



EAGLE GROVE

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Grassroots Resistance

How a Local is Leading the Rise of the 50501 Movement in Iowa

Amanda Rink, Mid America Publishing

In a time when politics often feels divisive and discouraging a passionate group of Iowans is proving that ordinary people can create real change.

The 50501 Movement is a national effort and has roots in Clarion. The movement is uniting people to stand against policies they believe harm the country, and they're doing it one protest at a time, regardless of party

affiliation.

"We are a group of Iowans from all over the state who have come together to discuss and make plans for

See **50501 MOVEMENT: Page 2A**

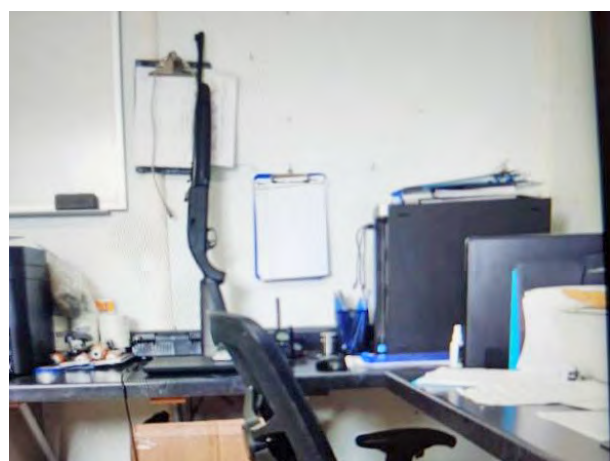
Centrum Responds to Abuse Allegations, Denies Claims Made by Former Workers

But company refuses to answer many questions.

By Edward Lynn Editor

CLARION, Iowa — Following a federal lawsuit accusing Centrum Valley Farms of human trafficking, workplace discrimination, and retaliation, the company has issued a formal response denying the claims and expressing confidence in its management team, also saying "we expect to vigorously defend this case."

The lawsuit, filed in U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Iowa by six Guatemalan former employees, alleges that a Centrum supervisor, Jose Comejo, used racial slurs, threatened deportation, and even brandished a gun to intimidate workers. Plaintiffs claim they faced harassment, unpaid overtime, and



The company claims a photo of a gun presented in the lawsuit, which plaintiffs alleged was used to terrorize them, actually depicts a BB gun used during a "USDA-coordinated pest control effort" regarding the bird flu. (Photo from court filing.)

unsafe working conditions while employed at the company's Clarion facility.

Centrum, a subsidiary of Versova Holdings, LLP, initially did not respond to media inquiries. But Hinda Mitchell of the Inspire PR Group later contacted The Eagle, claiming, "the

phone lines apparently were out" as the reason no one answered when the Eagle called previously. A follow-up question about the company's phone service was not answered.

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Local Scoutmaster Awarded Wood Badge, Reaching Personal Milestone

By Edward Lynn, Editor

Eagle Grove, IA — Long-time scoutmaster Rick Dawson received one of the highest honors in adult scouting at the Lakeland District's annual dinner last week, when he was presented with the coveted Wood Badge—an award which, in this case, he considers the grown-up equivalent of earning the rank of Eagle Scout.

The Wood Badge, a prestigious training award for adult leaders in Scouts BSA, represents the pinnacle of leadership development within the program. Established in 1919 by Lord Robert Baden-Powell, the founder of Scouting, the Wood Badge recognizes advanced leadership skills, teamwork, and commitment to the ideals of the BSA. Completing the rigorous course is seen by many as a capstone achievement in adult scouting leadership.

"I know we cannot be Eagle Scouts as adults," Dawson said during the dinner, "this is my way of doing the equivalent."

Dawson took over a local Eagle Scout service project from 2019 after the scout who began planning it was unable to finish due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The project, to build a trail connecting Springbrook State Park to a nearby county park, to keep pedestrians off the roadway, pays homage both to the hometown of the troop that built it, and the scout rank it symbolizes to Dawson in its name, "The Eagle Trail".

And the Eagle Trail project was revived and brought to fruition by Dawson not as a requirement, but as a personal mission. In doing so, Dawson helped fulfill the original scout's vision while demonstrating the same dedication and perseverance expected of any Eagle Scout candidate.

"But this was turned-around," said Dawson, noting that usually it's him helping a scout and rallying the troop to help them, but this time the troop came to his aid. "The kids were helping me to get to my goal." "Every scoutmaster showed up," Dawson said with pride, referring not just to scouts, but to their parents and others associated with scouting. "They didn't give any excuses," Dawson said. "It was like, 'we'll be there - we'll be there to help you' - and they were. In fact, four other area troops showed up as well.

Asked if that was a sign of respect for him and all he's done for scouting, Dawson demurred, saying only, "it's a really good community."

Together, Dawson and fellow Scoutmaster Rick Voss have overseen what some have dubbed an "assembly line" of Eagle Scouts out of Eagle Grove's Troop 1059, shepherding young men—and, as an integrated troop, one young woman, so far—through merit badges, service projects, and leadership training with unwavering support. Dawson's Wood Badge recognition is not just a testament to his own growth, but to the enduring impact he has had on generations of scouts.

"This award isn't just about me," Dawson said, emphasizing that it's also about the scout who started the project, and every scout he's ever worked with. "I just hope I've made them proud."

Wood Badge recipients are awarded two wooden beads on a leather thong, a distinctive neckerchief, and a woggle, a woven leather neckerchief slide. The beads are replicas of the bead necklace

obtained by Baden-Powell when, in 1899, he and the troops under his command successfully defended an African town against an army of 8,000 men, during the Siege of Mafeking, in the second Boer War. Which makes the Wood Badge a symbol-rich tradition linking today's leaders with more than a century of scouting history. For Dawson, those beads now represent a more personal mission completed, and a journey well worth the wait.



Eagle Grove Scoutmaster Rick Dawson is awarded a new neckerchief, woggle, and wooden beads, denoting his status as a recipient of the Wood Badge, one of the highest and most respected achievements in adult scout leadership. (Photo by Edward Lynn)



Scoutmaster Dawson, decked out in his new Wood Badge regalia, showing the certificate officially recognizing him as a "wood badge'r". (Photo by Edward Lynn)



\$1.50



Wright County Board of Supervisors Approve Road Projects

Amanda Rink, Mid America Publishing
March 31, 2025 - The Wright County Board of Supervisors met Monday to address a variety of agenda items, including retirement agreements and upcoming projects. Discussion at the end of the meeting was lively with Supervisors reflecting on meetings and recent state-level legislation.

The meeting began with the approval of the agenda and minutes from the last meeting. Supervisor Lynn Loux requested a wording change regarding the cost-of-living adjustment in previous minutes tied to the Communications Director's offer. Wright County Engineer Adam Clemons clarified,

"That's not an edit," and stated the board would need to rescind the original motion from the March 24 meeting and rewrite it in the next meeting. Loux suggested doing so and the rest of the board agreed to make the motion more definite in its wording.

Infrastructure Projects and Resolutions - Adam Clemons, Wright County Engineer, presented multiple projects that were approved with one notable table because of wording.

- **Resolution 2025-15:** The board approved a contract for Project STP-S-C099(107)—5E-99, a paving project covering 15 miles starting at Highway 3, Hancock Avenue, and C-54 to Highway

69. Heartland Asphalt of Mason City won the contract with a bid of \$2,874,239.78. The project involves milling three inches to profile the road and using recycled asphalt to save costs.

- **Federal Aid Agreement:** The board approved a federal aid application for Project BROS-C099(108)—8J-99 in Norway Township, converting a bridge to a double or triple box culvert. "The bridge is located at what we call the four-corner bridge," shared Clemons. The project, estimated at \$900,000, aims to begin in 2026.
- **Resolution 2025-16:** A project north of Rowan to change a bridge to a box culvert was tabled to adjust wording, as resurfacing

would not take place.

- **Secondary Roads Update** - Clemons reported that a bridge on Youngblood Road was removed, but more work remains. The department completed 19 work orders and attended training which was also attended by some Wright County Conservation staff. He ended his report by sharing that snowplows were out the morning of March 31 because of snow the previous night.
- **Slough Bill** - Tonee Nicholas, Wright County Assessor, presented Slough Bill applications. The bill provides exemptions for natural conversation areas. Not every county in Iowa offers exemptions. Colleen Trees manages the applica-

tions, with 305 applications submitted, covering about 2,800 acres. The county can approve up to 3,000 acres for exemption.

In new business, the board discussed expected opioid settlement funds. Supervisor Dean Kluss said, "We're waiting for the legislators... we're assuming that we're going to receive somewhere between \$8 million and \$12 million through the OPI funds."

Supervisor Kluss and Supervisor Betty Ellis are participating in property tax meetings at the state level. Kluss expressed concerns about the impact on county taxes, but Kluss along with Ellis are optimistic.

In other business the board:

- Reviewed and approved the retirement agreement for the Wright County Communications Director.
- Approved replacing the spare pump head for the chlorine pump at Agribusiness Park southwest of Eagle Grove, which costs just under \$8,000. A chlorine pump is kept on hand at all times.
- Heard from Ellis that about \$2,600 is left from the ARPA fund which Wright County Courthouse Grounds could allocate for projects.

The board will meet again on Monday, April 7th at 9:00 A.M. This meeting and others can be viewed online at youtube.com/@wrightcountyiowaofficial8312.

Iowa Graduation Rate Rebounds to Pre-Pandemic Levels

But federal cuts threaten future success rates

By Edward Lynn, Editor
DES MOINES, Iowa — Iowa's high school graduation rate climbed to 88.3% for the class of 2024, marking a return to pre-pandemic levels and underscoring significant progress in educational outcomes despite growing uncertainty over the future of federal education policy.

The Iowa Department of Education announced Monday that the state's four-year graduation rate increased by 0.8 percentage points from 87.5% in 2023. The rate now matches the 2019 figure, the last cohort before COVID-19 disrupted schools across the nation. A total of 34,158 Iowa students earned diplomas in 2024.

"Nearly 900 more students in the class of 2024 earned their high school diploma, positioning them to succeed in postsecondary education and higher-wage, fulfilling careers," said Iowa Department of Education Director McKenzie Snow in a statement. Snow also emphasized advancements in closing graduation rate gaps for students with disabilities

and those from low-income households.

Graduation rates rose to 70.3% for students with disabilities—a 2.4 percentage point gain—and 80.2% for low-income students, up 1.5 percentage points. However, rates for English learners dipped slightly to 73.4%, down from 73.7% in the previous year. Gender disparities persisted, with males graduating at a rate of 86.7% compared to 89.9% for females, though the gap narrowed compared to previous years.

These improvements come at a time of national upheaval in education policy. President Donald Trump, now in a disjointed second term and already suggesting he may seek a third, which would be unconstitutional, has clearly and repeatedly expressed that closing down the U.S. Department of Education entirely is part of his second term agenda. And Linda McMahon, the former WWE wrestling executive who Trump appointed Education Secretary, has slashed staffing levels in preparation, she confirmed, to shut down the agency.

Trump's goal to shut down the Department of Education is in line with the Heritage Foundation's sprawling 900 page playbook for Trump's second term, Project 2025, which the National Education Association (NEA) called "a sweeping, detailed and dangerous plan to dramatically expand presidential power, gut our system of checks and balances, and pave the way for an extremist right-wing policy agenda" in an October 24 press release issued shortly before the 2024 election. Which Trump won after claiming the Heritage blueprint wasn't related to his agenda.

In the nearly three months since Trump took Office on January 20th, Trump's administration has moved at a breakneck speed to do just what the NEA said the Project 2025 blueprint called for. As billionaire Elon Musk, the world's richest man, has led the effort to gut the workings of the Federal Government, firing tens of thousands of federal employees on dubious grounds, and announcing plans to fire hundreds of thousands more, as head of the Trump created agency the Department of Government Efficiency, or DOGE - after Musk's favor-

ite memecoin. Meanwhile the Trump administration has aggressively undermined the U.S. system of checks and balances, established by the founding fathers, with a flood of Executive Orders that bypass Congress, and with attacks on the judiciary, challenging its authority even as the Administration takes a series of actions experts have widely decried as unconstitutional.

In keeping with Project 2025, Trump's 2025 budget proposal (unveiled earlier this month) calls for the near-total dissolution of the federal Department of Education and the transfer of most responsibilities to states. Critics argue this would weaken national education standards, reduce civil rights enforcement, and create vast disparities in educational access.

Specifically, the NEA estimated that:

- 180,300 teaching jobs, or about 6% of the education workforce, would be slashed.
- 2.8 million students would be negatively impacted by massive funding cuts.
- 800,000+ would lose early learning access due to the planned ending of the popular and successful Head Start program.

Additionally, the NEA warned that:

- Millions of kids would go hungry due to the planned ending of universal free school meals.
- Book bans and censorship would be legalized, constitutionally.
- Legalize discrimination against LGBTQ+ students, and undermine the parental rights same-sex married parents.
- Divert funding from the 90 percent of students in the public schools, to the estimated 10 percent of students in private schools, in the form of school voucher programs being pushed in states with Republican governors and majorities in state legislatures, including in Iowa.

"The implications for students and public schools and the communities that rely on them are disastrous," said Jessica Levin, litigation director at the Education Law Center.

And all at a time when Iowa has been pulling ahead, threatening to undermine the current systems successes.

Iowa's 2024 graduation rate outpaces neighboring South Dakota (84.0%) and Illinois (87.7%), though it lags behind Missouri (90.8%) and Wisconsin (91.1%).

State officials also highlighted improvements in dropout rates. Iowa's annual dropout rate fell to 2.59% in the 2023-24 school year, down from 3.02% in 2022-23, indicating sustained efforts to keep students engaged and enrolled.

Graduation rates are determined using a federal formula based on student-level tracking initiated in ninth grade. These statistics may not be available from the federal government in the future, if the Department of Education is indeed ultimately closed down. Despite national-level upheaval, Iowa continues to use this standardized method to ensure comparability and consistency.

Still, Iowa's Department of Education insists they will persevere. "Together with educators and families, Iowa will continue to provide all students with what they need to meet high expectations and realize their incredible potential," agency Director Snow said.

But whether the kind of data fueling this optimism, or the funding that has fueled the successes behind it, will continue to be available to Iowa students in the future is not clear.

Happenings

Eagle Grove Chapter EJ met Tuesday, March 25th at Vicki Jorgensen's home. Eleven meetings were attended.

After the business meeting, our program was "Off the wall, Off the shelf". Members were asked to bring an item of interest to them.

Many unique items were shown with lots of discussions. Each member brought cake mixes, frostings, and Happy Birthday bags to be distributed by Upper Des Moines.

Lunch was served by Denise Helmick and Vicki Jorgensen.

Woman Found Dead in Eagle Grove; Police Say Death Not Suspicious

By Edward Lynn, Editor

EAGLE GROVE, Iowa — A woman was found dead on her couch in her home in Eagle Grove, prompting a death investigation.

Police dispatch reports showed that the woman was discovered by her husband. Neither has been publicly identified.

Eagle Grove Police Chief Ray Beltran said the death does not appear to be suspicious, and the Iowa Division of Criminal Investigation is not involved at this time. However, the state medical examiner has requested an autopsy, Beltran said.

More information on the investigation will be reported upon as details emerge.

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direct action against policies that are harmful to the people and our country," says Shannon, a local activist who helped build the Iowa offshoot of 50501, The Iowa Coalition.

