

CARROLL TIMES HERALD

W E K E N D E D I T I O N

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2023

CARROLLSPAPER.COM

1 DOLLAR

ANNOUNCEMENT

Fisher to lead Carroll Times Herald, Jefferson Herald

Long-serving newspaper professional joins family-owned Iowa media company

Times Herald staff

Jeff Wagner, president of Iowa Information Media Group (IIMG), and owner of the Carroll Times Herald and The Jefferson Herald, announces Steve Fisher as the company's central general manager with responsi-

bilities for both newspapers effective Feb. 6.

"I'm excited to give the Carroll and Jefferson communities the dedication they both deserve with the addition of Steve Fisher as general manager," Wagner said. "He is an experienced, community-minded professional who

will thrive in leading both newspaper operations.

"Leading a local media company is about being involved in the community, serving on boards and committees. Carroll and Jefferson are great communi-



Steve Fisher

ties, and they deserve strong, involved, community newspapers. Steve was the first person we thought of when the Wilson and Burns families approached us about buying the papers."

Wagner believes everything good in a town can be defined as "community" and says his newspapers want to be part of the ongoing community-building process.

Fisher said he is eager to

begin work in Carroll and Jefferson.

"My break from the media reinvigorated a great appreciation of the storytelling that you just don't find in outlets other than community journalism," he said.

"I'm very excited to get there and hear from the community," Fisher added.

Arriving in Iowa in 2001, Fisher has been a Dubuque resident ever since.

Fisher completed high

school in Mexico, MO, a town with a similar population size and feel to the Carroll and Jefferson areas, he says.

"Both towns have a lot of pride in their schools, there is lots of community involvement and volunteering," Fisher said.

Fisher spent 18 years at Dubuque-based Woodward Communications Inc. (WCI).

FISHER, PAGE 2

COMMUNITY

LONGTIME MANAGER FOR EARL MAY GARDEN CENTER TO RETIRE SOON



SARAH STORTZ | TIMES HERALD

Mike Pudenz, the manager for the Carroll Earl May Garden Center, standing behind the front register of the store on Tuesday, Jan. 31. Working for the garden store since 1973, Pudenz will officially retire this year.

By SARAH STORTZ | s.stortz@carrollspaper.com

Mike Pudenz, the store manager for the local Earl May Garden Center, has worked at the store since 1973, when he was 19-years-old.

After 50 years of helping customers make sure they have the right tools and supplies for their gardens, Pudenz is planning to retire later this year. March 26 will officially mark his 50th year of working for the garden store.

On March 23, the Carroll Chamber of Commerce will host a Night Shift at the Earl May Garden Center to celebrate the retirement of Pudenz. The event will go from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Earl May Garden Center is a full service garden center, carrying lawn and garden seeds one needs throughout the year. They carry vegetable, perennial and annual plants.

In their nursery, the selection ranges from small shrubs to large trees, as well as having a selection

of house plants. They also carry chemicals and fertilizers needed for gardens.

When he first started, Pudenz said Earl May was downtown close to the city's police station is located.

Growing up on a farm, Pudenz said he was interested in working outdoors, particularly with plants and gardening.

"I thought this would be a good fit," Pudenz said.

In 1977, Pudenz stepped in as the manager for the store in Boone, where he

stayed for eight years. In 1985, Pudenz transferred to the store in Denison, working there until 1995. Since then, Pudenz moved back to Carroll to work at his current store, where he has stayed for the last 28 years.

Coming from a small community himself, Pudenz said he wanted to transfer to a location in a town of a similar size when he moved between stores.

When he comes into work everyday, Pudenz said mostly enjoys working with people and getting to know the customers.

With the transition of the four seasons, Pudenz said it helps bring different facets to his job.

"You have Spring, which is probably the most enjoyable when you get all the plants and flowers and gardening in," Pudenz said.

"In the Summer is where we change our displays and gear up for another sea-

son and then Fall comes and there's another season with mums and different types of plant material. At Christmastime, we gear up for Christmas trees and outdoor decorations and things like that, so it's never the same. It's always changing, always different."

