



Pat Blank visits with her goats.
(Bethany Carson Photo)

Goats galore



TJADEN

Tjaden seeks to keep insurance agency in Clarksville

BY BETHANY CARSON
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While many small towns are searching high and low for businesses to fill their dying Main Streets, Clarksville has a different problem. Local businessman Bill Tjaden can't seem to find a spot downtown to relocate Tjaden Insurance agency.

Tjaden agreed to sell his office to Dollar General last year, and with spring and the prospect of demolition approaching to make way for new construction, the countdown is on. It's time to find a new office. But so far it seems every good downtown spot either already has a business or residential tenants.

"We're not making headway," Tjaden said.

Anyone with a spot they're willing to rent is encouraged to call Tjaden at 319-278-4203.

"The agency has been here forever. ... I really don't have any desires to move it to another town," Tjaden said. "Part of my problem is insurance agencies on Main Street do better than those out of a house or someplace. I really want to be in a business setting."

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Acclaimed radio host raises prize-winning goats in rural Shell Rock

BY BETHANY CARSON
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No kidding: February is coming, and with it, kidding season—the busiest time of year for goat farmers.

Pat Blank of rural Shell Rock, award-winning host of Iowa Public Radio's All Things Considered, has her work cut out presenting a mix of the day's news, analysis, commentary and coverage of art and sports on the radio. But the day's work doesn't start

when she walks into the studio—or even when she walks into the classroom where she teaches newswriting as an adjunct instructor at UNI. She's also a goat farmer. Her day starts in the barn at the Black Eagle Ranch where she raises Nigerian Dwarf Goats.

As a registered breeder with the Iowa Dairy Goat Association, she sells a majority of her goats for 4-H projects. She also participates in the Iowa Dairy Goat Association's Share-a-Kid

Goats like weeds and paper products. They like the woods. If we turn them loose in the woods, they have a hay day.

— PAT BLANK, owner

program, where producers donate a doeling to 4-H or FFA youth otherwise unable to afford a registered animal.

Nigerian Dwarfs are the smallest of dairy goats. "A lot of 4-H kids and families use the milk for various things—lotion or soap—or pasteurize

and drink it," Blank said.

When children ask about raising a pony, often parents opt to raise goats instead. The Nigerian Goats are about the size of a dog. Females range from about 30 to 35 lbs. Males are 40-45 lbs.

"Goats are very non-judgmental, very caring and each have their own personality," Blank said. "They're very low maintenance, are not sick often, and don't eat much."

Blank enjoys meeting with 4-H families and staying in touch.

"Every year is different, and every year has good memories," she said.

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New and NOTEWORTHY

500 card party

There will be a 500 card party Friday, Jan. 11 at 7 p.m. in the Clarksville library. The public is invited.

Annual Butler County Cattlemen banquet to be held Jan. 12

The Butler County Cattlemen will hold their annual banquet on Jan. 12 beginning at 6:30 p.m., at the Veteran's Memorial Building in Parkersburg. A prime rib dinner will be served, and comedian Lee Cole will provide entertainment. Tickets are available from any Butler County Cattlemen board member.

For additional information or questions contact Mike Codner at 319-231-5544.

Piano Man to perform in Allison

Beat the winter blues by joining Kevin Anderson, Piano Man on Friday, Jan. 25 at 2 p.m., at the Rehabilitation Center of Allison. Enjoy music along with coffee, tea and cookies at 900 Seventh St., Allison.



Treasurer Vicki Schoneman, Recorder Janice Jacobs, Supervisor Rusty Eddy, Supervisor Tom Heidenwirth and County Attorney Greg Lievens were sworn in at the Supervisors meeting on Wednesday morning. (Bethany Carson Photo)

COUNTY OFFICIALS TAKE OATH OF OFFICE

BY BETHANY CARSON
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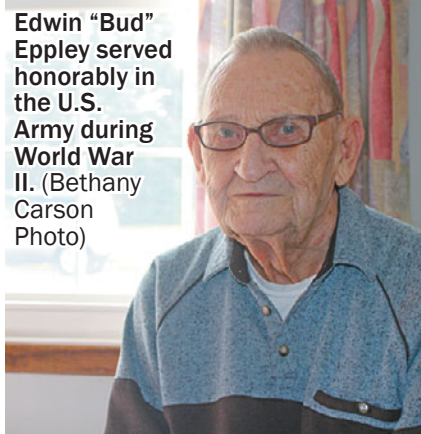
Re-elected county officials, Supervisors Rusty Eddy and Tom Heidenwirth, Treasurer Vicki Schoneman, Recorder Janice Jacobs and Attorney Greg Lievens were sworn in at

the Butler County Supervisors meeting last Wednesday morning.

