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Fellowship, Community, and a Feast: Community Thanksgiving a Triumph for New Organizers

By Edward Lynn
Editor,

The annual Community Thanksgiving Feast brought residents together Thursday at Sacred Heart Catholic Church. The event, which has long been treated as secular and open to those of all faiths, was for the first time organized by the Eagle Grove Area Ministerial Association (EGAMA), the local association of churches, after the Chamber of Commerce "passed the baton." Who continued the tradition of interfaith fellowship, open to everyone, that makes the event so special.

And with over 100 meals served in person, alongside

deliveries reaching homes across the city, it was all made possible by volunteers. "This event is a highlight for many in our community," said Chamber of Commerce Director Brooke Hathaway, who stressed that the event "wouldn't be possible without the help of dedicated volunteers." And not just on the day of the event, but on the days leading up to it.

A case in point is Hathaway's husband, Tyler Hathaway, the proprietor and chef at the Nine & Dine restaurant at the Country Club, who did a lot of the cooking. "Speaking both as the Chamber Director and Tyler's wife, I want to highlight the incredible ef-

fort Tyler puts into preparing this meal for the community," Hathaway said. "From roasting turkeys to making green bean casserole and dressing, he dedicates countless hours, doing a majority of the cooking on his own—often missing his own family Thanksgiving celebrations to make it happen."

And with sixteen turkeys cooked to perfection, ample green bean casserole, and creamy mashed potatoes with delicious gravy, as well as a stuffing so popular supplies ran out before the end of the meal, and an assortment of pies and other deserts, it's easy to see how much work that really was for all the vol-

unteers.

The Scouts BSA troop were among the volunteers as usual, helping to serve meals and assist diners. Scouts helped ensure everyone had their trays carried and their beverages and desserts delivered — a thoughtful tradition meant to include everyone equally, making sure those needing assistance didn't stand out.

And City Administrator Bryce Davis was spotted serving coffee, who confirmed that he had decided to volunteer for the event this year.

Everyone was welcomed warmly, and the sense of camaraderie and community

was palpable throughout the event. From table to table, the stories of those in attendance emerged. At some, families, with their children dressed in their best holiday attire gathered to give thanks as the kids gave in to their instinct to play and ran among the tables. At others, long-time friends gathered around tables, sharing the stories that came along with their grey hair, and laughing at the antics of children. And at another table strangers, who had only met that day, shared their Thanksgiving meals together, united by the spirit of the holiday.

Many attendees took advantage of the opportunity to gather before moving on to

their family festivities, while others, who were working or unable to travel, found a sense of fellowship in the event. For those who were homebound or disabled, the deliveries ensured they could still enjoy a traditional Thanksgiving meal, with all the trimmings, in the comfort of their homes.

If they were being tested, EGAMA passed the test with flying colors, meeting the challenge of serving every hungry body and soul in the community with a quiet grace. Making for a Thanksgiving marked not only by a shared feast, but also by the kindness and connection felt by all who attended.



Jessica, Emily and Annamae Hovland helped out in the kitchen when not helping guests to their seats, while their brothers Ronald and Michael Hovland served lemonade and water to the thirsty patrons. (Photos provided)

A happy Loretta Moon moves down the buffet after being served up some steaming hot turkey by Scout leader Ken Umthun. (Photo by Edward Lynn)



It's Beginning to Look a lot Like Christmas...

City workers put up holiday decorations last week, and now with the first real snowfall of the week, it's really starting to look like the lyrics to that old, well worn, beloved song around town! (Photos by Edward Lynn).

Dog Park Groundbreaking Tentatively Planned for 2025

By Edward Lynn
Editor

A new dog park is expected to break ground, perhaps as early as the spring of 2025, pending additional fundraising efforts this spring, according to City Administrator Bryce Davis.

"Ideally, we're looking at spring 2025, depending on whether all the money is raised," Davis said. He credited Anna Withers, an Eagle Scout candidate in the local girls troop of the Scouts BSA, for her efforts and highlighted planned fundraising initiatives this year.

Withers has raised \$5,000 already, Scoutmaster Rick Dawson told the Eagle. Withers intends to raise a good deal more through the sale of memorial license plates, Dawson added, celebrating family dogs both

present and past, as well as seeking grants from local charitable organizations.

The city can assist Withers with her fundraising by acting as a fiscal agent, Davis explained, which is legally required for certain charitable grants. In this role, the city would receive funds from charitable foundations on Anna's behalf, ensuring compliance with grant regulations. Once the funds are received, the city would then disburse them to be used specifically for the dog park project.

The proposed dog park, Withers' Eagle Scout project, has raised internal questions within city government about whether it would best fall under the maintenance of the Parks and Recreation Department, or be otherwise maintained. Additionally, it could be built at either an

existing city park or at the old Cardinal Park location. The decision on whether Parks and Rec will take responsibility for maintaining the facility is still pending. And that decision may well impact the placement.

But Davis stressed the role amenities like dog parks play in attracting residents to communities. "If someone moved to town because there was an amenity they liked—be it a dog park, a disc golf course, a pool, or a rec center—they're bringing their disposable income to the town," Davis said. He emphasized that amenities can help make Eagle Grove more appealing to prospective residents, ultimately boosting local revenue.

See **DOG PARK:**
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Wolf Carbon Solutions Withdraws Application for Iowa Carbon Pipeline Permit

A pipeline slated to pass through Eagle Grove and Goldfield is still planned.

By Edward Lynn
Editor

"Talking with landowners, it's been months and months since they've even heard the writing on the wall." That was the reaction of Emma Schmit, director of "Pipeline Fighters," a group affiliated with the BOLD Alliance that focuses on land and water issues in rural states, to the news that Wolf Carbon Solutions, one of three companies seeking to build carbon diox-

ide pipelines across much of Iowa, has withdrawn its application for a state permit to build a carbon pipeline in eastern Iowa.

"We tend to see these companies withdraw their applications and then never resubmit, so as far as I'm concerned, things are basically kaput," Schmidt told Radio Iowa.

The company had planned a 95-mile pipeline to capture carbon emissions from ADM plants in Cedar Rap-

ids and Clinton, transporting the liquefied carbon to underground storage in Illinois. Wolf Carbon Solutions previously withdrew its permit request in Illinois last year.

The withdrawal notice from Wolf Carbon Solutions did not indicate if the company would revise its plans or submit a new permit request to the Iowa Utilities Board.

In early 2023, Wolf had announced it would not seek eminent domain authority from Iowa regulators to seize

land from unwilling property owners, relying instead on voluntary access along the proposed pipeline route.

"That's what they said in Illinois as well, and I think that was one of their major problems," Schmit said. "... If they're not going to abuse eminent domain powers, they're kind of stuck with no other option but to cancel the project."

The three pipeline companies — Wolf, Navigator CO2

Ventures, and Summit Carbon Solutions — announced plans in 2022 to build carbon pipelines in Iowa. Navigator canceled its project last year. Summit now hopes to extend its proposed route to include ethanol plants initially signed up with Navigator.

Schmit expressed doubt that ADM plants involved in Wolf's project would seek

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\$1.50

2023
Award Winning
Newspaper

Thanksgiving Turkeys

By Lowell Washburn

I love the Thanksgiving holidays. I say holidays [plural] because, on most years, I get to celebrate by enjoying four separate turkey dinners. The first takes place during the official Thursday holiday where I spend the day with around forty or so relatives. Turkey Master, Paul Beatty supplies the birds for that event. Beatty has turned turkey cooking into a science, and his offerings are simply the best you'll ever taste. The following celebrations – which stretch out into early December – are smaller in size, but continue the Thanksgiving theme by featuring roast turkey as the main entrée. Good thing I love eating turkey as much as I do.

My task is to supply a bird for the final dinner. It is my only responsibility. But this year, the clock was winding down and I had no bird to offer. With the final event currently looming large, my turkey dinner was still roaming the woods alive and well. It wasn't until the final day of November, that I finally took to the field. The weather had taken an overnight turn and, according to the Weather Channel, the predawn temperature had plummeted to 5 degrees and a brisk northwest wind was delivering a minus thirteen-degree wind chill. Time to add an extra shirt and goose down vest to my morning wardrobe.

Setting up in the dark, I picked a spot that turned out to be close, but not quite in the money. With the arrival of daylight, I saw several turkeys come off the roost. But the birds failed to respond to my call,



By 10:30 the turkeys had fed out of sight without offering a shot.

and refused to move in my direction. Instead, the birds regrouped, went into a tight huddle, and then didn't budge for the next two hours. It was apparent that the turkeys didn't like the change in weather either.

A couple of birds finally began to scratch around, and the entire flock eventually became active. By 10:30 the turkeys had fed their way out of sight. After that I saw a couple of deer but no more turkeys. At noon, I decided to pack it in.

It was late afternoon when I took to the woods for the second time. By now, the clock seemed to be in overdrive. Back home, I still had a turkeyless fridge and was working myself into somewhat of a panic. Selecting a different section of the same timber, I placed a single decoy, took a seat against the base of a sturdy oak, and prayed for

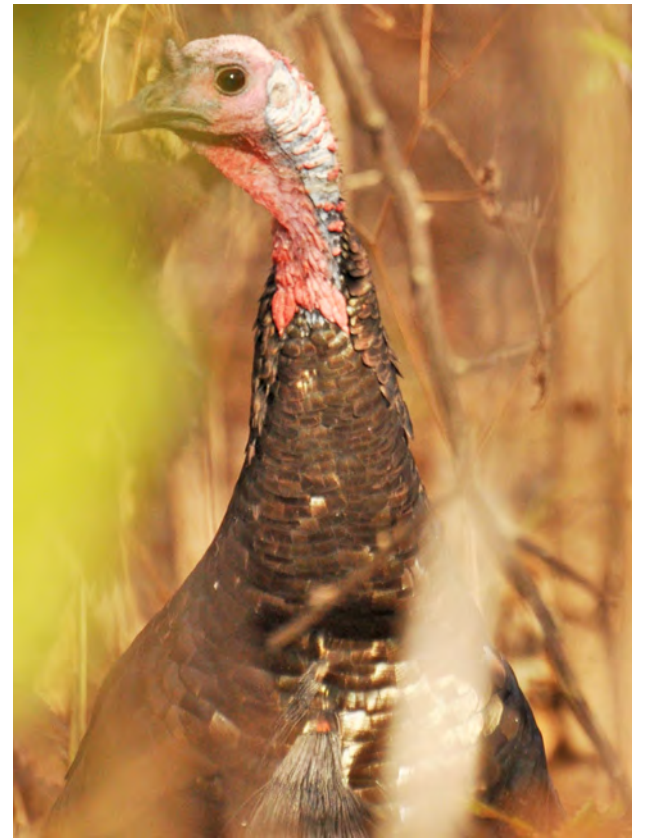
the best. The sun was low on the horizon when I finally spotted a group of five or six long-bearded gobblers headed in my general direction. The gooseberries were thick and keeping track of their approach became an on again, off again proposition. Ironically, the closer the turkeys got, the harder they were to see.

My decoy was in a small opening and the first gobbler to approach the effigy popped up as somewhat of a surprise. All I could see was the bird's head and neck suddenly protruding above the dense screen of thorny gooseberries. Although alert, the bird did not appear to be alarmed, and I held my fire. I detected some additional movement to his side, as three more Long Beards soon appeared. Within seconds, all of the birds were standing within easy shotgun range. As I continued to

enjoy the show, one of the birds suddenly emitted a loud and distinctive alarm putt. I don't know exactly what aroused his suspicion, but the big bird obviously knew something was wrong. The rest of the birds immediately extended their heads and began to mimic his alarm. The gig was up, and it was time to make my move. Picking the bird with the highest head, I pulled the trigger. The shotgun roared, and my belated Thanksgiving gobbler was in the bag.

With my much-needed turkey entrée now secured, the pressure was off. Hanging the bird from a low branch, I took a seat on a nearby log and savored the moment. I love the Thanksgiving holidays.

Enjoy more wildlife tales online at Washburn's Outdoor Journal at iawildlife.org/blog/.



The gig was up, and it was time to make my move. Picking the bird with the highest head, I pulled the trigger. (Photos courtesy of Lowell Washburn)



The pressure was off. My much-needed gobbler was securely in the bag.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS MEAL

IS COMING TO YOUR TOWN!



