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Sandy Muzzey, at her "second home", in the RBMS Auditorium. (Photo by Edward Lynn)

## After 26 Years, Eagle Grove Music Teacher Sandy Muzzey Is About To Take Her Final Bow

By Edward Lynn  
Editor

EAGLE GROVE, Iowa— For 26 years, the sound of music at Eagle Grove High School and Middle School has been shaped by the dedication, warmth, and boundless energy of choir director Sandy Muzzey. As she prepares to retire at the end of this school year, Muzzey reflects on a career built not only on notes and rhythms but on *relationships*, personal growth, and the magic of watching students transform through music.

Muzzey's love of music began in childhood, in the most unexpected of places: the family dairy barn. "My family is a musical family, and we danced in the milk barn when my dad had dairy cows. He taught us how to sing harmony while we did chores," she said. "On Sundays after church, we'd put records on and sing and dance in the kitchen."

That early love of music evolved into a lifelong passion. Inspired by her own high school choir teacher, Julie Schneiders, Muzzey

knew early on she wanted to become a music educator. "She made it fun, and she made it okay to work with other people, even if you didn't like that person. The music brought you together," Muzzey said. That lesson carried into her own teaching philosophy.

As a college student, Muzzey first went to NIACC in Mason City. "It was a very small Music department," she recalled. "I was loving music theory, and didn't really know much about it because I had only taken piano

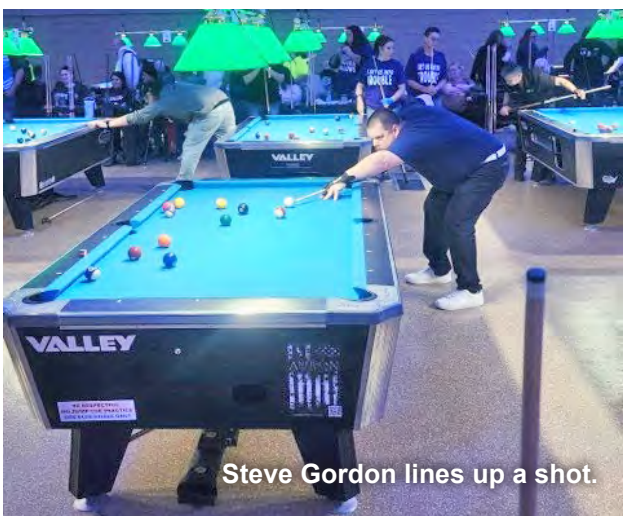
lessons for a few years." By which, she also revealed, she meant since seventh grade. She then went on to Lutheran, where she found "a musical home" in the collegiate choir, directed by Brad Holmes. "He was amazing," Muzzey recalled.

It was from Holmes that Muzzey learned the joy that can come with traveling to perform, something she has tried to bring to her own

See **MUZZEY:**  
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Alec Martin gets ready to shoot.



Steve Gordon lines up a shot.

## Tough Competition, Injuries Hamper Walker at State Pool Tournament

By Edward Lynn  
Editor

WATERLOO, Iowa — Eagle Grove pool player Dave Walker competed in the state pool tournament last weekend at the Sullivan Brothers Convention Center, finishing tied for 17th place in the senior division. Walker, who had performed better in past tournaments, cited a combination of strong competition and limited practice due to ongoing back issues following surgery in 2022.

"I haven't been practicing as much. That's part of it," Walker said. "My back and neck have been giving me trouble."

Walker underwent surgery to replace two vertebrae in his neck. While he remains competitive, he acknowledged that his ability to play consistently has been affected.

"I can still play, but not as much as I used to," he said. "Every time I do, there's still pain. I played about half as much this year as I did last year."

In addition to the setback to his practice regimen, Walker also faced tough competition; including a standout performance from Dwaine Bowman. "He ran the first two tables on me," Walker said with an admiring chuckle. "I didn't get much of a chance

to compete."

Walker has one more tournament lined up this season: the Super Senior event in Sioux City, scheduled for April 30 to May 4. "You'd be surprised how many of them seniors over there are good," Walker said, of his odds of winning. But he remained optimistic. "I might have a chance," he said. "We'll see how it goes."

Though Walker enjoys the game, he suggested that his competitive playing days may be coming to an end. "I think I'm tapping out after Sioux City," he admitted. "I'm gonna sell my pool table. My wife doesn't believe

me, but I'm going to."

For those looking to get involved in the game, Walker emphasized the importance of practice. "You can go out and play all you want, but if you want to be good, you gotta practice all the time," he said.

Walker's journey in competitive pool may be nearing its end, but his passion for the game remains, he said. And whatever happens now, he made a point of saying that his years of competition and camaraderie in the sport have left a lasting impact. "It's been fun," he said, adding with a wink, "especially when I was winning."

## City Council Approves Infrastructure Projects, Talks Property Taxes

*Homeowner given more time to clean yard due to weather*

By Edward Lynn,  
Editor

EAGLE GROVE, Iowa – The Eagle Grove City Council convened Monday night to address a range of issues, including an extended nuisance abatement order, major infrastructure projects, and city budget matters.

**Nuisance Abatement Order Extended**

The council began their meeting with a hearing regarding a nuisance abatement order. The property owner expressed that having received the initial nuisance abatement order in February, she had been unable to complete the cleanup due to weather, but had taken what steps she could, including selling a camper, and moving a vehicle onto a hard surface. Council members questioned the property owner about progress on cleanup efforts, and after

deliberation, approved a roughly four-week extension until March 31 for the property to be brought into compliance.

**Annual EMS Report**

Council members received the 2024 annual report from the Eagle Grove Emergency Medical Services department. The report detailed 516 calls for service throughout the past year, including fire standbys, basic and advanced life support cases, and patient refusals. The department's average response time was reported at 4.28 minutes, with a total projected revenue of \$291,165 from billable calls.

**Infrastructure Projects Move Forward**

The council reviewed and discussed the 2025 North Lift Station and Collection System Improvement Project, a crucial initiative aimed at updating aging infrastructure and mitigating stormwater inflow issues. The project, estimated at \$1.5 million, is expected to receive a

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## Variety Show Dazzles with Broadway Flair

By Edward Lynn  
Editor

EAGLE GROVE, Iowa – The Eagle Grove Middle School and High School music departments took center stage Saturday night for their annual variety show, *Opening Night! A Night of Broadway*. The event brought together students, staff, and even community members for a celebration of musical theater, featuring a lineup of

show-stopping performances.

The show opened with a high-energy performance by the Mixed Choir, kicking off an evening filled with Broadway hits, solos, duets, and group numbers. The audience was treated to stand-out performances such as *All of Me*, *Friend Who Can*, and *Wondering*. Members of the Speech Club, fresh off their district victories that secured their spot at State, showcased their talents in a spirited Reader's Theater performance, putting on improvised skits based on prompts from the audience.

A high point of the night came in the performance of *Seasons of Love*, where the high school choir members were joined by members of the community, including alumni and parents, family and friends. "The message we send to the high school student," a passage from the



The Mixed Choir performing *Seasons of Love* along with faculty, family, and community members. (Photo by Edward Lynn)

community singers included in the program announced, "is that music, whether singing or playing an instrument, is something we can enjoy our whole lives."

One of the most fun moments of the evening was

*Name That Broadway Tune*, a crowd-favorite game show hosted by Myka Anderson and Ellie Lenning. This year's edition included a special segment featuring songs exclusively from musicals that Music Director

Sandy Muzzey had directed throughout her 26-year career in Eagle Grove. The tribute highlighted the profound impact Muzzey has had on the school's performing arts program and delighted audience members who fondly

recalled past productions.

The Middle School's 5th grade band, 6th grade band, and 7th & 8th grade band also took the stage,

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\$1.50





# Wright County Leaders Push Through Unexpected Disruption

**Amanda Rink, Mid-America Publishing**

March 3, 2025 - The Wright County Board of Supervisors met on Monday morning to handle key issues, including drainage projects, funding for search and rescue services, and the county's budget amendments. All officials were present for the session. However, the meeting was unexpectedly disrupted when an unauthorized party disrupted the Zoom session in a "Zoom bombing" incident.

## Drainage Trustees Approve Invoice

The meeting began at 9:00 A.M. with the board acting as Drainage Trustees. There were no claims or work orders needing approval. The board approved a drainage invoice to Allan Weicht for the trapping of beavers in the Grant drainage district for \$350. Drainage Administrator Courtney Morris also shared an upcoming March 10 conference call regarding a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with DKM Natural Gas. The board then moved into their discussion as the Board of Supervisors after a brief interruption from a "Zoom Bomber".

## Zoom Bombing Disrupts Meeting

During the Drainage District Trustees meeting, the board was unexpected-

ly interrupted by a "Zoom Bombing" incident. Unidentified individual(s) entered the meeting and displayed inappropriate content. The board was forced to end the live meeting and begin a new one.

The act of hijacking public virtual meetings has been an increasing issue at both state and local levels with reports of perpetrators using offensive language, images, or videos to derail discussions. While some may consider "Zoom Bombing" as a prank, legal experts warn that these disruptions can carry consequences like computer trespassing, disruption of a public meeting, hate crime charges, and cyber harassment. In past cases, individuals responsible for Zoom bombings have faced fines and even jail time but it is unclear if law enforcement or county officials will proceed with legal actions.

Supervisor Rick Rasmussen offered an apology to those in person and online for the incident and the meeting moved on.

## Wright County Search and Rescue

Longtime Wright County Search and Rescue leader Rod Heiden shared his retirement and introduced his replacement, Tony Olson. Heiden and Anderson reported aging equipment and requested that

the county act as an agent of matching funds when Search and Rescue applies for the Wright County charitable grant next year.

## Public Voices Concerns on Road Maintenance

A county resident, identified as Dan, raised concerns about excess dirt in roadside ditches, weed pressure, and dirt plugging intakes which don't allow for water to flow out of ditches. "Why do we want dirt in the ditch? I just feel like it is excessive," the community member stated, urging Secondary Roads to review their current practices.

"We're reviewing the process," shared Wright County Engineer Adam Clemons who shares he thinks it is mostly soil in the ditches from gutter created rather than gravel. Later in the meeting, Clemons presented plans to establish an Integrated Roadside Vegetation Management Plan, which the board approved. In other road matters the board heard of a request to cover costs for road watering.

## Belmond Area Arts Center Funding Request

The board heard and approved a \$1,500 request for road watering during the Belmond Area Arts Center Power Show, matching funds granted in previous years rather than the new request of \$2,000. They

moved on to approve other fiscal matters.

## County Compensation Increases

Resolution 2025-10 proposed a salary increase for elected officials, excluding the Supervisors. The County Compensation Board suggested a 2% salary increase for the county auditor, recorder, sheriff, and treasurer. The board then held a public hearing and scheduled other hearings.

## Current and Upcoming Public Hearings

A public hearing was set for April 7, 2025, at 9:00 A.M. for the proposed property tax levy, which county residents will receive a letter regarding. On March 17 property owners in Iowa Township along Youngblood Avenue will have their chance to speak on vacating a portion of Youngblood Avenue, which would transfer ownership of the land to adjacent landowners and remove an aging bridge. A budget amendment for the current fiscal year was held, and the board noted that costs were being kept down while revenue had increased.

The next board of supervisors meeting is Monday, March 10 at 9:00 A.M. This meeting and past meetings can be viewed online at [youtube.com/@wright-countyiowaofficial8312](https://youtube.com/@wright-countyiowaofficial8312)



# A New Lion Joins the Pride

Eagle Grove's newest Lions Club Member is Carl Fritz, shown here receiving his membership certificate from current Lions Club President, Becky Wachowiak-Fritz. (Photo courtesy of Tiffini Toliver)

# Woodland Treasures

*The hunt for discarded antlers is on as legions of enthusiasts scour the Iowa timbers*



Although the majority of bucks have already shed their antlers, a few are still carrying their headgear. This young buck is halfway there. (Photo By Lowell Washburn)

## By Lowell Washburn

The white-tailed deer is Iowa's only species of big game wildlife. One of the traits that sets white-tails apart from all other Iowa wildlife is their noteworthy ability to grow antlers. Generally speaking, the longer a buck lives, the larger and more impressive his antlers become -- with the annual growth usually peaking at five or six years of age. Antlers have but one purpose. They are deadly weapons; designed for battling and defeating competing males during the fall breeding season.

But once the annual rut is concluded, white-tails have no further need for their magnificent weaponry.

So, what do deer do with something they don't need? Same as us, they downsize. Bucks annually accomplish this task through an involuntary process called shedding -- a time when used antlers simply drop off and fall to the ground.

During recent years, the search for discarded antlers -- commonly referred to as shed hunting -- has become an increasingly popular form of outdoor recreation. Late winter marks the shed hunter's annual Call to Arms -- a

time when an ever-growing legion of enthusiasts take to the Iowa woodlands in a quest for what many regard as treasured natural artwork.

As public interest in shed hunting continues to rise, demographics have shown a radical shift during recent years. Traditionally the domain of deer hunting males, the times are changing. Today, a surprising number of dedicated, next generation antler hunters do not even hunt deer. Some do not hunt or fish at all, and a growing number are female. For many, shed hunting is just one more good reason for getting outdoors -- especially at a time when other activities are at low ebb. One thing that hasn't changed is that, once it gets in your blood, the search for discarded antlers can border on obsession.

Some enthusiasts even go so far as to schedule annual vacations around shed hunting; logging in hundreds of miles -- by foot and by vehicle -- in hopes of finding an antler that is bigger, better, or more unique in design than one they've ever found before.

Enjoy more wildlife tales online at Washburn's Outdoor Journal at [iawildlife.org/blog/](https://iawildlife.org/blog/).

# Wright Soil & Water Conservation District Has Scholarships Available

The Wright County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) awards scholarships annually to area students. There are 5 scholarships available to graduating high school seniors that reside in Wright County. The candidates should be pursuing goals in natural resources; soil conservation; agriculture

technology; agricultural business; agriculture education; business management; administrative assistant; biofuels or biotechnology programs; sustainable energy technology; environmental science, studies, or law; wind energy; or turbine technology.

The scholarship recipients should also be conservation

oriented; have a 3.0 high school grade point average; present a reason why the scholarship is deserved; plan to attend any accredited college, trade school, or vocational school after high school; maintain a full-time status while enrolled in college; and continue to make satisfactory progress while enrolled in college.

Each scholarship is in the amount of \$250 and will be awarded after the recipient successfully completes the first semester in college. The student will need to submit their first semester transcripts and spring class schedule to receive the scholarship money.

More information and the application forms for these scholarships can be obtained from your high school guidance counselor or contact the Wright SWCD office at 1133 Central Ave West, Clarion. You can also call the soil and water conservation district office at 515-532-2165, ext 3 to request an application.

## The scholarship applications are due into the Wright SWCD district office by April 9, 2025.

The board of commissioners will choose the scholarship recipients and the students will be recognized at their respective school senior awards night.

## Phone and Internet Discounts

## Available to CenturyLink Customers

The Iowa Utilities Board designated CenturyLink as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier within its service area for universal service purposes. CenturyLink's basic local service rates for residential voice lines are \$34.50 per month and business services are \$54.50 per month. Specific rates will be provided upon request.

CenturyLink participates in the Lifeline program, which makes residential telephone or qualifying broadband service more affordable to eligible low-income individuals and families. Eligible customers may qualify for Lifeline discounts of \$5.25/month for voice or bundled voice service or \$9.25/month for qualifying broadband or broadband bundles. Residents who live on federally recognized Tribal Lands may qualify for additional Tribal benefits if they participate in certain additional federal eligibility programs. The Lifeline discount is available for only one telephone or qualifying broadband service per household, which can be either a wireline or wireless service. Broadband speeds must be at least 25 Mbps download and 3 Mbps upload to qualify.

A household is defined as any individual or group of individuals who live together at the same address and share income and expenses. Services are not transferable, and only eligible consumers may enroll in these programs. Consumers who willfully make false statements to obtain these discounts can be punished by fine or imprisonment and can be barred from these programs.

If you live in a CenturyLink service area, visit <https://www.centurylink.com/aboutus/community/community-development/lifeline.html> for additional information about applying for these programs or call 1-800-201-4099 with questions.



## It's a girl!

Adam and Madalyn Vorrie of Dows have welcomed a baby girl.

Iris Mae Vorrie was born on March 1, 2025, weighing 7 pounds, 8 ounces.

Her grandparents are Duane and Deanna Vorrie of Humboldt and Bryce and Joan Loring of Des Moines.