After over 20 years of working at the store, Pudenz said he gets to know everybody by their first name.

"That's what I'll probably miss the most, just seeing a lot of people that I normally see on a weekly or monthly basis," Pudenz said.

Throughout his years working at Earl May, Pudenz said they have a program where they donate trees for community spaces as a way to build strong habitats.

A few of the locations they've planted include

PUDENZ, PAGE 2

COUNTY GOVERNMENT

Supervisors reduce proposed salary increases by 57%

By JACK McCLELLAN
j.mcclellan@carrollspaper.com

The Carroll County Board of Supervisors reduced the Compensation Board's recommended raises for county employees and certain elected officials by 57% after five failed motions and some debate.

When reducing the Compensation Board's recommendation, the Board of Supervisors is required to do so equally between the various positions, with the exception of their own pay. The board opted to include their own wages in the decision.

The county sheriff will receive a 7.31% raise, the county attorney, treasurer and recorder will receive a 5.16% raise, the county auditor will receive a 4.3% raise and supervisors will receive 3.87% raises.

The compensation board's

recommendation was originally a 17% raise for the Carroll County Sheriff, 12% for the treasurer, recorder and attorney, a 10% raise for the auditor and a 9% raise for supervisors.

The board approved the 57% decrease, proposed by District 4 Supervisor Stephanie Hausman, in a 3-1 vote with District 3 Supervisor Gene Meiners voting against the motion. Meiners earlier suggested a 50% reduction which failed after his motion received no second and later a 52% reduction which did receive a second from District 1 Supervisor Scott Johnson, but did not receive the majority vote. Johnson himself proposed a 55% decrease, but the motion failed after receiving no second.

District 2 Supervisor Mike Andersen proposed a 60.7% cut to the Compensation

SALARY, PAGE 2

EDUCATION

CHS receives STEM BEST + HD program award

Special to the Times Herald

The Iowa Governor's STEM Advisory Council announced Carroll High School as one of the 37 school districts joining the STEM BEST (Businesses Engaging Students and Teachers) + HD (High Demand) Program. The STEM BEST Program brings schools and businesses together to provide students with real workplace experiences, introduce businesses and career opportunities in Iowa and gain career-ready skills.

The STEM BEST + HD Program encourages teachers and industry professionals to work side-by-side to develop a work-based learning model that incorporates STEM subjects like mathematics and science with experiential learning opportunities

to emphasize high-demand skills for the workplace. The Council's investment of professional and financial support can be used for curriculum development and coordination, educator training and development in workplace-classroom integration and preparing work-based learning environments.

Carroll High School will utilize the grant funding to create and establish an Introduction to Pathways course required by all Freshmen students during their first semester to assist in their college and career planning while piloting a multitude of pathways. The grant will also provide Carroll students with the opportunity to immerse themselves in one

AWARD, PAGE 9

COUNTY GOVERNMENT

Supervisors renew health insurance plan

By JACK McCLELLAN
j.mcclellan@carrollspaper.com

The Board of Supervisors renewed their county health insurance plan with no changes to the previous years during their meeting Monday morning.

The supervisors briefly discussed a change from

and 15-85 split, where employees contribute 15% of the cost associated with their healthcare, to a 20-80 split, but ultimately decided to stick to their current plan.

District 4 Supervisor, Stephanie Hausman said she wanted to keep the plan as is, as a form of

thanks to the county employees for being preventative.

"We've been very fortunate, we've got very good employees and they're taking care of themselves, and they need to understand this isn't a forever thing, at some point, we will have an increase," Hausman said.

The decision came after a report during the board's previous meeting from Wellmark Blue Cross Blue Shield Account Manager, Clark Nelson, in which he explained the county is in generally good shape, seeing relatively few claims from the majority of its workforce.

Start delivery of the Carroll Times Herald
717-792-3573 or
800-262-5495



FIND IT

Births.....	Page 2
Calendar.....	Page 2
Photo Rewind.....	Page 2
Senior Meals.....	Page 2
Weather.....	Page 3
Sports.....	Page 5
Obituaries.....	Page 7
Opinion.....	Page 7
Crime & Courts.....	Page 8