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MONDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2024

SIoux RAPIDS, IOWA
8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.
 Fire Station
 810 Birch Street
 Sioux Rapids, IA 50585

LAURENS, IOWA
10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
 United Methodist Church
 201 W Main Street
 Laurens, IA 50554

WEST BEND, IOWA
12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.
 Fire Station
 201 First Street NE
 West Bend, IA 50597

GILMORE CITY, IOWA
2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.
 Behind City Hall
 304 South Gilmore Street
 Gilmore City, IA 50541

EAGLE GROVE, IOWA
4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
 Wright County Fairgrounds
 901 SE First Street
 Eagle Grove, IA 50533



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A packed house at the Red Shed Event Center as Wright County residents came together to support the Holmes Christmas Club. (Photo by Becky Barrett)



Volunteers of all ages make the Holmes Christmas Club Auction possible! (Photo by Becky Barrett)

The Holmes Christmas Club Auction Marks 80 Years

By Amanda Rink, Mid-America Publishing

Last Monday, the Red Shed Events Center north of Clarion welcomed around 130 people from across Wright County. It was a night filled with tradition and generosity at the 80th annual Holmes Christmas Club Auction.

This tradition began eight decades ago in the small town of Holmes. At the time, a small bar served as the community's gathering place for card games and conversation. One evening, when word spread of a local family in need, a small group of men auctioned off a rifle for funds to provide

the family with a Christmas celebration. That simple act of kindness sparked a movement that has since grown into a countywide effort to support those in need.

Today, the Holmes Christmas Club Auction continues to be held on the Monday before Thanksgiving, with a meal provided by the Clarion Ruritans. The event's auction items, donated by local businesses, raise funds that are distributed throughout Wright County to assist nonprofits, schools, and individuals in need.

In 2024, the Holmes Christmas Club's impact reached a remarkable range

of organizations and individuals:

Food pantries in Belmont, Clarion, Dows, and Eagle Grove.

The Gift of Giving Backpack Program, ensures children have school supplies.

The Hospice for Wright County, provides comfort to patients and their families.

School nurse funds in Belmont, Clarion, and Eagle Grove to help students in crisis.

The Wright County Crisis Intervention Service, aids victims of domestic violence.

Spirit of Giving programs in Belmont, Clarion, Dows, and Eagle Grove, spreading

holiday cheer.

The Community Corral Adopt-a-Classroom Program, supports local educators.

The Clarion Senior Center, offers vital resources to older residents.

\$500 scholarships for Belmont, Clarion, and Eagle Grove High School students.

Support for CGD Peer Helpers, fostering leadership among youth.

\$250 checks to each of the 37 churches in Wright County to help families in need celebrate Christmas.

The organization distributed \$14,000 in Chamber Bucks, boosting the lo-

cal economy, and donated thousands of dollars to assist individuals and families in Wright County with medical expenses, benefit fundraisers, and emergency needs.

Board President Nick Barrett shared his gratitude, "People are generous with their time and money to donate to our cause, and we appreciate it year after year."

The Holmes Christmas Club's success is made possible by a dedicated team of volunteers and board members, including Lisa and Dean Kluss, Jacki and Kenny Bock, Holly and Steve Martin, Becky and

Nick Barrett, Kathy Braun, Jodi and Jeff Pentico, Tori Jergenson, Kaia Voss, and Debbie Bruns.

What began as a simple act of kindness has grown into a powerful legacy, reminding all of us of the extraordinary impact one small action can have.

Wright County Readies Roads for Winter, Approves Drainage Repairs

Amanda Rink, Mid-America Publishing

The Wright County Board of Supervisors approved critical drainage repairs, prepared roads for winter, and finalized plans for a major detour during their Monday morning meeting.

The meeting, held in person and through Zoom, saw quick approvals for routine matters that then led to a discussion with Wright County Engineer Adam Clemons about the county's readiness for winter weather.

The board, acting first as Drainage Trustees, approved two significant repair projects and addressed a resident's concern about

water flow in Lake Township.

Monty Anderson requested a new work order for the removal of beaver dams in Lake Township which was approved. Additionally, the board approved payment for:

- A \$2,100 trenching project in Section 21 of Eagle Grove to repair a collapsed drainage tile, completed by Eagle Grove Trenching.

- A \$1,385 project by Maasdam to fix a crushed pipe in Lake Township.

Transitioning to winter preparations, County Engineer Adam Clemons shared that over the past week, county crews installed snow equipment, touched up roads when the weath-

er allowed, and inspected culverts. Crews conducted controlled ditch burning last week as well.

The board also approved Resolution 2024-33, officially awarding the \$1.7 million contract for the Voss Quarry Bridge reconstruction to Peterson Contractors of Reinbeck, Iowa. The project, previously reported by the Wright County Monitor, involves replacing the bridge on County Road C70 with a 264-foot, triple-span prestressed concrete structure.

Wright County Engineer Adam Clemons noted that the \$1,737,108.61 bid was significantly lower than the earlier \$2.4-\$2.75 million estimates, reflecting de-

clining construction costs. The funding for the project includes 80% from a Federal R.A.I.S.E. Grant and 20% from Farm to Market road use taxes, with no local tax dollars being used.

Clemons also detailed finished work orders involving signage for the upcoming detour, which will "go up Franklin through Eagle Grove, and then back on 17."

The next meeting of the Wright County Board of Supervisors is set for Monday, December 9, at 9:00 a.m. Members of the public can view recordings of this and previous meetings on the county's official YouTube channel at @WrightCountyIowaOfficial8312.

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And, because Eagle Grove isn't necessarily overflowing with available homes to buy, new residents may choose to build—which would have a significant effect on property taxes and schools. Indeed, an example of such a situation occurred recently, with the city siting a privately purchased manufactured home on a property in town. The city recently provided a tax rebate to incentivize the construction, covering 20% of the

local expenditures, which amounted to over \$28,000.

Davis noted that this type of investment can generate long-term benefits, including increased property tax revenue of approximately \$4,000 to \$5,000 annually, just from the one property. Which supports both city infrastructure and local schools. Meaning that in just the one recent case, for a \$28,000 one time investment the city has brought new residents to town, who will spend their disposable

income in the community, and also brought in between \$4,000 to \$5,000 a year for the next several decades, adding up to approximately \$40,000 to \$50,000 per decade for the life of the structure.

And, Davis explained, the city could repeat this kind of investment if it proved to be financially sound, thus bringing more money into the local economy and school system. "We will always look at the analysis for the cost benefit for ev-

ery type of project," Davis said, noting that the project needs to present the necessary cash flow. But, if it does, and "there's a long term benefit for the city where we can justify the expenditure, then that's a conversation that the council can have" and potentially move forward on.

The location and maintenance plans for the dog park will be discussed in future Parks and Recreation board meetings, yet to be scheduled.

Happenings

P.E.O. Chapter EJ meet November 12th at Barb Dooley's home. 10 members and 1 guest attended.

Cheryl Jacobsen gave the lesson on Founder's Day. LuAnn Mersch and Bev Wilde received their 50 year recognition certificates in P.E.O.

Both LuAnn and Bev's mothers were 50 year members and they each have a daughter that are members. Barb Dooley served lunch.

Eagle Grove Community School District -MENU-

Monday, Dec. 9
BREAKFAST: Breakfast Taco, Hashbrown, Fruit, Juice
LUNCH: Mr. Rib, Baked Beans, Coleslaw, Pineapple

Tuesday, Dec. 10
BREAKFAST: Breakfast Sandwich, Fruit, Juice
LUNCH: Tacos, Refried Beans, Lettuce, Cheese, Tomato, Orange

Wednesday, Dec. 11
BREAKFAST: Cereal, Maple Peach Muffin, Fruit, Juice
LUNCH: Cheeseburger, Fries, Peas, Cinnamon Apples

Thursday, Dec. 12
BREAKFAST: Waffles, Ham, Fruit, Juice
LUNCH: Quesadilla, Corn, Salad, Peaches

Friday, Dec. 13
BREAKFAST: Cereal, Crescent, Fruit, Juice
LUNCH: Italian Pull Apart, Soup, Carrots/Celery, Peas

LETTER TO THE EDITOR POLICY

The Eagle Grove Eagle welcomes the opinions of our readers in the form of letters to the editor, as long as the submissions are not in bad taste and refrain from attacking individuals without supporting documentation or a rational and legally defensible justification. In any event the newspaper reserves the sole discretion to decide whether or not a reader submission will be published. If your letter is selected it will be run on a single occasion and you agree to give us the right to publish it in print and digital form. The Eagle Grove Eagle will not accept letters that are duplicated, reprinted, copied, or otherwise reproduced. Letters should be original, typewritten or neatly handwritten. Letters should not exceed 300 words. Letters exceeding this length could be subject to editing and may not be published in their entirety.

The Eagle Grove Eagle does not as a general rule print form letters or letters which are also submitted to other newspapers. We are most interested in sincere personal views as opposed to canned publicity releases or talking

points for an individual or a cause, therefore if a writer cannot assure us that their submission is individual and personal, it may be rejected.

Your Letter to the Editor must include:

- Your full name with signature
- Your complete address
- Your telephone number

Your address and telephone number will not be printed in the newspaper, but will be used for verification by newspaper editorial staff.

Unsigned letters and letters containing personal attacks the newspaper deems to be of a libelous nature will not be published. The Eagle Grove Eagle reserves the right to end debate on a topic after both sides have had ample chance to express their views. The Eagle Grove Eagle reserves the right to edit or refuse all letters. All columns and letters on the opinion page are the views of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of The Eagle Grove Eagle.

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The Eagle Grove Eagle strives for accurate and complete news reporting but occasionally we get it wrong. In cases where an error has been made we will run a correction, clarification, retraction or editor's note in the next edition. Our goal in any event is to inform readers of corrections clearly and quickly, citing the incorrect information and updating with the correct information.

All corrections will be printed on page 2A in the next issue published. The correction will denote the issue, article and incorrect information along with the correction. Digital corrections will also be made and an editor's note will be added to the bottom of the article in question noting what was inaccurate and noting when the article was amended. If the article was posted on Facebook, Twitter or any other online medium controlled by The Eagle Grove Eagle, a post will be made linking to the corrected article, noting the correction.



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Council Tables Financing Agreements to Ensure Due Diligence

By Edward Lynn
Editor

The Eagle Grove City Council has tabled multiple resolutions involving Tax Increment Financing (TIF) agreements to allow additional time for companies involved to approve or revise the proposed terms, City Administrator Bryce Davis said.

The resolutions, which included development agreements with Gold Eagle Cooperative and First Bank were tabled after a public hearing on the proposals received no oral or written

comments from the public. The council opted to delay action until the companies involved reviewed and provided their feedback. "Let's let the company present their approval, and then the council will review it substantially informed," Davis said, adding that public hearings are required by Iowa law for these types of agreements.

The proposed agreements involve rebating a portion of property taxes to the companies for investments they make in Eagle Grove, with varying terms for each project. Davis explained the

importance of attracting investment through TIF agreements, which are designed to stimulate economic development without posing a financial risk to the city. "They pay their taxes, they get it rebated. If they don't pay their taxes, they don't get it rebated," Davis said.

Davis also highlighted the importance of investing in amenities and infrastructure to attract both businesses and residents. "The more amenities you have in a community, the more residents will prefer your community over others," Davis

said, noting that amenities make Eagle Grove more attractive not only to potential residents but also to businesses looking to locate where a workforce already exists.

The council will revisit the TIF agreements once the companies involved provide their input, and can move forward at that point provided the details don't change substantially. If they do, that would trigger another public hearing, Davis explained.

The next regular city council meeting is scheduled for Dec. 16.

Eagle Grove Police Report

November 21

7:54 AM: Traffic stop at the Smoke Shop.
8:11 AM: Traffic stop at First State Bank.
11:04 AM: Return call requested regarding a police report.
12:18 PM: Return call requested regarding a welfare check.
4:02 PM: Return call requested regarding a strange car in the neighborhood.
4:15 PM: Traffic stop near the intersection of 285th and Hwy 17.
9:18 PM: Traffic stop in the area of SW 1st St and S Cadwell.
9:29 PM: Suspicious person reported at Casey's in Goldfield.
10:50 PM: Caller with information.
10:55 PM: Traffic stop south of Goldfield on Hwy 17.
11:10 PM: Burglary alarm in the 1000 block of NW 10th St.

