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‘Vegas Night’ Finishes in the Black - Putting the Fun in Fundraising

By Edward Lynn

The Eagle Grove Chamber of Commerce’s Ladies Night Out event, held Friday, May 2 at Nine & Dine Restaurant, proved to be a lively and successful evening of games, prizes, and community support. The event, which also marked the conclusion of the Shop Local Poker promotion, brought out a strong crowd and raised funds to support future Chamber activities.

The night began with a social hour at 5:30 p.m., followed by Vegas-style casino games starting at 6 p.m. Attendees used purchased “Casino Cash” to play their way through the tables, with the added bonus of door purchases being matched. Many guests arrived early and stayed late, enjoying the festive atmosphere, friendly competition, and an appetizer buffet.

At 8 p.m., Casino Cash was exchanged for raffle tickets, and guests bid on a wide variety of prizes donated by local businesses. The final drawing took place at 9 p.m., concluding an evening full of energy and laughter.

Chamber Board member



A wide variety of valuable prizes were up for raffle, donated by local businesses and individual chamber supporters. (Photos by Edward Lynn)

Sara Middleton noted that it was really when the games opened up to the gentlemen that the event really hit its stride, passing the break even mark and making the event a successful fundraiser.

The Shop Local Poker promotion, which had been underway since April 18,

also wrapped up during the event. Shoppers had earned playing cards by spending money at participating local businesses, building their poker hands over the previous two weeks. Dozens of completed hands were submitted, and the top three were awarded prizes. Participants did not need to be

present to win.

Both events aimed to encourage support for local businesses and strengthen community ties, goals which the Chamber reported were clearly met. Proceeds from the evening will help fund Chamber programs and events throughout the year.



Chamber of Commerce Director Brooke Hathaway plays High Card with dealer Tyler Linn, co-founder of the Lazy J Rescue Ranch.



Blackjack was one of the big money games on Vegas Night. More photos on page 12A

Local Senior Honored for Academic Excellence by Governor

By Edward Lynn

Ashley Deleon-Andrade, a senior at Eagle Grove High School (EGHS) was among three Wright County students honored by Gov. Kim Reynolds and Lt. Gov. Chris Coumoyer at the 23rd Annual Governor’s Scholar Recognition Ceremony, held April 27 at the Iowa Events Center in Des Moines.

Deleon-Andrade was recognized alongside Tate Jackson of Clarion and Quinn Gabrielson of Belmond for outstanding academic achievement. The statewide event honored 424 of Iowa’s top high school seniors, each selected by their school as having the highest academic ranking through seven semesters.

The program is a partnership between the Iowa Governor’s Office, the Iowa High School Athletic Association (IHSAA), and its title sponsor, the Iowa Farm Bureau Federation (IFBF).

“Iowa Farm Bureau has a long history of supporting students in their educational journey knowing they represent the leaders of tomorrow,” said IFBF President Brent Johnson. “From providing more than a half-million dollars in college scholarships annually to our long-time

See **DELEON-ANDRADE: Page 6A**



Eagle Grove High School Senior Ashley Deleon-Andrade with Governor Kim Reynolds (Photo Courtesy of Iowa Farm Bureau Federation)

Council Changes Meeting Times - Advances Multiple Projects

By Edward Lynn

The Eagle Grove City Council moved forward on several major development items during its regular meeting Monday, including the approval of a tax increment rebate agreement for a new downtown project by First Bank and discussion of a potential development agreement to aid a local veteran-owned business.

Council members unanimously approved Resolution 2025-53, finalizing a development agreement with First Bank for the construction of a new downtown facility. Under the agreement, First Bank will receive a 70% tax increment rebate over 15 years, not to exceed \$400,000. The rebate applies only to new value created on the property above its base assessment. The city will continue to re-

ceive 30% of the increment to support future growth initiatives.

City Administrator Bryce Davis explained that the rebate structure follows Iowa Code Chapter 15A and Section 403.9, which authorize cities to provide financial assistance for economic development projects. “This does meet the public purpose of economic development,” Davis said. He noted that infrastructure upgrades tied to the project, such as expanded water mains for improved fire protection, will be handled by the utility board and are not included in the rebate.

The site plan for the First Bank project shows the new building will be located at the corner of Lucas and West Broadway, with parking and a drive-through accessible via the alley.

The Council also held a required public hearing on the ongoing Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) project at 217 W. Broadway. Funded by a \$550,000 federal grant and \$280,800 in private investment, the upper-story conversion will result in six new residential rental units above the downtown commercial space. At least five of the units will be designated for low- to moderate-income (LMI) tenants for a mini-



The Eagle Grove City Council met on May 5th at 6:30 P.M. for the last time. Going forward, the regular meeting time will be 6:00 P.M. (Photo by Edward Lynn)

mum of five years. According to Davis, the project is currently 58% complete.

Following the hearing, the council authorized Pay Application No. 4 for the CDBG project via Resolution 2025-52. The approval allows a disbursement of funds to Torkelson Construction, the project’s contractor, based on verified work completed to date.

In another item, Matt Eimers, owner of K&M Storage, addressed the council during the public forum to express interest in expanding his mini-warehouse facility by acquiring recently rehabilitated city property at

922 S. Commercial Avenue. “Eagle Grove is my town,” said Eimers, a disabled veteran who grew up in Eagle Grove, emphasizing his desire to improve the facility and serve local needs.

However, Eimers’ project faces some hurdles, as Eimers’ offer to purchase the land for \$3,000 was contingent upon an equal tax abatement, limiting Eimers’ investment to construction costs—and there is currently no local ordinance in place that would allow for a tax abatement, City Attorney Lynn Seaba, and Administrator Davis explained. However, the council mem-

bers seemed sympathetic to Eimers’ proposed improvements. “I don’t think anyone here is opposed to your project,” said Councilman Mike Weland. Mayor Boyd ended discussion on the subject noting that it couldn’t proceed at this meeting, but it was clear that the council would consider its options in future meetings.

The council also advanced the second readings of three ordinances related to the vacation and conveyance of unused city property. Ordinance 2025-03 addresses an east-west alley between Lots 1 and 2 in the Hewett Park Addition. Ordinance

2025-04 pertains to an alley north of Lot 5 and part of Lot 4 in the Broadway Drive Addition. Ordinance 2025-05 involves an irregularly shaped tract of land that is fully surrounded by private property and no longer accessible or maintained by the city. All three ordinances are scheduled for a third and final reading at the next meeting, after which the council expects to authorize the formal transfer of the properties.

Finally, the council approved Resolution 2025-55, changing the regular meeting time from 6:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. going forward.



Wright County Supervisors Hold Software Company Accountable

Amanda Rink, Mid America Publishing

May 5, 2025 - The Wright County Board of Supervisors met Monday morning to address administrative updates, contracts, and local initiatives with a focus on budget outlook and IT concerns.

Wright County I.T. Director Andy Flagge presented a petition regarding the software contract for the county's 'Solutions' program. The computer program, under the ownership of Harris Local Government since 2021, is essential to running county operations ranging from budgeting and property taxes to engineering data.

The contract proposed by the software company could "hamper how we can function as a county," according to Flagge. The board voted to support the petition, joining several other counties in a collective effort to push back against contractual issues and inadequate technical support.

Budget matters were also central to the meeting. The board reviewed Budget Amendment #2 for fiscal year 2025, with Supervisor Ellis noting the importance of confirming

ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) fund allocations before final approval. "I would approve the budget amendment as presented pending the ARPA review," said Ellis. The rest of the board agreed, and a public hearing for the amendment was set for May 27, 2025.

County Engineer Adam Clemons provided his regular update on secondary road maintenance. "Blades are out, doing routine maintenance," he reported, adding that dust control preparation is underway and trucks are hauling spot rock. Clemons also shared plans to pour the concrete deck for the Voss Quarry bridge next week. The curing and strength of the concrete will be tested five and seven days after the pour, before further construction can proceed.