The supervisors approved first of the year resolutions and reappointed and reaffirmed members of county board. New members will be sought to replace four board members who passed away last year, and will be appointed at a future meeting.

Mileage reimbursement for county employees will remain at 50 cents, lower than 2019 standard IRS mileage rate of 58 cents per mile. The supervisors accepted the recommendation of the compensation board for non-elected officials' salaries and set the non-elected, non-deputy increase at three percent.

SALUTING OUR VETERANS



Edwin "Bud" Eppley served honorably in the U.S. Army during World War II. (Bethany Carson Photo)

EDWIN EPPLEY

Editor's Note: This article is based on a paper written by Jeff Eppley, graciously shared by the family, and edited for clarity by Clarksville Star staff.

Edwin "Bud" Eppley of Clarksville was drafted into the U.S. Army on June 23, 1944 and served until his honorable discharge on Feb. 28, 1946.

He was inducted in Des Moines and sent to Alabama for basic training with the 86th Infantry.

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\$1 NEWSSTAND

NORTH BUTLER-CLARKSVILLE
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MIKE NIAG, RELEASES
THE TOP IOWA AG ISSUES
FROM LAST YEAR NEWS: PAGE 2

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A-P APPLIANCE HEATING &
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WEEKLY DEADLINES for the Clarksville Star

Legals.....Friday, 5 p.m.
NewsFriday, 5 p.m.
Ads, Inserts.....Friday, 5 p.m.

THURSDAY

Cloudy
28°20°

FRIDAY

Cloudy
33°24°

SATURDAY

Cloudy
Chance of Snow
32°24°

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GOATS FROM PAGE 1

“People come in who have never had goats before, bring their kids and buy their first two or more goats,” Blank said. “Only goats are lonely, so you have to get at least two. Goats need a companion.”

Everyone who purchases goats from her receives the FFA book "How to Raise Goats." The book has everything you need to know about raising goats.

Blank encourages potential goat owners to do their research first. Hooves have to be trimmed every three or four months. Fencing is needed, and there's responsibility.

“Baby goats are cute, but they can be a lot of work,” Blank said. “Do your research to understand what it takes for them to be happy and healthy.”

Blank grew up on a farm in Northwest Iowa, and her family raised just about everything except goats: chickens, cows, pigs, corn, soybeans, oats, and hay. Growing up on the farm provided her with the experiences she needed to excel in life.

“I think it made me a hard worker,” Blank said. “I work till the job is done.”

After graduating from high school, Blank attended Iowa Lakes Community College in Estherville before transferring to and earning her degree from UNI in radio and television broadcasting.

While in college she started her first job working for a radio station outside of Cedar Falls. Later, she worked in Mason City for a few years, and then moved back to Waterloo and Cedar Falls for com-

mercial broadcasting for four years. She worked as college relations director for two years, and then took a job as a reporter at Iowa Public Radio, where she has worked for the past 31 years. Blank was chosen to host Morning Edition in 1986, and has hosted All Things Considered since 1995. In 2014 she received the Jack Shelley Award for Broadcast Excellence.

While working for Public Radio, she served as adjunct instructor at Wartburg for three years, and has taught as a professor at UNI for around 10 years.

"It's so cool to teach in the same building and some of the same classrooms [as I studied in]," Blank said.

In her newswriting classes she tries to instill the importance of integrity and teach students the value of working objectively even if they are personally very opinionated. Writing objectively isn't about you and your thoughts; it's about the facts.

Asking questions is important to any journalist, she believes. You can find stories everywhere if you're willing to ask the question "why?"

"I'm curious. I want to know what makes things tick. I'm not afraid to ask questions," Blank said.

Goats are low-maintenance, only need to be fed once a day, and work into her schedule well. She spends her early mornings with her herd of 20 before heading out to work.

