



# CLARINDA Herald-Journal



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News  
Quilt of Valor ...3A



News  
CRHC Expands ...5A



Sports  
Brokaw FFA at Page Co. Fair ...6A



Sports  
All-Area Summer Team ...1B



## SAFETY FIRST



Clarinda Superintendent Chris Bergman reviews details of the Return to Learn Plan for the Clarinda Community School District over Zoom Friday, Aug. 31, as Board of Directors President Greg Jones, left, and Director Darin Sunderman practice recommended safety precautions while attending the special meeting at the Clarinda Middle School Commons in person. Clarinda is scheduled to start the 2020-2021 school year Aug. 24 and the Return to Learn Plan outlines how the school district will handle the continuing threat of the COVID-19 pandemic. (Herald-Journal Photo by Kent Dinnebieer)

# Clarinda finalizes plan to return students to classroom

BY KENT DINNEBIEER  
Editor

Following a five month hiatus, Clarinda students are scheduled to return to the classroom Monday, Aug. 24, and the school district has a plan on how to keep them there.

During a special meeting Friday, July 31, at the Clarinda Middle School Commons, the Clarinda Community School District Board of Directors unanimously approved the Return to Learn Plan for the district for the 2020-2021 school year. A crowd of approximately 40 people attended the

meeting with 10 of those being in person and the rest participating over Zoom.

The Return to Learn Plan for Clarinda was developed through the efforts of the District Leadership Team and various committees. Those committees consisted of administration, nutrition staff, custodial staff, human resources staff, members of the activities department and transportation staff. Guidance from state officials; state and local organizations; and parents and staff was also considered.

"I think it's really important to note all the

people and the hours that have gone into this. Also know all the information we're going to share later is fluid. It will be current, but it will need to be revised if our situation in Clarinda changes or in our state. We just have to be very cognizant of the need for flexibility and adaptability," Superintendent Chris Bergman said as she attended the meeting via Zoom.

"This is a framework for how they're going to try to respond. It doesn't mean it's going to be a solution for every problem that comes up. It's hard to anticipate everything that's going to come up,

but it does give us some guidance on how they're going to try to approach things," Board President Greg Jones said.

The Clarinda Return to Learn Plan identified three primary goals for the school district. Those goals are to keep students and staff safe while providing high levels of educational instruction in-person when possible.

As a result, Clarinda will start the year with on-site learning taking place in the classroom in accordance with guidelines from the Iowa Department of Education, the

PLAN see page 8A

## CRHC Board of Trustees hear update on pandemic

BY KENT DINNEBIEER  
Editor

As Iowa continues battling to reach initial containment of the COVID-19 pandemic, a second wave of the virus is expected to hit the United States this fall.

Clarinda Regional Health Center Chief Medical Officer Dr. Bryon Schaeffer presented an update on the pandemic Tuesday, July 28, during a meeting of the hospital Board of Trustees.

"We're nowhere near community containment. In Page County, we lived in our little idyllic corner of the world here for quite a while and didn't have too many cases. Now, it found us, so they're starting to go up," Schaeffer said.

CRHC Chief Executive Officer Chuck Nurdyke said the hospital had performed a total of 785 COVID-19 tests. During the week of July 20-26 alone, he said 250 tests were performed through the Test Iowa site at the hospital. Overall, 436 tests had been completed at the Test Iowa site in Clarinda.

"I think you're seeing a lot of people coming to get tested from exposure clusters. We have slowed down our testing right now because Test Iowa has a better turnaround. Most of our tests that were done months ago were symptom testing. Those people didn't have COVID. They just had something else going on," Nurdyke said.

Schaeffer said Iowa was designated as one of the states with uncontrolled spread of the virus at the time of the meeting.

COVID see page 8A



Concrete was recently poured at the new storage facility being constructed by MidAmerican Energy at the Allen Davison Business Park in Clarinda. The storage facility will be located on a 2.16 acre lot located just west of Orscheln Farm and Home Supply.

MidAmerican Energy intends to use the building to store equipment for the new wind park being developed in Page and Taylor counties. The company purchased the lot for \$21,600 from the city of Clarinda in May. (Herald-Journal photo by Kent Dinnebieer)

### Inside This Issue

- Briefs 2A
- Obituaries 3A
- Puzzles 9A
- TV Guide 2B
- Classifieds/ Legals 3B



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