In old business, Supervisors Ashley Bosch and Rick Rasmussen shared that they attended the Wright County Charitable Foundation dinner and awards ceremony. The pair praised the local economic development team's efforts in arranging the event.

New business centered on financial standing. Ellis briefly reviewed current fund balances provided by

Wright County Treasurer Peggy Schluttenhofer. Notably, public health has not yet used its general basic funding allocation. "She's standing on her own," Ellis said, referring to Public Health Administrator Sandy McGrath.

McGrath was further commended for organizing CPR and Heart Start training for 24 county employees. Additional training sessions are being planned to accommodate more staff.

In other business, the board:

- Approved First Citizens Bank's request to use the courthouse grounds on July 25, 2025.

- Approved the appointment of Ryan Rupiper as a medical examiner investigator for Wright County. Rupiper currently serves Hamilton County in the same role. "This is an attempt to get somebody on the scene as soon as possible," explained Supervisor Dean Kluss.

The Board will meet again on Monday, May 12, at 9:00 A.M. in the Wright County Supervisors' Chambers. This meeting, and past meetings, can be viewed online at youtube.com/@WrightCountyIowaOfficial8312.

Bridge 210 Project Moves Into Decking Phase

By Edward Lynn

Contractors working on Bridge 210 are making steady progress, according to an April 30 update from Wright County Secondary Roads. The crew has begun installing falsework as they

prepare to pour the bridge deck.

Falsework, in construction, refers to the temporary supports and framework used to hold up parts of the structure until the concrete sets and can bear weight on

its own.

If weather conditions cooperate, the contractor expects to complete placement of the falsework, tie the rebar, and pour the bridge deck within the next few weeks.



Wright County bridge 210, as "falsework" is done in preparation for concrete pouring. (Screenshot, Wright County Secondary Roads/Facebook)

Eagle Grove Schools Warn of Unauthorized Fundraising Effort

By Edward Lynn

The Eagle Grove Community School District is warning local businesses about a suspicious fundraising effort not affiliated with the school. According to a recent post on the district's official Facebook page, individuals claiming to be from Eagle Grove High School (EGHS) have been emailing businesses, asking

for donations in exchange for having their logos placed on mini footballs.

The district emphasized the effort is not legitimate.

"This is NOT a district approved fundraiser and Eagle Grove CSD does not gain financially in any way from this fundraiser," the district wrote.

The post noted that the unauthorized solicitations

have been made via email and that the individuals involved falsely claim to be affiliated with the school.

"If there are any questions, please call us at the administrative office," the district added.

Businesses are urged to verify any fundraising inquiries directly with school officials before contributing.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR



SATURDAY, MAY 10

- Mother's Day Market
10 am - 4pm. 1976 210th street in Clarion

WEDNESDAY, MAY 14

- Blood Drive by Life Serve
From 1pm - 6pm located at 220 East Oak Street in Goldfield

SUNDAY, MAY 18

- Lazy Sundayz at the Ranch
Popcorn Party. Mingle with some of the rescued animals like goats, pigs, chickens and cows. \$5 entry per person all proceeds go directly back to helping the animals

FRIDAY, MAY 23

- Ribbit Round up
Located at Lake Cornelia Park. Meet by the enclosed shelter
Come learn about slimy frogs and see how many you can catch!

SATURDAY, MAY 24

- Bird Feeder Workshop
Make your own bird feeder to take home! From 4pm-5pm
At Lake Cornelia Park Open Shelter. \$10 per feeder

SATURDAY, MAY 31

- Wag & Walk Fundraiser
Starts at Fuel ends at the Clarion Dog Park
8:00 am registration at Fuel. Walk begins at 9:00 am
\$25 registration includes 1 event t-shirt, 1 dog bandana & walk entry
Add a second dog for just \$10 includes a bandana as well.
All proceeds go toward Phase 2 of the dog park project which will add water fountains.

Aspiring young photographers got the chance to try out some zoom lenses on a clear, sunny day during a recent session. (Screenshot, Wright County 4-H Iowa/Facebook)



Wright County Shutterbugs Get Clicking While the Sun Shines

By Edward Lynn Editor

CLARION, Iowa — Wright County 4H has announced opportunities for aspiring young photographers this summer. Already, the young shutterbugs have taken their creativity outside as the weather warms, as photography workshops resumed in the fresh spring air.

At the May 1 session, participants explored techniques using natural sunlight and experimented with zoom lenses, honing their skills for upcoming exhibits.

The next workshop is scheduled for May 27 from 6 to 8 p.m., offering more hands-on learning opportunities for aspiring photographers.

And, in preparation for the Wright County Fair a photo matting and goal sheet session will be held June 24, with participants invited to stop in any time between 4 and 8 p.m. Entrants must bring the 5x7 prints they plan to exhibit.

For more information, visit the Wright County 4-H Facebook page at fb.me/WrightCo4H/.

Eagle Grove Lions Club

is holding a hot dog feed in fareway's parking lot

Saturday, May 10

from 11-2 p.m.

Half of proceeds will go to Bryan Dayton.

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a word to the wise

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Big Names and Big Engines: Wright County Fair Grandstand Lineup Announced

By Edward Lynn

EAGLE GROVE, Iowa — The Wright County Fair Board has announced its full slate of grandstand events for the 2025 fair, promising four nights of high-energy entertainment from July 10

to July 13.

The action begins Thursday, July 10, at 7 p.m. with crowd-favorite hypnotist Jerry Frasier, known for his engaging and hilarious performances that invite audience participation.

Friday, July 11, also at 7 p.m., the engines roar to life with the return of the National Tractor Pullers Association (NTPA) Truck & Tractor Pull, a perennial favorite featuring powerful machines and competitive spirit.

Country music fans can look forward to Saturday, July 12, when Grammy-nominated artist Ty Herndon takes the stage at 7 p.m. Herndon was nominated for a Grammy in 1996 for Best Country Collabora-

tion with Vocals for his song “What Mattered Most”. He will be joined by rising country star Walker Montgomery. The fair’s grandstand events will wrap up Sunday, July 13, at 7:30 p.m. with the Wright Rodeo, followed by a

fireworks show to close out the weekend on a high note.

All grandstand shows are included with fair admission. For more information, visit www.wrightcofair.com or follow the Wright County Fair on social media.

Event honoring Dennis Johnson and other Area Vietnam Vets held in Fort Dodge

Recognizing the 55 heroes who sacrificed their lives in Vietnam in the ICCV area, members of the EGHS class of 1967 and family attended the recognition of Dennis Ogden Johnson on April 22nd, 2025.

“Before They Were Soldiers” is a compendium of servicemen’s lives. A copy of the book was presented to each family member. The VFW post of Fort Dodge provided a military salute and the program also recognized members of the military who were in attendance and served our country.

A copy of the book has been donated to the Eagle Grove Memorial Library in Memoriam of Dennis. The Book is a must read for everyone.



Those who attended the recognition were (L-R): Bruce Hill (Fort Dodge), Sharon Johnson and Sandra Johnson (Eagle Grove), Betty Davis (Eagle Grove) and Loretta Moon (Eagle Grove). Photos provided.