Her great grandparents are Betty Vorrie of Fort Dodge, Marilyn Hippen of Humboldt, and Charlie and Rosalie Dunham of Van Meter.



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# The Rural Burden of Rising Cancer Rates in Iowa

Amanda Rink,  
Mid-America Publishing

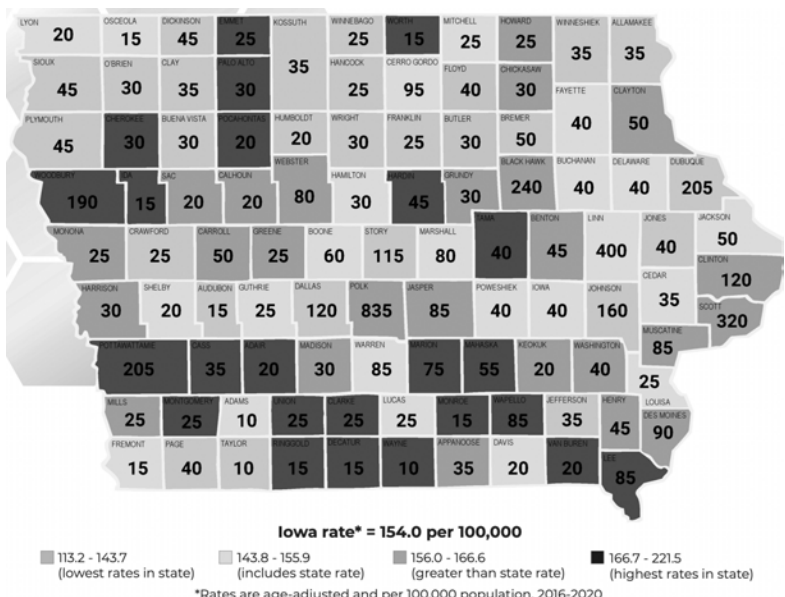
The 2024 Cancer in Iowa report, released by the Iowa Cancer Registry, presents a stark reality about the state's ongoing cancer crisis. With 21,000 new invasive cancer cases projected in the coming year, and an estimated 6,100 cancer-related deaths, Iowa continues to bear a heavy burden. The report highlights that Iowa ranks second in the nation for new cancer cases and has the highest rate of alcohol-related cancers in the Midwest.

These findings show the need for increased awareness, prevention efforts, and targeted interventions, especially in rural counties like Wright County where residents face extra environmental and healthcare challenges.

This growing crisis is not just a statewide concern, it is deeply felt in rural areas like Wright County where barriers to healthcare and environmental risk may further contribute to rising cancer rates.

To better understand how cancer is affecting specific counties, the report provides a breakdown, allowing researchers to compare cancer incidence while considering differences in population size and other demographics.

The numbers in each county on the map provided in the report, which accompanies this article, represent the estimated number of new cancer cases in 2025. The population of each county varies in size and age, so



The numbers for each county show the estimated cancer deaths in 2024. Since counties have different population sizes and age groups, it's important to compare deaths using age-adjusted rates rather than raw numbers. (Photos: Iowa Cancer Registry)

when researchers compare new cancers across counties, it is important to focus on "age-adjusted" rates.

The age-adjusted cancer incidence rate in Iowa is 486.0 per 100,000 people with some counties experiencing even higher rates. Counties with the lowest rates are shaded light grey and the highest rates are colored a dark grey. These numbers identify which counties are most affected but it is important to consider the types of cancers driving these numbers.

The most common cancers in Iowa were breast cancer, prostate, lung, and colon cancers. Lung cancer accounted for 1,430 deaths in 2024. According to the report, early detection and quitting smok-

ing are critical for reducing this rate in Iowa.

While some cancers are preventable through lifestyle changes, the report highlights another significant contributor to cancer risks.

The report considers alcohol consumption as a key risk factor for cancers like oral, liver, colon, esophagus, and female breast. Iowa has a binge drinking rate of 22%, which is higher than the national average of 17%. However, not everyone in Iowa is convinced the high cancer rates can be linked only to alcohol consumption. Like much of Iowa, Wright County faces a unique environmental challenge that could be contributing to the cancer rates.

As a rural, agricul-

ture-heavy region, residents are often exposed to pesticides and herbicides linked to risks of leukemia, lymphoma, and prostate cancers in the Agriculture Health Study. Iowa also has the highest average radon levels in the nation, making lung cancers another concern, even for non-smokers. Many homes in Wright County may unknowingly have radon levels exceeding the EPA's action threshold.

Water quality is another concern. Nitrate contamination from fertilizer runoff potentially increases colorectal cancers, even more so for residents using private wells. Livestock operations, and industrial emissions, also pose an airborne risk while heavy metals like arsenic in the soil

have been linked to bladder and lung cancers. Public awareness of these issues is another crucial part of reducing cancer rates in our area.

Despite these concerning trends, the report offers a glimmer of hope... cancer survival rates in Iowa are improving, thanks to advancements in treatment and early detection efforts.

There are currently 168,610 cancer survivors in Iowa with the number growing each day.

For the full report and additional resources used in this article:

Iowa Cancer Registry: <https://shri.public-health.uiowa.edu/>

Agricultural Health Study: <https://aghealth.nih.gov>

EPA Radon Levels in

The number of cancer survivors is increasing in Iowa and across the country. The Iowa Cancer Registry has tracked the health status of more than 99% of cancer survivors diagnosed since 1973. Based on data from 1973 to 2019, there are an estimated 168,610 cancer survivors in Iowa—people who are either currently living with cancer or have had it in the past. In Wright County, there are approximately 800 cancer survivors.

Iowa: <https://www.epa.gov/radon>

Iowa Nitrate Contamination: <https://iowawatercenter.org>

Air Quality & Industrial Emissions: <https://www.iowadnr.gov>

Heavy Metals & Cancer Risk: <https://www.cancer.org>

## Gold-Eagle Coop Scholarship Applications Open

Gold-Eagle Cooperative is offering four \$500 scholarships to graduating seniors in Faribault (MN), Hancock, Humboldt, Kossuth, Winnebago, and/or Wright counties pursuing higher education/trade school beginning the following academic year. Funds will be distributed following receipt showing proof of successful completion of one semester's coursework.

### INSTRUCTIONS FOR APPLICATION - ACADEMIC YEAR 24-25

1. The deadline for application submission is April 4, 2025. Any applications received after this date will be considered on a funds available basis.
2. Attach a current copy of your high school transcripts.
3. Two signed letters of recommendation (from non-rel-

atives) must be attached to this application.

4. Choose one of the following topics for a 500 word essay.

- Explain the global impact of Iowa agriculture.
  - What role does agriculture play in your local county?
  - What makes a cooperative different from a corporation?
5. Please include an in-

troductory paragraph about yourself and why you should be considered for the scholarship (not included in the 500 word requirement).

Consideration for this scholarship award will be based on GPA, participation in extra-curricular activities, school organizations, community service, letters of recommendation, and grammar/content of the essay.

This scholarship will not be awarded to any student who receives a scholarship which sufficiently finances all tuition, fees, and books during the student's initial year of study.

Please mail applications to PO Box 168 — Eagle Grove, IA 50533 attention Elizabeth McOllough or email to [emcollough@goldeaglecoop.com](mailto:emcollough@goldeaglecoop.com)

## MUZZEY from page 1A

students.. "He took us to Cedar Rapids, which didn't seem like a very big trip, but we prepared the set of Carmina Burana and we sang with the Cedar Rapids Symphony when we got down there. And it was so amazing, that had to be amazing. Yeah. And I still, when I listen to, when I hear anything, any little snippet of Carmina Burana in a commercial anywhere. It takes me right back to that place where we just, we loved to sing with that, that group. It was really something. It was huge."

After college, Muzzey's teaching career took her from Parkersburg to Cardinal of Eldon before she arrived in Eagle Grove in 1998 to take over the middle school choir. Over the years, she expanded her role to include high school choir and a seventh-grade guitar exploratory class,

even teaching herself to play guitar to better instruct her students. The result was an ever-growing choir program, with some classes reaching nearly 100 students.

"You bring the love to the music, and you love the kids. It comes together," she explained. "They want to be a part of that."

Muzzey's impact can be measured not just in the numbers but in the personal stories of growth. She recalls one student who, in sixth grade, wanted nothing to do with the spotlight. "She said, 'I'll be backstage,'" Muzzey recalled. But over the years, as she gained confidence, that same student moved from ensemble roles to small solos, finally earning a leading role in the school musical by her senior year. "She never thought she'd be there, but once you're

a part of it, you just want to be more involved. You don't want to sit in the background your whole life."

That transformation is what Muzzey says has been the most rewarding part of her career. "Seeing where they end up—it's the best part. The process is amazing, but when they graduate, when they're done with a project, and they see how much they've grown, that's the reward."

While her time in the classroom is coming to an end, Muzzey is not saying goodbye to music. She plans to remain involved in the Eagle Grove community, helping the new choir director transition into the role, offering guidance, and possibly choreographing future performances. "I'll probably sub. My daughter is a sophomore, so I'll be around," she said.

Beyond music, Muzzey is looking forward to spending time on her family's new acreage in Woolstock, where she and her husband, David, plan to embrace their love of gardening. "We are serious gardeners," she said, her eyes lighting up. "It's a fixer-upper farm, and we've done a lot of work on it already. We just get giddy about the possibilities."

Still, she acknowledges the bittersweet nature of stepping away. "They know I'm going to miss them," she said of her students. But they need not worry, she said, "once you're in the choir, you are family all the way through."

She leaves them with one final piece of advice, a sentiment she's written in countless graduation cards over the years: "Keep on singing."

Eagle Grove  
Community School  
District

-MENU-

Monday, March 10  
BREAKFAST: Biscuits & Gravy,  
Fruit, Juice  
LUNCH: Pizza Boat, Corn, Caesar Salad, Peaches

Tuesday, March 11  
BREAKFAST: Breakfast Empanada, Hashbrown, Fruit, Juice  
LUNCH: Pork Carnitas, Baked Beans, Coleslaw, Pineapple

Wednesday, March 12  
No School

Thursday, March 13  
No School

Friday, March 14  
No School



### LETTER TO THE EDITOR POLICY

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

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

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

Your Letter to the Editor must include:

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

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

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

### 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.



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in Eagle Grove  
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Obituaries: Noon Monday

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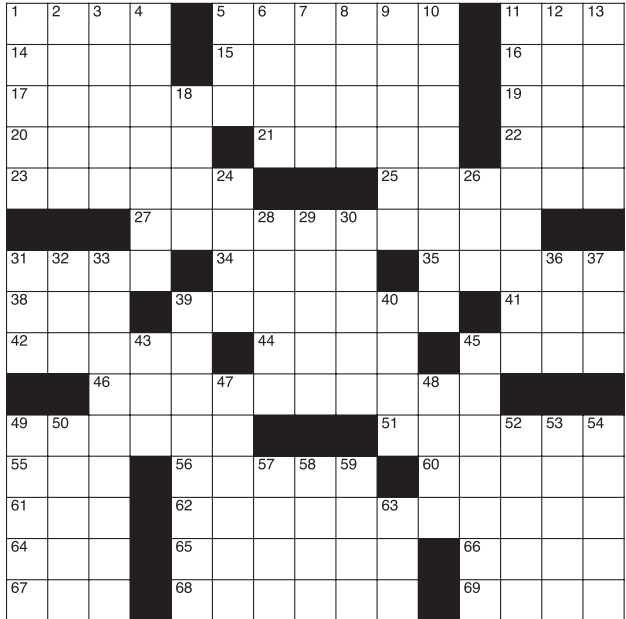
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CLUES ACROSS

