

RECORDS/NEWS

Chariton 6 DAY WEATHER FORECAST	Saturday Isolated T-Storms 71° 39°  Precip: 32% Wind: S 15 mph	Sunday Showers 47° 31°  Precip: 44% Wind: NNW 19 mph	Monday Mostly Cloudy 51° 33°  Precip: 7% Wind: N 14 mph	Tuesday Cloudy 52° 45°  Precip: 13% Wind: SE 20 mph	Wednesday AM Showers 62° 42°  Precip: 38% Wind: SW 17 mph	Thursday Cloudy 65° 42°  Precip: 24% Wind: S 16 mph

CONCERT

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talent of many of the high schoolers.

The night got off to a great start with the Chariton Community Big Band opening with four numbers that were performed to perfection by a mixture of students and adults. Their jazz renditions had the audience tapping their toes and snapping their fingers. The band was under the joint direction of Ryan Hyslope and Ryan Gruman. Members included: Saxophones-Calvin Allwood, Christian Brown, Jazmyn Cleary, Zach Collin, and Justin Coughlin. Trumpets-Adam Bahr, Brett Morgan, and John Bachman. Trombones-Jamison Owens, Bob Phillips, Cole Stout, and Leif Sundquist. Bass-Evony Bartmess, Echo Mitchell, and Luke Miller. Drum Kit-Gray Fred-

ericks, Adrian O’Leary, Tracy Green, and Molly Morgan. Piano-Diane Tordoff.

The following were the brave students who performed solos for the program:

Bella Rich-“This Is Me,” Calvin Allwood-“Time in a Bottle,” Jacob Gonthier-“Big River,” Calvin Allwood and Adrian O’Leary added a little comedy routine before singing “Cat’s in the Cradle,” John Bachman, Landyn Mc-Neeley, Grayson Hedrick, and Derek Coker sang the one word, “Tequila,” Jonas Hickerson-“Paul Revere,” Haley Petty-“Bless Your Heart,” Constance Pol-lard-“A Thousand Years,” Presley Anderson-“Life-line,” and Ellie Lane-“For Heaven’s Sake.”

The CHS Drumline composed of Grayson Hedrick, Molly Mor-gan, Landon McNeeley, Tracy Green, and Adri-

an O’Leary performed almost totally in the dark with just their lighted sticks keeping beat and adding dramatic color.

Finally, the end of the program culminated with the Concert Choir per-forming numbers from the musical “Footloose.” Soloists included Landree Clark and Jacob Gonthier. Extensive choreography was by Kelly Morgan and Molly Colburn. Stage Managers Molly Colburn, Kelly Morgan, Calvin Allwood, and Justin Coughlin kept everything moving as smoothly as possible while Lucas An-derson, Adrian O’Leary, Leif Sundquist, and Brett Morgan worked the sound and lights which seemed like a big task!

Upcoming CHS spring concerts include the High School Band performing on April 7 and the High School Choir on May 13.

FIRE

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while Chris (a former Russell fire chief) tried to wet down what he could with their lawn hose. The firemen were battling the blaze elsewhere as the fire encroached on their property threatening to destroy it. When Brenda came back from parking her car, she couldn’t see their house as the smoke was so thick. She thought they had lost everything! Thankfully, just in time, a unit from Chariton showed up and was able to contain the blaze with only minimal damage to a part of their yard and a shed.

Current Russell Fire Chief, Brian Beaty, ad-mitted that it was rather alarming battling the large fire so close to town as the high winds and extreme fire heat made it hard to put out. The rain that eventually came would have seemed like a good thing, but with it came a switch in wind direction that continued the battle for contain-ment. Beaty acknowl-edges that the use of brush fire trucks and ATV side by sides especially helped when responding across rough and potentially muddy terrain. He also affirmed that all the dif-ferent fire units gained in-

valuable experience work-ing together and utilizing their different pieces of equipment successfully. Additionally, about 10,000 gallons of water from the water tankers and fire hydrants were used to contain the fire.

Beaty said the follow-ing were the day’s biggest blessings in what could have been an afternoon ending in tragedy:

1. There was very little property damaged.

2. There were no injuries.

3. Six different towns’ fire units worked success-fully together.

The town of Russell is so grateful!

COUNCIL

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the agreement for fire protection with White-breast Township in Lucas County. Both agreements were extended for an ad-ditional two years ending Dec. 31, 2026.

Discussion on constructing sidewalk tabled

The council held a discussion on possibly constructing a sidewalk from Penick Avenue to 614 South Main Street in collaboration with the Iowa Department of Transportation’s side-walk program. After discussing this topic some, the council decid-ed to table it until the next regular city council

meeting on April 7, 2025. They wanted to get more information about it be-fore discussing it further and possibly taking any action on it.

Commission appoint-ments approved

The council approved a couple of commission appointments. They approved the mayor’s appointment of Todde Folkerts to the City Lakes Advisory Commission, with a term to expire on Oct. 18, 2025.

The council also approved the mayor’s appointment of Brayden Good to the Chariton Historic Preservation Commission, with a term to expire on Feb. 19, 2028.

Claims and financial report approved

The council reviewed the claims. None of the council members had any questions on them this time and they approved the claims as presented.

The council reviewed the February 2025 finan-cial statement. Chariton City Manager Doug Anderson spoke briefly about the statement.

“We’re 2/3 of the way through the 2024-25 fiscal year. Most expen-ditures are right on track at 66 or 67 percent,” Anderson said.

The council members didn’t have any questions about the February finan-cial statement and they approved it as presented.

