

## IN THIS WEEK'S EAGLE

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**A lighter moment of the fog that enveloped the city.**  
(Photo by Edward Lynn)



**By Edward Lynn**  
**Editor**

Eagle Grove and its neighboring areas have recently been enveloped in a dense fog, reminiscent of the eerie mist from John Carpenter's classic film *The Fog*. While no ghostly apparitions have been reported, the fog has

significantly impacted daily life, particularly concerning road safety.

The National Weather Service issued Dense Fog Advisories for the region several days in a row, cautioning drivers to exercise extreme caution due to reduced visibility. The fog was primarily

attributed to recent precipitation combined with cool surface temperatures, creating an environment conducive to fog formation.

Looking ahead, the forecast for Eagle Grove has a mix of snow, cold air and sunshine, and the fog should be behind us.

## FBI Warns Against Phone Calls and Texts

### Here's What to Do Now

**by Edward Lynn**  
**Editor**

Well, folks, it's gotten real. Everyone who's been paying even a little attention has known for a while it would get real, and now it has. The FBI has now warned Americans that nine major telecom companies have been hacked, which authorities allege was carried out by a Chinese hacking group known as Salt Typhoon, which

sought to compromise high value political targets, including President-elect Donald Trump. And while the specific companies haven't been named, two of the nation's largest carriers (AT&T and Verizon) were targeted, according to reporting by Reuters.

And, while reporting shows that much of the headway the hackers made was due to lax security, the hack was nevertheless so advanced that the affected companies have had difficulty purging their systems, and were not willing to say definitively that the attack-

ers' access to U.S. systems had been terminated.

So, it is simply no longer safe to make unencrypted phone calls or send unencrypted text messages AT ALL. And the FBI is urging consumers to switch to encrypted forms of communication, even for just everyday calling and texting. That is significant, because it actually increases their difficulty in carrying out investigations. Which shows just how serious they deem the problem to be.

See **CALLS AND TEXTS: Page 4A**

## Rotary Fundraiser Falls Flat, Facility Faces Funding Shortfall

**by Edward Lynn**  
**Editor**

Rotary Senior Living's recent "White Elefund" fundraiser, aimed at raising money for a vital safety upgrade, drew only 23 attendees; resulting in a significant budget shortfall for Eagle Grove's most local senior care facility. The fundraiser's low attendance meant that participants walked away with numerous prizes, but it also meant that the fundraiser failed to meet its goals.

Diane Casperson, administrator of Rotary Senior Living, explained the purpose of the fundraising effort. "We are working to replace an outdated call light system to enhance the safety and efficiency of meeting resident needs," Casperson said. The new system would include a Wander Management feature for the Skilled Nursing and Memory Care Unit, making it "a critical investment in the well-being of our residents," Casperson noted. The estimated cost of the system, which Rotary needs to raise because the upgrade is not included in the facility's capital budget, is estimated at about \$100,000.

Casperson detailed the many challenges faced by the facility, including rising costs for food, staffing, and insurance. "Among the most demanding challenges is maintaining adequate nursing department staffing, particularly for Registered Nurses, LPNs, and CNAs," Casperson explained. Additionally, Casperson highlighted that long-term care

See **ROTARY: Page 4A**



**A variety of fun and valuable prizes were on offer at the fundraiser, which ended up going to the small group of people who showed up. Everyone who stayed home missed out.** (Photos by Edward Lynn)

## Former U.S. President Jimmy Carter dies at 100

President Jimmy Carter, the only Georgian to ever occupy the White House, died Sunday, Dec. 29, 2024, after spending over a year in hospice care.

Carter, who turned 100 on Oct. 1 and is the longest-lived president in American history, died at his home in Plains Sunday surrounded by family, according to the Carter Center.

"My father was a hero, not only to me but to everyone who believes in peace, human rights, and unselfish love," Chip Carter, the former president's son, said in a statement. "My brothers, sister, and I shared him with the rest of the world through these common beliefs. The world is our family because of the way he brought people together, and we thank you for honoring his memory by continuing to live these shared beliefs."

Public services are planned



**Then President Carter speaks to Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin at the King David Hotel in Jerusalem, flanked by their delegations.** (Courtesy of the U.S. Embassy of Jerusalem, CC-BY-2.0)

for Atlanta and Washington, with a private burial service following in Plains. A full schedule has not yet been released.

President Carter and former first lady Rosalynn Carter were beloved residents of Plains, the small town in southwest Georgia where the couple grew up. Rosalynn Carter died Nov. 19, 2023 at 96.

Their affection for one another never seemed to fade during their 77-year marriage, which spanned Carter's ever-changing career, from peanut farmer to state senator, governor and president, as well as his

post-White House roles as diplomat, humanitarian and volunteer.

The former president's passion for helping others and devotion to his faith, family and country garnered praise from Georgia's political leaders.

In a statement, Gov. Brian Kemp praised Carter's dedication to the state and the nation as well as his humanitarian work and love for the former first lady.

"Their family continues to be in our prayers as President Carter is reunited with his beloved wife and the world mourns this native Georgian, former state and national

leader, and proud peanut farmer from Plains," Kemp said.

U.S. Sen. Raphael Warnock called Carter a hero, a friend and one of his favorite people, who moved the country "closer toward our highest ideals."

"A former president, he got his hands dirty, literally building people's homes while helping them build their lives. President Carter was a Matthew 25 Christian. He believed, as I do, that the true test of your faith is the depth of your commitment to the most marginalized members of the human family. I believe he passed that



**Former President Jimmy Carter's portrait, on display in the Georgia state Capitol. Carter served as Governor of Georgia from 1971 to 1975.** (Photo by Ross Williams/Georgia Recorder)

test and has now graduated into immortality. Democracies around the world are stronger and children across the globe are alive today because of President Carter's work — what a legacy to leave."

U.S. Sen. Jon Ossoff said Carter will be remembered for "his commitment to democracy and human rights, his enduring faith, his philanthropic leadership and his deep love of family."

"From Plains to across the State of Georgia, the United States, and around the world, millions will forever admire and appreciate all that President Carter did for the United States and for the global community," Ossoff said. "The State of Georgia and the United States are better places because of President Jimmy Carter."

See **JIMMY CARTER: Page 7A**



\$1.50



## July

- Rick and Sue Hammen are named 2024 Wright County Fair Parade Grand Marshals.
- Eagle Grove took a one-two punch the weekend of July 6-7 as a massive hail storm pounding on Saturday was followed by an extensive flooding on Sunday. The hail damage to cars and roofs and flooding in basements resulted in months of clean up for residents.
- EGPD's Mark Hennigar received the Life Saving Award after saving the lives of a Goldfield couple from a house fire.



Despite flooding across the fairgrounds, the Wright County Fair started on time, thanks to the determination of the organizers of the fair. (Photo by Bruce Voigts)



Those around town had their eyes to the sky throughout July as a giant crane dominated the skyline of Eagle Grove. It was used in conjunction with several projects, but its main purpose was to install a new rotary beam conditioner at AGP. (Photo by Edward Lynn)

## August

- After a few months of operation, the Wright Community Connection (WCC) was officially welcomed by the Clarion Development Alliance with a ribbon cutting.
- Clarion based Christian band Faith's Road, and their sister band the Ukelele Society performed in Des Moines at the Iowa State Fair.
- Local scout Matthew Thul's Eagle Scout project is to prevent house fires and ensure every home in the community has a fire blanket.



Eagle Grove held their first National Night Out event. Chief of Police Ray Beltran said the purpose of the event is "to build community, promote police-community partnerships and make our neighborhoods safe, more caring places to live." (Screenshot, EGPD/Facebook)



• Clarion local Maurice Riley was honored with a 50-year certificate, marking half a century of dedication to freemasonry. Riley is a Past Master of Bower Lodge #464 in Eagle Grove. (Photo provided)

## September

- The Eagle reported on Caitlin Pinkele, a 2017 EGHS graduate, publishing her first novel *And So It Begins*.
- After 11 years of service, Brett Legvold steps down as Eagle Grove City Attorney. Lynn Seaba was appointed to the position.
- EGHS Band and Color Guard take 1st place in Class A competition at the annual Waseca Marching Classic in Waseca, MN.
- The Eagle Grove Community School District Board approved a five-year lease to use specific areas of the Eagle Grove Rec Center, which would help alleviate space and time constraints faced by the district.
- The EGHS Class of 1969 held their 60th reunion on Aug. 10 at Nine and Dine.
- Wright County Farm Bureau hosted their 16th annual Safety Day Camp for nearly 200 third grade students at the Wright County Fairgrounds.
- The community came together on Saturday, Sept. 28 for the Beecher Family Benefit, raising over \$107,000. Jared Beecher was diagnosed with Stage 4 pancreatic cancer just a week after the birth of his first child, son Grizz. Jared sadly passed away at the age of 28 on Nov. 18, 2024.



Eagle Scouts sold their famous mini donuts at Lake Cornelia's Labor Day Festival. (Photo by Amanda Rink)



The 2024 EGHS Homecoming Court. Shown back to front, left to right (boys, back row) Zabdi Castro, Jaxon Morris, Brett Ascherl, Jesus Baez-Lobato and Joshua Miller, and (girls, front row) Gabriela Lobato-Arriaga, Piper Willard, Michelle Calles-Castro, Jocelyn Gonzalez and Avery Wepel-Sisson. (Photo courtesy of Mitch Jones Photography)

## October

- The Eagle Grove Chamber of Commerce hosted its first fall BBQ competition alongside a fall vendor show.
- Kyle Handy, a representative with Twin Rivers Exploration, joined the Wright County Board of Supervisors over zoom to discuss seismic testing in search of natural hydrogen deposits across 200 miles of Wright County roads.
- The City Council swore in Ben Aschenbrenner as the newest officer of the Eagle Grove Police Department.
- Wright County Economic Development announces KC White of Goldfield as winner of their photo contest.
- Doris Madson was the October 100 Women Who Care recipient after facing significant health challenges including a stroke, heart attack, and a complete blockage found during an angiogram. She was given a check for \$3,800.



The Harlem Wizards put on a great show against a team comprised of several Eagle Grove teachers. (Photo by Mitch Jones Photography)



Downtown trick-or-treat. (Photo by Edward Lynn)

## November

- The Wright County Charitable Foundation celebrated its 20th Anniversary. The WCCF has granted more than \$1.8 million to help complete projects and programs that benefit the people of Wright County.
- The Eagle Grove School Board unanimously voted to accept an invitation to join the North Central Conference for the 2026-27 school year. The Board also re-elected Tracy Crail as President of the Board and Aaron Parrot as Vice President.
- Catherine McFarland was sworn in as the newest police officer for the Eagle Grove Police Department.
- Rejoice Church Iowa, a Word and Spirit Pentecostal Church, opened its doors in Goldfield.
- A benefit for Barb Noonan at Pop's Pizza raised over \$17,000 to support her during her fight against cancer.



Veterans Day Program at the Eagle Grove Elementary. (Photo by Jill Link)



Eagle Grove's downtown buzzed with holiday excitement as the Chamber of Commerce hosted the city's 64th Annual Holiday Craft Fair and Sip & Shop. (Photo by Edward Lynn)



The annual Community Thanksgiving Feast brought residents together at Sacred Heart Catholic Church. (Photo provided)

## December

- The city council announces plans to break ground on a new dog park as early as spring of 2025. The dog park is the project of Eagle Scout candidate Anna Withers.
- The 80th annual Holmes Christmas Club Auction held at the Red Shed Events Center north of Clarion saw 130 people from across Wright County. The event's auction items, donated by local businesses, raise funds that are distributed throughout Wright County to assist nonprofits, schools, and individuals in need.
- Kayleigh Marshall, a 6th grade student in Clarion and a young entrepreneur who started the custom jewelry company "Little Bit of Sunshine", raised over \$3,000 for Joseph Granzow and Tom Klaver, two beloved music teachers who are both facing their own battles with cancer.
- The Eagle Grove Lions Club was awarded the prestigious Lions Club Service Excellence Award.



Students spread cheer at the 4th and 5th graders' annual holiday music concert. (Photo by Taylor Smith)



Angie Petersen was recognized by the Wright County Supervisors for her 30 years of service with the Wright County Treasurer's office. (Photo courtesy of the Wright County Courthouse)

# Local State Patrol Welcomes Two New Troopers

## One Honored for Physical Fitness Excellence

By Edward Lynn  
Editor

FORT DODGE, Iowa — The Iowa Department of Public Safety (DPS) celebrated the graduation of the 51st Basic Academy on Friday, December 20th, welcoming 18 new Troopers to its ranks. Among them, Troopers Bennett Eaton and Benjamin Gunderson, who will serve in the local Iowa State Patrol district, number 7.