1. Cut a little bit off

5. State with confidence

11. River in NE Scotland

14. Not narrow

15. Lacking social polish

16. Amount of time

17. Frame

19. Automobile

20. Toadstools

21. High school dances

22. Utilize

23. Challenged

25. One-sided

27. Showing extreme greed

31. Potted plants

34. Everyone has one

35. Lake in Botswana

38. E.T. rode in one

39. Juniors' parents

41. Small amount
42. Mother of Perseus

44. Ornamental box

45. Gov't investigators

46. Uncertain

49. A cotton fabric with a satiny finish

51. The vast grassy plains in S. America

55. Your consciousness of your own identity

56. Noted consumer advocate

60. Spanish sports club

61. Body part

62. Tractability

64. Woman (French)

65. Ready and willing to be taught

66. Muslim ruler title

67. Depressed

68. Gradually gave way

69. Clear-thinking

CLUES DOWN

1. Brushed aside

2. Water sprite

3. Ones to look up to

4. Monetary units

5. A number everyone has

6. Marine invertebrate

7. One who takes you to court

8. Indicates outer

9. Parallelograms

10. Strains

11. Cross

12. A way to remove

13. Some pages are dog-\_\_

18. Ukraine city

24. A citizen of Denmark

26. Summer month (abbr.)

28. Hindu queens

29. Jewelry brand

30. Fictional rider of Rohan

31. Wet dirt
32. Russian city

33. Observed

36. Furious

37. Drivers' licenses

39. Musical composition

40. Auction

43. They \_\_

45. Women

47. Inspire with love

48. Japanese ankle sock

49. Appears

50. Old World lizard

52. The leading performer

53. Type of protein

54. Pennsylvania town

57. Art \_\_: around 1920

58. \_\_ Blyton, children's author

59. Abnormal breathing

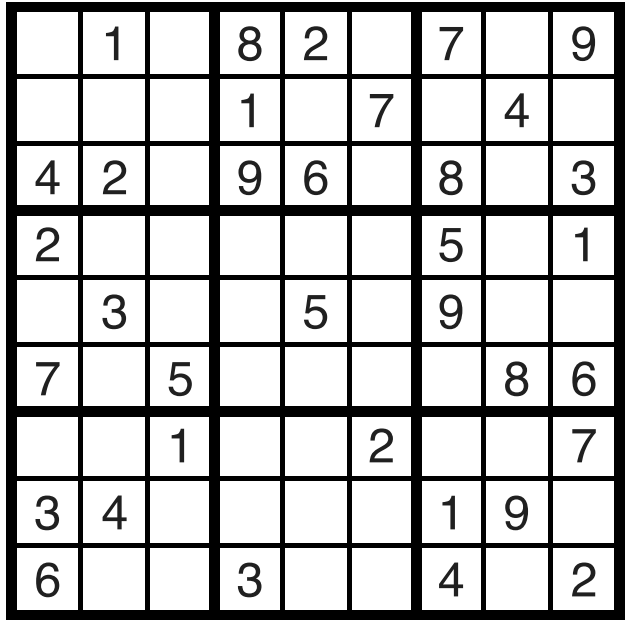
63. A place to sleep

Solutions can be found on the Classified page

Fun By The Numbers

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

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



Level: Beginner

Solutions can be found on the Classified page

PET SITTER WORD SEARCH

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

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

- BOWL

CARE

CAT

COMPANION

DOG

FAMILY
- FEEDING

HELP

HOME

INSTRUCT

LEASH

MEDICINE
- OVERNIGHT

PETS

REFERENCES

SITTER

SNUGGLE

TRAVELING
- TRUST

VETERINARIAN

WALKS

WELFARE

Wright County Courthouse

**Property Transfers**  
Warranty Deed - Town Lot: Kelso Austin, Kelso J C to Sencor Holdings LLC - Gold Orig Addn Blk 10 Lot 8; Sencor Holdings LLC\_427590713 000017536004614539; 25-266.  
Warranty Deed - Land Deeds: Rohrer James E to Murphy's Mill Commons LC - 31-92-25 NW N 1/4, 31-92-25NENW 1/4Except Tract, Rohrer to Murphy's 000012305004614781; 25-270.  
Warranty Deed - Land Deeds: Christians Evelyn F, Christians Bruce C POA to Murphy's Mill Commons LC - 8-93-25 NE N 1/2, Christians to Murphy's Mill 000012305004614837: 25-272.  
Warranty Deed - Land Deeds: Harris Lisa A, Harris Jon S to Lisa A Harris Revocable Trust, Jon S Harris Revocable Trust, Harris Lisa A Trustee, Harris Lisa A Revocable Trust, Harris Jon S Trustee, Harris Jon S Revocable Trust - 7-92-25 NW W 1/2, 1739889390747 1739889390747-1: 25-273.  
Warranty Deed - Land Deeds: Ritter Romona Jean to Ritter Romona Jean Trust, Romaona Jean Ritter Trust - 36-91-23 SE Part, 23-90-23 NW S 1/2, 1-90-23 NW NE 1/4 Except Tract, 1-90-23 NE W 1/2, 1-90-23 SE NW 1/4 W of River, 1-90-23 NW SE 1/4, 36-91-23 SW SW 1/4 of NE 1/4 EXC NE 1/4, 36-91-23 Tract, 1-90-23 SW SW 1/4, 12-90-23 NW W 1/2, 1-90-23 NW SW 1/4, 1-90-23 SW NW 1/4, 2-90-23 SE NE 1/4, 35-91-23 SW, Ritter, Romona 000013997004616624: 25-279.  
Warranty Deed - Others - Land Deeds: Kessler Doris E, Kessler Doris E Estate, Spaulding Patricia A Executor, Reed Linda S Executor to VOD LLC - 30-90-23 NW W 1/2, 3015308-001 000027858004617272: 25-280.  
Warranty Deed - Land Deeds: IPE1031 REV574 LLC to Brakke Jeffery A - 2-90-26 E of RR Row Except Parcel A, Brakke/IPE1031 REV574 LLC 000010134004617572: 25-283.Warranty Deed - Land Deeds: Nielsen Ramona D to Nielsen Ramona D Life Estate, Nielsen Ryan M, Nielsen Melissa R - 32-93-25 N 1/2 of S 1/2; 25-299.  
Warranty Deed - Town Lot: Wessels Robert A, Wessels Kathleen A to Roman Guillermo, Romero Maria - CLAR Walnut Grove Addn Blk 6 Lot 1, CLAR Walnut Grove Addn Blk 6 Lot 2; 25-300.  
Warranty Deed - Town Lot: Arroyo Mario, Torres Salazar Laura, Salazar Torres Laura to Hernandez Acuna Nancy Maricela, Acuna Hernandez Nancy Maricela, Martinez Lopez Luis Alonso, Lopez Martinez Luiz Alonso - CLAR Walnut Grove Addn Blk 6 Lot 1, CLAR Walnut Grove Addn Blk 6 Lot 2; 25-309.  
Warranty Deed - Land Deeds: Goeman David L, Goeman Kathleen J to Goeman Donald E Trustee, Goeman Darla L Trustee, Goeman Donald L Revocable Trust, Goeman Darla L Revocable Trust, Donald E Goeman Revocable Trust, Darla L Goeman Revocable Trust - 21-93-23 NE W 1/2 Except Tracts; 25-310.Quit Claim Deed - Land Deeds: Leshar Michael R, Leshar Michael, Leshar Michael Ray, Leshar Debra K, Leshar Debra to Leshar Michael R Trustee, Leshar Michael R Revocable Trust, Leshar Debra K Trustee, Leshar Debra K Revocable Trust, Michael R Leshar Revocable Trust, Debra K Leshar Revocable Trust - 25-90-

26 SW W 1/2, 26-90-26 SE, 26-90-26 SW E 1/2, Leshar - Mike.Deb - RTS 000005241004620490; 25-311.  
Warranty Deed - Land Deeds: Henningar Barbara J, Henningar Barbara J Estate, Meier Collen G Administrator to Hoang Sam A, Hoang Cindy - CLAR Walnut Grove Addn Blk 9 Lot 1 S 1/2, CLAR Walnut Grove Addn Blk 9 Lot 2 S 1/2, CLAR Walnut Grove Addn Blk 9 Lot 3 S 1/2 of E 26' 8", Estate of Barbara J Henningar 000013261004620519; 25-312.  
Warranty Deed- Land Deeds: Iles Donella, Barry Donnella J to Hawe Allen, Hawe Cheryl - 7-92-23 NW, Fulfillment of Contract; Related Documents: 11-657 01 - 004 Contracts-Land Deeds; 25-313.  
Quit Claim Deed-Land Deed: Graeve Larry J, Graeve Kathy S to KLMT 1 LLC - 9-92-24 SE Tracts Lakeview 1 & 2 Sub, 16-92-24 NE Tracts Lakeview 1 & 2 Sub, 16-92-24 NE Tract NO 12 in Parcel 1, Graeve 1 000015251004613005; 25-316.Warranty Deed - Land Deeds: Ruthart Victor M, Ruthart Victor M Estate, Holland Randy Executor, Holland Jenifer Executor to Sanchez Yareth - 28-91-26 SE Tract in NE 1/4, 8880274903 Sanchez, Yareth 000023998004621818; 25-317.  
Warranty Deed - Town Lot: Mata Nidia to Perez Lopez Jario N, Lopez Perez Jario N, Pelico Ajanel Jennifer, Ajanel Pelico Jennifer - EG Hewett's Third Addn Blk C lot 3, 8880273347 Perez Lopez, Jario 000023998004622122; 25-320.  
Warranty Deed - Town Lot: Larsen James A Trustee, Larsen James A Trust, James A Larsen Trust to Mohr Kenneth E - EG Hewett's Lake Park Addn Blk 4 Lot 6 W 29' and Adj Alley Tracts, EG Hewett's Lake Park Addn Blk 4 Lot 7 E 15' and Adj Alley Tracts, MOHR 000008138004621357; Related Documents 25-239 02-001 Warranty Deed Town Lot; 25-328.  
Warranty Deed - Town Lot: Larsen Luanne Trustee, Larsen Luanne Trust, Luanne Larsen Trust to Mohr Kenneth E - EG Hewett's Lake Park Addn Blk 4 Lot 6 W 29' and Adj Alley Tracts, EG Hewett's Lake Park Addn Blk 4 Lot 7 E 15' and Adj Alley Tracts, MOHR 000008138004621359 Supplemental; Related Documents: 25-328 02-001.  
Warranty Deed - Town Lot; 25-329.Affidavit Transfer: Dunn B Michael to Basener Herbert F, Basener Florence V, Basener Frances V; Related Documents 25-81 05-002.  
Affidavit Transfer; 25-276.Affidavit Transfer: Gross Lori M to Mennega Loren D, Poryes Valerie S, Gross Lori M, Mennega Andrea K - 13-93-23 SENE 1/4, 14-93-23 NE Except Tract; 25-277.  
**Civil**  
RTD)EST of Chrystal Fleming et al v. Rotary Club of EG et al, case dismissed with prejudice.  
**Small Claims**  
Veridian Credit Union vs. Steven Ostercamp, judgment for the plaintiff in the amount of \$2,533.21, plus 2.1% interest from November 11, 2014, and \$180.00 in court costs.  
Bank of America N.A. vs Bruce a Hill, case dismissed without prejudice.  
Spring Oaks Capital SPV vs Jacqueline Burks, case dismissed without prejudice.  
LVNV Funding LLC v.

Brooke Powgnas, judgment for the plaintiff in the amount of \$1,123.37, plus 7.22% interest from December 12, 2024, and \$95.00 in court costs.  
Hauge Associates, Inc v Shawn Heidick-Keeling, case dismissed without prejudice.  
**Tickets**  
Joshua Paul Portillo of Clarion, IA, driving on wrong side of two way highway.  
Stephanie Rae Nelson of Goldfield, IA, failure to provide proof of financial liability.  
Janelle Jean Gill of Eagle Grove, IA, operating non-registered vehicle.  
Janelle Jean Gill of Eagle Grove, IA, failure to provide proof of financial liability.  
Yefri Alexander Rodriguez Puac of Clarion, IA, violation of instruction permit limitation.  
Zoe Marie Jacobson of Big Lake, MN, speeding over 55 zone (16 thru20 over).  
Jeremy Darl Abbas of Kanawha, IA, speeding 55 or under Zone (6 thru 10 over).  
Luis Fernando Chavarria Reyes of Clarion, IA, dark window or windshield.  
Andrew James Rohlik of Mason City, IA, speeding 55 or under Zone (11 thru 15 over).  
Robbie Lyn Walker of Williams, IA, trespass 1st offense.  
Rae Ann Crawford of Des Moines, IA, speeding over 55 zone (21 or over).  
Cameran Chasity Haakma of Fort Dodge, IA, speeding 55 or under Zone (6 thru 10 over).  
Anderson Valdemar Zamora Coyan of Eagle Grove, IA, speeding 55 or under Zone (6 thru 10 over).  
Anderson Valdemar Zamora Coyan of Eagle Grove, IA, no valid drivers license.  
Damian Osvaldo Lucio of Belmond, IA, failure to maintain or use safety belts - Adu.  
Alex Rafael Garcia Espinosa of Hampton, IA, failure to provide proof of financial liability.  
Leoncio Neprali of Alexander IA, IA, dark window or windshield.  
Jonathan David Boogerd of Pocahontas, IA, registration violation.  
Samantha E bridges of Clear Lake, IA, speeding 55 or under Zone (1 thru 5 over).  
Victor Manuel Lucio Hernandez of Belmond, IA, dark window or windshield.  
David Jay Groat of Webster City, IA, speeding 55 or under Zone (6 thru 10 over).  
Maria Dinora Cardoza of Des Moines, IA, speeding 55 or under Zone (1 thru 5 over).  
Anne Frances Arends of Webster City, IA, speeding 55 or under Zone (6 thru 10 over).  
Kimberlee Kay Clagett of Clarion, IA, operation without registration card or plate.  
Caden Douglas Mohr of Eagle Grove, IA, speeding 55 or under Zone (11 thru 15 over).  
Saul Valentin Duran Sierra of Rowan, IA, dark window or windshield.  
Kenneth Jordan Harris III of Gilmore City, IA, speeding 55 or under Zone (1 thru 5 over).  
Cael Ronald Schafer of Eagle Grove, IA, speeding 55 or under Zone (6 thru 10 over).  
Julie Lea Klehm of Ankeny, IA, speeding 55 or under Zone (6 thru 10 over).  
William Joseph Thobe of Breda, IA, speeding 55 or under Zone (1 thru 5 over).  
Jhonny Tomas Lopez Garcia of Corwith, IA, speeding

55 or under Zone (16 thru 20 over).  
Jhonny Tomas Lopez Garcia of Corwith, IA, no valid drivers license.  
Hunter Joseph Grommesch of Shakopee, MN, speeding over 55 zone (11 thru15 over).  
Jeanitt W a little of Chicago, IL, speeding 55 or under Zone (6 thru 10 over).  
Dulce Maria Valdez Beltran of Humboldt, IA, failure to provide proof of financial liability.  
Dulce Maria Valdez Beltran of Humboldt, IA, failure to maintain control.  
Dulce Maria Valdez Beltran of Humboldt, IA, no valid drivers license.  
Alondra Gonzalez Valdez of Humboldt, IA, permitting unauthorized person to drive.  
Abigail Elizabeth Latham of Mason City, IA, speeding 55 or under Zone (1 thru 5 over).  
Greysi Julieta Ordonez Gomez of Eagle Grove, IA, no valid drivers license.  
Greysi Julieta Ordonez Gomez of Eagle Grove, IA, failure to maintain control.  
Michael Dean Koch of Forest City, IA, speeding 55 or under Zone (1 thru 5 over).  
Steven Shane Chiles of Des Moines, IA, speeding 55 or under Zone (16 thru 20 over).  
Alexander Donald Cunningham of Garner, IA, fraudulent use of registration.  
Brady Allen Baker of Woden, IA, speeding 55 or under Zone (1 thru 5 over).  
Hugo Duran Sierra of Federal Way, WA, window tint.  
Lucas William Smith of Clarion, IA, expired registration.  
Jay Zebulon Lizer of Fort Dodge, IA, excessive speed 6 thru 10.  
Jason Samuel Brown of Humboldt, IA, dark windows.  
Robert Charles Ahrens of Clarion, IA, failure to obey traffic control device.  
Arcenio Argueta Lopez of Eagle Grove, IA, no drivers license.  
Janelle Jean Gill of Eagle Grove, IA, driving while license denied, susp, or cancelled.  
Leoncio Neprali of Alexander IA, IA, driving while license denied, susp, or cancelled.  
Leoncio Neprali of Alexander IA, IA, driving while license under suspension.  
Elionai Morales of Eagle Grove, IA, driving while license denied, susp, or cancelled.  
Elionai Morales of Eagle Grove, IA, driving while license under suspension.  
Marcos Banegas Castro of Clarion, IA, driving while license denied, susp, or cancelled.  
**Criminal**  
State of Iowa vs Currier, Jordan Ronald, 3 cases of aggravated misdemeanor - operate vehicle without owners consent. Defendant was jailed for 4 days, required to submit a DNA sample, and fined \$855.00 per charge plus \$100 in court costs per charge, and a \$128.25 surcharge per charge.  
State of Iowa vs Gaytan Castaneda, Ariel, burglary 2nd degree class C felony, and violation of probation - 1985. Defendant was jailed for 55 days, sentenced to 10 years in prison (suspended), fined \$1,370.00 (suspended), required to submit a DNA sample, and placed on probation for three years.  
State of Iowa vs Acosta San Juan, Ruben, simple misdemeanor harassment - 3rd degree. Defendant was fined \$105.00, plus \$60.00 and a \$15.75 surcharge.

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# Letter to the Editor

## Community Celebrates the Season of Lent

Wednesday March 5th is Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent this year. It is a season of preparation for Easter, commonly considered the greatest event in the Christian calendar. Christianity is based on the fact that Jesus, God made man, rose from the dead after his crucifixion. That resurrection, celebrated on Easter, makes eternal life possible for those who believe in the Scripture.

The churches of our community invite everyone to join in the preparations. Some churches have events planned for Ash Wednesday and Lant for their own congregations. In addition, the Eagle Grove Area Ministerial Association (EGAMA) has planned community activities that encourage everyone to participate

The Lenten luncheons have been popular for many years. The luncheons begin at noon on Thursdays, rotating among the churches in the following schedule: March 13 at United Methodist Church; March 20 at EG Evangelical Lutheran Church, March 27 at Grace E Free Church, April 3 at Sacred Heart Church, and April 10 at First Baptist Church. All lanchicons are free with a free will offering accepted. Each lasts just an hour, with a brief meditation by the hosting pastoral staff.

A call to the host church is appreciated to allow for

planning the meat served, hun is not mandatory everyone is urged to join.

In addition, the season of Lent concludes with Good Friday on April 18. EGAMA will host a server at EG Evangelical Church, beginning with a soup supper at open, then the community worship service beginning at 7pm. Again, all of any faith are encouraged to attend. There is no charge for the soup supper; the free will offering will be used for the services that BGAMA offers throughout the year to those in need. The windup service will be broadcast on radio station KQWC 95.7.

Each church will hold services celebrating Easter: EG Evangelical Lutheran Church services will be at 7 and 9am Easter morning, Grace E Free service at 9:30am; Sacred Heart Catholic Church service will be at 10:30am, First Baptist Church will gather at 10um; United Methodist Church in EG will begin at 9:30am, South Enis Church in Vincent service will be at 10um, New Hope Church will meet at Rotary Senior Living Saturday evening at 4pm; Mount Calvary Lutheran Church service will be Sunday morning at 8:30 with Emanuel Lutheran Church of Rowan meeting at 10:30am, Samuel Lutheran Church service will be at 10:30am. Please join us in the service of your choice to celebrate.



### By State Rep. Mark Thompson

This past week our Capitol and those working there experienced citizens exercising their right to free speech in the form testifying before the judiciary committee and public protest. Many were voicing their opinions for and against removing gender identity from the Iowa Code. As with other legislation that has come to the floor, its portrayal in the media is more often subjective, lacking both accuracy and context. Thus, clarification is provided.

Every Iowan deserves to have their human rights protected, and to be treated with dignity and respect. Current Iowa Code, with Gender Identity as a protected class, does not accomplish this.

### Iowa and Federal Law Will Continue to Protect:

- All Iowans from employment and housing discrimination
- All Iowans’ freedom to present to others as their gender of choice.
- All Iowans’ freedom to dress as they choose, regardless of gender.
- All Iowans’ freedom as an adult to body-altering surgeries
- All Iowans’ freedom to grow and style hair and/or beard, regardless of sex
- All Iowans’ freedom of speech
- All Iowans’ freedom of religion
- All Iowans’ freedom of assembly and protest
- All Iowans’ right to due process of law
- All Iowans’ right to property
- All Iowans’ right to vote
- All Iowans’ from bullying in school
- All Iowans’ from assault and other criminal behavior

### This Bill Will *Not* Protect:

Use of public bathrooms, dressing rooms, and showers designated for the opposite sex. Biological males to gain access to prison cells, homeless shelters, domestic abuse shelters, and other spaces designated for females.