November 22

12:24 AM: Return call requested regarding a welfare check.
8:17 AM: Met complainant at the Eagle Grove PD.
8:49 AM: Suspicious persons reported at the laundromat in Goldfield.
10:49 AM: Return call requested.
1:36 PM: Assistance requested regarding a bad check.
2:34 PM: Report of employee theft at W&H Coop.
3:40 PM: Accident in the area of NE 2nd St and Montgomery; no injuries.
4:00 PM: Complaint regarding a camper parked on private property.
5:15 PM: Return call requested.
5:20 PM: Assistance requested near 270th St east of Grey Ave by the grain bins.
7:42 PM: Traffic stop in the area of S Commercial and SW 10th St.
9:07 PM: Return call requested regarding retrieving clothes.
10:24 PM: Traffic stop in the area of Webster and Main in Goldfield.
10:34 PM: Traffic stop in the area of Hwy 3 and Pine St in Goldfield.

November 23

8:50 AM: Civil standby at K&M Storage.
9:23 AM: Complaint at Fareway.
12:55 PM: Traffic stop in the 2700 block of S Hwy 17.
4:02 PM: Assistance requested in the 500 block of SE 5th St; person locked out of house and car.
9:48 PM: Traffic stop at the Grove Inn parking lot.
10:18 PM: Traffic stop in the area of Prairie Ave and NE 2nd Ave.
11:16 PM: Unspecified officer-initiated case in the 100 block of North Western.

November 24

12:19 AM: Bar checks in Eagle Grove.
1:57 AM: Traffic stop in the 200 block of SW 2nd.
9:39 AM: Information regarding an accident.
12:01 PM: Report of a teenager driving an older gold Suburban recklessly and yelling out racial slurs in Goldfield.
12:39 PM: Return call requested.
12:47 PM: Return call requested regarding retrieving property.
1:11 PM: Concerned citizen regarding a message received by her daughter.
2:59 PM: Traffic stop in the 2400 block of N Hwy 17.
3:46 PM: Met complainant regarding a license plate.
8:04 PM: Assistance provided to another agency in Eagle Grove.

November 25

3:49 AM: Traffic stop in the 400 block of N Water St in Goldfield.
6:28 AM: Traffic stop

in the area of Hwy 17 and 240th.

6:40 AM: Traffic stop at Casey's.
6:56 AM: Traffic stop in the area of SW 4th and Commercial.
10:11 AM: Traffic stop in the area of Kirkwood and E Broadway; vehicle towing an anhydrous tank lost a wheel, no leak.
12:15 PM: Return call requested.
12:19 PM: Officer requested to meet complainant in the 300 block of NW 8th St regarding a neighbor's dog.
1:18 PM: Complaint in the 1400 block of E Broadway.
2:06 PM: Nuisance complaint at the Sandman motel.
2:15 PM: Suspicious activity at the laundromat in Goldfield.
2:41 PM: Return call requested.
3:03 PM: Return call requested regarding an earlier officer visit.
4:15 PM: Return call requested regarding a husband's phone.
6:56 PM: Traffic stop in the Subway parking lot.
7:32 PM: Traffic stop in the area of W Broadway and Cemetery Dr.
8:21 PM: Traffic stop at Fareway parking lot.

November 26

6:15 AM: Traffic stop in the 200 block of E Broadway.
6:46 AM: Traffic stop in the area of Hewett Ave and W Broadway.
6:56 AM: Traffic stop in the area of the Greenhouse on Braiden.
7:39 AM: Traffic stop in the area of SW 4th and Commercial.
10:24 AM: Traffic stop in the area of Hwy 17 by Fisher Welding.
10:41 AM: Report of an assault between students at the high school.
11:42 AM: Officer requested to meet complainant at the high school.
11:47 AM: Traffic stop in the 2700 block of S Hwy 17.
12:04 PM: Traffic stop in the 2700 block of S Hwy 17.
12:18 PM: Traffic stop in the 2700 block of Hwy 17.
12:35 PM: Assistance requested at Sandman regarding tenants refusing to leave.
12:50 PM: Return call requested regarding a probation home check in Goldfield.
1:43 PM: Return call requested regarding a parking ticket.
4:34 PM: Assistance requested in the 500 block of Nickellane.
4:45 PM: Traffic stop in the area of S Kirkwood Apt.
5:51 PM: Lost and found report regarding a cell phone at the eye clinic alley.
10:24 PM: Officer requested to meet complainant in the 600 block of NW 3rd St regarding an ex-husband entering the house.

November 27

12:02 AM: Residential burglary alarm in the 300 block of S Jackson Ave.
8:56 AM: Traffic stop in the area of NW 1st and Fort Ave.
9:52 AM: Report of identity theft in the 200 block of S Lucas.
12:20 PM: Lost and found report regarding a phone at the police department.
2:44 PM: Complaint of someone burning leaves in the alley behind Jefferson Street in Goldfield.
3:12 PM: Traffic stop in the area of Commercial and NE 8th.
4:25 PM: Complaint at Dollar General.
5:15 PM: Report of parking violations in the 200 block of Jackson.
11:05 PM: Officer requested to meet complainant at Sandman Hotel regarding alleged harassment.

'Tis the Season for Money Smart Holiday Spending

By Carol Ehlers

AMES, Iowa — Despite the financial challenges facing consumers — lingering inflation, growing unemployment and higher interest rates for federal student loans — holiday shoppers appear to be in fairly high spirits leading up to the 2024 holidays. According to TransUnion's 2024 Consumer Holiday Shopping Report, more than half of holiday shoppers (57%) plan on spending the same as last year with 38% planning to spend less this year. The average American ran up their 2023 holiday spending debt to \$1,550, the highest in LendingTree's eight-year survey. According to a NerdWallet national survey, 28% of Americans continue to carry their 2023 holiday spending debt on their credit card throughout 2024.

According to Carol Ehlers, a health and human sciences specialist with Iowa State University Extension and Outreach, "Holiday spend-

ing is a common way for people to land themselves in debt and financial stress. Some find themselves in trouble by rationalizing big spending and incurring debt during the holidays. This leads to paying for holiday spending well into the next year."

Ehlers says practicing Money Smart Holiday Sending gives consumers confidence to manage their money and resources throughout the season and into the new year. She offers the following strategies:

- **Create a holiday budget.** Figure out how much you can afford to spend this holiday season without going into debt. Financial planners recommend spending less than 1.5% of your annual income on holiday expenses. For example, if your gross income is \$35,000, limit your total holiday spending to



\$525. If you haven't saved that much, look for ways to cut back.

- **Be intentional and don't get carried away by the holiday spirit.** Research has shown that consumers tend to overspend for special occasions. Be intentional about your spending and don't let your guard down when shopping for holiday gifts and events.

- **Make a list and check it twice.** Prepare a detailed gift list with a set amount to spend, keeping track of what is spent. Research indicates consumers reduce their food expense by 20% or more by using a shopping list and this

may apply to other holiday spending categories as well.

- **Use cash, not credit.** Most consumers use credit instead of cash, but research has shown that consumers spend more with a credit card than they do with cash, partially because they don't get immediate feedback on their spending and credit card bills arrive several weeks after a purchase. One way to manage cash spending is the envelope method. Make one envelope for each person and only put in what you plan to spend. If credit is necessary, charge only the amount that you can safely repay in a few months. Limit your charges to one card with the lowest interest rate and fees. Keep all receipts.

For more information visit the Health and Human Sciences Extension and Outreach website (<https://www.extension.iastate.edu/humansciences/money-smart>) for a Money Smart: Prioritizing Bills, Credit and Debt workshop near you.

Manage Winter Home Energy Costs Even with a Tight Budget

by Carol Ehlers

Person next to radiator using calculator to determine energy costs by Oleksandr/stock.adobe.com. AMES, Iowa — While inflation has hit many Americans in an already tight pocketbook, many households may also struggle to pay utility bills. With rising energy costs, it's important for homeowners and renters to plan their budget each month to cover their various utility bills, says Carol Ehlers, a human sciences specialist with Iowa State University Extension and Outreach.

When prioritizing expenses, be sure to consider all household utilities (e.g., electricity, gas, water and sewer, landline and cell phone, and internet/cable). The highest utility cost is typically for heating the home, said Ehlers, who specializes in family wellbeing. "You can plan for home heating costs to increase over the next six months, as many consumers may be surprised by prices that are higher than normal. Check with your energy utility provider to anticipate potential increases, which can give you a more predictable estimation for your monthly budget," Ehlers said.

An average Iowa house-

hold utility expense is \$2,580 but the actual cost varies widely according to the size of a home, climate and utility usage patterns. Regardless of what you pay for utilities, there are ways to pay less, Ehlers noted.

Step 1. Check eligibility and request energy assistance

The Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program assists households with a portion of the home heating bills, particularly households facing disconnection or who have trouble paying their utility bill. Early applications for the program started Oct. 1, with Nov. 1 through April 30 as the annual application period through a local community action agency.

The Iowa Health and Human Services website (<https://hhs.iowa.gov/programs/programs-and-services/liheap>) includes a general overview of LIHEAP, as well as a link to local community action agencies. Individuals may apply for the program at the community action agency in their county.

Step 2. Ask for a winter moratorium

Your utilities may not be shut off during the "winter moratorium" if you ap-

ply for and qualify for the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program.

- This program helps many low-income households pay their heating costs.

- If you are certified eligible for LIHEAP, utilities cannot shut off your gas or electric services from Nov. 1 through April 1.

- You should try to pay as much as you can on your utility bills, even during the winter moratorium.

"It is always best to keep making payments to the maximum extent possible during any period when your utility provider is prohibited from disconnecting your service," Ehlers said. "Making payments during the winter moratorium creates 'good will' with the utility company, with whom you may be negotiating a payment plan, and keeps the problem from getting worse."

Step 3. Manage utility bills

- **Know how much to expect:** Ask your utility provider for how much the utility bill was last year for your home or apartment. Electric and natural gas average monthly costs in Iowa start at \$215 and go higher depending on the size of your home and weather con-

ditions. Pay as much as you can afford monthly.

- **Weatherize:** Leaky or old windows can account for 10% to 25% of heating costs due to warm air escaping. Replace windows with double-pane windows or install storm windows. Get help from the Iowa Weatherization Assistance Program.

- **Lower the thermostat:** Dialing down the thermostat saves energy in the winter. Set the thermostat to 68 degrees Fahrenheit while you're awake and set it lower while you're asleep or away from home.

"Even one degree lower can make a difference. Industry figures for every degree you turn down your thermostat, and leave it for eight hours, you save between 1% and 3% of your heating bill," Ehlers said.

Free financial counseling is also available to all Iowa residents from ISU Extension and Outreach human sciences specialists in family wellbeing.

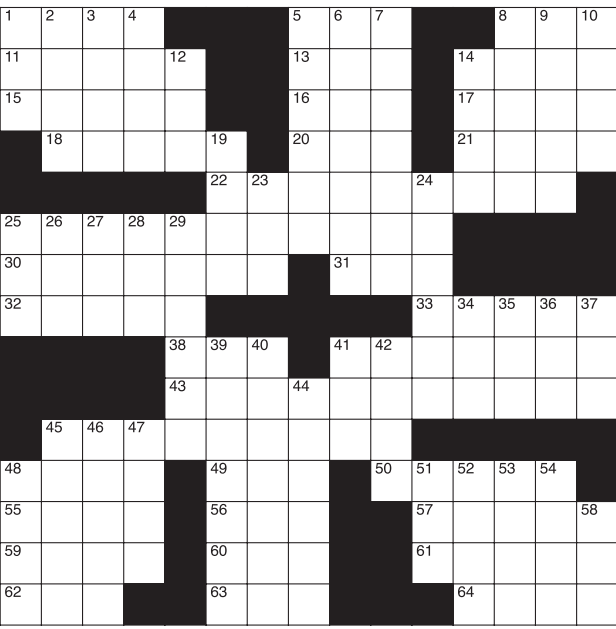
"We can help revise budgets, prioritize spending and link you to community resources," Ehlers said. For more information, contact Iowa Concern at 800-447-1985 and ask for free financial counseling.