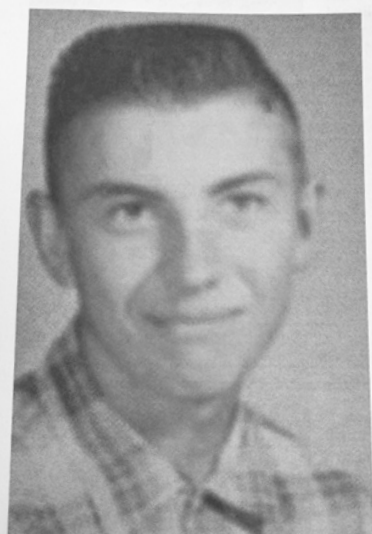
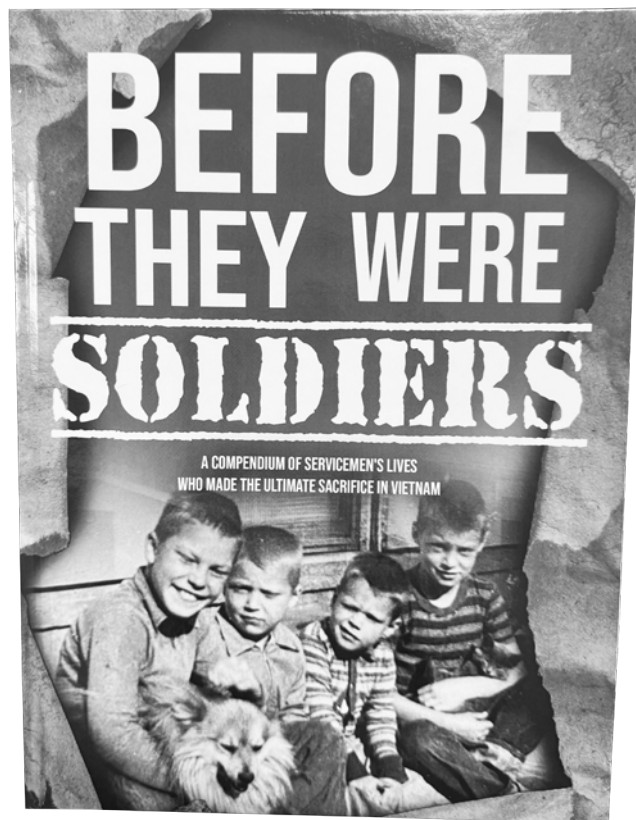


Photo is from the Eagle Grove High School Yearbook.

his father, Leader of Troop 58. Denny stuck with the Scouts until he began working at his father’s business, the Skelly Oil Service Station customers, Denny fell in love with automobiles before he was old enough to drive. Denny had a newfound fascination by building model hot rods. Boy Scouts and Denny and his family preferred fishing over anything else. They went on fishing trips to Pine Lake in Eldora, and longer vacations to Minnetonka. Denny insisted every Mother’s Day be spent next to a lake. Sister Sandra

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LEFT: The book “Before They Were Soldiers” which you can find at the Eagle Grove Memorial Library. RIGHT: Dennis Johnson’s page in the book.

Congregate Meal Menu:

Monday, May 12

Scalloped Potatoes w/Ham, Whole Wheat Bread, Vegetables, Frozen Fruit Cup

Wednesday, May 14

Roast Turkey, Mashed Potatoes w/Gravy, Whole Wheat Bread, Vegetable, Fruit

Friday, May 16

Roast Pork w/Carrots and Potatoes, Whole Wheat Roll, Fruit

4H Horse Show Practices Start This Week

By Edward Lynn

EAGLE GROVE, Iowa — Wright County 4-H members will have a chance to saddle up starting this Wednesday as horse show practices return to the Wright County Fairgrounds Horse Arena in Eagle Grove. The weekly sessions will take place each Wednesday from 6 to 7 p.m. at 901 SE 1st Street.

Practices are scheduled throughout May and June, with dates including May 7, 14, 21 and 28, and June 4, 11, 18 and 25. Participants must be registered Wright County 4-H members, and safety rules require all riders to wear helmets when mounted.

Updates on weather-related cancellations will be posted on the Wright County 4-H Facebook page. All participants are expected to



A couple of Wright County’s young equestrians. (Screenshot, Wright County 4-H/Facebook)

follow 4-H Equine Guidelines, available at the Iowa State University Extension website.

To participate, youth must be registered Wright County 4-H members and are required to wear a helmet at

all times while mounted. Attendees should keep an eye on the Wright County 4-H Facebook page for weather-related cancellations. All riders must adhere to the 4-H Equine Guidelines, which are available online

through Iowa State University Extension and Outreach at <https://store.extension.iastate.edu/product/430>.

The program is hosted by Iowa State University Extension and Outreach, Wright County.

Eagle Grove Community School District -MENU-

Monday, May 12

BREAKFAST: Pancake/Sausage on a stick, Hashbrown, Fruit, Juice
LUNCH: Chicken Sandwich, French Fries, Green Beans, Cinnamon Apples

Tuesday, May 13

BREAKFAST: Donut, Yogurt, Fruit, Juice
LUNCH: Walking Taco, Refried Beans, Lettuce, Cheese, Tomato, Orange

Wednesday, May 14

BREAKFAST: Cereal, Muffin, Fruit, Juice
LUNCH: Hot Dog/Cheddar, Calico Beans, Coleslaw, Pineapple

Thursday, May 15

BREAKFAST: Biscuits & Gravy, Fruit, Juice
LUNCH: Pizza, Corn, Salad, Apple

Friday, May 16

BREAKFAST: Cook’s Choice
LUNCH: Cook’s Choice

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.



It’s a boy!

Benjamin and Brandi Wesselink of Eagle Grove have welcomed their first child.

Sterling Vance Wesselink was born on May 2, 2025, weighing 6.07 pounds.

His grandparents are Kent and Angela Wesselink and Jeff and Stacy Osborn, all of Eagle Grove.

Great grandparents are John and Sue Wesselink of Eagle Grove, Nyle and Jan Cottingham of Ames, Pat and Bob Carlson of Webster City, and Jack Osborn of Webster City.



Weekly Coverage in Eagle Grove and Surrounding Communities

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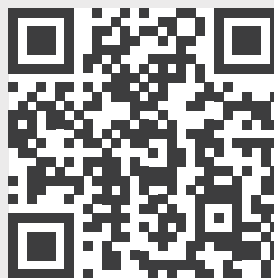
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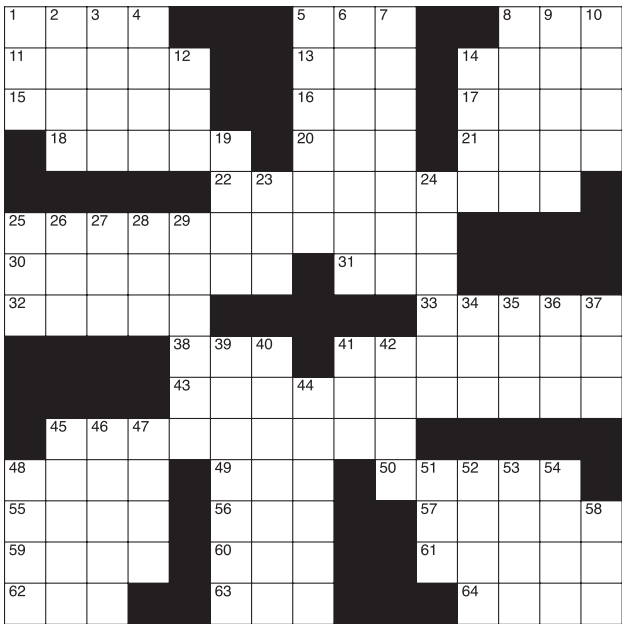
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CLUES ACROSS

