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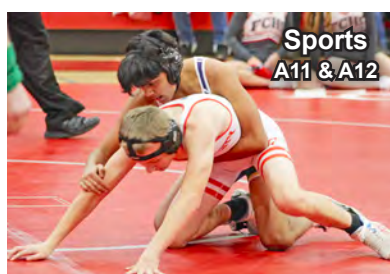
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A Christmas Treasure: Local Collector Lights Up the Holidays

By Edward Lynn
Editor

GOLDFIELD—As they pass through Goldfield on Hwy 3 just past the intersection with Hwy 17, hundreds of drivers a day whizz unwittingly by a stunning display of what just might

be one of the most astounding collections of a very specific type of traditional holiday decorations anywhere.

Blow molding, a plastic manufacturing process, has played a significant role in the production of holiday

decorations, particularly from the 1960s onward. This technique involves inflating heated plastic into molds to create hollow, lightweight figures. The first U.S. patent for blow molding was granted in 1881, but it wasn't until the mid-20th century that the process was applied to holiday décor. Pioneering companies like the

Bernard Edward Co. (later known as Beco), Poloron Products, Union Products, and NOMA/Tico began producing blow-molded Christmas decorations in the early 1960s. These illuminated figures, often depicting Santa Claus, snowmen, and nativity scenes, became

See **CHRISTMAS TREASURE: Page A3**



The Crees' collection of blow molded Christmas decorations might just be second to none. (Photos by Edward Lynn)



Scouts collecting donations stayed warm using some of their outdoorsmanship skills.

Empty Stockings: Toys for Tots Drive Falls Short

There's still time to help kids have a merry Christmas

By Edward Lynn
Editor

The local Toys for Tots fundraiser, an annual effort to ensure every child in our community wakes up to gifts on Christmas morning, has faced an uphill battle this year. Held on November 23rd, the same day as several other local events, organizers acknowledged that people may have been too busy to contribute.

"It was the worst event ever," said Scoutmaster Rick Dawson of Eagle Grove Scouts BSA Troop 1059, which spearheads the local campaign. Despite weeks of planning and promotion, the turnout fell far short of the community's needs.

But it's not too late to help. Donations of new, unwrapped toys can still be dropped off at the Johnson Law Firm, located next to Fareway, where a large Toys for Tots sign marks the collection point. Two donation boxes are ready to receive contributions, and there is also a can for financial donations. The toys will be picked up on Dec. 21, ensuring they're distributed to children in need just in time for Christmas. But with just days left to donate, time is of the essence.

A Legacy of Giving

Toys for Tots, a program founded in 1947 in Los Angeles California, by the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve, has become a symbol of holiday generosity. Over the

decades, it has distributed more than 677 million toys to over 301 million children nationwide, according to the organization's website.

Locally, the Scouts BSA troop has taken the lead in organizing the drive for the past several years. In a typical year, thousands of toys are collected at the drive, and more purchased with donated funds by the scouts. But this year the drive collected only 338 donations.

How to Help

As the countdown to Christmas continues, organizers are urging the community to step in and help turn things around. Every toy makes a difference. Whether it's a doll, a book, or a set of blocks, it means the world to a child. Just drop your new, unwrapped toy in one of the collection boxes at the Johnson Law Firm, and you're sure to make it on Santa's Nice List by helping a local child have a Merry Christmas.

For those who can't donate toys, financial contributions are also accepted. All proceeds will go toward purchasing additional gifts to ensure every child has something to unwrap.

This holiday season, the Eagle Grove community has a chance to show its heart and make sure no kid's stocking is left empty, and every kid finds a present under the Christmas tree.

For more information about Toys for Tots visit toysfortots.org.

Students Spread Cheer During Holiday Concert

Christmas spirit was in the air on Monday night at Robert Blue Middle School Auditorium. At their annual music concert, 4th and 5th graders from Eagle Grove had the chance to show their loved ones the songs they've been perfecting. Mrs. Tweeten accompanied her students on the keys, and artwork from Mrs. Erdman's and Mrs. Wesslink's classes helped create a cheerful mood for the entire school.

The spunky 4th grade choir took the stage first and burst into song with one of the most popular tunes in U.S. history: "Jingle Bells". Their version, "Jingle Bell Stomp", featured synchronized clapping, dancing, and stomping.

In "Mean", several soloists set the stage for an



5th graders sing and sign "Amazing Grace" (Photo by Taylor Smith)

emotional rendition of one of Taylor Swift's most popular hits. The familiar "Rudolph The Red-Nosed Reindeer", composed by Johnny Marks, and "Here Comes The Sun" by George Harrison were both well received by the crowd. A handbell choir and bilingual arrangement highlighted a performance of the 206-year-old Christmas standard, "Silent Night".

After the 4th graders filed

off the stage, the smaller 5th grade class came out to "Winter Wonderland" with a handbell accompaniment. Their next number was an NFL themed tongue twister called "Football". Soloists recited the names of each professional gridiron team before returning to their positions in the full choir.

"The Season of Hope" by Roger Emerson offered listeners a message of everlasting love, and the traditional

hymn "Amazing Grace" was sung in dulcet tones. In the concert finale, percussionists played cabasas and shook maracas during a rousing reimagining of "Feliz Navidad".

After the crowd's ovation, Mrs. Tweeten thanked the attendees and school employees who made the evening possible. She also wished for everyone to get home safely and for a joyful holiday season.

More photos on page A2!



\$1.50



Scout A.J. Premo accepts a donation of toys from Colleen Bartlett. (Photos by Edward Lynn)

EGHS Student Council to Host Annual Teddy Bear Toss

Favorite annual event aims to spread holiday cheer.

Eagle Grove, Iowa — Eagle Grove High School Student Council is excited to announce its annual Teddy Bear Toss event, set to take place on Decem-

ber 12, 2024 at the quad basketball games versus Belmont-Klemme High School at Eagle Grove Elementary Gym. This heartwarming community event invites fans of all ages to bring a teddy bear (or other soft toy) to the game, and toss them onto the court to be donated to Wright County children in need this holiday season. The Teddy Bear Toss is one of the most beloved

traditions of the EGHS Student Council, with a goal of spreading joy and making the holiday season brighter for local children and families. Fans are encouraged to bring new or gently used stuffed animals, which will be collected and distributed to all three school districts in Wright County to send home in bookbags for the upcoming holidays. "We're so excited to bring back the Teddy Bear

Toss for another year," said Michelle Calles, EGHS Student Body President. "This is the second annual Teddy Bear Toss, however, the event has become a staple of our holiday celebrations, and it's a great way for our fans to give back to the community and make a difference in the lives of kids who may be going through a tough time."

Event Details:
 Date: December 12, 2024
 Time: Between Varsity Games
 Location: Eagle Grove Elementary School : 425 North Fort Avenue, Eagle Grove
 How to Participate: Bring a new or gently used stuffed animal to the event. In between the varsity games, fans will toss their bears onto the court. Bears will be collected and distributed to Wright County children in

their school bags just before the holiday break. "The teddy bear toss last year brought in over 200 teddy bears for local mental health and advocate agencies! We're thankful for the generosity of our fans and the community's support of this event," added Calles. "It's truly heartwarming to see the outpouring of love and care for those who need it most, especially during the holiday season."

CONCERT from page A1



LEFT: Mrs. Tweeten conducted and accompanied the concert. RIGHT: 4th grade soloists approach the mic during their rendition of "Mean" (Photos by Taylor Smith)

Local Businesses Amplify the Impact of a Young Entrepreneur

Amanda Rink, Mid-America Publishing

Kayleigh Marshall, a young entrepreneur and the owner of the custom jewelry company, "Little Bit of Sunshine," is a familiar name in Clarion. Recently, her community-focused efforts have brought her even more recognition. Particularly for her fundraising initiatives to support two beloved music teachers, Mr. Joseph Granzow and Mr. Tom Klaver, both of whom are facing their own battles with cancer.

Kayleigh Marshall, the daughter of Kevin and Alison Marshall, and currently a 6th-grade student at Clarion-Goldfield-Dows. Kayleigh has taken it upon herself to make a difference, using her passion for jewelry to support Mr. Granzow and Mr. Klaver during their difficult times.

"After helping with the Beecher fundraiser, I realized there were others in need in my everyday life. My family and myself have been very involved in the music program so I felt this was my opportunity to give back to something that meant a lot to me," the entrepreneur said.

Kayleigh's bracelet campaign was launched with the goal of raising funds for the teachers' medical expenses.

Each bracelet sold for \$6, with \$2 from each purchase directed toward the teachers' treatments.

When Mr. Granzow was diagnosed with cancer in late 2022, the news hit hard. He underwent surgery to remove a tumor from his esophagus, along with part of the organ itself. Though doctors fought hard to stop the disease's progression, it spread to other areas of his body. Despite the challenges, Mr. Granzow continues to teach his students while undergoing treatments.

"I'm constantly tired, but the students' energy and the music keep me going," Mr. Granzow shared in a previous interview with The Wright County Monitor. "I look forward to each day just to be with the students and make music together. It's not always easy, and I have bad days, but the good ones outshine the bad ones. I try to live my life to the fullest—why else go through all the treatments if not to live?"

While Mr. Klaver quietly navigates his cancer treatment, the Wright County Monitor has not reached out to him for comment in respect of his rest. Although it is obvious his presence is felt strongly in the community, with many rallying

around him to offer support.

Kayleigh shared her excitement with The Wright County Monitor: "I was very happy with the end results of the fundraiser! Partnering with local businesses not only increased the amount to give but boosted community support for the teachers. I can't thank the businesses and all the people who donated and purchased bracelets enough for helping this fundraiser be a success!"

Through Kayleigh's hard work and the community's outpouring of support, the fundraiser raised an incredible \$3,272. The campaign's success was magnified by the generosity of local businesses, many of which matched donations or contributed substantial funds. Their support transformed this heartfelt effort into a community-wide movement.

Businesses that contributed include:

- First State Bank
- Town & Country Insurance
- Summers Insurance Agency
- Ameriprise Financial (Kevin L. Kakacek)
- Sigmeth-Roberts Law, PLC
- Paradigm Benefits
- State Farm (Holly A. Narber, Agent)
- Bruce C. Frink, CPA
- North Iowa Real Estate (Bob Powers & Rod Brooks)



With the support of local businesses and the community, Kayleigh Marshall's Bracelet Fundraiser campaign raised over \$3,000 for Mr. Granzow and Mr. Klaver, making a meaningful impact during a challenging time. (Photos: Alison Marshall/Graphic: Amanda Rink)

The impact of this fundraiser goes far beyond the impressive financial total. It shows the apprecia-

tion students and parents have for music teachers like Mr. Granzow and Mr. Klaver. You can follow

Little Bit of Sunshine Co. online and through email at lboosunshineco@gmail.com.

Correction:

In the November 28th issue of the Eagle Grove Eagle, our Courthouse News report recorded incorrect information about the death of Cheryl Lynne Hansen (Olsen). Mrs. Hansen actually passed away on November 7th, at the age of 76; not on November 14th, at the age of 77. This appears to have been a clerical error on our part, and we apologize for any confusion this may have caused.

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Wright County Supervisors Hear Road Updates, Urban Renewal Plans, and Give a Fond Farewell

Amanda Rink, Mid America Publishing

As Wright County prepares for a new chapter in its leadership with the upcoming appointment of new Supervisors and the exit of another, the Board of Supervisors tackled pressing issues ranging from road maintenance to urban renewal planning during Monday's meeting.

The meeting began with the Supervisors acting as Drainage Trustees. During this session, they approved

claims for payment and signed off on minutes from the December 2 meeting. With no new work orders or invoices requiring attention, the Trustees wrapped up quickly and transitioned to their regular agenda.

Economic Development Director Darrel Steven Carlyle recommended engaging the Ahlers and Cooney Law Firm to help establish an Urban Renewal District and create a development agreement for a potential new project. The

Supervisors approved the \$5,500 contract.

County Engineer Adam Clemons gave his weekly update on the county's Secondary Roads. He shared that the road graders have been out recording gravel road slopes. Gravel roads need a 4-6% cross slope to prevent erosion and secondary ditches. Clemons also mentioned discussions with a company about equipping road graders with technology to track road crowns in

real-time.

He ended his report with news of 26 work orders completed, mostly being signs for the upcoming detour around the Voss Quarry Bridge south of Eagle Grove, though a start date for the project has yet to be set.

In other updates:

- The Board toured the Daybreak Egg Facility on Monday afternoon and will visit Prestage facilities on Thursday.
- Supervisors bid fare-

well to Karl Helgevold, who attended his last meeting on Monday. It was a bittersweet session for the board and Helgevold who served for 14 years.

The next meeting of the Wright County Board of Supervisors is set for Monday, December 16, 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.



Baby boy Gomez

Liliana Gomez and Wagner Santos of Clarion have welcomed a son.

Dylan Natanael Santos Gomez was born on Dec. 4, 2024, weighing 8 pounds, 2 ounces. He joins a brother Joshua (2).

Grandparents are Migdalia Gomez and Juan Pelico, both of Clarion.

Baby boy Menke

Andrew and Kyla Menke of Eagle Grove are pleased to announce the birth of a boy.

Osiris Gray Menke was born on Dec. 5, 2024, weighing 8 pounds, 3.2 ounces. He joins siblings Hailey (17), Nicole (16), Aria (7), and Andre (4).

Grandparents are Mike and Dana Kling of Eagle Grove, Michelle and Dennis Menke of Coalville, and Leland Young of Fort Dodge.

Great grandparents are Margaret Sopavich of Coalville, Margrett Wells of Newton, Dennis Menke Sr. of Fort Dodge, and Leroy Young of Fort Dodge.

Famous Birthdays This Week

- December 8: Nicki Minaj, Rapper (42)
- December 9: Donny Osmond, Singer (67)
- December 10: Kenneth Branagh, Director (64)
- December 11: Hailee Steinfeld, Actress (28)
- December 12: Ed Oliver, Athlete (27)
- December 13: Taylor Swift, Singer (35)
- December 14: Vanessa Hudgens, Actress (36)

CHRISTMAS TREASURE from page A1

staples of American holiday displays. Their durability and nostalgic appeal have led to a resurgence in popularity among collectors and enthusiasts today.

One such enthusiast is Brad Crees, a veteran of the Gulf War, and Commander of the Goldfield American Legion. A self-employed truck driver, Crees has been spending his days criss-crossing the roadways for 37 years. But when the holidays roll around, he turns his attention to his passion project: his sprawling collection of blow-molded Christmas decorations.

It all began with a gift from his father. "My dad had given me one," Crees recalled. "And then I just kept finding them at garage sales or auctions or buying them here and there." That first piece was part of a vintage nativity scene, and over the years, Crees has expanded the collection to include 79 blow molds ranging from carolers and snowmen to Santas, cartoon characters, biblical characters, and animals.

Brad's wife, Tracy, has become an enthusiastic partner in the hobby, often being the one to find a new piece listed on Facebook marketplace, or at a thrift shop, or even new pieces at big box stores. The pair have taken road trips, and detours while on errand runs, to pick up a new piece. They've even traveled as far as 130 miles for the perfect piece. "We were in Indianola picking up a truck bumper," Tracy recalled. "And I said, 'How far are we from this town?'" When Brad asked why, she told him there was a piece listed for sale there, and that was all he needed to hear.

One of their standout finds—a life-size set of wise men—was picked up by Tracy's brother for \$100. "They're so tall, we had to put them in the back of the yard," Brad said. "It's like they're looking over everyone else."