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CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Bar bills
- 5. Recipe measurement (abbr.)
- 8. Swiss river
- 11. Czech Republic capital
- 13. "Officially known as"
- 14. A French abbot
- 15. Having a strong sharp smell or taste
- 16. Local area network
- 17. Data transmission speed measure
- 18. Embarrass
- 20. When you hope to get there
- 21. This (Spanish)
- 22. Gives up
- 25. Churchgoer
- 30. Current
- 31. Slang for gun
- 32. Small drum
- 33. Vanished union bigwig
- 38. Rocker's tool of the trade
- 41. Dearth
- 43. 2024 Olympics host
- 45. Excess blood in the vessels
- 48. Afrikaans
- 49. Agreement between provider and customer
- 50. Spiritual leader of a Jewish congregation
- 55. Ancient Syrian city
- 56. Witch
- 57. Celebrations
- 59. Long period of time
- 60. A team's best pitcher
- 61. Current unit
- 62. One-time aerospace company
- 63. French/Belgian river
- 64. Swedish rock group

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Yearly tonnage (abbr.)
- 2. Genus of clams
- 3. Remark
- 4. Actor LaBeouf
- 5. Ohio town
- 6. Olympic sport
- 7. Cure
- 8. Behave in a way that belittles
- 9. Shares a boundary with
- 10. Give advice
- 12. Promotional materials
- 14. Assist or encourage, usually in some wrongdoing
- 19. "Agatha All Along" actress Kathryn
- 23. Small piece
- 24. King of Camelot
- 25. Parts per thousand (abbr.)
- 26. Small Milky Way constellation
- 27. One who challenges authority (abbr.)
- 28. Equal (prefix)
- 29. Shawl
- 34. S. American wood sorrel relative
- 35. The end
- 36. Supervises interstate commerce
- 37. Yes vote
- 39. Officer of high rank
- 40. Church office
- 41. Tire pressure measurement
- 42. From a distance
- 44. Photographs
- 45. Industrial process
- 46. Nobel Prize-winning physicist
- 47. Map out
- 48. Mammary gland part of female mammal
- 51. Honorable title (Turkish)
- 52. Sponglike cake leavened with yeast
- 53. Speak incessantly
- 54. Poetry term
- 58. Relaxing space

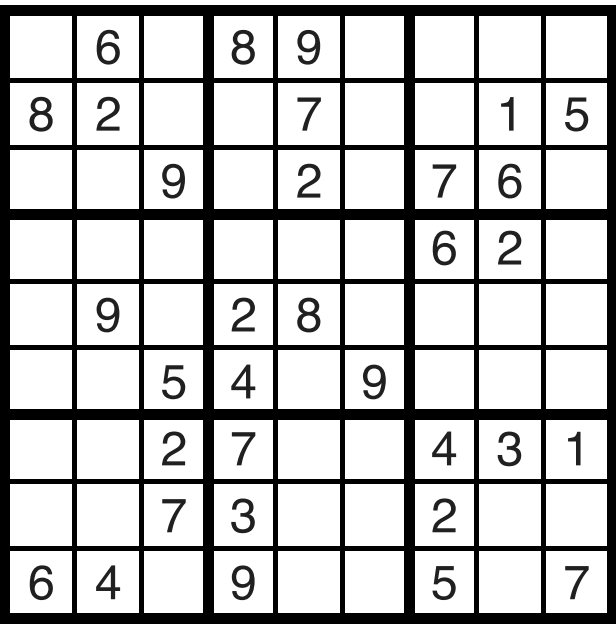
Solutions can be found on the Classified page

Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!



Level: Beginner

Solutions can be found on the Classified page

SENIOR SAFETY WORD SEARCH



- ASSISTIVE
- GRAB BARS
- MEMORY
- BATHROOM
- GUARDIAN
- MOBILITY
- CAREGIVER
- HAZARDS
- MONITORED
- CHAIR
- HOMEBOUND
- NONSKID
- CHORES
- HOME HEALTH AIDE
- REHABILITATION
- CUSTODIAL
- INDEPENDENCE
- SAFETY
- DIRECTIVE
- LIGHTING
- SKILLED
- FALLING
- MEALS
- SLIP



Want More Young People to Join the Military? Spend Less On It.

We need to invest in a country worth fighting for, not endless wars and boondoggles for military contractors.

By Lindsay Koshgarian Director, the National Priorities Project at the Institute for Policy Studies

The military is concerned about a growing recruitment crisis. Survey after survey reveals young people just aren't inspired by military service.

Ironically, decades of sky-high military spending — and the endless war it enabled — may have much to do with that. And reversing that trend is critical to making Americans safer.

An 18-year-old today will have lived their entire life watching one failed, disastrous war after another. Born in 2006, they would have been an infant when George W. Bush surged troops in Iraq in 2007, years after the infamous "Mission Accomplished" banner. They would have been in about second grade when ISIS took over much of that country.

They could have been eligible to join the Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC) just as the United States withdrew from Afghanistan after 20

years, having only made conditions worse.

That same young person would have spent formative years in isolation because of a global pandemic, during which billionaires made record wealth gains and used their wealth to buy elections. They would see a country where public schools are underfunded and where neglected infrastructure means lead in drinking water and dams that can't stand up to newly destructive storms.

This reflects the conscious decisions of the government they're being asked to fight for. In 2024, the U.S. military budget is approaching \$1 trillion, more than half of which goes to for-profit military contractors. Year after year, that's money that hasn't gone into education, health care, housing, climate or other needs desperately facing young people — and all of us — today.

Young people don't want to sign up for this.

Americans under 30 are the only age group where a majority think the military has a negative effect on the country. Younger Americans are also likelier to say

the military doesn't make the world safer. And fewer than one in five of us under 35 say they're "extremely proud" to be American — compared to half of those 55 and over.

Notably, these Americans also think the United States is on the wrong side in the Middle East. Just one in five younger Americans tell pollsters they support how Israel is conducting its war in Gaza, even as the United States continues to sponsor Israel's fight through a continuing stream of weapons.

And for all that we've spent on the military, we've consistently failed to protect those who volunteer. With half the budget going to for-profit contractors with multimillionaire CEOs, the troops are often forced to rely on food stamps to get by.

Meanwhile, more veterans have died of suicide since 2001 than have died in wars. And our lawmakers have failed to adequately support veterans harmed by burn pits, traumatic brain injury, homelessness and other tragedies of military service.

No wonder over half of all Americans now say they'd advise a loved one not to join the military.

If we want the best for our country and its young people, we can't blindly ask them to join an institution they don't believe in and fight in wars they don't support for a country that doesn't have their backs.

Instead, we need to invest in a country worth fighting for. For what we've spent on wars and the military since 9/11, we could have easily decarbonized the entire U.S. electric grid, completely erased student debt, continued the pandemic-era Child Tax Credit (which cut child poverty in half) for another decade, and much more.

It's not too late to press for those investments, which — unlike the trillions we've plowed into the Pentagon and unjust wars — would actually make this country safer. Just ask the young people we're asking to defend it.

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We Must Stop Our Rapid Accumulation of Debt

By Rep. Randy Feenstra (R-Hull)

At the end of July, our national debt peaked at \$35 trillion — a figure once considered unthinkable. However, just 118 days later, our country surpassed another sobering milestone — \$36 trillion in debt. This rapid accumulation of debt threatens our economic security, weakens the value of the dollar, emboldens our adversaries like China and Iran, and jeopardizes our longstanding status as the world's reserve currency. As a fiscal conservative, I believe that we must end reckless government spending and balance our federal budget to reduce our debt and get our fiscal house in order.

To put \$36 trillion in perspective, as of October 30th, our nation's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) — the monetary value of the total amount of final goods and services produced in our country over a certain period of time — registered at approximately \$29.3 trillion. That means that our Debt-to-GDP ratio stands at 123%. In other words, our national debt is larger than our nation's total economic output, which increases our risk of default and economic crisis. The enormity of our national debt also equates to about \$108,000



Randy Feenstra

for every man, woman, and child in the United States, and this fiscal year alone, our debt has increased by about \$84,000 every single second. Furthermore, due to decades of reckless spending and fiscal irresponsibility, American taxpayers have shoveled out more than \$1 trillion — which is larger than our annual military budget — just to finance the interest payments on our national debt. In fact, we pay \$1.8 billion per day on interest obligations.

Even more alarming is that this trend shows no sign of reversing. For Fiscal Year 2024, our country registered a \$1.8-trillion budget deficit. The federal government spent about \$6.75 trillion but only collected roughly \$4.92 trillion in revenue. The nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office (CBO) projects a similar — if not larger — budget deficit for

Fiscal Year 2025 if spending habits continue unchecked. Some estimates project that our Debt-to-GDP ratio could reach 200% in the near future and the CBO predicts that our national debt could eclipse \$50 trillion in a decade. However, that projection is expected to only accelerate the longer that we ignore our debt crisis.

As a father of four extremely concerned about the impact of the national debt on future generations of Americans, I've not only called for a balanced federal budget and cuts to wasteful government spending on repeated occasions, but I've also introduced legislation to get our debt under control. For example, in response to President Biden's \$7.3-trillion budget proposal for Fiscal Year 2025, I introduced legislation — the Balanced Budget and Accounting Act — to require the President of the United States to submit a balanced budget to Congress. It's obvious that a \$7.3-trillion budget will not balance and will instead add to our debt. I also led legislation — the Dollar-For-Dollar Deficit Reduction Act — to couple any debt ceiling increase with equal federal spending cuts.

Additionally, I'm excited about President Trump's

new Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) to pinpoint and eliminate government waste, cut reckless government spending, and bring accountability to Congress on behalf of American taxpayers. My friend — Senator Joni Ernst — will also give Iowa a seat at the table in government efficiency by leading the Senate DOGE Caucus and trimming waste, fraud, and abuse within the federal government. Initiatives like requiring federal workers to return to in-person, in-office work and ensuring that IRS agents — including the more than 5,800 IRS employees who owe a combined \$50 million in taxes — pay their taxes are clear examples of where we can make government more efficient and more accountable.

Our rapidly growing national debt is a major concern for our economic and national security. We cannot keep kicking the can down the road and allowing our adversaries to take advantage of our precarious financial position. I will continue to work with my colleagues to stop wasteful government spending, make government more efficient, and reduce our national debt. Our children and grandchildren are counting on us to deliver solutions to this worsening crisis.

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11:40 a.m. Rosary at Sacred Heart
Noon Mass at Sacred Heart
2 p.m. Altar Society at Sacred Heart
6:30 p.m. CFFC at St. John
7 p.m. Our Lady of Guadalupe Novena at St. Francis, and Sacred Heart

7:30 p.m. Our Lady of Guadalupe Novena at St. John
Friday, December 6
7:40 a.m. Rosary at St. John
8 a.m. Mass, Adoration, Benediction at St. John
10:30 a.m. Mass Belmont Care Ceneter
7 p.m. Our Lady of Guadalupe Novena at St. Francis, and Sacred Heart
7:30 p.m. Our Lady of Guadalupe Novena at St. John

Saturday, December 7
ADVENT II
Food Pantry Weekend
8:30 a.m. Christmas Coffee & Bazaar Sacred Heart
3:15 p.m. A/B at Sacred Heart

4 p.m. Mass at Sacred Heart
7:15 p.m. A/B at St. John
7:30 p.m. Our Lady of Guadalupe Novena at St. John
8 p.m. Spanish Mass at St. John
Sunday, December 8
ADVENT II
Food Pantry Weekend
7:15 a.m. A/B at St. John
8 a.m. Mass at St. John
Confirmation call after Mass at St. John
9:45 a.m. A/B at St. Francis
10:30 a.m. Mass at St. Francis
7 p.m. Our Lady of Guadalupe Novena at St. Francis, and Sacred Heart
7:30 p.m. Our Lady of Guadalupe Novena at St. John

Monday, December 9
Immaculate Conception
8:15 a.m. Roasry at St. Francis
Noon Mass at St. Francis
5 p.m. CDA Gathering, Prayer and Program with meal at St. Francis
5:30 p.m. Mass at Sacred Heart
7:30 a.m. Mass at St. John
6:15 p.m. KC at Sacred Heart
6:30 p.m. Our Lady of Guadalupe Novena at St. Francis, and Sacred Heart, and St. John

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Pastor George Lautner
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Vicar Jon Merritt
A Congregation of ELCA
Saturday
4 p.m. Worship at Rotary Senior Living South in the Chapel

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P.O. Box 333
515-448-3584
Sunday
10:30 a.m. Worship

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Pastor Johnny Khaleet
Eagle Grove
515-448-4612
Sunday
9 a.m. Sunday School
10 a.m. Worship
Monday
10 a.m. Bible Study at Rotary Ann North
Wednesday
5:30 p.m. Bible Study at the church.