Blank first became interested in raising pygmy goats in 1986 when a neighbor bought

goats as companions for horses. After several years of raising pygmy goats, Blank noticed the colorful Nigerian Dwarf Goats in 1998, and made the switch to raising them.

Over the years, goats have increased in popularity.

"I think they have become much more acceptable as a commodity. People can make money from them. There are people who are goat brokers online," Blank said.

The busiest time of year at the farm is kidding season in February, and Blank's husband (Terry), brother and neighbors are happy to pitch in when needed. Blank makes a myriad of trips to the barn to check on the goats. When temperatures drop to 20 below during some winters, she becomes seriously tempted to install a closed circuit wireless television system to monitor the barn from her laptop or tablet.

All of Blank's goats have names. And every kidding season she picks a new theme for theme for the names. Themes have ranged from candy and cookies to movies. Does' names currently include Astrid, Pearl, Pumpkin Pie, Macadamia Nut, Snickers and Miss Kitty. Many of the goats have placed well at the State Fair.

Accommodations for the goats are practical, yet, for goats, luxurious. The two barns are dubbed "The Goat Palace," and "The Rock 'n' Roll Barn," and the goats do enjoy music.

Kidding season is very intense.

"I've done it for 20 years and can pretty much tell within a day, sometimes within hours, who is going to be kidding," Blank said.

She checks on her goats regularly to make sure they are feeling well and works closely with the veterinarian in Plainfield.



These playful bucks stick their heads through the gate in anticipation of some attention. (Bethany Carson Photo)

One of her best memories is when the vet delivered quintuplets. All lived and were nursing within an hour, and the doe went on to naturally birth quadruplets the next year. Quintuplets are very rare, and it's unusual for them to survive, much less, thrive.

Goats are creatures of habit. When let outside on a nice day, they have no trouble with later returning right back to their own pens. And when moved to a new pen, it takes them about

three days to settle down and get used to the new location.

While the goats enjoy eating hay, Blank also provides a supplement and alfalfa for the goats in milk production.

While a common belief is that goats stink, female goats don't. Only bucks do, and then that's usually only during breeding season. And goats don't eat tin cans. That perception likely came about because goats enjoy paper products, and eat labels on cans.



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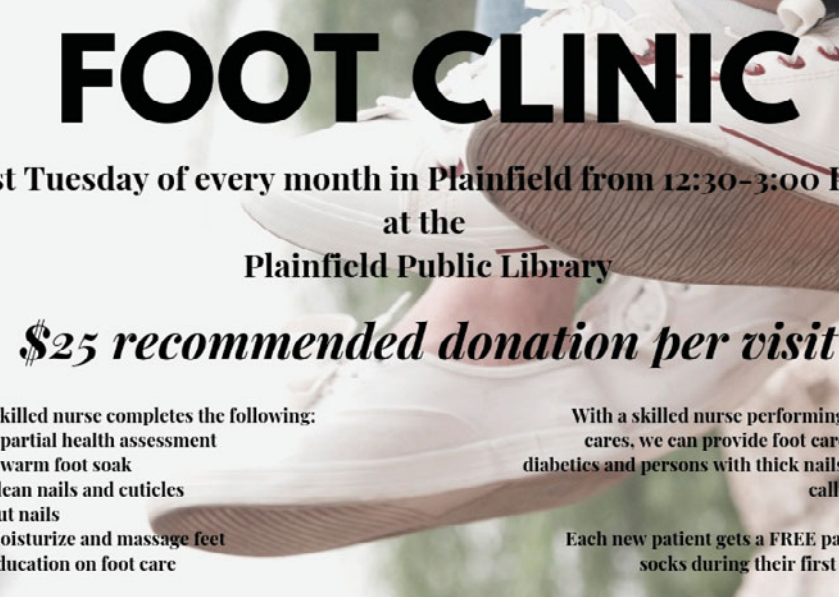
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Parkersburg Hampton

Construction continues in Clarksville

RIGHT: The walls are now going up at what will likely become the new city hall building in Clarksville. Progress is also being made at the new concession stand at the school. (Bethany Carson Photo)



Bremer County Health Department

FOOT CLINIC

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\$25 recommended donation per visit

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