The collection includes a range of characters, from vintage carolers to contemporary favorites like Hello Kitty. Tracy has a soft spot for the llamas, while Brad's favorites are the classic Santa Claus and snowmen. The display, meticulously arranged by theme, is both festive and intentional. "We group them—Mickey and Minnie are together, the Santas have their own sec-

tion, and I'm working on a Santa Claus fence," Brad explained.

But creating a winter wonderland is no small task. The couple estimate they've spent about \$3,000 on the decorations, not counting other expenses like travel and wiring, surveillance cameras, etc. And maintaining it requires effort. Many of the older pieces have been upgraded with energy-efficient LED lights. "Some of those old incandescent bulbs could melt the plastic," Brad said. "The LEDs are brighter, cooler, and cheaper to run."

The display's magic isn't just in the lights; it's in the memories it creates. Brad and Tracy's six grandchildren are captivated by the glowing figures. And they start getting anxious as Christmastime nears. The kids love to come see the figurines, "the youngest even talks to each one of them," Tracy pointed out, "he'll get outside, and he'll go talk to each one of them." Their grandkids aren't the only local children captivated by the display, Tracy pointed out. It's not uncommon to see cars with kids in the back go by one way, and then the other, rolling slowly by.

When's the best time to see them? "We run them from around dusk to about 11 p.m.," Brad explained. And how long do you have to get over there? "Usually I'll run them through the first or second of January, and then slowly, depending on the weather, try to take them back down," he explained.

And you'll definitely want to go see them. The holiday season is, after all, largely about the spirit of giving. And what started as a single gift from father to son, has become one man's gift to his entire community. And anyone else who passes by, if they happen to slow down, and turn south onto Water Street.

Congregate Meal Menu:

Monday, Dec. 16

Ham Slice, Roasted Sweet Potatoes, Whole Wheat Bread, Vegetable, Fruit

Tuesday, Dec. 17

Chicken & Mushrooms, Roasted Red Potatoes, Whole Wheat Bread, Vegetable, Fruit

Wednesday, Dec. 18

Salmon Loaf, Baked Potato, Whole Wheat Bread, Vegetable, Fruit

Thursday, Dec. 19

Liver & Onions - OR - Hamburger Patty, Boiled Red Potatoes w/ Gravy, Whole Wheat Bread, Vegetable, Fruit

Friday, Dec. 20

Ground Beef Stroganoff over Egg Noodles, Vegetable, Whole Wheat Bread, Fruit

Eagle Grove Community School District -MENU-

Monday, Dec. 16

BREAKFAST: Oatmeal, Toast, Fruit, Juice

LUNCH: Chicken Sandwich, Cheesy Bake, Carrots, Peaches

Tuesday, Dec. 17

BREAKFAST: Breakfast Pizza, Hashbrown, Fruit, Juice

LUNCH: Creamed Turkey over Mashed Potatoes, Green Beans, Cinnamon Apples, Dinner Roll

Wednesday, Dec. 18

BREAKFAST: French Toast Casserole, Sausage, Fruit, Juice

LUNCH: Mac Bites, Soup, Carrots/Celery, Banana

Thursday, Dec. 19

BREAKFAST: Pancake/Sausage on a stick, Hashbrown, Fruit, Juice

LUNCH: Elem: Christmas Dinner; MS/HS: Make your own sack lunch

Friday, Dec. 20

BREAKFAST: Cereal, Poptart, Fruit, Juice

LUNCH: Elem: Sack Lunch; MS/HS: Christmas Dinner

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Crop Advantage Series to Return

Program will help producers make smart decisions for 2025

by Marsha Rehder,

STORM LAKE, Iowa – The 2025 Crop Advantage meetings will give producers a solid foundation of current research-based crop production information to help make smart, informed decisions for their farming operation. The meetings are an opportunity for farmers and crop advisers to hear current research and crop production information from Iowa State University.

Iowa State University Extension and Outreach specialists will travel to 12 locations around Iowa from Jan. 2-29, providing updated management options and recommendations on crop production issues facing Iowa growers. Meetings include continuing education credits for Certified Crop Advisers and pesticide applicator recertification. All sites offer private pesticide applicator continuing instruction for an additional fee of \$30. "There is no other program in our crop production education year where we are able to bring this many Iowa State University Extension and Outreach specialists together to sites across the state. We're excited to provide the quality, in-person education farmers and retailers have come to expect," said Gentry Sorenson, local field agronomist with ISU Extension and Outreach based near Algona. Program topics vary by location and are selected for regional issues. Examples of topics this year include crop markets, corn sweat and 2025 weather outlook, soybean aphid resistance, tarspot, nitrification inhibitors, tiling and water quality, farm transitions, panels on crop production and conservation and more. To view an exact schedule of topics for each location, visit <http://www.aep.iastate.edu/cas>.

"Our goal is always to prepare producers to manage potential issues when they arise, or even before they arise, by sharing the most up-to-date scientific knowledge from Iowa State University researchers," said Leah Ten Napel, local field agronomist with ISU Extension and Outreach based near Le Mars. "Each location's program is unique as content is driven by local needs and production issues."

2024 Meeting Dates and Locations:

January 2, 2025 – Storm Lake Crop Advantage

January 7, 2025 – Sioux Center Crop Advantage (New Location)

January 9, 2025 – Burlington Crop Advantage

January 10, 2025 – Mason City Crop Advantage

January 14, 2025 – Okoboji Crop Advantage

January 16, 2025 – Cedar Falls Crop Advantage

January 17, 2025 – Davenport Crop Advantage

January 21, 2025 – Atlantic Crop Advantage

January 22, 2025 – Ankeny Crop Advantage

January 23, 2025 – Coralville Crop Advantage

January 28, 2025 – Le Mars Crop Advantage

January 29, 2025 – Templeton Crop Advantage

Early registration for each location is \$75; late registration made less than seven days prior to the meeting, or on-site, is \$100. Registration includes lunch and CCA credits. Private pesticide applicator recertification fee is \$30 paid to the local county Extension office. For additional program details and online registration, visit www.aep.iastate.edu/cas. For more information, contact local field agronomists Gentry Sorenson at 641-430-6715 or Leah Ten Napel at 712-541-3493.

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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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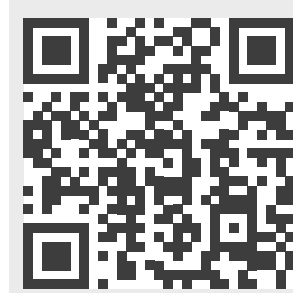
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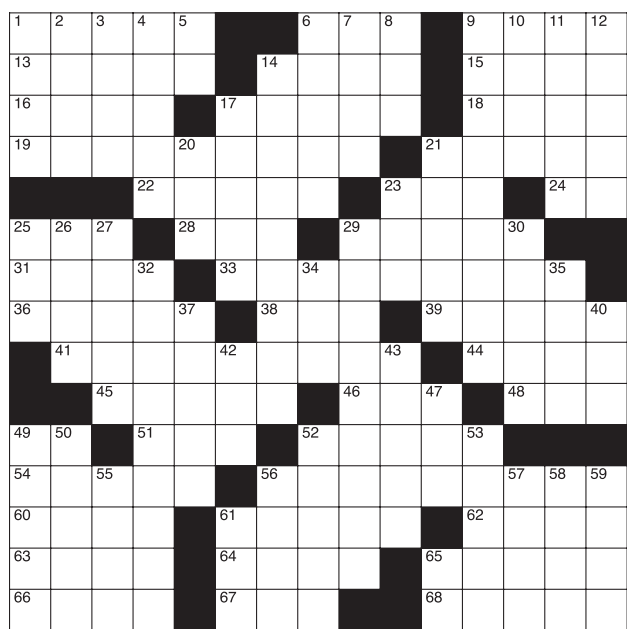
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CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Thou ___ do it
- 6. Sino-Soviet block (abbr.)
- 9. Brainstem part
- 13. Town in New York state
- 14. Little (Spanish)
- 15. Continent
- 16. Retch
- 17. Short-billed rails
- 18. Small period of time (abbr.)
- 19. Confused
- 21. A team needs one
- 22. Woman in ancient times
- 23. Republican Party
- 24. Spanish be
- 25. "The Godfather" character Johnny
- 28. Not around
- 29. City in Zambia
- 31. A type of beginning
- 33. Numb
- 36. Gurus
- 38. Small, gray-headed crow
- 39. Vehicle type
- 41. Disorders
- 44. One point east of southeast
- 45. Indian soldier
- 46. Tree type
- 48. Midway between south and southeast
- 49. It cools your home
- 51. Corn comes on it
- 52. Ship's deck
- 54. A way to bake
- 56. Improvised
- 60. Butterfly genus
- 61. Baseball fields have them
- 62. Designated space
- 63. Discharge
- 64. Two of something
- 65. Once more
- 66. Part of your face
- 67. Tax collector
- 68. Cassia tree

CLUES DOWN

- 1. One-time Aaron Rodgers target
- 2. Wings
- 3. Overly studious person
- 4. They protect your valuables
- 5. The Volunteer State
- 6. Non-hydraulic cement
- 7. Horse mackerel
- 8. Jackson and Diddle are two
- 9. Splendid displays
- 10. Mountain in NE Greece
- 11. A daughter or your brother or sister
- 12. German surname
- 14. Having more than one husband at a time
- 17. Romanian city
- 20. Energy
- 21. Makes less hot
- 23. Gas diffusion electrode
- 25. Former CIA
- 26. Set an example for others
- 27. Support of a particular person
- 29. One from the Big Apple
- 30. Mountain range
- 32. Violate the sanctity of something
- 34. Supervises flying
- 35. Talks
- 37. Persian male given name
- 40. Born of
- 42. Forcibly take one's possessions
- 43. Discounts
- 47. Knockouts
- 49. Posh Colorado destination
- 50. Form of therapy
- 52. British rock band
- 53. Type of virus (abbr.)
- 55. The U. of Miami mascot is one
- 56. Volcanic crater
- 57. Middle Eastern nation
- 58. Sinn ____, Irish organization
- 59. Ethiopian lake
- 61. Bits per inch (abbr.)
- 65. Equally

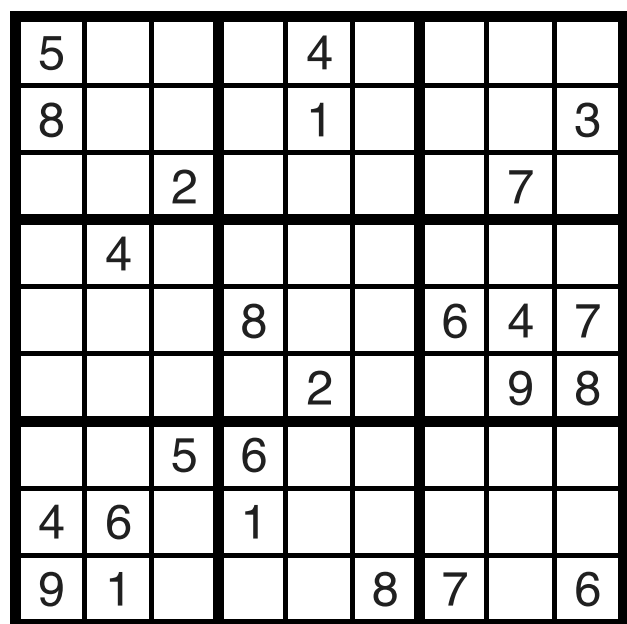
Solutions can be found on the Classified page

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: Intermediate

Solutions can be found on the Classified page

GAMES & PUZZLES WORD SEARCH

A L T R J E X P E R A O Y U I Z W P X H
 D O T G Y A L T C R E S A E T N I A R B
 E V T T S S P D W C R O S S W O R D A U
 J S K S Y C Z S R L O G I C I C U G B
 O D E S W Z E U O O J M H D G R K X P S
 B H O M P O B M N T W S U Y I O H B D E
 C P D A C C R S U B I D E V D A Y R U B
 V B M T W R Z D J V Z V I U R Y A C H B
 G S U H X M Y S S A B D S E X C U O H D
 D T Y E G M M P J E E J L S G S S M X E
 T P U M S C N C T O A H N L O R P M X
 X L A A K L M E G O I R I Z U T E U C T
 K E A T C Z A A Z R G Y C T Y D K T T
 Y Z M I D Y M P T A L R H H T O C E E R
 D Z M C X E Y T E L M H A B P D E R T I
 H U G A S E G C P Z O K R M O R H S R T
 A P W L E O N X X W A S G I J N C M I Y
 S Y A R D I N G O W H U H N G O I J S Z
 D M A R G A N A N A B G E H P G G C W S
 I T C D D H I D D E N P I C T U R E V P

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards.

- | | | |
|--------------|----------------|-------------|
| BANANAGRAMS | DEXTERITY | SUDOKU |
| BINGO | HIDDEN PICTURE | SUMS |
| BRAIN TEASER | JIGSAW | TETRIS |
| CHECKERS | LOGIC | UNO |
| CHESS | MATHEMATICAL | VIDEO GAMES |
| COMPUTERS | MAZE | WORD SEARCH |
| CROSSWORD | PLAYING CARDS | WORDLE |
| CRYPTOGRAM | PUZZLE | |

Santa Claus is Coming to Town!

Cutest kid with a Claus contest announced.

Santa Claus is making a pair of special stops this holiday season, in Eagle Grove and Goldfield this Saturday!

Santa will be at Slay Nutrition on Saturday, the 14th, from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m., bringing cheer and plenty of holiday spirit.

While you're there, try the special Naughty or Nice Mega drink—featuring a festive blend of cherry, watermelon, H30, and wild berry protein. Not only is it "loaded" with vitamins, antioxidants, and protein,

but at only 65 calories, it is claimed to burn more calories than it contains thanks to its metabolism-boosting effects. Kids can enjoy a caffeine-free, vitamin-packed version, and everyone will receive a candy cane (while supplies last).

Jamie Johnston of Art-sy Mama will also be set up at Slay with her unique creations available for purchase. For those still looking for last minute gifts.

Later in the day, Santa will head to the American

Legion Hall at 509 N. Main St. in Goldfield from 1 to 3 p.m., where Mrs. Claus will be joining him. Families can enjoy cookies, and hot cocoa.

Wherever you take the kids to see Santa, be sure to snap a selfie with Santa and share it with us here at the Eagle Grove Eagle (on our Facebook page) to enter them into our Cutest Kid with a Claus contest. The parent or guardian of the winner, as selected by our staff, gets a free 8x10 print

from our photo-lab quality photo printer, and some serious bragging rights!



States Go After 'Claim Sharks' That Charge Vets for Help With Disability Claims

By Anna Claire Vollers

For-profit consultants across the country make millions each year by charging military veterans for help in filing their disability claims with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

The practice exists in a legal loophole: It's illegal under federal law for companies that aren't accredited by the VA to charge veterans fees for helping file their disability claims, but there's no criminal penalty for breaking the law. Recent attempts to regulate this for-profit shadow industry have stalled in Congress.

While some state lawmakers are trying to close the loophole by filing bills to restrict the practice, they're up against their legislative peers and a cadre of industry leaders with a stable of lobbyists who want the loophole sealed into place at the state level.

Three states — Maine, New Jersey and New York — passed laws in the past year cracking down on for-profit consultants. Similar bills were introduced in 17 other states.

Meanwhile, Louisiana enacted a law hailed by the for-profit industry as a win; it allows companies to charge up to \$12,500 in fees for a task that veterans service organizations such as The American Legion will do for free.

The issue is pitting veterans against one another.