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Vincent
Vicar Jon Merritt
A Congregation of the ELCA
10 a.m. Sunday Worship

ULLENSVANG LUTHERAN CHURCH,
N.A.L.C.
Pastor Darryl Landsverk
Thor

MT. CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH—
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Pastor Mark Eichler
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8:30 a.m. Worship

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Eagle Grove
Pastor Jason Cooper
515-448-3697
www.egelc.org
Thursday
10 a.m. Pastors' Prayer
Noon ELCW Potluck Dinner

Saturday
9 a.m. Sunday School
Christmas Program Practice
Sunday
9 a.m. Worship with Sunday School Christmas Program
10:15 a.m. Coffee Fellow
10:15 a.m. Sunday School
Tuesday
7 p.m. Property Committee
Wednesday
9 a.m. Bible Study

Noon Men's Bible Study
1 p.m. Stitching for Others
5:30 p.m. Confirmation

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Tuesday
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Wednesday
Confirmation

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WORDS OF WISDOM



Last week's trivia questions:
What U.S. state produces the most turkeys? Answer: Minnesota, with around 40 million turkeys per year. North Carolina is second with around 30 million turkeys per year.
What state consumes the most turkey every Thanksgiving? Texas and California boast the largest turkey consumption, due in part to their large populations. After adjusting for population, Minnesota is the largest Thanksgiving turkey consumer per capita.

This week's trivia questions:
Who sang 'Blue Christmas' in 1957?
What popular Christmas song did 'The Beach Boys' release in 1964?

December is Art and Architecture Month, National Pear Month, Read a New Mook Month, Month of Giving, Bingo Month, National Cat Lover's Month, Safe Toys and Gifts Month, and National Tie Month.

Dec. 4 is Wildlife Conservation Day, and International Day of Banks; Dec. 5 is National Blue Jeans Day, Walt Disney Day, and World Soil Day; Dec. 6 is St. Nicholas Day, and National Candle Day; Dec. 7 is Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day, and National Cotton Candy Day; Dec. 8 is National Brownie Day; Dec. 9 is Christmas Card Day, and National Pastry Day; Dec. 10 is Worldwide Candle Lighting Day, and Human Rights Day.

This week is National Cookie Cutter Week, and National Influenza Vaccination Week.

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and He shall direct your paths."
— Proverbs 3:5-6

"I say to you that likewise there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine just persons who need no repentance."
— Luke 15:7

"But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."
— Romans 5:8

"The best way to spread Christmas cheer is singing loud for all to hear."
— Buddy the Elf

"There are 17 more shopping days until Christmas. So, guys, that means 16 more days till we start shopping, right?"
— Conan O'Brien

"What I don't like about office Christmas parties is looking for a job the next day."
— Phyllis Diller

Why didn't Rudolph get a good report card? Because he went down in history.

"We got so caught up in the little things of Christmas, like love and family, that we almost forgot that it's buying things that makes our economy thrive."
— South Park

What did the wise men say after they offered up their gifts of gold and frankincense? "Wait, there's myrrh."

I was going to throw in some Iowa jokes, but they were all a bit corny.

Singer Brenda Lee was only 13 years old when she recorded "Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree" in 1958.

"I'll Be Home for Christmas" was recorded in 1943 by Bing Crosby. The song was originally written to honor World War II soldiers overseas who longed to be home at Christmas time.

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Finding Jesus in the Temple

There is very little written or known definitively about Jesus' adolescence. The one story in the Gospels which can be dated to this period of his life is the story of Jesus getting lost while he was on a pilgrimage with his family and then finding him discussing with the teachers of the law in the temple. This story is told only in Luke (Luke 2:41-52), and it mentions that he was 12 years old at the time. Several things are noteworthy about this story. The most obvious is that what Jesus said amazed the people listening. The other thing that is noteworthy is that Jesus appears to understand at this point that he has a special relationship with God, that is, that he is a "son of God." He says to his parents: "Didn't you know I had to be in my Father's house?" (Luke 2:49 NIV) It is interesting to ponder what it was like for Jesus to wonder about his relationship with God. Did this knowledge come to him suddenly or only gradually dawn on him? We can't know this definitively, but the fact that at 12 years old Jesus is quite confident about who his "real father" is tells us something, i.e., that there must have been some awareness of his divine mission from a very young age. Just as Jesus had to come to terms with what his mission here on earth was meant to be, so too do we have to wrestle and come to terms with our mission.
— Christopher Simon

Sunday, Dec. 8, 2024 First Reading: Malachi 3:1-4 Psalm: Luke 1:68-79 Epistle: Philippians 1:3-11 Gospel: Luke 3:1-6

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Iowa Board of Canvass Certifies 2024 Election Results

Secretary of State Paul Pate plans legislation on noncitizen voting.

By Robin Opsahl

The Iowa State Board of Canvass certified results from the 2024 general election Monday, finalizing results in races across the state.

The board, consisting of Iowa Secretary of State Paul Pate, Gov. Kim Reynolds, Treasurer Roby Smith, Secretary of Agriculture Mike Naig and Auditor Rob Sand, met virtually Monday. For all results outside of the presidential election, the board's certification is the final step to make results from the Nov. 5 contests official as county boards of supervisors certified election results and the requested recounts in the weeks following the election.

Iowa's six electors will meet Dec. 17 at the Iowa State Capitol to cast their votes for President-elect Donald Trump and Vice President-elect J.D. Vance, and results from the presidential race will be certified by Congress Jan. 6, 2025.

GOP surpasses Democrats in early voting

Pate told reporters Monday that 74.1% of registered Iowa voters cast their ballots in the 2024 election — a total of 1,674,011 ballots cast. This turnout was roughly in line with previous presidential election cycles, he said, but noted that there was a change in party absentee and early voting participation in 2024 compared to previous



Iowa Secretary of State Paul Pate spoke with reporters in his office at the Iowa State Capitol Dec. 2, 2024 after he met virtually with other members of the Iowa State Board of Canvass to certify the results of the 2024 general election. (Photo by Robin Opsahl/Iowa Capital Dispatch)

years.

According to Pate, a total of 268,629 registered Republicans voted early this year, more than the 257,634 Democrats who voted early. While Democrats historically have an edge in early and absentee voting, Pate said part of the shift to higher GOP participation this year was part of a deliberate push by GOP leadership to encourage voting prior to Election Day.

In previous election cycles,

Trump and allies have cast doubts on the integrity of absentee and early votes. But in the 2024 election cycle, Republicans across the ballot have spent time on the 2024 campaign trail reassuring supporters their votes would be correctly counted if they voted early.

"There was definitely a concentrated effort nationally on the Republican side like we hadn't seen in quite a while telling them, 'Vote now, it's OK — go vote

now,'" Pate said. "And so, people who may have voted more traditionally did just that."

Pate called the high participation on and before Election Day "very impressive and significant," thanking county auditors, election workers and volunteers for their work. He also thanked state lawmakers for recent changes to election law that helped make recount processes run more smoothly than previous years.

The recount process in Iowa's 1st Congressional District, where U.S. Rep. Mariannette Miller-Meeks won by 798 votes against Democrat Christina Bohannon, was conducted more quickly than previous recounts in the 1st Congressional District, he said. He said that was due in part to changes to Iowa Code and because of new guidance issued by his office calling for county auditors to avoid "hybrid" recounts, and either recount ballots either fully by hand or by tabulator machine.

"You don't get to do both of them and mix the techniques up during the count process," Pate said. "We ran into a lot of problems with that in the past because human errors and other things happen."

Pate previews requested legislation

The secretary of state said he plans to make requests to the state Legislature in 2025 that would require counties follow a uniform process, which Pate said would further speed up results.

Additionally, Pate said he is in talks with lawmakers to take action on noncitizen voting in the upcoming legislative session. Pate's guidance to county auditors in late October to challenge the ballots of more than 2,000 Iowans listed as potential noncitizens was upheld by a federal judge days before the

general election.

Groups including the ACLU and the League of United Latin American Citizens said the measure intimidated immigrants who were legally able to participate in elections as naturalized citizens. But Pate argued that the measure was necessary because the federal U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services office would not share access to the Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlements (SAVE) database for the Iowa Secretary of State's office to confirm the citizenship status of the individuals listed.

The 2,000 people identified as potential noncitizens were people who identified themselves to the Iowa Department of Transportation or other government entities as noncitizens in the past 12 years, who later registered to vote or voted.

"(USCIS) could have just handed it over and we could have been able to know exactly how many noncitizens were registered in Iowa and dealt with those in a very specific and targeted way rather than having to do the awkward approach we had to this time," Pate said. "... So we've just got to continue to try to improve on that."

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A Look at How Tariffs, Deportations and More of Trump's Proposals Could Affect Housing Costs

By Casey Quinlan

Americans hand over a huge chunk of their paycheck for a roof over their heads. Policymakers are looking out for indications of what President-elect Donald Trump plans to do to ease housing costs next year after an election where voters were laser-focused on the economy.

Housing accounted for 32.9% of consumers' spending in 2023, making it the largest share of consumer expenditures, according to the most recently available data Bureau of Labor Statistics. And that was an increase of 5.7% from 2022.

This year, many Americans still struggle to find affordable housing, whether they choose to rent or buy a home.

There's a lot economists and housing advocates still don't know about what to expect from a second Trump term. It's unclear which campaign promises will find their way into administrative rules or legislation, even with a Republican trifecta — the GOP will control the White House and both chambers of Congress.

But policy experts, researchers and economic analysts are looking at Trump's record, his recent remarks on housing, and Project 2025 — the conservative Heritage Foundation's 900-page plan to overhaul the executive

branch — for a glimpse of what may lie ahead.

Tariffs and the cost of building homes

Trump has spoken frequently of his proposed 60% tariff on goods from China, which he has said would create more manufacturing jobs in the U.S. Tariffs could be as high as 20% on goods from other countries.

But housing economists and other experts say that could be bad news for building more affordable housing.

Selma Hepp, chief economist for CoreLogic, a financial services company, said tariffs are one of her main concerns about the effects of a second Trump term.

"One of the biggest concerns is not just lumber [costs], but the overall cost of materials, which have been going up," Hepp said.

Construction material prices have risen 38.8% since February 2020, according to an Associated Builders and Contractors' analysis of October Producer Price Index data.

Kurt Paulsen, professor of urban planning in the department of planning and landscape architecture at the University of Wisconsin at Madison, said building costs are already high from tariffs on Canadian lumber that Trump first imposed and that the Biden administration kept and increased.

"It used to be in construction that you would get a bid from a contractor or a subcontractor or supplier and it would be good for 60 days. Now, the bids are good for like five days because you don't know where prices are going to be," he said.

Immigration policy and its effect on construction labor

Trump tweeted on Nov. 18 that he is planning to use the declaration of a national emergency as part of his mass deportation plan.

Besides disrupting lives, Trump's plan could have effects on what it costs to build housing, Hepp said.

"There is the cost of labor as well, if we do indeed have all these deportations. That's a big, big concern," she said. "A large share of labor in the construction industry obviously comes from immigrants. That is a huge issue for new construction and particularly new construction as it relates to affordable housing."

Foreign-born construction workers made up 3 million of the 11.9 million people who work in the construction industry in 2023, according to the latest American Community Survey data.

Trump's 'not in my backyard' rhetoric

The former president hasn't always been clear on where he stands with zoning regulations and making

way for more affordable housing in a wide variety of neighborhoods.

In a July Bloomberg interview, Trump spoke critically of zoning regulations and said that they drive up housing costs. But Trump also has a record of tending toward a "not in my backyard," or NIMBY, approach to housing that maintained some of these zoning regulations. The Trump administration moved to roll back an Obama-era regulation that tied HUD funding to assessing and reducing housing discrimination in neighborhoods.

"He'll talk about reducing regulations on developers, but he'll also use this NIMBYism talking about protecting suburbs from low-income housing and you really can't have it both ways," said Sarah Saadian, senior vice president of public policy and field organizing at the National Low Income Housing Coalition.

Paulsen said Project 2025 embraces a pushback against anti-NIMBY approaches to expand

multi-family housing.

"What I read in the Project 2025 documents is a clear statement that says every local community and neighborhood should be able to choose the housing it wants to accept or not. The challenge of that is that if every community in every neighborhood can veto housing, then we just don't get enough housing and prices go up and prices and rents go up," he said.

A more punitive approach to homelessness

Last year, homelessness rose to its highest level recorded since the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development began collecting this information in 2007. The ending of pandemic safety nets that gave some households better financial stability and a lack of affordable housing supply contributed to the number of unhoused people, the report explained.

Trump has been outspoken on his view that homeless people should be "off our streets." The president-elect has also proposed putting unhoused

people with mental health issues into "mental institutions."

"There's a movement that I think is largely reflected in Project 2025 that says, actually, cities need more coercive policy tools to enforce public order and to require that someone who's camping take a shelter placement even if they don't want it," Paulsen said.