1. Herring-like fish

5. Perform on stage

8. Soda

11. Small growth

13. In support of

14. Step taken when walking

15. Hollyhocks

16. Returned material authorization (abbr.)

17. Feel pain

18. San Diego ballplayer

20. Inches per minute (abbr.)

21. Fat from a pig’s abdomen

22. Create again

25. Honors once more

30. Thin coating of gold

31. Welsh river

32. Japanese novelist Mizumura
33. Husks of corn

38. Green vegetable

41. Showing guilt

43. Soldier

45. Photographers

48. Language spoken in Nigeria

49. Mimic

50. Expressed pleasure

55. Ancient Greek sophist

56. Beverage container

57. Night monkey genus

59. Lace bugs

60. Hoghead (abbr.)

61. Frameworks

62. Keyboard key

63. Greek goddess of the dawn

64. Influential Korean independence figure

CLUES DOWN

1. A place to unwind

2. Helped (archaic)

3. Razorbill genus

4. Bleached

5. Continent

6. Fruit preserved in syrup

7. Impediment to one’s freedom

8. Nocturnal rodents

9. Earthy pigment

10. Relieved oneself

12. Golf score

14. Tech hub __ Alto

19. Sportscaster Andrews

23. Records electric currents

24. Popular Hitchcock film

25. Revolutions per minute

26. NY Giants legend

27. Sports radio host Patrick

28. When you hope to get somewhere
29. French seaport

34. Thai river

35. Rocker’s accessory

36. Extra charge

37. Influential American president

39. Pain in the head

40. Great Plains people

41. Consumed

42. Soluble ribonucleic acid

44. Improves

45. Secret clique

46. Behind the stern of a ship

47. Dough made from corn flour

48. Fallow deer

51. Swiss river

52. Grayish white

53. Engrave

54. College’s Blue Devils

58. Midway between south and southeast

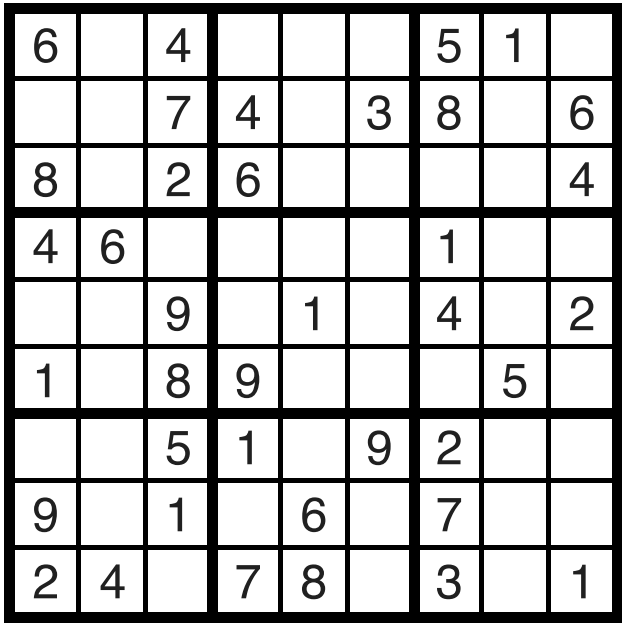
Solutions can be found on the Classified page

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

SAFE BUILD WORD SEARCH



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

- ANCHOR

APRON

BEAM

BOARD

CAULKING

CIRCUIT BREAKER

COLUMN

CONCRETE
- CONDUIT

DISCONNECT

DRYWALL

DUCTS

ELECTRICIAN

FIRE RATED

FLASHING

FOUNDATION
- FRAMING

GRADE

GROUND WIRE

INSULATION

JOIST

PANEL

PLANS

TRUSSES

MidAmerican Energy Warns About EV Charger Scam, 2 Week Outage

By Edward Lynn Editor

MidAmerican Energy has issued a scam alert warning customers not to scan suspicious QR code stickers that have appeared on electric vehicle (EV) chargers across Iowa. The company says the stickers, which claim to direct users to a payment site operated by a company called RioNadi, are fraudulent. “This is a SCAM,” Mid-American wrote in a statement on Facebook. “We do not partner with this company, so you should NOT scan the QR code on that sticker or provide any personal information.” The utility said it is ac-

tively working to remove the stickers but also encouraged the public to help by reporting or removing them if spotted. There is no indication that the fraudulent stickers are linked to any official MidAmerican operations. MidAmerican also announced a two-week outage for its EV chargers, which began May 1, as it transitions to a new payment processing partner, ChargeLab. The chargers are expected to remain offline until May 16. “This has no correlation with the scam noted above,” the company stated. “We are sorry for this inconvenience.”

The outage, however, has sparked concern among electric vehicle users, particularly in rural areas where charging options are already limited. “Turning these off for two weeks is an insane choice,” wrote Seth Bokelman of Council Bluffs. “If you can’t manage to hand-off to a new company without potentially stranding people, at least set them to dispense the electricity free until the handoff is done.” Scott Bennett of Lincoln, Nebraska echoed the concern, noting that MidAmerican chargers are the only available EV infrastructure in many towns like

Clarinda, Carroll, and Fort Dodge. “You will strand people mark my word,” Bennett commented. “You really should consider putting them on free or something because this is gonna not work out well for your trust on working chargers.” MidAmerican has not yet announced any changes to its current transition plan, but EV drivers are advised to plan ahead and explore alternate charging locations during the outage. While there are no Mid-American Energy EV charger stations in Eagle Grove, MidAmerican is the primary electrical utility serving Eagle Grove, and much of the surrounding area.

Fort Dodge spill into Lizard Creek resulted in nearly 72,000 dead fish

Plus DNR investigating two recent wastewater spills

By Cami Koons

A fish kill report from the Iowa Department of Natural Resources shows 71,933 fish were killed following a spill of a supplement byproduct, used as fertilizer, into a creek near Fort Dodge. The spill, which occurred April 14, killed fish for a stretch of more than 15 miles down South Branch Lizard Creek and into Lizard Creek. The byproduct was high in ammonia and very corrosive, according to DNR staff who responded to the incident and observed murky, brown water conditions flowing all the way into the Des Moines River. The majority of dead fish, 62,620, were observed in South Branch Lizard Creek, where the spill from CJ Bio America occurred. The company noticed the byproduct from manufacturing lysine had leaked into a stormwater drain, which staff blocked with a berm that they later

realized had developed a breach. According to DNR, this allowed an unknown amount of the byproduct to flow to the surface intake of a neighboring field and into the creek. DNR valued the fish killed from the incident at \$73,819. Most of the dead fish were small minnows, shiners, dace and chub, but other varieties included nearly 5,000 suckers, more than 2,000 rock and small-mouth bass and 37 northern pike. A Facebook post from CJ Bio America shows approximately 277,000 gallons of the byproduct overflowed, with a portion of that making it into the creek. The statement said staff worked to clean the nearby tile and are exploring the possibility of an automated way to stop flow through the tile in the event of another spill. The statement said the company is also increasing the size of its earthen berms, that were meant to contain the spill,

and it plans to install “additional monitoring devices” for storage containment. “We deeply regret and apologize for this incident and are fully committed to the community and its well-being,” the statement read. **DNR investigating wastewater spills in Boyer and South Skunk Rivers** DNR is investigating two recent wastewater spills, one from a meat processing facility near Denison into Boyer River and another from a wastewater treatment plant into the South Skunk River. A valve malfunction at Smithfield Fresh Meats Corp. in Denison led to an estimated 500-gallon spill of wastewater into the Boyer River. DNR staff were notified Sunday morning of the release, which was quickly stopped by Smithfield staff who closed the stormwater drain where the water was flowing. John Baker, environmen-

tal specialist with the DNR field office in Atlantic, said most of the wastewater was contained to the stormwater system, which is being cleaned. Baker said no dead fish have been observed in the Boyer River. In Story City, an estimated 1.5 million gallons of partially treated wastewater was released into South Skunk River over the weekend due to unusually high flows to a wastewater treatment plant. According to a press release from DNR, the wastewater was treated using an ultraviolet disinfection process before it was diverted into the river. High flows at the plant were caused by heavy rain over the past week. The plant began discharging the water around 2 p.m. on Saturday and ended Sunday around 4 p.m. No dead fish have been observed in the river as a result of the event.

