The Paper

Our Town, Our Paper!





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No. 22

October 18,

Local News

Northwest Career Academy to Hosting Visit Day

Northwest Career Academy is hosting a visit day for students, parents, and businesses on Wednesday, November 1 from 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

This is a perfect time for people to hear and see what programs the career academy has to offer high school students and businesses. Visitors will see hands on work, hear from business leaders in the community, and visit two manufacturing businesses in the Laurens community. Lunch will be provided!

Please make sure you scan the QR code to register and we will see you on November 1 at 9 a.m. Please park at the east side of the Laurens school and enter the east door of the building.

We look forward to seeing you!



Wednesday, November 1 Laurens

EXPERIENCE THE CAREER ACADEMY

This program is for students who are mechanically inclined, the advanced manufacturing career pathway is a great start to finding out what career interests them. The course sequence has been designed to build skills in fundamental welding, metal working, blueprint reading, and general machining. Students will develop a solid foundation in basic machining tools such as lathes and milling machines, as well as general shop equipment and tools.



Career Academy Visit Day:

Business panel Hands on experience Tour of local businesses Lunch

Registration begins at 9 am with the day concluding at 2 pm Scan to Register

a Central Community College not to discriminate in its prog ability, age, sexual orientation, gender identify, creed, relig

Ku Klux Klan, In Laurens? By Helen Beneke

An adventuresome 15-year-old was dispatched to complete a mundane task: clean out the second-floor closets of a building which his father had recently purchased. It had been a bank building until the business went under during the Great Depression and then it was used by the U.S. Postal department before being purchased by Don Beneke, Sr., who intended to use the downtown building for his law firm. The obedient son trudged upstairs for this tedious job only to be surprised by his find: tucked in a far corner of one closet was a large box. Opening it, Don Jr.'s adventure began. He first pulled out what he thought was bed linens: sheets and pillowcases. But he noticed two holes in each of the cases. He showed them to his father, who explained that there had been an active Ku Klux Klan group in Pocahontas County.



The directors of "The Cross", Dr. Michael White & Shelby Hagerdon

In 1993, Don Jr. asked a local cabinet maker to make two cases: one large rectangle glass case to display the six KKK hoods and a tall cube glass case to house the Imperial Wizard's hood. During the late '90s and into this century, Don Jr. provided programs for county-wide libraries and clubs throughout the county. Beneke reported, "Invariably, during my presentations, an old timer would report having watched cross-burning in yards of Catholic families."

"The Cross". When Christians see this reference, their thoughts often go to Easter. But during the 1920s, in Pocahontas County (located in northwest Iowa), the Christians had another connotation for "The Cross." Some were prominent; others were run-of-the mill residents of the county, but they banded together, cut eye holes in their pillowcases and wrapped sheets around themselves, turning their bed linens into makeshift Ku Klux Kan wraps. They built large wood crosses and burned them in their neighbor's yard. Yes, the KKK was an active group who attempted to drive the Catholics out of the county, rather than to welcome and enjoy their community folk.

The grandson of one of the targeted families, Dr. Mike White, developed a screenplay about this situation. White's grandmother and grandfather opened a successful café in Laurens, Iowa, before being tormented and driven away by the Ku Klux Klan. Although these events took place over 100 years ago, the story comes to life as White and co-director, Shelby Hagerdon, developed the movie *The Cross*. Dr. White, a professor at Wayne State College, Wayne, NE, created a special summer project class at WSC and his students worked with the professional crew. Filming took place throughout Iowa, Nebraska, and South Dakota.

White said he was affected emotionally and physically while working on this film. "There were few times when making the film I thought, am I picking at the bones of something that is better forgotten?" White said. "It was a painful thing until I got into it and knew there was a lot to be learned and it was something that matters." He went on to explain, "It is very difficult to describe what it felt like when that cross burned. When we sat there and we lit the cross and to see all these people dressed as Klansmen, it was a terrifying thing. Even for the crew, there was a real quiet kind of painful hush over all of it. I think watching that and to realize my family went through that was really

tough." He took two years to develop this film.



Don presenting a KKK program to a women's club in Laurens.