Saadian said that given the U.S. Supreme Court ruling in *Grants Pass v. Johnson*, which makes it easier to criminalize unhoused populations for sleeping outside, she's worried about a changing political environment where policies that prioritize stable housing over policing fall out of favor.

"I think all of that just shows a culture shift in the political dynamic here that we're definitely worried about," she said.

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PIPELINE from page A1

to connect to Summit's proposed pipeline.

"But I wouldn't be surprised if a different corporation came along," Schmit added, "or if they even tried exploring carbon sequestration on site."

The Iowa Utilities Board has granted Summit authority

to seize land along its pipeline route from owners who have refused to sign easements. However, this authorization is contingent on regulators in two neighboring states also approving the project. Last month, North Dakota's Public Service Commission granted Summit a permit, and

the company has since resubmitted its request for a permit in South Dakota.

Additionally, an over \$11 million project is being led by the University of Iowa to assess whether carbon can be stored underground in Iowa, specifically in basalt rock formations.



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Tiffani Riedel

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All registrations will expire on December 31, 2024. Registrations must be renewed by that date to avoid penalty.

For questions, call the **Recorders Office at 515.532.3204.**
Denise D. Baker
Wright County Recorder

CITY OF EAGLE GROVE • NOV. 25, 2024

Regular Council Meeting
Monday November 25th, 2024
Council Chambers 210 E. Broadway, Eagle Grove, IA
Mayor Boyd called the meeting to order at 6:30p.m. With Council Members Lorenzen, Axtell, Pamperin, Weland and Limerick. Absent: Vandewater. Also present: City Administrator Davis and City Attorney Legvold.
Public Forum: none
A motion was made by Weland and seconded by Lorenzen to approve Resolution 2024-131: A Resolution Approving the Urban Renewal Report and TIF Indebtedness Certification. Roll Call Vote: all ayes
A motion was made by Axtell and seconded by Limerick to approve Purchasing two (2) Ford F250 XL vehicles for the Public Works and Sewer Department. Roll Call: all ayes EXCEPT Lorenzen who abstained.
A motion was made by Weland and seconded by Axtell to adjourn the meeting at 6:55pm.
Mayor *City Administrator*

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Published in the Eagle Grove Eagle on Thursday, Dec. 5, 2024

WRIGHT COUNTY BOS • NOV. 18, 2024

November 18, 2024
There was no action taken as Drainage District Trustees. Chairman Helgevoid called the regular meeting of the Wright County Board of Supervisor to order at 9:00 a.m. Members present were Kluss, Rasmussen, and Helgevoid.
Motion by Rasmussen and seconded by Kluss to approve the tentative agenda. Motion carries.
Minutes of the previous regular meeting of November 12, 2024 and special meeting of November 13, 2024 were read and approved with one correction.
Approved claims for payment.
Motion by Kluss and seconded by Rasmussen to receive the monthly revenue report from the Wright County Sheriff. Motion carries.
Adam Clemons, Wright County Engineer, gave an update on the Secondary Roads. There were 18 work orders completed last week. Mow-

ing of the hard surface routes are now complete. Crews are prepping for the detour for Bridge 210 (Voss Quarry) that will be let next week. A few members of the road crew attended a winter maintenance workshop that was held in Webster City last week.
The Library Association met to give an annual update to the Board of Supervisors. Josephine Miller discussed what the libraries have to offer and what they have accomplished in the past year. They are requesting a 4% funding increase with a \$7,000 stipend for technology to be split among the 5 libraries. This will be considered at budget time.
Motion by Rasmussen and seconded by Kluss to adjourn the meeting. Motion carries.
Karl Helgevoid, Chairman, Wright County Board of Supervisors
Betty Ellis, Wright County Auditor

Published in the Eagle Grove Eagle on Thursday, Dec. 5, 2024

ORIGINAL NOTICE

IN THE IOWA DISTRICT COURT FOR WRIGHT COUNTY
MCKINLEY D. BAILEY,
Plaintiff,
v.
CRISTIAN D. PEREZ PORON and UNITED SERVICES AUTOMOBILE ASSOCIATION,
Defendants.
CASE NO.:

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Iowa Judicial Branch
Case No. LAC025299
County Wright
Case Title MCKINLEY D. BAILEY V CRISTIAN PORON, ET AL.
You must file your Appearance and Answer on the Iowa Judicial Branch eFile System, unless the attached Petition and Original Notice contains a hearing date for your appearance, or unless the court has excused you from filing electronically (see Iowa Court Rule 16.302). Register for the eFile System at www.iowacourts.state.ia.us/Efile to file and view documents in your case and to receive notices from the court.
For general rules and information on electronic filing, refer to the Iowa Rules of Electronic Procedure in chapter 16 of the Iowa Court Rules at www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/ACO/CourtRulesChapter16.pdf.
Court filings are public documents and may contain personal information that should always be kept confidential. For the rules on protecting personal information, refer to Division VI of chapter 16 of the Iowa Court Rules and to the Iowa Judicial Branch website at www.iowacourts.gov/for-the-public/representing-yourself/protect-personal-information/.
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Date Issued 06/05/2024 10:12:48 AM
District Clerk of Court or by Clerk's Designee of Wright County
/s/ Colleen Soma

ORIGINAL NOTICE TO THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANTS:

You are notified that a petition has been filed in the office of the clerk of this court naming you as a defendant in this action. A copy of the petition (and any documents filed with it) is attached to this notice. The law firm representing the Plaintiff is Hupy and Abraham, S.C., P.C., whose address is 1089 Jordan Creek Parkway, Suite 265, West Des Moines, Iowa 50266. That firm's phone number is (515) 984-0091 and facsimile number is (515) 777-3399.

You must serve a motion or answer within twenty (20) days after service of this original notice upon you and, within a reasonable time thereafter, file your motion or answer with the Clerk of Court for Wright County, at the county courthouse in Clarion, Iowa. If you do not, judgment by default may be rendered against you for the relief demanded in the petition.

Please be advised that this case has been filed in a county that utilizes electronic filing. For general rules and information regarding electronic filing requirements, including rules regarding the protection of personal information in court filings, consult Iowa Court Rules Chapter 16.
If you require the assistance of auxiliary aids or services to participate in court because of a disability, immediately call your district ADA coordinator at 641-421-0990 (If you are hearing impaired, call Relay Iowa TTY at (800) 735-2942).

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District Clerk of Court or by Clerk's Designee of Wright County
/s/ Colleen Soma

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Carbon Pipeline Company Has Failed To Address Crossing Concerns, Oil Pipeline Company Says

By Joshua Haiar

A company proposing a carbon dioxide pipeline should have conditions on its potential permit after it failed to address concerns about crossings with a crude oil pipeline, said the company that operates the oil pipeline.

Dakota Access LLC, which is controlled by Energy Transfer, operates the Dakota Access Pipeline. It transports crude oil 1,172 miles from North Dakota to Illinois.

Summit Carbon Solutions

plans a 2,500-mile pipeline to capture carbon dioxide from 57 ethanol plants across five states and transport it to North Dakota for underground storage. The project would capitalize on federal tax credits incentivizing the prevention of heat-trapping carbon emissions.

The routes of the existing and proposed pipeline cross eastern South Dakota. Summit recently reapplied for a permit after being rejected last year by the South Dakota Public Utilities Commis-

sion.

In a new filing with the commission, Dakota Access said Summit has not provided sufficient details — such as maps, depths and safety measures — about its proposed crossings of the Dakota Access Pipeline, known by the acronym DAPL.

“Summit has largely refused to talk to Dakota Access about pipeline crossing agreements and necessary mitigation measures to prevent damage to DAPL,” Dakota Access attorneys wrote.

To address the concerns,

Dakota Access asked for 12 conditions if Summit receives a permit. The conditions include prohibiting heavy equipment or vehicles from operating directly on DAPL’s right-of-way without protective measures, requiring abrasive-resistant coating to be applied to the carbon pipeline at crossings, and mandating that Summit monitor all crossing locations and notify Dakota Access at least 48 hours in advance of any construction activity near DAPL’s right-of-way in South Dakota.

Alternatively, Dakota Access has requested that state regulators delay Summit’s permit proceedings until an agreement on crossing terms is reached.

Summit Carbon Solutions did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Brian Jorde, an attorney for landowners opposing the carbon pipeline, said in a news release that Summit’s failure to work with Dakota Access is problematic.

“The theme has been clear in South Dakota and across the region — Summit does

not respect the law, they don’t respect the will of the people, and they think they can force themselves on and through South Dakota,” Jorde said.

Summit already has permits in Iowa and North Dakota. A decision is pending in Minnesota, and Nebraska has no state permitting processing for carbon pipelines.

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President Biden Issues Pardon to Son Hunter on Gun and Tax Charges

By Ariana Figueroa

WASHINGTON — President Joe Biden Sunday night announced he has pardoned his son Hunter, a reversal in his long-standing pledge that he would not exert his executive authority to clear his son of gun-related charges and tax crimes.

“I believe in the justice system,” Biden said in a statement. “But as I have

wrestled with this, I also believe raw politics has infected this process and it led to a miscarriage of justice — and once I made this decision this weekend, there was no sense in delaying it further. I hope Americans will understand why a father and a President would come to this decision.”

Hunter, who is Biden’s only living son, was a frequent target of Republicans,

who, through various investigations, sought to link broad corruption charges to the president and his son. No evidence has shown any wrongdoing by the president.

“No reasonable person who looks at the facts of Hunter’s cases can reach any other conclusion than Hunter was singled out only because he is my son — and that is wrong,” Biden said.

“There has been an effort to break Hunter — who has been five and a half years sober, even in the face of unrelenting attacks and selective prosecution.”

Hunter Biden’s gun conviction before a federal jury in June stemmed from lying on a gun purchase in 2018. He checked a box that affirmed he was not using illegal drugs, but he did then use drugs while owning the

firearm. The gun charges carried a possible prison sentence.

Separately, Hunter Biden also pleaded guilty to federal tax charges in California.

The decision came at the end of a holiday weekend and as Biden is winding down his presidency and President-elect Donald Trump is set to take office in January.

U.S. House Committee

on Oversight and Accountability Chairman James Comer, a Kentucky Republican, blasted the move by the president, saying he has “lied from start to finish about his family’s corrupt influence peddling activities.”

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Under Trump, Many States Might Pursue Medicaid Work Requirements

By Shalina Chatlani

Trevor Hawkins, an attorney at Legal Aid of Arkansas, remembers how busy his job got when the state for a time imposed work requirements on Medicaid recipients: His office was swamped with frantic phone calls from people who said they couldn’t comply with the new rule because they weren’t healthy enough to work or had to care for sick relatives.

“A whole heap of folks, after a month or two, started getting notices saying, ‘Hey, you’re out of compliance, and you’re going to lose your coverage,’” Hawkins told Stateline. For many people, he said, keeping their coverage was “absolutely vital to maintaining their health or getting better so they might work again.”

In June 2018, Arkansas became the first state to require some Medicaid recipients to work, volunteer, go to school or participate in job training to receive benefits. By the time a federal judge halted the policy in April 2019, 18,000 adults had lost coverage.

Arkansas was one of 13 states that received permission to impose work rules on at least some Medicaid recipients during the last Trump administration. Nine additional states requested permission to enact Medicaid work requirements during Trump’s term but had not won approval by the time it ended.

When the Biden administration came into office, it rescinded all the approvals. But now that Trump is coming back, many of those states will try again — and they’ll have a supportive U.S. Congress in their corner.

Republicans on Capitol Hill are eager to find ways to pay for extending tax cuts enacted during Trump’s first term in office, and Medicaid — funded jointly by the federal government and the states — is in their sights. Requiring states to establish Medicaid work rules, as many Republicans would like to do, would cut federal spending by an estimated \$109 billion over a decade, according to the Congressional Budget Office. That’s because the cost for about 900,000 people would shift entirely to states, while another 600,000 people would become uninsured, CBO estimated. About 72.4 million

people are enrolled in Medicaid.

Arkansas renewed its efforts even before Trump’s victory. Last year, Republican Gov. Sarah Huckabee Sanders requested federal approval from the Biden administration to apply work rules to able-bodied adults who are covered through the state’s expansion of Medicaid under the Affordable Care Act, and who are enrolled in health plans that Arkansas Medicaid purchases for them on the state’s health insurance exchange. That application is pending.

Georgia, after prevailing in a legal fight with the Biden administration, already has work requirements in place for people covered by its partial expansion of Medicaid. And Idaho, Mississippi, Oklahoma, South Dakota and Tennessee have pending requests to require at least some of their Medicaid recipients to work.