The message is clear: "50 protests. 50 states. 1 day. Join us in the fight to uphold the Constitution and end executive overreach."

In the United States, the right to protest is protected by the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. This amendment guarantees freedom of speech, peaceful assembly, and the right to petition the government for a redress of grievances.

These protections are fundamental to American democracy, allowing citizens to voice their opinions, advocate for change, and criticize the government without fear of censorship or retaliation. However, Shannon request-

ed only her first name to be used in this article, as she fears retaliation due to her beliefs.

Shannon didn't always see herself as an activist, and maybe still doesn't but "The current political environment has reignited my passion and desire to act", she shared.

After researching general strikes, she stumbled on a Discord thread, where she discovered the 50501 Movement. "One thing led to another, and I became a main organizer for the Iowa Coalition. I'm also involved in the national 50501 Movement," said Shannon.

The movement's first major action on February 5th was a decentralized, grassroots response to what they saw as attacks on democracy. In just days, people organized more than 80 peaceful protests in all 50 states, with no budget, no official back-

ing, just a shared belief in standing up for what they felt was right.

Shannon was also involved in the February 5th protest at the Iowa Statehouse, where participants urged lawmakers to reject Project 2025, a nearly 1,000-page conservative roadmap critics argue threatens personal freedoms. The protest escalated when law enforcement allegedly pushed demonstrators outside, arresting four, including two friends of Shannon's.

Despite the tension, Shannon insisted, "We're about peacefully protesting. All discussions before, during, and since February 5th have emphasized non-violence and not getting arrested."

On March 4th, the group gathered again for "March Forth Against Fascism." Undeterred by rain, they stood drenched and determined. "People stood in the rain for hours, completely soaked," Shannon recalled to The Wright County Monitor.

The theme for the next event on April 5th is Re-

move, Reverse, Reclaim, and will gather together against executive overreach. "The goal is to remove corrupt politicians, reverse the damage from executive overreach, and reclaim our democracy. The reason for wearing red is to reclaim the color," Shannon explained. "We're trying to be a neutral, all-inclusive group because this isn't left versus right—it's up versus down."

The 50501 Movement isn't about party lines, it's about finding common ground. "Not everyone who voted for this administration supports everything they're doing," said Shannon.

As the group continues to speak out, the 50501 Movement and the Iowa offshoot, the Iowa Coalition, is determined to show that the power to protect democracy rests with everyday Americans, including those who call Wright County home, regardless of party affiliation. Their story is a reminder that change starts when people decide to stand up and speak out together.

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String of Violence in Fort Dodge Leaves Two Shot, One Stabbed

\$250 Reward Offered for 'Armed & Dangerous' Suspect

By Edward Lynn, Editor

FORT DODGE, Iowa — Authorities are investigating a series of violent incidents that occurred in Fort Dodge between Thursday evening and early Friday morning, leaving two men hospitalized and one suspect wanted on attempted murder charges.

At approximately 4:06 a.m. Friday, Fort Dodge police responded to a shooting at 1433 Fourth Ave. S., where they found a man with a gunshot wound to the face.

The victim was transported by ambulance to UnityPoint Health — Trinity Regional Medical Center. His injuries are not believed to be life threatening, according to Fort Dodge Police Chief Dennis Quinn.

Arrest warrants have been issued for Dontay B. Diekman, 41, of Fort Dodge. He is charged with attempt to commit murder, a B felony; going armed with intent, a D felony; and possession of a firearm as a felon, also a D felony. Diekman is described by authorities as 5'6" tall, and weighing approximately 220 pounds. He remains at large and according to Quinn is considered armed and dangerous.

"Anyone who knows the whereabouts of Mr. Diekman is urged to contact law enforcement immediately," Quinn stated. A \$250 reward

is being offered by Webster County Crime Stoppers for information leading to Diekman's arrest.

Police say the early morning shooting is not connected to a separate shooting that occurred the previous evening. At about 5:23 p.m. Thursday, officers responded to reports of gunfire in the 400 block of North 10th Street. There, they located a man suffering from a gunshot wound to the leg. He was transported to Trinity Regional Medical Center for treatment. His injuries were not life threatening.

The Thursday shooting remains under investigation. Witnesses were interviewed at the scene, and physical evidence was collected. The Fort Dodge Police Department's Criminal Investigation Division continues to follow leads.

Just two hours after the Friday morning shooting, police were called to yet another violent scene — this time at 6 a.m. in the 400 block of South 16th Street. Officers arrived to find a man with multiple stab wounds near his waistline. The man was treated by Fort Dodge Fire Department paramedics and transported to Trinity Regional Medical Center.

According to Quinn, investigators do not believe the stabbing occurred at the address where the victim was found. Although the locations of the Friday morning shooting and stabbing were only about two blocks apart, and police were on each scene only 2 hours apart, authorities said the incident is not believed to be connected to either of the recent shootings. Thursday night's shooting was roughly

a dozen blocks—an estimated 4 minute drive—from the Friday morning events.

"At this point in time, it is not believed that this incident is related to the two recent shooting investigations in any way," Quinn said in a release.

The Fort Dodge Police Department was assisted in Friday's incidents by the Webster County Sheriff's Office, the Fort Dodge Fire Department, and the Webster County Attorney's Office.

If you have any information about any of these events, you are encouraged to contact the Fort Dodge Police Department at 515-573-1424. Tips may also be submitted through Webster County Crime Stoppers by calling 515-573-1444, visiting www.wccrimestoppers.com, or texting "LEC" and the tip to CRIMES (274637).



41 year old Dontay B. Diekman of Fort Dodge is considered "armed and dangerous," and is wanted for attempted murder and two firearms charges after a Friday shooting that left one man with a gunshot wound to the face. A \$250 reward has been offered for information leading to his arrest. (Photo courtesy of the Fort Dodge Police Department)

Betrayed and Mobilized: Iowa Labor Strikes Back

Unions Slam DOGE cuts, layoffs, 'union busting', attacks on benefits, and child labor

By Edward Lynn, Editor

DES MOINES, Iowa — Iowa labor unions are fighting back against what they describe as a coordinated attack on workers by the Trump administration, Gov. Kim Reynolds, and federal allies of Elon Musk's "DOGE" operation. A series of town halls and rallies is being organized across the state as labor groups aim to hold politicians accountable and defend worker rights.

The Iowa Federation of Labor, AFL-CIO, issued a statement condemning a Trump executive order dismantling federal unions, calling it "a disgusting and underhanded attack on the very union workers he claimed to stand for." The group also criticized the order as "illegal union busting" and emphasized that collective bargaining helps resolve conflicts early, reduces costly litigation, improves retention, boosts

morale, and supports better public service. According to the federation, without union representation, employees—especially whistleblowers and veterans—lose vital protections from retaliation and political interference. They also noted that presidents from both parties, including Reagan, Clinton, Bush, and Obama, upheld the right of federal workers to have union representation.

Labor organizations also expressed outrage over Whirlpool's announcement of 650 layoffs in Amana, despite the company generating \$17 billion in sales last year. The Iowa Federation of Labor highlighted that Iowa lawmakers, with support from Governor Reynolds, had previously passed legislation cutting the number of weeks laid-off workers can receive unemployment benefits.

In Mount Pleasant, labor groups including the Amer-

ican Federation of Government Employees Local 2547 and the Des Moines-Henry County Labor Alliance hosted a town hall at the Veterans Club on March 27. The event allowed residents to share personal experiences regarding federal funding cuts, staffing reductions, and the impacts of illegal firings of federal employees. These messages were collected to be delivered to Congresswoman Mariannette Miller-Meeks, who did not hold a public event during the recent congressional recess. Organizers highlighted that Miller-Meeks has aligned herself with Elon Musk's "DOGE Caucus" and has not opposed illegal terminations of federal workers or efforts to defund, understaff, or privatize essential public services such as Medicaid, Social Security, Veterans Affairs, the USDA, NIH, Department of Education, and the USPS.

A separate rally held on

February 24 outside the Iowa State Capitol drew workers from various sectors. Organized by groups including AFGE, United Steelworkers Local 310, AFSCME Council 61, and building trades unions, the event focused on federal budget freezes, threats to dismantle the United States Postal Service, and broader impacts on infrastructure and public services in Iowa.

Labor leaders are also opposing efforts by the Reynolds administration to further weaken child labor protections. On January 8, representatives from the Economic Policy Institute, United Food and Commercial Workers Local 1846, and the Iowa State Education Association spoke during a public forum against proposed changes that would lower penalties for businesses violating child labor laws. These changes follow earlier legislative actions that reduced

protections for working minors.

Through town halls, rallies, and direct advocacy, Iowa's labor organizations are mobilizing to challenge anti-worker policies at the state and federal level, calling for stronger protections, accountability, and investment in working-class communities.

Congregate Meal Menu:

Monday, April 7

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

Wednesday, April 9

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

Friday, April 11

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

CENTRUM from page 1A

"Caring for our team and providing a safe work environment are always our priorities," Mitchell wrote on behalf of Centrum. "We treat every individual on our team with respect at all times." But Mitchell declined to respond to questions about whether that statement referred to the alleged actions by managers, or the act of making the claims by workers.

Plaintiff Kenny Augusto Tetzaguic Lux, who worked at the facility from 2016 until his termination in 2024, alleges he was fired in retaliation for raising concerns. The company cited a violation of "Guiding Principles and/or Core Values" in his termination notice.

The company denied the allegations made in the suit, stating that related complaints were investigated at the time, with some deemed unfounded and others unverified. But questions about which specific complaints were investigated, who conducted those investigations,

and what standards were used to deem them unfounded went unanswered.

Questions about the use of assumed names in hiring to skirt immigration laws, and Cornejo's immigration status also went unanswered. However Mitchell did respond to say that "all Centrum Valley Farms team members are E-Verified as eligible to work."

In response to one allegation seemingly backed up by photographic evidence — that a manager brought a firearm to the facility — the company claims the item in question was a BB gun, used during a USDA-coordinated pest control effort related to the avian influenza outbreak. The plaintiffs allege it was used to intimidate them.

Centrum has not directly addressed several other follow-up questions posed by The Eagle, including inquiries about internal disciplinary actions, and whether any of the accused managers remain employed, and if any had been promoted or de-

moted. However, Mitchell had said in her initial email that, "We have the highest confidence in our leaders at Centrum Valley Farms and trust that this situation was managed both fairly and appropriately."

The Eagle also asked whether plaintiff Kenny Lux's reprimand for "insubordination" was connected to his prior complaint about supervisor Jose Cornejo, and whether that disciplinary action was reviewed internally.

The Eagle further re-

quested information about what protective gear is provided to workers handling pesticides. Mitchell didn't answer that question directly, but did comment on Centrum's behalf that "our farm follows the regulatory guidance of and complies with all state and federal requirements of OSHA, FDA, USDA and other government agencies."

The Eagle continues to seek answers to detailed questions submitted to the company. The lawsuit remains pending.



Eagle Grove Community School District

-MENU-

Monday, April 7

BREAKFAST: Breakfast Bagel, Hashbrown, Fruit, Juice

LUNCH: Chicken Tenders, Loaded Mashed Potatoes, Green Beans, Mixed Fruit, Bread & Butter

Tuesday, April 8

BREAKFAST: Donut, Yogurt, Fruit, Juice

LUNCH: Burrito Bowl with Rice, Black Beans, Lettuce, Cheese, Tomato, Fruit Cup

Wednesday, April 9

BREAKFAST: Cereal, Pumpkin Chocolate Chip Muffin, Fruit, Juice

LUNCH: Cheeseburger, Potato Salad, Baked Beans, Pears

Thursday, April 10

BREAKFAST: Biscuits & Gravy, Fruit, Juice

LUNCH: Pizza Crunchers, Corn, Salad, Peaches

Friday, April 11

BREAKFAST: Cereal, Straw Boli, Fruit, Juice

LUNCH: Fish Sandwich, Scalloped Potatoes, Buttered Carrots, Cinnamon Apples

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.

EAGLE GROVE EAGLE

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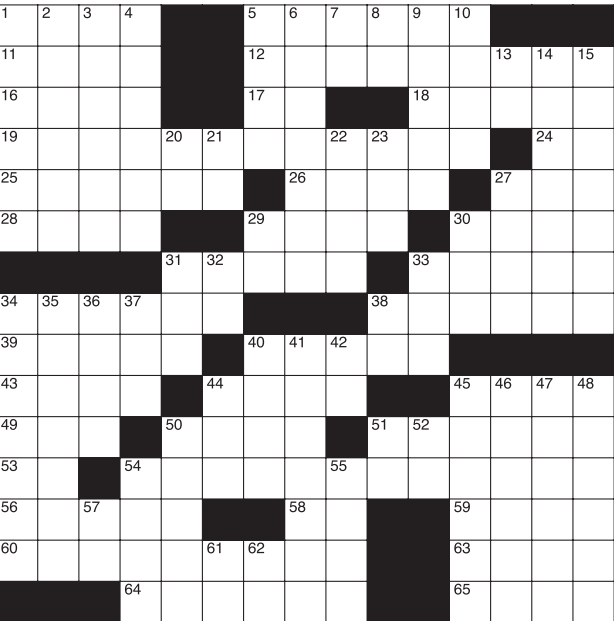
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111 Ext Custom Print Department

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THANK YOU FOR YOUR BUSINESS



- CLUES ACROSS
1. Narrow piece of wood

5. African desert

11. Waxy covering on birds’ beaks

12. Sour

16. Infrequent

17. Former AL MVP Vaughn

18. Policemen wear one

19. Out of the question

24. Used to chop

25. Symptoms

26. Not moving

27. Folk singer DiFranco

28. Comedian Arminen

29. Quantitative fact

30. Incline from vertical

31. Scottish musician

33. Rooney and Kate are two

34. Positioned

38. A very short time

39. Tropical American shrubs

40. Yemen capital

43. Spanish municipality

44. Medical professionals

45. Fibrous material

49. Confined condition (abbr.)

50. Without covering

51. “Mad Men” honcho Don

53. Hockey position

54. Taste property

56. Fertile spots in a desert

58. They precede C

59. “Requiem for a Dream” actor Jared

60. Try a criminal case

63. Liberal rights organization

64. Spoke

65. Insect repellent

- CLUES DOWN
1. Unshaven facial hair

2. More thin

3. Show up

4. Seethed

5. Ancient Greek city

6. Poisonous plant

7. Hello

8. College sports official

9. Monetary unit of Russia

10. Wings

13. Take too much of a substance

14. A citizen of Uganda

15. Most appealing

20. Atomic #18

21. Global investment bank (abbr.)

22. Jewish calendar month

23. Popular sandwich

27. Swiss river

29. Incorrect letters

30. Popular entree

31. Foot (Latin)

32. A driver’s license is one form

33. Extinct flightless bird

34. Appetizer

35. After battles

36. It neutralizes alkalis

37. Beverage container

38. Partner to “Pa”

40. Gray American rail

41. Salt of acetic acid

42. Canadian province

44. Dish made with lentils

45. Narrative poem of popular origin

46. For each one

47. Come to terms

48. Test

50. More dishonorable

51. Unit of loudness

52. The Ocean State

54. Monetary unit in Mexico

55. Lying down

57. Thus

61. Where LA is located

62. Western State

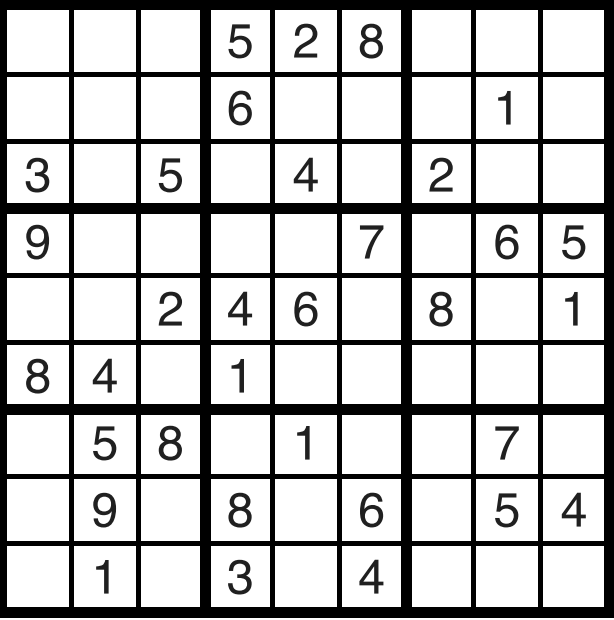
Solutions can be found on the Classified page

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

DISTRACTED WORD SEARCH

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

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

- ACTIVITY
- ATTENTION
- COGNITIVE
- CRASH
- DANGEROUS
- DISTRACTED
- DRIVER
- DROWSY
- EATING
- HIGHWAY
- INJURY
- MANUAL
- NOISY
- PASSENGER
- RADIO
- READING
- SAFETY
- SPEED
- TALKING
- TEXTING
- VEHICLE
- VISUAL

Consumer Connection: Hail Claims

By Sonya Sellmeyer,
Consumer Advocacy
Officer for the Iowa
Insurance Division

Hailstorms can cause significant damage to homes, vehicles, and other property, leading to costly repairs. Understanding how to handle an insurance claim after a hail storm can make the process smoother. Taking preventive measures can help mitigate future damage and reduce potential losses.