Note: Dr. White's quotes originally appeared in Wayne Daily News, Wayne, Nebraska (waynedailynews.com)

You're invited to view this film at the Pocahontas Art Deco Rialto Theater, running from October 20 – November 3. On October 21, the two directors will lead a "Talk Back" session after the evening movie. Movie times are nightly at 7:00pm and Sunday matinees at 2:00pm.

Imagine: an active Ku Klux Klan group in northwest Iowa. Go figure!



Empirical Wizard's hood

At the Library with Glenda Mulder October 18, 2023

We've been making some fun Halloween plans with the help of some great teens! These kids have been attending our Magician Halloween night their entire lives! We are planning kids Halloween games, stories, activities and crafts starting at 5:30 p.m. Then at 6:30 p.m., the star of the Magic Show Larry Dunbar, will be ready to amaze us with his Tricks!

I'm so curious to hear Dr. Michael White's story of his Catholic grandparents who were persecuted by the KKK in 1920's in Laurens! Join me at the Library this Saturday at 3 p.m. to learn more, and about his movie, "*The Cross*" which will be showing at the Rialto in Pocahontas until November 2.

Book Club is reading E.B. White's classic, "*Charlotte's Web*." I've been spending some bonus time with Mom, so am reading it out loud. Every once in a while we have to pause to reminisce. It makes it even more fun! Join our discussion Monday the 23rd at 7 p.m.

Fall is Laurens Public Library Foundation fundraising time. Funds raised will go towards that gorgeous stained glass window I have been dreaming of for years, as well as our many ongoing projects!

The Board is making plans for our Potato Bar Supper at the Christian Church 5-7 p.m. After that, please stroll across the street to the Library for "Lucy" an original solo musical with Jillian Gabriella. I have heard great reviews about this performer, so I am looking forward to seeing this performance!

Coming Events

October 21 @ 3 p.m. - The Making of "The Cross" with Dr. Michael White and Shelby Hagerdon

October 23 @ 7 p.m. - Book Club "Charlotte's Web" by E.B. White October 24 @ 6:30 p.m. - Cards with Brenda October 31 5:30-6:30 p.m. - Kids Halloween fun! October 31 @ 6:30 p.m. - Halloween Magician Larry Dunbar!

November 1 @ 6:30 p.m. - Evening Tot Time

November 2 3:45-5:00 p.m. - Kids Make-n-Take 6:30 p.m. - Take it Tuesday for adults

November 9 5:00-7:00 p.m. - Library Foundation Fundraiser; Potato Bar Supper

November 9 7 p.m. - "Lucy" an original solo musical with Jillian Gabriella

The Paper

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"Flora and Fauna of the Area" Program Held

On October 13, 2023, Dayton Harson, Naturalist for Pocahontas County Conservation Office, presented a program entitled "Flora and Fauna of the Area" to the Laurens Women's Club at West Iowa Bank. Ms. Harson touched on the subject of local plants, and showed a photo of root systems of native flora which may become as deep as 10 feet.

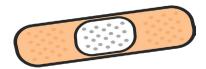
Dayton Harson allowed the group to closely examine the pelts of fauna, namely: the rabbit, woodchuck (or ground hog), badger, beaver, mink, ermine (or weasel, a subspecies of mink), skunk, raccoon, muskrat, possum, river otter, red fox, bob cat, and coyote. Most of the fauna described have some benefit to the ecosystem, even if it may have a nuisance characteristic. River otters (pictured) are making a come back in Iowa and are currently found in Grundy and Lyon Counties.

Bull snakes and fox snakes are most common, and to a lesser extent, garter snakes. Turtles and birds are also common species





Call to schedule your flu shot today – Walk In's Welcome



2023 Clinic Dates

October 24th - 8am-10am

Unity Point Clinic Laurens 712-841-4516



The Feed Shack Food Truck

Provided by Pocahontas Economic Development
Friday, October 20 from 10:30-2pm by Laurens Shelter House

Call a day ahead if you would like food ready to go at a certain time-515.571.6701

Box Meals

Sandwich Box \$10.00

Pulled Pork Sandwich with choice of side

*Add \$1 for Brisket

2 Meat Box \$12.00 3 Meat Box \$14.00

4 Meat Box \$16.00 Low Carb Box \$12.00

** All boxes except low carb served with choice of side and cornbread

Meat Options

Howard's Famous Pulled Pork

The hickory smoked pulled pork that you have come to know and love over the past 40 years! Howard's original recipe

Harley's Best Brisket

Harley's own seasoning and smoke process creates the most tender and delicious brisket that melts in your mouth!