Meeting requirements

Supporters say requiring Medicaid recipients to work, study or train for a career gives them a boost toward self-sufficiency and financial stability. Kristi Putnam, the secretary of the Arkansas Department of Human Services, said in a statement announcing her state’s latest request that it would challenge people to “embrace economic opportunities that can lead to true job advancement.”

“Meaningful work connects people to purpose — and through the pandemic we have seen negative mental health impacts from people feeling disconnected,” Putnam said.

Critics, however, say such rules end up hurting far more people than they help. In a 2020 study examining how the Arkansas work requirements played out, researchers from the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health “found no evidence that the policy succeeded in its stated goal of promoting work and instead found substantial evidence of harm to health care coverage and access.”

More than 95% of the Arkansas beneficiaries of the researchers surveyed already met the work requirement or should have qualified for an exemption. The main reason people lost coverage, the researchers found, was because they had trouble complying with the rules. Many of those who lost their coverage

stopped taking their medications, delayed care and fell into medical debt.

“Our results should provide a strong note of caution for federal and state policy makers considering work requirement policies in the future,” the researchers concluded.

Under the rules Arkansas put in place during the first Trump administration, Medicaid participants under age 50 had to report that they spent at least 80 hours each month working, attending school, in job training or volunteering. The rule only applied to people who became eligible after Arkansas expanded Medicaid under the ACA to cover adults making up to 138% of the federal poverty level. And people were exempt if they were pregnant, had a child under 18 at home, were disabled, had to care for a person unable to care for him or herself, were in alcohol or drug treatment, or were in school or job training full time.

About 70,000 of the roughly 270,000 Arkansans on Medicaid were subject to the new rules, and about 1 in 4 of those lost coverage.

Unlike Arkansas, Georgia has not expanded Medicaid under the Affordable Care Act. But its Pathways to Coverage program, launched in July 2023, allows people with household incomes up to 100% of the federal poverty level who aren’t already eligible for Medicaid to enroll in the program if they fulfill work requirements. Georgia’s qualifying activities and exemptions are similar to the ones Arkansas had.

Fiona Roberts, a spokesperson for the Georgia Department of Community Health, told Stateline that as of Nov. 15, there were 5,548 people enrolled in the program and that a total of 7,518 people had been enrolled at some point — evidence, she said, that the program is helping people move from Medicaid to private insurance.

But in its first year, Pathways to Coverage only enrolled about 4,200 people — many fewer than the 25,000 the state had predicted. The cost of the program as of the end of 2023 was \$26.6 million, and more than 90% of that went toward administrative and consulting costs, according to KFF, a nonprofit health research group. If Georgia had opted for a full expansion under the ACA,

the federal government would have picked up 90% of the tab and the state would have covered about 359,000 people.

Leah Chan, director of health justice at the Georgia Budget and Policy Institute, said work requirements are particularly challenging for people living in rural areas.

“If you don’t have broadband internet at your house, you’re not going to be able to upload the documentation and your pay stubs,” Chan told Stateline. “Even eligible people can’t keep up with it, particularly in rural areas where there are additional barriers to participation.”

‘Learning from mistakes’

Benjamin Sommers, a professor of health care economics at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health and one of the authors of the Arkansas study, said the experience with work requirements there and in Georgia should give other states pause.

“All that ended up happening was people lost coverage due to red tape, became uninsured, and in some cases, we saw that they had worse access to health care,” Sommers said.

But Arkansas Republican state Rep. Aaron Pilkington, who serves on the health committee in his chamber, said Medicaid work rules are “100% on the table and something we’ll look to ask for from the Trump administration.”

“They can find work and get better health insurance through their employer,” Pilkington said. He said the volunteering and education options make the rules even more attractive.

Meanwhile, in some of the 10 states that have not expanded Medicaid under the ACA, the inclusion of work requirements might be the only way politically to get expansion over the finish line.

“Most of the Democrats I’ve spoken to did not want the work requirements, but to get it passed through the Mississippi legislature it’s most likely going to have one,” Mississippi Republican state Rep. Sam Creekmore told Stateline.

“We’ve looked at Georgia’s plan. We recognize the pitfalls and are hopefully learning from mistakes.”

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Shop Local This Holiday Season!



Iowa 4-H Celebrates National Computer Science Week with Spotlight on AI

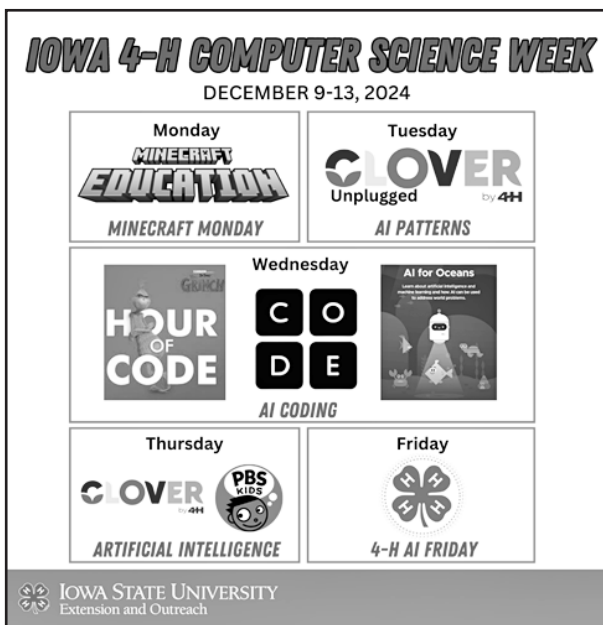
by Sydney Peterson, Alexa Groff

AMES, Iowa — Iowa 4-H is celebrating National Computer Science Week, Dec. 9-13. This year, the Iowa 4-H computer science team is focusing on artificial intelligence with engaging, age-appropriate activities tailored for students in grades K-12. Thanks to a generous grant from Google, Iowa 4-H is empowering youth across the state to explore AI, an essential technology of the future.

The Google grant is part of a nationwide initiative aimed at equipping over 155,000 youth with AI knowledge. Iowa 4-H is bringing this initiative to life through Computer Science Week activities, encouraging hands-on learning and fostering critical thinking and innovation.

K-12 Computer Science Week Activities

- For Grades 4-12
- Monday: Minecraft Monday — Hour of Code: Generation AI.** Explore AI concepts in the virtual world of Minecraft Education Edition, merging creativity and problem-solving in a dynamic coding challenge.
- Tuesday: Artificial Intelligence Unplugged.** Dive into unplugged activities to understand how AI learns and functions, even without computers.
- Wednesday: AI for Oceans or The Grinch Hour of Code.** Participate in activities like AI for Oceans, demonstrating AI's role in environmental solutions, or code with a holiday twist in The Grinch Hour of Code.
- Thursday: Artificial Intelligence by Clover.** Hands-on activities will explore how AI solves real-world problems and supports innovation.
- Friday: Iowa 4-H's AI Art Challenge.** End the week with creativity by participating in an AI-powered art challenge showcasing the fusion of technology and art.



(Image courtesy of ISU)

- Monday: Minecraft Monday — Subtraction World.** Younger learners will use Minecraft Education Edition to engage in fun, math-focused adventures.
 - Tuesday: Clover Break It Down!** Using Decomposition. Activities from the National 4-H Council will teach kids how to break down problems, a foundational computational thinking skill.
 - Wednesday: Hour of Code.** Kids can try Kodable's Intro to Programming, an engaging way for pre-readers and early learners to explore basic coding concepts.
 - Thursday: PBS Kids Park Builder.** Students will design parks in a virtual world while learning about problem-solving and systems thinking.
 - Friday: 4-H Friday - Clover Kid Human Robot.** A fun, interactive activity where kids act as robots to understand programming concepts
- Empowering youth with AI knowledge**
- "Artificial intelligence is an increasingly integral part of our daily lives," said Alexa Groff, Iowa 4-H STEM education specialist with Iowa State University Extension and Outreach. "Through National Computer Science Week, we're

inspiring Iowa's youth to become not only consumers but creators of technology, sparking their interest in STEM careers and problem-solving."

Iowa 4-H's focus on AI education ensures that youth have access to cutting-edge learning opportunities. The program's activities align with 4-H's mission to help young people develop skills to prepare them for future challenges and opportunities.

Iowa 4-H Youth Development, an ISU Extension and Outreach program, is dedicated to empowering youth to reach their full potential through hands-on learning. With the support of partners like Google, Iowa 4-H continues to provide innovative educational opportunities for youth across Iowa.

More information on Iowa 4-H's Computer Science Week activities and access to resources are available online (<https://iastate.box.com/s/4xe4x-51cxmclxfamlefthiv14keh-4pe9k>).

For more information on the Iowa 4-H Youth Development program, please contact your ISU Extension and Outreach county office (<https://www.extension.iastate.edu/countyservices/>) or visit the Iowa 4-H website (<https://www.extension.iastate.edu/4h/>).

Anderson, Orozco Take Gold In Manson

By Taylor Smith Sports Editor

With only six athletes, the Eagle Grove girls wrestling team finished 2nd out of 11 schools at Monday night's tournament in Manson.

Sioux Central won the tourney with 141 points. The purple and gold earned 102 points thanks to gold medal performances from Catherine Orozco and Jaymie Anderson.

Orozco wrestled at 100 lbs. and won by injury default and major decision in the early rounds before defeating a Sioux Central

grappler by fall in the finals.

Evelyn Jergensen (115) won by fall in the 1st round and lost by fall in the 2nd round. The junior bounced back in the 3rd place match and won by fall over Emery Kramer of South Central Calhoun.

Anderson took 1st place at 125 after wins by fall over wrestlers from West Central Valley and Emmetsburg. She ended her match with the E-Hawk wrestler in just 31 seconds.

Keylyee Collins earned bronze at 135 lbs. after her

victory by fall over Larissa Bussinger of East Sac County.

Baylee Steig had a 2nd place finish at 145 lbs. and secured two more wins by fall for the Eagles. She defeated a Pocahontas Area wrestler in her last match of the night.

Freshman Keely Peterson took home 3rd place and won by fall over Gracie Sloss of West Valley at 170 lbs.

You can catch the girls in action on December 10th at the Lady Eagle Invite right here in Eagle Grove.

Girls Grapplers Go 1-2 In November Quad

By Taylor Smith Sports Editor

On Monday, November 25th, the Eagle Grove girls wrestling squad journeyed to Winnebago County for a quad against Lake Mills, Nevada, and Webster City/Clarion-Goldfield-Dows.

The Eagles fell to the hosts 60-12 in their first dual of

the evening, but bounced back in their next battle vs. Webster City/Clarion-Goldfield-Dows and walked away with a 30-24 victory. In their final matchup of the night, EG lost 46-18 to the Nevada Cubs.

Evelyn Jergensen was a perfect 3-0 on the night. Junior Jaymie Anderson went

2-1 on the evening at 115 lbs., and Catherine Orozco (100) also pocketed a pair of wins for the purple and gold. Freshman Keely Peterson (170) went 2-1 in the quad.

Keylyee Collins (135) and Baylee Steig (145) also wrestled for Eagle Grove, but neither grappler picked up a win in Lake Mills.



EG captains shake hands with their opponents from Lake Mills. (Photo by Luke Ascherl)

U.S. Senate Dem Leader Calls for Traditional Process for Confirming Trump Nominees

By Jennifer Shutt

WASHINGTON — Senate Democratic Leader Chuck Schumer sent a letter to incoming Republican Leader John Thune on Monday urging him to move nominees through the traditional confirmation process, including committee hearings and floor votes.

The letter is likely a response to President-elect Donald Trump urging Senate Republicans to recess the chamber for at least 10 days next year so he can make recess appointments, getting around the Senate's role in confirming nominees. Republicans will be in the majority when the new Congress convenes in January, taking over from Democrats.

"As we transition to the 119th Congress, Senate Democrats stand ready and willing to work with Senate Republicans to provide advice and consent as we evaluate all of the incoming president's nominations," Schumer wrote in the one-

page letter. "In particular, we commit to working in a bipartisan fashion to process each nominee by reviewing standard FBI background-investigation materials, scheduling hearings and markups in the committees of jurisdiction, and considering nominees on the Senate floor."

Thune, who GOP senators elected to replace Mitch McConnell next year as their leader, hasn't committed to recessing the chamber for the time needed to allow Trump to appoint nominees single-handedly, but has repeatedly encouraged Democrats not to slow down the process.

