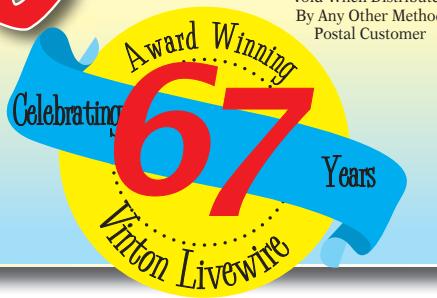


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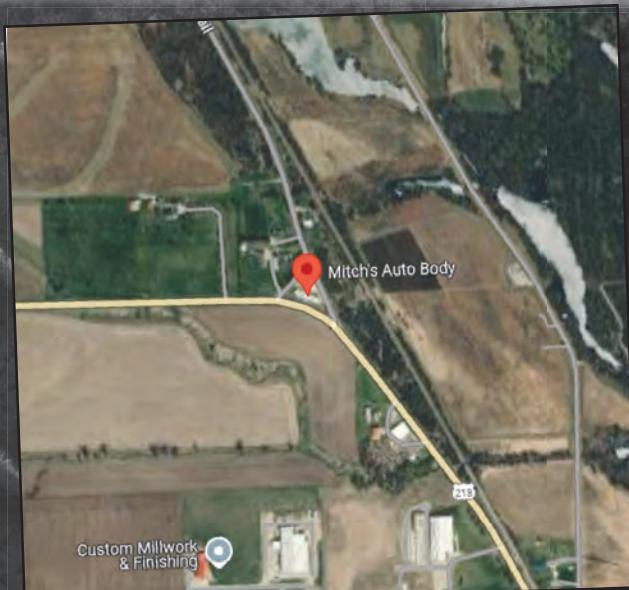
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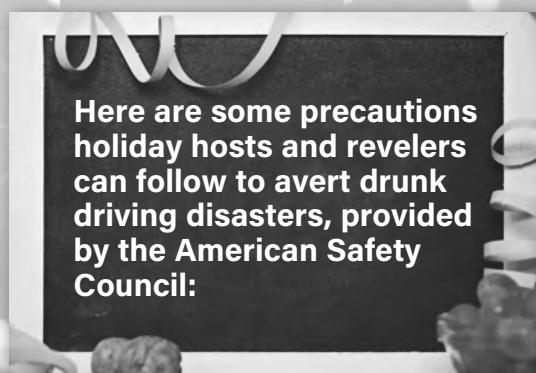
Celebrate Like Your Life Depends on It: DON'T Drink & Drive!



3 WAYS ALCOHOL IMPACTS YOUR ABILITY TO DRIVE

1. Inhibitions are lowered, affecting judgment and coordination, even after one drink.
2. Reaction times are slowed, even after two beers.
3. Vision, balance, speech and movement are adversely affected.

Source: AAA



The ratio of alcohol to blood in the body is called the Blood Alcohol Concentration (BAC). Two people drinking the same amount of alcohol can have drastically different BACs. Body weight, drink strength, amount of food in the stomach, time between drinks and even gender can all affect a person's BAC and level of impairment. While a BAC of .08 is typically the legal limit, impairment can occur at much lower levels. A driver can be arrested with a BAC lower than .08 if a law enforcement officer has probable cause to believe the driver is impaired. More importantly, any level of impairment significantly increases the likelihood of a traffic crash, putting your life and the lives of others in danger. The bottom line? If you plan on drinking, getting behind the wheel is always a bad idea.



"If you feel different, you drive different."

Like drunk driving, drug-impaired driving is illegal. In 2017, **45 percent of drivers killed in fatal crashes who were tested for drugs, tested positive.**

Whether obtained legally or illegally, drug-impaired driving can be deadly for drivers, passengers and others on the road.