Smoked Ribs

Hardwood smoked, glazed not sauced, tender and so flavorful!

Double Smoked Sausage

Twice smoked beef sausage with a great snap and great smoke flavor

Favorites

Pulled Pork Nachos \$10.00

Nacho chips topped with cheddar cheese sauce, pulled pork, kickin sauce, jalapenos, and sour cream

Haystack \$10.00

Corn chips, pulled pork, shack sauce, baked beans, and slaw in a boat topped with shredded cheese

Southern Sandwich \$10.00

Pulled pork sandwich topped with kickin sauce, jalapenos, and slaw

Brisket Mac Wrap \$10.00 Haystack Wrap \$10.00 Pulled Pork Sandwich \$8.00 Brisket Sandwich \$9.00

SIDES

Sm \$3.00 Lg \$5.00

Cheesy Potatoes * Mac N Cheese * Baked Beans

Jalapeno Street Corn * Coleslaw * Apple Crumble





This Week at Bethany Lutheran

Pastor David E. Klappenbach

Thursday: October 19, 2023 2:00 PM ~ Circle Group

Sunday: October 22, 2023 Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost 9:15 AM - Adult SS

9:30 AM ~ Youth SS & Coffee Fellowship

10:30 AM - Worship

Monday: October 23, 2023 7:00 PM - Hand Bell Rehearsal

Tuesday: October 24, 2023

8:30 AM ~ Prayer Group 9:30 AM ~ Tuesday coffee at Bethany

> Worship, Love, Accept~Together in Christ's Name



This Week at Laurens United Methodist Church

Pastor Deb Parkison

Wed., Oct. 18:

Administrative Council mtg @ 7 p.m.

Sat., Oct. 21:

Sloppy Joe Meal @ 5 p.m. (free will donation)

Sun., Oct. 22:

Sunday School @ 9:15 a.m. Fellowship Coffee @ 9:30 a.m. Worship @ 10:30 a.m. - Baptisms of Nathan & Lauren Bennigsdorf Charge Conference @ 6 p.m. at First UMC in Emmetsburg

Sat., Oct. 28:

Laurens Area Youth Group's Trunk or Treat 5:00 p.m.-6:30 p.m. in south parking lot



This Week at First Christian

Pastor Rev. Rita Cordell

Wednesday, Oct. 18

1:00 p.m. - Movie and Popcorn

Sunday, Oct. 22

9:30 a.m. - Sunday School 10:30 a.m. - Worship 5:00 - 6:30 p.m. - Laurens Area Youth Group at First Christian Church



Resurrection of Our Lord Catholic Church

Pocahontas, IA -- Pastor: Very Rev. Craig Collison, VF

MASS TIMES:

Daily Mass as scheduled in the weekly bulletin Saturday at 5:00 PM and Sunday at 10:30 AM

Confessions: Saturday 4:15 pm at Resurrection

Spiders in the Home Are No Cause for Worry, According to Insect Expert

As autumn leaves begin to turn and the temperature begins to drop, people aren't the only ones looking to get cozy indoors, as many Iowans notice an increase in insect and spider populations around the home during fall. While finding unexpected spiders hiding around the home can be alarming for some, Zach Schumm, insect diagnostician with the Plant and Insect Diagnostic Clinic at Iowa State University, explains that most spiders in Iowa pose little threat to people.

Typically, spiders or other insects that enter indoors are looking for warmth, according to Schumm. While any spider has the potential to accidentally work its way indoors, the types of spiders commonly encountered in the home include wolf spiders, funnel weaving spiders, jumping spiders and cellar spiders.

"The common offenders are the spiders that are more noticeable, either because they are larger or we happen to see them when they aren't hiding," explained Schumm.

All spiders, which can be distinguished from most other arthropods by their eight legs and two body regions, have hollow fangs capable of injecting venom into their prey. However, as Schumm explains, this characteristic should not be a cause for concern for humans, as they only wish

to use their fangs on their food, not on people.