Trooper Gunderson distinguished himself during the academy by earning the prestigious Earnest Baty Jr. Physical Fitness Award. Established in 1985, this honor recognizes recruits who demonstrate exceptional physical fitness by excelling in rigorous benchmarks, including completing a 1.5-mile run in under nine minutes, performing 20 or more pull-ups, and achieving at least 80 sit-ups in two minutes. Named in memory of Special Agent Earnest Baty Jr., the award is an indication of the DPS's commitment to physical readiness for service.

DPS Commissioner Stephan Bayens praised the graduating class for their commitment. "We are

incredibly proud of the accomplishments of our newest Troopers and extend our gratitude for their dedication to the safety and well-being of Iowa's communities," Bayens said during the ceremony at the Holiday Inn Airport Conference Center in Des Moines. "In a world full of challenges and opportunities, they have chosen a path of service and commitment."

The academy, conducted at Camp Dodge, provided comprehensive training, including coursework in criminal law, defensive tactics, fair and impartial policing, emergency management services, and human trafficking. Recruits also honed skills in crisis intervention, precision driving, firearms

handling, and physical fitness. "It's a very rigorous and physical academy," said District 7 Public Resource Officer (PRO) Trooper Paul Gardner. "It's a 20 week process, which is a long time to be away from friends and family. You are doing push-ups, you are running, you're marching, training... physically, mentally, and academically, it's very rigorous."

Troopers Eaton and Gunderson will be stationed in Fort Dodge and serve Calhoun, Kossuth, Hamilton, Humboldt, Pocahontas, Webster, and Wright counties, under District 7 Commander Lieutenant Aaron Smidt.

The district encompasses a 30 mile section of Interstate 35 and roughly 7,000

miles of rural secondary roads, according to Iowa Department of Transportation records, and is crossed from the East and West by Highway 20.

Among the duties Troopers in District 7 can expect are patrol, law enforcement, disaster response, event management, and dignitary protection. Among the major events regularly held in the area are the ABATE motorcycle rally outside Algona, county fairs, the Dayton Labor Day celebration, Frontier Days in Fort Dodge, Gowrie's 4th of July celebration, the Boy's and Girl's State High School cross country meet, the Girl's State High School Softball Tournament, and R.A.G.B.R.A.I. Additional-

ly, Iowa's first in the nation caucuses result in a lot of dignitary protection responsibilities around the presidential election cycle.

"We're really excited to have new faces in our district. Especially with our manpower having been short," said Gardner. "I know that they will help us to make the roads safer. Having some new troopers in the district will help to provide some more coverage, and we're really excited to have them."

Both new troopers will start on Thursday, January 2nd. Following a day of orientation, they'll be assigned a patrol vehicle and then undergo an additional 70 days of training with a senior trooper.

# Supervisors Consider Oversight Surrounding Drainage Work

Amanda Rink,  
Mid America Publishing

The Wright County Supervisors met Monday morning as drainage trustees and in their role as County Supervisors. From discussing unexpected costs in drainage repairs to celebrating community resilience at the county fair, the meeting covered a range of topics.

## Drainage District Repairs Exceed Estimate

As discussed in previous meetings, the repair costs of Drainage District 36 Lat C, which has incorrectly been referred to as 36 Lateral 3, have ballooned well beyond the original repair estimate of under \$50,000. This can create concerns that have the potential for even more cost if a secondary engineer needs to be hired to review the work.

As of the morning of the meeting, the cost for the repair sits at \$83,912.50 with the end estimate being

\$96,187.50. After meeting with Hennigar Construction & Excavating, Supervisor Rick Rasmussen shared there are still about 30 hours of "dozer work" needing to be done with "lots of sandy pockets where water is just coming through".

Ultimately, the board decided to press pause on the issue. Landowners will have their say at a January landowners meeting to help determine the best path forward.

Meanwhile, a Wright County landowner flagged issues with culverts along 180th Street east of Highway 69. Wright County Engineer Adam Clemmons and Drainage Administrator Courtney Morris agreed to take a closer look at the issue. An invoice from Maasdam Construction for work done in Drainage District 36 for \$582.50 was presented as well.

## Juvenile Detention Agreement

Shifting back to regular business as the Board of Supervisors, the board approved an amendment to the 28E agreement with the Central Iowa Juvenile Detention Center after consideration of the new agreement compared with the old.

## Productive Year for Secondary Roads

County Engineer Adam Clemmons provided an end-of-year update that highlighted the Secondary Roads Department's work. Over the year, the crew completed 792 work orders and spread about 80,000 tons of granular material to keep roads in shape. Clemmons also touched on recent blading and shoulder cutting.

## Celebrating Resilience with the Fair Board

Fair Manager Tricia Rosendahl and a few Fair Board members appealed to the Wright County Supervisors for an unspecified amount of funding.

Rosendahl brought a mix of gratitude and reflection in her report on the 2024 fair season.

## Flooding

Flooding on the fairgrounds stole the spotlight during the event, as state-televised media coverage drew attention to the problem of the flooding rather than highlighting the resilience shown.

Because of this, the publicity may have worked against the Fair. "All people heard was 'we're flooded,'" Rosendahl explained, which, paired with the extreme heat, likely discouraged visitors. Despite this, she praised the board's determination to press on. Supervisor Dean Kluss and Supervisor Rasmussen echoed her words, while they emphasized the fair's vital economic role in Wright County.

**Youth Participation Grew**  
Among the challenges, youth involvement was a

bright spot according to Rosendahl. This year saw growth, with 148 live exhibits and 83 non-livestock entries. The Fair Board's "let's make it work" attitude carried them through so that participants had an event to remember.

Although the fair receives a good amount of sponsorships from across our county and beyond, Rosendahl requested "any type of funding" to be provided to the fair board to continue the event's growth.

The next Board of Supervisors meeting will be held

on January 6, 2025, at 9:00 A.M., this meeting and past meetings are available for viewing at

youtube.com/@WrightCountyIowaOfficial8312.



## Weekly Coverage in Eagle Grove and Surrounding Communities

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# Region Beats State Jobs Numbers

By Michael Hohenbrink  
Mid America Publishing

While Iowa's statewide average crept up to 3.1 percent, most of the region outperformed the Hawkeye State.

Most of the region bested the state jobs report released by Iowa Workforce Development.

Story County was the regional leader at 2.2 percent, followed by Wright at 2.4 percent and Franklin at 2.5 percent with Butler clocking in at 2.7 percent as Hamilton was at 2.8 percent. Hardin County clocked in at three percent in the latest unemployment numbers.

Grundy County tied the state average at 3.1 percent.

"The bright spot in November's report was that 1,600 Iowans came back to the labor force in search of a job," said Beth Townsend, Executive Director of Iowa Workforce Development.



(Screenshots, workforce.iowa.gov)

"This is a welcome sign for Iowa in terms of our economic stability and growth, as well as for employers who currently are trying to fill over 50,000 open jobs. Now that we are past the election, we hope to see more hiring, more Iowans returning to the workforce, and increased growth overall."

Marshall County had the

highest rate in the state with 4.8 percent, followed by Scott at 4.4 percent.

Nationally, the U.S. rate increased to 4.1 percent.

Sioux County was the best in the state with 1.8 percent.

Driving tractors include gains in leisure and hospitality (up 700 jobs) while the arts and entertainment sector lost 200 jobs. Food production and animal processing saw heavy hiring.



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

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

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

Your Letter to the Editor must include:

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

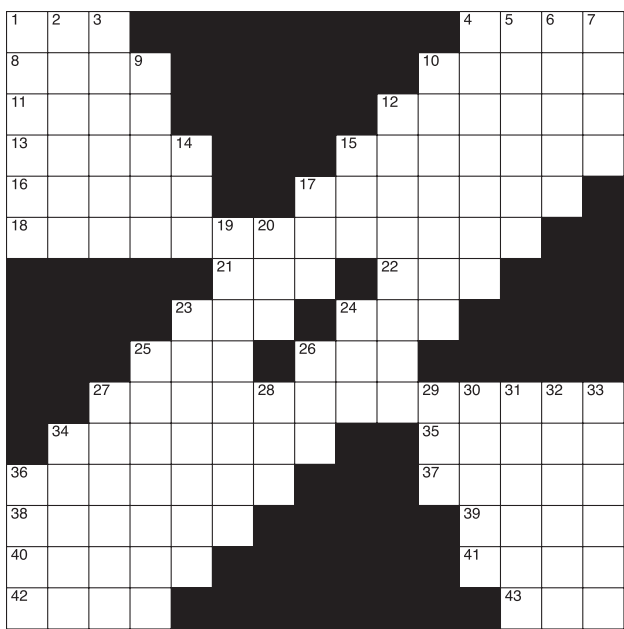
Your address and telephone number will not be printed in the newspaper, but will be used for verification by newspaper editorial staff.

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

## CORRECTION & RETRACTION POLICY

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.



**CLUES ACROSS**

- 1. Americans' "uncle"
- 4. Chair
- 8. Ancient kingdom
- 10. Egyptian city
- 11. Alaskan glacier
- 12. One from Somalia
- 13. Ancient alphabets
- 15. Relating to vocabulary
- 16. Small mongrels
- 17. Natural settings
- 18. Weekend entertainments
- 21. Line from which light seemingly streams
- 22. Your own private code
- 23. Swiss river
- 24. Satisfaction
- 25. A person's brother or sister
- 26. Folk singer DiFranco
- 27. The Blonde Bombshell
- 34. Kids' school project
- 35. Bluish greens
- 36. Classifying
- 37. Cube-shaped
- 38. Choo-choos
- 39. Indian religious god of dissolution
- 40. French department
- 41. Leak into gradually
- 42. Foundation
- 43. Midway between south and southeast

**CLUES DOWN**

- 1. Counterbalancing debt
- 2. In slow tempo
- 3. Glamorous city
- 4. Japanese lute
- 5. Makes law
- 6. Informative book
- 7. Animal's body part
- 9. American playwright
- 10. Blood poisoning
- 12. Angels
- 14. Sino-Soviet block (abbr.)
- 15. Written account
- 17. Unwelcome pest
- 19. Saddle horses
- 20. Type of gibbon
- 23. Delta is one
- 24. NE Massachusetts cape
- 25. Soup cracker
- 26. Yes vote
- 27. Muddy ground
- 28. Physics apparatus (abbr.)
- 29. Type of drug
- 30. German city
- 31. Animal disease
- 32. Martini ingredients
- 33. Get away
- 34. Spanish municipality
- 36. Thrust a knife into

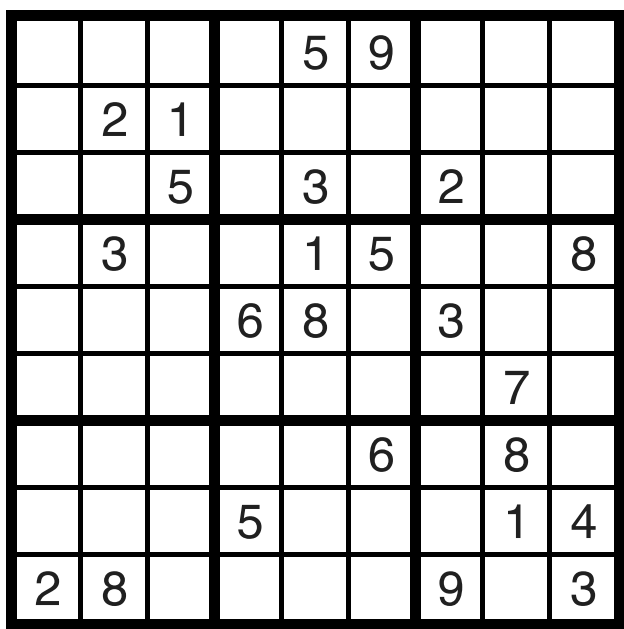
*Solutions can be found on the Classified page*

# 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*

## FOOD SERVICE WORD SEARCH



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

- BAR-BACK
- BARTENDER
- BISTRO
- BOUNCER
- COMP
- COVER
- DISH
- DOUBLE
- DROP
- EARLY BIRD
- FILLER
- FLATTOP
- FRONT OF HOUSE
- HAPPY HOUR
- LINE
- ORDER
- PARTY
- POINT OF SALE
- REGULAR
- RESERVATION
- RUN
- RUSH
- SEATING
- TICKET

## ROTARY from page 1A

facilities must comply with stringent regulatory and compliance requirements. "To meet these requirements, we often rely on agency staff, which can cost up to twice as much as employing in-house personnel," she noted.