Biological males to participate in sports designated for females, taking away women’s opportunity to participate on the team and do so safely and fairly.

Taxpayers should not pay for someone else’s gender affirming care. However, that is exactly what is happening as a direct result of gender identity being in our civil rights code. An Iowa Supreme Court Ruling stated that taxpayers must fund sex reassignment surgeries for Iowans on Medicaid because our civil rights law includes gender identity.

**The federal civil rights code does not include gender identity. The President Biden administration did not deem it necessary to add this protection.**

Even though it seems there was only one topic at the Capitol this week, there were many other things being brought forth and working through the committee process. Several bills to improve and enhance foster care passed out of committee. The bills I have introduced regarding SAFE (sexual assault forensic exam), Human Trafficking multi-disciplinary force enhancement, and others are all moving through committees. This week is the first “funnel” in which individual bills need to be through subcommittee and full committee votes to still be eligible to be voted on by the House. It will be a busy week.



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### By State Sen. Dennis Guth

The big issue in the news this week was the passage of Senate File 418. SF418 removes the phrase “gender identity” from the list of protected classes in the Civil Rights code. This means the code protects only traits that are unchangeable (sex, race, etc.) or are protected by the Constitution (religion).

There are already 28 states that don’t have gender identity in their Civil Rights code, and Iowa now joins them. As I was discussing this bill with another senator, we agreed that perhaps we should just get rid of the Civil Rights code and go back to “all people are created equal” as our standard. SF 418 also defines the word “sex” as being either male or female as observed or clinically verified at birth. It also defines male, female, mother and father.

One motivation for doing this is that the court had a hard time reconciling bills to protect women’s sports and keeping biological men out of women’s restrooms while

gender identity was protected in our code. Removal of gender identity helps us protect women and children.

The left was truly outraged by this legislation and showed up in full costume to protest loud and profanely. We had a lot of security present and it was certainly an interesting day.

SF 8 is a bill that prohibits a school board from taking disciplinary action against an employee or student who uses a student’s legal name or refuses to use a preferred pronoun.

A small issue, but a big deal for residents of a nursing home, is SF 255 which changes the personal needs allowance from \$50 to \$65. This means that residents on Medicare will have a few more dollars to spend on personal items each month. This bill still has a long ways to go, but I am hopeful it will be passed this session and provide more discretionary funds for residents of a nursing home.

My newsletter reporting may seem brief because I just returned Wednesday,

February 26th from an 8 day tour to Israel. It was an amazing trip. We visited Jerusalem, the Dead Sea, Tiberius, and the Sea of Galilee, and many more places mentioned in the Bible. Our tour guide grew up just blocks from where the Virgin Mary’s parents lived. All of the locations mentioned in the Bible are so close together. Jerusalem is in a bowl, surrounded by mountains. From the Mount of Olives you can see the Temple/Wailing wall, the Garden of Gethsemane, the route that Jesus carried His cross (Via Dolorosa) and so much more. We never had a concern about security. We heard F-16 fighter jets zoom overhead and found out they do regular patrols, so even that was comforting.

If you have been thinking of visiting Israel, now is a great time to go. Places we pulled into would normally have 15 busses in the parking lot at the height of tourism. Last week they only had two. The country’s economy lives on tourism and the Israelis were so happy to welcome visitors after an 18 month absence.

I will be holding town hall meetings on March 8th in Clarion at the Library at 10:00 AM and in the Humboldt City Hall at 12:30 PM.

I will also have forums in Hancock County on March 15. Time and place is still being determined.

This week was a reminder that doing the right thing sometimes does not appear popular, but pursuing truth is always the right thing to do.



Margaret and I inside the Temple court during our tour of Israel Submitted photo

## Working to fully and permanently repeal the federal death tax

### By Rep. Randy Feenstra, (R-Hull)

The core principle of the American Republic is that it functions at the will of, and with the consent of, the people of the United States. This is outlined in the preamble of our Constitution. It’s a deeply American principle that the rest of the world has admired since our nation’s birth. In the 119th Congress, the people are making their voices heard. My legislation — the *Death Tax Repeal Act* — to permanently eliminate the death tax on our family farms and small businesses has been cosponsored by 176 of my House colleagues and received vocal support from many Iowans just the other week on my fifth biannual 36 County Tour. Farmers, families, manufacturers, and small business owners of all sizes agree that this tax is unjust and must be repealed.

Serving on both the House Agriculture Committee and House Committee on Ways and Means, I am in a unique position to advocate for the interests of Iowans. On my 36 County Tour, I have repeatedly heard from Iowans about their concerns for future generations of Iowa’s farms and businesses. According to the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA), 27.3% of all U.S. firms are family-owned. Many of these businesses

have fewer than ten employees on the payroll. Despite the small size of most family-owned businesses, they account for nearly 80% of all new job creation. Likewise, family-owned farms account for the majority of operations in the nation. As reported by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, approximately 97% of operations in the United States are family-owned.

Multi-generational, family-owned agricultural operations and small businesses are part of what makes America the best place to live, work, and raise a family. If we want the American Dream to continue to power our nation, we need to set up the next generation for success. As it stands, when a family-owned restaurant, farm, or other small businesses, is passed down to the next generation, the federal government has decided that it is entitled to a chunk of that operation’s value. It’s absurd and a slap in the face to Iowans who have worked hard and made incredible sacrifices to run successful farms and businesses.

This tax on asset transfer can cause an immense amount of stress on families already grieving the loss of a loved one. For farming operations, the tax bill they receive includes assets like equipment and land included in the value of the operation.

These are not readily liquid assets and can send the tax bill sky high. In 2023, the average size of an Iowa farm was 359 acres, and with an average cost of \$11,467 per acre, the average farmer is sitting on \$4 million in land alone. This figure, which is just the average, does not even include the value of farm equipment, business assets, and other infrastructure critical to farm and business operations. As a result, our family farms and small businesses face enormous tax bills as condolences from the federal government, instead of the tax relief that they need and deserve.

The same problem afflicts business owners. A small business that operates with \$3 million in assets and generates just a 5% return on those assets, \$150,000 per year, could be left with a tax bill of nearly \$900,000. Small businesses operating on less profitable margins could leave an heir with an even larger tax bill. This government greed stifles the American Dream right off the bat and strips the next generation of the chance to contribute to their family’s legacy.

If my legislation were to become federal law, it would not only allow families to continue building on their legacy, but, through reinvestment, it would actually

increase tax revenue for state and local governments by \$9.3 billion and the federal tax revenue by \$23.3 billion. As many family businesses are well aware, often the greatest motivation is building a legacy and livelihood that can be passed down to children and grandchildren. This reinvestment is not only a great source of pride but also leads to economic growth for our rural communities and the entire nation.

In 2017, we took a big step forward when the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act doubled the asset exemption threshold for when the death tax takes effect. While this served as a temporary solution, the main issue remains. The death tax is an unfair and egregious double tax that unfairly targets American family farms and small businesses and directly threatens long-held farming traditions in rural Iowa and across the country. With Senate Majority Leader John Thune introducing the Death Tax Repeal Act in the Senate and along with overwhelming support from over 200 organizations — ranging from the Family Business Coalition, the American Farm Bureau, the National Federation of Independent Business, and many more — we are marching towards the permanent and full repeal of the unjust death tax.



PRAISE & WORSHIP

**UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
421 W. Broadway St.  
Eagle Grove  
**Sundays**  
9:30 am Worship  
Wednesdays each week unless no school for the day: Kids' Club (K-Gr. 4) and Middlers (Gr. 5-8), 2 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.  
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515-448-4701  
www.eaglegroveumc.org

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

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

**SACRED HEART CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
Fr. Jerry Blake  
Eagle Grove  
515-532-3586  
**Sunday, March 9**  
**Baby Needs**  
7:15 a.m. Rosary, Adoration/Benediction at Sacred Heart  
8 a.m. Mass at Sacred Heart  
Confirmation  
9:45 a.m. Rosary, Adoration/Benediction at St. John  
10:30 a.m. Mass at St. John  
**Monday, March 10**  
8:15 a.m. Rosary at St. Francis  
10:30 a.m. Belmond Care Center  
5:30 p.m. Finance Sacred Heart  
6 p.m. CDA Rosary and Meeting at St. Francis  
**Tuesday, March 11**  
10 a.m. Staff Meeting at St. John, Clarion (Office Closed)  
5:30 p.m. Finance at St. Francis  
**Wednesday, March 12**  
**Youth Faith Formation**  
7:40 a.m. Rosary at Francis  
8 a.m. Mass at St. Francis  
6:30 p.m. Communal Penance at St. John  
6:30 p.m. Adoration at St. John

**Thursday, March 13**  
8 a.m. Sewing at St. John  
11 a.m. Fatima Rosary Sacred Heart  
**Lenten Activities**  
5:30 p.m. Stations, Mass, Soup Supper at Sacred Heart  
5:30 p.m. Stations, Soup Supper at St. John  
**Friday, March 14**  
7:40 a.m. Rosary at St. John  
8 a.m. Mass at St. John

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

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

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

**EAGLE GROVE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST (CONGREGATIONAL)**  
P.O. Box 333  
515-448-3584

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

**GRACE EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH**  
448-5414  
1220 Commercial Ave,  
Eagle Grove  
www.graceefc.com  
**Sundays**  
9:30 a.m. English speaking service  
6 p.m. Spanish speaking service  
**Wednesdays**  
GraceKids (age 5-5th grade) and Youth Group activities for 6th-12th graders starting at 6 p.m.

**SOUTH ENES LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
205 Johnson Street  
Vincent  
Vicar Jon Merritt  
A Congregation of the ELCA  
10 a.m. Sunday Worship

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

**MT. CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH—LC-MS**  
Eagle Grove  
Pastor Mark Eichler  
515-448-4668  
8:30 a.m. Worship

**EAGLE GROVE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
615 SW 2nd Street  
Eagle Grove  
Pastor Jason Cooper  
515-448-3697  
www.egclc.org  
**Thursday**  
10 a.m. Pastors' Prayer  
**Sunday**  
9 a.m. Worship  
10:15 a.m. Coffee Fellow  
10:15 a.m. Sunday School  
**Tuesday**  
7 p.m. Property Committee  
**Wednesday**  
9 a.m. Bible Study

Noon Men's Bible Study  
5 p.m. Confirmation  
6:30 p.m. Lenten Service

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

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

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

**REJOICE CHURCH: A WORD AND SPIRIT CHURCH**  
Pastors Cris and Jennifer Decious  
New Location! Sunday Worship Services at 10:30 a.m. at 3320 210th St., Goldfield, Iowa 50542  
www.Rejoicechurchiowa.com and Facebook

WORDS OF WISDOM



Last week's trivia questions:  
Which U.S. president said, "Speak softly and carry a big stick." ? Answer: Theodore Roosevelt.  
Which U.S. president said, "The only thing we have to fear is fear itself" ? Answer: Franklin D. Roosevelt.  
Which U.S. president said, "Ask not what your country can do for you—ask what you can do for your country." ? Answer: John F. Kennedy.  
Which U.S. president borrowed words from Jesus when he said, "A house divided against itself cannot stand." ? Answer: Abraham Lincoln.

\*\*\*\*\*  
This week's trivia questions:  
What 1992 courtroom drama movie starred Tom Cruise, Demi Moore, and Jack Nicholson?  
What 1992 romantic thriller movie starred Kevin Costner and Whitney Houston?

\*\*\*\*\*  
March is Red Cross Month, National Noodle Month, National Reading Month, Social Work Month, Women's History Month, National Cheerleading Safety Month, National Frozen Food Month, National Flour Month, National Craft Month, National Peanut Month, National Umbrella Month, and National Nutrition Month.

\*\*\*\*\*  
March 5 is Ash Wednesday (Lent Begins); March 6 is National Dentist Day, National Frozen Food Day, and National Oreo Cookie Day; March 7 is National Cereal Day, National Employee Appreciation Day, and World Day of Prayer; March 8 is International Women's Day, National Preschooler's Day, and United Nations Day for Women's Rights and International Peace; March 9 is Daylight Savings, World Kidney Day, and National Barbie Day; March 10 is International Day of Women Judges, and National Pack Your Lunch Day; March 11 is National Johnny Appleseed Day.

\*\*\*\*\*  
This week is National Sea Week, Women in Construction Week, and Chocolate Chip Cookie Week.

\*\*\*\*\*  
"If my people who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray and 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

\*\*\*\*\*  
"Yet we know that a person is not justified by works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ, so we also have believed in Christ Jesus, in order to be justified by faith in Christ and not by works of the law, because by works of the law no one will be justified."  
— Galatians 2:16

\*\*\*\*\*  
"Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours. And when you stand praying, if you hold anything against anyone, forgive them, so that your Father in heaven may forgive you your sins."  
— Mark 11:24-25

\*\*\*\*\*  
"If at first you don't succeed, skydiving is not for you!"

\*\*\*\*\*  
During the World Cup in Brazil, the England team visited an orphanage. "It was heart-breaking to see their sad little faces with no hope," said João, age 6.

\*\*\*\*\*  
I kept wondering why the baseball was getting bigger. Then it hit me.

\*\*\*\*\*  
Why was the tiny ghost asked to join the football team? They needed a little team spirit.

\*\*\*\*\*  
What does a Vikings fan do after they win the Super Bowl? Turn off his Playstation and go to bed.

\*\*\*\*\*  
Dolly Parton is the only country artist to have a Top 20 hit on Billboard's Hot Country Songs chart for six consecutive decades, from the 1960s to the 2010s.

\*\*\*\*\*  
Shania Twain has sold over 100 million records, making her the best-selling female artist in country music history, and among the best-selling music artists of all time.

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“ For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. ”  
Ephesians 1:4 NIV

**FAILURE** **SUCCESS**

**A Life Beyond Reproach**

Writing in the 7th century A.D., Saint Isidora of Seville claimed that "Philosophy is the knowledge of things human and divine, accompanied by the desire to live a life beyond reproach." In ancient times, and up until a few hundred years ago, philosophers were expected to be exemplars of virtue, and not just people who knew a lot of arcane things. What happened to change this? There is a hint in the quote from Saint Isidora. He says that philosophy is the knowledge of things human and divine, and this quest for divine wisdom is largely what separates modern (and post-modern) philosophy from that of the ancients. We hardly ever hear the phrase "beyond reproach" anymore. It means that we should act in such a way that there is no question about our integrity; others will know that we will always do the right thing. Applied to limited areas of our lives, some of us may be beyond reproach, for instance when it comes to being trusted with money or someone's property. But who of us can say that our entire life is beyond reproach? Probably none of us, and yet that is what we should aim for.

—Christopher Simon

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PH 515-532-3867





Eagle Grove Police Report

**February 20**  
10:14 AM: Report of animal neglect in the 300 block of NW 2nd.  
10:49 AM: Return call requested about a missing person case.  
10:56 AM: Caller attempting to return officer's call.  
3:05 PM: Return call about a warrant regarding property damage at a motel.  
6:49 PM: Traffic stop at W. Broadway and N. Cadwell.  
7:16 PM: Traffic stop at N. Garfield and NW 1st St.  
8:21 PM: Caller at a residence in the 200 block of N. Jackson reported someone banging on their door but was afraid to open it.  
8:38 PM: Return call requested.

**February 21**  
12:05 AM: Burglary alarm at a business in the 1000 block of NW 10th St.  
2:21 AM: Occupied vehicle at Highway 17 and the 200 block of 285.  
2:41 AM: Parking violation on S Park Ave.  
2:43 AM: Parking violation on S Park Ave.  
2:44 AM: Parking violation on S Park Ave.  
8:05 AM: Return call requested.  
2:02 PM: Locked keys in a running vehicle in the 500 block of SE 5th St.; caller unable to reach a locksmith and stated the vehicle was low on gas.  
2:52 PM: Return call requested.  
3:48 PM: Traffic stop at the Samuel Lutheran Church lot.  
4:32 PM: Return call regarding a no-contact order; caller reported being harassed and that the order had not yet been served.  
4:34 PM: Fight in progress in the 500 block of E. Broadway.  
7:35 PM: Caller in the 200 block of N. Jackson requested officers to be present during a child exchange to prevent a scene.  
8:58 PM: Traffic stop at AGP.  
11:23 PM: Occupied vehicle at Calhoun and 270th.