"When we have organizations and companies out there like these claim sharks that are preying on our veterans and taking away their hard-earned benefits and making a profit off them, there's something empirically wrong with that," said Missouri Republican state Rep. Dave Griffith, a former Green Beret in the U.S. Army 8th Special Forces Group.

Griffith introduced a bill earlier this year that would impose criminal penalties on those receiving compensation for helping a veteran apply for benefits. The bill died in committee, but Griffith has refiled it for the upcoming legislative session.

"What's even more disturbing to me," said Griffith, who served in Vietnam, "is that many of these organizations are run by veterans."

The for-profit consulting industry argues that veterans should have the freedom to hire whomever they want to help them navigate the VA's plodding, glitchy application process. Disability claims currently take four or five months on average to resolve, according to VA data, though some languish for a year or more.

Some veterans have reported that the expense is worth it — and have chided the government for not doing a better job marketing directly to vets about how to get their benefits.

The companies charging exorbitant fees, industry representatives say, are just a few bad apples.

"The key for us is hav-

ing transparent disclosures, processes and statements of fees so veterans can make informed decisions," said Peter O'Rourke, president of the National Association for Veteran Rights, a newly formed trade association for the claims consulting industry. O'Rourke, a U.S. Navy and U.S. Air Force veteran, was formerly acting secretary of Veterans Affairs during the Trump administration before he was forced out in 2018.

O'Rourke estimated he and his team have been to 38 states to testify at committee hearings and speak with legislators. "There's a better way of doing business, and we need to have more of that discussion, versus going back in time and criminalizing what the market has been able to provide veterans," he said.

Promises and profits

The urgency from all sides of the issue follows Congress' passage two years ago of the PACT Act, the largest expansion of veterans' benefits in generations. It offers disability-related benefits for veterans suffering from the effects of Agent Orange, toxic burn pits in recent wars and other toxic exposures over the past several decades. Under the act, millions more veterans could qualify for aid.

That increased funding represents a potential bonanza for private consultants who promise to help military veterans access it — for a price.

Veterans with a service-related disability, from cancer to asthma to depression, can apply to receive a monthly cash benefit from the government. Their checks could range from \$500 to more than \$4,000 per month, depending on the severity of the disability and other factors, such as their number of dependents.

But getting approved takes months. The claims process — sluggish and riddled with glitches, according to veterans and the VA's own data — requires a lengthy application and detailed medical documentation.

Enter the private claims consultant. For a fee or a cut of a veteran's future disability benefits — often five times what the veteran stands to receive from the VA, amounting to thousands of dollars — the consulting company promises to help smooth the process and maximize the veteran's disability check.

"Veterans are often facing delays with the VA, and I can see why there's a desire to get results. But these companies sometimes use exploitative practices and seize a big chunk of your benefits," said Florida Democratic state Rep. Anna V. Eskamani. She partnered with Republican state Rep. Michelle Salzman, an Army veteran, to introduce a claim shark bill in the most recent legislative session. The bill died in committee, but Eskamani said they plan to continue talking with veter-

ans and introduce a similar bill next session.

Since January, Republican and Democratic lawmakers in at least 17 states — from Rhode Island to Mississippi to California — have introduced bills to ban or restrict private claim consultants from profiting off veterans.

Most are based on the federal GUARD Act, currently stalled in Congress, which would impose penalties on unaccredited consultants who charge veterans for claims filing assistance. Organizations such as the Veterans of Foreign Wars and The American Legion have been outspoken supporters of the GUARD Act and similar state efforts to rein in for-profit consultants.

Last year, New Jersey became the first state to make it illegal for anyone lacking VA accreditation to charge a veteran for assistance filing a disability claim. Maine and New York soon followed.

The VA grants accreditation to attorneys, veterans service organizations and other claims agents that meet certain requirements, such as a background check and a written exam. Organizations such as the VFW and The American Legion provide their services for free, though attorneys and agents are allowed to charge fees to assist with some claims, including appeals.

Griffith, the Missouri legislator, modeled his bill after the New Jersey law. When he first began researching the issue, he said, he didn't like what he saw. Often, he said, companies will charge a fee for their services equal to five times the increase of the veteran's monthly benefit.

For example: A new veteran approved for 100% disability receives about \$3,800 per month from the VA. For help filing that claim, a consulting company might charge a one-time fee of about \$19,000.

In some cases, Griffith said, consultants can pocket as much as \$30,000 through tactics such as holding onto a claim for months before filing so that they can take their cut from the substantial backpay that the VA eventually awards the veteran.

Criticism and pushback

O'Rourke said his group is in favor of some legal guardrails at the federal or state level to protect veterans from exploitation, such as setting certain limits around fees or requiring transparency in contract agreements. But, he said, private consulting should be freely available because the VA and its current accreditation process haven't kept up with the needs of veterans.

"We're looking at, after 20 years of war, a strain on our social infrastructure when it comes to how we take care of veterans," he said, noting that the VA's claims and appeals process is decades old, complex and cumbersome to navigate, even with accredited groups offering help. "Asking veterans to go into a system

that uses a lot of their time and causes frustration ... veterans are going to try to find workarounds for that."

Groups including the VFW have been vocal opponents of for-profit consulting companies, urging lawmakers to take action and waging public relations battles against the industry. For-profit companies have been investigated by media and officials in states including Texas and Louisiana for potentially illegal practices.

Last year, the VA issued a fraud alert, warning veterans to avoid consultants who aren't accredited.

But the industry is pushing back. One of the largest for-profit consulting companies spent more than \$800,000 last year and \$780,000 this year in federal lobbying efforts, according to data compiled by the nonprofit OpenSecrets. That included pushing for a bill that would make the legal loophole permanent. At the state level, representatives from some of the industry's largest players are showing up in statehouses across the country to speak against bills.

"I got very close to getting my bill passed last year," Griffith said. But claims consulting companies hired a lobbyist in Missouri, he said. "They lobbied the [House] speaker's office and he delayed the bill."

During a committee hearing, Missouri legislators heard opposition to the bill from O'Rourke, who also testified against Eskamani and Salzman's bill in Florida.

"I was surprised at the amount of money they're willing to spend to try to keep things the way they are," said Eskamani, who said she didn't expect to see such a concerted effort to stop a bill in its first committee meeting.

In June, Louisiana quietly enacted a law that will allow unregulated companies to profit from assisting veterans with their disability claims, though it caps consulting fees at \$12,500.

Republican Gov. Jeff Landry allowed the bill to become law without his signature. It marked an about-face for Landry: When he was the state attorney general, he worked to shut down the types of consulting businesses the law now explicitly allows.

Similar bills were introduced this year in Arizona, Georgia, Hawaii and Kentucky, but did not pass.

Last month in Alabama, members of the legislative committee for the state veterans affairs department voted to work with state lawmakers on a bill to prohibit claims consultants from profiting off veterans. The issue is likely to show up again next year in state legislative sessions around the country.

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Let's Make This a Season of Giving, Not Hoarding

Billionaires and Wall Street exploit our charitable giving laws to dodge taxes and collect fees, hurting real charities in the process.

By Chuck Collins, Bella DeVaan

For as long as we can remember, the end of the calendar year has marked the start of America's giving season.

The holidays that light up our darkest months also invite us to celebrate (and practice!) generosity. Food banks, youth groups, arts and civic organizations, and community service programs heavily depend on the support they receive in November and December.

Year-end giving is big for tax purposes, but many people donate without regard to whether they'll get a deduction. In fact, fewer than 10 percent of donors claim a tax deduction for charitable giving.

The super-wealthy, who do take advantage of itemizing their tax returns, give differently. They give more to large hospitals and universities, where you can get your name on a building. That kind of giving can be valuable too.

But a less visible difference is crucial to recognize.

Increasingly, wealthy donors are parking money in entities they control, like private foundations and donor advised funds (DAFs). These intermediaries then, in theory, donate money to working charities.

But private foundations are only required to "pay-out" 5 percent of their assets a year to these other charities. And DAFs have no requirement to payout at all. So wealthy donors bank their tax break immediately, but the donated funds may remain sidelined for decades.

According to a new report we co-authored, *Gilded Giving 2024: Saving Philanthropy from Wall Street*, over 35 percent of all charitable donations now go to one of these two intermediaries.

There's now \$1.7 trillion parked in private foundations and DAFs — money that could be flowing to working charities in a timely way to solve problems. We estimate that by 2028, half of all donations will go to private foundations and DAFs.

As wealth has concentrated in fewer hands over the last four decades, so has this kind of deviously "charitable" giving — a trend we call "top-heavy philanthropy." And it's increasingly profitable for financial advisers to the ultra rich.

Wall Street financiers

promote DAFs as a way for donors to receive immediate tax reductions in the year they give, but then they sit on those funds and collect wealth management fees. The financiers have no financial incentive to ever see the money go to a mental health center, food bank, community theater, or other working charity. It's more profitable for them to keep assets under management.

The rest of us subsidize this system. For every dollar a billionaire donates to charity, including to their own foundation or DAF, the rest of us chip in up to 74 cents in the form of lost tax revenue.

So how did we get a charity system that works for multi-millionaire donors and wealth managers but not for nonprofit charities, small donors, and the tax-paying public? In part, it's because lobbyists for the financial industry and DAF sponsors fight vigorously against any change.

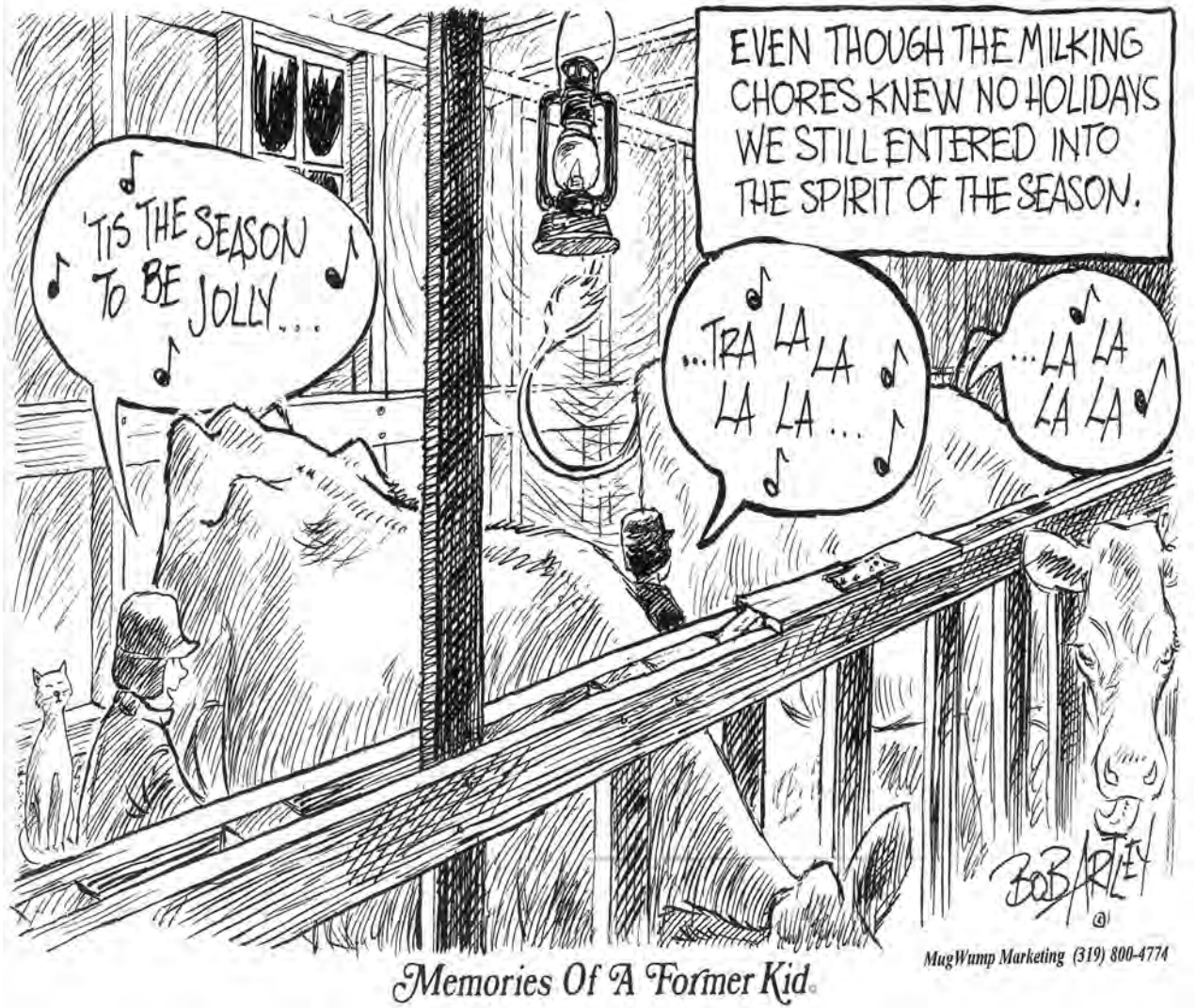
But a growing coalition of donors, nonprofit charities, and people who care about tax fairness are pushing back. They point out that lawmakers could easily fix the rules to increase the flow of charitable funding, increase transparency, and shut down the tax avoidance and self-dealing practices currently corrupting philanthropy.

The message is getting across. A 2024 Ipsos poll found that 71 percent of respondents believe Congress should raise the annual payout rate for private foundations and require the same for DAFs. Across the political spectrum, a clear majority of Americans believe if a donor gets a tax break, they should move the money in a timely way to a working charity.

So, big donors: You want a tax break? Make sure the money gets to a working charity — and fast. You want other taxpayers to subsidize your giving preferences? Tell us where the money's going.

Don't like these rules? Then don't ask the rest of us to subsidize it. Let's make sure the season of giving actually centers on giving, not hoarding.

Chuck Collins directs the Program on Inequality at the Institute for Policy Studies. Bella DeVaan is the Associate Director of the IPS Charity Reform Initiative. This op-ed was distributed by OtherWords.org (CC BY-ND 3.0).



Memories Of A Former Kid

MugWump Marketing (319) 800-4774

We must continue to invest in the Missouri River

by Rep. Randy Feenstra (R-Hull)

Based on a 2021 analysis, the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) recently determined that it would remove 36 Aids to Navigation (ATONs) along the Missouri River north of Blencoe, Iowa. The removal process is projected to be completed by May 2025, and if implemented, this would be devastating for our farmers, businesses, and manufacturers that rely on the Missouri River to ship their goods and serve their customers in an efficient and effective manner. It would also severely curtail ongoing investments in the Missouri River and slow economic growth in Iowa and across the Midwest. Representing the entirety of the Missouri River that borders Iowa, I am working with local leaders, businesses, organizations, and my colleagues in Congress to reverse this decision and ensure that investments continue in the Missouri River.

For reference, ATONs are essentially street signs for waterways that help ships and barges travel safely, navigate hazards, and pinpoint their position in the water. Examples of ATONs include buoys, day beacons, lights, lightships, radio beacons, and fog signals. These devices ensure the safety of ships and their crews and keep our wa-



ter supply chains moving effortlessly. I've been to the Port of Blencoe where I've seen firsthand the importance of these ATONs and had the opportunity to better understand how our ports are facilitating an enormous amount of economic activity in Iowa and throughout the United States.

The Missouri River — which runs 743 miles from Sioux City to St. Louis and boasts 140 ports, docks, and terminals — has long been critical to economic development across Western Iowa and supports the timely transportation of manufactured goods and agricultural products both within the United States and internationally. Over 500 million tons of cargo — including Iowa agricultural commodities like corn and soybeans — are shipped along the Missouri River every year. This is the equivalent of 19 million

trucks on our roadways.