The age of the buildings themselves is also a cost multiplier for the facility. Like any household, our facility must also periodically update or replace essential equipment to ensure safety and efficiency," she explained. "The majority of our essential infrastructure components, including plumbing, electrical systems, and other critical operational elements, are original to the 1962 and 1978 buildings. Because of their age, when these systems break down, they often require major replacements rather than less costly repairs to maintain a safe and functional environment for

our residents.

"Fundraising enables us to make critical investments," Casperson pointed out, "while utilizing our operating budget for the day-to-day expenses of running the facility, such as: salaries and wages for staff, food and supplies, utilities, daily maintenance projects, insurance and administrative costs. These efforts allow us to provide exceptional care without placing the full financial burden on our residents and their families."

Rotary Senior Living also has plans for future improvements, including replacing decades-old windows in its buildings to enhance energy efficiency and resident comfort. However, the current focus remains on the immediate need for the call light system upgrade.

Despite the fundraiser's disappointing turnout, Casperson remains opti-

mistic. She highlighted the facility's ongoing efforts to secure grants and organize additional community events to bridge the funding gap. "Through fundraising and community support, we strive to balance financial sustainability with our unwavering commitment to delivering high-quality, compassionate care," she said, encouraging residents to contribute if they can. "In fact, fundraising, including capital campaigns, plays a critical role in the success and longevity of long-term care organizations in a majority of communities." Casperson asserted that studies show that roughly "60-80% of successful long-term care organizations actively engage in fundraising efforts" to fund their facilities, in addition to revenue from residents.

Most of the people in any community will end up either elderly, or disabled, and

investing in the facility now is also an investment in it in the future—when many locals will need it, including any one of us. A point which Casperson highlighted. "Together, we can create a safe, compassionate, and nurturing space that enhances the quality of life for residents and offers peace of mind to their families if and when the need arises." And, a donation today also helps show the current residents that they haven't been forgotten. "Your involvement strengthens the bonds between our facility and the community," Casperson said, "helping secure long-term success for all."

Donations can be made via Venmo at @Rotaryseniorliving or by cash or check payable to Rotary Senior Living. Contributions are tax-deductible, and donors are therefore encouraged to provide their full name and address to receive a receipt.

## CALLS AND TEXTS from page 1A

And as if all that weren't bad enough, there is now a new kind of attack called Sim Swapping (AKA Sim Hijacking) which attackers use to transfer your phone service to their phone, enabling them to do anything you can do on your phone, as if they were you. Including logging into services protected by two factor identification.

When you add all that to the emergence of Artificial Intelligence systems evolving at a break-neck pace, things get even more real. First of all, any data you send over an unencrypted system increases the amount of information the systems have about you. And attackers could use AI to scour through, making us all extremely susceptible to Social Engineering attacks (where hackers deduce your likely passwords, pin numbers, etc.). This is everything from your social media posts to your phone calls, to your text messages. Everything you've ever posted, every call you've ever made, every text you've ever sent. And, using both audio and video "deepfakes" AI can convincingly impersonate you—both your voice and your face, and even your mannerisms.

So, it is now necessary for all of us to make some serious changes in order to protect ourselves, and above all, our bank accounts. And I'll tell you right now, it's going to be a hassle. But it's that, or have all your communications spied upon, and ultimately having your bank accounts drained, sooner or later. Fail to act, and it's not a matter of if those things will happen to you, but when.

So, as the U.S. Marines like to say, "embrace the suck".

**How to protect yourself: Get Signal, or What'sApp.** According to Zak Doffman, a security, surveillance and privacy reporter writing for Forbes, "There are just three providers of end-to-end encrypted messaging that matter. Apple, Google and Meta—albeit Signal provides a smaller platform favored by security experts." Of those companies, only two offer apps that will keep your message content encrypted even when the sender and the recipient are using different phone operating systems; for instance, if the sender is using an iPhone, and the recipient is using an Android. And those two apps are Signal, and Meta's What'sApp. Both are free.

What'sApp has the largest user base, and so is more likely to be in use by people you want to communicate with. But as Doffman pointed out, Signal is the app of choice among experts—

which could be because Meta is the parent company of Facebook, which has an abysmal record when it comes to users' privacy.

Additionally, Apple's iMessage and Facetime are end-to-end encrypted. And calls and texts on Google's Fi service are also end-to-end encrypted. However both solutions require both the sender and receiver to be using either Apple or Google Fi devices and services, respectively.

**Call your phone carrier.** There are two settings you need to change ASAP to protect your phone from Sim Swapping/Hijacking. You'll need to call your phone carrier and instruct them to enable them.

**Port Freeze:** First, tell your carrier representative you want to freeze your phone number from porting. This will prevent an attacker from transferring your phone number to another carrier unless they can authenticate as you, using a PIN or passcode, or appearing in person at a store. Be sure you've taken care of porting your original number to Google Voice first, and gotten a new number for your phone.

**Carrier level SIM lock:** This is different from the SIM lock setting that might be available through your phone (which makes you present a pin before using the device in any way that involves the SIM). A carrier level SIM lock puts a pin code on your account which is required before they'll allow any changes to the SIM or account.

**More Protection**

The steps above (using physical password books instead of digital apps, switching to Google Voice for phone calls and texts, and protecting your SIM from hijacking) should be sufficient to protect you from the threats posed by SIM swappers and the current Salt Typhoon hack. However, there are some additional steps you can take if you really want to protect yourself, especially your bank account—which for those of us who aren't high profile political figures is what hackers are usually after.

**Buy two physical, paper password books.** Or use address books. Not a digital one that can be hacked, but paper ones. And buy a fire proof safe too, if you don't already have one. As you generate your new passwords, pin numbers, security questions and answers, and other account credentials, they'll record them in both books. One goes at your desk, in a locked drawer (or a secret hiding spot). The other one goes in the fire proof safe. Make sure to keep them both up to date.

**Go to your bank branch.** Once there, take out enough cash to get you through about a week. Then do all of the following:

**Turn in your debit cards and order new ones.** Specify that your new cards must have a different number, and importantly: that the last 4 digits must be different. This is because the last 4 digits of your debit card number is one of the key data points attackers exploit when impersonating you.

Note that closing debit card accounts should not affect your credit rating, but closing credit card accounts likely would. Where your credit cards are concerned, you should contact the issuer and request a new number on the same account, to avoid affecting your credit rating. Usually this is as simple as reporting the card as lost or stolen, but you should specify wanting a new number (with a different final four digits) to be sure.

**Change your security questions.** You should assume your old security questions are compromised, so it's time to set new ones.

**Pro-tip:** lie! Your mother's maiden name, your pet's names, your kids' names, birthdays, anniversaries, old addresses: these are what security questions are based on, and also data points that data brokers collect, and hackers exploit. But if you set your security code question to, for instance, "Who was your favorite teacher," and instead of setting the answer as someone who was actually one of your teachers, you choose a historical or pop-culture reference that you would remember—then you defeat all of that social engineering. Likewise, if you set the question to "what was your mother's maiden name" maybe you set the answer to NASA, or something nonsensical like that, as long as you can remember it. Taking this approach to security questions more or less eliminates the risk of social engineering attacks.

**Change your banking password.** You should also assume your banking password could be compromised at this point. It's time to change it, which you should do in person at the branch. Make sure you pick one that is very secure—don't just aim for the minimum security requirements, go for the maximum. And make sure it is unique.

It's not a bad idea to assume the same of your other passwords, too. Especially if they are similar to your banking password (which is a big mistake).

**Pro-tip:** use an alphanumeric pass phrase, not a pass word. This would be a

short sentence that includes numbers and symbols. Use your imagination. But pass phrases can be just as easy as pass words to remember, and are much harder for bad guys to crack, guess, or deduce.

**Reset your automatic payment methods, everywhere.** Now that your old debit cards are kaput, you're likely going to have to do this. But you should anyway, even if you don't have to, in order to protect your new debit card numbers from being compromised in a data breach. There are two steps to this:

**Create Virtual Credit Cards (VCC's) for recurring payments.** Some credit card companies make these available, as do some banks. Additionally, Paypal offers Paypal Keys (which is their version of VCC) to business account holders, and Google Pay automatically uses them, which they call "tokens".

But I recommend Privacy.com, which will let you generate 12 new VCC's per month for free, and is a dedicated service just for VCC's. Which gives it both an extra layer of protection, and an extra level of simplicity, and control. Privacy also stands out by letting you set purchase limits per card, and set cards to expire after just one use. So, if for instance you pay \$10 a month for a given subscription, you can set the spending limit to \$10 per month on the VCC you're using with that account, to ensure that even if they get hacked and the card number is stolen, the most you could lose is \$10. And you could pay a one time bill with a VCC set to expire after the payment, eliminating any risk of the card ever being charged for anything else.

**Log in everywhere, and change the payment methods.** At every account you have which uses a debit or credit card as the payment method, switch the payment method from your actual debit or credit card, to a virtual credit card. If you're using Privacy.com's VCC's, also set the monthly spending limit to match the monthly fee whenever possible.

It seems that for every new convenience new technology creates, it also creates a new hassle. But the lax corporate security behind the success of the Salt Typhoon hack, and the epidemic of SIM hijacking attacks, both show that you can't rely on big companies to use robust security practices. So you have to do it yourself. At present, the steps outlined above should offer a good deal of protection, but in an ever evolving situation, vigilance is going to be required.

## Jimmy Carter Exemplified the Role of President as Diplomat

By David Skidmore  
Professor of  
Political Science,  
Drake University

The news of Jimmy Carter's passing takes me back to 1976, a year that marked my own passage to adulthood. As the bicentennial year dawned, I took first notice of Carter upon his victory in the Iowa Caucuses. I followed his campaign through my high school graduation and into the summer, when I shuttled in my first car between my summer job at Walt Disney World near Orlando, Florida and New Smyrna Beach. I studied Carter's campaign in my first college course on American politics that fall and proudly cast my first vote for Carter in November.

My enthusiasm for Carter was driven by many things – his comparative youth, his progressive brand of politics and his promise of honesty and integrity after the scandals of the Nixon years.

My interest in Carter endured. Enrolled in a Ph.D. program in political science a few years later, I proposed to write my dissertation on Carter's foreign policy. Although my adviser initially gave thumbs down, he relented after I persisted in making my case that this was a worthy topic.

A one-term president who left office with low approval ratings, Carter's presidential performance is often dismissed as a failure. The widespread admiration Carter gained over the years was associated with his post-presidency, which he devoted to fighting tropical disease, monitoring elections, promoting human rights and extolling the power of dialogue as a path to peace.

Yet as I argued in my book "Reversing Course," Carter compiled an extraordinarily successful diplomatic record that was unjustly obscured by events, especially the Iranian revolution and the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, over which Carter had little control.

With America's global reputation in tatters following the Vietnam War and Watergate, Carter recognized the urgency of restoring a moral foundation for American foreign policy through the championing of human rights. He understood that a sense of moral purpose was not only essential to American leadership abroad but also necessary to gaining domestic support for an expansive U.S. role in the world.

Carter's human rights policies also had significant practical consequences. Vocal U.S. support for human rights gave added legitimacy and weight to the growing human rights advocacy of non-governmental organizations and international organizations. Authoritarian

governments came to realize that systemic human rights violations brought real costs. Arguably, the global diffusion of human rights norms contributed to the later fall of the Soviet-controlled communist bloc and to the spread of democracy in many countries around the world.

Even more impressively, Carter's presidency illustrated the power of diplomacy. Carter employed diplomacy as a tool for both resolving insipient conflicts before they spun out of control and, where escalation had already taken place, finding a path toward peace and reconciliation.

This approach paid major dividends. The SALT II arms control agreement with the Soviet Union capped a dangerous and costly nuclear arms race (while never ratified by the Senate, both countries abided by the terms of the accord). The Panama Canal Treaties removed potential threats to the Canal's security, while eliminating a constant irritant in U.S. relations with Latin America. Diplomatic recognition of China set the stage for China's growing integration with the existing global political and economic order.