- NHTSA

▪ **Between Christmas and New Year's Day, 40 percent of deadly crashes involve alcohol-impaired drivers.**

▪ **New Year's Day consistently ranks among the year's deadliest days for alcohol-related traffic fatalities.**

▪ **The most dangerous hours during the New Year's holiday are between 1 a.m. and 3 a.m.**

Sources: National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), Cannon & Dunphy S.C./Safer America study

HOST THOUGHTFULLY

- Offer a mocktail, alcohol-free beer or other nonalcoholic beverage for guests choosing not to drink.
- Ask guests who are drinking if they have a designated driver or transportation plans.
- If someone has been drinking and might drive, offer your couch as a place to sleep.
- Help guests who have been drinking arrange transportation through a ride-share app or taxi service.

CELEBRATE RESPONSIBLY

- Agree on a designated driver before you go out for the evening.
- Save the number for several local cab companies in your phone if you plan to drink, or make sure you have a ride-share app downloaded to your phone.
- Ask a friend if you can crash on his or her couch for the night if you've had too much to drink.
- If you're attending a party and are concerned you may drink too much, give your keys to the host at the start of the evening, so he or she can hold on to them unless you are sober.

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Here's what you've been missing from the latest Vinton Newspapers:

See Tuesday's Vinton Eagle for:

- ★ Kwik Star in Vinton Sells \$1 Million-Winning Ticket.
- ★ Letters to Santa.
- ★ McCabe finishes runner-up at Bubba Randles Winter Classic.

See last Friday's Cedar Valley Times for:

- ★ Happy Second Anniversary to the Boddicker's Version of The Niche.
- ★ Post 57 Donates to Koop's Toy Drive.
- ★ Vikings earn double-dual split.

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CLUES ACROSS

1. Paddles
5. Sunscreen rating
8. Very fast airplane
11. Immune responses
13. "Partner" to feather
14. New England river
15. Longest river in New Guinea
16. Midway between east and southeast
17. Israeli politician
18. Back bones
20. Consumed
21. One you can rely on
22. Dressed up gaudily
25. Representatives
30. Dog breed
31. Pitching statistic
32. Manpower
33. S. Korean entertainer
38. Outsourcing firm
41. Viceroy of Egypt under Turkish rule
43. One who removes antlers from a flower
45. Potluck dish
48. Discount
49. Airborne (abbr.)
50. Cavalry sword
55. Basics
56. Hollywood director Howard
57. Afflicted in mind or body
59. Horsley and Majors are two
60. Midway between northeast and east
61. Spiritual leader of a Jewish congregation
62. Malaysian isthmus
63. Fall back
64. Cheek

CLUES DOWN

1. Former CIA
2. Baseball's best pitchers
3. __ Nui, Easter Island
4. Invests in little enterprises
5. Constant



6. Hobby
7. A place to store food
8. Short-tail marten
9. Burn with a hot liquid
10. Left his heart in San Francisco
12. Swedish krona
14. Legendary actor Connery
19. French cleric
23. Former measure of length for textiles
24. Opaque glassy substance
25. Residue of burned item
26. A place to unwind
27. Japanese honorific
28. Terminus
29. Fails to make a shot
34. Journalist Tarbell
35. College hoops tournament
36. Monetary unit of Macao
37. Of she
39. Spoke ill of
40. Elements
41. Kilocalorie (abbr.)
42. Shades
44. Poem of fourteen lines
45. Pole used in Scottish sport
46. Hollyhocks genus
47. Street name for marijuana
48. Polio vaccine developer
51. Swiss river
52. Prejudice
53. Actor Idris
54. Confederate soldiers
58. Criticize

HOROSCOPES

ARIES - Mar 21/Apr 20

Strange things are happening, Aries. It may be better to go with the flow right now. You might like the change that ensues, and the change in pace could be a positive.

TAURUS - Apr 21/May 21

Better days are ahead, Taurus. It's just a matter of having a little patience and waiting a little longer for things to settle down. Start a new project to take your mind off things.

GEMINI - May 22/Jun 21

Make the most of time spent with friends and family this week, Gemini. You may need to step away for a little while, so cherish this time you get to spend with those you love.

CANCER - Jun 22/Jul 22

Cancer, someone special is able to take a peek into your inner thoughts this week. Their ability to see you so personally could reinforce your outlook.

LEO - Jul 23/Aug 23

You might feel a bit melancholic as the holiday season nears its end, Leo. It's understandable based on how much has been going on.

