill is not taking away money from Iowans, but is meant to target the trial lawyers who profit off of these cases, and provide insurance stability to the trucking industry.

Bousset pushed back on the assertion that limiting trucking firms' liability would make Iowa roads less safe.

"But it was brought up: What are we doing to prevent accidents — accidents on our roads and accidents involving the deadliest vehicles?" Bousset said. "I can tell you the people that are leading, that are at the vanguard of protections

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THE Messenger

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Black history Continued from Page 1

heroes will follow. A youth of color conference is planned to focus on the importance of Black history, with several specially-invited area students from grades 3-8 scheduled to be in attendance.

"We'll open the doors at 9 a.m. for the breakfast, and work to finish the morning session with guest speakers around 10:45 a.m. so we can get right into the youth event," Clayton said. "I'd like to say thank you to Prestage Foods for serving as the sponsor of the breakfast."

February has been designated Black History Month since 1976

If You Go
 What: Black History Month celebration
 When: 9 a.m. Saturday
 Where: AFES, 712 Third St. N.W.

by every United States president. It was created to focus attention on the contributions of African Americans to the country, while honoring all Black people from all periods of history.

The month of February was

selected because it coincided with the birthday of both Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass, two of the country's inspirational leaders whom the Black community had celebrated since the late 19th century.

"We've got some great guest speakers who will talk about how this directly relates to them," Clayton said. "Real-world experiences instead of just talking about past events. We have a really great singer coming in from Waterloo."

"I just hope everybody comes out and takes advantage of this wonderful event."

Altman Continued from Page 1

Carmody said during the on-scene investigation, officers were able to identify Altman as the suspect.

Altman was eventually located days later in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, where he had been arrested for an attempted robbery of a motel on March 19, 2014. For that offense, Altman was held in Sioux Falls on charges of first-degree robbery, aggravated grand theft, aggravated assault and being a fugitive from justice.

Altman remained in South Dakota to face those charges.

On Wednesday, the Webster County Sheriff's Office took Altman into custody from the Minnehaha County Sheriff's Office in Sioux Falls, on the 9-year-old warrant for arrest.

Altman had his initial appearance in Webster County Magistrate Court on Thursday morning.

However, later on Thursday, the Webster County Attorney's Office learned that back in January 2015, Altman had filed an interstate agreement on detainers, giving notice of his place of imprisonment at the South Dakota State Penitentiary in Sioux Falls and requested speedy disposition for the Webster County charges.

Because of this, the county attorney's office had 180 days to extradite Altman back to Iowa to be prosecuted for the Fort Dodge offenses. First Assistant Webster County Attorney Ryan Baldrige said he's not sure why the county

attorney at the time failed to bring the defendant back to Iowa. None of the current prosecutors in the Webster County Attorney's Office were involved in this case back in 2015, he said.

According to the IAD filed by Altman in 2015, the county attorney at the time was Cori Coleman.

Because Altman was not prosecuted within 180 days of his extradition waiver, the charges against him must be dismissed. Baldrige said he'd be filing a motion to dismiss the charges on Thursday afternoon.

Altman previously pleaded guilty to first-degree theft and assault while participating in a felony in Webster County in 2007. He was released from prison in February 2013.

Community Calendar

Blanden Memorial Art Museum: 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., 920 Third Ave. S. Admission is free.

VFW Fish Fry: 5 to 7 p.m., VFW, Emmetsburg. Tickets are \$12 for adults, \$5 for children ages 5 to 12, free for children ages 4 and under.

Knights of Columbus Fish Fry: 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., Corpus Christi Center, 405 N. Eighth St. Tickets are \$12 for fish or shrimp, combo meal \$14, grilled cheese \$6, children ages 5 and under free.

"Shrek Jr., The Musical": 7 p.m., Webster City Community Theatre, 1001 Willson, Webster City. Tickets are \$12 per person.

For information on AA meetings, go to <https://www.aa-ia-wo.org>.

To have an event listed in the Community Calendar, send the information at least two weeks in advance to:

Community Calendar, The Messenger
 713 Central Ave., Fort Dodge, IA 50501
 Email: calendar@messengernews.net

The Messenger reserves the right to limit Community Calendar listings to nonprofit entities.

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In brief

Winter storms sow more chaos, shut down much of Portland

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) — Winter storms sowed more chaos across the U.S. on Thursday, shutting down much of Oregon's largest city with almost a foot of snow and paralyzing travel from parts of the Pacific Coast all the way to the northern Plains.

The nearly 11 inches that fell in Portland amounted to the second snowiest day in the city's history. It took drivers by surprise, stalling traffic during the Wednesday evening rush hour and trapping motorists on freeways for hours.

Some spent the night in their vehicles or abandoned them altogether as crews struggled to clear roads. Other commuters got off spun-out buses and walked in groups to safety. The National Weather Service, which had predicted only a slim chance of significant snow, planned to review its work.

The weather also knocked out power to almost

a million homes and businesses in multiple states, closed schools and grounded or delayed thousands of flights. The system even brought snow to usually balmy Southern California.

Kim Upham endured a 13-hour ordeal as snow brought to a standstill the traffic on U.S. 26, a mountainous highway that connects Portland to the coast. Already treacherous because of its steep grade, the highway was covered in a sheet of ice, forcing some drivers to leave their cars in the middle of the road.