The Camp David Accords removed Egypt and Jordan as military threats to Israel's security while the transition to majority Black-rule in Zimbabwe, brokered by the United States and Great Britain, brought an end to the bloody civil war there. The successful conclusion of the Tokyo Round trade negotiations sustained progress toward a more open global economy. It is difficult to think of another president who used diplomacy to better effect in serving major American interests.

Carter's record was not unblemished. As domestic political opponents unfairly painted Carter's emphases on human rights and diplomacy as evidence of weakness, Carter increasingly and unwisely sought opportunities to prove his toughness, with little effect.

A foreign policy that prioritizes diplomacy and broadly-shared values cannot solve all problems. Nevertheless, at a moment in which the American Century faces unprecedented challenges at home and abroad, we as a nation would do well to seek lessons from Carter's presidential and post-presidential records.

I was fortunate to finally meet and shake hands with Jimmy Carter a number of years ago when he and Rosalynn Carter spoke at Drake University. As Carter has for so long served as both a political inspiration and a scholarly subject for me down through these many years, I will miss his presence in our national life.



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## Recapping a Year of Results

By U.S. Rep.  
Randy Feenstra  
Iowa 4th District

2024 was a busy and successful year representing our families, farmers, businesses, and rural communities in Congress. I made over 320 stops on my biannual 36 County Tour, launched the second iteration of my Feenstra Agriculture Tour, held several town halls with Iowans, and advocated for our shared values on Capitol Hill. It is truly the honor of a lifetime to be entrusted by the good people of the 4th District to serve our communities every day and be a strong voice for our families in our nation's capital. It is a responsibility that I take very seriously.

Now, let's rewind and take a look at the past twelve months.

In January, I introduced legislation to permanently repeal the death tax on our family farms and small businesses, and it is a top priority for me to have this bill included in next year's tax reform package. I also cosponsored legislation to prevent the Biden administration from tearing down Texas' border barriers, led a letter to Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas demanding answers over reports of illegal immigrants flying on American planes without proper identification, and voted to protect Iowa pregnancy centers from funding cuts.

In February, I introduced a bill to help lower childcare care costs for families and workers by allowing small businesses to create Dependent Care Flexible Spending Accounts for their employees, which allows parents to set aside money tax-free to pay for daycare and other childcare services. I further voted to overturn President Biden's ban on American liquefied natural gas exports and to impeach Secretary Mayorkas for his intentional failure to secure the border.

In March, legislation that I introduced with Senator Ernst – Sarah's Law – to detain and punish illegal immigrants who harm or kill American citizens passed the U.S. House Judiciary Committee. I also led a letter to President Biden opposing his proposed tax hikes on our family farms and small businesses and joined the Iowa delegation

in urging year-round sales of E-15. Additionally, I introduced legislation requiring the President of the United States to submit a balanced budget to Congress and led the Save Our Seniors Act to protect the solvency of Social Security for future generations.

In April, two pieces of legislation that I introduced – the National Weather Service Communications Improvement Act and the Weather Innovation for the Next Generation Act – passed the U.S. House of Representatives. These bills will help ensure that our weather radar can better detect inclement weather, especially low-hanging tornadoes, and modernize the National Weather Service's outdated communications network to disseminate time-sensitive information more quickly. I also voted for the Iran-China Energy Sanctions Act to prevent Chinese oil companies from refining Iranian oil and supported a resolution condemning Iran's missile attack against Israel.

In May, another two bills that I introduced to keep rural hospitals operational and preserve access to over-the-phone telehealth services passed the U.S. House Ways and Means Committee. This legislation would help keep rural hospitals open by providing critical financial support, particularly to those on the verge of closing, and extend access to over-the-phone telehealth services for our seniors and rural communities with limited broadband connectivity.

I also voted to pass the Farm Bill out of the U.S. House Agriculture Committee. With the input and feedback of our producers, I worked to strengthen crop insurance protections, open new export markets for Iowa agriculture, gut wasteful spending in the SNAP program, overturn California's Prop 12 mandates, and keep China away from our farmland. The Farm Bill also includes my work to expand broadband in rural Iowa, deliver fair market prices for our cattle producers, and invest in homegrown Iowa biofuels.

In June, I surveyed damage from the catastrophic flooding with Governor Reynolds, met with local officials and law enforcement, and worked to deliver relief

as quickly as possible. We continue to keep our neighbors who were struck by this year's powerful tornadoes and floods in our hearts. I also introduced legislation to help our small businesses offer paid family and medical leave to their employees in a more affordable way.

In July, I led over 150 of my colleagues in a letter to EPA Administrator Michael Regan urging the Biden administration to overturn its de facto electric mandate on trucks, tractors, buses, and semis, and voted for legislation to require proof of citizenship to register to vote in federal elections. I further voted to establish a task force to investigate the attempted assassination of President Donald Trump.

In August, I welcomed both the Chairman of the U.S. House Ways and Means Committee – Representative Jason Smith from Missouri – and Chairman of the U.S. House Agriculture Committee – Representative G.T. Thompson from Pennsylvania – to Iowa to hear directly from Iowans about their suggestions for everything from tax reform to agricultural policy. I also sent a letter to U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack to call on the USDA to establish a Strategic Initiative to combat the spread of bird flu, and voted to add the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture to the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States (CFIUS) to thoroughly review purchases of American farmland by foreign adversaries, including China.

In September, the U.S. House of Representatives passed the Supporting America's Children and Families Act, which included my bill – the Strengthening Evidence-Based Prevention Services Act – to help keep vulnerable children out of the foster care system by funding comprehensive evaluations of prevention services so that these programs can be certified and deployed in our communities. I also voted to prevent China from receiving generous tax credits for the production of electric vehicles, supported legislation to overturn the Biden administration's electric-vehicle mandates, and helped introduce a bill to implement guardrails and strengthen oversight to keep U.S. tax-

payer dollars away from the Taliban.

In October, Representative Dan Kildee of Michigan and I led a letter with 19 of our colleagues urging the Biden administration to continue to engage with the newly elected President of Mexico – Claudia Sheinbaum – over Mexico's ban on American corn imports and other trade barriers. I also helped reopen the Storm Lake Post Office after it was closed for roughly three months due to damage sustained from a car accident in July.

In November, I voted for the Social Security Fairness Act that would repeal the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and the Government Pension Offset (GPO) to ensure that public servants like teachers, police officers, and firefighters receive the full Social Security benefits that they have earned. I additionally voted for the Senator Elizabeth Dole 21st Century Veterans Healthcare and Benefits Improvement Act to deliver top-notch care to our veterans.

In December, I led a letter to U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) Captain Andrew Bender urging the USCG to reconsider its decision to remove 36 Aids to Navigation (ATONs) on the Mistic River north of Blencoe, Iowa and led a separate letter to Acting Director of the Air National Guard, Major General Duke Pirak, and Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin requesting that ongoing runway and ramp projects at the 185th Air Refueling Wing (ARW) in Sioux City be included in the Future Years Defense Program (FYDP).

I also voted for the Fiscal Year 2025 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), which delivers a 14.5% pay raise for junior enlisted troops and a 4.5% for all other servicemembers, and formally joined the Delivering Outstanding Government Efficiency (DOGE) Caucus, which will work with the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) to cut reckless government spending, eliminate burdensome government regulations, and reduce our \$36-trillion national debt.

As we begin 2025, I look forward to continuing my work to deliver for our families, farmers, businesses, and rural communities.

## Trump Is Stocking His Administration with Self-Dealing Billionaires

Instead of corporate powers having to lobby regulators to get special favors, corporate officials will become the regulators.

By Jim Hightower

Howard Lutnick wants to have his cake and eat it, too. Then, he intends to eat your cake.

Lutnick is another billionaire corporate huckster who was a campaign bagman for Trump, and now he's Trump's pick to become Commerce Secretary. But first, he's been tasked with picking hordes of corpo-

rate loyalists to be placed in Trump's government as friendly "regulators" of corporate hucksterism.

Convenient, huh? This is what Trump & Company mean by saying they'll make the government "efficient." Instead of corporate powers having to lobby regulators to get special favors, corporate officials will become the regulators. That is

so much smoother for Lutnick and his ilk, who look forward to four free-wheeling years of devouring our economy.

In choosing who to police corporate price gouging, workplace rules, bank rip-offs, and such, Lutnick has been calling Wall Streeters, Silicon Valley tech bosses, corporate giants, and billionaires, telling them to

send their best operatives to Trump's regime. "Let's get them into government," he exults!

Notice that he's not calling any union leaders, consumer protectors, or other real public interest watchdogs.

By the way, Lutnick himself is in line to profit from the corporate feeding frenzy he's now staffing. He is invested in everything

from health care profiteers to cryptocurrency flimflams – and while he's been doing Trump's work, he's simultaneously been pushing Congress to do favors for his personal holdings.

But he insists that there is no conflict of interest in his efforts. After all, he says with a straight-face, he holds his government policy meetings in separate rooms

from his own business pleadings.

And that paper-thin wall of separation is Trump's new ethical standard for protecting us from raw corporate greed.

*OtherWords columnist Jim Hightower is a radio commentator, writer, and public speaker. This op-ed was distributed by OtherWords.org (CC BY-ND 3.0).*

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3:40 p.m. Rosary at St. Francis  
4 p.m. Mass at St. Francis  
7:40 p.m. Rosary at St. John  
8 p.m. Spanish Mass at St. John  
Sunday, January 5  
Ephiphany (Food Pantry)  
7:40 a.m. Rosary at Sacred Heart  
8 a.m. Mass at Sacred Heart  
9:40 a.m. Rosary at St. John  
10:30 a.m. Mass at St. John  
Monday, January 6  
8:15 a.m. Rosary at St. Francis  
8:45 a.m. Noodle Dough Making at Sacred Heart  
9 a.m. Noodle Making, Rolling at Sacred Heart  
6:30 p.m. RCIA at St. John  
Wednesday, January 8  
Adoration at all Parishes  
7:40 a.m. Rosary at St. Francis  
8 a.m. Mass at St. Francis

5 p.m. KC Meeting at Catlemens  
8:30 p.m. YFF Classes  
6:30 p.m. First Reconciliation at St. John  
Thursday, January 9  
11:40 a.m. Rosary at Sacred Heart  
Noon Mass at Eagle Grove

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NO ELCW  
Sunday  
9 a.m. Worship  
10:15 a.m. Coffee Fellow  
10:15 a.m. Sunday School  
10:15 a.m. Church Council  
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Wednesday  
Confirmation

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## Obituary

### Roberta Ann Vinton

#### 1951-2024

Roberta "Bobbie" Ann Vinton, age 73, went to be with her Lord and Savior Friday, December 6, 2024. She was preceded in death by her parents Jerry and Pat Schultz; husband, Scott Vinton; brother, Doug Schultz; in-laws Jack and Margaret Vinton; brother-in-law, James R. Vinton; and nephew, Daniel Sicko.

She will be lovingly remembered and deeply missed by her sons Casey Vinton and Drew (Jamie) Vinton; grandchildren Jada and Andi Vinton; siblings Ronda (Gary) Barger, Becky Schultz, and Denny (Missy) Schultz; sisters-in-law Ann Sicko and Laura Vinton; along with many nieces, nephews, cousins, and dear friends.

Bobbie was an avid sports fan, cheering on the Chicago Bears, Michigan Wolverines, New York Yankees, and, more recently, the Detroit Lions. She had a passion for playing and coaching softball, spending time with her husband, solving puzzles, baking cookies, and enjoying winters in Florida. Bobbie retired after a rewarding career at Meijer and remained close to many of her former co-workers.

Visitation with Bobbie's family and friends took place from 1-3 p.m. Tuesday, December 17, 2024 at Cook Memorial Chapel (East Building), 4235 Prairie Street SW, Grandville, Michigan 49418.

A celebration of life for both Scott and Bobbie were held from 4-6 p.m. Tuesday, December 17, 2024 at American Legion Post 179, 2327 Wilson Ave. SW, Grand Rapids, MI 49534.

The family welcomes memories and messages at www.cookcaresgrandville.com in Bobbie's online guestbook.

## Winter Community Trout Stockings Start Jan. 3

The Iowa Department of Natural Resources will release rainbow trout in nine locations across Iowa this winter in areas that would not support them during warmer months.