The sheer amount of trade that occurs along the Missouri River clearly highlights how the U.S. Coast Guard's decision to remove 36 ATONs on the Missouri River threatens our region's economic vitality and cuts off trade along this important waterway.

That's why — alongside eight of my colleagues, 53 supporting organizations, businesses, and local leaders, and Governor Reynolds — I am calling on the USCG to keep these ATONs in place and continue investing in the Missouri River. The supporting businesses, organizations, and local leaders include Ag Processing Inc., NEW Cooperative, the Port of Blencoe, the Agribusiness Association of Iowa, the Iowa Farm Bureau, the Iowa Cattlemen's Association, the Iowa Corn Growers Association, the Iowa Pork Producers Association, the Iowa Soybean Association, the City of Sioux City, the City of Sergeant Bluff, and the Coalition to Protect the Missouri River.

Organizations like the Council Bluffs Area Chamber of Commerce, the Greater Omaha Chamber of Commerce, Harrison County Development Corporation, Monona County Economic Development, Loess Hills Alliance Economic Development Committee, and the Siouxland

Chamber of Commerce have also signaled their support for this initiative. I further appreciate Alex Watters, Sioux City Councilman; Debi Durham, Director of the Iowa Economic Development Authority; Dan Moore, Mayor Pro Tem of Sioux City; Robert Scott, Mayor of Sioux City; and Jacob Bossman, Iowa State House Representative for working with us to prevent the removal of these 36 needed ATONs.

In our letters, we emphasize that many projects are already in motion to improve the utilization of the Missouri River — including a new barge terminal project in Sioux City — and this decision by the USCG ignores the economic growth already happening because of the Missouri River. In fact, a staggering \$469 million is currently being invested in the Missouri River.

We must maintain navigation up and down the Missouri River, not just for the vitality of our businesses, but for the future growth of our region and the long-term success of our communities. As an avid supporter of our inland waterways, especially the Missouri and Mississippi Rivers, I will continue to advocate for our waterways because the ability to ship Iowa-made products around the world relies on a functional river system.

Democracy Doesn't End on Election Day

Now's not the time to tune out — nor to take our newly elected leaders at their word.

By Joanna DiStefano

Earlier this year, the Pew Research Center reported that a majority of Americans felt worn out by political coverage. That's a feeling we can all understand.

With a deeply divisive election behind us and the holidays ahead, taking a little break is OK. But democracy doesn't end on Election Day. Now's not the time to tune out completely — nor is it time to simply take our newly elected leaders at their word.

Whether we're filled with loathing and hopelessness or relief and optimism, it's important to acknowledge those feelings and process what we're experiencing. This includes contemplating the ways that we can respond to what is happening around us.

The bottom line is that we're not powerless. Elected leaders work for us, whether we voted for them

or not. We have the power and the duty to hold all of them accountable. We simply cannot stop showing up.

Beyond our votes, let's also commit to elevating the policies and actions we want to see from the folks who will be representing us. We should take time to learn more about them and their values.

We can reach out to their staff to offer our congratulations and request meetings to communicate our concerns as constituents. Over time, our presence can build relationships based on mutual respect and trust.

This may all seem sim-

plistic, but it's something I've been doing for years with RESULTS, a non-partisan grassroots network of everyday people advocating for policy decisions that will bring an end to poverty.

Among our interactions with Congressional offices, we've been able to build critical support among Democrats, Republicans, and Independents alike for legislation combat-

ing hunger, homelessness, and disease. I know how unglamorous the grit work of civic engagement can be. Even during the most challenging moments, though, I never lost faith in the abso-

lute necessity of the work we do.

The fate of governance in our country is more than the outcome of any one race. The real litmus test here is engagement.

There's too much on the line for any of us to dig in our heels or throw our hands in the air now that we've cast our ballots. If you're still worn out by the election, rest so that you can come back reinvigorated. And if the people you voted for won, don't be lulled into complacency thinking that elected officials will always make decisions with your best interests at heart.

We have more work to do, and it takes all of us to keep our democracy strong. Joanna DiStefano is a Senior Associate for Grassroots Impact at RESULTS, an antipoverty organization. This op-ed was distributed by OtherWords.org (CC BY-ND 3.0).

DON'T BE LATE!

Deadline for next week's paper is Friday.



— PRAISE & WORSHIP —

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
421 W. Broadway St.
Eagle Grove
Sundays
9:30 am Worship
Wednesdays each week unless no school for the day: Kids' Club (K-Gr. 4) and Middlers (Gr. 5-8), 2 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.
All are welcome.
Dial-A-Devotion:
515-448-3355
515-212-2802
egumc@goldfielddaccess.net
515-448-4701
www.eaglegroveumc.org

GOLDFIELD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
P.O. Box 214
Goldfield,
515-825-3754
Sunday
11 a.m. Worship

GOLDFIELD UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
220 E. Oak St.
Goldfield,
515-825-3581
goldfield.upc@gmail.com
Facebook @ goldpres
"A Church for the Community"
Office M-F 7:30-11:30 a.m.
Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m.

SACRED HEART CATHOLIC CHURCH
Fr. Jerry Blake
Eagle Grove
515-532-3586
Thursday, December 12
11:40 a.m. Rosary at Sacred Heart
Noon Mass at Sacred Heart
7:30 p.m. Our Lady of Guadalupe Mass and Celebration at St. John

Friday, December 13
7:40 a.m. Rosary at St. John
8 a.m. Mass at St. John
11 a.m. Fatima Rosary at Sacred Heart

Saturday, December 14
ADVENT III
Baby Needs Weekend
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
8 p.m. Spanish Mass at St. John

Sunday, December 15
ADVENT III
Baby Needs Weekend
7:15 a.m. A/B at St. John
8 a.m. Mass at St. John
9:45 a.m. A/B at St. Francis

10:30 a.m. Mass at St. Francis
5 p.m. Youth Group Meeting at Mickey Cooper
Monday, December 16

8:15 Rosary at St. Francis
6:30 p.m. RCIA at St. John

HOLMES BAPTIST CHURCH
2137 Hancock Ave.
Holmes, Iowa
Pastor Cody Huber
515-825-3110

HOLMES LUTHERAN CHURCH
Holmes, Iowa
Pastor George Lautner
412-874-9878

NEW HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH
Eagle Grove
Vicar Jon Merritt
A Congregation of ELCA
Saturday
4 p.m. Worship at Rotary Senior Living South in the Chapel

EAGLE GROVE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST (CONGREGATIONAL)
1115 SW 2nd St.
P.O. Box 333
515-448-3584
Sunday
10:30 a.m. Worship

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
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.

GRACE EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH
448-5414
1220 Commercial Ave,
Eagle Grove
www.graceefc.com
Sundays
9:30 a.m. English speaking service
6 p.m. Spanish speaking service
Wednesdays
GraceKids (age 5-5th

EG MINISTERIAL ASSOCIATION FOOD PANTRY
510 S. Jackson
Monday 4 - 7 p.m.
Wednesday 1 - 3 p.m.
Friday 1 - 3 p.m.
Helping Families in Need!
Please call to verify open.
Food Pantry 515-448-4332
or 515-448-3743

grade) and Youth Group activities for 6th-12th graders starting at 6 p.m.

SOUTH ENES LUTHERAN CHURCH
205 Johnson Street
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—LC-MS
Eagle Grove
Pastor Mark Eichler
515-448-4668
8:30 a.m. Worship

EAGLE GROVE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
615 SW 2nd Street
Eagle Grove
Pastor Jason Cooper
515-448-3697
www.egelc.org
Thursday
10 a.m. Pastors' Prayer
2:30 p.m. ELCW meet at Rotary Senior North
Sunday
9 a.m. Worship
10:15 a.m. Coffee Fellow
NO Sunday School
Tuesday
7 p.m. Property Committee
Wednesday
9 a.m. Bible Study
Noon Men's Bible Study
5:30 p.m. Confirmation

MAC LIFE CHURCH
Blairsburg
Interim Pastor Dick Birr.
Sundays
10: a.m. Services for now

SAMUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH NALC
201 N. Lincoln Ave.
448-5038
www.samuellutheran.net
Sundays
9 a.m. Worship in-person and on Facebook
Tuesday
9 a.m. Bible Study
Wednesday
Confirmation

LAKE LUTHERAN CHURCH GOLDFIELD LCMC
Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ
Pastor Ron Rasmussen
Sunday
10 a.m. Service

REJOICE CHURCH: A WORD AND SPIRIT CHURCH
Pastors Cris and Jennifer Decious
New Location! Sunday
Worship Services at 10:30 am IN PERSON STARTING on Sunday December 1, 2024 at 3320 210th st Goldfield, Iowa 50542
www.Rejoicechurchiowa.com and Facebook

WORDS OF WISDOM



Last week's trivia questions:
Who sang 'Blue Christmas' in 1957? Answer: Elvis Presley.
What popular Christmas song did 'The Beach Boys' release in 1964? Answer: Little Saint Nick.

This week's trivia questions:
What 1987 movie, set in Chicago in 1930, stars Kevin Costner and Sean Connery as federal agents trying to bring Al Capone (played by Robert De Niro) to justice during Prohibition?
What 1988 movie, set in Los Angeles at Christmas time, stars Bruce Willis as New York City police detective John McClane, who is caught up in a terrorist takeover of a skyscraper while visiting his estranged wife?

Dec. 11 is International Mountain Day, and App Day; Dec. 12 is Gingerbread House Day, and National Poinsettia Day; Dec. 13 is National Horse Day, U.S. National Guard Birthday, and National Cocoa Day; Dec. 14 is Monkey Day, and National Energy Conservation Day; Dec. 15 is International Tea Day, National Cupcake Day, and National Ugly Christmas Sweater Day; Dec. 16 is National Chocolate Covered Anything Day, and National Wreaths Across America Day; Dec. 17 is National Maple Syrup Day.

"Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel."
— Isaiah 7:14

The next day he (John the Baptist) saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!"
— John 1:29

"I am the good shepherd; the good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep."
— John 10:11

"Christmas: the Son of God expressing the love of God to save us from the wrath of God so we could enjoy the presence of God."
— John Piper

"A little smile, a word of cheer, A bit of love from someone near, A little gift from one held dear, Best wishes for the coming year. These make a merry Christmas!"
— John Whittier

"Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as ever you can."
— John Wesley

"The world can't save itself. That's the message of Christmas."
— Timothy Keller

"Christ was born in the first century, yet He belongs to all centuries. He was born a Jew, yet He belongs to all races. He was born in Bethlehem, yet He belongs to all countries."
— George Truett

Did you hear about the man who stole an Advent calendar? He got 25 days.

What do you call a bunch of chess masters bragging about their games in a hotel lobby over the holidays? Chess nuts boasting in an open foyer.

Why was the snowman looking through the carrots? He was picking his nose!

How do Christmas trees get ready for a night out? They spruce up!

Now a beloved classic, the movie "It's a Wonderful Life" was a total box office flop when it was released in 1946. The movie has since been named the most inspirational film of all time by the American Film Institute.

"A Christmas Story" child star Peter Billingsley was the first of thousands to audition for the role of Ralphie in the 1983 movie. In 2003, Billingsley made a cameo in the Christmas movie "Elf" as Ming Ming the elf.



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"Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me."
Psalm 23:4 NIV

Anxiety

My wife was recently involved in a car crash. Fortunately, she wasn't badly hurt, but the crash caused both of us some anxiety. I found myself fearful of driving the next day, especially when we went by the crash site (a large and busy intersection). I was also anxious that for the time being we only had one car and since both of us work, I was worried that if our one good car was wrecked we'd be in serious financial trouble, having to rent two cars instead of one and having to replace two cars in the final analysis. But as the weekend after the accident wore on, I began to realize that I was worried about more than just the cars. It seemed to me that I was experiencing anxiety over our mortality. My wife and I are both in our sixties, and we have both seen our grandparents and two of our parents pass away, and we realize that after the other parents pass, it's our turn next. Every generation will reach a point when the previous generation has passed and they must face the inevitable passing of their siblings, their friends, and themselves. The religious remedy for the anxiety of facing death is to trust that we will live on—somehow and somewhere. The existential remedy is to realize that our life is a brief span between two infinities, the infinite time before we were born (or conceived) and the infinite time after our death. If these two infinities are essentially the same, why worry about the one (the one to come) but not the other?
—Christopher Simon

Sunday, Dec. 15, 2024 First Reading: Zephaniah 3:14-20 Psalm: Isaiah 12:2-6 Epistle: Philippians 4:4-7 Gospel: Luke 3:7-18

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Wright County Courthouse

Births

Charlie Hayes Hartwig was born on November 18, 2024, to Kayla and Alexander Hartwig of Kanawha.

Cynthia Esperanza Smith was born on November 18, 2024, to Sarah Vasquez of Eagle Grove.

Zandyn Kenneth Joseph Strunk was born on November 19, 2024, to Alison Seiser of Webster City.

Eliam Yael Amador Montufar was born on November 19, 2024, Marcela and Montufar Hernandez of Belmont.

Walker Layne Beasley was born on November 19, 2024, to Kylee Smith of Garner.

Lilliana Sue Cleghorn was born on November 19, 2024, to Samantha Duarte of Mason City.

Eithan Josue Paxtor Velasquez was born on November 17, 2024, to Ashley Velasquez Gomex of Clarion.

Hattie Sue Bonoffski was born on November 20, 2024, to Natasha and Michael Bonoffski of Osage.

Noah Ezekiel Marroquin Rodriguez was born on November 22, 2024, to Martha Rodriguez Puac of Clarion.

Brighton Howard Gangestad was born on November 21, 2024, to Alexis Gangestad of Humboldt.

Bennett Ray Van Gerpen was born on November 21, 2024, to Katherine Giles and Alexander Van Gerpend.

Willa Grace Asher was born on November 24, 2024, to Kylie Fink of Sheffield.

Ezra Kaede Anderson was born on November 21, 2024, to Elizabeth and Evan Anderson of Clarion.

Kennedi Jean Prohaska was born on November 25, 2024, to Megan and Mitchell Prohaska of Garner.

Brynlee Kay Rooney was born on November 24, 2024, to Kalynn and Justin Rooney of Rockwell.

Milo Matthew Bonnsetter was born on November 26, 2024, to McKenna and Cody Bonnsetter of Belmont.

Alexander Edward Ray Koch was born on November 26, 2024, to Tara and Michael Koch of Fort Dodge.

Malincy Evangeline Santos Arriaga was born on November 26, 2024, to Adela Arriaga-Pedroza of Webster City.

Noah Hayes Larson was born on November 30, 2024, to Rebekah and Travis Larson of Algona.

Sophie Reign Hadacek was born on November 29, 2024, to McKayla and Benjamin of Klemme.

Oaklynn Grace Hall was born on November 28, 2024, to Madison and Christopher Hall of Northwood.

Nathan Bradley Johnson was born on December 1, 2024, to Justice and Jarrod Johnson of Humboldt.

Deaths

Trent Allen Rosendahl of Belmont was born on November 25, 1975, and died on November 27, 2024 at the age of 48.

James Howard Redemske of Clarion was born on November 11, 1947, and died on November 25, 2024 at the age of 77.

Dennis Earl VerHelst of Belmont was born on April 22, 1946, and died on November 27, 2024 at the age of 78.

Lyman Costello Spencer of Clarion was born on March 24, 1927, and died on December 3, 2024, at the age of 97.

Betty Ann Dyvig (Fevold) of Eagle Grove was born on January 18, 1926, and died on December 3, 2024 at the age of 98.