Iowa Ranks Fifth Nationally in Preschool Access - But Possible Budget Cuts Loom

By Edward Lynn

DES MOINES, Iowa — Even as Iowa leads the nation from smack dab in the middle of the top ten states for preschool access, early childhood education here in Iowa is under threat by proposed federal budget cuts that would impact the entire country. Iowa continues to lead the Midwest and ranks fifth nationally in preschool access for four-year-old children, according to the newly released State of Preschool Yearbook from the National Institute for Early Education Research (NIEER). The state’s ranking for access among three-year-olds also improved slightly, from 22nd to 21st place. The 2023-24 yearbook shows Iowa enrolled 67 percent of its four-year-olds and six percent of its three-year-olds in state-funded preschool programs, significantly above the national averages of 37 percent and eight percent, respectively. “We are pleased to see Iowa recognized for our continued efforts to provide access to high-quality preschool programs for our youngest learners,” said Kimberly Villotti, chief of the Bureau of Early Childhood Education at the Iowa Department of Education. “Through our collaborative partnerships and a statewide commitment to inclusive programming, we continue to serve a large number of four-year-olds

and look for additional enrollment opportunities for three-year-olds.” The report highlighted the strength of Iowa’s two state-funded programs: the Shared Visions Preschool Program and the Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program for Four-Year-Old Children. Combined, these programs enrolled 28,189 students, with nearly \$97 million in total state spending — up one percent from the prior year. The average spending per child reached \$3,735. Iowa has managed to sustain access to preschool in large part due to its state-funded efforts. Established in 2007, the Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program offers free access to quality preschool for all children who are four years old by September 15. Shared Visions, operating in 29 counties, targets children ages three to five who are considered at-risk, supporting both school readiness and long-term educational outcomes. While Iowa’s performance at the state level remains strong, the national report arrives against a backdrop of uncertainty following recent federal funding developments. In early 2025, the Trump administration proposed eliminating all federal funding for Head Start, a program that provides early education and support services to low-income families. Although the proposal was ultimately reversed

after public backlash, it created significant disruption and concern for providers across the country. Further complicating matters, a January 2025 executive order froze disbursements for numerous federal grants, including Head Start, as part of a broader administrative spending review. Although courts later blocked the order, the temporary halt delayed services in many communities and highlighted the instability of relying on federal funding. If the Trump administration succeeds in cutting funding for Head Start, families would lose access to affordable child care, and much more. As a result, experts here in the Hawkeye state and around the nation are speaking out. “Families need the opportunity and the availability to go to work, and what’s the biggest barrier for families with young children? Childcare,” Christi Regan, Director of Head Start programs at HACAP in eastern Iowa, told KGAN. Head Start does more than just watch and teach young children, Regan pointed out, saying “We do a variety of screenings that involve developmental, vision, hearing, dental... all of those have huge impacts on a child’s ability to grow and learn.” Stephanie Schmit, Director of Child Care and Early Education at the Center for Law and Social Policy, warned about the

broader implications of cutting Head Start funds, that threaten to impact even those without young children, through a sort of domino effect. “Eliminating Head Start will have effects far beyond the families it serves. For many Head Start families, losing these services may mean having to leave school or the workforce, creating economic instability for their entire community,” she told the Jacksonville Journal-Courier. And Yasmina Vinci, Executive Director of the National Head Start Association, expressed relief over Head Start’s inclusion in the Trump Administration’s latest budget proposal, but also expressed concern. “While Head Start is grateful that it was not explicitly eliminated in this skinny budget proposal, we are concerned about the significant cuts that threaten access to health services, education, and support for hundreds of thousands of families,” Vinci told the Associated Press. In an effort to help those concerned for the future of the Head Start program and early childhood education in America, the National Head Start Association (NHSA) has launched a tool to help citizens contact lawmakers, at <https://nhsa.org/take-action/>. More information about Iowa’s preschool programs is available at educate.iowa.gov under Early Childhood Education.



May 2 is our scheduled last day of session. We will be headed into overtime this week as we pass some final bills and settle on budgets.

The Senate debated on Monday and Tuesday this week to either send bills already passed by the House to the Governor for her signature or send bills to the House for their consideration.

One of the bills we passed this week was House File 835, which would help students who face the risk of seizures in school. This bill will require at least one employee at each school be trained to administer or assist self-administration of rescue medication should a seizure occur during school.

We also passed Senate File 639, establishing a business court for the purpose of resolving complex commercial and business litigation. Many states already have such courts and adding one in Iowa, along with many other pro-business policies, will help us attract more businesses to Iowa.

A bill I mentioned in previous newsletters deals with pharmacy benefit manager reform. PBMs establish how much a pharmacy gets paid for the drugs they dispense under insurance. Senate File 383 implements protections for Iowa patients, cost savings measures, and reforms to help rural pharmacies. This is similar to measures passed in many other states and supports transparency of reimbursements and actual costs of drugs. SF 383 was sent to the House for their consideration.

The controversy over eminent domain’s use continues with 12 senators pledging not to vote for budget bills until HF 639 is given a chance on the Senate floor. We believe addressing eminent domain must be done this session. The 12

senators signing this public statement are: Senator Alons, Senator Campbell, Senator De Witt, Senator Evans, Senator Guth, Senator Lofgren, Senator Pike, Senator Rowley, Senator Salmon, Senator Sires, Senator Taylor and Senator Westrich.

I find that the vast majority of my constituents, the County Board of Supervisors in my district, most Republican Central Committees in my district, and the Republican Platform all support limiting eminent domain to projects of public use. This is a question of Constitutional rights and should not be influenced by possible profit.

On Tuesday night most of the Senate gathered for a dinner to honor our pages. Pages are high school students that serve the Senate by running online conferences for committee meetings, help in the well when we are in debate, make copies of bills and run a hundred different errands. It’s always interesting getting to know these students and I find the session never provides enough time to really get to know them. The page dinner gave us a little more time to see them as individuals.

It was obvious they have been paying attention while they sit at the back of the Senate chambers. At the dinner they acted out a Senate debate over a bill to increase pay for pages and include hazardous duty pay when committees get contentious. They not only had the process well learned, but they represented the personalities of several prominent senators very well. We all laughed when they announced that “Democrats will caucus in room 24 for 24 hours.” This gathering is something we try to do every year and it blesses me to get together as legislators with no agendas for a night of fun.



This past week Iowa students joined Governor Reynolds to support the signing of the no cellphones during class time legislation. It became law this week. The communities that started the policy in the last couple of years have seen profound changes as grades rise, students are more engaged in the classroom and also with each other. I am very glad we were able to get this legislation passed.

By statute, our last day of pay was May 2. The House is in a pause waiting on some Senate business to finish and to work on budget negotiations. Those negotiations revolve around, among other things, para-educator pay. While the majority of the House were at home on standby I continued to travel to the Capitol to work on legislation with the Senate. The Justice Appropriations which I am vice-chair met to discuss the funding of our courts and state law enforcement agencies. During those meeting I learned we have 2 Department of Public Safety (DPS) officers dedicated to human trafficking, and 65 DPS officers dedicated to ensuring rules governing casinos are enforced. Those numbers have grabbed my attention and I will continue to research.

This week, the House, Senate and Governor all released their targets for the Fiscal Year 2026 budget. This is an important step toward reaching final budget agreements.

The House are moving forward with a state budget of \$9.453 billion for the next fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025. The proposed budget is an increase of \$506 million over the current year’s spending level of \$8.947 billion. This amount is an increase of 5.65 percent over Fiscal Year 2025.

The Senate and Governor agree on an overall budget number of \$9.417 billion, about \$36 million lower than the House budget.

The Iowa House has built

our reputation on passing responsible budgets that have allowed us to lower the tax burden while funding Iowans’ budget priorities. This budget is fiscally responsible while following through on the commitments we have made and properly funding the priorities of Iowans.

The House fighting for a budget that uses Iowans’ taxpayer dollars wisely to fund important priorities like caring for elderly Iowans in nursing homes, maintaining our commitment to increased paraprofessional pay, and providing support for human trafficking victims.