**February 22**  
6:35 AM: Violation of a protective order in the 500 block of N. Lincoln Ave.  
9:34 AM: Caller in the 200 block of S. Garfield reported their home's lock was broken and the frame fell apart, concerned about being blamed due to prior roommate issues.  
1:50 PM: Return call requested at Ampride.  
2:48 PM: Caller at the police department needed to drop off a laptop.  
4:42 PM: Traffic stop at Blaine and NE 1st St.  
5:16 PM: Accident in the 500 block of NE 3rd St.  
5:44 PM: Vandalism in the 200 block of S. Garfield.  
7:09 PM: Caller in the 200 block of S. Lucas requested to meet with an officer.  
11:21 PM: Traffic stop in the middle school parking lot involving a red GMC truck with no plates.

**February 23**  
12:18 AM: Officer-initiated case.  
1:01 AM: Traffic stop in the Bomgaars parking lot.  
1:22 AM: Traffic stop in the 900 block of NE 2nd.  
4:36 AM: Traffic stop in the 200 block of E. Broadway.  
12:53 PM: Return call requested regarding an accident the previous day; caller had not received an update.  
5:32 PM: Return call requested in the 500 block of N. Lincoln Ave.  
6:17 PM: Return call requested in the 700 block of N. Wright Ave.  
7:42 PM: Traffic stop in the 300 block of N. Commercial.

8:41 PM: Traffic stop near HWY 17 N of 240th.  
11:18 PM: Traffic stop at SE 10th and Emmett Ave.  
11:31 PM: Burglary alarm in the 1000 block of N. 10th St.

**February 24**  
9:00 AM: Report of a suspicious person in the 300 block of W. Broadway.  
3:00 PM: Caller requested to speak with an officer about stolen property.  
3:03 PM: Theft reported at Ampride; caller requested an officer and had video proof.  
3:33 PM: Complainant requested to meet with an officer at the police department.  
3:34 PM: Non-English-speaking male at the police department requested to speak with an officer.  
3:55 PM: Return call requested.  
7:49 PM: 911 open line from the 400 block of S. Iowa Ave.; callback revealed calling restrictions.  
11:13 PM: Domestic incident in the 500 block of N. Kirkwood Ave.; caller indicated a Hispanic male who did not speak English needed police assistance.

**February 25**  
5:46 AM: Vehicle spotted in a ditch at the curve on 270th and Hancock Ave.; no injuries, occupants arranged for later vehicle retrieval.  
12:28 PM: Escort provided from Foust Funeral Home to Rose Hill.  
1:01 PM: Caller in the 300 block of W. Broadway requested to meet with an officer. Caller reported repeated harassment by restaurant employees coming to their door and yelling; requested an officer to stop by when available.  
2:14 PM: Animal complaint at the library and Methodist church. Black lab with a broken rear leg reported running loose near the library and Methodist church.  
6:35 PM: Parking violation on E. Broadway.  
8:55 PM: Unoccupied vehicle at 270th and Franklin Ave.; caller stated their car was in a field near Rotary Ann and the fitness center and needed help figuring out how to retrieve it. Caller was no longer on the scene and reported no injuries.  
10:32 PM: Traffic stop at 270th and Calhoun.

**February 26**  
12:22 AM: Burglary alarm in the 200 block of S. Park Ave.  
12:51 AM: Parking violation on NW 3rd St.  
2:24 AM: Parking violation on S. Park Ave.  
2:25 AM: Parking violation on S. Park Ave.  
2:26 AM: Parking violation on S. Park Ave.  
2:27 AM: Parking violation on S. Park Ave.  
2:28 AM: Parking violation on S. Park Ave.  
9:39 AM: Domestic incident in the 400 block of Boone St., Goldfield.  
1:13 PM: Parking violation in the 100 block of N. Park Ave.; a red Nissan Altima with no plates was marked for 24-hour tow due to prolonged parking.  
2:08 PM: Black lab mix with a blue collar reported running loose at N. Lincoln and NW 4th St.; owner lives in the 400 block of N. Lincoln.  
5:38 PM: Violation of a protective order in the 200 block of N. Jackson.  
8:00 PM: Traffic stop at SW 4th and S. Commercial.  
9:25 PM: Theft reported in the 1700 block of N. Iowa; male suspect placed items in his coat and walked out of the store. He was wearing a dark-colored coat and hat, last seen walking toward the Sandman.

Obituaries

Jacqueline Nielsen

1936-2025

Jacqueline Nielsen, the daughter of Jack and Dolly (Lansing) Paulson, was born on January 12, 1936, in Rutland, Iowa. She was raised in Rutland and attended school there through 10th grade, then moved to Eagle Grove, and graduated with the "Class of 1953". On August 14, 1955, Jacque was united in marriage with Arliss Nielsen at the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Eagle Grove. The couple made their home on a farm North of Woolstock, where they raised their three children: Randy, Todd and Shelly. Jacque was an active member of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Eagle Grove. She enjoyed going out to eat, vacations, and square dancing. She was very close to her relatives and enjoyed spending time with her grandkids. Jacque passed away on February 24, 2025, at Southfield Wellness Community, Webster City, at the age of 89 years. She was preceded in death by her parents and husband, Arliss in 2020. Jacque is survived by her children: Randy Nielsen (Jill) of Mason City, Todd Nielsen (Anne) of Webster City and Shelly Hogan (Scott) of North Oaks, MN; grandchildren: Tyler Nielsen (Tara), Bennett Nielsen, Corbin Nielsen (Taylor), Andrew Nielsen, Lana Clark (Dan), Krista Hogan (Alex) and Miranda Hogan; great grandchildren: Tory, Tate and Tessa Nielsen, Eliza, Callan and Jackson Clark, Sully and Ellis Nielsen and sister, Barbara Giese (Ron). A Private family service will be at a later date. Memorials may be directed to Evangelical Lutheran Church in Eagle Grove.



Foust Funeral Home  
515-448-3674 • www.foustfh.com

John Harkema

1938-2025

John Charles Harkema, the son of John and Pearl (Charleston) Harkema, was born on February 20, 1938, in Dows, Iowa. He was raised and educated in Dows, graduating with the Class of 1956. John met Mary Harrington while they were working on a dairy farm in Dows. They were united in marriage on April 8th, 1958, at the St Mary's Catholic Church in Williams, Iowa. The couple made their home in Dows until 1961 when they moved to Eagle Grove. John began working for the Farmers Coop and then started driving semi for Umthun Trucking and drove for them for nearly 40 years. John enjoyed gardening and grew almost everything he came across that he thought looked interesting in his seed catalogs, even though he wouldn't dare eat any of it! He was most famously known for his sweet corn every summer! Not many things made him more proud than to watch family join him in the field to pick (he supervised) and then visit with everyone who stopped to purchase his beloved triple sweet, sweet corn! Another of his greatest joys was putting up inflatables at his home for every season, especially Halloween! He enjoyed preparing early for trick-or-treat by hand packaging sandwich size baggies with candy, for every trick-or-treater that came to his door! He made sure everyone could gain joy and walk away with plenty of candy! He was very giving whether it was tilling gardens or moving snow for little to no money or giving away sweet corn, as long as it meant they got to enjoy it, that's all that mattered to him! He enjoyed tinkering with different things and especially cruising all around! You just never knew where you'd run into him in the S-10! John passed away surrounded by family at the Paula Baber hospice house in Fort Dodge on March 1, at the age of 87. He was preceded in death by his wife, Mary Harkema; parents and brothers: Ralph, Richard, Raymond and Robert Harkema. John is survived by his sons: Dave Harkema, Doug Harkema (Nancy Schnell); daughters: Patti Metzger, Michelle Harkema (Abe Spangler), Lisa Pliner (Scott); four grandchildren: Dani Morris (Jon), Natalie Pliner, Brock Metzger and Brad Pliner; two great-grandchildren, Kayson Manson and Kinsley Valentine; sister, Nancy Gimer; sister-in-law, Eileen Harkema and brother-in-law, Paul Harrington (Sheri). A visitation will be held from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. on Friday, March 7th, followed by a Funeral service at 4 p.m. at Foust Funeral Home in Eagle Grove. Burial will be at Calvary Cemetery, Eagle Grove. Memorials may be left to the Unity Point Hospice.



Services: 2 p.m., Friday, March 7  
Foust Funeral Home, Eagle Grove  
Foust Funeral Home  
515-448-3674 • www.foustfh.com

William Baker

1932-2025

William Kenneth Baker, the son of Harold and Bertha (Wilcox) Baker, was born on February 2, 1932, in Woolstock, Iowa. He attended country school in Woolstock Township before graduating from Eagle Grove High School with the "Class of 1950". Bill served on the USS Princeton CV-37 in the United States Navy during the Korean War and in the United States Air Force, 6555th Guided Missiles—serving a total of 7 years and 9 months. On October 22, 1960, Bill was united in marriage to Viola Nelson in Blue Earth, MN. Bill was the Eagle Grove wastewater superintendent, working for the city for 30 plus years. Bill was a member of Evangelical Lutheran Church. For 53 years, he was dedicated to serving on the Eagle Grove Fire Department - 35 years as Assistant Chief. When Bob Koob was chief of police and Archie Lalor was Fire Chief, Bill and Vi lived in City Hall and served as the Fire Departments first driver. Bill passed away on Sunday, February 23, 2025, at the age of 93 years. He was preceded in death by his parents; wife, Viola and brother, Harold D. Baker. Survivors include his brother, Ron Baker (Loretta), nephews, Bryan and Kenny Baker and step grandson, Terry Pittman. Memorial services were Friday, February 28, 2:00 p.m. at Evangelical Lutheran Church with visitation one hour prior to service time. Memorials may be directed to Evangelical Lutheran Church in Eagle Grove. Foust Funeral Home, Eagle Grove in charge of arrangements.



Services: 2 p.m., Friday, Feb. 28  
Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Foust Funeral Home  
515-448-3674 • www.foustfh.com

Michael Willard

1982-2025

Michael Brenton Willard "Tojo", the son of Gary and Dora (Loux) Willard, was born on February 1, 1982, in Fort Dodge, Iowa. Tojo grew up in Eagle Grove and graduated from Eagle Grove High School in 2000. He played all sports growing up and was a pitcher and state qualifier golfer for EGHS. He attended college at Hawkeye Tech in Waterloo, Iowa earning a degree in Landscape and Turf Management, and he worked for the Eagle Grove Golf Course. Tojo was one of the first turf interns at The Vineyard Golf Club on Martha's Vineyard in Edgartown, Massachusetts in 2005 and worked there for 12 years. He later moved to Fort Worth, Texas and worked as the superintendent at Waterchase Golf Club for seven years. Tojo enjoyed spending time with his family and friends, especially his many nieces and nephews. He loved live music, fishing, sports, rooting for the Pittsburgh Steelers, and playing golf. Tojo had a great personality, was a friend to all, and would do anything for anybody. Tojo passed away surrounded by family and friends at home in Eagle Grove on February 25th, 2025 at the age of 43. He was preceded in death by his father, Gary Willard; grandparents: Louis and Jean Willard, Richard Loux and Pat Malaise and significant other, Margarite Burell. Tojo is survived by his daughter, Savanna Haak; mother, Dora Willard; siblings: Bridget Willard and Brandon Willard (Karla); significant other, Bre O'Hern; nieces and nephews: Makayla Cortez (Moises), Raven Boone (Tom), Kamree Willard, Logan Willard (McKristie), Sydney Willard and Syrus Willard and many aunts, uncles, cousins and great nieces and nephews. A visitation will be held from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, March 8, followed by a memorial service at 3:30 p.m. at Foust Funeral Home in Eagle Grove. A celebration of life will be held at the Eagle Grove Country Club following the services. Memorials may be left to the discretion of the family.



Services: 1 p.m., Saturday, March 8  
Foust Funeral Home, Eagle Grove  
Foust Funeral Home  
515-448-3674 • www.foustfh.com

Obituaries can also be found on our website at [theeaglegroveeagle.com](http://theeaglegroveeagle.com)

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# Preschool Registration Starts Monday

Eagle Grove Schools will be holding Registration for 4 Yr. old preschool students on March 10th and 11th. Parents may stop to get registration papers between the hours of 8:00 a.m. - 7:30 p.m. Monday, March 10th and Tuesday, March 11th at the Elementary School.

This program is for any child who will be four years old by September 15. Parents should bring with them their child's current immunization information and birth certificate. Copies will be made and the originals returned. If you are unable to pick

up paperwork please contact Theresa Kist at the Elementary School to obtain more information. We ask all 4 year preschool students to register this week. These students do NOT register in August. This will reserve a spot for your student for the 2025-

20256 school year. There are NO school fees to attend 4 year old preschool and transportation is provided to and from school. Should you have any questions, please call Eagle Grove Elementary School at 448-3126.

# Bill Banning mRNA Vaccines in Iowa Passes Subcommittee

**By Robin Opsahl**  
A bill banning gene-based vaccines, like some forms of the COVID-19 vaccine, received approval from a Senate subcommittee Monday. Senate File 360 would prohibit health care providers from administering gene-based vaccines, with penalties of a misdemeanor charge and a fine of \$500 for each violation, as well as requiring a review of the provider's license. Gene-based vaccines are those using nucleic acids like messenger RNA (mRNA), creating proteins in order to trigger an immune response. While mRNA vaccines have been in research development for decades, the COVID-19 vaccines developed by Pfizer and Moderna were the first of this kind of vaccine to gain approval by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. Speakers supporting the bill said the measure was necessary because the mRNA COVID-19 vaccines were linked with adverse health outcomes. Ed Dowd, founding partner of Phinance Technologies, who wrote the book "'Cause Unknown': The Epidemic of Sudden Deaths in 2021 & 2022" with a foreword by now-Secretary of Health and Human Services Robert F. Kennedy Jr., spoke at Monday's subcommittee meeting. He said there has been an increase in members of the adult labor force who have excess disabilities in recent years, which he attributed to COVID-19 vaccinations. "We believe that the

mRNA vaccines is the cause of these trends," Dowd said. "Regardless of my opinion, the trend has emerged, which is quite alarming, (and) needs to be investigated." Dowd has also advocated for the Trump administration to put limits on mRNA vaccines because of "safety concerns." Advocates with medical organizations said there are already measures in place through the FDA approval process to ensure that vaccines available to the public are safe and effective. Sandra Conlin with the Iowa Hospital Association also expressed concerns about the legislation penalizing health care practitioners for administering vaccines. "We definitely oppose trying to get to that route by criminalizing health care providers, because we do have patients coming in voluntarily seeking these vaccines, and certainly it is everyone's right in here not to go get one, but to ... place a criminal penalty against the health care provider — it's why we're opposing this bill," Conlin said. Lindsay Maher with Informed Choice Iowa, a group founded in 2017 in opposition to vaccine requirements and health mandates, said there were specific concerns about mRNA vaccines as "gene therapy products intent on altering a person's body" that are different from regular vaccines. Her statement is disputed by medical experts with organizations like the Children's Hospital of Phil-

adelphia who say mRNA vaccines are not forms of genetic therapy. Despite concerns about vaccine injuries and the expedited process of approval for the mRNA COVID-19 vaccines, Maher said Informed Choice Iowa had concerns about the legislation. "We do not like the mechanism of enforcement for this bill or an outright ban," Maher said. "Instead, we recommend a provision requiring the product manufacturers provide evidence that these tests have all been completed with no possibility of integration or transmission to the non-consenting public, as well as waiving their immunity from liability prior to allowing them to be available in Iowa." Lina Tucker Reinders, executive director of the Iowa Public Health Association, said there was an "irony" to this bill being introduced on "STEM Day" at the Iowa Capitol, when people gathered to celebrate and discuss science, technology, engineering, and mathematics in the state. "This is the direction of vaccine research," she said. "And stopping this research, making these vaccines not available for Iowans, puts our health at risk, puts their agricultural sector at risk, and quite frankly I think, also puts our research universities at risk if they cannot engage in this type of research as well." Sen. Dennis Guth, R-Klemme, signed off on the legislation, reading an email in the subcommittee

meeting from a constituent who said they were injured by taking a gene-based vaccine. He said he was open to amending it to "make it more workable for our state," but said the issue was something the Legislature should act on. "I think the one thing that disappoints me the most today has been the medical field's denial of the facts that are out there," Guth said. "And not being able to say, 'Maybe we need to compromise, we need to make some accommodations for some of this.' But instead, I see them circling the wagons, and it just hurts your credibility even further." Sen. Doug Campbell, R-Mason City, also signed off on the bill. He said he would be open to amending the bill to expand liability for vaccine manufacturers whose products harm Iowans. Sen. Molly Donahue, D-Cedar Rapids, was in opposition, saying the COVID-19 vaccine prevented millions of deaths during the pandemic and that the legislation to ban mRNA vaccines was "trampling" on the rights of Iowans. She also said the legislation could harm Iowa in the future if passed, pointing to the measles outbreak in Texas and the spread of highly pathogenic avian influenza. ©Copyright 2024, Iowa Capital Dispatch. Published under a Creative Commons license. Read more at iowacapitaldispatch.com.