After a hailstorm and when it is safe, inspect your property. Look for signs of damage to your roof, siding, windows, and outdoor structures. Look for interior damage due to leaks. Hail can also dent vehicles and damage landscaping. Mitigate further damage by using tarps, covering any broken windows or other openings to your home.

Understand your insurance coverage before filing a claim. If the damage appears

to be over your deductible, contact your insurance agent or company to file a claim. Policies may have exclusions or specific deductibles for hail damage, and claim filing deadlines. Take photos and videos of the affected areas.

Provide the insurance company with a detailed description of the damage, along with the photographs and videos. The company will guide you through the claims process and may send an adjuster to inspect the property. If you purchased items such as tarps to mitigate further damage, save receipts so you may be reimbursed later.

Be present while the insurance adjuster assesses the damage, and point out all affected areas. It is advisable to seek estimates from at least two registered contractors for repair costs. Working with a contractor you know and trust is ideal, and always check the online reviews and references of any contrac-

tor you hire. Be cautious of fraudulent contractors who appear after storms, as they may not have your best interests in mind.

Once the adjuster completes their report, your insurance company will provide you with the claims settlement based on the terms of the policy and the covered loss. Review it carefully and negotiate using the contractors’ estimate which will be for any damage they discover. There may be differences between these two estimates. Only the insured, an attorney, or a licensed public adjuster can negotiate on behalf of the insured. Once you agree on a settlement, proceed with the repairs. You may be responsible for damages the insurance company has not agreed to.

Taking proactive measures can help minimize future damage from hailstorms. Upgrading to Class 4 impact-resistant shingles can

significantly reduce the risk of roof damage and may also qualify for insurance discounts.

Regular maintenance, such as inspecting and repairing loose shingles and cleaning gutters, helps prevent water damage caused by hailstorms. Ensure trees are properly pruned to prevent limbs from causing additional damage during storms.

Whenever possible, park vehicles in a garage. Store patio furniture, grills, and other outdoor equipment to prevent damage.

By promptly assessing hail damage, understanding your policy, and working with reputable contractors, you can navigate a hail claim efficiently. Additionally, taking proactive measures can help mitigate future hail damage. By being prepared, homeowners can better protect their investments and minimize the impact of severe weather events.

Iowa educators ‘relieved’ at latest court block on school book ban

Some districts won’t replace books removed under 2023 law

By Zach Sommers

Iowa’s education representatives say they are relieved that, at least for now, teachers and librarians don’t have to fear being fired under state law if they make a wrong decision about which books to keep on school shelves.

A judge last week placed a preliminary injunction against part of Senate File 496. The law, which the Iowa Legislature passed in 2023, prohibits school libraries from providing books deemed not age appropriate and primarily focuses on any book that includes “sex acts.”

Christy Hickman, general counsel for the Iowa State Education Association and representing ISEA as a plaintiff, said she was “incredibly relieved for our members.” Those members include educators at all levels. Teachers now “wouldn’t have to be concerned about their employment or their licensure being in jeopardy in the event they didn’t interpret this incredibly vague law incorrectly,” she said.

Some school districts, however, won’t be quick to change internal guidance on the law. “Given the number

of injunctions and appeals, Southeast Polk is not taking any additional action with books at this time,” Jeanie Christenson, community relations coordinator at Southeast Polk Community School District, said. “We have not yet returned any of the removed titles to shelves, and we will continue to monitor legal developments.”

Federal District Judge Stephen Locher, in the Southern District of Iowa, had placed an injunction on SF 496 before, but the State of Iowa appealed to the Court of Appeals for the Eight Circuit. The appeals court ruled Locher had not performed the correct “analysis” on the case and sent it back to Locher’s court. This time, Locher’s analysis weighed the unconstitutional applications of the law against the constitutional ones, which in his ruling he admitted is “hard to do” for this case.

Still, Locher ruled “the law has been unconstitutionally applied in dozens (if not hundreds) of situations and constitutionally applied in one.”

Locher wrote in his ruling that the law “places the burden on local school districts

and school officials to determine whether a book is permitted” and that “this is the whole point of the law’s penalty provisions: local officials and districts are subject to punishment if they get it wrong.”

The law put educators in a “precarious state ... by passing this bill and not giving them a lot of direction about how to carry it out,” Hickman said. “I don’t even know where I would start to explain the heaviness of that.”

A student plaintiff in the lawsuit calls the injunction a “huge step in the right direction.” Grace Van Gundy, a senior at Urbandale High School, and the only student in the lawsuit, said she wants her fellow students “to feel reassured about the injunction and remember that there are still government officials looking out for our best interests—even if it doesn’t always feel like it.”

She said the decision “solidifies the importance of education and that proves we will not tolerate attempts at censorship.”

Despite the ruling, Van Gundy believes that “there is still work to do. The fight is

not over.”

Locher’s preliminary injunction could once again be appealed to the Eighth Circuit based on the new analysis of the law. Hickman said she expects the state will appeal.

If that’s the case, she said the appeals court will have “a very, very extensive decision with analysis of multiple different (legal) tests, so the Eighth Circuit will have a very fair record to make a final determination,” Hickman said.

Iowa Attorney General Brenna Bird in a statement alluded to the state taking this case further and wrote in part, “This common sense law makes certain that the books kids have access to in school classrooms and libraries are age-appropriate. I’m going to keep on fighting to uphold our law that protects schoolchildren and parental rights.”

SF 496 also prohibits the instruction of sexual orientation and gender identity in K-6 curriculum. Iowa Safe Schools has filed a lawsuit against that part of the law. Locher is expected to also rule on that case.

Iowa Senate Education Committee OKs bill to change anti-bullying code

By Brooklyn Draisey

The Iowa Senate Education Committee approved legislation Monday to change state law defining bullying in schools, keeping it alive ahead of this week’s committee deadline.

The panel also sent five other bills to the Senate floor dealing with topics ranging from national guard scholarships to attendance policies. The anti-bullying legislation was the only bill that did not receive unanimous support during the meeting.

House File 865 would redefine “harassment” and “bullying” as “repeated and targeted” actions. The bill removes from current law a list of 17 traits or characteristics of a targeted student that would fall under bullying, including gender identity, sexuality, race, political belief and familial status.

Sen. Sandy Salmon, R-Janesville, said schools have used the current list of possible traits and characteristics to say their hands are tied when instances of bullying have not fallen under what is in Iowa code, leading to confusion and unequal treatment of students.

“These changes to the law ensure that all students are protected no matter what their particular traits or char-

acteristics are,” Salmon said. “This removes any confusion schools may have about what constitutes bullying, and simplifies and clarifies the issue.”

Sen. Sarah Trone Garriott, D-West Des Moines, voiced two concerns over the legislation, the first with changing the definitions of bullying and harassment.

“That’s a problem for me, because we should have a zero tolerance policy on bullying of any kind in our schools,” Trone Garriott said. “That’s the concern I hear from parents, is that schools are not taking bullying seriously and they’re not reporting it.”

Trone Garriott also took issue with removing the list of characteristics for schools to look toward for reporting bullying. She said the list is broad and not limiting for schools, and being able to identify specifically what the bullying is about is helpful for school response and for research into larger trends.

While Sen. Mike Zimmer, D-DeWitt, agreed with Trone Garriott’s point about specified characteristics being a good resource for schools, he said defining bullying as being targeted and repeated would be helpful in allowing school staff to take the direction of their interventions

with students that makes the most sense for the situation.

The bill passed with a vote of 11-5.

This was the committee’s first meeting since the week of the first “funnel” deadline in the Iowa Legislature on March 7, with the second funnel only days away. Most policy bills have to receive approval from one chamber and a committee in the opposite chamber to remain eligible for debate after this week. Budget and tax bills are exempt from the funnel and bills that do not make the deadline could be revived as amendments to other bills.

More education action

Most of the bills passed out of the committee Monday saw no dissent from members.

Bills passed unanimously without discussion included House File 117, which would establish a new scholarship program for National Guard members earning certification rather than a degree and House File 392, allowing public and nonpublic schools grades K-12 to apply for a year-round academic calendar.

Zimmer expressed his support for House File 393, also passed unanimously, which would change how performance grades for attendance

centers are calculated by no longer counting instances where a student has dropped out then came back to school more than once.

Trone Garriott also raised concerns about House File 870, but voted for it alongside the rest of the members. She said she worried the legislation, which would change Iowa’s compulsory attendance law to include exemptions for students attending religious instruction, is duplicative as there are already religious exemptions for teaching in Iowa code.

Several bills deferred

Sen. Lynn Evans, chair of the education committee, said three bills were deferred and would likely be brought up again at the committee’s Thursday meeting.

Senate File 269, passed out of subcommittee just hours before, would bar state universities from requiring diversity, equity and inclusion or critical race theory content in academic courses. House File 703 would change information provided to students by state loan programs and financial aid advisors and House File 189 would set requirements for public school districts with nonpublic school students wishing to participate in extracurricular athletics.

Letter to the Editor

Join Me at Nonpartisan Protest in Des Moines This Saturday

I'm sure a lot of you have noticed that things are changing rather rapidly with our country and the government. Many people aren't as aware, due to being busy with their lives, which is understandable. I would encourage everyone to try to inform themselves about current events and make it a point to find sources that aren't necessarily going to confirm what you already believe.

On April 5, there will be rallies in all 50 states, in all 50 state capitals on one day. That is the purpose of the 50501 Movement. It is a decentralized organization with members in every state, organizing their own direct actions. I happen to be one of those people.

We have been talking to a lot of people who voted for the current administra-

tion, but are disappointed and concerned that they did not vote for what is actually happening.

We are inviting like-minded people of all political persuasions to join us on Saturday, April 5 in a mass mobilization event to demonstrate our opposition.

If you do not agree with the current direction the government is taking us, there are many ways you can get involved. Join us in the fight to uphold the Constitution and end executive overreach. You can email us for more information at Iowacoalition@protonmail.com or you can check out our website iowacoalition.org Look up more information on the national website www.fiftyfiftyone.com including our mission and values.

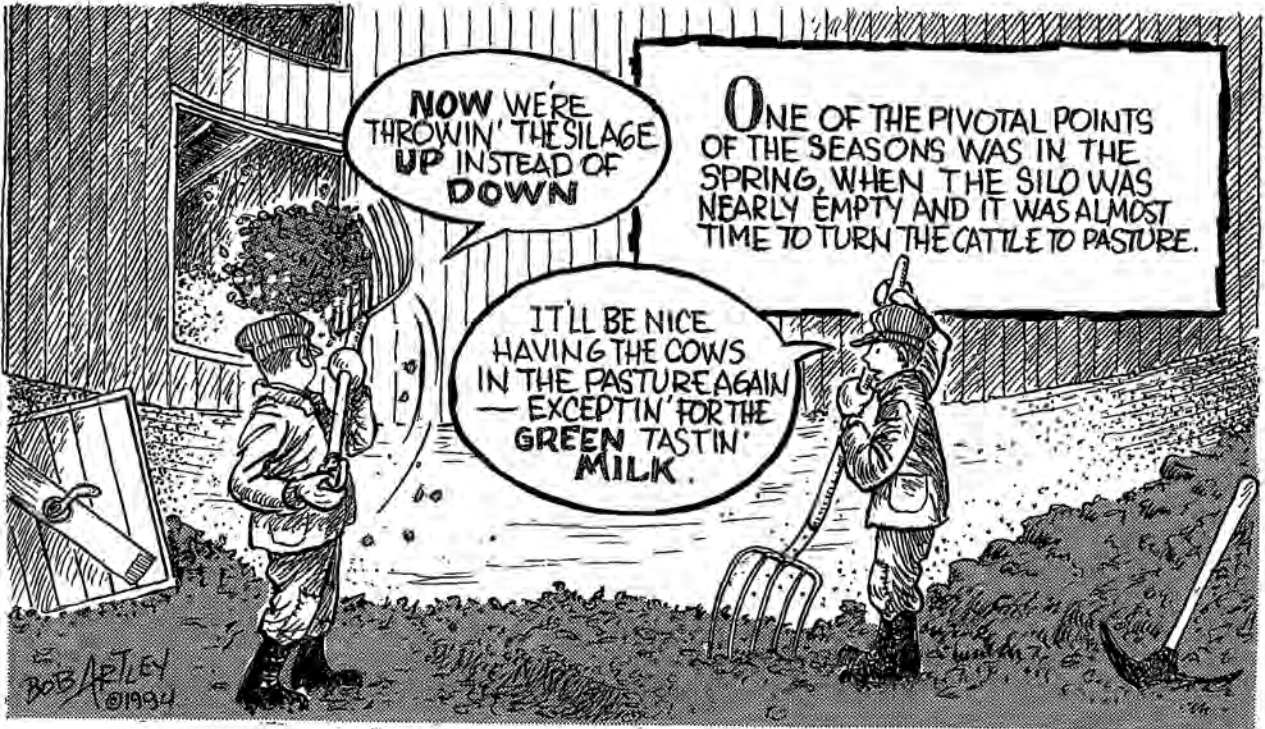
Shannon, Clarion



During the eleventh week of the session we had subcommittees on House bills and floor debate on Senate bills as we deal with our second deadline for legislation coming April 4.