Thomas Allan King of Dows was born on March 24, 1957, and died on December 3, 2024 at the age of 67.

Property Transfers

Contracts-Land Deeds, IAT 72 LLC, to Chapel in the Woods Inc. 34-92-23 NE Tract in SW 1/4 LC 504 Rowan; 24-2003.

Warranty Deed-Land Deeds, Bisel Robin L Trust-

ee, Cayler Matthew D Trustee, Marilyn K Cayler Family Trust, to Holmes Derek, Holmes Krystle. 18-91-23 SE outlots 4 5 6 6 NW 1/4; 24-2004.

Warranty Deed-Town Lot, Webb Philip F, to Gayten Ricardo. Clar McKay's Addn Blk 9 Lot 5; 24-2008.

Warranty Deed-Land Deeds, Bisel Robin L Trustee, Cayler Matthew D Trustee, Marilyn K Cayler Family Trust, to Holmes Derek, Holmes Krystle. 18-91-23 SE OUTLOT 12 & 15 NW 1/4; 24-2009.

Others-Land Deeds, Verhunce Judith A Estate, Bigh Jeffrey Lynn Executor, to Bigh Jeffrey Lynn. 19-90-25 SE exc 3 acres in SE corner 19-90-25 SW of RR row except tracts; 24-2012.

Warranty Deed-Town Lot, Krichem Karen P, to Griffioen Emily F. Belm Railroad Addn Blk 12 Lot 8; 24-2013.

Others-Town Lot Deeds, Harms Beverly A Estate, Lowenberg Melody R Executor, to Gonzalez Joel, Gonzalez Francisco. EG First Railway Addn Blk 48 Lot 8 N 77; 24-2016.

Warranty Deed-Town Lot, Mrla Bradley J, Mrla Ashley, to Anderson Janell M Trustee, Dodge N P Jr Trustee, National Equity Inc Trust. EG Parkview Addn Lot 33; 24-2017.

Warranty Deed-Town Lot, Anderson Janell M Trustee, Dodge N P Jr Trustee, National Equity Inc Trust, to Rosenkilde Julie Ann. EG Parkview Addn Lot 33; 24-2018.

Warranty Deed-Town Lot, Bock Daniel D, Bock Brittany K, to Ketchum Karen Philip. Belm Kirkendall Addn Blk 2 Lot 4; 24-2025.

Warranty Deed-Land Deeds, Johnson Joshua J, Johnson David W, Johnson Jacquelyn M, to Johnson Joshua J. 24-93-23 NE tract IN SE 1/4 24-93-23 SE tract in NE 1/4; 24-2027.

Warranty Deed-Land Deeds, Murphy Brandon E, Murphy Kimberly, Lund Amy Jo, to Askvig Joseph Lee. 34-91-26 NW outlot 19 NE 1/4; 24-2029.

Warranty Deed-Town Lot, Walrod Steven D, Walrod Linda K, to Bock Daniel D, Bock Brittany K. Belm Kirkendall Addn Blk 2 Lot 13; 24-2030.

Affidavit Transfer, Hennigar Mark Aaron, Rosenkilde Julie Ann, to Anderson Janell M Trustee, Dodge N P Jr Trustee, National Equity Inc Trust, to Hennigar Mark Aaron. EG Parkview Addn Lot 33; 24-2022.

Affidavit Transfer, Walrod Steven D, Walrod Linda K, to Bock Brittany K. Belm Kirkendall Addn Blk 2 Lot 13; 24-2029.

Civil

State of Iowa ex rel vs. Katrina Marie Kendrick. Modified support order filed.

State of Iowa ex rel vs. Andrew James Conine and Annelease Fruth. Decree or final support order filed.

PennyMac Loan Services, LLC vs. Breanna Batchelder, Nebraska Furniture Mart, Jonathan S. Rutledge, and TD Bank USANA. Dismissed without prejudice.

Small Claims

LNVN Funding LLC vs. Mackenzie Sheahan. Judgment for the plaintiff the amount of \$ 621.30 plus 7.22% interest from 09/30/24 and court costs.

Tickets

Allen Lyn van Aernam Jr of Atlantic, IA, speeding 55 or und Zone (16 thru 20 over).

Steven Ray Stewart of Excelsior SPGs, Mo, speeding OVR 55 zone (11 thru15 over).

Shania Ashley Starling of Fort Dodge, IA, failure to maintain or use safety belts -Adu.

Cristofer Gustavo Duarte Nava of Eagle Grove, IA,

failure to provide proof of financial Liabili.

Jorge Luna Ortiz of Uvalde, TX, speeding 55 or und Zone (11 thru 15 over).

Patrick Joseph Budelier of Iowa City, IA, speeding 55 or und Zone (6 thru 10 over).

Jose Humberto of Eagle Grove, IA, no valid drivers license.

Sammy John Baez Davila of Eagle Grove, IA, speeding 55 or und Zone (6 thru 10 over).

Nery Horacio choc Batz of Webster City, IA, no valid drivers license.

Nery Horacio choc Batz of Webster City, IA, speeding 55 or und Zone (6 thru 10 over).

Juan Ignacio Barajas Miranda of Belmont, IA, no valid drivers license.

Juan Ignacio Barajas Miranda of Belmont, IA, speeding 55 or und Zone (6 thru 10 over).

Darl Donald Abbas of Clarion, IA, failure to comply with safetyregulations Rul.

Eric Jon hefty of Renwick, IA, operation of motor vehicle with expired license.

Mia Han Yonn sook Pickering of Fort Dodge, IA, speeding 55 or und Zone (11 thru 15 over).

Mia Han Yonn sook Pickering of Fort Dodge, IA, failure to provide proof of financial liability.

Hugo Heberto Lopez Alvarez of Byhalia, MS, no valid drivers license.

Hugo Heberto Lopez Alvarez of Byhalia, Ms, speeding 55 or und Zone (11 thru 15 over).

Hugo Heberto Lopez Alvarez of Byhalia, Ms, failure to provide proof of financial liability.

Cesar Armando Lugo Garcia of Webster City, IA, speeding 55 or und Zone (16 thru 20 over).

Nathan Ross Bryant of Des Moines, IA, speeding 55 or und Zone (11 thru 15 over).

Nagwa rose Ohaeri of Edina, MN, speeding OVR 55 zone (16 thru20 over).

Marina Duque of Belmont, IA, speeding 55 or und Zone (6 thru 10 over).

Marina Duque of Belmont, IA, no valid drivers license.

Andrew Leroy Menke of Eagle Grove, IA, speeding 55 or und Zone (6 thru 10 over).

Adallya Rolon of Eagle Grove, IA, person under 21 using tobacco/vapor product 1.

Andrew Ramon Vega of Saint Paul, MN, speeding OVR 55 zone (6 thru 10 over).

Sydney Mae Waggoner of Clare, IA, speeding 55 or und Zone (6 thru 10 over).

William H Woolery of Belmont, IA, speeding 55 or und Zone (1 thru 5 over).

Cinda Lynn Sanders of MC callsburg, IA, speeding 55 or und Zone (6 thru 10 over).

Jean Burgos Ramos of Webster City, IA, speeding 55 or und Zone (6 thru 10 over).

Gary Lee Simpson of Clarion, IA, failure to provide proof of financial Liabili.

Ruben Acosta of Eagle Grove, IA, no valid drivers license.

Ruben Acosta of Eagle Grove, IA, failure to provide proof of financial Liabili.

Paul Sidney Johnson of Charles City, IA, failure to maintain or use safety belts -Adu.

Ronlay Arencibia Martinez of Fort Dodge, IA, speeding 55 or und Zone (21 or over).

Ronlay Arencibia Martinez of Fort Dodge, IA, violation of instruction permit limitation.

Corine Elizabeth Carr of West Des Moines, IA, speeding 55 or und Zone (11 thru 15 over).

Eudosa Pacheco Alonso of Belmont, IA, failure to provide proof of financial Liabili.

Hannah Hai Lam of Burns-

ville, MN, speeding OVR 55 zone (16 thru 20 over).

Franklin Osbeli Mendez Oxlaj of Albuquerque, NM, fail to change lane upon approach to EmergenC.

Cassandra Kay Meier of Renwick, IA, speeding 55 or und Zone (11 thru 15 over).

Julie Queen of Fremont, NE, speeding 55 or und Zone (6 thru 10 over).

Rene Ramos Gomez of Eagle Grove, IA, speeding 55 or und Zone (21 or over).

Vitalino Garcia Garcia of Eagle Grove, IA, speeding 55 or und Zone (11 thru 15 over).

Enrique Castillo Quintana of Algona, IA, speeding 55 or und Zone (6 thru 10 over).

Giselle Lucio of Belmont, IA, failure to obey traffic control device.

David Charles Poncin of Eagle Grove, IA, fail to obey stop sign and yield right of WA.

Agustin Mejamejia Soto of Eagle Grove, IA, failure to maintain or use safety belts - Adu.

Agustin Mejamejia Soto of Eagle Grove, IA, no valid drivers license.

Rosemary Helen dust of Rochester, MN, speeding 55 or und Zone (11 thru 15 over).

Bradley Howard Droegmiller of Milford, IA, speeding 55 or under Zone (21 or over).

Yusney Lamas Ayala of Madison Lake, MN, speeding OVR 55 zone (16 thru20 over).

Benjamin David Grotnes of Waukee, IA, speeding 55 or und Zone (6 thru 10 over).

Jose Angel Montoya Castro of Eagle Grove, IA, speeding 55 or und Zone (21 or over).

Carolyn Louise Prohaska of Clear Lake, IA, speeding 55 or und Zone (6 thru 10 over).

Shahar Melissa Maxon of Des Moines, IA, speeding 55 or und Zone (1 thru 5 over).

Madelyn Dale Rose of Minneapolis, MN, speeding OVR 55 zone (21 or over).

Debra Sue Keller of Clarion, IA, speeding 55 or und Zone (6 thru 10 over).

Roberto Chavez of Clarion, IA, failure to have valid License or permit while.

Leslie Marie Sandoval of Clarion, IA, excessive speed 16 thru 20.

Widman I Martinez Tobar of Eagle Grove, IA, failure to have valid License or permit while.

Jose Lopez Romero of Eagle Grove, IA, speeding 6 thru 10 over.

Jose Lopez Romero of Eagle Grove, IA, no drivers license.

Eduardo Perez Rodriguez of Algona, IA, speeding 1 thru 5 over.

Alvin Garcia of Eagle Grove, IA, driving while license under suspension.

Ajilio Morales Gomez of Eagle Grove, IA, driving while license denied, suspended or canceled.

Rachelle Lee Halfpop of Humboldt, IA, driving while license denied, suspended or canceled.

Criminal

State of Iowa vs McKellip, Jessica Ann, assault causing bodily injury or mental illness. Defendant pled guilty and was jailed for four days and fined \$430, plus \$100 in court costs and a \$64.50 surcharge.

State of Iowa vs McPherson, Jr., Ricky Alan, leave scene of accident - property damage only (scheduled violation). Defendant pled guilty and was fined \$135, plus \$100 in court costs, and a \$20.25 surcharge.

State of Iowa vs Vazquez Estrada, Rafael de Jesus, serious misdemeanor person ineligible to carry dangerous weapons. Defendant pled guilty and was jailed for 90 days with 83 days suspended, placed on probation for one year, and fined \$430 plus \$220 in court costs and a \$64.50 surcharge.

Eagle Grove Police Report

Nov. 28

4:08 AM: Noise complaint about loud music in the 800 block of NW 1st Street.

11:30 AM: Traffic stop near the County Shed.

1:24 PM: Traffic stop near 285th and Highway 17.

2:39 PM: Traffic stop near the intersection of Highway 17 and 240th.

3:28 PM: Occupied vehicle near Grace Church.

5:10 PM: Traffic stop in the 1100 block of S. Commercial Street.

Nov. 29

9:16 AM: Accident involving two vehicles in the 300 block of W. Broadway Street; no injuries.

10:55 AM: Driving complaint involving an older gold SUV on Highway 17 northbound.

12:25 PM: Caller seeking a visit from code enforcement officer regarding cleaned up property.

3:38 PM: Traffic stop near SW 1st and Commercial.

5:34 PM: Return call requested in the 1500 block of N. Iowa Avenue.

8:39 PM: Traffic stop in the 200 block of W. Broadway Street.

8:56 PM: Traffic stop near SW 2nd and S. Iowa.

9:18 PM: Traffic stop near 250th and Highway 17.

9:35 PM: Traffic stop near the intersection of Highway 17 and 240th.

9:55 PM: Traffic stop near Fort Avenue and NW 1st Street.

Nov. 30

8:25 AM: Accident involving a vehicle grazing a telephone pole in the 1100 block of W. Broadway Street; no injuries.

4:16 PM: Suspected shoplifting incident at DG Market.

4:17 PM: Unknown problem, 911 hang-up in the 100 block of N. Garfield Avenue, yelling in the background.

4:20 PM: Caller from Fort Dodge requesting return call about a debit card.

11:00 PM: Traffic stop in the 1100 block of N. Iowa Avenue.

11:15 PM: Noise complaint near the River Park Bridge in Goldfield involving loud music and a potential bonfire.

Dec. 1

6:22 AM: Burglar alarm triggered in the 400 block of W. Webster Street in Goldfield.

9:57 AM: Traffic stop near the 2700 block of S. Highway 17.

11:59 AM: Caller reporting an item stolen after it was recovered by Webster County Police.

12:01 PM: Traffic stop near Highway 17 and Daybreak.

2:30 PM: Return call requested.

4:08 PM: Traffic stop near the 2700 block of S. Highway 17.

5:49 PM: Traffic stop near E. Broadway Street and S. Jackson involving an elderly male who did not initially stop.

8:02 PM: Traffic stop in the 100 block of N. Lincoln Avenue in Goldfield.

9:34 PM: Return call requested in the 300 block of NE 2nd Street.

10:16 PM: Accidental dial reported in the 300 block of S. Lincoln Avenue in Goldfield.

Dec. 2

12:04 AM: Burglary reported in the 100 block of S. Kirkwood Avenue.

5:07 AM: Burglar alarm triggered in the 400 block of W. Webster Street in Goldfield.

5:54 AM: Accident involving two vehicles near N. Iowa Avenue and NW 3rd Street.

6:08 AM: Officer-initiated case, hit and run on stop sign near N. Iowa Avenue and NW 4th Street.

7:06 AM: Traffic stop near Highway 17 northbound.

9:32 AM: Assistance provided to High School for a truancy related home visit.

9:42 AM: Loose dog, brown pit-bull with reflective yellow harness, reported in the North Cadwell area.

10:00 AM: Report needed for an accident by an insurance company.

1:22 PM: Unoccupied vehicle with a flat tire near 2nd Street SW and Rails.

3:35 PM: Nuisance complaint near Sandman.

5:08 PM: Information about a downed sign in the 400 block of S. Kirkwood Avenue.

5:10 PM: Fire alarm reported in the 400 block of NW 2nd Street; determined to be false.

6:42 PM: Traffic stop in the 100 block of S. Commercial Avenue.

7:35 PM: Traffic stop in the 100 block of N. Commercial Avenue.

8:05 PM: Traffic stop near W. Broadway Street and S. Cedar Avenue.

9:50 PM: Traffic stop in the 2800 block of Highway 17.

Dec. 3

1:10 AM: Traffic stop in the 100 block of N. Commercial Avenue.

3:08 AM: Fireworks complaint in the 300 block of S. Cadwell Avenue.

1:29 PM: Information provided for a lockdown drill at local schools.