"In the United States as a whole, there are very few medically significant spiders that people need to be concerned about. The typical offenders we hear about, the brown recluse and the black widow, are very uncommon in Iowa," said Schumm. "In addition to being very uncommon, these spiders are typically nonaggressive toward people. Even when they do bite, they often dry bite, meaning that they bite without injecting any venom."

Black widows, which can be distinguished by the red hourglass marking on the underside of their abdomen, have been found in Iowa before, but are uncommon. Even when encountered, these spiders are often described as shy, and prefer to flee from humans when threatened. While their venom is highly toxic, bites are typically not serious since a very small amount of venom is injected. Symptoms of a bite typically include pain and swelling at the site of the bite, headache, shortness of breath and muscle spasms. Very few black widow bites result in serious medical complications.

Brown recluses, the other main species of venomous spider that can be found in Iowa, are also incredibly uncommon. Although their range technically extends into the lower part of the state, they are considered uncommon to extremely rare in the upper Midwest. True to their name, they tend to avoid areas with human activity and rarely bite. They can be distinguished by the dark, violin-shaped marking on their front body section. While bites are not typically immediately painful, a localized burning sensation typically develops within a few hours, followed by raised or darkened skin surrounding the bite. For more information on venomous

spiders in Iowa, visit the ISU Extension and Outreach publication "Potentially Dangerous Spiders."

Since few Iowa spiders pose any real medical threat and are unaggressive, Schumm rarely recommends spraying insecticides around the home.

"Most spiders around the home are more of a nuisance than a medical issue, so I always recommend some level of tolerance," said Schumm. "If you want to reduce their numbers, it's important to seal up any small gaps where they may be entering the home. Putting on new door thresholds, repairing window screens and sealing up cracks can prevent spiders from coming indoors."

"There are some options for managing spiders using insecticides after they've entered, but I would argue that those methods are less healthy and more expensive than letting the spiders be. However, if you're allergic to spider venom or are finding those more medically significant species, you can put out sticky traps to monitor for presence and abundance of spiders or call a pest management company if needed," he added.

While discovering an unwelcome, eight-legged roommate can be startling, it is rarely a cause for alarm.

"People generally tend to be fearful of spiders, but the spiders we see around our homes aren't out to get us," added Schumm. "Next time you find a spider around the house, take the time to observe it for a bit. The more we understand things, the less fearful we tend to be."

For more information on common Iowa spiders, visit https://store. extension.iastate.edu/product/5267, or contact Zach Schumm at zschumm@iastate.edu or by calling 515-294-0581.

Focus on Bull Recovery after Breeding Season

As fall approaches, it is important to keep in mind proper nutrition and care of the herd sires after the breeding season. This is especially true for bulls under two years of age, according to Iowa Beef Center research scientist Garland Dahlke.

"It is common for a young sire to drop one to two body condition scores during the breeding season, so bringing the bull back into condition is the focus in the off season," he said. "The bull is not a feedlot steer so a steady improvement with a moderate weight gain over the next few months is appropriate."

Nutrition is dependent on the age of bulls and the amount of weight lost during the breeding season. High quality forage alone or a lower quality forage with some grain supplementation can work in re-establishing body weight.

For effective management, group bulls with similar nutritional needs during the winter. This also includes adequate bunk or feeder space, so the submissive bulls have a fighting chance.

Typically, mature bulls in fairly good condition can be managed on an all-roughage diet without supplementation during the winter months, Dahlke said. Hay quality should have 8% to 10% crude protein, and be fed at 2% of their body weight.

For young bulls, rations should be formulated to gain half a pound to 2 pounds per day based on age, size and desired weight gain. Young bulls typically lose 50-200 pounds during their first breeding season, so prioritizing protein and energy in their diet will promote growth and subsequent

reproductive health.

Young bulls fed 3-6 pounds of grain in the winter, roughage at 2% of body weight, and total diet protein content of 10-11% often reach the target rate of gain. For bulls used in both spring and fall calving herds, young bulls typically need to gain more with a target of 2 to 2.5 pounds per day to recover from weight loss.

Iowa State University extension beef specialist Chris Clark, who also is a veterinarian, said post-breeding season can be a good time to do an overall health evaluation.

"Hopefully producers have been checking regularly throughout the breeding season and catching things like injuries, lameness, pinkeye and other diseases," he said. "There shouldn't be any big surprises when bulls are pulled from the cows."