House File 782 is the Governor's proposal on cell phones in schools. It requires schools to adopt policies that regulate and restrict cell phone use by students during school hours and in the classroom. Cell phones and social media provide a number of distractions throughout the day and take away focus from what is going on in the classroom. I have heard many times from teachers that cell phones distract students from the lessons being taught. I think that school time should be as free from distractions as we can make it.

We also passed Senate File 507, which prohibits city and county governments from engaging in diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) activities unless directed by state or federal law and eliminates practices that encourage treating people differently based on certain characteristics. I remember a couple of years ago removing these requirements from membership on state boards because some boards had so many women on them that we could not consider any new female applicants. Everybody should be treated with respect and dignity, and when hiring, we should be focused on finding the best, most qualified people for those roles. Iowans want their local governments to be focused on providing services effectively and efficiently. This bill ensures city and county governments are hiring people based on merit and



State lawmakers are making counties mislead you about property taxes

Ed Tibbetts,
Iowa Capital Dispatch

Iowa's 99 counties are spending your money to mislead you about property taxes. But don't blame the people at your county courthouse. The Iowa Legislature is forcing them to do it.

Over the past week, Iowans across the state received taxpayer-funded mailings that

distorted the reality of property taxes in this state.

Last week, I got my state-mandated property tax notice from the Scott County auditor, and it informed me that if a \$100,000 home went up 10% in assessed value, the taxes imposed by my county for this fall and next spring would rise 12.3%.

But my property value

didn't go up 10% last year. It didn't change. I'm sure this is the same for most people. Why? Because 2024 wasn't a reassessment year. These occur in odd-numbered years. The local assessor's offices in this county have said only a small percentage of parcels (about 10-15%) were updated last spring. Many of those that did see

changes were due to new construction.

In other words, the 10% scenario described in the mailing isn't based in reality.

Yet, Scott County taxpayers are being forced to spend thousands of dollars to spread this fairy tale.

See **PROPERTY TAXES: Page 7A**



Those who own property in Iowa received their school, county and city budget year statement notices with estimated taxes. The statements are not clearly showing our estimated taxes. I was on a subcommittee in which we discussed simplifying these statements. In an effort to make it easier to understand, **Iowans for Tax Relief** created a property tax calculator to show how these budget changes will affect your property taxes. There is a short video explaining how to find and input your specific data into the calculator. The ITR website has some valuable information for county taxes, school levies, county and city debts and comparing all to statewide averages. I encourage you to review their statistics for your city and county compared to the statewide average. <https://itrlocal.org>

What most see on the news regarding floor debate, and proposed legislation often appear partisan within the House chamber. Below are the weekly and ongoing statistics on the bills regarding unanimous, bipartisan, or party line votes. You can see we agree on more than what most see on the news.

Weekly Bill Tally
Unanimous: 18
Bipartisan: 19
Party Line: 11

Ongoing Bill Vote
Unanimous: 86
Bipartisan: 64
Party Line: 31

Bills this Week
Senate File 615- Work Requirements for Medicaid Expansion

The majority in both the Senate and the House believe that able-bodied Iowans on Medicaid who can work should do so. Medicaid is an important program that was created to provide health insurance for the most vulnerable populations. In order for this program to remain available for the Iowans who really need it, there must be some reasonable guard rails in place. Below are the facts of those exempt from the work requirements.

It also contains many exemptions to ensure those who can't seek work for legitimate reasons don't lose

their benefits. Those exemptions include:

- Those under 19 years old and those over 64 years old
- Disabled individuals as determined by Social Security
- Medically frail or medically exempt individuals
- Caretakers of dependent children under 6 years old
- High risk pregnant women
- Those receiving unemployment
- Participants in substance abuse treatment
- A good cause as determined by the director of DHHS ensuring there is room for additional common sense exemptions

This bill allows DHHS the flexibility to determine what qualifies as work to include education, job skills training, or caregiving services.

Refocusing SNAP Benefits on Nutritious Foods- HF 970

The passage of this bill changes what foods are eligible to be bought with SNAP dollars, funded by the Iowa taxpayers. In order to achieve this, the Department of Health and Human Services must apply for a waiver from the federal government. SNAP stands for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.

- According to a 2016 USDA study of foods purchased with SNAP funds, 20 cents of every dollar was spent on sweetened beverages, desserts, salty snacks, candy and sugar.
- In the same report, sweetened beverages made up the 2nd most purchased category and prepared desserts was the 5th most purchased category.

Iowa currently ranks 11th in the nation for adult obesity, a condition linked to high blood pressure, diabetes, heart disease, and several types of cancers. Under the current system, taxpayers are funding Iowans' bad eating habits and, in many cases, the resulting health care issues through Medicaid. This bill incentivizes better eating habits. It doesn't ban anyone from purchasing pop, candy or chips with their own money, but it does limit their ability to purchase those items with taxpayer dollars.

Personal Note: We live

in a state with some of the richest and most fertile land in the nation. Our land can grow products that can go from Farm to Table. I have had advocates helping me understand how this can work. Choose Iowa is a program which could be used to help get farm-fresh, healthy foods to Iowans. Check out their website: <https://www.chooseiowa.com/>

Enhancing Election Security -HF 928 & HF 954

One area we have known needs improvement in our election system is the way we conduct recounts. This week, we passed a bill to establish a uniform, fair, and common-sense system for conducting recounts in Iowa elections. Currently there is no limit to when a candidate can request a recount even though recounts have shown to yield minimal vote changes. Frivolous requests are a waste of time and resources. This bill sets a threshold for requesting a recount.

House File 954 also passed regarding election integrity. Recently, our Secretary of State announced that he had found 277 noncitizens on Iowa's voter rolls. Of those, 40 attempted to cast ballots in the 2024 election and 35 successfully had their vote counted, despite being an ineligible voter. This bill aims to ensure that every voter in Iowa's elections are US citizens by cleaning the current voter rolls and verify the citizenship status of voters in advance of Election Day. Anyone registering to vote will be notified in advance if there is an issue, giving any US Citizen time to correct an error. Additionally, this bill raises the threshold to become a political party to 3 consecutive statewide elections receiving 2% of the vote and bans ranked choice voting.

Protecting Landowners from Eminent Domain Abuse - HF 943 & HF 639

For many in our caucus, there is nothing we have heard louder or more clearly than the call from landowners to protect their private property rights from eminent domain abuse by CO2 pipeline projects. This week we passed two bills containing policies to provide those

protections. This is not about opposing the pipelines, but about opposing the use of eminent domain to construct the pipelines. Pipeline companies should not be able to use the heavy hand of government to abuse landowner rights for private gain.

House File 639 contains a number of policies aimed at protecting landowners, including:

- Requires hazardous liquid pipelines to have insurance to cover potential damage, including injury and property value reduction.
- States that if individuals face increased insurance, or are unable to get insurance, due to the pipeline, the pipeline owner must provide insurance or reimburse the individual for additional costs.
- Provides stronger safeguards to ensure that only legitimate public uses are recognized to request eminent domain.
- Mandates that all members of the Iowa Utilities Commission must be present during hearings related to public utility regulation, electric transmission lines, and pipelines.

Distracted Driving - SF 22

We all know the dangerous distraction our phones can be. We have all seen drivers driving down the road distracted by their cell phones, endangering themselves and others.

Currently, Iowa law prohibits texting and driving. But there are many other reasons drivers may be using their phone. In addition to being completely unsafe, this makes the texting and driving law almost entirely unenforceable for Iowa law enforcement. This bill changes Iowa's texting-while-driving ban into a ban on using electronic devices while driving. Drivers can use their device hands-free.

There are a number of common sense and necessary exemptions to the ban. If a driver violates this law, they are guilty of a simple misdemeanor, must pay a \$100 fine, and it would be considered a moving violation.

Law enforcement officers are to issue warnings to anyone in violation of this law from July 1 until January 1st, 2026. **Beginning on January 1, 2026 Law enforcement will be issuing tickets.**

Of the over 300 bills that are eligible to come to the floor for debate, we still have many to complete. Bills from the Senate are added to that total. We continue to get as many done as possible.

Send us your new address *before* you move...

...so your subscription isn't interrupted.

Wright County Courthouse

Eagle Grove Police Report

Births

Violet Renee Van Lent, was born on March 17, 2025, to Alexis and Joshua Van Lent of Nora Springs.

Bryson Maddox Johnstone was born on March 18, 2025, to Brianna Zavala of Hampton.

Letty Rose Ann Gansen was born on March 18, 2025, to Rachelle Jones of Mason City.

Hunter James Thilges was born on March 18, 2025, to Shelby and Derek Thilges of Buffalo Center.

Lucille Kay Thury was born on March 18, 2025, to Kala and Elias Thury of Eagle Grove.

Hudson Keel Maggard was born on March 19, 2025, to Miranda and Cody Maggard of Humboldt.

Lola Paige Kopen was born on March 19, 2025, to Mikaela and Andrew Kopen of Clear Lake.

Liam James Erdmann was born on March 20, 2025, to Nicole and Steven Erdmann of Clear Lake.

Benjamin Eoin Kelley was born on March 20, 2025, to Kathryn Kelley of Mason City.

Bowden David Boothby was born on March 20, 2025, to Jenna and Michael Boothby of Clarion.

Xander Josue Mendez Diaz was born on March 20, 2025, to Leidy Diaz Mendez and Jose Mendez Mendez of Webster City.

Lila Quinn Agnas Johns was born on March 20, 2025, to Marie Grace and Seth Johnson of Belmond.

Enzo David Hall was born on March 21, 2025, to Gabrielle and Jake Hall of Mason City.

Anderson Gabriel Wigui Otoyoy was born on March 21, 2025, to Milvian Otoyoy Garcia and Wilmer Wigui Lopez of Clarion.

Spencer Lee Anthony was born on March 22, 2025, to Calli Tibodeau of Forest City.

Harper Lynn Skuster was born on March 23, 2025, to Alexandra and Joshua Skuster of Rudd.

Deaths

Larry Dean Hansen, born on June 11, 1939, passed away on March 25, 2025, at the age of 85 from Clarion.

Keith Leonard Kramer, born on November 17, 1951, passed away on March 25, 2025, at the age of 73 from Ackley.

Property Transfers

Warranty deed - town lot: First State Bank to Rothman Alexander W - Clar Eastman's Addn Blk 22 lots 1 & 2; 25-482.

Warranty deed - town lot: Tech Pointe Management LLC to Elevate Business LLC - Clar Railroad Addn Blk 5 lots 11 & 12, Clar McKay's Addn Blk 3 lots 1 & 2, Larue, Keith 00014534004649483; 25-486.

Others - town lot deeds: Jahnke Carol A Executor, Jahnke Leonard M Estate, Jahnke Leonard, to Jahnke Carol A - EG Hewett's Park Addn Blk 15 lots 17 & 18, Jahnke, Carol A 000013261004650347 Court officer deed; 25-488.

Warranty deed - town lot: Plymouth Creek LLC to Iat 111 LLC - EG Hewett's Park Addn Lot 27 Tract South & Adjacent; 25-490. Related Documents: 25-521 01-005, others-land deeds.

Quit claim deed - town lot: VanderLinden Gerrit Joseph, VanderLinden Amy Nicole, to VanderLinden Stephen Paul, VanderLinden Joanne - EG Parkview Addn Lot 7; 25-492.

Quit claim deed - town lot: Giese Barbara A, Giese Barbara A Revocable Trust to Barbara A Giese Revocable Trust - EG Edgewood Addn Blk 1 lots 6 N 54' & 7 S 11'; 25-495.

Quit claim deed - town lot: PNI Real Estate Holding Company LLC to Pritchards of Belmond Real Estate LLC - Belm Orig Addn Blk 10 lots 4 Except W 2.5' and Part Alley, 3 W 30.1' and Part Alley, 6 and Part Alley, 7, Lot 5 Except Tract and Part Alley, Belm Orig Addn Blk 22 Tract, 3364532_0 3364532_0_1; 25-496.

Warranty deed - town lot: A and C Investments LLC to JW Efficiencies LLC - Belm Orig Addn Blk 24 Lot 6 Except S 16 1/2'; 25-499.

Warranty deed - land deeds: Hill Joyce E to Morgan Laine E - 27-91-26 SW S 35' Lot 13 NW 1/4, EG Hewett's Park Addn Blk 1 lots 17 S 35' OF N 70' & 16 E 10' OF N 70', Morgan 906594 000012148004654419; 25-506.

Others - land deeds: Threlkeld Dennis J Estate, Threlkeld Dennis J, McKee Sue Executor, Threlkeld Rebecca Executor to McKee Sue - 12-90-25 NE S 1/2, Court officer deed; 25-513.

Others - land deeds: Threlkeld Dennis J Estate, Threlkeld Dennis J, McKee Sue Executor, Threlkeld Rebecca Executor to Threlkeld Rebecca - 12-90-25 NE S 1/2, Court officer deed; 25-514.

Small Claims

TD Bank USA, N.A. v. Alexandria Braakisma, judgment for the plaintiff in the amount of \$1,015.44 plus \$174.00 in court costs, and interest at 6.02% from 2-11-25.

Hauge Associates, Inc. v. Scott Krueger, judgment for the plaintiff in the amount of \$683.55 plus \$95.00 in court costs, and interest at 7.22% from 2-11-25.

Tickets

Christan Amilcar Pastorcac of Eagle Grove, IA, dark window or windshield.

Christan Amilcar Pastorcac of Eagle Grove, IA, no valid drivers license.

Christian Amilcar Pastorcac of Eagle Grove, IA, failure to provide proof of financial liability.

Michael Patrick Mugan of Tavares, FL, maximum gross weight violation – 5001 to 6000.

Jesus Valenzuela Lopez of Clarion, IA, no valid drivers license.

Alec Jacob Amonson of Eagle Grove, IA, speeding 55 or under zone (11 thru 15 over).

Jeremy David Toomsen of Renwick, IA, speeding 55 or under zone (16 thru 20 over).

Nury Waleska Rivera Rodriguez of Belmond, IA, speeding 55 or under zone (21 or over).

Melissa Keyli Navas Ortiz of Eagle Grove, IA, no valid drivers license.

Edna Barbara Aleman Gonzalez of Webster City, IA, speeding 55 or under zone (11 thru 15 over).

Antonio Espiridion Vazquez of Des Moines, IA, speeding 55 or under zone (11 thru 15 over).

Maria Ramos of Dows, IA, no valid drivers license.

Abdalla Mohamed Amin of West Chester, PA, fail to change lane upon approach to EmergenC.

Henry William Retleff of Cherokee, IA, speeding 55 or under zone (11 thru 15 over).

Tulip Ann Pertuis of Klemme, IA, permitting unauthorized person to drive.

Tulip Ann Pertuis of Klemme, IA, permitting unauthorized person to drive.

Ricardo Ochoa of Omaha, NE, speeding over 55 zone (6 thru 10 over).

Paul Maurice buns of Woden, IA, failure to maintain or use safety belts – Adu.

Merlin Dean Anderson of Corwith, IA, speeding 55 or under zone (1 thru 5 over).

Peter Edmund Carlson of Minneapolis, MN, speeding 55 or under zone (1 thru 5 over).

Keilani Venegas Alvarez of Denver, CO, speeding 55 or under zone (11 thru 15 over).

Mercedes Velasquez DeLeon of Clarion, IA, permitting unauthorized person to drive.

Jamie Michael Perfilio of Nashville, TN, speeding 55 or under zone (1 thru 5 over).