Maintain a strong social calendar.

VIRGO - Aug 24/Sept 22

Virgo, generosity is an admirable trait, and now is a good time to indulge your love of

helping others. Make a concerted effort to pitch in where your assistance is necessary.

LIBRA - Sept 23/Oct 23

When one door closes, another door opens, Libra. Look at all of the positive things in your life and embrace the great changes that are coming your way. This is an exciting time for you.

SCORPIO - Oct 24/Nov 22

Scorpio, there are so many things going on right now but you can still function effectively. The pace might be hectic right now, but things will calm down soon enough.

SAGITTARIUS - Nov 23/Dec 21

A relationship is blooming, Sagittarius, and you're not sure how you feel about it just yet. Take a few more weeks to work through all of your feelings.

CAPRICORN - Dec 22/Jan 20

You have an eye for deals, Capricorn. Even though you have been spending a lot this past month, you can't resist a discount on some post-holiday sales.

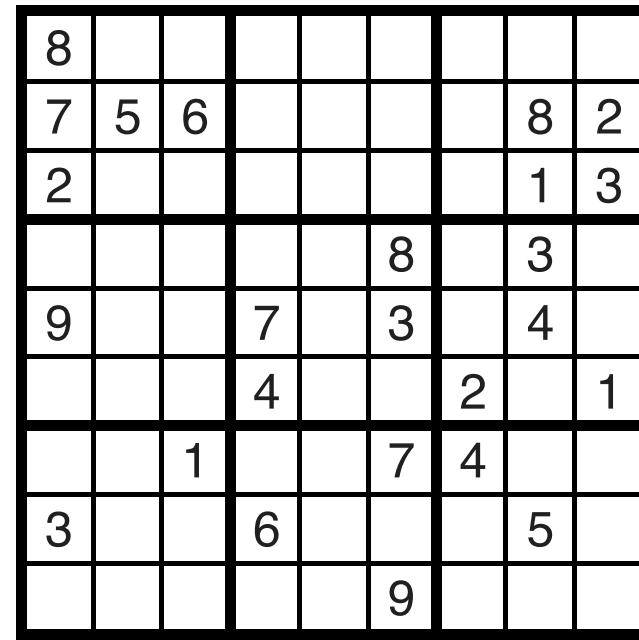
AQUARIUS - Jan 21/Feb 18

Take a firm hold of your finances for the next few weeks, Aquarius. Overspending could complicate an important relationship if you're not careful. Curb any purchases for a few days.

PISCES - Feb 19/Mar 20

You are not sure how to harness your artistic energy this week, Pisces. You might take a class or engage in a hobby that interests you. Redesigning a room in a home also might be an idea.

SUDOKU



Level: Intermediate



Solve the code to discover words related to shopping. Each number corresponds to a letter.
(Hint: 25 = A)

A. 7 21 25 16 10 25 12 7 8 9 16
Clue: Buying or selling something

B. 12 25 10 22 8 24 21
Clue: Store employee

C. 12 9 11 19 9 16
Clue: Form of discount

D. 19 11 21 12 22 25 10 24
Clue: Buying something

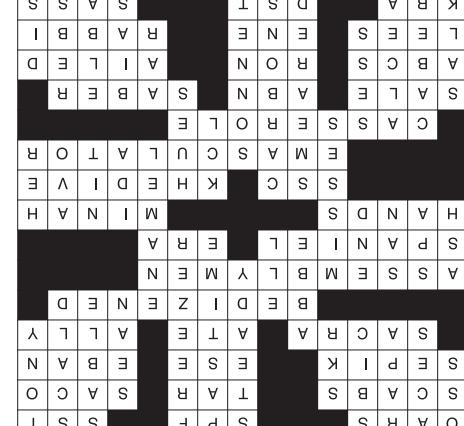
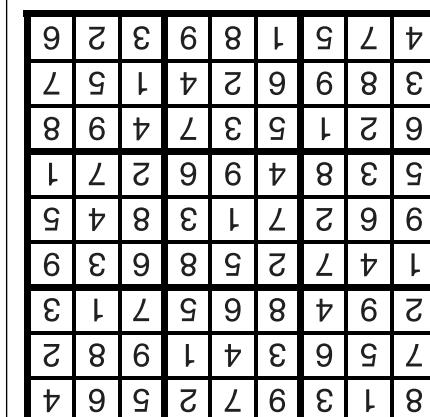
ANSWERS: A. transaction B. cashier C. coupon D. purchase

GUESS WHO?