Winter trout stockings are a great place to take kids to catch their first fish. A family-friendly event is paired with some stockings to help anglers have success and fun while fishing.

The popular program is supported by the sales of the trout fee. Anglers need a valid fishing license and pay the trout fee to fish for or possess trout. The daily limit is five trout per licensed angler with a possession limit of 10.

Children age 15 or younger can fish for trout with a properly licensed adult, but together, they can only keep one daily limit. Children can pay the trout fee, allowing them to keep their own daily

limit. Winter trout stocking events are dependent on favorable weather and ice conditions. Check the DNR Trout Fishing website at www.iowadnr.gov/trout for possible changes to the schedule.

### 2025 Winter Community Trout Stocking Schedule

- Jan. 3, Bacon Creek Lake, Sioux City, at 1 p.m.
- Jan. 11, Blue Pit, Mason City, at 11 a.m.
- Jan. 24, Big Lake, Council Bluffs, at 3 p.m.
- Jan. 24, Moorland Pond, Fort Dodge, at Noon
- Feb. 1, Lake Petocka, Bondurant, at Noon
- Feb. 1, Scharnberg Pond, Spencer, at Noon
- Feb. 4, Triumph Park West and East, Waukee, at Noon
- Feb. 4, Terra Lake, Johnston, at Noon
- Feb. 8, Ada Hayden Heritage Park Lake, Ames, at Noon

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Proverbs 15:22 NIV

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Time is clearly cyclical in the way that the sun rises and sets at its appointed time each day, just as the phases of the moon keep repeating and the seasons return predictably every year. But no day is like the one that came before it and every year brings new and unexpected surprises. As we celebrate the New Year it's always wise to look both forward and backwards, as the two-faced god Janus advises, after whom January is named. If history does indeed rhyme, and this includes not just world history but also our own personal history, we should realize that we are often prone to repeating the same mistakes. The value of looking backwards is at least in part to avoid those previous mistakes. And as far as looking forward, this is where it really helps to ask yourself what you value. If God is to be first in your life you need to live in a way that reflects this, and if you love and value your family, you need to show this in the day-to-day aspects of your life, as well as your plans for the future. As with all planning, there is wisdom in reflecting carefully on what you want to do, seeking the advice of others who can help you formulate and carry out your plans, and writing them down. This year can be the best year of your life, but you must actively plan to make that happen.

-Christopher Simon

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## Insurance Companies Use Shady Doctors to Deny Care, Investigation Finds

By Edward Lynn  
Editor

In a New Orleans courtroom in April, federal appeals court judges questioned United Healthcare's (UHC) denial of coverage for 15-year-old Emily Dwyer, whose anorexia was so severe that she had required residential treatment, for which she appeared wearing her 8 year old sister's pants. But just 5 months later, doctors employed by UHC decided she didn't need to continue the treatment, even though doctors who'd actually seen Dwyer considered it essential.

Judges on the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals weren't convinced. Judge Andrew Oldham criticized this defense. "You're only allowed to make decisions based on the facts," Oldham said, lecturing lawyers for UHC in court, "you're supposed to make decisions in the insured's best interest." And yet, Oldham lamented, UHC had dismissed Dwyer's claims when "The record is teeming, teeming with concerning behaviors!" UHC's approach, Oldham concluded, amounted to "we'll just gamble with her life."

Dwyer's case is a focal point of a new investigation by ProPublica, which reviewed thousands of pages of court documents, insur-

ance records, and interviews regarding insurer's rejections of mental health claims. ProPublica's reporting revealed that insurers often deny mental health coverage based on recommendations from a select group of psychiatrists who court proceedings have repeatedly shown to have, as ProPublica put it, "failed to meaningfully engage with patients' families or medical providers or to adequately explain their decisions." "There are certain lists of doctors that are repeat players. We see them over and over," Brian King, a Utah attorney who has repeatedly sued insurers over denials told ProPublica. "When we see those reviewers, it makes us more skeptical about whether a full and fair review has been provided."

And, remarkably, a doctor's decision to deny insurance coverage for a given treatment is not considered practicing medicine under the law, but rather simply advising the insurance company. Which protects the doctors from malpractice liability, even after showing a pattern of ill-considered denials of care.

Indeed, multiple rulings reviewed by ProPublica have found that insurers ignored medical evidence, relied on "puzzling" and "dishonest"

rationales, and used boilerplate language in denial letters.

ProPublica's reporting also showed a pattern of insurers shifting the justifications for denials of coverage when challenged, leaving families in prolonged legal battles, fighting one asserted basis for refusal after another.

Additionally, ProPublica found dozens of cases in which insurance companies violated federal laws mandating parity between mental and physical health coverage. But in a nation where health insurance is often tied to employment, officials at the U.S. Department of Labor told ProPublica they don't have the budget or staff to properly police insurers, and Congress has failed to fund the agency's repeated requests.

Dwyer's case exemplifies these issues. Her family refinanced their home to keep her in treatment after UHC denied coverage. UHC's decisions relied on psychiatrist Dr. Barbara Center, whose denial history includes errors and omissions highlighted in multiple lawsuits. In one case, Dr. Center's evaluation was riddled with factual inaccuracies, leading a federal court to describe her work as showing a "striking lack of care." Despite this, insurers continue to hire her and sim-

ilar doctors.

The Dwyers sued UHC in 2017, and in 2023, the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled in their favor. The judges criticized UHC for ignoring medical evidence and using formulaic denial letters. Emily's additional seven weeks in treatment proved critical to her recovery. Now 24, Emily credits the extended care with saving her life. She is a law student at Stanford, advocating for accountability in mental health insurance practices.

The reality of the situation for those seeking care, according to ProPublica's findings, is that despite repeated court rulings that have highlighted systemic failures insurers face minimal consequences for dishonestly denying care. Consequently patients and their families facing financial ruin often settle cases to recover partial costs, giving insurers little reason to change their practices. And doctors who help insurance companies avoid financial responsibility for their customer's treatments are shielded from malpractice suits. Leaving people without treatment they are insured for, again and again.

Read the full report at <https://www.propublica.org/article/mental-health-insurance-denials-unitedhealthcare-cigna-doctors/>.

## Late President Jimmy Carter To Lie in State at U.S. Capitol Next Week

By Shauneen Miranda

WASHINGTON — Funeral services of former President Jimmy Carter will span from Jan. 4 to Jan. 9, the Joint Task Force-National Capital Region said Monday.

Carter, who died Sunday at 100 in his hometown of Plains, Georgia, lived the longest of any U.S. president in history.

Following a service in Georgia and a public viewing as he lies in repose from Jan. 4 to Jan. 7, Carter's body

will travel to Washington, D.C., according to a schedule the task force provided Monday.

Ceremonies shift to the Washington area on Jan. 7. After landing at Joint Base Andrews, Maryland, in the afternoon, his body will travel to the U.S. Navy Memorial. Carter was a Navy veteran and graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy.

A funeral procession to the U.S. Capitol will take place in the afternoon.

Members of Congress are slated to pay their respects at a service scheduled to begin at 3 p.m.

While Carter lies in state at the U.S. Capitol, the public can offer their respects beginning Jan. 7 from 7 p.m. to midnight. People can also pay their respects starting 7 a.m. on Jan. 8 until 7 a.m. on Jan. 9.

Carter's body will then be taken to Washington National Cathedral Jan. 9 for a 10 a.m. funeral service. Presi-

dent Joe Biden will deliver a eulogy, the New York Times reported Monday.

Carter and his family will then travel back to Georgia from Joint Base Andrews, Maryland, where there will be a private funeral service and interment in his hometown of Plains.

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### JIMMY CARTER from page 1A

As president, he helped broker the Camp David Peace Accords between Israel and Egypt, established diplomatic relations with China, and oversaw the creation of the departments of Energy and Education, among other accomplishments.

But he would serve only one term as president, losing to Ronald Reagan in 1980 amid a struggling economy and the Iranian hostage crisis.

His popularity increased after leaving the White House, becoming the face of Habitat for Humanity — and even showing up at his namesake build after suffering injuries in a fall — and taking on global crises and strife with his Atlanta-based Carter Center.

He won the Nobel Peace Prize in 2002 for "his de-

acades of untiring effort to find peaceful solutions to international conflicts, to advance democracy and human rights, and to promote economic and social development."

Carter was also a prolific author who was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize for a memoir about growing up on a Georgia farm in the rural South after the Great Depression and before the civil rights movement. He has won a Grammy three times for his audio books and was nominated another nine times.

The Carters returned to their hometown after leaving the White House, moving back into the same modest ranch-style home they first purchased in 1961. A devout Christian, Carter famously continued to teach Sunday

School class at Maranatha Baptist Church until 2020, ending a four-decade run that became part of Georgia political lore.

The Atlanta-based Carter Center announced Feb. 18, 2023, that Carter had decided to enter hospice care and spend his remaining time at home with his family. The announcement triggered an outpouring of tributes and fond remembrances from Georgians on both sides of the aisle.

Carter overcame brain cancer in 2015 and several accidents in recent years.

The former president also continued to wield influence in politics — especially in Georgia. He continued to endorse candidates in high-profile races, including Vice President Kamala Harris. His grandson Jason Carter told

reporters he was hanging on to cast a ballot for Harris.

Carter also threw his endorsement behind top Democrats including Sen. Raphael Warnock and gubernatorial candidate Stacey Abrams — and hosted the Bidens at their home in Plains in 2021. Back in 1976, Biden, then a senator, was one of the first elected officials outside Georgia to back Carter's presidential run.

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## WORDS OF WISDOM



Last week's trivia questions:

What three U.S. states have the shortest names, with four letters, and what three states have the longest names, with 13 letters? Answer: Iowa, Ohio and Utah have the shortest names, while Massachusetts, North Carolina and South Carolina have the longest names.

What are the two most common first letters for U.S. state names, with eight apiece? Answer: The letters "M" and "N" are the first letters of eight states apiece. The "M" states are Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri and Montana. The "N" states are Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina and North Dakota.

\*\*\*\*\*

This week's trivia questions:

Who has co-hosted Dick Clark's New Year's Rockin' Eve since 2006, and is the new game show host for Wheel of Fortune?

What song, traditionally played on New Year's Eve, is about preserving old friendships and looking back over the events of the year?

\*\*\*\*\*

January is National Soup Month, National Mentoring Month, National Skating Month, National Meat Month, National Egg Month, National Hobby Month, National Candy Month, National Ski and Snowboard Month, National Blood Donor Month, Get Organized Month, Celebration of Life Month, Eye Care Month, Financial Wellness Month, and National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month.

\*\*\*\*\*

Jan. 1 is New Year's Day; Jan. 2 is National Motivation and Inspiration Day, and National Science Fiction Day; Jan. 3 is Women Rock! Day, International Mind-Body Wellness Day; Jan. 4 is National Spaghetti Day, and Trivia Day; Jan. 5 is National Bird Day, Twelfth Night/Epiphany Eve, and National Whipped Cream Day; Jan. 6 is Apple Tree Day, National Technology Day, and Epiphany/Three Kings Day; Jan. 7 is Old Rock Day, and Orthodox Christmas Day.

\*\*\*\*\*

This week is New Year's Resolutions Week, and Celebration of Life Week.

\*\*\*\*\*

"If my people who are called by my name humble themselves, pray, seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land."

— 2 Chronicles 7: 14

\*\*\*\*\*

"If you forgive people their sins, your Father in heaven will forgive your sins also. If you do not forgive people their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins."

— Matthew 6: 14-15

\*\*\*\*\*

"And be kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake has forgiven you."

— Ephesians 4:32

\*\*\*\*\*

"I don't make New Year's resolutions. If I have something I want to change, I don't wait till New Year's to change it."

\*\*\*\*\*

"A New Year's resolution is something that goes in one year and out the other."

\*\*\*\*\*

"I would say happy new year, but it's exactly the same as last year except colder."

\*\*\*\*\*

"Stir the eggnog, lift the toddy, Happy New Year, everybody."

\*\*\*\*\*

"My New Year's resolution is to be less condescending to people. That means to talk down to someone."

\*\*\*\*\*

The most common New Year's resolutions are to save more money, improve health through better diet and exercise, and spend more time with family and friends.

\*\*\*\*\*

The first Rose Parade was held on Jan. 1, 1890. The first associated college football game was added in 1902, as a way to help fund the cost of the parade. The Rose Bowl game got its name from Rose Bowl Stadium, which was built for the 1923 game.