Tanner J Schwichtenberg of Galt, IA, window tint.

Constantino Cruz Barra-das of Goodell, IA, no valid drivers license.

Maria de Lourdes Lopez Matul of Clarion, IA, permitting unauthorized person to drive.

Tulip Ann Pertuis of Klemme, IA, permitting unauthorized person to drive.

Laura Dicke of Eagle Grove, IA, excessive speed 6 thru 10.

Sonia Acosta Flores of Clarion, IA, failure to have valid Licenseor permit while.

Oscar Atz Garcia of Clarion, IA, failure to have valid Licenseor permit while.

Rene Mendoza Contreras of Eagle Grove, IA, failure to have valid Licenseor permit while.

Candace Zoe Hardin of Spirit Lake, IA, excessive speed 6 thru 10.

Adrian Cooper Askelson of Badger, IA, excessive acceleration.

Christan Amilcar Pastorcac of Eagle Grove, IA, reckless driving.

Criminal

State of Iowa vs Calles Garcia, Robin, serious misdemeanor possession of controlled substance – marijuana 1st offense. Defendant received a deferred judgment and was assessed a civil penalty of \$430, and placed on probation for 1 year.

March 20

8:59 AM: Occupied vehicle in the 100 block of 2nd ST NE. A Van Diest semi was parked in front of the AGP scale with flat tires; help was en route.

11:03 AM: Return call requested.

11:53 AM: Unoccupied vehicle reported in Eagle Grove. Caller from SGI Towing reported a vehicle towed from a school lot and wanted ownership information.

3:06 PM: Return call requested from EGPD regarding a police report.

3:50 PM: Return call requested Caller mentioned having some free calendars.

7:29 PM: Information reported in the 200 block of S Lincoln. Caller had issues parking a camper in their driveway and temporarily parked it in the north side of the Hewitt Park church lot.

10:08 PM: Traffic stop at the intersection of Jackson and SE 2nd.

10:35 PM: Traffic stop in the First State Bank parking lot.

10:58 PM: Parking violations reported on West Broadway.

11:37 PM: Return call requested from Eagle Grove. Caller spoke Spanish and wanted to talk to an officer.

March 21

1:07 AM: Assistance requested in the 700 block of N Cadwell. A caller stated a female in need of help was dropped off by a train conductor. Caller confirmed the situation was not medical but asked for a police officer.

4:11 AM: Parking violations reported on W Broadway ST.

4:20 AM: Parking violations reported on S Park Ave.

7:05 AM: Violation of protective order in the 500 block of N Lincoln. Caller received a threatening call from an unknown number.

8:45 AM: Traffic stop at the intersection of Jackson and SE 3rd.

11:03 AM: Violation of protective order at EGPD.

12:14 PM: Return call requested from the elementary school. Principal wanted to speak to an officer about a student-related situation.

2:00 PM: Accident at the intersection of Jackson and SE 5th ST. Two-vehicle accident involving a black Escape and another black vehicle; no injuries.

3:48 PM: Driving complaint in the area of NW 4th ST and Nickellane. Caller reported a car and SUV tearing up grass in an empty lot near the football field. A white car was stuck and three individuals were present.

4:30 PM: Return call requested from the 400 block of S Lucas. Caller needed to discuss a newly assigned case with an officer.

March 22

1:51 AM: Parking violations reported on Hewetts Ave.

7:48 AM: Death investigation in Eagle Grove. Caller came home and found their 60-year-old wife unresponsive on the couch with signs of death.

9:14 AM: Return call requested from the 1300 block of S Middelton. Caller had questions about a firearm turned in approximately three months earlier and requested a call back.

6:58 PM: Occupied vehicle on Hwy 17 near 240th.

7:53 PM: Traffic stop in the 300 block of N Wright Ave.

8:15 PM: Traffic stop in the 600 block of S Commercial.

9:13 PM: Traffic stop at the intersection of 255th and Hwy 17.

11:13 PM: Loud music complaint in the 800 block of N Montgomery.

11:39 PM: Officer-initiated case in Eagle Grove.

March 23

2:05 AM: Traffic stop in the 300 block of NW 3rd ST.

11:20 AM: Loose dog reported in the 700 block of NW 3rd ST. Caller reported a husky with no collar.

11:35 AM: Return call requested from Boone PD. Caller from Boone PD requested a call from an officer regarding information about an Eagle Grove resident.

12:53 PM: Alarm burglary in the 700 block of NE 2nd ST. East door entry.

2:19 PM: Alarm burglary in the 200 block of NW 1st ST. Dock door triggered.

2:56 PM: Violation of protective order.

3:38 PM: Traffic stop at the intersection of W Broadway and Broad DR.

3:51 PM: Traffic stop at the intersection of N Iowa and NW 4th.

3:53 PM: Traffic stop at the intersection of Washington and NE 1st.

5:58 PM: Suicidal subject reported in the 200 block of S Washington Ave. Caller said their friend was threatening self-harm but did not believe they had weapons, drugs, or alcohol.

6:55 PM: Information reported in the 700 block of N Water ST, Goldfield. Caller reported a subject leaving a church, possibly stopping at Casey's, and that the subject had a parole-related warrant.

7:23 PM: Information reported in the 500 block of SE 1st ST. Caller reported someone burning cardboard in their yard and wanted police to be aware due to visible smoke.

8:53 PM: Traffic stop in the 100 block of W Broadway.

10:05 PM: Noise complaint in the 400 block of NW 4th ST. Caller reported neighbors playing loud music and difficulty getting children to sleep.

10:07 PM: Traffic stop at the intersection of Hwy 17 and 255th.

March 24

7:48 AM: Return call requested from the 1000 block of N Arthur Ave.

8:09 AM: Code enforcement in the 200 block of NE 3rd ST.

9:31 AM: Return call requested from Eagle Grove. Caller wanted direct contact with a specific officer.

10:38 AM: Return call requested from Eagle Grove. Caller requested an update on the report related to her brother's death.

12:17 PM: Return call requested from the high school.

12:34 PM: Unknown problem in the 500 block of NE 5th ST. 911 hang-up, no answer on callback; phone pinged to intersection of NE 5th ST and N Washington.

12:59 PM: Return call requested from the 700 block of N Water ST, Goldfield.

2:17 PM: Assistance requested at Rotary Ann.

3:10 PM: Officer-initiated case.

3:23 PM: Return call requested from Eagle Grove.

3:30 PM: Animal complaint in the 800 block of W Broadway. Mail carrier reported a white and black lab running loose and requested an officer due to fear of the dogs.

7:53 PM: Dog reported in the 200 block of N Locust ST, Goldfield. Caller reported a small brown dog with a pink chest tag.

8:10 PM: Concerned citizen report in the 200 block of E Chestnut ST, Goldfield. Caller reported coyotes running in the area.

March 25

6:23 AM: Attempted burglary in the 500 block of E Broadway. Caller reported their vehicle had been moved overnight and suspected someone had entered it.

11:41 AM: Return call requested from the impound lot regarding a lien on a Mazda.

12:54 PM: Civil issue at Dollar General Market.

1:33 PM: Lost and found at Greenwood Park. Caller reported a lost pair of eyeglasses.

2:46 PM: Return call requested from the impound lot.

3:28 PM: Driving complaint in the area of NE 2nd ST and Montgomery. Caller reported a school bus ran a gate at a railroad crossing and came close to the train.

March 26

5:00 AM: Meet complainant in the 200 block of N Locust ST. Caller wanted a person removed from their house due to disruptive behavior and children needing sleep for school.

9:29 AM: Report requested on open case.

9:40 AM: Theft reported in the 400 block of S Kirkwood.

1:50 PM: Traffic stop in the 200 block of 1st ST NW.

7:55 PM: Traffic stop at the intersection of SW 1st ST and S Cadwell.

9:12 PM: Parking violations reported on NW 2nd ST.

11:24 PM: Parking violations reported in the 100 block of NW 1st ST.

11:26 PM: Parking violations reported in the 100 block of NW 1st ST.

11:27 PM: Parking violations reported in the 100 block of NW 1st ST.

11:56 PM: Return call requested from Eagle Grove. Caller wanted to discuss a ticket his son received.

PROPERTY TAXES from page 5A

The county auditor says the mailing cost \$40,474.

Iowa legislators mandated these notices as part of a larger tax bill they approved a couple years ago.

At the time, they said they were trying to increase transparency. And to be fair, there is some useful information in these mailings, such as tax rates and the dates of public hearings.

However, the part purporting to describe individual tax bills for later this year and early next — the part people will be most interested in — is bunk.

The notices say the 10% jump in property value is hypothetical, but according to local governments, this notice will inevitably lead to angry phone calls from people who mistakenly believe they're in for a bigger tax bill.

I should note that this year, 2025, is a new reassessment year for the property taxes to be paid in 2026 and 2027, and it is possible people are now seeing some noticeable increases in their assessed values. I did. I'm told Davenport notices are expected to go out in the next week or so, and that residential assessments are up 8.9% overall. However, like in 2023, the residential rollback the state applies this fall will blunt most of the impact when it comes to taxable values, which is what are used to calculate the actual taxes we pay.

The rollback, by law, ensures the statewide residential taxable value does not grow by more than 3%.

Yes, I know this can all be pretty confusing, but it might be instructive to know that in 2023, even after the big assessment shock we got that spring, the rollback applied by the state meant about 62% of parcels in Davenport actually experienced a decline in taxable values, and only 12% of parcels saw an increase in taxable value of 10% or more, according to my analysis of city data.

Anyway, back to the misleading notice.

In a presentation a few weeks ago before the Polk County Board of Supervisors, a local budget official explained that rather than the 11.4% increase the mailing misleadingly describes to taxpayers there, the increase in county taxes will be just 1.3% for urban taxpayers who saw no change in their assessed property value. And that increase, they say, is only happening because of a small change in the residential rollback approved last fall by the state that will slightly affect taxable values.

Yet, Polk County officials said the state told them they could not include their own information in these notices to provide taxpayers the correct figures. Instead, county officials are being forced to mail the misleading information. And pay for it, too. With your tax money.

It's much the same story in Scott County. The county has put a statement on its website pointing out the increase in net taxable value countywide for 2024 was 2.1%. Individuals will see varying results, but the point is this: The vast majority of homeowners did not see a 10% increase in their property values. And they will not see double-digit increases in the taxes they pay this fall and next spring.

That's the reality. But what also is reality is most taxpayers tend not to pay attention to anybody's property values but their own. So, when the state can force local governments to send an official notice to taxpayers suggesting a double-digit tax increase may be in the works, even if it's for somebody else, it is much easier to get Iowans to believe property taxes are out of control.

This, of course, isn't hap-

pening in a vacuum.

Members of the state Legislature, mostly those in the Republican majority, and local government officials have been arguing for years about whether the locals are wisely using property tax dollars.

This is a fair argument to have. I think both sides have made some good points. But when lawmakers can use the power of the state to force local governments to mail a deceptive notice to taxpayers that distorts reality, then something has gone very wrong.

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MISC.

Prepare for power outages today with a Generac Home Standby Generator. Act now to receive a FREE 7-Year warranty with qualifying purchase. Call 1-855-954-5087 today to schedule a free quote. It's not just a generator. It's a power move.

MISC.

Safe Step. North America's #1 Walk-In Tub. Comprehensive lifetime warranty. Top-of-the-line installation and service. Now featuring our FREE shower package and \$1600 Off for a limited time! Call today! Financing available. Call Safe Step 1-844-376-4154

MISC.

Does your basement or crawl space need some attention? Call Thrasher Foundation Repair! A permanent solution for waterproofing, failing foundations, sinking concrete and nasty crawl spaces. FREE Inspection & Same Day Estimate. \$250 off ANY project with code GET250. Call 1-866-554-1730

BUY IT

SELL IT

FIND IT

IN THE CLASSIFIEDS

MACHINERY CONSIGNMENT AUCTION

Live & Online!

305 North Alice - Woolstock, IA 50599

SATURDAY, APRIL 5, 2025 - 9 AM

Live & Online!

- See Photos and Updates on Our Facebook Page -

VEHICLES:

2009 F150, Runs good - 2008 Chevy Colorado - 2002 Chevy 1500 - 1999 Chevy 1500 - 1972 VW Sandrail, SHARP.

ATVS:

2005 Polaris 400 - 2001 Polaris 90.

MOWERS:

JD 345.

SEMIS/HOPPERS:

1991 Freightliner FL 112 w/CAT C12, 9 Spd. - 2007 International 9200i w/CAT C13, 10 Spd. - 43' JetCo Hopper w/NEW Tarp - 2009 Pete 386, Cummins 455 - 2005 53' Refer Utility, NICE.

TRAILERS/CAMPER:

GN Horse trailer w/Living Qtrs. - Fuel Trailer - Boat Trailer - 1998 30' Salem Camper.

COMBINES & HEADS:

JD 9660 STS, 3793 Hrs., 2633 Sep. Hrs. - JD 608C corn head - JD 893 corn head - JD 630F bean head, needs work - JD 635F bean head - P&K 30' Head Trailer - JD 7700 Diesel - JD443 corn head.

TRACTORS:

JD 3020 Gas, WF, 46A loader - IH 1086, WF, 3 pt., full weight set, new tires - JD 9430T, 13.5L, 425HP, 4 SVC, Full 3 pt. - JD 3010 Gas, NF - JD 4430 - WD, Restored, New Rubber.

EQUIPMENT:

M&W Ripper, 7 Shank - JD Field Cultivator - Disk - IH 510 3-bottom plow, RARE - YLM 60' Sprayer - New 12' Jib - Barge Box - Running gears.

MISC:

Cedar Utility poles, 40+ - Cedar posts - hand tools - battery tools.

ITEMS ADDED DAILY - FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK FOR THE LATEST

Lunch Served by Woolstock Fire Department

SCHMAUSS AUCTION LLC

AUCTIONEER: Kevin Schmauss 515-571-2443

TERMS:

Cash or good check. Not responsible for accidents or thefts. Picture ID required. Everything sold "as is" and any announcement on sale day will take precedence over anything advertised. No items removed until settled for. Social Distancing guidelines to be followed as attendee's responsibility. By attending, you agree to hold Auctioneer/Auction Organizer harmless to all liability for Covid-19, including that under Iowa Code & 135.144 (3). This notice hereby serves as gathering organizer's fulfillment to ensure compliance.

Stay Safe From Shingles

1 in 3 people will get shingles. Prevention is possible.

Shingles can cause a painful skin rash and lead to serious health problems, such as long-term nerve pain and vision loss. Shingles stays dormant in your nervous system after you recover from chickenpox. Your risk of shingles increases with age.

The shingles vaccine is the best way to protect against the virus and its complications. The shingles vaccine is recommended for:

Adults 50 and older.

Adults 19 and older with weakened immune systems.

Ask your healthcare provider about the shingles vaccine.

Source: cdc.gov 2/25

YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU DON'T KNOW...

WITHOUT PUBLIC NOTICE, YOU ARE LEFT GUESSING.

iowanotices.org

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IOWA NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION

Illustration of a person sitting on a couch reading a newspaper titled 'NEWS'.