2:04 PM: Theft of a phone from a vehicle reported in the 500 block of SE 1st Street.

3:11 PM: Complaint about a vehicle taken without permission in the 900 block of W. Broadway Street.

3:47 PM: Traffic stop near 240th and Highway 17.

4:15 PM: Traffic stop near Beck's in Goldfield.

6:25 PM: Traffic stop near the intersection of Highway 17 and 240th.

7:43 PM: Disorderly conduct involving yelling and glass breaking in the 300 block of N. Jackson Avenue.

8:59 PM: Vape incident at the high school.

9:08 PM: Traffic stop near 255th and Highway 17.

9:23 PM: Traffic stop near Highway 17 north of 230th.

10:06 PM: Accidental life alert activation in the 500 block of W. Highway 3 in Goldfield.

11:13 PM: Burglar alarm in the 1000 block of NW 10th Street.

Dec. 4

1:38 AM: Traffic stop in the 400 block of N. Commercial Avenue.

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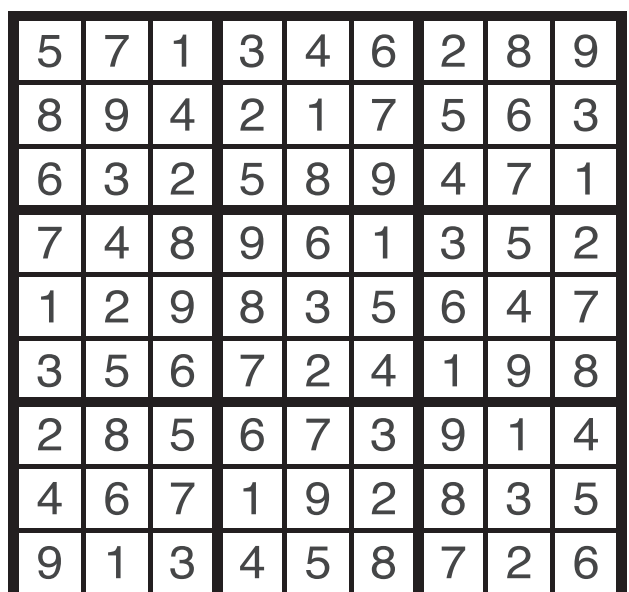


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THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU! FOR A GREAT YEAR!

Yet another successful year of great participation and donations from the Wright County communities to help raise money for the Holmes Christmas Club. Thank you to Ryerson Auction and Gary Garst for auctioneering and to all that helped with the auction. Thank you to the Ruritans for the delicious meal and donation. Thank you to the Red Shed for providing the beautiful facilities and for all of the help from their staff. Without your generous contributions and hard work, this tradition could not continue. Thanks again for all of your support! We couldn't do it without you! We are blessed to live in a community that supports our organization.



Holmes Christmas Club Board Members



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Iowa HHS

WRIGHT COUNTY BOS • NOV. 25, 2024

November 25, 2024
There was no action taken as Drainage District Trustees. Chairman Helgevoild called the regular meeting of the Wright County Board of Supervisor to order at 9:00 a.m. Members present were Kluss, Rasmussen, and Helgevoild. Motion by Rasmussen and seconded by Kluss to approve the tentative agenda. Motion carries. Minutes of the previous regular meeting of November 18, 2024 were read and approved. Approved claims for payment. In open forum, Adam Clemons, Wright County Engineer, introduced Andrea Jones as the new office manager for the Engineer's Office. Bob Ritter spoke in open forum about the Planning and Zoning board meeting and minutes. It was recommended to Ritter to call Jeremy Abbas with Planning and Zoning. Ritter also asked if ReNewTrients requires labor numbers as part of their agreement and the answer is no. Motion by Rasmussen and seconded by Kluss to approve the TIF (Tax Increment Financing) indebtedness certification for ReNewTrients, Agribusiness Park, and the Windfarm Urban Renewal South Plan. Motion carries. The Board is requesting \$1,200,000 for Agribusiness Park, \$215,000 for the Windfarm, and the maximum amount for ReNewTrients. Clemons presented the bids for the bridge replacement for Bridge 210 (Voss Quarry) on C70. This will be replacing the 240' triple span concrete beam bridge. There were a total of 6 bidders. The lowest bid came in at \$1,737,108.61. The funds for this bridge replacement will have

80% coming from the RAISE Grant and the other portion coming from the FM (Farm to Market) fund. Motion by Kluss and seconded by Rasmussen to award apparent lowest bid for Bridge 210 on C70. Motion carries. The contract was awarded to Peterson Contractors, Inc. out of Reinbeck, Iowa. Clemons gave an update on the Secondary Roads. There were 24 work orders completed last week. Blade operators are out patrolling as much as possible. Trucks are continuing to collect culvert data with 5 townships completed. Crews are starting to put up traditional snow fences in troubled areas. Sandra Jackson with Elderbridge Agency, gave an annual update to the Board of Supervisors. The largest utilized service in Wright County is congregate meals and home delivered meals. Personal care is also a largely utilized service to let individuals remain in their homes as much as they can. Funding is currently challenging as Federal or State funding have not increased for 10 years. Elderbridge provided \$29.99 of services to seniors in Wright County for every \$1 of county funds they received. Last year Elderbridge spent \$352,222 in Wright County with the \$11,743 county funds they received. They are requesting \$12,707 for fiscal year 2025/2026. This will be discussed during budget discussions. Motion by Rasmussen and seconded by Kluss to adjourn the meeting. Motion carries. Karl Helgevoild, Chairman, Wright County Board of Supervisors Amanda Meyer, Finance Manager, Wright County Auditor's Office



PROBATE | DEENA M. PYLE

THE IOWA DISTRICT COURT FOR WRIGHT COUNTY IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF DEENA M. PYLE, Deceased ESPR017658 NOTICE OF PROBATE OF WILL, OF APPOINTMENT OF EXECUTOR, AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS To All Persons Interested in the Estate of Deena M. Pyle, Deceased, who died on or about October 16, 2024: You are hereby notified that on December 3, 2024, the Last Will and Testament of Deena M. Pyle, deceased, bearing date of March 3, 1993, was admitted to probate in the above named court and that Daron D. Pyle was appointed Executor of the estate. Any action to set aside the will must be brought in the district court of said county within the later to occur of four months from the date of the second publication of this notice or one month from the date of mailing of this notice to all heirs of the decedent and devisees under the will whose identities

are reasonably ascertainable, or thereafter be forever barred. Notice is further given that all persons indebted to the estate are requested to make immediate payment to the undersigned, and creditors having claims against the estate shall file them with the clerk of the above named district court, as provided by law, duly authenticated, for allowance, and unless so filed by the later to occur of four months from the date of the second publication of this notice or one month from the date of mailing of this notice (unless otherwise allowed or paid) a claim is thereafter forever barred. Dated: December 3, 2024. Daron D. Pyle, Executor of Estate 224 33rd St. West Des Moines, IA 50265 Dani L. Eisentrager, ICIS#: 20041 Attorney for Executor Eisentrager Law 109 South Commercial Avenue P.O. Box 346 Eagle Grove, IA 50533 Date of second publication: December 19, 2024.

Published in the Eagle Grove Eagle on Thursday, Dec. 12 and 19, 2024

Published in the Eagle Grove Eagle on Thursday, Dec. 12, 2024

EAGLE GROVE CITY COUNCIL MINUTES • DEC. 2, 2024

Regular Council Meeting Monday, December 2nd, 2024 Mayor Boyd called the meeting to order at 6:30p.m. With Council Members Lorenzen, Axtell, Pamperin, Limerick, and Vandewater. Absent: Weland. Also present: City Administrator Davis and City Attorney Seaba A motion was made by Limerick and seconded by Axtell to approve the Consent Agenda which includes November 18th and 25th, 2024 minutes and claims. Roll Call: All Ayes except Lorenzen who abstained due to employer check. ARNOLD MOTOR SUPPLY, EQUIP MAINT 859.88 BETH BURGERT, COMM CONST GRANT-510 N PRAIRIE ...28,137.32 BOMGAARS, SUPPLIES ...1,306.13 BOUND TREE MEDICAL LLC, EMS SUPPLIES 321.44 ELAN FINANCIAL SERVICES, LEGALS CITY.....1,433.61 CHRIST FURNITURE, AWNING REIMB INSTALL #2..... 13,500.00 CINTAS, FLOOR MATS 60.61 COMM 1 THE LOCAL 1, TELEPHONE,INTERNET..... 166.43 EAGLE BUILDING SUPPLY, SUPPLIES 455.54 FIRST CITIZENS - MASON CITY, 2022A BOND INTEREST... 18,216.25 FIRST STATE BANK, INTEREST 2022B 5,620.99 GALLS, LLC, UNIFORM-ASCHEEN BRENNER 26.11 GOLDFIELD ACCESS NETWORK, TELEPHONE, INTERNET..... 250.40 VISUAL EDGE IT, 78323 COPIER LEASE 85.49 GREAT MIDWESTERN HOME INSPECT, INSPECTION-614 NE 1ST 345.00 GRP & ASSOCIATES, MEDICAL WASTE DISPOSAL..... 87.00 HENNIGAR'S WRECKER SERVICE, TICKET #26072 550.00

HSA - SSB ACH, HSA TRANSFER DEC 2024 12,329.23 IOWA ONE CALL, NOTIFICATIONS..... 11,290.85 IOWA PRISON INDUSTRIES, PARKING TICKETS 545.20 IOWA SPECIALTY HOSPITAL-CLARI, NEW OFFICER PD APPT..... 81.00 KARL CHEVROLET, '23 TAHOE HAIL 2,495.60 LASHELLE BURGER, IEMSA MILEAGE REIMB 252.72 LYLE'S FORD-MERCURY, '24 F250-SEWER 99,716.00 MIDAMERICAN ENERGY, ELECTRICITY 20,069.85 MONSIEY SERVICE'S LLC, CLEANING 780.00 POSTMASTER, POSTAGE FOR UTILITY BILLS 431.49 R&D INDUSTRIES INC, MONTHLY SVCS,TECH SUPPORT...2,209.75 SEABA LAW OFFICE, PLC, FOIA COMPLAINT.....3,123.41 SIMMERING-CORY & 24-CNRP-001 GRANT ADMIN..... 1,000.00 T & D SERVICE, '13 F350... 230.16 THE TRASH MAN, REVENUES 11,290.85 UMB BANK, N.A., INTEREST-2019B 73,787.50 UNITYPOINT HEALTH TRINITY REG, SUPERVISORY TRAINING... 17.00 VERIZON, CELLPHONES,LANDLINES 1,448.77 VFW FLAG-POLICE..... 50.00 WOOLSTOCK MUTUAL TELEPHONE, INTERNET,PHONE 279.32 WRIGHT ABSTRACTING & LAND, ABSTRACT-614 NE 1ST 200.00 WRIGHT COUNTY TREASURER, PROP TAX-902 N ARTHUR ... 19.00 YOHNCO INC, SAN SEWER 1,507.00 Fund Totals 16,259.78

ROAD USE TAX 5,908.25 EMPLOYEE BENEFITS ...8,330.32 GARBAGE..... 11,290.85 DEBT SERVICE 97,624.74 NEIGHBOR REVITALIZATION..... 1,000.00 2022A BOND-COMM DEVELOP 41,637.32 WATER..... 4,421.73 SEWER 17,168.36 EQUIPMENT REPLACEMENT 99,716.00 Update on the Eagle Grove Dog Park by Scout Anna Withers. A motion was made by Axtell and seconded by Lorenzen to allow the City to be a Fiscal Agent for the Eagle Grove Scouts Dog Park Project. Roll Call: All ayes A motion was made by Limerick and seconded by Lorenzen to approve \$5,000.00 Support for the Eagle Grove Dog Park. Roll Call: all ayes Opened Public hearing at 6:46pm on a proposed Development Agreement with Gold-Eagle Cooperative. Hearing Closed at 6:47pm with no written or oral comments received. A motion was made by Vandewater and seconded by Axtell to TABLE Resolution 2024-132: A Resolution Approving Development Agreement with Gold-Eagle Cooperative, Authorizing Annual Appropriation Tax Increment Payments and Pledging Certain Tax Increment Revenues to the Payment of the Development Agreement. Roll Call Vote: all ayes A motion was made by Vandewater and seconded by Pamperin to approve Resolution 2024-135: A resolution Authorizing a One-Time Salary Adjustment for All Qualifying Employees of the City of Eagle Grove Excluding the City Administrator. Roll Call Vote: all ayes A motion was made by Vandewater and seconded by Axtell to approve Resolution 2024-136: A Resolution Authorizing Certain Fiscal Year Transfers relating to Equipment Replacement Reserve. Roll Call Vote: all ayes A motion was made by Vandewater and seconded by Pamperin to approve Resolution 2024-137: A Resolution Approving Development Agreement with Gold-Eagle Cooperative, Authorizing Annual Appropriation Tax Increment Payments and Pledging Certain Tax Increment Revenues to the Payment of the Development Agreement. Roll Call Vote: all ayes

Increment Payments and Pledging Certain Tax Increment Revenues to the Payment of the Development Agreement. Roll Call Vote: all ayes Public hearing opened at 6:59pm on a proposed Development Agreement with First Bank. Hearing closed at 7:00pm with no written or oral comments received. A motion was made by Limerick and seconded by Axtell to TABLE Resolution 2024-134: A Resolution Approving Development Agreement with First Bank, Authorizing Annual Appropriation Tax Increment Payments and Pledging Certain Tax Increment Revenues to the Payment of the Development Agreement. Roll Call Vote: all ayes A motion was made by Vandewater and seconded by Lorenzen to approve Resolution 2024-135: A resolution Authorizing a One-Time Salary Adjustment for All Qualifying Employees of the City of Eagle Grove Excluding the City Administrator. Roll Call Vote: all ayes A motion was made by Vandewater and seconded by Axtell to approve Resolution 2024-136: A Resolution Authorizing Certain Fiscal Year Transfers relating to Equipment Replacement Reserve. Roll Call Vote: all ayes A motion was made by Vandewater and seconded by Pamperin to approve Resolution 2024-137: A Resolution Approving Development Agreement with Gold-Eagle Cooperative, Authorizing Annual Appropriation Tax Increment Payments and Pledging Certain Tax Increment Revenues to the Payment of the Development Agreement. Roll Call Vote: all ayes

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.: 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).