House Releases Health and Human Services Budget

This week, the House and Senate both released FY2026 Health and Human Services Budgets.

The House budget appropriates \$2.47 billion of state general fund to the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Department of Health and Human Services. This is a \$253 million increase in general fund compared to FY2025. In total with federal matching funds, the House budget appropriates over \$6 billion towards Medicaid, childcare, child welfare, public health, aging and veteran services in Iowa.

1. Fully Funding Medicaid – This budget appropriates an additional \$20 million on top of the March Medicaid estimate for FY26. The House is dedicated to fully funding Medicaid and have always provided that commitment to vulnerable Iowans. Allegations that Medicaid is not being funded are inaccurate.

2. Provider rate adjustments – This budget provides necessary increases to the following Medicaid providers:

- Nursing Homes – The House has fully funded Iowa’s nursing homes at the rate developed through cost reporting. This \$25 million of state funding amounts to almost \$70 million increase

to Iowa’s nursing homes to care for Iowa’s elderly.

- Home and Community-Based Services – The House budget provides a \$3 million increase to care for Iowa’s disabled population in their communities, which amounts to \$8.5 million in total funding increase.
- Maternal Health – Increases rates for prenatal, delivery and postnatal care
- Dentists – Provides \$3.1 million to increase dental rates to the 85% Medicare benchmark
- Pharmacy – Provides a \$1 million increase to the Medicaid dispensing fee
- Prosthetics – Increases prosthetic and orthotic provider rates by \$295,000

3. Mental Health –

- Autism Coverage – fully funds adding autism coverage to the hawk-i program ensuring over 600 youth have access to autism care
- Commitment Discharge – adds in the majority of House File 385 that requires responsible discharge planning for individuals committed for substance abuse or mental health.
- Commitment Hearing Testimony – adds in House File 313 that allows PAs and ARNPs to testify at commitment hearings if they witnessed the examination, reviewed the report, and the professional that examined the individual is unable to attend the hearing.

4. Adoption and Foster care – This bill increases foster care and adoption subsidy rates by 5%

5. Emergency Medical Services – Funds House File 977 to expand federal support for Iowa’s EMS providers. This bill will enable additional tens of millions of dollars to come to the state to support rural EMS.

6. Personal Needs Allowance – increases the monthly allotment for Medicaid individuals in nursing facilities to retain \$65 per month to pay towards personal needs.

7. SNAP – Double Up Food Bucks – Fully funds the \$1 million in House File

970. This bill importantly provides a \$1 million appropriation to the Double Up Food Bucks Program if Iowa receives federal approval to include healthy food based on necessary nutrition for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.

8. Veterans – Fully funds House File 1000, which appropriates \$250,000 to the veterans service organization grant program to provide matching funds for employing new staff to assist veterans with federal claims.

Government Oversight Meeting

This week, the House Government Oversight Committee met for another hearing on the misallocation of court debt funds by the Iowa Judicial Branch.

The committee heard testimony from Iowa State Auditor Rob Sand on his office’s attempt to catch the misallocations in a timely manner. In the meeting, Auditor Sand continued to downplay the significance of the at least \$27 million that was misallocated. Auditor Sand says that those funds were not lost and instead were redirected to the general fund, but we have yet to see satisfactory documentation to verify whether that is true.

This misallocation has had significant consequences. Victims of crime have been denied timely compensation owed to them, infrastructure projects such as bridge repairs and road improvements have been delayed, and community safety programs have been underfunded. One of the biggest issues we have here is the lack of timely communication to the Legislature from both the Judicial Branch and the Auditor once they were made aware that there was an issue.

- o The House Government Oversight Committee is committed to a thorough investigation to uncover the full scope of this misallocation, ensure accountability, and prevent future errors. The people of Iowa deserve a government that prioritizes transparency, safeguards public resources, holds public entities accountable when funds are improperly dispersed, and delivers on its promises to support victims, infrastructure, and community safety.

100 days of promises kept under President Trump

By Rep. Randy Feenstra

April 29th marked 100 days of promises kept under President Trump. Like he pledged on the campaign trail, he has mobilized every tool at his disposal to make America strong again and reverse the failed policies pushed by the Biden administration. From border security and energy dominance to government efficiency and economic investment, President Trump has delivered real results for the American people and has worked around the clock to put our families, farmers, workers, and small businesses first.

The clearest example of President Trump’s decisive leadership is his complete and total lockdown of our southern border. Illegal border crossings have plummeted by 95% and illegal immigrant “got-aways” have fallen by 99%. Drug traffickers, criminals, sex traffickers, and violent MS-13 and Tren de Aragua gang members have been quickly removed from our country. After Biden halted construction of the border wall, President Trump immediately restarted this vital national security ini-



tiative and reiterated his unwavering support for our border patrol agents who were treated so poorly under the Biden administration. President Trump was absolutely right when he remarked during his joint address to Congress on March 4th that “it turned out that all we really needed was a new President” to secure our border.

Strengthening his work to close the border, President Trump honored families who have lost loved ones to illegal immigrant crime by signing the Laken Riley Act – the first piece of legislation to become law this year. The Laken Riley Act also included Sarah’s Law, in honor of 21-year-

old Iowan Sarah Root, who was senselessly killed by a drunk driving illegal immigrant in 2016. Instead of answering for his crimes, this criminal posted bail, was released from jail, and fled our country never to be seen again. Sarah’s Law – now the law of the land thanks to President Trump – ensures that illegal immigrants who murder or seriously injure American citizens are detained without bail and held accountable for their actions. Fortunately, the illegal immigrant who killed Sarah Root was recently arrested in Honduras and the Trump administration worked quickly with Honduran authorities to extradite this criminal back to the United States to face justice. This is the action that the American people wanted to see, and President Trump is delivering.

Upon his return to the White House, President Trump also announced that he would do everything in his power to restore American energy dominance – and that he did. He created the National Energy Dominance Council to determine every avenue available to increase ener-

gy production, lower gas prices, and make the United States the world’s energy powerhouse. He rescinded countless Biden executive orders that promoted the Green New Deal over affordable gas and electricity prices and cut needless red tape that prevented American energy producers from reaching their full production capacity. He overturned the Biden administration’s ban on liquefied natural gas exports, signed a resolution – that I voted for – to completely repeal Biden’s costly tax on natural gas production, and stopped the Biden administration’s ridiculous electric-vehicle mandates on American families. Under President Trump’s watch, we will use the energy resources abundantly available in our own country and reduce our dependence on our foreign adversaries for our energy needs.

Government efficiency is another bright spot of President Trump’s America First agenda. The Biden administration exploded our national debt with trillions of dollars of wasteful spending that fueled inflation and made life more expensive

for Americans. As promised, the Trump administration uncovered example after example of waste, fraud, and abuse in our federal government. DEI positions in federal agencies have been cut, spending on liberal initiatives has been slashed, and welfare for illegal immigrants has been suspended. Eliminating this type of waste ensures that programs like Medicare and Social Security – intended for American citizens only – can remain solvent now and well into the future. With President Trump in the White House, taxpayer dollars are being treated with the care that they deserve.

Additionally, because of President Trump’s mission to hold our trading partners accountable to our laws and protect our farmers, workers, manufacturers, and businesses from unfair and unlawful trade practices, business investment is accelerating in our country. More than \$5 trillion in new investments in America have been announced, which will create over 451,000 new jobs in American communities. This impressive figure does

not even include pledges that other countries have made to bring manufacturing and jobs to the United States, spurring additional economic growth. To complement these investments, my Republican colleagues and I are working hard to extend President Trump’s Tax Cuts and Jobs Act to deliver tax relief for our families, farmers, workers, and businesses. While Democrats want Americans to see the highest tax hike in U.S. history, President Trump and Republicans are committed to lowering taxes and unleashing U.S. economic prosperity. The American workforce and American industry will no longer be taken advantage of by foreign nations, and American citizens will rightfully keep more of their hard-earned money.