Illustration of a blood drop.

saving lives is in your blood

To donate blood at a location near you, visit www.aabb.org

| EAGLE GROVE COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT • SCHOOL BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING | | | | | |
|---|-----|-----------------------------|--------------|---------------------------|-------------|
| NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING | | | | | |
| Proposed EAGLE GROVE School Budget Summary | | | | | |
| Fiscal Year 2025 - 2026 | | | | | |
| Location of Public Hearing: Eagle Grove CSD Board Meeting Room 325 N Commercial Eagle Grove, IA 50533 | | Date of Hearing: 04/14/2025 | | Time of Hearing: 06:00 PM | |
| The Board of Directors will conduct a public hearing on the proposed 25/26 school budget at the above noted location and time. At the hearing, any resident or taxpayer may present objections to, or arguments in favor of, any part of the proposed budget. This notice represents a summary of the supporting detail of the revenues and expenditures on file with the district secretary. A copy of the details will be furnished upon request. | | | | | |
| | | Budget 2026 | Re-est. 2025 | Actual 2024 | Avg % 24-26 |
| Taxes Levied on Property | 1 | 5,200,003 | 4,881,025 | 4,821,162 | % 3.9 |
| Utility Replacement Excise Tax | 2 | 90,280 | 91,519 | 142,754 | % -20.5 |
| Income Surtaxes | 3 | 42,945 | 37,675 | 47,421 | % -4.8 |
| Tuition/Transportation Received | 4 | 630,000 | 600,000 | 572,829 | |
| Earnings on Investments | 5 | 472,045 | 431,915 | 410,864 | |
| Nutrition Program Sales | 6 | 56,250 | 53,500 | 50,783 | |
| Student Activities and Sales | 7 | 34,200 | 302,500 | 285,359 | |
| Other Revenues from Local Sources | 8 | 250,525 | 235,750 | 222,524 | |
| Revenue from Intermediary Sources | 9 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| State Foundation Aid | 10 | 8,623,520 | 8,455,260 | 7,948,549 | |
| Instructional Support State Aid | 11 | 21,453 | 0 | 0 | |
| Other State Sources | 12 | 1,465,825 | 1,386,410 | 1,311,913 | |
| Two Tier Assessment Limitation Replacement | 13 | 87,980 | 87,980 | 73,434 | |
| Title I Grants | 14 | 430,000 | 415,000 | 487,516 | |
| IDEA and Other Federal Sources | 15 | 1,275,000 | 1,200,000 | 1,122,680 | |
| Total Revenues | 16 | 18,680,026 | 18,178,534 | 17,497,788 | |
| General Long-Term Debt Proceeds | 17 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Transfers In | 18 | 618,000 | 620,000 | 1,311,000 | |
| Proceeds of Fixed Asset Dispositions | 19 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Special Items/Upward Adjustments | 20 | 0 | 0 | 41,122 | |
| Total Revenues & Other Sources | 21 | 19,298,026 | 18,798,534 | 18,849,910 | |
| Beginning Fund Balance | 22 | 11,193,296 | 10,748,475 | 10,153,159 | |
| Total Resources | 23 | 30,491,322 | 29,547,009 | 29,003,069 | |
| *Instruction | 24 | 10,895,000 | 10,312,000 | 9,816,746 | % 5.3 |
| Student Support Services | 25 | 380,000 | 360,000 | 342,770 | |
| Instructional Staff Support Services | 26 | 675,000 | 640,000 | 610,837 | |
| General Administration | 27 | 725,000 | 685,000 | 583,860 | |
| School Administration | 28 | 850,000 | 800,000 | 757,329 | |
| Business & Central Administration | 29 | 376,750 | 355,500 | 334,225 | |
| Plant Operation and Maintenance | 30 | 1,399,000 | 1,263,000 | 1,200,914 | |
| Student Transportation | 31 | 685,000 | 644,000 | 611,480 | |
| *Total Support Services (lines 25-31) | 31A | 5,090,750 | 4,747,500 | 4,441,415 | % 7.1 |
| *Noninstructional Programs | 32 | 850,000 | 800,000 | 758,455 | % 5.9 |
| Facilities Acquisition and Construction | 33 | 900,000 | 830,000 | 785,829 | |
| Debt Service (Principal, interest, fiscal charges) | 34 | 618,000 | 620,000 | 658,687 | |
| AEA Support - Direct to AEA | 35 | 384,067 | 424,213 | 482,462 | |
| *Total Other Expenditures (lines 33-35) | 35A | 1,902,067 | 1,874,213 | 1,926,978 | % -0.6 |
| Total Expenditures | 36 | 18,737,817 | 17,733,713 | 16,943,594 | |
| Transfers Out | 37 | 618,000 | 620,000 | 1,311,000 | |
| Other Uses | 38 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Total Expenditures, Transfers Out & Other Uses | 39 | 19,355,817 | 18,353,713 | 18,254,594 | |
| Ending Fund Balance | 40 | 11,135,505 | 11,193,296 | 10,748,475 | |
| Total Requirements | 41 | 30,491,322 | 29,547,009 | 29,003,069 | |
| Proposed Property Tax Rate (per \$1,000 taxable valuation) | | 12.78857 | | | |

Published in the Eagle Grove Eagle on Thursday, April 3, 2025

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a word to the wise

Are you a print subscriber already?

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PUBLIC NOTICE • FLUSHING HYDRANTS

Eagle Grove Water Consumers: The Eagle Grove Water Department will be flushing fire hydrants starting: 04-07-25 to 04-18-25 During this period it may be possible for your water to become discolored or cloudy. The water will always be safe to drink. This is routine maintenance, intended to help keep our water system clean. We are sorry for any inconvenience.

Eagle Water Department.

La Ciudad de Eagle Grove – limpiará hidrantes de incendios va comienzan 04-07-25 to 04-18-25 Durante este período puede ser posible para que su agua sera colorada, o nublada. El agua siempre estará seguro para beber. Esto es mantenimiento rutinario, para ayudar a mantener nuestra sistema de agua que este limpia. Somos arrepentidos para cualquier inconveniente.- El Departamento de Agua

Published in the Eagle Grove Eagle on Thursday, April 3, 2025

WRIGHT COUNTY BOS • MARCH 17, 2025

March 17, 2025 The Board of Supervisors met as Drainage District Trustees. To view the minutes from the drainage meeting, see the Drainage District minutes on the County website. Chairman Rasmussen called the regular meeting of the Wright County Board of Supervisors to order at 9:04 a.m. Members present were Kluss, Bosch, Rasmussen, Loux and Ellis. Motion by Kluss and seconded by Ellis to approve the tentative agenda. Motion carries. Minutes of the previous regular meeting of March 10, 2025 were read and approved. Approved claims for payment. Motion by Kluss and seconded by Loux to approve Resolution 2025-13 Establishment of the Wright County Courthouse Grounds Use Policy. By roll call vote: ayes – Kluss, Bosch, Rasmussen, Loux and Ellis; nays – none. Resolution 2025-13 duly passes and reads as follows: RESOLUTION 2025-13 ESTABLISHMENT OF THE WRIGHT COUNTY COURTHOUSE GROUNDS USE POLICY WHEREAS, the Wright County Safety Committee has developed a policy for use of the courthouse grounds, and WHEREAS, the Wright County Courthouse Grounds Use Policy establishes rules for public or private organizations regarding their use of the courthouse grounds, and WHEREAS, the Wright County Courthouse Grounds Use Policy was written following an assessment of current activities and input from the Wright County Safety Committee, the Wright County Attorney, and the Iowa Community Assurance Pool Insurance Representative, and NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, Wright County, Iowa approves the Wright County Courthouse Grounds Use Policy and authorizes the Buildings and Grounds Director to implement the policy and application. Passed and approved this 17th day of March 2025. Shelly Zabel with Community Family Resources gave an annual update and discussed multiple grants they have received. One of the learning opportunities they give is opioid usage. Supervisor Ellis suggested they work with Sandy McGrath of Wright County Public Health for use of funds from the Opioid Litigation Grant. Zabel continued to request funding from Wright County in the amount of \$7,200 to aid in staff salaries, training, supplies, and travel. The Board said that they would take the request into consideration. Jeremy Abbas, Assistant to Wright County Engineer, gave an update on Secondary Roads department and current bridge construction. Motion by Kluss and seconded by Bosch to approve the 28E Agreement with Franklin County concerning the shared Naturalist position. Motion carries. Motion by Ellis and seconded by Kluss to open the public hearing to vacate that portion of Youngblood Avenue between 170th Street and 160th Street. Motion carries. Interested parties present were Bob Latham, Don Latham and Don Goeman. Bob Latham would like an inventory of all County assets within the portion to be vacated. Jeremy Abbas agreed to walk the ditch and locate any culverts. Don Goeman wanted to know if the road would be leveled, he was informed that it would not be. He then asked if the County could provide an entrance to the north. It was determined that Adam Clemons, Wright County Engineer, would have to answer that. The Board then decided to table the resolution to vacate that portion of Youngblood Ave until next Monday, March 24, 2025 conditional to the request of an entrance at the north end. Motion by Kluss and seconded by Bosch to close the public hearing. Motion carries. Motion by Kluss and seconded by Ellis to table Resolution 2025-14 to vacate a county road until Monday, March 24, 2025. Motion carries. Motion by Loux and seconded by Kluss to adjourn the meeting. Motion carries. Rick Rasmussen, Chairman Wright County Board of Supervisors Deb Nesheim, Wright County Deputy Auditor

Published in the Eagle Grove Eagle on Thursday, April 3, 2025

I-LEAD Class 11 International Learning Mission to Vietnam and South Korea Expands Global Perspectives

JOHNSTON, IA – March 31, 2025 – In February, the Iowa Corn Leadership Enhancement and Development (I-LEAD) program traveled to Vietnam and South Korea on an international learning mission as part of the two-year program. The group studied local agriculture and visited trading partners to better understand the important role Iowa grown corn plays in global markets. The mission explored corn trade in all forms from grain to ethanol to livestock feed. I-LEAD and the Iowa Corn staff work closely with the U.S. Grains Council (USGC) to dive into each market to better understand global economies and the value of trade to each market.

Throughout their travels, participants visited a commercial banana farm, worm and rubber tree farm, wet market, fish farm, feed mill and more. Each of these stops gave participants a look at trade and agricultural practices within the country and opened the door for conversations about sustainable agriculture, animal nutrition and global markets.

I-LEAD class members walked away with new perspectives, ready to use their new skills to continue driving corn demand. View key takeaways from I-LEAD members below.

Katie Jorgensen: “Our international learning mission to South Korea and Vietnam has been incredibly impactful, strengthening trade relationships and expanding opportunities for Iowa Corn. By meeting directly with buyers and industry leaders, we gained valuable insights into their market needs and how U.S. agriculture can better serve them. This experience not only reinforced the importance of global trade but also highlighted the role of strong partnerships in securing a future for American farmers. The mission has deepened my understanding of international markets and inspired me to continue advocating for agricultural growth and innovation.”

Darin Proffitt: “The recent I-LEAD international learning mission was a life changing trip to Vietnam and Korea! Getting fully immersed in the local culture and hearing firsthand from buyers and users of our products showed me why international trade is so critical to success on our own farms. Having representatives from the U.S. Grains Council come along with us on different tours helped to show context and was very insightful. I’m honored to have represented Iowa along with my other classmates as we gained further understanding of agriculture in Asia!”

Derek Kemper: “I had a wonderful experience traveling to Vietnam and South Korea. The hospitality that was shown to our group throughout the trip was amazing and allowed us to really experience the country’s culture. A big takeaway I had was learning how they utilize their local markets to help drive their economy. I will use this experience as I think about how I can do a better job of supporting local businesses here in Iowa.”

I-LEAD is a two-year program for talented farmers and friends of the industry who want to become strong leaders and spokespeople for Iowa agriculture. The I-LEAD 12 application cycle will open in July 2025. If you are interested in learning more about the program, visit: <https://www.iowacorn.org/leadership-programs/i-lead/>.

Treasurer Smith Highlighting IAble for ABLE to Save Month

DES MOINES – State Treasurer Roby Smith is celebrating ABLE to Save Month, a nationwide campaign recognized each April, by spreading the word about the IAble (Iowa’s Achieving a Better Life Experience) plan and the advantages it brings to eligible individuals with a disability.

“IAble can really make a difference and help individuals with disabilities achieve a better life experience,” said Treasurer Smith. “One of the biggest advantages of the plan is that eligible individuals can save without jeopardizing the benefits they count on.”

ABLE to Save Month is a national education and outreach campaign dedicated to highlighting the benefits of ABLE accounts like IAble. The month-long event aims to provide information to families and support systems to ensure they’re aware of a benefit they may not know about.

IAble is a financial tool eligible individuals and their support system can use to save money for their short- and long-term goals. When placed in an IAble account, the money is protected from the asset caps placed on Medicaid, Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and other means-tested benefits. Savings and earnings can be used for transportation, housing, food, assistive technology and other qualified disability expenses.

To learn more, visit IAble.gov or call (888) 609-8910. For additional details, read the Plan Disclosure Booklet. Connect with the Treasurer on Facebook, Instagram and X to stay informed on current events and updates.

ORIGINAL NOTICE

IN THE IOWA DISTRICT COURT FOR WRIGHT COUNTY

IN RE THE MARRIAGE OF LORA LEA CALLES AND FERNANDO CALLES LOPEZ

Upon the Petition of LORA LEA CALLES, Petitioner, And Concerning FERNANDO CALLES LOPEZ, Respondent.

Equity No. CDDM003184 ORIGINAL NOTICE

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED RESPONDENT:

You are hereby notified that there is now on file in the office of the clerk of the above court a petition in the above-entitled action, a copy of which petition is attached hereto. The Petitioner’s attorney is Alyssa A. Kenville, whose address is

1415 Superior St., Webster City, IA 50595.

You are further notified that unless, within twenty (20) days after service of this original notice upon you, you serve and within a reasonable time thereafter file a motion or answer in the Iowa District Court for Wright County at the courthouse in Clarion, Iowa, judgment by default will be rendered against you for the relief demanded in the Petition.

NOTICE: If you need assistance to participate in court due to a disability contact the disability coordinator at: your district ADA coordinator at (641) 421-0990. Persons who are hearing or speech impaired may call Relay Iowa TTY (1-800-735-2942). Disability coordinators cannot provide legal advice.

Published in the Eagle Grove Eagle on Thursday, March 27, April 3, and April 10, 2025

PROBATE • DENNIS D. HAMMEL

THE IOWA DISTRICT COURT FOR WRIGHT COUNTY

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF DENNIS D. HAMMEL, Deceased ESPR017691

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

To All Persons Interested in the Estate of Dennis D. Hammel, Deceased, who died on or about March 6, 2025:

You are hereby notified that on March 26, 2025, the Last Will and Testament of Dennis D. Hammel, deceased, bearing date of October 8, 2019, was admitted to probate in the above-named court and that Patrick Hammel 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 March 27, 2025.

Patrick Hammel, Executor of Estate 502 W. North St. Bloomfield, IA 52537

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: April 10, 2025

Published in the Eagle Grove Eagle on Thursday, April 3 and 10, 2025

PROBATE • MARGARET K. WRIGHT

THE IOWA DISTRICT COURT FOR WRIGHT COUNTY

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF MARGARET K. WRIGHT, Deceased CASE NO. ESPR017692

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

To All Persons Interested in the Estate of Margaret K. Wright, Deceased, who died on or about March 17, 2025:

You are hereby notified that on March 21, 2025, the Last Will and Testament of Margaret K. Wright, deceased, bearing date of September 9, 2013, was admitted to probate in the above-named court and that Susan E. Tripp 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 March 26, 2025.