I am an actress born in Barbados on December 31, 2008. I discovered my passion for acting as a young girl, and I attended the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Arts. My first professional role was in the short film, "Red." Now I'm one of the "outcasts" on a Netflix series about a girl from an unconventional family.

Answer: Evie Templeton

ANSWERS



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NEW LISTING!!
309 W 6th St., Vinton

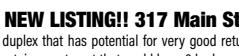
This nice 1.5 story 4 bedroom home has or woodwork, hardwood floors & new windows, furnace & AC and vinyl siding. Main floor laundry. Garage. The home does need to be finished upstairs, tape & wiring and floor coverings, along with the 2nd bath. Privacy fence. With a little work, this will be a very nice home for any buyer. Only \$109,000!!!



SOLD

NEW LISTING!!
1008 Wilson St., Dowsart

This 1.5 story, 3 to 4 bedroom home comes with a nice two stall garage, newer furnace & AC, a newer roof & updated vinyl siding. Located close to schools & daycare. 1.5 story laundry. Screened in patio. Upstairs could use some updating, but offers lots of extra space. Only \$129,000!!! Price Reduced \$119,000



NEW LISTING!! 317 Main St Clutier

This is a great opportunity to own a duplex that has potential for very good return. There is a main floor apartment that has two bedrooms and one bath. There is an upstairs apartment that could have 3 bedrooms and one bath. There is also a garage that can be rented. Could use some paint, floor coverings and a few updates and then would make 2 nice rentals. Should give a buyer a nice ROI. Only \$69,500!!



SOLD

NEW LISTING!!
401 Carter St., Clutier

There are two bedrooms on the main level. One bath on the main and a 3/4 bath in the basement. Sets on a nice corner lot, plus a second lot to the North. A great opportunity to own an affordable home!! Only \$49,500!!



PRICE REDUCED!
702 S Main St., Dowsart

Beautiful Historic Brick Home that has just been renovated and updated from top to bottom. Everything from walls refinished, to new electrical and light fixtures, to flooring, plus much more! 3 bedroom, 1.5 baths & main floor laundry. Two very original woodwork with ceiling beams, built-in china hutch, sun-room with French doors and leaded glass windows. 2 stall garage plus a carport, almost a 1/2 acre corner lot, located next to city park. Exterior trim & woodwork freshly painted!! Move-in Condition!! \$289,000!!! PRICE REDUCED \$284,000



SOLD

ACREAGE - PRICE REDUCED!
2975 275th St., Clutier

10.68 Acres This is a beautiful country setting with 1.5 story, 4 bedroom home, 1.5 baths, hardwood floors, new metal roof, 2020 & foundation spray foam 2023. Vinyl siding, some new windows. Large deck. PWA rural water, immediate possession! \$295,000. REDUCED TO \$285,000



SOLD

NEW ACREAGE LISTING!!
6639 14th Ave, Keystone

This 3.2 acre acreage has a 4 bedroom, 1.5 story home that has the potential for a great home for someone. It does need some exterior work. There is an eat-in kitchen, a sunroom, forced air furnace and a heat pump for additional heat and AC. There is a 40' x 46' machine shed/shop with a concrete floor and a 20' wide and 13' high overhead door. A 24' x 60' older livestock building. There is the possibility of a little more land. With a little work, move to the country at an affordable price! \$175,000!!