\*\*\*\*\*

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<p style="margin: 0;"><b>Samantha Stephens</b> LPL Financial Advisor <a href="mailto:sam@goodwealthfp.com">sam@goodwealthfp.com</a></p>	<p style="margin: 0;"><b>Shawn Shindelar</b> LPL Financial Advisor <a href="mailto:shawn@goodwealthfp.com">shawn@goodwealthfp.com</a></p>

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HELP WANTED

**POLICE OFFICER:** Indianola Police Department will begin taking applications for the positions of Police/Patrol Officer starting 1/6/2025. Obtain applications by visiting <https://indianolaiowa.applicantpro.com/jobs>, choose Police Officer. Deadline 2/7/2025 EOE

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**JOB OPPORTUNITY**  
**Motor Grader Operator**  
**(Patrol Operator)**

Wright County Secondary Road Department has an opening for a full-time road maintenance employee at the Dows Maintenance Facility. The primary job classification is Patrol Operator. Primary job duties are the operation of a Motor Grader to maintain granular surfaced roads, removal of snow, and may be called upon to assist in other operations within Wright County Secondary Roads.

CDL is not required to apply but the chosen applicant must obtain Class A CDL with air brakes learners permit before starting work with the County. County will provide assistance with acquiring full CDL if needed.

Starting pay will be \$27.73/hr. with \$0.25 increases at six and twelve months with satisfactory performance review. Wright County's benefit package includes health, dental and life insurance along with paid vacation, sick leave, and holidays (9). Applicant must show the ability to work with a team as well as accomplish tasks alone.

**Application form and job description is available at the Wright County Engineer's Office, 416 5th Ave SW St, PO Box 269, Clarion, IA 50525, telephone 515-532-3597 or at [www.wrightcounty.iowa.gov](http://www.wrightcounty.iowa.gov), click on "Employment".**

**Applications will be accepted at the Wright County Engineer's Office until January 10, 2025 at 3:30 pm.**  
*Wright County is an equal opportunity employer.*



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**IN THE CLASSIFIEDS**

**WRIGHT COUNTY BOS • DEC. 16, 2024**

December 16, 2024  
The Board of Supervisors met as Drainage District Trustees. To view the minutes from the drainage meeting, see the Drainage District minutes on the County website. Chairman Pro-tem Kluss called the regular meeting of the Wright County Board of Supervisors to order at 9:07 a.m. Members present were Kluss and Rasmussen with Helgevoild present via phone. Motion by Rasmussen and seconded by Helgevoild to approve the tentative agenda. Motion carries. Minutes of the previous regular meeting of December 9, 2024 were read and approved. Approved claims for payment. Motion by Rasmussen and seconded by Helgevoild to appoint Greg Crowley as the Veterans Affairs Commissioner to fill the unexpired term until June 2025. Motion carries. Motion by Kluss and seconded by Helgevoild to table the 28E amendment of the Central Iowa Juvenile Detention Center. Andrea Evelsizer, Executive Director from Healthy Harvest of North Iowa presented an annual request for funding to support local food connections and education in Wright County. She highlighted their work in connecting regional efforts with the local community, including a grant program that brought local food to the pantry in Clarion. Evelsizer also mentioned their work with local businesses like Grandview Beef and Triple C, and their efforts to educate consumers about local food. They requested \$1,280

in funding, slightly more than their previous request, to align with other counties they support. This request will be reviewed at budget time. Adam Clemons, Wright County Engineer presented the posting of the Patrol Operator out of the Dows Maintenance Facility. Motion by Rasmussen and seconded by Helgevoild to approve the posting for the Patrol Operator. Motion carries. Motion by Rasmussen and seconded by Helgevoild to approving final plans for project STP-S0C099(107)—5E-99 which is HMA resurfacing with milling - Division I: R33/C-54, from Iowa 3 South 5miles, Division II: End of Division I East 10 miles to Highway 69. Motion carries. Motion by Rasmussen and seconded by Helgevoild approving final plans for project BROS-C099(105)—5F-99 which is RCB Culvert Replacement-Single Box - On R-65, over Drainage Ditch #146, in the SW ¼ of S27-T92-R23 which is Iowa Township. Motion carries. Motion by Rasmussen and seconded by Helgevoild for approval of the final payment of \$20,618.98 retainer on Project FM-C099(104)—5E-99 which is HMA resurfacing with milling West of Goldfield on C-32 and the 1 Mile of White Fox Road West of Woolstock. Motion carries. Clemons then gave an update on secondary roads department. Motion by Rasmussen and seconded by Kluss to adjourn the meeting. Motion carries.  
*Dean Kluss, Chairman Pro-tem Wright County Board of Supervisors Betty Ellis, Wright County Auditor*

Published in the Eagle Grove Eagle on Thursday, Jan. 2, 2025

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**PROBATE • VICTOR M. RUTHART**

**THE IOWA DISTRICT COURT FOR WRIGHT COUNTY**  
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF VICTOR M. RUTHART  
Deceased  
CASE NO. ESPR017662  
**NOTICE OF PROBATE OF WILL, OF APPOINTMENT OF EXECUTORS, AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS**  
To All Persons Interested in the Estate of VICTOR M. RUTHART, Deceased, who died on or about December 4, 2024:  
You are hereby notified that on December 13, 2024, the Last Will and Testament of VICTOR M. RUTHART, deceased, bearing date of August 2, 2021, was admitted to probate in the above named court and that Randy Holland and Jenifer Holland have been appointed Executors 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 to 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 17, 2024.  
Randy Holland, Executor of Estate 245 Oakridge Street PO Box 122 Huntington, TX 75949  
Jenifer Holland, Executor of Estate 245 Oakridge Street PO Box 122 Huntington, TX 75949  
Dani L. Eisentrager Attorney for Executors Eisentrager Law 109 South Commercial Avenue P.O. Box 346 Eagle Grove, IA 50533  
Date of second publication: January 2, 2025

Published in the Eagle Grove Eagle on Thursday, Dec. 26, 2024 and Jan. 2, 2025

**ORIGINAL NOTICE**

**In the Iowa District Court for Wright County**  
**Upon the Petition of**  
Lora Lea Calles, **Petitioner** and concerning Fernando Calles Lopez, **Respondent**  
Case no. CDDM003170  
**Original Notice by Publication**  
If you need assistance to participate in court due to a disability, call the disability coordinator (information at [www.iowacourts.gov/for-the-public/ada](http://www.iowacourts.gov/for-the-public/ada)). Persons who are hearing or speech impaired may call Relay Iowa TTY (1-800-735-2942). **Disability coordinators cannot provide legal advice.**  
**1. Information for Respondent named above**  
• Petitioner (your spouse) has filed a divorce lawsuit naming you as Respondent.  
• Petitioner's contact information during the divorce case: Lora Lea Calles 417 N Cadwell Ave Eagle Grove, IA 50533 Wright County (641) 512-4440 (lcalles77@gmail.com)  
**2. Respondent's deadline for filing a Response**  
You must file an Answer or a Motion with the clerk of court in the above county within **20 days** after December 26, 2024.

**3. Instructions to Respondent named above**  
*You must file an Answer or a Motion with the clerk of court in the above county within 20 days after the date provided above. If you do not respond, the court may enter a judgement against you giving Petitioner what he or she asked for in the Petition.*  
**Notice to Respondent**  
• You should talk to an attorney at once to protect your interests.  
• If you choose not to have an attorney represent you in this matter, go to the Iowa Judicial Branch website for self-represented litigant information and free guided interactive interview court forms or free fillable pdf court forms under Divorce.  
• You must register through the Iowa Judicial Branch website at [www.iowacourts.state.ia.us/Efile/](http://www.iowacourts.state.ia.us/Efile/) and obtain a log in and password to electronically file and view court documents in your case and to receive service and 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.  
• For court rules on the Protection of Personal Privacy in court filings, refer to Division VI of the Iowa Rules of Electronic Procedure in Chapter 16 of the Iowa Court Rules.

Published in the Eagle Grove Eagle on Thursday, Dec. 26, 2024, Jan. 2, 2025, and Jan. 9, 2025

**ORIGINAL NOTICE**

**IN THE IOWA DISTRICT COURT FOR WRIGHT COUNTY**  
IN THE MATTER OF THE GUARDIANSHIP OF JGJV003034  
**ORIGINAL NOTICE**  
A.J.C., )  
(Protected minor.)  
TO: MELISSA DAWN KING & JEREMY MARCUS COLEMAN  
You are notified that there is now on file in the office of the Clerk of the above Court, a Petition in the above-entitled action, which Petition prays for the appointment of Tia Woeste and Elena Woeste as guardians of the person of the protected minor. The Petitioners' attorney is Dani L. Eisentrager, whose address is 109 S Commercial, P. O. Box 346, Eagle Grove, Iowa 50533, telephone 515-603-6400, fax 515-603-6401, email: [dani@eisentragerlawoffice.com](mailto:dani@eisentragerlawoffice.com).  
You are further notified that unless, within 20 days after the last publication of this original notice upon you, you serve, and within a reasonable time thereafter, file a written special appearance, motion, or answer, in the Iowa District Court for Wright County, at the Wright county courthouse in Clarion, Iowa, judgment by default will be rendered against you for the relief demanded in the Petition.  
A hearing on the Petition will be held at the Wright County Courthouse, 115 N. Main Street, Eagle Grove, Iowa, on **February 21, 2025 at 11:30 a.m.**  
THIS CASE HAS BEEN FILED

IN A COUNTY THAT UTILIZES ELECTRONIC FILING. Therefore, unless the attached signature page contains a hearing date for your appearance, or unless you obtain an exemption from eFiling from the court, you must file your Appearance and Answer electronically. You must register to eFile through the Iowa Judicial Branch website at <https://www.iowacourts.state.ia.us/Efile/> and obtain a log in and password for the purposes of filing and viewing documents on your case and of receiving service and notices from the court. FOR GENERAL RULES AND INFORMATION ON ELECTRONIC FILING, REFER TO THE IOWA COURT RULES CHAPTER 16 PERTAINING TO THE USE OF THE ELECTRONIC DOCUMENT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM, also available on the Iowa Judicial Branch website. FOR COURT RULES ON THE PROTECTION OF PERSONAL PRIVACY IN COURT FILINGS, REFER TO DIVISION VI OF IOWA COURT RULES CHAPTER 16.  
If you need assistance to participate in court due to a disability, call the disability coordinator at (515) 421-0990. Persons who are hearing or speech impaired may call Relay Iowa TTY at 1-800-735-2942. **Disability coordinators cannot provide legal advice.**  
**IMPORTANT**  
**YOU ARE ADVISED TO SEEK LEGAL ADVICE TO PROTECT YOUR INTERESTS**

Published in the Eagle Grove Eagle on Thursday, Dec. 19 and Dec. 26, 2024 and Jan. 2, 2025





### In the sky during January

By David Voigts



January will be a special month with several interesting events. Brilliant Venus will be unmistakable at its highest point in the sky and setting after it is fully dark. Although Venus will be moving eastward in its orbit, from our perspective it will appear to be almost motionless while the dim background stars slowly stream past it. Most notably, bright Saturn, which is almost motionless in its slow orbit, will seem to approach Venus and pass it on January 17. The two planets will be close for a few days before and after the meeting, and then Saturn will move away and lower in the western sky.

Meanwhile, very bright Jupiter will be high in the evening sky, moving very slowly in retrograde (or western) motion. During January, this motion will take it across the upper or western horn of Taurus (the Bull). The horn is formed by an imaginary line that extends between the upper star in the bull's "V" shaped face and a brighter star, Elnath, to the left of Jupiter that represents the tip of the horn. This star is shared with a five-sided polygon that extends above and to the left of Elnath and makes up the constellation Auriga (the Charioteer).

Bright reddish Mars will follow Jupiter and will also be in retrograde motion, but its motion will be more rapid than Jupiter's and will be easier to follow. However, in addition to its retrograde motion, Mars will be a part of another special event. On the evening of January 13, the full Moon will pass over Mars, hiding it for up to about an hour. This will happen at about the same instant all over the country, although

the time will vary somewhat by the location of the observer and the path of occultation. For example, in Des Moines, Iowa, the Moon will cover Mars from about 8:00 until about 9:08 CST, but in Seattle, Washington, which is near the northern edge of the path, Mars will be hidden from about 6:20 until about 6:39 PST and in Miami, Florida, which is near the southern edge, Mars will be hidden from about 9:30 to about 9:53 EST. Since the times vary, observations should begin at least several minutes before the expected time. Also, because of the bright glare of the Moon, binoculars will be needed. Placing the Moon on the edge of the field of view should make it easier to see Mars.