Susan E. Tripp, Executor of Estate 129 Oak Hill Rd Candler, NC 28715-9615

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: April 10, 2025

Published in the Eagle Grove Eagle on Thursday, April 3 and 10, 2025

Parents: Talking to your kids about text scams

You’re not the only one getting scammy text messages about unpaid toll charges or issues with your Amazon account. Chances are your tweens and teens with phones are getting them, too. Sure, you can tell your kids to delete and never respond to unexpected texts. But if you want them to understand why, the FTC can help you make a game plan.

The next scam text you get could be a great way to start a conversation about how text scams work. Scammers impersonate real companies and agencies in text messages. Their goal? Get you to give them information like your Social Security or credit card number. Let your kids know why never to click links in unexpected text messages: not only are people not always who they say they are online, but clicking could lead you to a website that tries to steal your data. Make sure they know that sharing personal or financial information could lead to bigger problems, like identity theft, losing your money, or scammers getting access to your accounts.

Help kids know how to delete and report junk text messages on their phones. To turn it into a game, ask kids to show you the message first and explain how they knew it was a scam. Here’s your answer key — one point each time they correctly spot a scam:

- Scammers might pretend to be someone from school or a well-known business.
- Scammers say there’s a problem or prize to get you to respond. Not sure that

problem or prize is real? Get help from a parent or trusted adult.

- Scammers use pressure so you don’t have time to think. Slow down.
- Scammers tell you to pay with cash, a gift card, wire transfer, cryptocurrency, or payment app. Paying in these ways makes it hard to get your money back.

Once your kid earns enough points, come up with a special treat to celebrate. Learn more about spam text messages at ftc.gov/textscams.

Iowa Nutrient Research Center Opens Request for New Proposals, Due May 2nd

AMES, Iowa- The Iowa Nutrient Research Center is accepting new proposals for research projects designed to reduce nitrate and phosphorus in Iowa’s water. The center invites proposals for water quality projects that will benefit farmers, landowners, agribusinesses, policy makers and communities.

“This year’s RFP is very similar to last year’s. These priorities are informed by meetings over the last two years that have included more than 40 stakeholders,” said INRC Director Matt Helmers.

The center will emphasize seven areas of research for funding in FY2025:

1. Sociological, economic and policy incentives for nutrient practices that benefit both operators and landowners.
2. Floodplain management and/or in-channel processes impact on nutrient export.
3. Marginal land use alternatives to maximize biodiversity, environmental benefits and nutrient reduction.
4. Changing weather patterns effect on nutrient fluxes and/or practice performance.
5. Crop and livestock systems research, including projects related to manure and nutrient management, optimizing cover crops and examining economic and environmental performance of integrated crop/livestock systems and/or diversified cropping systems.
6. Cumulative impacts of nutrient reduction practice implementation at different scales.
7. New technologies.

“Sound nutrient reduction research projects that don’t fit these priorities will also be considered,” said Helmers.

Potential applicants are encouraged to review the full 2025 request for proposals PDF (https://inrc.cals.iastate.edu/files/news/files/inrc_2025_rfp_2025.pdf) for complete details about the priority topics and application instructions. Proposals will be accepted from any Iowa nonprofit, agency or educational institution. Projects can last up to two years. Investigators that were funded in 2024 for multiple years do not have to reapply.

Selection will be based on the amount of funding available and how well projects reflect the priorities and instructions listed in the request for proposals. Specific elements that will be considered include the soundness of the research plan for the time period proposed, clear plans for data collection and management, and outreach activities. All proposals are judged by a set of reviewers who are not associated with any of the proposed projects.

Proposals are due by May 2, 2025, for projects that would begin in August. Award decisions will be made in July.

Questions about the request for proposals should be directed to INRC Program Specialist Malcolm Robertson, at 515-294-5692 or malcolmr@iastate.edu, or INRC Director Matt Helmers, at mhelmers@iastate.edu.

Established in 2013, the Iowa Nutrient Research Center selects promising proposals every year to fund research to help meet the goals identified in the Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy. Since its inception, the center has sponsored more than 145 water quality projects with \$17.6 million in state appropriations.

Ongoing and past research projects can be viewed at <https://inrc.cals.iastate.edu/projects>.



(Courtesy, ISU)



PUT A SMILE
IN SOMEONE’S DAY

ASK SOMEONE,
HOW CAN I HELP?

Medicaid cuts could hurt older adults who rely on home care, nursing homes

Congressional Republicans’ proposals to slash billions of dollars from federal Medicaid funding would shift burden to states.

By Anna Claire Vollers Stateline

Dr. Fred Levin has been watching with growing alarm the national debate around federal cuts to Medicaid. He’s responsible for the medical care of about 100 older adults at the Community PACE center in rural Newaygo, Michigan. For his patients, Medicaid isn’t just a safety net — it’s a matter of life or death.

“If left to see to their own needs, a lot of them would stay in their homes and would slowly die,” he said. “They wouldn’t be able to get to their doctors’ appointments unless they had a family member to help. They wouldn’t get social care. They wouldn’t have people coming into their homes and seeing the bed bugs or the lice in their hair. They wouldn’t get their medications.”

The care at Community PACE is paid for by Medicaid, the state-federal health insurance program for people with low incomes or certain disabilities, and Medicare, the federal insurance program for people 65 and older. The center is a one-stop shop that provides medical and social services to older adults during the day, allowing them to continue living safely in their homes.

If Congress cuts funding to Medicaid, Levin expects his center would probably close. Unlike traditional nursing home care, which state Medicaid programs are required by federal law to cover, the services at PACE centers like his are an optional benefit that 33 states have opted to cover.

Around the nation, doctors, lawmakers, advocates and patients are watching anxiously as Republicans in Congress consider proposals to slash billions of dollars from federal Medicaid funding as they look to offset trillions in proposed tax cuts. The specific nature of the funding cuts are still being hammered out. But any reductions to federal Medicaid spending would shift those costs to states.

The additional financial burden could blow billion-dollar holes in state budgets, forcing state lawmakers to slash health benefits or restrict who’s eligible for them. Nearly a fifth of Americans rely on Medicaid, and the percentage is even higher in some states.

“There are a lot of people who don’t pay attention to this because they think it doesn’t affect them personally,” Levin said. “But 1 in 4 people in Michigan are on Medicaid. It’s very likely you have friends or family on Medicaid.”

Nearly all Americans over age 65 are covered by Medicare, which Republicans have pledged not to touch. Medicare doesn’t cover

most nursing home or other long-term care, however. Neither does most private insurance.

But Medicaid does. “If you have an older adult in your life who has been in a nursing home or received help at home with cooking, bathing, dressing, chances are Medicaid was involved,” said Natalie Kean, director of federal health advocacy for Justice in Aging, an advocacy group focused on addressing poverty among older people.

“Many of us have a connection to the program or will one day,” she said.

A divided front
Conservatives have long argued for reducing the reach of Medicaid. They say the program is too expensive and that its expansion under the Affordable Care Act, also known as Obamacare, diverts too much money toward able-bodied adults and away from the more vulnerable populations it was originally intended to help.

But policy experts say that reducing coverage for some Medicaid recipients, such as the working adults who got coverage under expansion programs, will have ripple effects on vulnerable groups such as children and older adults.

Republicans aren’t united in a desire to see massive cuts.

Last month, Nevada Gov. Joe Lombardo, a Republican governor in a purple state, publicly called on Congress not to slash Medicaid funding.

Earlier this week, Washington Republican state Rep. Michelle Caldier wrote a letter to Trump asking him to reconsider cuts to Medicaid and expressing her concern about the large number of military retirees and senior citizens in her district.

Caldier, a dentist who has worked with nursing home patients, told Stateline she believes the most likely cuts would be a reduction in the amount the federal government matches state spending for working adults who are covered under Medicaid expansion. That, she said, would have little impact on older adults.

“The only caveat is that I am very worried that the leadership in our state does not have a good relationship with our president,” Caldier said. Democrats control the offices of governor and both legislative chambers in Washington state. Caldier worries that if Washington lawmakers defy the president over issues such as gender-affirming care for transgender youth, the feds could retaliate by slashing their Medicaid payments to the state.

“If we got into a political match with the president, we would lose, no matter how you slice or dice it,” she said.

In Idaho, Republican state lawmakers shot down a bill that likely would have repealed Medicaid expansion, before passing one that will introduce sweeping policy changes in an effort to control costs.

Even in Congress, some Republicans are balking, publicly defending Medicaid and warning about the consequences of deep cuts. Some who have high percentages of Medicaid recipients in their districts have urged party leaders not to cut funding for the program and have vowed to vote against any budget plan that does so.

Medicaid covers 72 million Americans. A majority of American adults, including two-thirds of Republicans, say they want Congress to either maintain current Medicaid spending or increase it, according to a February 2025 poll from KFF, a health policy research group.

President Donald Trump has said in recent months that he won’t touch Medicaid. But last month, U.S. House Republicans pushed through a budget plan, now under consideration in the Senate, that calls for about \$880 billion in cuts to Medicaid over the next decade to help counterbalance the Trump administration’s desired \$4.5 trillion in tax cuts. Facing cuts that large, states would have to figure out which benefits to chop in order to keep their budgets balanced, which is a constitutional requirement in most states.

Older adults and people with disabilities already account for more than half of states’ Medicaid spending, on average. In some states, including Alabama, Florida, Kansas, Mississippi and North Dakota, those groups account for two-thirds of state Medicaid spending.

Idaho state Sen. Melissa Wintrow, a Democrat on the state Senate Health & Welfare committee, said her biggest concern is Congress reducing the federal match rate. This is the amount of money the federal government chips in to help states pay for Medicaid. How much a state receives mainly depends on how wealthy its residents are. Richer states such as California and Connecticut get less help, while poorer states get more.

In Idaho, on the poorer end of the spectrum, the feds pay about 67% of traditional Medicaid costs and 90% of Medicaid expansion costs.

“It is all a domino effect,” Wintrow said. The federal government covers about \$3 billion of Idaho’s \$4.2 billion Medicaid budget. “If the feds start chopping that off, it’s going to impact everything.”

Cutting care at home
All state Medicaid programs have opted to cover

at least some home-based and community care, such as home health aides who assist people with bathing, toileting and other daily living activities, transportation and adult day care.

Kean and other experts worry that because federal law doesn’t require state Medicaid programs to cover home-based care, state lawmakers might sharply reduce spending on those services — or even eliminate coverage.

“When states have budget shortfalls, they start to tighten eligibility for the home-based programs,” said Kean. “We’re certain those would be the first to go if federal funding is cut for Medicaid.”

Paying for home-based services out of pocket would exhaust the median Medicare recipient’s savings in less than two years, according to KFF.

The median cost of a year of a full-time aide to help is about \$62,400, far above the median income for Americans over 65, which is about \$36,000. The median life savings for Medicare beneficiaries was \$103,800 in 2023.

Home-based services are a popular benefit for state Medicaid programs, because most enrollees prefer to remain in their homes. And despite the expense, home care can be more cost effective than nursing homes — about \$38,000 vs. nearly \$54,000 per year in 2021, according to a KFF analysis.

Cutting Medicaid also could make it harder to recruit and keep a workforce of nursing home and home health employees.

Over the past two years, most states — even those led by Republicans — increased their Medicaid payment rates for those services, in an effort to combat the nationwide shortage of long-term care workers.

But federal funding cuts could jeopardize what states are able to pay those workers.

“There’s already a direct-care workforce crisis,” Kean said. “Even if eligibility isn’t directly cut or programs aren’t cut, there wouldn’t be enough workers to provide that care. At home and in nursing facilities, the quality of care will go down.”

In rural Michigan, Levin said the PACE center where he works employs about 100 people. Its closure would impact not only those workers, but also would mean his patients would be left to find transportation and other health services on their own, even if those services are still covered by Medicaid.

“Without access in rural areas, how are these individuals going to get to the bigger cities where they can get to their health care? It’s going to overwhelm other parts of the health care system,” Levin said.

“Everybody’s going to be responsible for taking care of the people who don’t have health insurance, in some indirect way or another. It’s going to affect us all.”

Stateline reporter Anna Claire Vollers can be reached at avollers@stateline.org.

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Lighten up dinnertime with cod

When weather begins to warm, home cooks start migrating from the heartier soups, stews and casseroles that are so popular in winter to something lighter. Seafood is an option families can turn to that is both high in protein and leaner than other dinnertime staples.

Cod is a popular saltwater fish that is mild in flavor with firm meat. This means it may hold up better than some other white fish in different meals, like a fish fry. This recipe for “Spicy Oven-Fried Cod Fillets” (The Pampered Chef®) from The Pampered Chef® Test Kitchens is a flavorful dish that can mark a transition to lighter, springtime meals.

Spicy Oven-Fried Cod Fillets
4 servings

- Sauce:**
2 teaspoons thinly sliced green onion with top
1 small garlic clove, pressed
1/2 cup reduced-fat Thousand Island salad dressing
1/4 teaspoon chili powder
Dash cayenne pepper
- Cod fillets:**
1 egg, lightly beaten
1/2 cup dry Italian-style bread crumbs
1/4 teaspoon chili powder
1/4 teaspoon salt
1 1/2 pounds cod fish fillets
1. Preheat oven to 450 F. For sauce, thinly slice green onion. Press garlic. Add onion, salad dressing, chili powder, and cayenne pepper; mix well. Cover; refrigerate at least 1 hour to allow flavors to blend.
 2. For cod fillets, lightly beat egg in a small bowl. Combine bread crumbs, chili powder and salt in a shallow dish. Dip fillets into egg, then into bread crumb mixture, coating evenly. Arrange fillets on a pan; lightly spray with nonstick cooking spray.
 3. Bake 15 to 18 minutes or until cod flakes easily with a fork. Remove from oven; serve cod with sauce.



- March 30** – Céline Dion, Singer (57)
March 31 – Christopher Walken, Actor (82)
April 1 – Randy Orton, Wrestler (45)
April 2 – Zach Bryan, Singer (29)
April 3 – Paris Jackson, Model (27)
April 4 – Robert Downey, Jr., Actor (60)
April 5 – Lily James, Actress (36)



ARIES - Mar 21/Apr 20
Aries, a burst of energy propels you to move forward. It feels like everything is clicking, and you are full of ideas and brimming with contagious enthusiasm.

TAURUS - Apr 21/May 21
You are in the mood to get down to business this week, Taurus. It's a great time to focus on your career or finances. Pay attention to all of the little details as you go along.

GEMINI - May 22/June 21
Curiosity takes control this week, Gemini. Opportunities for learning are all around you. You just need to look for them. It may be a new class or a trip that you take with friends.

CANCER - June 22/July 22
Cancer, this week you may have a lot of emotional processing going on, particularly regarding relationships or past experiences. Embrace these deeper feelings.

LEO - July 23/Aug 23
Your social energy could be off the charts this week, Leo. Others will be drawn to your magnetism and self-confidence. It is a great time to network or collaborate.

VIRGO - Aug 24/Sept 22
Efficiency and productivity are the name of the game right now, Virgo. When it comes to organizing and planning, you will be all about getting things done in a timely manner.

LIBRA - Sept 23/Oct 23
Libra, this week is a time for self-expression. You may find yourself pulled toward hobbies or artistic endeavors that enable you to showcase your talents.

