

# Adulting on Halloween

We were invited to a “costumes encouraged” wedding out of town over the weekend, and I thought, what the heck, let’s dress up. The kids were invited too, so we all decided to join in on the fun. Our little group ended up being two hippies, a disco dancer, a hot dog, “Turd Ferguson” from Saturday Night Live and Winifred Sanderson from “Hocus Pocus”. There was also a little skeleton mermaid and scary pirate, but they had bedtimes and had to leave early to go the hotel with the sitter.

The wedding was on the small side, and looking around, there was about 50 percent participation in people who dressed up. It was fun, though – and during the reception the meal choices were either vegetarian, vegan or gluten free. I had to choose vegan because I can’t eat a lot of dairy, but I’m not 100 percent sure what my dish was. It had rice and garbanzo beans, and I think a butternut squash? Whatever it was, it was good.

Side note – prior to the wedding, the Cow Man suggested he bring along some beef sticks and slap them on the table. I cautioned him not to.

Anyway, we did some dancing, had the specialty Halloween-themed alcoholic beverages, and enjoyed the charcuterie and candy tables.

Soon things were winding down and we decided to meet in downtown Iowa City and hit a few bars. Really? At my age? It’s not something I do regularly, but we decided to be joiners.

After the littles were taken back to their hotel room with a sitter, we met our group at some place that had just opened that night. It was in the middle of everything and had plenty of seating. There were lines to all the other places, so it was just as well we went to this new bar, as I don’t think word had gotten out about it.

So, let’s back up a minute... during my college years in Colorado, Halloween was a huge deal. Main Street was closed for blocks with live bands playing outside



**Little Pieces**  
Elaine Loring

*Elaine Loring is the editor of Times Citizen and resides in Iowa Falls. She can be reached at eloring@iafalls.com.*

and people dancing all over, having an awesome time. Groups rented hotel rooms and had parties, and all businesses were ready for costumed revelers. It was a gigantic event that lasted most of Halloween night. Except I think it’s toned down immensely since then, but those were sure the good old days.

Looking around, downtown Iowa City reminded me of those days, and people were dressed up and all scattered over the place. Some of the costumes had been put together with great thought, and others looked like they were thrown on in the car on the way over. The girls were scantily clad, and the guys were mostly super heroes and the like.

We sat downstairs at this new place and there was a television screen on the wall that showed people dancing on the floor above us. Our “Turd Ferguson,” – SNL’s Norm MacDonald playing Burt Reynolds as Turd Ferguson on Jeopardy – wore a giant yellow foam cowboy hat as part of his get-up. He noticed the dancers on the screen, jumped up and raced upstairs. A minute later, he showed up on screen with that big hat and danced alone, living his best life. We laughed so hard.

The kids stayed out way longer than we did, and the next day I had to nurse a slight headache. Later in the morning we went back downtown, sat outside and ate lunch about a block away from where we were the night before. Some of us enjoyed a Bloody Mary and we laughed about our adventure.

Sometimes old people like myself need to get out of town and have some fun. That’s exactly what I did... and it will probably a long time before I do that again. ■

## Time to get out and vote

It’s voting time again. It’s time to use your voice, it’s a privilege that is not shared by all countries. I just stated facts to you, were you listening?

Allow me to be redundant for a moment while I have your attention. My grandfather, Natale Masciantoni (in Italian he was “Nonno”) got off a ship at Ellis Island in 1912. Grandfather became a citizen which automatically made his wife and children citizens. My grandparents had five children. All of them were productive adults. They became business owners, served in the military and some went on to sing professionally.

They were immigrants... all facts. One of the proudest things they experienced here in America was the privilege to be able to vote. Italy did not have this freedom for them in the early 1900s – It was ruled by a fascist King.



**Half a Mind**  
Linda Halfpop

*Linda Halfpop lives in Hubbard with her husband. She is a former paraprofessional. Reach her via email at linnie1945@yahoo.com.*

The television right now is filled with political ads, it’s a war of words and accusations for each party. I would just like to hear the plans that our leaders would like to put in place. I did my research, and I checked my sources, I’ve been doing this for months.

I see fear being sown at every turn. “That’s what they did in Italy,” my mom used to say... “study,” she would say... “vote” she said.

Thank you Nonno, you were so courageous so long ago – look at the gift you gave me.

Your granddaughter has voted... SALUTE! ■

## MAGIC 8 BALL



*Joe Heller*

## Letters

### Hog confinements not the answer

**TO THE EDITOR:**

In response to the Oct. 19 Iowa Select ad “Caretakers fill role of animal advocate,” the hypocrisy is almost unbelievable. Working in one of the most inhumane industries where pigs are forced to live in restricted space, never to feel the sun on their backs or grass under their feet, the ammonia from their waste is so strong that if the fans fail, they will suffocate, routinely moving in extremely hot or extremely cold weather often under the cover of darkness, only to have their short, miserable lives end in slaughter. Animal advocacy? Only in another universe.