The retrograde motion of Mars will take it past the bright twin stars of Gemini (the Twins). On January 15, it will be close below Pollux and in line with Pollux and Castor above. This is also the night when Mars will be at opposition when it will be opposite the Sun in the sky. It will rise at sunset, set at sunrise, and shine at its brightest, much brighter than the twin stars.

#### Observing Highlights

Jan. 2-3 The Quadrantid meteor shower will have about a 6-hour peak tonight centered on just after midnight. We should see up to a meteor per minute from this best meteor shower of the winter. Meteors will be seen all over the sky, but if their trails are traced backward, they will seem to have come from near the end of the Big Dipper's handle. The Moon will not interfere.

Jan. 3 In the evening, the crescent Moon will to the upper left of brilliant Ve-

nus and farther to the lower right of Saturn.

Jan. 4 The Moon will be close to the upper left of Saturn.

Jan. 10 The Moon will be in line with Jupiter to its lower right and Aldebaran to Jupiter's lower right. All will be in Taurus (the Bull).

Jan. 13 The full Moon will occult Mars, moving in front of the very bright planet and hiding it from view.

Jan. 15 Mars will be at opposition and at its brightest for the year. It will be in line with Pollux close above it and Castor above Pollux, the bright twin stars of Gemini (the Twins).

Jan. 15 After they rise at about 8:00, the Moon will be above Regulus, the brightest star of Leo (the Lion). The Moon will follow Regulus into the sky on the 16th.

Jan. 17 Brilliant Venus will pass very close by Saturn in the western sky. They will be close from January 15 to 18.

Jan. 21 Before dawn, the Moon will be close below Spica, the brightest star in the constellation Virgo (the Maiden).

Moon Phase, Date, Rises, Highest Point, Sets, When Visible

First quarter, Jan. 6, Noon, Sunset, Midnight, P.M.

Full moon, Jan. 13, Sunset, Midnight, Sunrise, All night

Last quarter, Jan. 21, Midnight, Sunrise, Noon, A.M.

New Moon, Jan. 29, Sunrise, Noon, Sunset, Not visible

\*Dates and times are approximate.

Sources: *StarDate*, Jan-Feb 2025. Vol. 53, No. 1. Occultations.org SkyandTelescope.org

### UPCOMING SPORTS SCHEDULE

#### Thursday, Jan. 2

- JV/Varsity Girls Wrestling @ Osage Tournament, 9 a.m.
- JJV Boys Basketball vs. St. Ansgar @ EG Elementary, 6:30 p.m.

#### Monday, Jan. 6

- JV/Varsity Girls Basketball @ West Bend-Mallard, 4 p.m.
- JJV/Varsity Boys Basketball @ West Bend-Mallard, 5 p.m.
- JVarsity Girls Wrestling @ Kuemper Catholic, 4:30 p.m.

#### Tuesday, Jan. 7

- JV/Varsity Girls Basketball vs. North Union @ EG Elementary, 4 p.m.
- JV/Varsity Boys Basketball vs. North Union @ EG Elementary, 5 p.m.
- Varsity Boys Wrestling Triangular @ EGHS Gym

# Coaches vs. Cancer Night

By Taylor Smith, Sports Editor

On December 17, community members filed into Eagle Grove Elementary to support a worthy cause at the annual Coaches vs. Cancer Night. The event took place during the boys and girls basketball games against Lake Mills. Eagle Grove helped raise over \$5,000 to help fight and eliminate cancer.

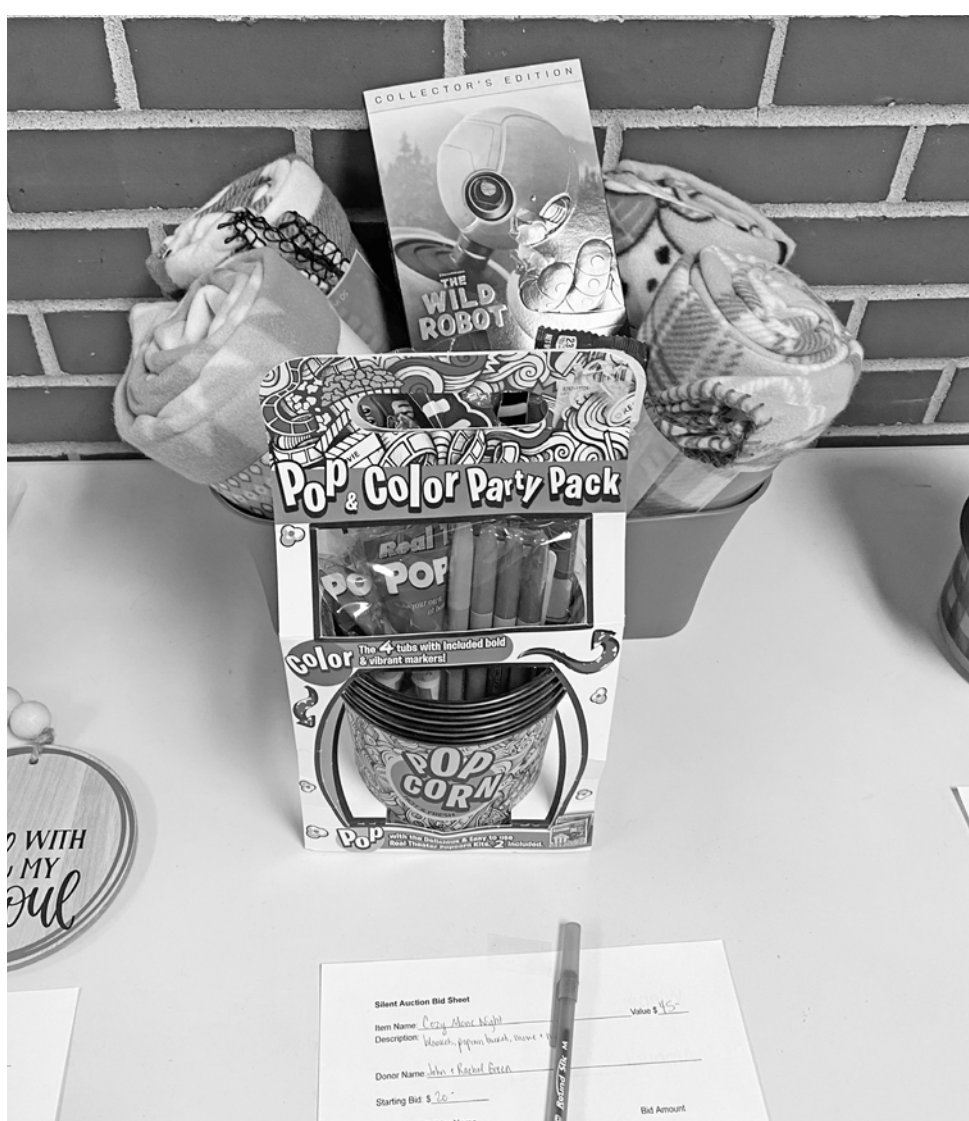
In between the varsity girls and boys games, basketball cheerleaders used buckets to collect cash and coin donations for 57 seconds. The length of time has significance due to the fact that 57 Iowans are di-

agnosed with cancer every day.

100% of proceeds from raffles, silent auctions, and donations went straight to the American Cancer Society. Raffle entrants had a chance to win AirPods, a 22" griddle, and a quilt crafted by Deb Townsend.

Community members were also able to write the names of loved ones on a piece of paper and place them on a "Wall of Hope."

In 14 years, Eagle Grove has raised \$75,000 for Coaches vs. Cancer. With more than 5,000 participating coaches, the program has raised over \$155 million since 1993.



Several donated items were up for bid at the Coaches vs. Cancer silent auction. (Photo by Taylor Smith)

## Winter Bird Feeding

By Lowell Washburn

If you enjoy feeding backyard birds, you're not alone. Somewhere in the vicinity of 900,000 Iowans, and upwards of 80 million Americans nationwide also -- either in winter or year-round -- enjoy attracting wild birds to their feeding stations. Backyard bird feeding is so popular, in fact, that according to the Iowa Ornithologists' Union [IOU], the only outdoor activity that surpasses it is summer gardening.

One of the things that makes bird feeding somewhat unique is that it is an outdoor activity that can be enjoyed from indoors. Nothing beats sitting in the cozy comfort of your living room while watching increasing numbers of birds flock to your feeders during a mid-winter snowstorm. In addition to providing quality entertainment, there is also evidence that bird feeding -- especially during extended periods of severe weather -- can enhance winter survival by providing all the food in one spot that stressed birds need. Because of intensive and widespread winter-feeding programs, thousands of goldfinches now spend the cold weather months in Northern Iowa where previously there were few or none. Bird feeding has also allowed cardinals to dramatically expand their winter range northward, not only across Iowa, but all the way into Canada, according to the IOU.

Bird feeding can be as simple or as complex as a person cares to make it. Although Americans annually spend more than \$1.5 billion on specialized bird seeds, bird feeding doesn't need to be a budget buster.



Black-oil sunflower seeds are a high energy food source enjoyed by nearly all of Iowa's wintering bird species. In this photo, a male cardinal and red-bellied woodpecker share the bounty. (Photo courtesy of Lowell Washburn)

Simple, low-cost backyard programs can still supply our feathered friends with plenty of winter nutrition.

In order to maintain body heat, wintering birds need fat and carbs, and plenty of it. They will consume all the calories they can get their little beaks on. Black-oil sunflower seeds are a high energy food source that is eagerly consumed by nearly all of Iowa's wintering bird species -- including long distance Canadian visitors such as siskins, redpolls, and purple finches.

Most ground feeding birds -- juncos, doves, a wide variety of sparrows, and jays -- will readily accept offerings of cracked corn which can be placed directly on the ground or in shallow wooden trays. Sunflower seed can also be added to the cracked corn. When placed on the ground, be sure to only put out what birds will clean up before food becomes wet or moldy -- usually not a problem in below freezing temps.

Adding a suet feeder or some crunchy peanut butter to your program will attract fat craving birds like chickadees, several species of woodpeckers, flickers and nuthatches. Add a shallow heated bird bath to the mix, and you'll be amazed at its use. These are all the ingredients you'll need to attract a wide variety of winter birdlife.

Habitat is key to winter survival. Whether they reside in rural or residential landscapes, birds need secure escape and nighttime roosting cover. The more desirable your location already is to wintering wildlife, the greater the diversity and abundance of birdlife you'll enjoy.