"What we're going to do is make sure that we are processing his nominees in a way that gets them into those positions, so they can implement his agenda. How that happens remains to be seen," the South Dakota Republican said in mid-November.

"Obviously, we want to make sure our committees have confirmation hear-

ings, like they typically do, and that these nominees are reported out to the floor," Thune added. "But I've said this and I mean it — that we expect a level of cooperation from the Democrats to work with us to get these folks installed. And obviously, we're going to explore all options to make sure they get moved and they get moved quickly."

Narrow path for nominees

Trump's nominations have received mixed reaction from GOP senators with some, like Florida Sen. Marco Rubio who will likely become secretary of State, receiving widespread praise, while others have received lukewarm receptions.

For example, Trump's first nominee for attorney general, former Florida Rep. Matt Gaetz, withdrew eight days after Trump said he wanted him to lead the Justice Department amid widespread concerns from Republican senators about allegations of illegal drug use and paying for sex.

Republicans will have a 53-seat majority in the Senate once the next session of Congress begins on Jan. 3, meaning any nominee can lose the support of three Republican senators and still secure confirmation on a party-line vote with Vice President-elect J.D. Vance breaking the tie.



Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, a New York Democrat, speaks with reporters in the basement of the U.S. Capitol on Feb. 7, 2024. (Photo by Jennifer Shutt/States Newsroom)

Democrats may vote for some of Trump's nominees if they believe they're qualified, but are unlikely to support the more controversial picks, like TV personality and former U.S. Pennsylvania Senate candidate Dr. Mehmet Oz, who Trump says he will tap to lead the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

With such narrow margins, centrist Republicans like Maine's Susan Collins, Kentucky's McConnell and

Alaska's Lisa Murkowski, could have influence over Trump's Cabinet, unless the chamber allows recess appointments.

Checks and balances

Schumer wrote in his letter the Senate's role confirming nominees should be respected regardless of who holds the Oval Office or which political party controls the chamber.

"In our system of checks and balances, the Senate plays a vital role in ensur-

ing the President appoints well-qualified public officials that will dutifully serve the American people and honor their oaths to the Constitution," Schumer wrote. "Regardless of party, the Senate has upheld this sacred duty for generations and we should not and must not waver in our Constitutional duty. We look forward to joining you in these efforts as soon as possible once the Senate and its committees are organized in January."

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Football/Competition Cheerleaders Wrap Up Season

By Taylor Smith Sports Editor

As fall begins to turn to winter, another round of local cheerleaders have finished their football and competition season. Last

week, Eagle Grove High School Cheer celebrated their 10 seniors, letter winners, and competition cheerleaders that took part in the Triton Challenge. Team members received

letters, and seniors were given gift bags at their annual banquet. Back to back Game Time Spirit Triton Challenge champions were recognized for their lasting impact on the program's

legacy, and Coach Shelby Jacobson poured praise on her squad.

"I truly could not be more proud," Jacobson said. "Once an Eagle, always an Eagle."



Football Cheer: Back Row (L to R): Joselin Ramirez, Zoey Pamperin, Kearsyn Tolbert, Evie Jergenson, Trinity Alesch, Jaymie Anderson, Kendra Schild, Kameya Hoop, Brenna Grandgeorge, Denise Mendez - Front Row (L to R): Arianna Bisson-Rink, Hannah Terry, Gizelle Gonzalez, Gracie Sisson, Avery Wepel-Sisson, Ashley Deleon, Adam Champagne, Jocelyn Gonzalez, Monique Garcia, Elizabeth Lopez.



Competition Teams: Back row (L to R): Evelyn Jergenson, Kendra Schild, Kameya Hoop, Jaymie Anderson, Joselin Ramirez, Trinity Alesch, Denise Mendez, Brenna Grandgeorge, Zoey Pamperin, Kearsyn Tolbert - Front row (L to R): Avery Wepel-Sisson, Gracie Sisson, Jocelyn Gonzalez, Hannah Terry, Elizabeth Lopez, Adam Champagne, Ashley Deleon, Arianna Bisson-Rink, Monique Garcia.



Seniors: Back row (L to R): Hannah Terry, Arianna Bisson-Rink, Elizabeth Lopez, Jocelyn Gonzalez, Adam Champagne - Front row (L to R): Avery Wepel-Sisson, Gizelle Gonzalez, Gracie Sisson, Monique Garcia, Ashley Deleon. (Photos by Shelby Jacobson)

Boys JV Squad Falls 52-25 In Clarion

By Taylor Smith Sports Editor

Boys JV players and coaches were hyped for their first game of the season against rival Clarion-Goldfield-Dows on Monday night. The looks and opportunities were there, but at the end of the night, the ball didn't bounce the way Eagle Grove hoped.

The Eagles played CGD tight early, and Braylon Kling had 5 quick points in

the 1st quarter. Unfortunately, as the game progressed, the purple and gold had no answer for the Cowboys' three-point shooting and aggressive play in the paint.

EG trailed 34-13 at the end of the 3rd. CGD continued their relentless drives to the rim and their shooters couldn't miss. Later in the game, Kling and Dylan Beck provided a boost on offense, but the game was too far out of reach.



Braylon Kling picks up his dribble vs. the Cowboys.



Issiac Williams scans the floor. (Photos by Taylor Smith)

Local Running Back Earns Second Team All-District

By Taylor Smith Sports Editor

As a freshman in 2023, Trenton Robinson had just 3 carries for 6 total yards, but showed his versatility and had a standout year on the defensive side of the ball. He was third in total tackles (26.5) and second in sacks (3.5) for the purple and gold.

In his sophomore year, the running back became the centerpiece of the Eagle offense. He took the challenge in stride and earned a place on the Class 1A District 2 All-District Second Team.

Trenton models his game after 2024 graduate Drake Canavan, and says his mindset when he gets the ball is to "run as hard as I can,

get a first down, and score." When it comes to practicing and bettering himself, Robinson's motto is to "show up and work hard."

This season, the 5'11 back missed a game against East

Sac County due to injury, but he still led the Eagles in rushing for the year. Robinson ran for 144 yards and a touchdown vs. Forest City, and in a win over Belmond, he cruised for 205 yards on just 24 carries and added another 2 touchdowns.

Despite getting the brunt of the carries in the run heavy Eagle offense, Robinson rarely left the field for a break. He returned kicks and finished the year with 21 total tackles and 2 fumble recoveries.

Robinson didn't reach his pre-season goal of 1,000 yards on the ground, but with a two full seasons of high school football ahead of him, that aspiration might not be out of reach.



Trenton Robinson returned 12 kicks for 242 yards in his sophomore year. (Photo by McKristie Willard)



National Drug Take Back

Dispose of unused medications properly!

Return them in their original containers ANY DAY DURING NORMAL BUSINESS HOURS at the following local businesses:

- * Eagle Grove Pharmacy
- * Iowa Specialty Hospital Pharmacy in Clarion
- * Thrifty White Pharmacy in Clarion

Look for the drop boxes inside

Wright County Public Health would like to remind you that unused or outdated prescription medications need to be disposed of properly. Throwing it in the garbage or flushing it down the toilet is NOT one of those ways...medications can get into the ground water supply. Giving them to someone else is illegal!

SPORTS

UPCOMING SPORTS SCHEDULE

- Thursday, Dec. 5**
- State Drill Team @ Hy-Vee Hall C, 3:50 p.m.
 - 7th/8th Grade Boys Basketball vs. Bishop Garrigan @ EG, 4:15 p.m.
 - Boys JV/Varsity Wrestling Quad @ Forest City, 6 p.m.
 - Boys JJV Basketball @ Belmont-Klemme, 6:30 p.m.
- Friday, Dec. 6**
- State Drill Team @ Wells Fargo Arena facing east, 11:43 a.m.
 - Girls JV/Varsity Basketball @ West Hancock, 4 p.m.
 - Boys JV/Varsity Basketball @ West Hancock, 5 p.m.
 - State Drill Team @ Hy-Vee Hall C, 6:11 p.m.
- Saturday, Dec. 7**
- Boys Varsity Wrestling @ Gilbert HS, 9 p.m.
- Monday, Dec. 9**
- 7th/8th Grade Boys Basketball @ Forest City, 4:15 p.m.
 - Junior High Girls Wrestling @ West Fork, 4:15 p.m.
 - Boys JJV Basketball @ West Hancock, 6:30 p.m.
- Tuesday, Dec. 10**
- 7th Grade Boys Wrestling @ Clarion-Goldfield-Dows, 4:15 p.m.
 - 7th/8th Grade Boys Basketball @ SE Valley, 4:15 p.m.
 - Girls JV/Varsity Wrestling @ Lady Eagle Invite, 5 p.m.

Eagles Come Out Victorious in Nail-Biter

By Taylor Smith
Sports Editor

The purple and gold started their boys varsity basketball season with a crowd pleaser on Monday night at Clarion-Goldfield-Dows High School.

In the opening minutes, the Eagle Grove offense tore through CGD like a buzzsaw. A Jaxon Morris layup got the Eagles on the board, and an Abraham Lin triple made it 5-0. Morris followed that with a three of his own and dropped in a layup for good measure. Trailing 10-0, the Cowboys called a timeout to reassess.

The Cowboy offense slowly came to life, but Adrian Whipple banked in a three off an assist from Morris that subdued the CGD crowd. Morris had another trey before the quarter finished and finished the first eight minutes with 12 points.

Late in the 2nd quarter, a balanced CGD attack helped them gradually chip away at the lead. Lin nailed a three from the corner, but CGD's JD Morriral responded with a layup to bring his team

within three.

In the 2nd half, Clarion-Goldfield-Dows began to capitalize on their length and picked up a few advantageous whistles. They took their first lead, but Morris came off a screen and swished a shot behind the arc. Gavin Pedersen made a bunny inside, but the Cowboys still led 41-37 after three quarters.

The Eagles weren't finished, however, and an inside shot from Josh Miller

tied the contest in the 4th quarter. Whipple drained a three to give them back the lead, and both teams traded buckets as time dwindled from the clock.

With the outcome on the line, Morris and Whipple hit crucial free throws, and the Eagles escaped with a 53-47 win over their Wright County rivals.

Morris finished with a team high 21 points. Lin added 13, and Whipple dropped in 11.



Gavin Pedersen focuses on defense



Abraham Lin was huge in his debut for EGHS



Jaxon Morris was cool under pressure Monday night in Clarion. (Photos by Taylor Smith)

JV Basketball Team Crushes Rivals

By Taylor Smith
Sports Editor

The EGHS girls JV basketball team laced up in Clarion on Monday night in their season opener against Clarion-Goldfield-Dows. They got on top early thanks

to aggressive team defense and kept the Cowgirls under double digits through four quarters.

Myka Anderson was a menace in the passing lanes for Eagle Grove, and the team consistently drew fouls and

snagged boards on both ends.

With less than a minute left in the 1st quarter, Anderson stole an errant CGD pass and turned it into an easy layup. Seconds later, the Eagles got the ball back and found Azlyn Amonson open for three

to push their lead to 19-0.

The Cowgirls would score their first point midway through the 2nd quarter, but Anderson responded with an athletic drive to the rim to make it 29-1.

CGD found a bit of a

rhythm late in the game, but the Eagle Grove lead was insurmountable. The purple and gold dominated from start to finish and walked away with a 47-7 victory.

Anderson had a game high 19 points in the win.



Holly Anderson looks for an open teammate




Myka Anderson blows by a Cowgirl defender



Ellie Lenning catches her breath during a free throw. (Photos by Taylor Smith)

ACCEPTING NEW PATIENTS




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Community Health Center of Clarion

303 N Main St., Clarion
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World AIDS Day is December 1

You help us keep moving forward when you **talk**, **test**, **treat**.



talk

Talk with your partner **before** having sex.

Talk about **when** you were last tested and suggest getting tested together.

Talk to your healthcare provider about your sex life. Ask them about HIV and STI testing: including what tests you need and how often.

test

Get tested! It's the only way to **know for sure** if you have an HIV or another STI.

Many STIs **don't cause any symptoms**, so you could have one and **not know**.

If you're not comfortable asking your regular provider for an HIV or STI test, find a clinic that provides confidential testing that is free or low cost.

treat

All STIs, including HIV, are treatable. If you test positive for an STI, work with your healthcare provider to get the right treatment.

If you test positive for HIV, your provider or testing location will help connect you to treatment & resources!

Ask about partner services to get your partner tested and treated. Avoid having sex until you and your sex partner both complete treatment.

STOP HIV IOWA