80 acres of Benton County Farmland **SOLD**

171.8 acres m/l of Benton County Farmland, Kane Township **SOLD**

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NEW, (2 BR-2 BA), 14x66, Gas Range, 2-Door Refrigerator, Dishwasher, Walk-In Master Shower. Tub/Shower in 2nd Bath, \$99,900. Delivered, Set, On Your Prepared Lot in Iowa. Coachlight Homes. 1-319-239-1920. (mcn)

STOP OVERPAYING FOR HEALTH INSURANCE! A recent study shows that a majority of people struggle to pay for health coverage. Let us show you how much you can save. Call Now for a no-obligation quote: 1-888-772-8454. You will need to have your zip code to connect to the right provider. (mcn)

Get a break on your taxes! Donate your car, truck, or SUV to assist the blind and visually impaired. Arrange a swift, no-cost vehicle pickup and secure a generous tax credit for 2025. Call Heritage for the Blind Today at 1-855-977-7030 today! (mcn)

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- Dan and Kelley

OPEN HOUSE • Sunday, Jan. 4th • 12-1:30PM

1000' Troy Mills Rd., Weller
Landscaping on land surface and 3 in. rock.
1/2 acre, 4 bedrooms, 2 car plus 2 deck with
walkout lower. \$204,000

OPEN HOUSE • Sunday, Jan. 4th • 2-3:30PM

201 Grove St. 1000' Shady
Remodel update: Windows, siding, roof,
flooring, etc. 3 season room, garage.
\$199,900

2025 Shady Ln. Shady
Rooms including 3 season, 2 car
1/2 acre, 3 in. brickwork interior with 2 car standard.
\$224,900

OPEN HOUSE
111 1/2 Ave. Shady
3 acres M/L. Call for details

OPEN LISTING:
400 W 8th Street
Spacious 3 br, 3 bath ranch with 2 car
conforming to U. S. Gas fireplace, 3 season
room, 2 car garage. \$349,900

OPEN LISTING:
200 Hwy 21, Dowsart
51 acres with 3 in. 2 bath, 1.5 story home. 30x30
steel machine shed, 24x26 heated barn, 30x32
heated shop and 12x20 fronted deck. Barn water.
\$265,000

OPEN LISTING:
1037 S. Ave., Norway
200' x 100' lot, 1.5 story home, 30x30
steel building, 20x20 garage, 20x20 fronted deck, 20x20
fronted shop, 20x20 fronted deck. Barn water.
\$245,000

OPEN LISTING:
2025 Homestead St. Norway
Spacious 3 br, 2 bath, 1.5 story home. 30x30
steel machine shed, 24x26 heated barn, 30x32
heated shop and 12x20 fronted deck. Barn water.
\$265,000

LOT LISTINGS

1037 S. Ave., Norway	SOLD
111 A Ave., Newhall	SOLD
302 3rd Ave Keystone	SOLD
615 27th Cedar Rapids	SOLD
955 Bridgit Lane, SE Cedar Rapids	SOLD
405 10th St Belle Plaine	SOLD

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020 NOTICE

URBANA AL-ANON MEETING - Held Sundays 7:00 p.m. at Urbana Christian Church Use side door into basement.
108 E Jefferson Ave S

VINTON AA MEETING

OPEN MONDAYS, Food & Fellowship 6:00 p.m., Meeting at 6:30 p.m. Wesley United Methodist Church, 516 2nd Ave., Vinton, IA. For more info call Barb C. 319-560-9153.

020 NOTICE

VINTON NA MEETING Open each Friday from 7:00 to 8:30pm. Located at Harvest 365, 1201 C Avenue. Come for coffee, keep coming. It works.

WANT TO BUY: Local authorized collector and buyer.

Buying Buffalo nickles and Indian pennies. I pay \$3 each for 1943 nickles. Buying old coin collections. I pay cash on the spot for over 50 years. Will pick-up at your home or bank. Call Max at Wallis Company Cedar Rapids, Iowa 1-319-360-0213 Clip and save this ad!

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PUBLIC NOTICES

BENTON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

December 16, 2025

The Benton County Board of Supervisors met in regular session with Supervisors Seeman, Tippett and Volz present. Chairman Seeman called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. at the Benton County Service Center. Members of the public are invited to join in during open session or watch the livestream at <https://www.youtube.com/bentoncounty-iowa>. Full Resolutions will be available in the Auditor's office and at: www.bentoncountyia.gov

Volz moved/Tippett seconded: To approve the Agenda. Tippett, Seeman and Volz voting aye. Motion carried.