This is not an exhaustive list of the amazing achievements that President Trump has delivered in just 100 days, but it does prove that he is working harder than ever to serve the American people. I know that President Trump will take this same aggressive and results-oriented approach to his next four years in office.

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515-825-3754
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Thursday, May 8
8 a.m. Sewing at St. John
11:40 a.m. Rosary at Sacred Heart
Noon Mass at Sacred Heart
7:30 p.m. Our Lady of Fatima Novena in Spanish at St. John
Friday, May 9
7:40 a.m. Rosary at St. John
8 a.m. Mass, Adoration and Benediction at St. John
7:30 p.m. Our Lady of Fatima Novena in Spanish at St. John

Saturday, May 10
3:15 p.m. AB at St. John
4 p.m. mass at St. John
7:15 p.m. A/B at St. John
8 p.m. Spanish Mass at St. John
Sunday, May 11
Mother's Day--Baby Needs
7:15 p.m. Rosary, A/B in St. Francis
8 a.m. Mass, St. Francis
9:45 a.m. Rosary, A/B at Sacred Heart
10:30 a.m. Mass at Sacred Heart
7:30 p.m. Our Lady of Fatima Novena in Spanish at St. John
Monday, May 12
8:15 a.m. Rosary at St. Francis
6:30 p.m. CDA Rosary and meeting at St. Francis
6:30 p.m. OCIA St. John
7:30 p.m. Our Lady of Fatima Novena in Spanish at St. John
Tuesday, May 13
9 a.m. Staff Meeting
Yearly Planning (OFFICE CLOSED)
9 a.m. Bible Study at St. Francis
11 a.m. Fatima Rosary at Sacred Heart
7:30 p.m. Our Lady of Fatima Novena in Spanish at St. John
Wednesday, May 14
7:40 a.m. Rosary at St. Francis
8 a.m. Nass at St. Francis
5:30 p.m. Finance at Sacred Heart

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2139 Hancock Ave
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Pastor George Lautner
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HolmesLutheran@gmail.com
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Sunday, May 11
9:30 a.m. Worship with Baptism
10:30 a.m. Sunday School

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Vicar Jon Merritt
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Saturday
4 p.m. Worship at Rotary Senior Living South in the Chapel

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

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

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

MT. CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH--LC-MS
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Pastor Mark Eichler
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8:30 a.m. Worship

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Thursday
10 a.m. EGAMA
Sunday
9 a.m. Worship
10:15 a.m. Coffee Fellow
10:15 a.m. Sunday School
- Last Sunday until fall
Tuesday
7 p.m. Worship & Music Committee
Wednesday
9 a.m. Bible Study
Noon Men's Bible Study

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Tuesday
9 a.m. Bible Study
Wednesday
Confirmation

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Pastor Ron Rasmussen
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www.Rejoicechurchiowa.com and Facebook

Obituary
Frank Siemens

1936-2025

Frank Lester Siemens, the son of Bert J. and June L. (McCarty) Siemens, was born on September 2, 1936, in Belmond, Iowa. He was raised and educated in Renwick, graduating from Renwick High School in 1954. An important part of Frank's life was farming the Siemens land (some going back to the 1800's), he began farming with his father in 1953.

Frank served in the United States Army, from 1955 to 1957 and was part of a Top Secret Armed Forces Special Weapons Project. He graduated from several Atomic Energy courses from Sandia Corp in Albuquerque, NM.

On August 23, 1957, Frank was united in marriage with Ellen Glascok in Ohio.

In 1960, Boone Valley Implement was started at the farm. Frank was a charter member of Park Church of Christ in Goldfield and member of Clarion Church of Christ.

Frank passed away on Friday, April 4, 2025, at the age of 88 years. He was preceded in death by his parents; son, Ron Siemens; brothers, Albert, Dr. John, Paul and Roger Siemens; sisters, Phyllis Silver and Maybelle Hebner and grandson, Ryan Roberts.

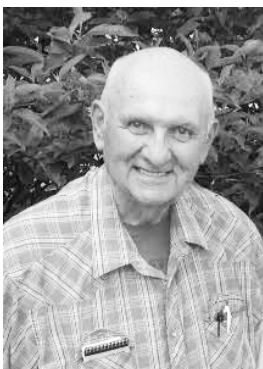
Survivors include his wife of 67 years, Ellen; daughters, Trish Roberts (Rod) and Karen Provance (Joe); four grandchildren Lindsey Sayers, Brett Roberts (Libby), Jeremy Provance (Olivia) and Brad Provance; five great grandchildren, Jack Sayers, Ryan Sayers, Elizabeth Roberts, Walden Provance and June Roberts; sister-in-law, Ruth Siemens of Goldfield; many nieces and nephews and a special friend of Frank and the family, Monica Forbes.

Funeral services were held Thursday, April 17, 2025, at 10:30 a.m. at Clarion Church of Christ. Visitation was on Wednesday from 4 to 6 p.m. at the Foust Funeral Home in Eagle Grove. Burial was in Elmwood Cemetery in Renwick.

Memorials may be left to the Renwick Ambulance or Renwick Fire Department or your favorite charity.

Agriculture is the Heartbeat of America. Never forget that land is a gift that never stops giving!! Frank

Services: 10:30 a.m., Thursday, April 17, 2025
Clarion Church of Christ
Foust Funeral Home
515-448-3674 • www.foustffh.com



DELEON-ANDRADE from page 1A

title sponsorship of the Annual Governor's Scholar Recognition Ceremony, we're honored to support and celebrate Iowa's outstanding students."

"The principles learned through academic success, like those learned from participation in education-based activities, help develop outstanding leaders and citizens," IHSAA Executive Director Tom Keating said. "The partnership between the IHSAA and the Iowa Farm Bureau, along with the great cooperation of the Governor's Office has made this event possible for many years," Keating added.

Students also had the opportunity to honor a favorite or most influential teacher and received a commemorative photo plaque of their meeting with Governor Reynolds.

Ninety-eight percent of those recognized participate in extracurricular school activities, with over 82 percent involved in at least one interscholastic sport. More than 63 percent plan to continue their education at Iowa colleges and universities.

The ceremony can be viewed in its entirety on the Eagle Grove Eagle website, and on Youtube.

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Speak Lord, Your Servant Is Listening
When God speaks to us, it is more often a whisper than a shout and it is usually not obvious how we should interpret God's message. We are free to interpret and act on God's message as we see fit. When the Old Testament prophet Samuel heard the voice of God, he apparently heard--or thought he heard--an audible voice, and thought he was hearing Eli calling to him (cf. 1 Samuel chapter 3). Eli, finally realizing that Samuel is hearing the voice of God, tells him to respond, the next time he hears the voice, "Speak Lord, for your servant is listening." (1 Samuel 3:9) We don't normally hear God's message audibly; it's more like the whisper of conscience or the gentle urging of the heart and thus we must take time to listen and reflect on what we're hearing. We learn to hear God's voice, however it may come to us, and we must also learn how to interpret it. The deeper lesson of Samuel's story is that God can use anyone as His instrument who is humble and attentive enough to heed the call. Are we not all called to be servants of the Lord?
-Christopher Simon

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State Awards \$3.4 Million in New Grants to Support Apprenticeship Programs

Two annual grant programs to support a number of existing programs and new occupations in high-demand fields.

DES MOINES, Iowa – Iowa today announced new grant awards for Registered Apprenticeship (RA) sponsors whose programs are building the workforce pipeline across the state. A total of \$3.4 million in grants are being distributed to both existing RA programs and programs created in new occupations that are based in high-demand fields.

Grant funds awarded to RA sponsors will be managed through the Iowa Office of Apprenticeship (IOA). The IOA, housed within Iowa Workforce Development, is responsible for administering and supporting all RA programs in the state. In 2024, Iowa officially became a State Apprenticeship Agency (SAA), granting IOA the formal oversight and authority to better support existing programs and establish innovative ways to expand their development across the state.