Obituaries

Gelene Sibert

Gelene was born Aug. 5, 1943, at home on the family farm south of Rus-sell. She was the middle child of five, an older brother and sister, and a younger brother and sister.

By the farm where they grew up, there was a bridge over Honey Creek, and Gelene and her siblings loved playing at the bridge as children so much, that 70 years later she asked to be taken there again. It was special to her. She loved her baby dolls and loved animals her whole life. She had very cherished memories of Christmas, including the year she and her sister Mar-cia received Green Ruffled Bloomers for Christmas. She enjoyed growing up with her siblings and her large extended family of cousins and going on frequent family visits each year, which meant either family coming to Russell or going to Marshall-town or Newton.

She attended Russell High School and graduated in the Class of 1962. She played softball for four years but was sad that a heart murmur prevented her from playing basketball and other sports. She always remembered her senior class trip to Chicago with her friends and how much she enjoyed going to Chicago to tour the city and going to the movies.

At one time she worked at Gino’s Restaurant in Des Moines in the 1960s and it was then that her first greatest joy came into her life, her son Michael was born. In the early 1970s she and her son moved to Chariton with the family and lived at 527 North Main Street, across the street from the Chariton High School. She worked as a baker at the Quality-T Bakery on the Chariton Square, before becoming a cook and lunch lady at the Chariton School District for over 30 years. She loved working for the school, the friends she worked with, and being around generations of kids at the Chariton School District, serving lunch each day at Garfield Junior High or the High School.

Her family always lived across the street from the high school, and their home was always open to everyone and it was routine in the 1980s for the high school kids to go to their home for lunch periods; all were welcomed, the doors were never locked. Gelene was a hard worker and always had two jobs. For decades she would work eight hours in the morning, come home and change and work another eight hours in the evening. She was a cook at the Country Chef Restaurant for years, and eventually at the Lucas County Hospital before retiring. She never had a car and didn’t drive, but was extremely grateful to the hundreds of friends and family who gave her rides around Chariton for decades.

In her spare time, she was always sewing, coloring/painting, or making art/ craft projects, or just reading volumes of books. Her home was always decorated for holidays, especially Christmas and most of the decorations and ornaments were handmade by her. She always saw the beauty in the world, in the simplest things; she would be the first to plant a pink flamingo on the yard and there were always toys and games to be found at her side, because life should include Cotton Candy.

She was also a lifelong Chariton and Russell supporter, and an Iowa Hawkeye fan. She was known to always be watch-ing a football or basketball game on tele-vision while sewing or doing crafts. She

was a huge Iowa Hawkeye fan, especially when her son Michael was playing on the Iowa Hawkeye Football team in the 1980s and 1990s, and was thrilled to be attending home games at Kinnick Stadi-um in Iowa City.

After retiring, few loved retirement more than Gelene. At 62 years old, she became determined to get her learn-er’s permit and eventually her driver’s license, which she did, and was able to purchase her first car at 64 years old. The timing was perfect because it coincided with the arrival of her most prized joy in her life, her granddaughters Josephine and Holiday. Gelene moved to Kansas City for almost 10 years and lived with her son, and wife Leah, and grand-daughter Josephine Ruby, who was her best friend, who she got to see grow and spent every day and night with. Grand-ma Gelene went from never driving, to rapidly learning to drive Josephine to her ballet classes at the Kansas City Ballet, or just their daily trips to the library or other events. As her health declined, she moved back to Chariton in 2020, to Southgate Apartments where she enjoyed her time with the ladies of the building. When Jose-phine graduated in 2023 as the Missouri Scout of the Year, a Gold Awardee, and a top Beering Scholar, no one was prouder than Grandma.

As a child, Gelene suffered from in-terse bullying at the hands of a teacher in the 1950s, and that formed her identity in which she wanted nothing but kindness for everyone. Seeing anyone being unkind or seeing anyone experiencing unkindness was something that deeply troubled her and she went out of her way to take care of people or to befriend everyone. She was an amazing gift giver, even though she was always of low-income status, she gave anything she had to others, her son experienced amazing Christmases and her granddaughters always received amazing birthday and Christmas presents. Most importantly, she gave everyone the one thing she could and that was her time and attention. She was generous, selfless, and fiercely independent-she always gave selflessly of her time, always put others first, especially her family, and she actually would walk in the snow to a job that didn’t pay much, and work two jobs to take care of her child, and the same with her grandchild.

She is survived by her son, Michael D. Sibert (Leah), of Lees Summit, MO and New Orleans, LA, and granddaughters Jo-sephine Ruby Sibert and Holiday Fagan, her sister Marcia Clark and Jim Porter-field, Chariton, Iowa her brother (Earl) Dale Sibert Jr., Okmulgee, OK, her nieces, Karmel Kemper (John), Tonya Clark (Thad Tracy), Shelley Sibert Deeringer (Randy Thompson), Sherry Kistler (Travis) and Shannon Sibert-Kimmel (Joe), her nephew Brian Sibert (Connie), a lot of cousins, grandnieces, grandnephews, dear friends, and extended family.

She is preceded in death by her par-ents, Earl and Gladys Sibert, a brother, Gary Sibert and wife Pamela Amos Sibert, her sister Verdella Sibert Phipps and husband Charles “Bud” Phipps, her sister-in-law Sharon (Hudson) Sibert and her nephew John Dale Clark.

Her family is eternally grateful for everyone who ever helped her or were simply her friends and express their love. Charitable contributions.

April 14-17

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