IMPORTANT: YOU ARE ADVISED TO SEEK LEGAL ADVICE AT ONCE TO PROTECT YOUR INTERESTS. Iowa Judicial Branch Case No. LACV025299 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/ACOCourtRulesChapter16.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/. Scheduled Hearing: If you need assistance to participate in court due to a disability, call the disability access coordinator at (641) 421-0990. Persons who are hearing or speech impaired may call Relay Iowa TTY (1-800-735-2942). For more information, see www.iowacourts.gov/for-the-public/ada/. Disability access coordinators cannot provide legal advice. Date Issued 06/05/2024 10:12:48 AM District Clerk of Court or by Clerk's Designee of Wright County Is/ Colleen Soma

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Wright County Pool League

TEAM STANDINGS:

#	Name	Rnd	Rnd	Pts+	Pts+*	Wins	Loss	Win %	Avg*
1	Moes	15	5	386	383	30	15	66.67	8.51
2	Rookies	13	7	365	365	28	17	62.22	8.11
3	Wizards	13	7	356	353	26	19	57.78	7.84
4	Strokers and Pokers	10	10	365	359	26	19	57.78	7.98
5	Replacements	10	10	350	350	24	21	53.33	7.78
6	Fa'que	9	11	343	334	20	25	44.44	7.42
7	Motley Cue	8	12	336	336	19	26	42.22	7.47
8	Kim Jong Pool	2	18	260	251	7	38	15.56	5.58
9	Chicks With Sticks	0	0	0	0	0	0	00.00	0.00

*No Handicap



PLAYER STANDINGS:

#	Name	Team(s)	Pts+	Pts-	Diff*	Gms	Wins	Loss	Win %	Avg+
1	Zach Martin	Rookies	135	79	56	15	12	3	80.00	9.00
2	Steve Martin	Moes	135	91	44	15	12	3	80.00	9.00
3	Dave Walker	Wizards	132	85	47	15	13	2	86.67	8.80
4	Alec Martin	Rookies	130	105	25	15	10	5	66.67	8.67
5	Mike Rolo	Strokers and Pokers	129	97	32	15	10	5	66.67	8.60
6	Daryl Ward	Motley Cue	127	104	23	15	9	6	60.00	8.47
7	Dick Stumpf	Moes	126	94	32	15	10	5	66.67	8.40
8	Jason Stumpf	Replacements	124	118	6	15	8	7	53.33	8.27
9	Steven Evans	Moes	122	117	5	15	8	7	53.33	8.13
10	Steve Gordon	Wizards	118	107	11	15	8	7	53.33	7.87
11	Keith Larue	Fa'que	113	116	-3	15	7	8	46.67	7.53
12	Ryan Gardalen	Fa'que	113	126	-13	15	6	9	40.00	7.53
13	Dart Humphrey	Motley Cue	111	123	-12	15	6	9	40.00	7.40
14	Denny Gardalen	Fa'que	108	117	-9	15	7	8	46.67	7.20
15	Derrick Linn	Strokers and Pokers	107	81	26	12	9	3	75.00	8.92
16	Eric Hogle	Replacements	105	77	28	12	9	3	75.00	8.75
17	Tom Thielen	Wizards	103	128	-25	15	5	10	33.33	6.87
18	Blake Jackson	Rookies	100	125	-25	15	6	9	40.00	6.67
19	Brandon Thompson	Replacements	99	120	-21	15	6	9	40.00	6.60
20	Jeff Asmus	Strokers and Pokers	97	128	-31	15	5	10	33.33	6.47
21	Brant Buhr	Motley Cue	86	97	-11	12	4	8	33.33	7.17
22	Dean Kirstein	Replacements	78	100	-22	12	4	8	33.33	6.50
23	Kyle Disney	Kim Jong Pool	71	147	-76	15	1	14	6.67	4.73
24	Kelly Hill	Kim Jong Pool	67	115	-48	12	1	11	8.33	5.58
25	Adam Russel	Kim Jong Pool	57	82	-25	9	2	7	22.22	6.33
26	Jeff Linn	Strokers and Pokers	26	22	4	3	2	1	66.67	8.67
27	Colt Allen	Motley Cue	12	30	-18	3	0	3	0.00	4.00
28	Rob Allen	Motley Cue	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0.00
29	Joy Amonson	Chicks With Sticks	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0.00
30	Mason Carpenter	Rookies	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0.00
31	Pam Christenson	Chicks With Sticks	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0.00
32	Seth Hawkins	Motley Cue	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0.00
33	Melissa Hillman	Chicks With Sticks	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0.00
34	Dan Reyna	Moes	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0.00
35	Shannon Walker	Chicks With Sticks	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0.00

*No Handicap

Iowans Make Progress Towards Monarch Habitat Conservation Goals

AMES, IA -- Over the past few years, Iowa has consistently invested in monarch butterfly conservation by adding new areas of monarch habitat throughout the state. The Iowa Monarch Conservation Consortium (IMCC) has recently updated its Monarch Conservation Effort Report, which offers a summary of monarch habitat establishment through 2022 in all 99 counties across the state.

The report summarizes the program goals, methodology, and habitat acres established through 2022. The data shows that since 2015, more than 690,000 acres of monarch butterfly habitat have been established across the state. These established acres represent 88% of the IMCC strategy low-end goal to reach 790,000 acres by 2038.

"This report demonstrates how we are making significant progress towards our overall target," said Daniel Robison, holder of the endowed dean's chair in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at Iowa State University. "Through the combined efforts of our members and partners, we are working to engage Iowans about the importance of monarch butterflies for our state and to make a positive difference on the landscape. This is a remarkable and sustained effort by all the consortium members."

The report also covers how specific land use sectors are progressing in reaching their habitat goals. One notable achievement is that the Public Land sector (state, county, and federal land) has surpassed both its low- and high-end goals for habitat acreage and milkweed stem abundance! Agriculture has also made significant contributions. It is 96% of the way towards its low-end acreage goal and 39% of the way towards reaching its low-end, milkweed goal. Road Right-of-Way and Urban sectors both still have progress to make before reaching sector goals. Moving forward,



A monarch resting on a sprig of lavender. (Photo licensed via Metro Newspaper Service.)

the IMCC is hoping to support more urban habitat establishment as it continues working towards its habitat establishment goals.

"This report highlights the tremendous work we have made but also underscores the need for continued conservation efforts by all stakeholders," said Iowa Department of Natural Resources Director Lyon. "The Iowa Department of Natural Resources is proud of its partnerships with private landowners, conservation organizations, and state and local agencies that contribute to monarch conservation in Iowa."

Habitat establishment is self-reported by individuals and organizations through the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service managed Monarch Conservation Database (MCD), USDA's Conservation Reserve Program and Natural Resources Conservation Service Programs, and HabiTally.

"With the acceleration of soil conservation and water quality work increasing across Iowa, we also look for ways to integrate wildlife habitat into our projects, especially for monarchs and other essential pollinators," said Iowa Secretary of Agriculture Mike Naig. "Iowa continues to break records in conservation adoption, but this work is far from finished. We will continue to collaborate with the Iowa Monarch Conservation Consortium and other public and private partners

to do even more in the years ahead. I invite all Iowans to find ways to expand pollinator habitat across our diverse landscapes while also enhancing soil health and protecting our water quality in our communities."

The Monarch Conservation Effort Dashboards have also been updated with the newest data through 2022. This tool allows anyone to interact with data at the state and county level. The interactive Iowa heat map allows users to click on a county and see a chart of the county's cumulative monarch habitat acreage broken down by sector. Additional maps on milkweed stem establishment and yearly trends can be found linked on the left-hand side of the dashboard.

The IMCC comprises members and partners from 50 organizations, including agricultural and conservation associations, agribusiness and utility companies, universities and state and federal agencies. To learn more about the goals and strategies of the IMCC, visit <https://monarch.ent.iastate.edu/iowa-monarch-conservation-strategy>. The IMCC plans to update their strategy document sometime in 2025 after the monarch listing decision has been announced.

To learn more about the Iowa Monarch Conservation Consortium, visit <https://monarch.ent.iastate.edu/> and follow @IowaMonarchs on Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube.

Covered in Gadwalls

By Lowell Washburn

Although Iowa waterfowling enjoyed good to excellent duck hunting during September and October, the migration had screeched to a halt by early November. As the doldrums continued into mid-month, duck hunters from river to river were becoming understandably anxious. The lack of new birds had discouraged some hunters to the point of stashing the decoys to pursue locally abundant flocks of pheasants.

Finally, on November 19th, the weather took a positive turn when a fast-moving front – complete with howling northwest winds -- delivered the dramatic change waterfowling had been longing for. While most hunters took to the bigger waters, I decided to celebrate the event by taking a chance on one of the smaller cattail wetlands that are a common feature across Iowa's 35- county prairie pothole region.

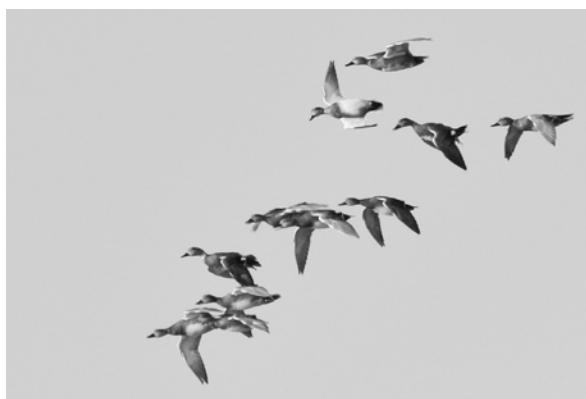
Although I had encountered other hunters earlier in the season, the marsh was a good hike from the road, and I didn't think anyone was likely to bother with such a small area this late in the season. One thing was for sure. With temperatures dropping and northern marshes beginning to ice over, flocks of mallards were certain to be on the move. My small cattail sheltered oasis would hopefully become an enticing stopover for at least some of those south-bound greenheads.

With the arrival of daylight, it soon became apparent that mallards were indeed on the move – there were hundreds of them. But the morning was not what I had envisioned. Instead of eagerly dropping into my tiny pothole, the flocks were flying a mile high – which is where they clearly intended to stay. Taking advantage of the gusty tailwinds, the birds were traversing the skies at record speeds. The next time their bright orange feet touched water; those highfliers would probably be somewhere in Missouri.

At eleven o'clock, I called it quits, gathered my



Drake Gadwall -- Catching a sudden movement, I looked up and spotted a beautiful drake gadwall.



Gadwalls -- The birds arrowed straight into the decoys without so much as a preliminary swing.

But all was not lost. Catching a sudden movement, I looked up and spotted a beautiful drake gadwall – wings cupped and standing on his tail as he conducted a meteor-like descent to the decoys. The duck presented a perfect, in your face shot which I promptly missed – with both barrels.

There was no time to lament. Almost immediately, more gadwalls – this time a flock of more than a dozen – appeared and, without so much as a preliminary swing, arrowed straight into the decoys. Taking my time, I scored with both barrels. Another flock piled in within seconds. The action continued until, before I knew it, I had downed my six-bird limit. A single species event, each and every duck was a gadwall. Trading shotgun for camera, I shot video clips for the next hour. There was never a time when there weren't birds in the air or on the water. Some of the ducks I recorded were at distances of twenty feet. It had become an amazing morning.

At eleven o'clock, I called it quits, gathered my

decoys, and left the marsh. The ducks had quit flying and only an occasional red-wing continued to descend to the cattails. Although the mallards never did come down, the day had proved to be as memorable as it was unique. Although gadwalls were formerly considered to be a bird of western marshlands, the species has recently become increasingly common across the heartland's Mississippi Flyway. Today, numbers have surged to a point well above the gadwall's long term [1955 to 2023] average. In decades of Iowa waterfowling, this was the first and only day that I had ever shot an entire limit consisting solely of migrating gadwalls.

In addition to providing our home with several delicious meals, the outing had also served as a vivid reminder that a morning duck hunt can be a lot like Forrest Gump's box of chocolates – You just never know what you're going to get.

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



Gadwall limit -- In decades of waterfowling, this was the first and only day that I had ever shot a six-duck limit consisting entirely of migrating gadwalls. Photos courtesy of Lowell Washburn

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The United States has the safest, most effective vaccine supply.
- Vaccines are not just for kids.**
Over time, protection from childhood vaccines can wear off leaving adults at risk for diseases.

Talk to your healthcare provider about vaccines today.

What's Cookin' This Week Take Hot Chocolate to the Next Level

People tend to think of sipping ice cream floats in the middle of summer when temperatures are soaring. Ice cream floating in a bubbling base of cola or root beer can be a welcome treat on a hot day. However, floats can be just as delicious when the weather chills, particularly when ice cream enhances rich and decadent hot chocolate.

For this "Hot Chocolate Float" from "Chocolate: Over 100 Temptingly-Tasty Dishes" (Love Food) by the Love Food editors, coconut- and chocolate-flavored scoops of ice cream bob and melt in creamy hot chocolate. Feel free to use your favorite flavors of ice cream to make this recipe your own, and you can even make this drink a boozy version with the inclusion of a shot of flavored vodka.

Hot Chocolate Float

Serves 4

- 2 cups milk
- 8 oz. semisweet chocolate
- 2 tbsp. superfine sugar
- 8 scoops coconut ice cream
- 8 scoops semisweet chocolate ice cream
- Whipped cream, to decorate

Pour the milk into a saucepan. Break the chocolate into pieces and add to the saucepan with the sugar. Stir over low heat until the chocolate has melted, the sugar has dissolved and the mixture is smooth. Remove the saucepan from the heat.

Put 1 scoop of coconut ice cream into each of 4 heatproof glasses, top with a scoop of chocolate ice cream, then repeat the layers. Pour the chocolate flavored milk into the glasses, top with whipped cream, and serve immediately.

December Clover Kids: Gingerbread Baby

Wright County, Iowa – This month's Clover Kids theme was about the popular book *Gingerbread Baby* by Jan Brett. After reading the exciting book, we reviewed various vocabulary words like inspection, aroma, and recipe. Clover Kids learned the engineering design process to build a gingerbread house out of frosting and graham

crackers. Just like in real life, not every house was built the same! Clover Kids completed a thorough inspection of their house and how their design could be improved. Next the Clover Kids worked together in small teams to make a recipe for home-made gingerbread ornaments! With a recipe comes a list of ingredients,

measurements, and instructions that the Clover Kids had to work as a team to complete! They rolled out the dough and used cookie cutters to make ornaments to take home!

"Being part of a team means that youth must verbalize many things. From giving instructions, to asking clarifying questions, to pointing out a different angle or idea on something; youth must talk and work together." - K-12 Program Coordinator Paige Roberts.

Clover Kids fosters positive relationships and builds valuable life skills through a variety of hands-on activities. Clover Kids is free to youth in Wright County thanks to the Wright County 4-H Endowment.



USDA Launches National Testing of Milk From Dairy Farms To Track Bird Flu Outbreak

By Jennifer Shutt

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Department of Agriculture announced Friday it will require dairy farms to share samples of unpasteurized milk when requested, in an effort to gather more information about the spread of highly pathogenic avian influenza.

Public health officials have tracked the spread of bird flu or H5N1 in domestic poultry flocks for years before the virus began showing up in the country's dairy herds this March, raising concerns.

While the risk to the general public remains low and there is no evidence to suggest bird flu can spread from person to person, nearly 60 people, mostly farmworkers, have contracted the virus this year.

The new milk testing requirements from USDA will apply nationally but will begin first in California, Colorado, Michigan, Mississippi, Oregon and Pennsylvania, the week of Dec. 16.

"Among many outcomes, this will give farmers and farmworkers better confidence in the safety of their animals and ability to protect themselves, and it will

put us on a path to quickly controlling and stopping the virus' spread nationwide," Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack said in a written statement.

Unpasteurized milk

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration has repeatedly tested pasteurized milk on store shelves throughout the country to reaffirm it's safe to drink. Other dairy products, like cheese and ice cream, have also been found safe.

But the FDA continues to urge people against consuming unpasteurized milk, since it doesn't go through the heating process that kills off viruses and bacteria.

Health and Human Services Secretary Xavier Becerra said in a written statement the new milk "testing strategy is a critical part of our ongoing efforts to protect the health and safety of individuals and communities nationwide."

"Our primary responsibility at HHS is to protect public health and the safety of the food supply, and we continue to work closely with USDA and all stakeholders on continued testing for H5N1 in retail milk and dairy samples from across the country to en-

sure the safety of the commercial pasteurized milk supply," Becerra said. "We will continue this work with USDA for as long and as far as necessary."

The USDA began a voluntary bulk tank testing program for milk this summer in an attempt to make it easier for farmers to move their cattle across state lines without having to test each cow. The department also began a year-long study in August to test for bird flu in dairy cattle moved into meat production, seeking to confirm prior studies that found it safe to eat.