Depending on the processing schedule, this may be a good time to vaccinate and treat for parasites, Clark said. Efficacy of external parasite control often has waned by the end of breeding season and bulls may have picked up

internal parasites while grazing, so it may be beneficial to apply some kind of antiparasitic treatment.

Herd biosecurity is another top health priority.

"It may be worthwhile to test for things like trichomonas," Clark said. "In a relatively closed herd, this probably isn't a big concern, but if the bulls have had contact with neighboring herds or if new open cows were added to the herd prior to or during the breeding season, testing is wise."

IBC extension cow-calf specialist Randie Culbertson said focusing on your older bull is helpful now.

"This is also a good time to evaluate your older bull's performance through last year's calf crop," she said. "Did his calves perform as you expected? Will you consider keeping his daughters as replacements? And the bigger question is, did his calves have any calving issues?

"A bull's value is in the performance of his calves, and if his calves are not performing the way you would want, it may be time to consider replacing that bull," Culbertson said.

Pocahontas County Democratic Fundraiser

October 20, 2023 Hinde Center, Pocahontas

6:00pm-Dinner

6:30pm – Guest Speakers Jay Brown,

Candidate for US House, 4th District **Ryan Melton,** Candidate for US House, 4th District

7:00pm-Auction

Items: Antiques, Collectables, Baked Goods, Hand-made Items Holiday Bed Quilt

Free Books

Tickets: \$10.00



For reservations call: Helen Beneke, 335-3871

I-29 Moo University Presents "KeepOrBeef" Decision Aid Webinar on October 31

The I-29 Moo University 2023 Dairy Webinar Series continues Tuesday, Oct. 31 from 12 noon to 1 p.m. CDT. The webinar will feature "KeepOrBeef," a new app from Dairy Records Management Systems (DRMS).

Greg Palas, manager of DRMS support services at Iowa State University, will lead a discussion and demonstration of how the program can be accessed and used by dairy producers.

"Greg has been with the DHI [Dairy Herd Improvement] processing center for over 40 years and works with dairy producers and consultants all over the country," said Fred Hall, dairy specialist with Iowa State University Extension and Outreach. "DRMS is the largest DHI processing center in the country and provides service to over 11,000 herds and over 2 million cows."

According to Palas, the "KeepOrBeef" Decision Aid is designed to help producers determine if a cow should be retained, bred or replaced. It uses individual cow genetic information and performance data, coupled with milk price, replacement cost, value of a dairy replacement versus a dairy male or the value of a dairy beef cross, to predict each cow's future performance and economic values for replacement and mating decision.

"KeepOrBeef" assigns an economic value to the cow and a value to each of the three potential mating sire choices; sexed dairy semen, conventional dairy semen, or beef semen.

"You won't want to miss this opportunity to learn from Greg Palas." Hall said.

There is no fee to participate in the webinar; however, registration is required at least one hour before the webinar. Register online at https://go.iastate.edu/6WBAHK.

For more information, contact: in Iowa, Fred M. Hall, 712-737-4230; in Minnesota, Jim Salfer, 320-203-6093; or in South Dakota, Patricia Villamediana, 605-688-4116.

October Is Prime Time for Ventilation Inspection and Maintenance

Properly functioning ventilation systems are vital to today's pork production facilities, and following a regular process for maintaining their operation can pay big economic dividends.

As the weather turns cooler, it's critical to get barns ready for winter to help reduce heating costs and provide a good environment for the pigs, according to Brett Ramirez, agriculture and biosystems engineer with Iowa State University Extension and Outreach.

"Routine equipment inspections and maintenance will pay dividends in the long run, not only by extending the life of the equipment, but also creating a good environment inside the barn," Ramirez said. "In late fall, producers often have a lot of things to do, and a checklist helps keep things organized inside the barn."

A newly released winter ventilation checklist publication from the Iowa Pork Industry Center is a great tool for this seasonal job. Look for Winter Ventilation Checklist AE3553B, available as a free download from the ISU Extension store.

"Some of the tasks and checkpoints listed might not be intuitive for everyone, so having a detailed list with a place for notes is an excellent guide," he said. "Laminating a printed copy to keep in the barn also allows a person to mark what they found, and then easily clear it for the next year."

