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Western Iowa Advantage is a collaborative group of economic development officials in Audubon, Calhoun, Carroll, Crawford, Greene, Ida, and Sac Counties.

A Legacy of Craftsmanship Continues: Warner Woodworking Transitions to Wozniak Woodworking

In communities like Rockwell City, businesses are more than storefronts—they are stories. Stories of hard work, relationships, and a commitment to doing things right. For decades, Warner Woodworking has been one of those stories.

Known for quality craftsmanship and a reputation built on trust, Warner Woodworking, owned and operated by Gary Warner for 50 years, has long been a cornerstone of the local business community. From custom projects to finely crafted woodwork, the business reflected not just skill—but pride in work that stands the test of time.



Gary Warner

Now, that legacy enters a new chapter with the transition of the business to Wozniak Woodworking, LLC, the tools may change hands, but the heart of the work remains firmly rooted in Rockwell City.

“This isn’t just a business sale—it’s a continuation,” said Theresa Hildreth, Executive Director of Calhoun County Economic Development. “It represents the best of rural Iowa—where one generation builds something meaningful, and the next steps in to carry it forward.”

Honoring the Past, Building the Future

For Warner Woodworking, the decision to transition the business reflects years of dedication and a thoughtful approach to succession. Rather than closing the doors, the opportunity was created for a new entrepreneur to step in—preserving not only the business, but the skill, knowledge, and reputation that came with it.

“We’ve been incredibly fortunate to serve this community for so many years,” said Gary Warner of Warner Woodworking. “The support and patronage from Rockwell City and the surrounding area has meant everything to us. We’re proud of the work we’ve done, grateful for the relationships we’ve built, and confident knowing the business is in good hands moving forward.”

That transition has been strengthened through mentorship, ensuring that the values and standards Warner Woodworking was known for continue into the future.

“It means something to see the work continue,” Hildreth shared. “Gary Warner built two custom kitchens for us, as well as a number of custom furniture pieces and now Ben Wozniak is crafting another kitchen project for us. You don’t want to see a business like that disappear. You want to see it grow.”

A New Chapter with Wozniak Woodworking

Wozniak Woodworking represents the next generation of craftsmanship in Calhoun County—bringing energy, vision, and a commitment to building on a strong foundation.

A Legacy of Craftsmanship Continues

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With support from local partners, including financing through the Calhoun County Revolving Loan Fund programs, the transition has positioned the business for continued success and growth. This kind of collaboration—pairing local entrepreneurship with community-backed resources—is exactly what keeps rural economies moving forward.

More Than a Business Transition

This story is about more than woodworking. It's about continuity. It's about mentorship. And it's about a community that values its businesses enough to ensure they don't just exist—but endure. “When we talk about economic development, this is it,” Hildreth said. “It's not always about something new—it's about sustaining what we already have, honoring it, and helping it evolve.”

A Community That Grows Together

The transition from Warner Woodworking to Wozniak Woodworking stands as a powerful example of what's possible when experience meets opportunity. It's a reminder that in Calhoun County, businesses don't just start and stop- they grow, transition, and continue to serve as part of a larger story.

A story of craftsmanship.

A story of resilience.

A story of **growing here**.



Elements Salon & Co. Audubon

Kasey Hawkins purchased Park Place Salon when the owner decided to retire at the beginning of 2026. Kasey and her family took the opportunity to make it her own with a re-brand, remodel of the interior and added new services and stylist. Red light therapy, tanning memberships, and retail products are a few of the updates. Kasey applied for a facade grant through Audubon County Economic Development to update the facade. Kasey was awarded funds and replaced doors, windows and signage. She also painted the exterior and replaced the awning.



WIAD Partners Tour Iowa Corn Processors

Western Iowa Advantage partners toured the Iowa Corn Processors (ICP) facility in Glidden, Iowa on May 11. ICP is a corn milling and ingredient supplier who has expanded in western Iowa recently to keep up with demand and changes in technology. Charles Hayes, ICP Plant Manager, guided the tour and discussed the process from receiving corn from local growers all the way through bagging and distribution via bulk rail. ICP provides corn producers with a competitive place to market their local corn outside of conventional animal feed operations while providing a very specific product to food grade manufacturers