SCORPIO - Oct 24/Nov 22
This is a time to dive deep into your home and family life, Scorpio. You want to create a sense of stability at home and address anything that might compromise that. Trust your gut with how to move forward.

SAGITTARIUS - Nov 23/Dec 21
Communication is the key this week, Sagittarius. Initiating important conversations and speaking directly with others is a great way to clear the air and get to the root of these issues.

CAPRICORN - Dec 22/Jan 20
Capricorn, you are focused on your financial well-being this week, but other issues may fall by the wayside. You might have to bring in someone else to keep the balance.

AQUARIUS - Jan 21/Feb 18
Personal goals and ambitions are front and center this week, Aquarius. This could put you in the spotlight and showcase what you want to accomplish to those around you.

PISCES - Feb 19/Mar 20
Pisces, this week invites you to slow down and recharge your batteries as much as possible. You might feel pulled to spend time alone or simply get away for a few days.

BE A CORRESPONDENT!

Do you have a **story** to tell or **photos** to show off?

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today, to talk about how we can include your voice and ideas!

DRAKE BULLDOGS

Eric Henderson Named Drake Men's Basketball Coach

DES MOINES, Iowa. – Eric Henderson has been named the head coach of the Drake University men's basketball program, Director of Athletics Brian Hardin announced on Friday. Henderson is the 31st head coach in the Bulldogs' history.

"My family and I are elated to join Drake Nation," Henderson said. "Early on in this process it became evident that values and vision aligned with the incredible path President Martin and Brian Hardin have already established. I am extremely grateful for the opportunity they have given me and my family to walk that path with them. The excitement for Drake basketball is at an all-time high, and I'm looking forward to building relationships and representing such a committed university and fan base. Go Bulldogs!"

Originally from Coggon, Iowa and a graduate of Maquoketa Valley High School, Henderson comes to Des Moines after spending the previous six seasons as the head coach of the South Dakota State Jackrabbits. He previously spent three years as an assistant at South Dakota State, rising to associate head coach for the 2018-19 campaign. During his tenure in Brookings, Henderson guided the Jackrabbits to plenty of success and posted a 129-60 overall record and a 76-20 mark in the Summit League. Henderson's squads never finished worse than third in the Summit League standings and won at least a share of

the Summit League regular season title in four seasons and won two conference tournament titles en route to a pair of NCAA Tournament appearances.

"Eric quickly established himself in a talented pool of candidates as the best person to lead our men's basketball program," Hardin explained. "He elevated South Dakota State to not only the premier program in the Summit League but also one of the best programs at our level in the country. Beyond basketball, though, Eric is an educator at heart and his development of the young men in his program is consistent with our vision for head coaches at Drake. We are thrilled to welcome Eric, Alicia, Kooper, Kort, McKinley, and Kyler to our Drake Athletics family."

IOWA HAWKEYES

Koch To Return to Iowa Hoops in 2025-26

IOWA CITY, Iowa – Freshman forward Cooper Koch will return to the University of Iowa men's basketball program next season.

The Peoria, Illinois, native entered his name into the transfer portal on March 19, but he has elected to return to the Hawkeyes in 2025-26 under first-year head coach Ben McCollum.

"After speaking with Coach McCollum, I believe his vision for the men's basketball team is one that aligns with mine," said Koch in a social media post. "With that being said,

I have decided to withdraw my name from the transfer portal and stay home."

"We are excited to have Cooper return to our program next season," said McCollum. "I have enjoyed getting to know Cooper over the past week and I feel like he's going to be a key piece for our team moving forward with his ability to shoot the basketball."

"I also want to thank our fans for assisting us in getting Cooper to return. We need to continue to push the envelope with Josh (Dix) and Pryce (Sandfort) to let

them each know how important they are to Hawkeye Nation."

Koch missed all but 10 games during the 2024-25 season with a medical condition. He averaged 4.6 points, 2.1 rebounds and 0.8 in 13.6 minutes per game, while shooting 48.4 percent from the floor and 42.9 percent from 3-point range.

Koch's best game came during a Dec. 30 contest against New Hampshire when he scored a career-high 14 points on 4-of-7 shooting with three 3-pointers.

UNI PANTHERS

Schwab Selected as Big 12 Coach of the Year

IRVING, Tex. --- UNI head wrestling coach Doug Schwab has been named the Big 12 Conference Wrestling Coach of the Year, as announced by the league office on Friday morning.

Schwab, who last week was named the National Wrestling Coaches Association (NWCA) National Coach of the Year, earns the honor for the second time in his career after previously being recognized in 2020.

UNI posted a 14-1 record in dual meets this season, its most wins since the 1990-91 season with six wins over ranked opponents in South Dakota State (twice), Missouri, Nebraska, Oklahoma, West Virginia and Iowa State. The Panthers also reached a fourth-in-the-nation team ranking, its highest mark since 1988. UNI also captured the NWCA Multi-Division National Dual Meet Championship title in the UNI-Dome in January.

Northern Iowa crowned three Big 12 Conference champions in Cael Happel (141 pounds), Parker

Keckeisen (184 pounds) and Wyatt Voelker (197 pounds), coaching the Panthers to a second-place team finish, tying the program's highest ever conference tournament finish since joining the league in 2017-18 and coming just four points shy of a team title.

For the first time since 1986, the Panthers qualified for the NCAA Championships in all ten weight classes with nine automatic qualifiers and one at-large selection. Both Happel and Keckeisen earned All-American honors with Happel finishing in fifth place and Keckeisen as national runner-up, extending the program's streak of having at least one All-American to ten consecutive seasons and having multiple contested All-Americans for the first time since 2017.

In Schwab's career, the Panthers have won 127 duals, ranking third-most in the 101-year history of the program. Schwab has posted 92 NCAA Championship qualifiers with 22

All-American selections.

An Osage, Iowa native, Schwab was named Northern Iowa's ninth head wrestling coach in May 2010 after previously serving as an assistant coach at Iowa and Virginia Tech. A three-time All-American at 141 pounds, he captured the 1999 NCAA title and finished his career with 130 wins, currently ranking tenth in Hawkeye history.

Following his college career, Schwab continued to compete in freestyle competition, placing fifth at the 2007 World Championships in Azerbaijan, while also winning the 2007 U.S. Senior freestyle national title and bronze at the 2007 Pan American Games in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. He also won titles at the 2008 U.S. Olympic Trials and U.S. Nationals and represented the United States at the 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing, China.

Schwab currently resides in Cedar Falls with his wife, Allyson and their four children, Hayden, Hendrix, Jenna and Lennon.

North Iowa Fishing Report

NORTHWEST
Black Hawk Lake
Shore fishing has been productive. Bite is hit-or-miss with the fluctuating water temperatures. Anglers are catching some crappie and walleye. Black Crappie - Fair: Fishing along shore has been productive, especially around Ice House Point and the inlet bridge area. Walleye - Fair: The bite has slowed some; anglers are still picking up fish. Town Bay Ice House Point shoreline and the inlet bridge area have been productive. Yellow Perch - Fair.

Brushy Creek Lake
The courtesy dock on the west ramp is in place.

Storm Lake
(incl Little Storm Lake)
Anglers are catching crappie, walleye, and yellow bass in the marina. Black Crappie - Fair: Anglers have picked up some fish in the marina. Walleye - Fair: Look for shore fishing action to improve as water temperatures continue to warm. Yellow Bass - Fair: Anglers are catching bass in the marina. Yellow Perch - Fair.

Swan Lake
Anglers are doing well from the fish house. Water levels are 1 to 2 feet low. Black Crappie - Fair: Anglers have had good luck fishing from the fish house. Some sorting is needed; keepers are around 9-inches. Bluegill - Fair: Try fishing from the fish house and along shore.

water. Yellow Bass – Slow.

Lake Cornelia
The courtesy dock at the boat ramp is in place.

Rice Lake
Yellow Perch – Slow.

Winnebago River
River level is 5.71 feet. Northern Pike - Fair: Suckers, chubs and slow retrieved jigs work well for early season pike. Walleye - Slow.

For additional information, contact Clear Lake Fisheries Office at 641-357-3517.

East Okoboji Lake
The walleye season is closed. Black Crappie - Fair: Bluegill - Fair. Largemouth Bass - Fair: Yellow Perch - Fair: Many fish have been observed; sorting will most likely be needed.

Ingham Lake
Walleye - Fair: Morning and afternoon bite is best.

Silver Lake (Dickinson)
Walleye - Fair: The bite has been hit-or-miss.

Spirit Lake
The walleye season is closed. Black Crappie - Fair: Anglers are finding quality-size fish up to 14-inches. Bluegill - Fair. Yellow Perch - Fair: Sorting is needed; anglers are finding many of acceptable size.

Manchester District Streams
Trout streams are in excellent condition. Next week's forecast calls for temperatures near the 60s; should be good aquatic insect hatches taking place providing for great trout fishing.

Maquoketa River (above Monticello)
Anglers are catching walleye. Walleye -Fair: Use a jig head with plastics with or without a live minnow. Look for the deeper pools current breaks and tail ends of riffles.

Shell Rock River (Greene to Shell Rock)
Anglers are catching walleye. Northern Pike - No Report: Float a live chub/shiner under a bobber or cast and retrieve flashy spoons in backwater areas. Walleye - Good: Use a jig head with plastics with or without a live minnow. Look for the deeper pools current breaks and tail ends of riffles.

Wapsi River (Tripoli to Troy Mills)
Anglers are catching walleye. Northern pike bite should pick up in backwater areas in preparation for the upcoming spawn. Northern Pike - Fair: Float a live chub/shiner under a bobber or cast and retrieve flashing spoons in backwater areas. Walleye - Good: Use a jig head with plastics with or without a live minnow. Look for the deeper pools current breaks and tail ends of riffles.

West Okoboji Lake
The walleye season is closed. Black Crappie - Fair: Bluegill - Fair.

A handful of courtesy docks are in place and useable at boat ramps. The walleye season on the IGL's is closed until May 3rd. For current conditions, call 712-330-2542.

NORTHEAST
Cedar River (Nashua to La Porte City)
Anglers are catching walleye, crappie and a few pike. Black Crappie - Fair: Float a live minnow under a slip bobber at various depth near structure. Channel Catfish - Fair: Use a live chub, nightcrawler or chicken liver off the bottom. Northern Pike - Fair: Float a live chub/shiner under a bobber or cast and retrieve flashy spoons

For more information, contact the Black Hawk District office at 712-657-2638.

Clear Lake
Water level is about 4.8 inches below crest. Water temperature is in the low 40s. Channel Catfish - Slow: Use cut bait on the wind-swept shore. Walleye - Fair: Use plastics and live bait from the jetties. Best bite is after sunset. It's time to target fish on the east shore and around the island. White Bass - Fair: Try jigs in 3 to 5 feet of

Interior river levels have stabilized. Anglers are catching walleye, pike, crappie and channel catfish. For more information, contact Manchester Hatchery at 563-927-3276.

Courtesy of the Iowa DNR. Read the full fishing report for the entire state of Iowa at <https://www.iowadnr.gov/weekly-fishing-report/>.

Show Your Cyclone Power on Forever True Day 2025

AMES, Iowa (March 26, 2025) – Join the Iowa State University community for 24 Hours of Cyclone Power during Forever True Day, Iowa State's online giving event from noon April 2 to noon April 3.

"Forever True Day is an Iowa State tradition that encourages Cyclones everywhere to come together to support all areas of the university, including ISU Extension and Outreach," said Dana Savagian, director of annual and special gifts with the Iowa State University Foundation.

Those interested may visit

the website to make a gift on Forever True Day or give now. To learn more, visit forevertrueday.com.

Through campus and regional specialists and staff in 100 county extension offices, ISU Extension and Outreach connects Iowans to the resources of Iowa State. Extension educators live and work alongside Iowans, providing science-based education and helping them navigate challenges and opportunities every day. ISU Extension and Outreach is making a difference for Iowans — whether measured in improved farm profits,

stronger families, healthier communities or youth who are ready for their future.

Forever True Day challenges, matches and special prizes will be announced through email and social media during the event. To learn the latest, follow the Iowa State University Foundation on Facebook, Instagram, X (formerly Twitter) and LinkedIn at @isufoundation.

The Iowa State University Foundation is a private, nonprofit organization committed to securing and managing gifts that benefit Iowa State University.



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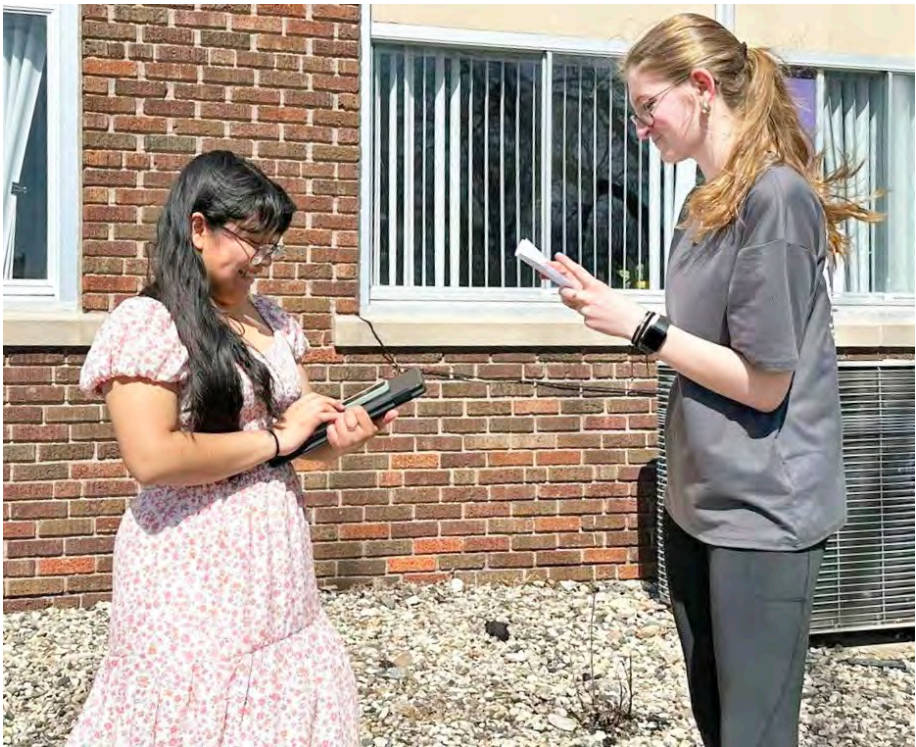


Last week, high school art students in Ms. Kastler's class designed stickers for Slay Nutrition. In exchange, the ladies at Slay offered the students some tea to help fuel their artistic minds! If you'd like to see the student artwork in person, stop in to Slay Nutrition. The store will be displaying the sticker designs on cups, merchandise, and more. (Photos from Slay Nutrition/Facebook)

Map It Out!



1st and 5th graders studied U.S. Geography last week! Last Friday, Ms. Morgan's 1st graders joined Mr. Morgan's 5th graders to study geography together! Students used landmarks, map keys, and found out where Iowa is on the map! (Photo from Eagle Grove Community Schools/Facebook)



If you noticed students outside the high school last week, it was just the Public Speaking class getting some fresh air! Students spread out across the front lawn as they sharpened their speaking skills. (Photos from Eagle Grove High School/Facebook)

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