Tippett moved/Volz seconded: To approve the minutes from Tuesday, December 9, 2025. Tippett, Seeman and Volz voting aye. Motion carried.

Hayley Rippel, Benton County Auditor reported on the unemploy-

ment pool through Iowa State Association of Counties (ISAC) is dissolving. The county received half of their reserve fund back from ISAC and needs to set up a proprietary fund to deposit this into. There was also discussion on the percentage to budget for, we have historically budgeted .3% although Iowa Workforce Development is recommending .1%. Instead of the county paying ISAC quarterly, we will now pay those claims directly to Iowa Workforce Development. The Board can discuss further the percentage they are comfortable with. This is another thing that needs to be decided so that the other department heads can budget accordingly.

Tippett moved/Volz seconded: To approve Resolution #25-101, Creating an Unemployment Fund -8502 for all internal funds relating to unemployment transactions effective January, 2025.

Tippett, Seeman and Volz voting aye. Motion carried.

Volz moved/Tippett seconded: To acknowledge resignation of Les Wood, Reserve Deputy at the Sheriff's Office. Tippett, Seeman and Volz voting aye. Motion carried.

Supervisor Tippett attended Board of Health Meeting along with Auditor Rippel, they are finalizing their FY 27 Budget. They too are waiting on health insurance amounts along with wage increased to fully finalize. Tippett also reported on his recent Central Iowa Juvenile Detention Meeting in Eldora. They are re-doing their 28E agreements, and the non-members will be able to pass a resolution requesting to be a member county again. They did just officially appoint their new director as well.

The other two board members didn't have any meetings to report on.

Auditor Rippel wanted to pass along some of the feedback going back and forth amongst department heads. In lieu of getting a letter from the Supervisors regarding the discussion last week about freezing the wages. They felt like they deserved an in person meeting. Rippel suggested getting something set up after the first of the year. The Board agreed and recommended a Monday morning would probably work the best and told Rippel to get something scheduled. Assistant County Attorney Derek Marsh reported he finish drafting the letter for the unions asking them to consider a wage freeze as well.

Volz moved/Tippett seconded: To approve farm exemption application for Malinda Riley in a part of the SE 1/4 NE 1/4 of Section 27-82-9. Tippett, Seeman and Volz voting aye. Motion carried.

Jane Drapeaux, Hawkeye

Area Community Action Partners (HACAP) was present to introduce her successor as she is retiring. Matt Majeskin will be replacing Jane after her retirement. The gave a handout that showed a recap of the 2025 Services provided to Benton County. The FY 27 request is a 3% increase from last year. In total they are asking for \$81,138.00. This will be split as such: \$10,300 goes to the Belle Plaine Senior Dining, \$22,339 for Belle Plaine Housing Program and \$48,499 will go towards Vinton/North Benton Senior services. HACAP has served over 1,000 households. Services included repairs, food assistance, mortgage and rent assistance, and utility and energy assistance.

Volz moved/Tippett seconded: To approve Resolution #25-102, Hiring Charles Betterton as Maintainer Operator at Bruce Center, Secondary Roads with a starting wage of

\$28.68 (labor grade IVA) effective December 15, 2025. Tippett, Seeman and Volz voting aye. Motion carried.

Tippett moved/Volz seconded: To approve Resolution #25-103, Bridge Embargo Removal 0.5 PO-0520 0.5 mile west of the NE corner of section 18-86N-9W (Polk Township) on 52nd Street. Tippett, Seeman and Volz voting aye. Motion carried.

Engineer Myron Parizek provided an update on the snow removal over the past two weekends. The Board has heard a lot of compliments of the good job the crew is doing.

Seeman moved/Volz seconded: To adjourn meeting at 9:57 a.m. Volz, Seeman and Tippett voting aye. Motion carried.

Tracy Seeman, Chairman
ATTEST: Hayley Rippel, Benton County Auditor