To call them “my girls” like they actually matter is ludicrous. Nothing about confinement is for the welfare of its inhabitants and it’s all about the money! To call this animal advocacy is an insult to real advocates who work tirelessly to strengthen Iowa’s woefully inadequate animal cruelty laws where domestic animals have little protection, and livestock none.

Did you know that in Iowa you can torture, beat, starve an animal and it is only a misdemeanor? In confinement “my girls” are often kept in gestation crates so small that they can’t turn around or practice any normal behaviors which leads to stress and illness. But not to worry, as the antibiotics they are kept on will hopefully take care of it only to lead to their over-use and antibiotic resistance.

Then there is this issue of 23 million gallons of hog waste. Millions of gallons of untreated waste are routinely pumped on the fields which then ruins Iowa’s already polluted waterways and on to the Gulf of Mexico where it is a major contributor to the dead zone.

Cutting back on meat consumption and adding more fruits and vegetables has been proven to improve your health and the health of the planet.

If we want to keep our planet alive for future generations, change is needed now! A quote often attributed to M. Gandhi, “The greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way its animals are treated.” We are failing miserably.

**AMY HAAS GRAY  
RURAL ELDORA**

### Chamber Main Street does a nice job

**TO THE EDITOR:**

KUDOS to our Iowa Falls Chamber Main Street and Iowa Falls Economic Development.

Early in October, I had the opportunity to visit another Chamber Main Street Community. I love walking and shopping the business districts of towns, especially when I know they are a Chamber Main Street community. As I walked the business district, I was struck by the unfortunate difference from them to our beautiful Iowa Falls.

To be honest, I called Diana Thies, Director Chamber Main Street from my hotel to congratulate her on such a beautiful and well-maintained street scape and business district. But more than that, our business windows are filled with small town shopping and service opportunities for our visitors and community. I, unfortunately, saw throughout this community many, many empty storefronts, grass and weeds growing in the downtown, cracked and dirty windows. I felt sad for their situation and wondered what got them to be in this situation.

I, too, felt so proud that I can brag to my friends and family the beauty of our business district and the beauty of our Scenic City. Making a community grow and shine takes an army of committed people, a community of pride and the right people in the right place. Congratulations to Diana Thies, Mark Buschkamp and all

those involved in making and keeping our city beautiful and successful! It does not go unnoticed.

**GWEN GROEN  
DIRECTOR - ELLS-WORTH COLLEGE FOUNDATION**

### Vote Campbell for Hardin County Supervisor

**TO THE EDITOR:**

When Alison told me she was running for Hardin County Supervisor, I must admit, I didn’t know exactly what that position entailed, so I went to their website and learned more about their responsibilities. Their mission statement reads, “The mission of the Hardin County Board of Supervisors is to plan, finance and deliver services to the citizens of Hardin County that are both mandated and based on community needs in the areas of public safety, public health, human services, drainage, secondary roads, conservation, economic development and administration.” Once reading through the description I understood why Alison chose to run. She is and has been interested and involved in this type of service throughout her many years living in Hardin County—she wants to take that next step in serving her Hardin County Community.

Alison has volunteered countless hours in making Hardin County a more attractive place to visit, live and work. She has been part of many organizations, spearheading the implementation of Hardin County Trails and currently chairing that organization, co-chairing RAGBRAI 2021 that passed through Iowa Falls, she is involved with Winter Rec Fest, is an avid music lover who enjoys playing/singing Bluegrass, an outdoor enthusiast who enjoys riding bikes on Hardin County country roads, a mom to three girls who coaches multiple activities, serves on the Barlow Library Foundation Board, is a substitute Teacher and is always looking for ways to better her community!

Alison is the right choice for this position. She will work hard for the entire county. She will make decisions after listening to all points of view. She will stay informed. She will continue to work hard to meet the needs of citizens of Hardin County and showcase all our county has to offer! VOTE CAMPBELL FOR SUPERVISOR Nov. 8!

**KAITLYN HOVERSTEN  
IOWA FALLS**

### Supervisors are ‘servants of the public’

**TO THE EDITOR:**

I was glad to see the Supervisor candidate responses to their forum questions published in the paper. I found the responses to two of the questions to be especially interesting. Mr. Granzow’s response to the CAFOs to be very disturbing, “There’s a lot of room for CAFOs to be built.” REALLY! If you look at a map of Iowa, Hardin County has the highest concentration of CAFOs in the state! How much more can our soil and water sustain?

Second, the response by Mr. Granzow and Ms. McClellan on the public comment stating how rude and disrespectful all the Supervisors were to her! It was beyond belief!

I was always taught “you have to give RESPECT to get RESPECT.” And the idea of public comment before the meeting, the public is there to hear the comments and action taken on the items on the agenda. How would that work?

Just remember folks, and people in general including our Supervisors. They DO NOT like to be held accountable to their actions. The Supervisors are “Servants of the Public,” – all of their constituents in Hardin County!

**JANEICE MURRA  
IOWA FALLS**

## Looking for more?

Have you checked out the opinions section of the Times Citizen website? There, you can find editorials, columns, letters to the editor and a bonus – blogs written by Times Citizen staffers Elaine Loring, Justin Ites and Marissa VanWingen.

Go to **www.timescitizen.com**