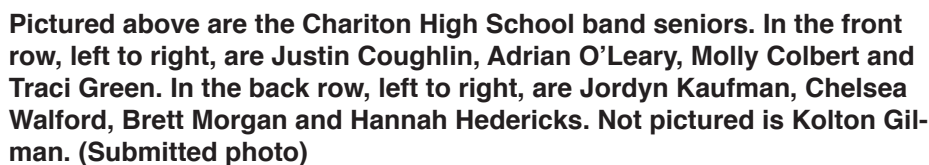


## Fifth grade and high school bands share center stage for April 7 concert



The high school concert band and the fifth grade band will share center stage together on Monday, April 7 at 7 p.m. for their spring concert. Both ensembles are led by director Ryan Gruman.

The concert will start

with the fifth grade band which consists of nearly 40 members. They will perform short pieces that they've been working on the last few months. The concert will conclude with the high school band's selections and end with a senior

recognition.

"This concert is pretty big for these students," said Gruman. "This is the first concert for the fifth grade band and the last high school concert for the seniors. It's one you won't want to miss."

# Anderson gives first city manager's report at city council meeting

Bill Howes  
**Associate Editor**

Chariton City Manager Doug Anderson gave his first city manager's report since becoming Chariton's new city manager at the city council meeting Monday, March 17.

"I want to say thank you to our fire department. Our Chariton Volunteer Fire Department has been working overtime with the number of fire calls there have been recently," Anderson said.

Anderson also told about some things he is currently working on as city manager including a vehicle rotation program. "I am working on a rotation program whereby vehicles are brought into service for the city, moved from high-use departments to lower-use



departments, and then eventually rotated out of service," Anderson said.

Anderson also reported that he has been working to determine an engineering firm for the Sanitary Sewer Plant upgrades that are required by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (IDNR).

Anderson also said that he has begun work with Chariton Valley Planning and Development on a possible

community development block grant for the Court Avenue reconstruction project.

Council member reports

The city council members gave their reports next. Most of the council members didn't have anything to report excepted Dave Kuball, who reported on a couple of events for Chariton Area Chamber/Main Street (CAC/MS).

Kuball said that Wednesday, May 7, is the annual Chariton City Clean Up Day. "The Chariton Farmers Market is starting in May also," Kuball said.

None of the city staff members had anything to report. These included the city attorney, the city Building and Code Enforcement Officer, Police Chief, and the City Clerk.

**PASTOR'S CORNER**  
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or a goose. If more came, it would be appropriate to kill a goat or a lamb. The killing of a fatted calf was done only if the entire village was invited. This was indeed an event of great importance.

There was an even further significance in this killing of the fatted

calf. The actual slaughter of the animal would take place in front of the doorway. Then, as the guests stepped across the blood of the animal that had been slain, it was a sign that the past had been left behind, that there was a new covenant or new relationship between the host and the guest. As the son then

stepped over the blood of the animal that had been slain, it was a sign of his father's total and complete acceptance and forgiveness. The father welcomed him back unconditionally.

The prodigal son  
didn't deserve that kind  
of reception, did he?  
Many who heard Jesus  
tell this story were surely

offended that a boy who treated his father so should get off so easily, scot-free. Their discomfort is reflected in the envy of the elder brother. He had stayed home all these years and the father had never killed the fatted calf for him. It wasn't fair.

Paul Tournier, the  
great Swiss psychiatrist

and theologian, emphasizes that Christianity is the only religion in the world which says that God loves the unrighteous more than the righteous.

The Father loves us enough to let go. We are free eternally, free to choose our own paths. The Father patiently waits for us to decide.

He will not force His way into our lives. But there is unconditional love – unconditional acceptance awaiting our decision.

Our Heavenly Father waits patiently for all people to come to their senses, He yearns to share his love and acceptance with them. God's arms are always wide open and waiting.

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