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

## Wright County Pool League

#### TEAM STANDINGS:

#	Name	Rnd W	Rnd L	Pts +	Pts -	Wins	Loss	Win %	Avg*
1	Moes	22	6	546	543	43	20	68.25	8.62
2	Rookies	18	10	507	507	38	25	60.32	8.05
3	Wizards	17	11	511	493	34	29	53.97	7.83
4	Strokers and Pokers	15	13	528	516	38	25	60.32	8.19
5	Replacements	13	15	490	490	34	29	53.97	7.78
6	Fa'que	13	15	484	472	28	35	44.44	7.49
7	Motley Cue	10	18	470	464	26	37	41.27	7.37
8	Kim Jong Pool	4	24	394	367	11	52	17.46	5.83
9	Chicks With Sticks	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0.00

\*No Handicap

#### Pool Report sponsored by



#### PLAYER STANDINGS:

#	Name	Team(s)	Pts+	Pts-	Diff*	Gms	Wins	Loss	Win %	Avg+
1	Zach Martin	Rookies	191	116	75	21	17	4	80.95	9.10
2	Steve Martin	Moes	190	130	60	21	17	4	80.95	9.05
3	Dave Walker	Wizards	184	123	61	21	17	4	80.95	8.76
4	Mike Rolo	Strokers and Pokers	180	138	42	21	14	7	66.67	8.57
5	Dick Stumpf	Moes	178	138	40	21	14	7	66.67	8.48
6	Jason Stumpf	Replacements	176	160	16	21	12	9	57.14	8.38
7	Steve Evans	Moes	175	161	14	21	12	9	57.14	8.33
8	Alec Martin	Rookies	173	157	16	21	12	9	57.14	8.14
9	Daryl Ward	Motley Cue	164	164	0	21	9	12	42.86	7.81
10	Derrick Linn	Strokers and Pokers	161	126	35	15	13	2	72.22	8.94
11	Keith Larue	Fa'que	159	159	0	21	10	11	47.62	7.57
12	Dart Humphrey	Wizards	159	163	-4	21	9	12	42.86	7.57
13	Ryan Gardalen	Fa'que	158	173	-15	21	8	13	38.10	7.52
14	Denny Gardalen	Fa'que	155	163	-8	21	10	11	47.62	7.38
15	Dart Humphrey	Motley Cue	155	170	-15	21	9	12	42.86	7.38
16	Tom Thielen	Wizards	150	177	-27	21	8	13	38.10	7.14
17	Brandon Thompson	Replacements	149	163	-14	21	10	11	47.62	7.10
18	Jeff Asmus	Strokers and Pokers	149	170	-21	21	9	12	42.86	7.10
19	Eric Hogle	Replacements	143	128	15	18	11	7	61.11	7.94
20	Blake Jackson	Rookies	143	173	-30	21	9	12	42.86	6.81
21	Brant Buhr	Motley Cue	111	116	-5	15	6	9	40.00	7.40
22	Kyle Disney	Kim Jong Pool	108	200	-92	21	3	18	14.29	5.14
23	Dean Kirstein	Replacements	104	121	-17	15	6	9	40.00	6.93
24	Adam Russel	Kim Jong Pool	90	142	-52	15	2	13	13.33	6.00
25	Kelly Hill	Kim Jong Pool	87	145	-58	15	1	14	6.67	5.80
26	Cott Allen	Motley Cue	34	54	-20	6	2	4	33.33	5.67
27	Jeff Linn	Strokers and Pokers	26	22	4	3	2	1	66.67	8.67
28	Rob Allen	Motley Cue	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0.00
29	Joy Amanson	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

# 2024 Year in Review

# SPORTS

By Taylor Smith,  
Sports Editor

## JANUARY

- The boys basketball team blew out North Iowa to start the year on a high note. Ty Franklin and Jaxon Morris had 22 and 21 points, respectively.
- Mack Morgan reached 100 career wrestling wins at the Gary Christensen Invite.
- Jaymie Anderson improved to 30-3 after winning the Orab Girls Wrestling Invite.
- Eagle Grove Elementary played host to G-H-V, North Union, and West Hancock at a boys wrestling quad.
- Jaymie Anderson won the Top of Iowa Conference championship at 125.
- During a Jan. 23 basketball quad, the EGHS StuCo sponsored "Slam the Stigma" and "Teddy Bear Toss" events to raise awareness for mental health.
- Boys hoopers put up 94 points on Belmont-Klemme for their highest scoring output since 2001.
- Drake Canavan scored career point number 1,000 vs. Lake Mills.

## FEBRUARY

- Jaymie Anderson earned another trip to state wrestling after showing out at

Mason City super-regional.

- The girls and boys basketball squads battled rival Clarion-Goldfield-Dows at Wells Fargo Arena.
- Boys wrestlers defeated all comers at their final meet before Districts.
- Jaymie Anderson represented The Grove at State Wrestling.
- Franklin hit a game-winner against G-H-V.
- Morris, Franklin, and Canavan combined for 58 points to help the Eagles advance in their district bracket.
- Dylan Terwilliger, Mack Morgan, Connor Christopher, Hayden Schafer, and Jayden Kreitlow advanced to the State Wrestling Meet. Christopher reached 100 career wins at Districts.
- Nadia Kaiser, Drake Canavan, Ty Franklin, and Jaxon Morris earned basketball All-Conference honors.

## MARCH

- Gracie Sisson, Avery Wepel-Sisson, Brooklyn Osborn, Jocelyn Gonzalez, and Celeste Figueroa danced at State Basketball as part of the All-Iowa Honor Dance squad.
- Addy Jeske placed 2nd in long jump at Wartburg Indoor Track and Field Classic.

- Special Olympians Rosa Vasquez-Reyes, Jackson Toliver, and Parker Poppen brought home 1st place medals from the Spring Classic in Coralville.

## APRIL

- Addy Jeske won the long jump by over a foot at the Lady Eagle Relays.
- Landon Mrla placed 2nd in long jump at Charlie Bunn Relays in Humboldt.
- The girls golf team defeated North Union in Wesley.
- Golden Stars perform at home for Drill Team Night.
- Drake Canavan signed his letter of intent to play college basketball at Cornell College.
- Nadia Kaiser signed her letter of intent to play college soccer at NIACC.
- Multiple Eagle Grove Special Olympians medaled at North Central track and field meet in Humboldt.

## MAY

- Ayden Feske won her third conference title in the 100m Dash. Addy Jeske won the long jump title, and Brylee Mrla brought home silver. The 4x100m relay team took third at the conference meet in Belmond.
- Feske and Jeske punched their tickets to Drake Stadium.
- The baseball team won

16-6 in their season opener against West Bend-Mallard.

- Nadia Kaiser's triple helped the softball team win their season opener vs. Forest City.

- Addy Jeske placed 6th in long jump at State Track.

## JUNE

- The softball team improved to 7-2 after a 9-1 win over North Iowa.
- Syrus Willard allowed just one hit in a 10-0 victory over North Iowa.
- The baseball team climbed above .500 after shutting out the Cougars.
- Coach McLaughlin's softball team improved to 11-4 after a 10-1 Senior Night win.
- Celeste Figueroa went yard in a 7-5 win over Webster City.

## JULY

- Jake Jeske hit a solo home run in a 9-3 road win over SE Valley.
- Tarissa Middleton hit a go-ahead triple in the top of the 9th to lead EG over SE Valley.
- Brooklyn Osborn struck out five in a playoff game to help the ladies advance.
- Crystal Flores' clutch hit pushed the Eagles past SE Valley in a home playoff game.
- Addy Jeske, Tarissa Mid-

leton, Brooklyn Osborn, Myah Edwards, and Crystal Flores earned Top of Iowa All-Conference softball nods. Coach McLaughlin was named Coach of the Year.

- Nine baseball players were named to the All-Conference squad. Jake Jeske was chosen as Player of the Year.

## SEPTEMBER

- The volleyball team knocked out West Hancock 3-1. Kendra Schild had 11 kills in the win.
- Zabdi Castro completed the Webster City cross country course in 18:51 for 6th place.

## OCTOBER

- The Marching Eagles placed 3rd at Algona Band Day.
- Kennedy Thacker led the volleyball team to a Senior Night win over North Union.
- Freshman girls cross country runner Myka Anderson medaled at the Dick Bell Invite.
- Tucker Taylor and London Parrott represented EG at the State Meet for middle school cross country runners. Parrott placed 2nd.
- At the Triton Challenge, Eagle Grove cheerleaders took 1st place in the Game Time Spirit Division for the second year in a year.

- Brett Ascherl and Trenton Robinson combined for five touchdowns in a 46-36 win over Belmond-Klemme.

## NOVEMBER

- Six EG football players earned spots on the IA District 2 All-District Team.
- Tarissa Middleton was selected for the Top of Iowa All-Conference volleyball squad.
- Addy Jeske signed her letter of intent to play softball at ICCC.
- The girls basketball team won their season opener against SE Valley. Taytum Edwards finished with 25 points.

## DECEMBER

- Jaymie Anderson and Catherine Orozco earned gold at a Manson girls wrestling tourney. Eagle Grove finished 2nd as a team.
- Boys hoopers defeated CGD 53-47 to start their season.
- The North Central Conference announced that Eagle Grove will rejoin in 2026-27.
- The Golden Stars brought home three trophies from the Iowa High School Team Championships in Des Moines.
- The boys wrestling team won two of three duals at a home quad.

More photos on the next page.



Michelle Calles readies a serve vs. Forest City. (Photo by Taylor Smith)



Mya Morgan fires a pitch against Bishop Garrigan. (Photo by Taylor Smith)



Myah Edwards is the sole senior on the 2024-25 basketball team. (Photo by Taylor Smith)



Myka Anderson releases down the hill at the Dick Bell Invite. (Photo by Taylor Smith)



Nadia and Maddison Kaiser share a moment together at Wells Fargo Arena. (Photo by Taylor Smith)



Nadia Kaiser shows off her NIACC Trojans soccer jersey. (Photo by Taylor Smith)



Quarterback Brett Ascherl takes the ball himself. (Photo by Mitch Jones Photography)



Tarissa Middleton had another All-Conference year for Eagle Grove. (Photo by Taylor Smith)

## Cougars Best Eagles In Manson

By Taylor Smith,  
Sports Editor

On December 19, the EGHS varsity boys and girls basketball teams were both defeated by Manson Northwest Webster after poor third quarter performances.

The ladies trailed 23-17 at half, but Manson Northwest Webster poured in 25 in the third and went on to win 55-36.

Myah Edwards scored 6 and grabbed a team-high 10 rebounds. She also had 2 steals and 2 blocks for the purple and gold. Taytum Edwards dropped 17 and finished with 5 rebounds and 4 steals. Partway into the season, Taytum is Eagle Grove's leading bucket getter with

a scoring average of 11.3. She went 3/5 from three against the Cougars.

Salem Willard recorded 5 points, and Kendra Schild added 4 with 5 boards. Sophomore Holly Anderson contributed 4 points and 6 rebounds.

In the boys' game, Eagle Grove led 32-23 at half, but managed only 4 points in the third quarter and lost 58-48.

Abraham Lin finished with 17 points, 9 rebounds, and 4 assists. Josh Miller scored 15, and Adrian Whipple added 8 points and 4 assists.

Jaxon Morris got in foul trouble and finished with 6 points, 3 steals, and 2 blocks. Gavin Pedersen secured 10 rebounds in the loss.

## Baez Takes Bronze At Norsemen Invite

By Taylor Smith,  
Sports Editor

On December 21, the Eagle Grove boys wrestling team placed tenth at the Jim Kinyon Norsemen Invitational in Roland-Story. The Eagles compiled 81.5 team points and finished in the middle of a pack of 19 high schools.

Freshmen Ethan Schreiber (106) and Andrew Orozco (113) both came in eighth in their respective weight classes. Dylan Terwilliger placed sixth at 120, and Hunter Waldo-Martinez finished in eighth at 126.

Hayden Schafer (157) placed fourth overall for Eagle Grove. The junior won by fall and decision in his

first two bouts, but suffered a defeat in the semifinals. He bounced back with a win by major decision before losing to an Anamosa wrestler in the third place match. Schafer now holds a 16-2 record going into Christmas break.

Jayden Kreitlow earned sixth place at 175. He pinned his first opponent, and with two wins and three losses on the way.

Jesus Baez (285) won by fall in his third place match to bring home bronze. Baez went 4-1 in Roland-Story with three pins.

Cooper Thacker (132) placed seventh after pinning Carter Hadley of Atlantic in his final match of the tournament.



Jesus Baez sits at 13-5 heading into 2025. (Photo by Mitch Jones Photography)

# 2024 Year in Review SPORTS



Addy Jeske enjoyed a year of dominance in the long jump. (Photo by Taylor Smith)



Ayden Feske won another conference title in the 100m Dash. (Photo by Taylor Smith)



Connor Christopher earned win #100 and a trip to state. (Photo by Taylor Smith)



Catherine Orozco showed out at 100 lbs. in Humboldt. (Photo by Taylor Smith)



Cristofer Duarte reaches full speed in the 60m Dash. (Photo by Taylor Smith)



Crystal Flores dances on Drill Team Night. (Photo by Mitch Jones Photography)



Drake Canavan was surrounded by family and friends at his college signing. (Photo by Taylor Smith)



Hunter Waldo-Martinez passes an opponent. (Photo by Taylor Smith)



Mack Morgan sizes up a North Union wrestler moments before pinning him. (Photo by Taylor Smith)



Jake Jeske goes yard against SE Valley. (Photo by Taylor Smith)



Jaymie Anderson qualified for state after placing 2nd at the Super Regionals. (Photo by Taylor Smith)



Game Time Spirit Cheerleaders pose after another win at the Triton Challenge. (Photo by Shelby Jacobson)



The Golden Stars dance at Wells Fargo Arena. (Photo by Taylor Smith)



The Marching Eagles placed third at the Algona Band Day Parade. (Photo by Justin Schwake)

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