The bird flu outbreak has affected 720 dairy herds throughout 15 states so far this year, though California became the epicenter during the last month, according to data from the USDA.

The Golden State holds nearly all of the 273 herds diagnosed, with just four found in Utah during the last 30 days.

California also holds the bulk of bird flu infections in people, with 32 of the 58 diagnosed cases this year, according to information from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Colorado accounts for an-

other 10 human cases and Washington state confirmed 11 people infected with H5N1. Michigan has had two cases this year, while Missouri, Oregon and Texas have each had one positive human case.

USDA order

The USDA federal order announced Friday will require anyone responsible for a dairy farm — such as a bulk milk transporter, bulk milk transfer station, or dairy processing facility — to share unpasteurized or raw milk samples when requested.

Any farm owners whose dairy herds test positive for H5N1 will be required to share epidemiological information that would allow public health officials to perform contact tracing and other types of disease surveillance.

Additionally, private laboratories and state veterinarians must alert USDA to positive samples that were collected as part of this National Milk Testing Strategy.

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This Week's Horoscopes

ARIES - Mar 21/Apr 20: Your pioneering spirit is in full swing this week, Aries. Embrace new challenges and don't hesitate to get out front and take the lead. You just might inspire others with your confidence.

TAURUS - Apr 21/May 21: Make finances a priority this week, Taurus. A bit of budgeting could ease some of the financial stress that has been affecting you lately. Indulge in a small luxury as a reward for hard work.

GEMINI - May 22/Jun 21: Conversations could be interesting this week, Gemini. You're curious about what others do when they are home behind closed doors. Don't pry too much.

CANCER - Jun 22/Jul 22: Cancer, nurture your relationships this week, particularly if work has garnered most of your attention of late. Pay attention to your own needs, too, and enjoy some relaxation.

LEO - Jul 23/Aug 23: Employ your natural charisma to forge new connections and network at upcoming events, Leo. You are good at sharing ideas and expressing yourself with confidence.

VIRGO - Aug 24/Sept 22: Tackle one job at a time and focus on what is important to get done this week, Virgo. It can be easy to get side-tracked by side projects. Or that might be your way to procrastinate.

LIBRA - Sept 23/Oct 23: Libra, surround yourself with positive influences this week. You want others supporting you at every turn while you take on an important project that comes up.

SCORPIO - Oct 24/Nov 22: Use your intense focus and attention to detail to delve into projects that require those specific skills, Scorpio. In fact, someone may ask you to work on a project for these traits alone.

SAGITTARIUS - Nov 23/Dec 21: Embrace the unknown this week. Let yourself get led off in different directions from those you normally travel, Sagittarius. Who knows what you may find along the way?

CAPRICORN - Dec 22/Jan 20: Revisit your goals and make a plan for the future, Capricorn. Remember to take the people closest to you into consideration. Do not trample them in the process of getting ahead.

AQUARIUS - Jan 21/Feb 18: Aquarius, collaborate with like-minded individuals who are ready to think outside the box. It is amazing what you can accomplish when you multiply your power.

PISCES - Feb 19/Mar 20: You might need to warm up before the creative energy starts to flow, Pisces. Don't worry, once you have the right inspiration, things will begin moving at a rapid pace.

Creative Coloring

Color in this picture to create your own masterpiece.



Smart Agricultural Drainage Virtual Field Day is Dec. 19

Iowa Learning Farms virtual event discusses tools to sense tile health and nitrate hot spots

By Elizabeth Ripley

Liang Dong and Mike Castellano. AMES, Iowa – Iowa Learning Farms, in partnership with Iowa State University and Michigan State University, is hosting a free virtual field day on Thursday, Dec. 19 at 1 p.m. CST.

The live discussion will feature Mike Castellano, ISU William T. Frankenger professor in soil science; Liang Dong, director of the ISU Microelectronics Research Center and Vikram L. Dalal professor of electrical and computer engineering; and Xiaobo Tan, MSU research foundation professor and Richard M. Hong endowed chair in electrical and computer engineering.

Tile drainage is among the most important land use improvements for agriculture with systems installed in nearly 50% of Iowa's cropland. Drained croplands produce a disproportionately large amount of grain compared to total croplands, but also deliver a disproportionately large amount of nitrate to downstream waterways. A new smart agricultural drainage system project is exploring the use of robotic and sensor technology to inform the need to balance the effects of drainage on productivity, profitability and environmental quality.

"Many farmers have drainage systems and they don't know where and when nutrients are being lost from

the field," noted Castellano. "By deploying robots up the drainage system with inexpensive, high accuracy, high resolution sensors for nutrients and water flow, farmers can measure when, where and how much nutrients are being lost. This will allow farmers to better manage fields at a precision scale to improve both productivity and environmental performance of the cropping system."

Participants are encouraged to ask questions of the presenters. People from all backgrounds and areas of interest are encouraged to join.

Virtual field day access instructions

To participate in the live virtual field day at 1 p.m.

CST on Dec. 19:

- Click this URL, <https://iastate.zoom.us/j/91411984892>, or visit <https://www.iowalearningfarms.org/events-1>.

- Or, join from a dial-in phone line: 646-876-9923 or 646-931-3860, with meeting ID 914 1198 4892.

The field day will be recorded and archived on the ILF website so that it can be watched at any time.

Participants may be eligible for a Certified Crop Adviser board-approved continuing education unit. Information about how to apply to receive the CEU will be provided at the end of the event. This virtual field day is supported by U.S. National Science Foundation award 2125484.

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When he's not playing football, Christian Martinez enjoys competing in track and field. (Photo by McKristie Willard)

Martinez Makes Noise In Varsity Debut

By Taylor Smith, Sports Editor
Last fall, Eagle Grove junior Christian Martinez wasn't planning on playing football. With some friendly convincing from his coaches, he eventually ended up joining the team, and after an extraordinary year on the offensive and defensive lines, he got the nod for First Team All-District in Class 1A's District 2. Even after his award, Martinez keeps his team first, and says he always tries to make himself "reliable" on the field. "The team depends on you," he mentioned in a recent interview with The Eagle. "It's family."

In the 2024 season, Martinez made his presence known on both sides of the football and had a monster contribution to the "family". In his first year playing varsity football, Martinez led the Eagles in tackles for loss (7) and sacks (2.5), and his 21 total tackles tied for the sixth highest total on the team. On the front lines Christian's mentality is straightforward: "Get the tackle. Make it hard for them to get yards. The team depends on you." Undoubtedly, there's not another offensive tackle and defensive end the team would want by their side every Friday night.

Wrestling Season Is Underway For EG Boys

By Taylor Smith, Sports Editor
Eagle Grove boys wrestlers took to the mat last Thursday in their season opener at Forest City. The Eagles lost twice, but had some impressive individual performances in the triangular against the Indians and the Panthers of Central Springs. In the first match of the night, Andrew Orozco (113) had three takedowns and an abundance of riding time through two periods. He defeated his opponent from FC by technical fall to give the Eagles an early 5-0 lead. Dylan Terwilliger (120)

held a brief advantage in his first match, but lost by fall in the second period. Felix Gonzalez (126) would also lose his opening match by fall. In the longest bout of the night, Hunter Waldo Martinez (132) battled an aggressive opponent and an even more aggressive bloody nose. Still, he kept an even keel and won a 13-8 decision. Junior Cooper Thacker (138) and sophomore Jackson Babcock (144) both lost by fall in their first periods, but Hayden Schafer (157) later avenged his teammates with a pin. The state qualifier

downed his adversary in just 55 seconds. Jayden Kreitlow (175) endured a grueling match that didn't have much scoring early on. He trailed 1-0 against Forest City, but later recorded an escape and a takedown on his way to a 4-2 decision. Reece Demuth (190) more than held his own against the Indians. He was in control his entire match and won 16-0 by technical fall mid-

way through the third period. Forest City won 48-28 as a team. After a brief rest, the Eagles went head-to-head with Central Springs, but eventually lost 44-29. Against the Panthers, Thacker picked up a win by fall, and Schafer dominated in a 20-4 technical fall victory. Orozco would also win by fall in the third period after trailing for most of his match.



Andrew Orozco went 2-0 at Forest City.



Reece Demuth holds his opponent in place.



Hunter Waldo Martinez looks to escape.



Hayden Schafer started his junior campaign with a pair of wins. (Photos by Taylor Smith)

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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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SPORTS

UPCOMING SPORTS SCHEDULE

Thursday, Dec. 12

- Girls JV/Varsity Basketball vs. Belmond-Klemme @ Eagle Grove Elementary, 4:15 p.m.
- Boys JV/Varsity Basketball vs. Belmond-Klemme @ Eagle Grove Elementary, 5 p.m.
- Boys Varsity Wrestling Quad @ West Fork, 6 p.m.

Friday, Dec. 13

- Girls JV/Varsity Basketball @ Bishop Garrigan, 4 p.m.
- Girls Varsity Wrestling Tournament @ Maquoketa, 4 p.m.
- Boys JV Wrestling Tournament @ Algona, 5 p.m.
- Boys JV/Varsity Basketball @ Bishop Garrigan, 5 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 14

- Boys Varsity Wrestling @ Emmetsburg, 10 a.m.

Monday, Dec. 16

- Girls JV/Varsity Basketball @ Garner-Hayfield-Ventura, 4 p.m.
- Boys JV/Varsity Basketball @ Garner-Hayfield-Ventura @, 5 p.m.
- Boys 7th/8th Grade Basketball vs. Garner-Hayfield Ventura @ EGHS, 4:15 p.m.
- Boys JV Wrestling @ Clarion-Goldfield-Dows, 4:30 p.m.

Tuesday, Dec. 17

- Girls JV/Varsity Basketball vs. Lake Mills @ Eagle Grove Elementary, 4 p.m.
- Boys JV/Varsity Basketball vs. Lake Mills @ Eagle Grove Elementary, 5 p.m.
- Boys 7th/8th Grade Basketball @ Belmond-Klemme, 4:15 p.m.

Boys Narrowly Lose Basketball Home Opener

By Taylor Smith, Sports Editor

The EGHS boys basketball team had a quick turnaround after their December 2nd win over Clarion-Goldfield-Dows. Just 24 hours later, the young men hosted Forest City in Eagle Grove's home opener. Both teams traded leads throughout the contest, and the purple and gold held an advantage going into the 4th quarter. Unfortunately, the visiting Indians retook momentum and won 65-63 as the Eagles ran out of clock in pursuit of their second win of the season.

Sophomore Adrian Whipple turned in a superb 1st quarter for the Eagles. The guard stripped the ball from an opponent and turned it into a layup, and moments later, stepped into a contested triple before time expired.

EGHS trailed 20-17, but Jaxon Morris knotted things up with a three in the first minute of the 2nd quarter. Forest City regained the lead, but Eagle



Abraham Lin (left) and Adrian Whipple (right) combined for 10 steals against Forest City.

Grove forward Abraham Lin drilled two quick buckets and Whipple added another steal and layup. The boys went into halftime with a 34-31 lead after a three-pointer from Lin and a last second putback from Morris.

Lin's hot hand continued in the 3rd quarter with three triples on three trips down

the floor. Whipple added a pair of threes and EG led 51-46 headed into the 4th.

The Indians stormed back after the break, but Lin checked into the game and readied the ship with two straight inside shots. He had a chance at a third, but it was called off due to a traveling violation. An Eagle Grove technical foul fol-



Birds of every feather came out in support of the home team. (Photos by Taylor Smith)

lowed, and Forest City took full advantage. The Eagles were unable to regain their footing and lost 65-63.

Lin shot 9/15 against the Indians and finished with a team-high 22 points and 6 steals. Whipple, who has blossomed into a valuable contributor in his second year, went 4/8 from beyond the arc and dropped

19 points. He added 4 steals and dished out 5 assists in the loss. Shots weren't falling for Morris against Forest City, but he still came away with 15 points.

Gavin Pedersen contributed 3 points and 7 rebounds, and Josh Miller added 4 points, 5 assists, and 5 rebounds for Eagle Grove.

Girls Sit At 1-2 After Pair of Conference Losses

By Taylor Smith, Sports Editor

Last week, the varsity girls basketball team from Eagle Grove faced off against #5 Forest City on Tuesday night and West Hancock on Friday. Forest City outperformed the purple and gold at Eagle Grove Elementary and won the contest 70-18. The girls had a higher scoring output on Friday night, but struggled from beyond the arc. West Hancock successfully defended their home court in a 62-28 victory over EG.

In the matchup with Forest City, Taytum Edwards led all Eagle Grove scorers with 8 points. Her 8 rebounds, 2 steals, and 2 made three-pointers were all team highs.

Myah Edwards went 2/5 from the field for 4 points.



Myah Edwards looks to the bench for instruction.

She also chipped in 3 offensive rebounds.

Freshman Adelle Pamperin hit a three-pointer and dished out a pair of assists in the loss. Her classmate Ellie Lenning finished the game with 1 point and 3 rebounds. In Friday's contest vs. the

Eagles of West Hancock, Pamperin exploded for 16 points and 6 rebounds. Myah Edwards came through with 10 rebounds, 3 steals, 2 blocks, and 2 assists, and Taytum Edwards had 8 points. Rynn Ettinger went 2/2 for 4 points.



Ellie Lenning had 3 assists in Eagle Grove's December 2 loss. (Photos by Taylor Smith)

North Central Conference Officially Welcomes Eagle Grove, Forest City, and Garner-Hayfield-Ventura

By Greg Stewart, NCC Commissioner

The North Central Conference is thrilled to announce the addition of the Eagle Grove, Forest City, and Garner-Hayfield-Ventura Community School Districts. These districts will officially join the NCC after the conclusion of the 2025-26 school year. Additionally, the Charles City Community School District will now join the conference earlier than planned, beginning in the 2026-27 school

year. The NCC Executive Board believes these new member schools will bring enhanced stability, improved competitive balance, and expanded opportunities for recognizing students' achievements across academics, fine arts, student activities, and athletics.

With the inclusion of these schools, the NCC will evolve into a twelve-team conference, utilizing divisions for specific athletic programs based on

enrollment. Detailed plans regarding division structures and celebrations of student accomplishments will be shared in the coming months as our educational leaders work collaboratively to finalize the transition.

To ensure a dynamic and adaptable conference structure, the NCC Executive Board will propose new by-laws. These include a provision to restructure divisions based on enrollment every four years. Additionally, any school petitioning to

join the NCC will initially be placed in the Tradition Division, while current member schools will retain the flexibility to transition between the Tradition and Pride Divisions before new members are integrated.

Using enrollment data from the Basic Educational Data Survey (BEDS) for grades 9-11 and a three-year enrollment average, the proposed divisions are below.



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NCC - Tradition Division				
School	21-22 HS BEDS	22-23 HS BEDS	23-24 HS BEDS	AVE.
Webster City	457	424	407	429.33
Charles City	397	399	383	393.00
Humboldt	371	384	350	368.33
Algona	335	359	352	348.67
Hampton-Dumont-CAL	324	360	344	342.67
Clear Lake	315	354	356	341.67
NCC - Pride Division				
School	21-22 HS BEDS	22-23 HS BEDS	23-24 HS BEDS	AVE.
Iowa Falls - Alden	319	288	283	296.67
Forest City	255	246	239	246.67
Clarion-Goldfield-Dows	226	270	229	241.67
Eagle Grove	208	237	249	231.33
Garner-Hayfield-Ventura	230	232	223	228.33
St. Edmond's	120	115	118	117.67

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