# VARIETY SHOW from page 1A

demonstrating their musical growth and adding to the night's rich variety of entertainment. The High School Band rounded out the musical acts with a dynamic set that kept the energy high. An emotional high point of the evening came when senior, and Master of Ceremonies Ryan White presented Muzzey with a flowering plant, a token of appreciation from the students. The crowd erupted in applause as Muzzey, who announced her retirement at the end of this school year, was recognized for her years of dedication and mentorship. An energetic dance performance of *Cruisin' for a Bruisin'* by Myka Anderson wowed the crowd. A duet of *Wondering* by Adam Champagne and Ellie Lenning as well as a solo by Champagne of *All I Ask* brought the audience to its feet. Parker Poppen's revealing performance of *Friend Who Can*, accompanied by a slide show he created, spoke to the powers of faith and friendship in persevering through hardship, lifting spirits. And performances of *All of Me* by Yari Pelico and *Travelin' Soldier* by Ellie Lenning brought tears to the eyes of many assembled. The production was made

possible through the efforts of the student tech crew, including Director Sandy Muzzey, Sound Tech Elias Thury, Video Tech Elizabeth Schwake, and an audio-visual team led by Justin Schwake and Emily White. Their behind-the-scenes work ensured a seamless and polished production. Local businesses and sponsors played a key role in supporting the event, including Oldson's Plumbing, Heating & Air Conditioning, Gold-Eagle Cooperative, J & J Sports, Town & Country Insurance/First State Bank, and Broadway Vision. Their contributions helped make the night possible. As did Christ Furniture and Eagle Pharmacy, by selling tickets. The show closed with a rousing performance of *You Can't Stop the Beat*, bringing the audience to its feet in a standing ovation. As *Opening Night!* came to a close, the evening stood as a testament to the hard work, passion, and talent of Eagle Grove's students and educators, celebrating not only the magic of Broadway but also the legacy of a teacher who helped bring that magic to life for over two decades. Congratulations to all the performers, crew, and organizers for an unforgettable night of music and theater!



Ellie Lenning and Adam Champagne performed a soaring duet of *Wondering* that earned strong applause. (Photos by Edward Lynn)



Ellie Lenning and Mykah Anderson teamed up as hostesses of the crowd favorite game show portions of the program.



LEFT: Yari Pelico with the first solo of the night, performing *All of Me*. RIGHT: Myka Anderson put on an energetic performance of *Cruisin' for a Bruisin'*, wowing the crowd.

# CITY COUNCIL from page 1A

\$600,000 Community Development Block Grant to help alleviate costs. Officials emphasized the importance of rehabilitating the lift station and associated piping to prevent system overflows and failures. The 2025 Street Improvement Project was also addressed. The council reviewed bid tabulations and awarded both contracts to Castor Construction. The mill and overlay work, which includes paving approximately 19 blocks, was awarded at a bid of \$1.2 million—4% below the engineer's estimate. The Northwest 8th Street project, a full concrete recon-

struction, was awarded for \$613,163. Construction is expected to begin in April and conclude in August. **City Budget and Tax Levy Considerations** Officials discussed the proposed fiscal year 2026 budget, including property tax levies. "We are focusing on the property taxation portion of our budget," noted City Administrator Bryce Davis, "which is because we need to certify our post maximum tax letter with the other Department of Management." Davis noted that the letter would be passed around in government and "is in no way defining what taxes

are going to be or what the budget is." Davis explained that the city's taxable valuation increased by 4.62% to \$97 million from last year, and went into detail on many expenses, concluding that in terms of property taxes, "we're estimating to bring in \$1,942,932 which, equates to a levy rate of \$19.35547." **Additional Business and Announcements** Council members briefly reviewed other outstanding projects, including the Northeast Revitalization Project, which has been invited to apply to the Iowa Economic Development Authority for funding. The

project includes infrastructure, stormwater, and housing improvements, with potential funding of up to \$1.75 million. Discussions also touched on modifications to the Flowing Well Improvement Project and sidewalk improvements throughout the city. Cleanup Days were tentatively planned for April 30 to May 3, with further details to be announced once finalized. The council adjourned following department reports and public comments. The next meeting is scheduled for March 17 at 6:30 p.m.



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# Apply Now for 2025 Landowner Education Program

By Catherine DeLong, Julia Baker

AMES, Iowa – Iowa landowners may apply to participate in the 2025 Landowner Education Program offered by Iowa State University Extension and Outreach. The application window is open until April 4. Program events will take place in June and July.

The program is intended for landowners who are interested in learning about

soil health and conservation, and whose land is dedicated primarily to row crops. The program consists of two online workshops and five in-person events in the Ames-Ankeny area of central Iowa. There is no cost to participate, thanks to program sponsorships, but space is limited.

The Landowner Education Program brings together Iowa State experts on conservation, agronomy, eco-

nomics and law, noted Catherine DeLong, water quality program manager with ISU Extension and Outreach.

“There are many steps between interest in conservation practices and implementation,” DeLong said. “This can include discussing with family members or other land beneficiaries, speaking with a lawyer to adapt or create a written lease, discussing practices with a tenant including cost-share

of any expenses, equipment needs, etc. Hearing from the experts can help landowners navigate the agronomic, legal, financial and relational aspects to managing their land for soil health.”

“The Landowner Education Program also includes a survey to understand what the participating landowners would like to learn about. We take that into account as we develop the program and create a curated educational

plan that uses the landowners’ time thoughtfully,” said Julia Baker, natural resource program specialist, who co-leads the program with DeLong.

The program also provides the opportunity for interactive learning and networking with fellow landowners. Carolyn Harryman was a member of the program’s 2024 cohort.

“As I worked with other members of the group, I feel

there are many landowners in Iowa that may not have been directly working with the family farming operation until more recently, as is my situation,” Harryman said. “The array of topics covered was outstanding and greatly helped me improve my farming knowledge.”

The online application for the 2025 program is available from the Landowner Education Program webpage.

# Regenerative Agriculture, Impact of Tariffs, and N-FACT to Be Highlighted March 19 at ISU Northeast Research Farm

By Terry Basol, Joshua Michel, Ken Pecinovsky

NASHUA, Iowa – Chad Hart, extension crop marketing specialist, Melissa Miller, project director of the Iowa Nitrogen Initiative, and Kelly Garrett, co-founder of XtremeAg, will speak at the annual meeting of the

Northeast Iowa Agricultural Experimental Association on March 19. The meeting will be held at the Borlaug Learning Center, Iowa State University Northeast Research Farm, Nashua.

The program starts at 9:30 a.m. with the board meeting. At 10 a.m. Hart will present on “Tariffs, Trade and the

Economy.” In the next hour, Miller and Lauren Schwarck, with the ISU Department of Agronomy, will discuss “The Iowa Nitrogen Initiative: 2024 Results and an Introduction to the N-FACT Decision Support System.” (N-FACT is the Nitrogen Fertilization Application Consultation Tool.) During

lunch, Ken Pecinovsky, farm superintendent, will review 2024 research trial results conducted at the Northeast Research Farm and discuss future research plans. Garrett will wrap up the presentations at 1 p.m. as he shares his insights on “Regenerative Farming and the Benefits of Balancing Your Soil Health.”

A free lunch will be provided, sponsored by Corteva. Following Garrett’s presentation, the NEIAEA board of directors will meet. The day’s sessions qualify for four free CCA credits (3 CM, 1 NM).

The meeting is free and open to the public. The program will be held at the Borlaug Learning Center

on the ISU Northeast Research Farm. From Nashua at the junction of Highway 218 (Exit 220) and County Rd. B60, go west on B60 1.1 miles to Windfall Ave., then south 1 mile to 290th St., then east 0.2 miles to the farm. For more information about the event, call Terry Basol at 641-426-6801.

# A call for help leads ISU Police to sexual predator, international investigation

By Angie Hunt

AMES, Iowa – It was November of 2020 when Iowa State University Police received the call. It was from a student who reported she was being blackmailed by a man she met online in 2018. That call would lead investigators down a long and often disturbing path that more than four years later has finally resulted in federal indictments for a ring of sexual predators accused of preying on young women – many of them minors – from around the world.

ISU investigators never could have predicted this outcome. In fact, months after that initial call it appeared the case might have hit a dead end until Officer Kami Feld dug a little deeper into a business address included in the data provided in response to an investigative subpoena from an online payment company.

The address helped unravel other clues and evidence that Feld and a team of investigators patiently pieced together in hopes of bringing justice for the numerous victims identified. Their work also provided critical details in a separate, but connected, Homeland Security case. It took a tremendous team effort and dedication to get to this point, but Feld says the credit in this case goes to the single Iowa State student who had the courage to come forward.

ment agencies. Feld and her colleagues on the task force identified other avenues to pursue to build their case, including several search warrants seeking more detailed information from the online account in question and other online service providers.

**Messages were a red flag**

Through their interviews with the student, investigators learned the student was a minor when she sent a series of photos, in exchange for money, to a man she met on a popular messaging app. Then as a first-year student at Iowa State, she started receiving messages from the man threatening to expose the photos and her personal information if she did not comply with his demands.

Feld says the man never demanded money. He was more interested in exerting power and control over the student and, as Feld would learn, several other young women he threatened to expose if they did not meet his demands.

The student told police she received payment for the photos through an online account. In combing through the data provided from the subpoena, Feld uncovered several notes attached to the transactions the man sent to other young women. The notes were a red flag for Feld.

“There were several derogatory comments demanding obedience,” Feld said. “The totality of the messages showed how aggressive and demanding he was and how he initially groomed the victims to gain their trust.”

“It was like laying out the pieces of a giant puzzle and putting them all together,” Feld said. “Fortunately, he made a few errors initially that allowed us to trace it back to him.”

As more pieces of the puzzle started to come together, Feld and the Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force discovered some evidence in the case was connected to an active Homeland Security investigation. The discovery was crucial for Homeland Security investigators, who joined the case in June 2021, as they only had an IP address and had not yet identified the suspect. Feld’s work helped them tie that IP address to Clint Jordan Lopaka Nahookaika Borge, 41, of Pahoa, Hawaii.

thankful for the Iowa State student who had the courage to come forward, report a crime and ask police for help.

“I have been in awe of her from the minute I became a part of this investigation,” Feld said. “When I think about what this case grew to become – she was the linchpin. She had the courage and bravery to say this is not OK.”

Michael Newton, associate vice president for public safety and chief of police at Iowa State, commended Feld for her determination in helping solve this case. Equally as important is the trust that Feld built with the student who provided valuable evidence for investigators.

“Our team is here to keep campus safe, and we want students and all members of the Iowa State community to reach out to us when they need help,” Newton said. “These are challenging cases, but our team is here to provide support, and we will investigate to the fullest extent.”



The Iowa State University Police logo. (Image courtesy of ISU)

**A popular business address that didn’t exist**

A couple months after the initial call, the case was referred to Iowa State University Police’s investigative unit. Officer Feld was asked to go through the interviews and records from the subpoenas to look for any unexplored avenues.

In reviewing the evidence from the subpoenas, an address – 4 Goldfield Road – connected to an online payment account caught Feld’s attention. She typed the address into Google and the search results raised even more suspicions. Feld found several questionable businesses associated with the address, but not a single map or record to verify that the address actually existed.

“That was enough for me to know I had to keep digging. This wasn’t a dead end,” Feld said.

It was at that point that Feld knew she needed more resources. She reported the case to Iowa’s Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force – part of a national network representing more than 5,400 federal, state and local law enforce-

and numerous computers during the search.

During the interview, Feld says investigators were successful in getting several confessions. Still, it took months to go through all the evidence, identify victims and finally reach the point where they could file charges.

In late January, the Department of Justice charged Borge with engaging in a child exploitation enterprise. Borge was one of four members of an online neo-Nazi group that were indicted for grooming and coercing minors to produce child sexual abuse material and images of self-harm.

**One student’s courage**

It’s unlikely that Feld will ever work another case quite like this one. The investigation identified more than 30 victims – some as young as 11 years old – and provided evidence for Homeland Security to build its case against CVLT, the online group that espoused neo-Nazism, nihilism and pedophilia as its core principles.

Feld said these online crimes exist in “a dark and twisted space,” but she is thankful she could use her skill set in this case to get results. Above all, she is

# Iowa House Panel Advances Bill To Limit SNAP-Eligible Foods to Healthy Options

By Cami Koons

The Iowa House Health and Human Services Committee voted 14-6 to advance a bill that would allocate \$1 million to the Double Up Food Bucks program, if federal food assistance for Iowans is limited to healthy food purchases only.

Most food insecurity groups opposed the bill and urged lawmakers to separate the funding for the Double Up Food Bucks program, which allows Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program recipients to double their spending on fruits and vegetables.

Rep. Rob Johnson, D-Des Moines, urged his colleagues to vote no on the bill and to separate the Double Up Food Bucks allocation from the restrictions on SNAP.

“I do not believe that this bill will accomplish what we are trying to accomplish,” Johnson said. “I really urge us to take a step back on this one.”

House Study Bill 216 would conditionally grant \$1 million to the Double Up Food bucks program, if the Iowa Department of Health and Human Services can get a waiver from the U.S. Department of Agriculture to limit SNAP eligible foods.

The version of the bill House lawmakers advanced last week from subcommittee had a specific list of “real” foods that would be on the waiver and prioritized whole foods.

The bill was amended Monday to remove the specified list of foods and instead direct DHHS to seek a waiver to limit SNAP eligibility to “healthy foods based on necessary nutrition for good health” according to Rep. Carter Nordman, R-Panora, who managed the bill.

Nordman said the bill incentivizes healthy eating habits and noted Iowa’s obesity and child obesity rates and the associated risk factors.

According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, obesity is present in nearly 38% of Iowans, and approximately 15% of youth in Iowa have obesity, according to the State of Childhood Obesity.

“This bill is not about policing what people are eating ... it’s about helping those who are in need, with taxpayer dollars, while ensuring what is being purchased is nutritional, necessary and appropriate,” Nordman said.

Luke Elzinga, policy and advocacy manager with Des Moines Area Religious Council and board chair of the Iowa Hunger Coalition, said even with the “vague” amendment, he still believes the bill would be “policing people’s food options.”

Rep. Tracy Ehlert, D-Cedar Rapids, opposed the bill and recalled her personal experience relying on SNAP as a single mother while finishing her college education and working multiple jobs.

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# SPORTS

## Edwards in Elite Company

**Taylor Smith, Sports Editor**

23 area girls basketball players were named to this year's Top of Iowa-West All-Conference teams. The list consisted of eight seniors, eight juniors, six sophomores, and just one freshman.

That ninth grader was none other than Eagle Grove's Taytum Edwards.

In her first high school season, Edwards was top-25 in the entire Top of Iowa Conference in both points per game and steals per game. She led Eagle Grove with 10.4 PPG, 2.6 SPG, and ranked fifth on the squad with 3.6 rebounds per contest.

When asked if an All-Conference nod was in the back of her head before the season started, Taytum offered a frank response.

"Honestly, no. I didn't think I would get it."

Edwards did have a personal pre-season goal of reaching 230 points, though. The 5'7"

combo guard finished the year just shy of that mark with "only" 228 points. Still, Taytum broke the EGHS freshman record for most points scored in a season and earned a TOI-West All-Conference Honorable Mention in the process.

In the offseason, Taytum competes in volleyball, track and field, and softball, but she says basketball is far and away her favorite sport. She participated in AAU with Play4Him last year and hopes to elevate her game to new heights in her sophomore season.

"I definitely want to score more and have more assists to my teammates," Edwards commented. "I want to become a more active ball handler and look up the court more."

Taytum's desire to succeed on the court is unquestionable, but more importantly, she wants to be someone others can look up to off of it.

"I always like to push myself and try to be a role model for young people."