Ramirez cautions producers that because each barn, system and other contributing factors may be different, not all recommendations listed might be appropriate for every location.

City Council Minutes

Monday, October 2nd, 2023

The Laurens City Council met in regular session at the Municipal Building at 5:00 p.m. on Monday, October 2nd, 2023. Mayor Pro Tem John Jamison called the meeting to order. Present were Council members Hannah Zylstra, Loren Booth Aaron Christenson, Jean Swanson, City Manager Hilary Reed, Public Works Director Julian Johnsen, and Deputy City Clerk Joan Hoben. Mayor Johnson was absent.

Zylstra moved to approve the consent agenda consisting of the minutes from the September 18th and September 25th, 2023, meetings, and the list of claims. Booth seconded. All ayes: motion carried.

GLADAG 10/02/2022	,	
CLAIMS 10/02/2023 ACCO	WATER PLANT CHEMICALS	3,914.40
AHLERS & COONEY	PROFESSIONAL FEES	127.00
ALLIANT ENERGY	MONTHLY GAS	39.69
BOMGAARS	CLOTHING ALLOWANCE	552.68
COMMUNITY FIRST AUTO	CLOTHING ALLOWANCE	
PARTS	PARTS FOR SEWER TRUCK	15.94
DAKOTA SUPPLY GROUP FOUNDATION ANALYTICAL	SUPPLIES	37.30
LAB	WASTEWATER TESTING	1,117.00
GFC LEASING	COPIER LEASING	67.32
HILARY REED	MEETING	34.34
IACMA	RETIREMENT 457	500.00
IDNR	WATER PERMIT 6443	115.00
IRS	FED/FICA TAXES	5,959.22
IPERS	IPERS	6,359.39
IPERS/PD	PROTECTED IPERS	2,010.86
LMPC	MONTHLY PHONE CHARGES	427.24
LMU	MONTHLY UTILITIES	3,692.53
MICHAELSON, INC.	CEMETERY ROAD	3,600.00
POC COMMUNITY HOSPITAL	RANDOM TESTING	34.75
RSM US LLP	TECH SUPPORT	900.00
SANDRY FIRE SUPPLY, LLC	FIRE DEPTMENT SUPPLIES	263.15
SANTANDER LEASING, LLC	PUMPER PAYMENT	1,461.34
SECURE SHRED SOLUTIONS	PAPER SHREDDING	26.00
TREASURER STATE OF IOWA	SEPT. SALES TAXES	5,463.82
VERZION WIRELESS	CELL PHONE	95.55
ZIEGLER, INC.	FILTERS	33.80
Elegation (C.	TOTAL	36,848.32
PAYROLL	9/18/2023	
001	GENERAL	6,760.26
210 600	ROAD USE TAX WATER	1,516.62 2,843.69
610	SEWER	2,848.36
670	GARBAGE	2,615.76
	TOTAL	16,584.69
	PAYROLL TOTAL	16,584.69
	PAID TOTAL	53,433.01
001	GENERAL	
110	ROAD USE TAX	21,439.68 3,136.90
600	WATER	15,623.85
610	SEWER	7,835.02
670	GARBAGE TOTAL BY FUND	5,397.56
	TOTAL BY FUND	53,433.01
DELIEVE	CENEDAL	22 222 27
REVENUES	GENERAL ROAD USE TAX	33,209.85 19,748.19
	EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	15,593.23

City Council Minutes

EMERGENCY LEVY		853.21
LOCAL OPTION SALES TAX		13,450.30
TAX INCREMENT FINANCING		1,382.61
POOL RESTRICTED		11,590.00
DEBT SERVICE		16,746.79
CAPITAL EQUIPMENT		1,761.96
WATER		48,846.92
SEWER		33,355.33
GARBAGE		21,306.78
STORM WATER		2,987.16
	TOTAL	220,832.33

An update from Pat Sullivan regarding the Proposed Community Center Committee was given.

Swanson moved to approve the Offer of Employment of Part Time Public Works Employee to Ben Zylstra. Booth seconded. All ayes with Zylstra abstaining; motion carried.

Zylstra moved to adjourn 5:14 p.m. Swanson seconded. All ayes. Motion carried.

John Jamison, Mayor Pro Tem	Hilary Reed, City Clerk	