'Never saw such hell': Russian soldiers in Ukraine call home

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — One Russian soldier tells his mother that the young Ukrainians dead from his first firefight looked just like him. Another explains to his wife that he's drunk because alcohol makes it easier to kill civilians. A third wants his girlfriend to know that in all the horror, he dreams about just being with her.

About 2,000 secret recordings of intercepted conversations between Russian soldiers in Ukraine and their loved ones back home offer a harrowing new perspective on Vladimir Putin's year-old war. There is a human mystery at the heart of this conversations heard in intercepted phone calls: How do people raised with a sense of right and wrong end up accepting and perpetrating terrible acts of violence?

The AP identified calls made in March 2022 by soldiers in a military division that Ukrainian prosecutors say committed war crimes in Bucha, a town outside Kyiv that became an early symbol of Russian atrocities.

They show how deeply unprepared young soldiers — and their country — were for the war to come. Many joined the military because they needed money and were informed of their deployment at the last minute. They were told they'd be welcomed as heroes for liberating Ukraine from its Nazi oppressors and their Western backers, and that Kyiv would fall without bloodshed within a week.

GET YOUR CLOSET IN TIP-TOP SHAPE

Dear Heloise: So many of my girlfriends tell me that their closets are messy and disorganized, which makes getting ready for work a chore in the mornings. For example, shoes are scattered all over the bedroom, or they can't find their white blouse or their gray purse. Since I work for a company that sells custom designed closets to help people organize their closets, I have a few hints that might make getting organized a little easier.

1. Start by removing everything from your closet and cleaning the shelves and floor. If your closet needs to be repainted, this is an excellent time to do it. While the paint is drying, go through your clothes and make three piles: one to keep, one to donate, and one to sell gently worn items at a resale shop or on a website online. Be ruthless and declutter.
2. Utilize other areas of your home. For example, maybe luggage could be stored under a bed or in a guest closet. Rarely worn evening gowns can be placed in a cloth bag and stored in another closet somewhere else in the house.
3. Do you have room for a dresser in your closet under blouses or other shorter items? If so, move one of your dressers or purchase one that can fit in your closet.
4. Hang all long-sleeved shirts or tops together and all short-sleeved tops together. Some people like to organize by color after separating these two categories. Make sure that all suits and all dresses are together, and

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use hangers with clips for skirts and slacks.

5. Store smaller handbags inside larger ones. Most sweaters should be folded and placed on a shelf.
6. You can store shoes in a hanging door rack to save floor space for the pairs of shoes worn most often. Or you could use clear plastic shoe bins and store them on a shelf in your closet.
7. There are numerous videos online that show how to fold clothing items to save space. In the back corner, you might want to have a basket where you store clothing that needs to go to the dry cleaners or that needs mending.

Getting organized isn't hard; it's a habit you can develop. It will make your life a lot easier. -- Kate P., Los Angeles

Kate, it seems that whenever I needed to go anywhere, having my closet organized made packing for the trip so much easier. I know where to go in my closet to find everything. No more frustration over a lost shoe and no more hunting for the right purse to go with an evening outfit. -- Heloise

NO PLASTIC, PLEASE

Dear Heloise: Many grocery stores now offer paper bags instead of plastic. It's a much cleaner choice for our environment. Paper bags can be reused as a large piece of paper for children to draw on or to make masks out of them. Many recycling plants don't want the thin plastic bags, but will take paper. All you have to do is request paper instead of plastic. -- Lauren D., Metairie, Louisiana

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Iowa Lottery

Thursday, Feb. 23

- Iowa Pick 3 midday** 9-9-7
- Iowa Pick 3 evening** Unavailable
- Iowa Pick 4 midday** 9-0-8-9
- Iowa Pick 4 evening** Unavailable
- Lucky for Life** Unavailable

Legislation Continued from Page 1

on the road: commercial motor vehicles and trucking companies, who have more automation, more analytics, more cameras to make sure that their drivers and that those trucks are doing the right thing, to make sure that accidents don't happen."

The bill will next be available for consideration by the House, which passed its version of the legislation, House File 201, through the committee process earlier in February.

58th Rock, Gem, Mineral, Jewelry & Fossil Show

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JANRIC CLASSIC SUDOKU

Fill in the blank cells using numbers 1 to 9. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and 3x3 block. Use logic and process elimination to solve the puzzle. The difficulty level ranges from Bronze (easiest) to Silver to Gold (hardest).

	3			7				9
		9	5		6	4		
6	2			9				3
		1			5			8
9		8					2	
	5		8					4
	8			5				6
		2	6		3	7		
	6			1				4

Rating: SILVER

Solution to 2/23/23

6	5	4	2	9	1	3	7	8
1	3	9	8	7	6	2	5	4
2	7	8	3	5	4	1	9	6
5	4	2	9	6	7	8	3	1
8	1	7	5	3	2	4	6	9
3	9	6	4	1	8	5	2	7
4	2	3	7	8	9	6	1	5
7	6	5	1	4	3	9	8	2
9	8	1	6	2	5	7	4	3

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-John Mikos, Owner Mikos and Matt Furniture

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