When she's not shooting hoops, Taytum Edwards likes to stay involved in FCA and FCCLA. (Photo by Taylor Smith)

## Eagles Honored At Team Banquet

**Taylor Smith, Sports Editor**

Last Thursday, the Eagle Grove boys basketball team celebrated the 2024-25 season at their annual awards banquet. The Eagles won 4 of their last 6 games and wrapped up the season with a record of 10-13.

"We played in a lot of close games this season," Coach Ryan Pedersen commented. "As a coach, all you really hope for is that your team has a shot to win every game, and I truly believe we were in that position most of the time."

At the banquet, guard Jaxon Morris received both the Eagle Award and the Defensive Award. He averaged 14.7 PPG, 6.5 RPG, 3.1 APG, and a team-high 2.3 SPG during his All-Conference senior campaign.

"Jaxon will always be one of the players I'm most proud of," Coach Pedersen remarked. "The growth he's shown over the past four years is nothing short of remarkable. He transformed from a player focused on himself into a young man I was honored to call our captain."

New addition Abraham Lin earned the team's Offensive Award after leading this year's Eagle squad in scoring.

"I still remember hearing about [Abe] and thinking he'd be a great fit, but when he joined, he exceeded all expectations," said Pedersen. "He meshed seamlessly with the guys, both on and off the court. His chemistry with the team was immediate, and he



Jaxon Morris, Adrian Whipple, and Abe Lin pose with their hardware. (Photo provided by April Krause)

brought a great energy that helped elevate everyone around him."

Coach Pedersen also spoke about senior Josh Miller in glowing terms.

"This year, [Josh] made a huge leap. By the end of the season, he had become one of our go-to players, increasing his scoring from 6.7 points per game to nearly 11 (and 13.8 PPG after his dunk). Josh's impact on both offense and defense will definitely be missed next season. His presence on the court was invaluable, and his

growth was a key part of our success."

Guard Adrian Whipple improved his averages to 9.6 PPG, 3.8 APG, and 2.2 SPG in his sophomore year and was given the Most Improved Award.

"I'm excited about the group of players we have coming back next season," Pedersen concluded. "There's a lot of potential, but we'll need to put in the work over the offseason to reach it. If we stay committed and keep improving, we should be in a great position to be very competitive next year."

## Lin Named To All-Conference Squad

**Taylor Smith, Sports Editor**

Abraham Lin, an exchange student from Taiwan currently enrolled at EGHS, is the latest Eagle Grove athlete to be selected for an All-Conference team. The senior made an immediate impact on the boys basketball program in his first and only season representing the purple and gold.

Inspired by his older cousin, Lin began playing basketball at a young age. In ninth grade, he even guided his team to Taiwan's "Final 8."

"It hadn't been done at my school in 30 or 40 years," he said with a grin during a recent interview with *The Eagle*.

Lin spent some time in southern California before moving to Iowa, so he wasn't a complete stranger to the United States. Still, he's grateful for the hospitality the people of Eagle Grove have shown him and for a seamless transition into his temporary home.

"Everyone was really nice and so welcoming when I first landed here."

This winter, Lin put the Top of Iowa Conference on notice in twenty electrifying games. In 2024-25, he had the fourth best points per game average in the entire conference, scoring 17.8

a night while shooting an efficient 51% from the field, 71% from the free throw line, and 31% from distance. He also averaged 5.6 RPG, 2.9 APG, and 2 SPG on his way to a First Team All-Conference selection in the TOI-West.

"I just wanted to have fun this season because I haven't played basketball in the States in a while," Lin commented. "I just wanted to experience it and see what Iowa basketball was like."

Although the 6'1" guard/forward admits he wasn't actively pursuing All-Conference before the season started or even aware of how important the distinction was, he still feels "honored to have that recognition."

Now that the season is over, Lin says he's "probably done with basketball" and has no plans to play collegiately, but he does intend to further his studies. While he waits to hear back from the

American schools he's applied to, Abe is tickled by the prospect of participating in more high school sports here in Wright County. In Taiwan, high school athletes typically only choose one sport, so Lin is looking forward to potentially competing in track and field this spring and baseball in the summer.



In his free time, Abe Lin says he enjoys watching LeBron James and Luka Dončić game film. (Photo by Taylor Smith)

## Baez Caps Career With State Berth

**Taylor Smith, Sports Editor**

In a recent interview, Jesus Baez said "making it to state" was the only goal he had in mind before beginning his final season of wrestling.

That dream would become reality for Baez after he took the district title on February 15th, but his road to state was anything but a cakewalk.

"I beat [Narciso Hidalgo] earlier in the year and we wrestled two weeks later and he beat me," Baez stated as he recalled his competition in the 1st place match. "He got put as the #1 seed at districts, we went to overtime and I came out on top in the end."

The four-sport athlete was complimentary of this year's Eagle Grove coaching staff, especially new addition Zach Boyer and longtime coach and role model Aaron Schafer.

"Coach Boyer came in this year and I'd say that's a big part of the reason I was able to accomplish my goal," Baez commented. "He pushed me a ton."

Jesus also explained that he wouldn't be the wrestler he is today if not for Coach Schafer's prodding and encour-

agement.

"Coach Schafer always asked me about wrestling, but my parents wouldn't let me because they were scared I would get hurt," remembered Baez. "I started wrestling in 6th grade because he was begging my parents and they finally let me."

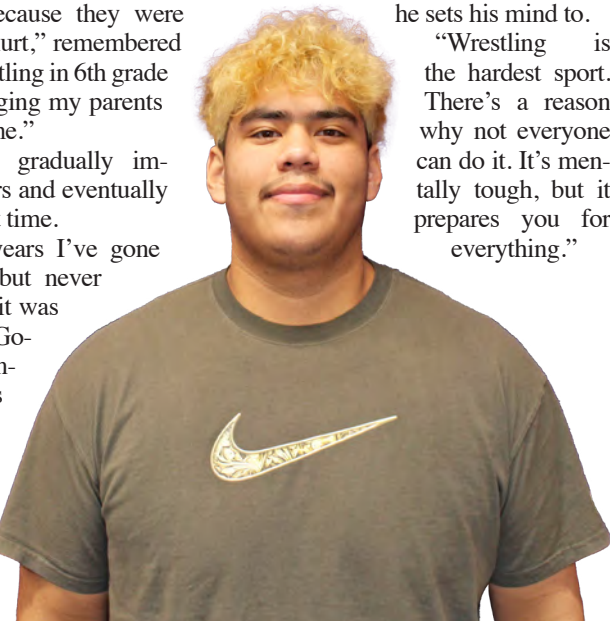
The 285-pounder gradually improved over the years and eventually peaked at the perfect time.

"The past three years I've gone and watched state but never actually knew what it was like," said Baez. "Going into The Well under those tunnels is pretty sweet."

"It meant a ton," he added. "I've been working at that since freshman year. I got 4th at districts my sophomore and junior years and finally made it this year."

After competing against the best at Wells Fargo Arena, Baez feels like he can accomplish anything he sets his mind to.

"Wrestling is the hardest sport. There's a reason why not everyone can do it. It's mentally tough, but it prepares you for everything."



Before matches, Jesus Baez says he likes to "turn on some tunes and cancel out the outside noise." (Photo by Taylor Smith)

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# Speech Headed to State!

**By Edward Lynn  
Editor**

The Eagle Grove High School Speech Team cleaned up at the district speech contest in Britt on Saturday, and later that night gave an awesome performance at the EGHS Variety Show, held in the Auditorium at the Robert Blue Middle School.

The team "came home far from empty handed," the school reported in a post to Facebook, earning ten Level I ratings, and 6 Level II ratings.

And THAT means that the team punched its ticket to State, and is headed to the state competition in two weeks!

"It felt really good, our kids did a great job," said EGHS Special Education teacher Lori Olmstead, the staff advisor for the Speech Team.

"I'm incredibly proud," Olmstead said, revealing that while she had "just a handful" of seniors, and "a bunch" of less experienced underclassmen, all but one senior are going on to the state competition, and so are some of the underclassmen as well. "We're still super proud of everyone who competed," Olmstead emphasized.

"My seniors showed great leadership," Olmstead said. "I watched them coaching the underclassmen in the halls before their performances, giving them pointers and propping them up. Even though it's individual contests, we're really one big team, and the kids work together in just a really wonderful way."

The one senior who didn't make it "went way out of his comfort zone to write his own speech," despite not being a native English speaker. "Although he didn't make it to state, "he did an amazing job," Olmstead said proudly.

Multiple other students wrote their own pieces, Olmstead explained, "not just speeches but poems and other programs." "And it's a very difficult thing to put a piece of yourself out there," Olmstead noted, "but they're all willing to do



The seniors on the debate team. (Screenshots, Eagle Grove High School/Facebook)



Team Coach Lori Olmstead poses with the full Debate team at the District competition in Britt, at West Hancock High School.

it because they have such a passion for speech."

Olmstead said the team is continuing to practice in preparation for the state competition. "We have students who will put in extra hours, they come in to school early, they stay after school, they give up lunch hours, they work during study halls," Olmstead said, highlighting the dedication of the students. "They put in all the effort and time they can to make their performances better."

Olmstead also commented on the team's performance at the Variety Show, which she called "a great opportunity to be able to share what we do with the community," noting that the

kids did, "an awesome job."

"We always love working with Sandy in the Music Department," Olmstead said. And reflecting on Muzzey's upcoming retirement, Olmstead paid tribute. "Sandy and I have been friends ever since I started in the community," she said, "she's been a very good friend, we've done community theater together and so much more, and I'm really going to miss her in school. But I hope we'll still do community theater together. She's been such an asset to the school, and we'll really miss her here."

The Speech Team will compete in the Northeast District at Starmont High School on March 15th,

2025. The schedule hasn't been released as of press time, but is expected to come out on Sunday. "We'll be spread throughout the day," Olmstead explained, "because we have ten events going."

"The state competition is always a blast," Olmstead enthused. "150 schools will come to the school we're at, because there are 4 state competitions." The event will provide a lot of opportunities for the students, she said, "The kids will meet with students from other schools, and interact with them, learn from them and get to know them. It's really just a great time of growth and a fun experience for them."

# KIDS Corner

## Math Blocks

Fill in the missing blocks with numbers between 0-20. The numbers in each row add up to the totals on the right. The numbers in each column add up to the totals on the bottom.

10	8		33
	11	9	22
6		5	15
18	23	29	

5	9
6	11
51	8

solution

## THIS DAY IN HISTORY

**MARCH 8**

**1910:** French aviator Raymonde de Laroche becomes the first woman to receive a pilot's license.

**1936:** Daytona Beach and Road Course holds its first oval stock car race.

**1979:** The compact disc is demonstrated for the first time.

## Get Scrambled

Unscramble the words to determine the phrase.  
**EHLTYHA LMSAE**

Answer: Healthy meals

**How they say that in...**

**English:** Protein  
**Spanish:** Proteína  
**Italian:** Proteine  
**French:** Protéine  
**German:** Eiweiß

**Did You Know?**

A combination of various foods, with a good deal of vegetables and fruits, is part of a healthy and balanced diet.

**Food FACT!**

True or false? There is no perfect diet for everyone.

**CRYPTO FUN**

Solve the code to discover words related to pet sitting. Each number corresponds to a letter. (Hint: 10 = R)

**A. 26 22 10 4 12 2 9 4 10**  
Clue: Babysitter

**B. 6 21 6 6 8**  
Clue: Young dog

**C. 16 14 22 10 13 2 7 12**  
Clue: Overnight animal care

**D. 1 10 22 9 4 24**  
Clue: Vacationing

**WORD SCRAMBLE**

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to pet sitting.

**WLKAS**

Answer: Walks

**GUESS WHO?**

I am a singer born in England on March 2, 1977. I was once in a band that was booed, but that didn't deter me from pursuing music. My debut album with my current band was a hit, and I've won a total of eight Grammys. Dick Van Dyke recently starred in a music video for one of my band's songs.

Answer: Chris Martin

# Mama Cats Show Appreciation to Bus Drivers

**By Edward Lynn  
Editor**

EAGLE GROVE — "School transportation drivers are unsung heroes, navigating challenging weather conditions and schedules to ensure our Eagle Grove students make it to school each day," proclaimed a post to the Eagle Grove Elementary School (EGES) Facebook page, by the Mama Cats Parent Teacher Organization (PTO). "Thanks to their dedication and training, school buses are the safest mode of transportation for children."

The post announced that, in an effort to show appreciation for the hard work of Eagle Grove's bus drivers, the MAMA Cats had prepared transportation driver "survival kits" for the school transportation team. The gesture was meant to highlight the drivers' incredible contributions and thank them for their service to the community, in a whimsical yet useful way.

The *Transportation Driver Survival Kits* were a heartwarming and playful way to express gratitude to school bus drivers. Each item in the kit carried a symbolic meaning, making it more than just a collection of everyday objects—creat-



A look at what was in the bags. (Screenshots, Eagle Grove Elementary School)

ing a clever and thoughtful message of encouragement. The kit included gum for "sticky situations", a notepad to make "every ride a story worth telling", lifesavers, "because you really are one", peppermints to "keep cool" and Hershey Kisses as a reminder of each driver's worth. They also included a pocket sized hand sanitizer as a more practical addition. The playful word associations combined with

a sincere appreciation make this kit a delightful way to celebrate and uplift those who keep Eagle Grove's students safe on their journeys, acknowledging both the challenges and joys of a bus driver's daily routine. All this marked School Transportation Driver Appreciation Day, which was Feb. 22, a time to recognize the dedicated individuals who play a critical role in students' education, by get-

ting students to and from school and school events safely, making the drivers an integral part of families' weekday routines in Eagle Grove. Community members were also invited to share their gratitude using the social media hashtag #ThankYouBusDrivers, recognizing the essential role these drivers play in students' lives.

**TRANSPORTATION DRIVER SURVIVAL KIT**

**Gum**- For getting out of sticky situations

**Pencil**- To help you stay sharp and focused

**Notepad**- To make every ride a story worth telling

**Peppermint**- To help you keep your cool

**Hand Sanitizer**- For germ free travels

**Hershey Kisses**- To remind you of your worth

**Lifesavers**- Because you really are one

**Transportation Appreciation 2025**

**Thank you from the MamaCats PTO**

A note included with the kits explained in a fun way what each item symbolized.





A sweet treat and a good book make for a classic pairing.



Students from Mrs. Schreiber's FCS class stand behind their cupcake spread. (Photo from Eagle Grove Community Schools/Facebook)



It's a fact that cupcakes are best enjoyed sitting down.



Elementary students with February and August birthdays enjoyed a special treat last week.

# No. 9 Iowa State Picks Up Another Top-25 Win In 84-67 Triumph Over No. 22 Arizona

AMES, Iowa – Another top-25 team goes down in Hilton Coliseum.

No. 9 Iowa State (22-7, 12-6 Big 12) led by as many as 24 points in the second half in a convincing 84-67 victory over No. 22 Arizona (19-10, 13-5 Big 12) Saturday night in Hilton Coliseum.

The win avenged a heart-breaking loss the Cyclones suffered earlier this season at Arizona and it was the 25th victory over a top-25 opponent by head coach T.J. Otzelberger, the most by a Cyclone skipper in school history.

Iowa State built its large lead thanks to a season-high-tying 11 3-pointers on 21 attempts. On the flip side, the Wildcats made just 4-of-22 from beyond the arc.

The Cyclones were balanced offensively with five players scoring in double figures, led by Milan Momcilovic, who tallied 14 of his team-high 17 points in the first half.

ISU's bench was sensational with Nate Heise and Curtis Jones, who was scoreless in the first half, recording 12 points each. Brandon Chatfield posted 10 points and a team-high eight rebounds and Tamin Lipsey added 15 points for the Cyclones. Jaden Bradley led Arizona with 18 points.

# Cyclones Top No. 14 K-State, 85-63, on Senior Day

AMES, Iowa – Audi Crooks poured in a season-high 36 points and Emily Ryan narrowly missed a triple-double as Iowa State (21-11, 12-6 Big 12) defeated No. 14 Kansas State (25-6, 13-5), 85-63, Sunday afternoon.

In what was likely her final game at Hilton Coliseum, Ryan finished with 17 points, 7 rebounds and 10 assists.

But at the end of the day it was Crooks' show. The sophomore finished 14-for-18 from the field and made 8-of-11 free throws to finish with her 10th double-double of the season, recording 36 points and 10 rebounds.

Crooks scored 26 of her 36 points after the halftime break.

The Cyclone defense held K-State to just 33.3 percent shooting. ISU, on the other hand, shot 53.6 percent from the floor and held a 47-31 edge on the glass.

Iowa State got out to an 18-16 lead at the end of the first quarter and the second was more of the same. KSU took their first lead of the game with 7:15 left in the second quarter, going up 22-21, but Sydney Harris responded on the next possession with a 3-pointer and the Cyclones went into the break leading 35-34 on a pair of Arianna Jackson free throws.

The third quarter was the Audi Crooks' show as the sophomore scored 14 points and the Cyclones used a 12-0 run late in the period to lead 62-49 after three.

The Cyclones fended off the Wildcats in the fourth quarter, extending the lead to the final margin of 22 points as it rolled to its first Top-25 win of the season.



# Hawkeyes Handle Michigan

ANN ARBOR, Mich. – The University of Iowa women's basketball team downed Michigan, 79-66, on Wednesday night inside the Crisler Center. The Hawkeyes improved to 19-9 overall and 9-8 in conference play.

Senior Sydney Affolter set a new career high in tonight's match up with 24 points and 11 rebounds recording her sixth double-double this season. Senior Lucy Olsen added 20 points including four three-pointers and five rebounds, while junior Hannah Stuelke contributed 13 points and five rebounds.

Stuelke started the scoring with a layup, followed by a three-pointer from Affolter, who paced the scoring in the first quarter with 14 points. The Hawkeyes hit a three minute scoring drought, allowing the Wolverines to go on an 8-0 run. Affolter responded by scoring eight straight points, then capped off a perfect 4-for-4 performance from beyond the arc with another three-pointer, giving Iowa a 25-18 lead at the end of the period.

In the second quarter, Olsen caught fire from deep, going 4-for-4 from three and leading the period with 16 points after being held scoreless in the first. Iowa capitalized on multiple scoring runs, including a 10-2 surge in the final two minutes, extending its lead to a game-high 19 points. Michigan's Brooke Quarles-Daniels hit a jumper at the buzzer, cutting the deficit slightly, but the Hawkeyes still took a 49-32 lead into halftime.

In the third, Stuelke opened with four straight points. Michigan answered with a 5-0 run; however, Affolter halted the run with a bucket at the 6:19 mark, setting a new career high. The Wolverines maintained their momentum, going on a dominant 15-2 run to cut the deficit to six. Senior Kylie Feuerbach added a fast-break layup in the final minute, but Michigan outscored Iowa by nine in the quarter, trimming the Hawkeyes' lead to 64-56, heading into the final stretch.

Iowa regained control in the fourth quarter, outscoring Michigan, 15-10. The Hawkeyes dominated the boards in the second half, securing a 19-15 rebounding edge, and the defense forced 16 turnovers, converting them into 28 points throughout the game. Iowa capped off the night with a 13-point victory over the Wolverines.



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**Wednesday, March 19, 2025 • 11 AM**

*Blizzard Date Friday March 21 • 11 AM*

Bridge is out on East Side of Auction so come in on Hwy 17 and go East on Blacktop C-70 1 ½ miles

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**WAGONS & GEARS:** Parker 7250 w/ truck tires, Parker 6250 w/ truck tires, Parker 625 w 445/65/22.5 tires, Parker Gear FW 14 w/ 1000-gallon tank & pump. J&M 350 w/ bean auger, J&M 350 gear w/ bale hauler top

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**PROBATE • PAMELA SUE CHRISTENSEN**

**THE IOWA DISTRICT COURT FOR WRIGHT COUNTY**

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF PAMELA SUE CHRISTENSEN, Deceased

CASE NO. ESPR017684

**NOTICE OF PROBATE OF WILL, OF APPOINTMENT OF EXECUTOR, AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS**

To All Persons Interested in the Estate of Pamela Sue Christensen, Deceased, who died on or about February 7, 2025:

You are hereby notified that on February 24, 2025, the Last Will and Testament of Pamela Sue Christensen, deceased, bearing date of October 31, 2024, was admitted to probate in the above-named court and that Jacqueline Schreur was appointed Executor of the estate. Any action to set aside the will must be brought in the district court of said county within the later to occur of four months from the date of the second publication of this notice or one month from the date of mailing of this notice to all heirs of the decedent and devisees under the

will whose identities are reasonably ascertainable, or thereafter be forever barred.

Notice is further given that all persons indebted to the estate are requested to make immediate payment to the undersigned, and creditors having claims against the estate shall file them with the clerk of the above-named district court, as provided by law, duly authenticated, for allowance, and unless so filed by the later to occur of four months from the date of the second publication of this notice or one month from the date of mailing of this notice (unless otherwise allowed or paid) a claim is thereafter forever barred.

Dated February 24, 2025.

Jacqueline Schreur, Executor of Estate  
311 E. 2nd St.  
Kanawha, IA 50447

Dani L. Eisentrager, ICIS#: 20041  
Attorney for Executor  
Eisentrager Law  
109 South Commercial Avenue  
P.O. Box 346  
Eagle Grove, IA 50533  
Date of second publication:  
March 13, 2025

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Published in the Eagle Grove Eagle on Thursday, March 6 and 13, 2025

**NOTICE OF BIDS**

**NOTICE NOW TAKING BIDS FOR A QUALIFIED VENDOR**

The City Council for the City of Eagle Grove is seeking a purchaser of junk and/or abandoned vehicles for Calendar Year 2025. Bid documents are available at City Hall, 121 N. Commercial Avenue, Eagle Grove, IA 50533. All inquiries, please contact City Hall by calling (515) 448-4343 or by emailing cityhall@eaglegrove.gov.

The City Council will be taking bids until 4:30 p.m. on Monday, March 17, 2025, to receive a base bid per vehicle for the purchase and removal of junk and/or abandoned vehicles. The City Council will review bids at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, March 17, 2025, in the Council Chambers, 210 E. Broadway, Eagle Grove, IA 50533. Ownership and possession will be given following closing and final settlement. The items are being sold "as is" and interested parties must use their own due diligence and should inspect the items to the extent deemed necessary and rely on their own judgement when bidding. The City of Eagle Grove makes no warranties, express or implied, about the condition of any vehicle.

Published in the Eagle Grove Eagle on Thursday, March 6, 2025

**PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE**

**PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE**

The City of Eagle Grove, Iowa, is hereby serving as Public Notice that on March 17, 2025, at 6:30 p.m., the City Council will hold a public hearing during their regular City Council meeting to consider a Community Development and Housing Needs Assessment. The assessment will outline projects that the City has identified as community and housing needs over the next few years.

Citizens are encouraged to attend and express their preferences about the proposed activities. Residents are able to provide comments in writing in advance of the meeting by email to b.davis@eaglegrove.gov or by mail to PO Box 165, Eagle Grove, IA 50533. Residents who wish may also attend the meeting in person at Eagle Grove Public Safety Building, 210 E. Broadway, Eagle Grove, IA. Anyone who has questions about this project or requires special accommodation at the upcoming hearing may contact the City Administrator at 515-448-4343.

Bryce Davis  
City Administrator  
City of Eagle Grove, Iowa

Published in the Eagle Grove Eagle on Thursday, March 6, 2025

**PROBATE • JEFFREY LEROY KANE**

**THE IOWA DISTRICT COURT FOR WRIGHT COUNTY**

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF JEFFREY LEROY KANE, Deceased

CASE NO. ESPR017685

**NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT OF ADMINISTRATOR AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS**

To All Persons Interested in the Estate of Jeffrey Leroy Kane, Deceased, who died on or about February 7, 2025:

You are hereby notified that on February 24, 2025, the undersigned was appointed administrator of the estate.

Notice is hereby 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 four months from the date of the second publication of this notice or one month from the date of the mailing of this notice (unless otherwise allowed or paid) a claim is thereafter forever barred.

Dated: February 25, 2025.

Renate Venegas, Administrator of the Estate  
1203 Broadway St.  
Webster City, IA 50595

Dani L. Eisentrager, ICIS#: 20041  
Attorney for the Administrator  
Eisentrager Law  
109 South Commercial Avenue  
P.O. Box 346  
Eagle Grove, IA 50533  
Date of second publication:  
March 13, 2025.

Published in the Eagle Grove Eagle on Thursday, March 6 and 13, 2025

**WRIGHT COUNTY BOS • FEB. 18, 2025**

February 18, 2025

The Board of Supervisors met at 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 9:02 a.m. Members present were Kluss, Bosch, and Loux with Ellis and Rasmussen present via zoom. Motion by Bosch and seconded by Loux to approve the tentative agenda. Motion carries.

Minutes of the previous regular meeting of February 10, 2025 were read and approved.

Approved claims for payment. Adam Clemmons, Wright County Engineer, gave an update on the current bridge construction and Secondary Roads department.

The Board discussed the mental health data release. It was suggested that they visit with the County Attorney to decide what information should be released.

Motion by Loux and seconded by Bosch to adjourn the meeting. Motion carries.

Dean Kluss, Chairman Pro Tem  
Wright County Board of Supervisors  
Deb Nesheim,  
Wright County Deputy Auditor

Published in the Eagle Grove Eagle on Thursday, March 6, 2025

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IT'S THE LITTLE THINGS THAT MATTER MOST

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**ARIES - Mar 21/Apr 20**  
You might feel like you have extra energy to chase goals and take bold actions this week, Aries. Your natural drive will be strong. Find opportunities to assert yourself in new areas.

**TAURUS - Apr 21/May 21**  
You may feel compelled to slow down and nurture your inner self this week, Taurus. Take time to reflect on your values and personal goals. If you have been feeling overwhelmed, get some rest.

**GEMINI - May 22/Jun 21**  
You are in a social mode this week, Gemini. Your communication skills will take center stage, and it's a good time to collaborate or share ideas with others.

**CANCER - Jun 22/Jul 22**  
Cancer, your focus could shift toward long-term career goals in the next few days. Work to identify a clear vision of where you want to go and the path to get there.

**LEO - Jul 23/Aug 23**  
Leo, this week brings an adventurous energy that implores you to expand your horizons. Consider travel, new experiences or educational pursuits to make the most of your time.

**VIRGO - Aug 24/Sept 22**  
You may find yourself dealing with intense emotions this week, Virgo. You might realize that time is running out on something and you really need to make a move.

**LIBRA - Sept 23/Oct 23**  
Relationships are especially important to you right now, Libra. Whether it is friendship, romance or business, your interactions with others are bound to be intense.

**SCORPIO - Oct 24/Nov 22**  
Scorpio, this week requires heightened focus on daily routines and personal health. It's a good time to prioritize self-care and improving your habits. A shift in your environment might help.

**SAGITTARIUS - Nov 23/Dec 21**  
Sagittarius, your creativity and passion are elevated this week. You feel ready to pursue personal projects since your inspiration is booming.

**CAPRICORN - Dec 22/Jan 20**  
Family matters takes precedence and garner your attention this week, Capricorn. You may feel a desire to create a sense of stability in your personal space. That may translate to redecorating.

**AQUARIUS - Jan 21/Feb 18**  
Aquarius, communication is key this week, whether it's in social circles, at work or at home. You will engage in good conversation and exchange interesting ideas. Learn all you can along the way.

**PISCES - Feb 19/Mar 20**  
Finances come into focus this week, Pisces. You may wonder how you can improve your financial situation and make smarter choices when it comes to money.



Enjoy a bite of a lemony treat

Adjusting diet is a necessity for someone with food allergies, intolerances or a condition like irritable bowel syndrome. Although an individual may understand the need to avoid certain foods, it can be difficult to pass up on foods when so many people around you are enjoying them, especially when they are tasty desserts.

Fortunately for lemon bar lovers, this recipe for “Lemon Bars” from “The Complete IBS Diet Plan” (Rockridge Press) by Amanda Foote, RD, offers a sweet and sour offering with delicious shortbread crust that should not cause any digestive distress for IBS sufferers.

**Lemon Bars** *(Makes 12 bars)*

For the crust  
1/2 cup (1 stick) very cold unsalted butter, cut into pieces, plus more for greasing the pan  
1 3/4 cups gluten-free all-purpose flour  
2/3 cup powdered sugar  
1/4 cup cornstarch  
1/2 teaspoon sea salt  
4 tablespoons very cold coconut oil, cut into pieces

For the filling  
4 large eggs  
1 1/4 cups sugar  
3 tablespoons gluten-free all-purpose flour  
Grated zest of 2 lemons  
2/3 cup freshly squeezed lemon juice  
1/3 cup unsweetened plain rice milk  
Pinch sea salt

**To make the crust:**  
1. Preheat the oven to 350 F. Grease a 9-by-13-inch baking dish with butter.  
2. In a blender, combine the flour, powdered sugar, cornstarch, and salt and pulse 10 times in 1-second bursts.  
3. Add the butter and coconut oil. Pulse 4 to 5 times more, in 1-second bursts, until the mixture resembles sand.  
4. Transfer the mixture to the prepared pan and press the crust into the bottom and slightly up on the sides.  
5. Bake for 15 to 20 minutes until just brown.

**To make the filling:**  
6. While the crust bakes, in a medium bowl, whisk together the eggs, sugar, and flour. Stir in the lemon zest, lemon juice, rice milk, and salt. Pour the mixture into the warm crust.  
7. Bake for about 20 minutes until the filling is set.  
8. Cool on a wire rack for 30 minutes. Refrigerate before cutting into bars and serving.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

<p><b>THURSDAY, MARCH 6</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Bill Spiers Retirement Party. The Red Shed Event Center, 1:30 - 3:30 pm</li></ul>	<p><b>SATURDAY, MARCH 22</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Drill Team Night Pre-school - 8th grade practice 1 - 3 p.m. Pre-school - 8th grade showcase at 3 p.m. 5th - 8th grade showcase at 7 p.m. - includes guest soloists. Registration is \$20 per child, scholarships available to those in need. Audience admission is just \$5 each (per showcase). Contact Coach Haley Loux (hloux@eagle-grove.k12.ia.u) or Natalie Felts (nfelts@eagle-grove.k12.ia.us) with any questions.</li><li>• Soup Supper with free will donation at Goldfield Community Center 5-7 p.m. Silent Auction will benefit Down Memory Lane Park in Goldfield. To donate items, contact Greg Schipull at (515) 851-1965</li></ul>
<p><b>SATURDAY, MARCH 8</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Wright County Farm Bureau Town Hall Meeting. The Clarion Library, 10 a.m. Senator Dennis Guth and Representatives Mark Thompson and Shannon Latham have been invited.</li></ul>	<p><b>SATURDAY, MARCH 29</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Mom Prom. The Red Shed Event Center, Clarion 7-11pm Ladies night to wear your fancy gowns Tickets \$40, one free drink and Hors d'oeuvres. 21 and over only</li></ul>
<p><b>FRIDAY, MARCH 14</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Eagle Grove Evangelical Lutheran Church Annual Fish Supper. 5-6:30 p.m. Free Will Offering. Proceeds go to the Youth Mission Trip.</li></ul>	
<p><b>SATURDAY, MARCH 15</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• State Speech Competition, schedule to be announced. Starmont High School 3202 40th St, Arlington, IA.</li></ul>	

<p><b>WRIGHT COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS</b></p> <p><b>DETAILS:</b> Mondays, 9 a.m., at the Wright County Courthouse</p>	<p><b>EAGLE GROVE UTILITY BOARD</b></p> <p><b>DETAILS:</b> To be announced.</p>	<p><b>ROWAN CITY COUNCIL</b></p> <p><b>DETAILS:</b> 7 p.m., First Mondays of the Month at City Hall</p>
<p><b>CLARION CITY COUNCIL</b></p> <p><b>DETAILS:</b> 5 p.m., first and third Tuesdays of the Month</p>	<p><b>EAGLE GROVE LIBRARY BOARD</b></p> <p><b>DETAILS:</b> Second Wednesdays of the Month at the Library Meeting Room (times to be announced).</p>	<p><b>GALT CITY COUNCIL</b></p> <p><b>DETAILS:</b> Second Mondays of the month, 202 3rd St.</p>
<p><b>EAGLE GROVE CITY COUNCIL</b></p> <p><b>DETAILS:</b> 6:30 p.m., first and third Mondays at the Police building</p>	<p><b>EAGLE GROVE SCHOOL BOARD</b></p> <p><b>DETAILS:</b> Second Mondays of the Month, 6:00 p.m. at the Emerson Building.</p>	<p><b>WOOLSTOCK CITY COUNCIL</b></p> <p><b>DETAILS:</b> 2nd Tuesdays of the month</p>