“I applaud the program sponsors receiving grant funds today who are committed to preparing the workers of tomorrow using the Registered Apprenticeship model,” said Governor Reynolds. “Registered Apprenticeship programs play a critical role in our overall workforce strategy. As we demonstrated in the Teacher-Paraeducator Registered Apprenticeship program, using a tried and true model in a nontraditional field is a win-win for Iowans and employers, and I am pleased to see a number of our schools receive funding under this program.”

Today’s grant awards involve two different funding streams, which together will help support the success of thousands of apprentices participating in the sponsors’ programs:

- The Iowa Apprenticeship Act (84E), which provides funding for training or ongoing costs within any active RA program in the state.
- (Awardee Sheet): \$2.94 million in grants to 59 sponsors who are supporting 5,133 participating apprentices.
- The Iowa Registered Apprenticeship Development Program (84F), which specifically provides funding for new programs formed in a high-demand occupation.

• (Awardee Sheet): \$427,800 in grants to 17 sponsors who have created programs in 19 new occupations.

“Iowa made an investment to provide financial support to grow Registered Apprenticeship programs when these programs were created over 10 years ago,” said Beth Townsend, Executive Director of Iowa Workforce Development. “Today, we continue to see the return on that investment with increases in the number of apprentices and programs across the state as well as the expansion of this training model into nontraditional fields.”

Nursing home worker says she was told ‘keep your mouth shut’ about man’s death

Two lawsuits claim care facility tried to cover up facts surrounding death

By Clark Kauffman

An alleged whistleblower who says she was fired from a nursing home after being instructed to “keep your mouth shut” about a resident’s death is suing her former employer.

Tylene Schultz is suing the Fonda Specialty Care nursing home, its parent company, Care Initiatives, and licensed practical nurse Becky Manning in Pocahontas County District Court.

In her lawsuit, Schultz claims that in the summer of 2022, she was hired at Fonda Specialty Care by its then-administrator, Jennifer Blair, to work in the home as a certified nursing assistant.

On Feb. 18, 2023, the home allegedly scheduled a temp-agency nurse, Manning, to work the overnight shift due to a shortage of staff nurses. During the shift, a resident with a tracheostomy passed away about 2:25 a.m., the lawsuit claims.

State records indicate the resident who died was 87-year-old Marvin “Pete” Jacobs, who had undergone a tracheostomy and needed regular suctioning of his airway. The lawsuit claims Jacobs died because throughout the shift, Manning refused to numerous requests to suction Jacobs’ airway.

“Despite multiple requests by Schultz to suction the resident — over 10 times, from 6 p.m. on Feb.18, 2023, to 2:25 a.m., Feb.19, 2023 — Manning would not suction the resident, nor did she attempt to use the suction machine,” the lawsuit claims.

Schultz alleges she tried to call “supervisory level staff” who worked for the home, but none of the individuals answered the calls. She also alleges she asked that someone call 911, but Manning told her no physician was available at that hour to provide an order for a hospital evaluation.

An ‘agonizing and painful’ death alleged

In her lawsuit, Schultz alleges she and another CNA remained with Jacobs as he “pointed to his neck, coughed, gagged, struggled to breathe, and turned colors from the lack of oxygen, until he finally passed away. From Schultz’s direct observation of the resident, his death was agonizing and painful.”

Schultz alleges she and a fellow CNA were so traumatized by the death they had to excuse themselves from the facility and were standing outside the building in an “emotionally hysterical” state. The other CNA was “physically ill, to the point of vomiting,” when an ambulance crew arrived to confirm Jacobs’ death.

According to the lawsuit, after Schultz left the home at the end of her shift, she received multiple text messages from Blair that said, “Keep your mouth shut and keep your opinions to yourself,” along with instructions that she should not communicate with Jacobs’ family.

Later that day, Schultz was summoned to a meeting with Blair at Fonda Specialty Care. During the meeting, the lawsuit claims, Blair — who was allegedly was aware Schultz planned to call state regulators and report her concerns with Jacobs’ care — informed Schultz she was being fired due to “resident complaints.”

The lawsuit claims Blair also stated that Schultz had violated patient privacy provisions of the federal Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act by calling a co-worker at home and asking for their assistance with Jacobs’ situation.

Schultz alleges she reported her concerns with Manning’s “actions and inactions” to both the Iowa Long-Term Care Ombudsman’s Office and the Iowa Department of Inspections, Appeals and Licensing.

DIAL subsequently cited Fonda Specialty Care for “failing to ensure that a resident who needs respiratory care, including tracheostomy care and tracheal suctioning, is provided such care,” and fined the home \$10,000. The penalty was then reduced 35%, to \$6,500, due to the lack of an appeal in the case.

Manning was criminally charged with felony wanton neglect of a resident of a health care facility and later pleaded guilty to misdemeanor wanton neglect. Last year, Manning entered into an agreement with the Iowa Board of Nursing in which she agreed to indefinitely suspend her practice of nursing.

In her lawsuit, Schultz alleges she was “fired for making a complaint to the ombudsman and the Iowa Department of Inspection of Appeals due to the suspected abuse and/or neglect of the resident ... and not based on any resident complaints.”

The lawsuit seeks unspecified damages for wrongful termination. Care Initiatives has denied any wrongdoing and alleges that Schultz’s dismissal was based on legitimate, non-discriminatory, and non-retaliatory business reasons.

Inspectors detail events surrounding death

Some of the allegations in the lawsuit parallel the findings of state inspectors whose public reports describe the events leading up to Jacobs’ death.

According to the inspectors, an aide reported that Jacobs was sitting in his recliner when another worker noticed he appeared to be “in trouble” and instructed her to get a nurse right away. Jacobs was pointing at his neck, gasping for air, and mouthing that he could not breathe, the aide told inspectors.

The aide said she left the room to get the nurse and was absent for a few minutes. The worker who remained in the room later told inspectors Jacobs grew “really pale” and was gasping, so she, too, left the room and approached a nurse and said, “Would you please suction him? He needs to be suctioned.”

When the nurse entered the room, Jacobs was pale, but soon turned purple and then blue, the aide later reported. The nurse took his vital signs and told the aide Jacobs was having a heart attack. The aide explained to the nurse that Jacobs had been signaling he couldn’t breathe, at which point the nurse said, “Just a minute,” and left the room. The suctioning machine used to clear Jacobs’ airway sat idle on a nearby dresser, inspectors reported.

The nurse, later identified as Manning, told inspectors the “staff wanted me to suction him (and) I told the staff no. I was told that I would not have to do anything with the tracheostomy.” Manning allegedly told inspectors she first left the room to get supplies so she could check Jacobs’ blood pressure, pulse and oxygen levels and that when she returned, he was clammy and had an irregular pulse.

“I told the staff that I needed to go back to the nurses’ station and find out if the resident was a full code or DNR,” Manning reportedly told inspectors, referring to do-not-resuscitate orders that some residents have in place.

The inspectors allege that Manning told them that while she was checking on DNR order, one of the aides approached her and said she was needed right away in Jacobs’ room. “I went back into his room and he had no blood pressure, no pulse, and no respirations. I pronounced him deceased,” she allegedly told inspectors.

She reportedly acknowledged her fellow workers had each told her Jacobs needed his airway suctioned and that he had been pointing to his neck and mouthing that he couldn’t breathe. According to the inspectors, Manning said that despite her colleagues’ comments, it never occurred to her to suction Jacobs’ airway.

Arbitration agreement blocks family’s lawsuit

Jacobs’ death is the focus of a separate lawsuit filed by his family against Fonda Specialty Care, Care Initiatives, Manning and the nursing home’s then-assistant director of nursing, Amanda Meyer.


According to the family’s lawsuit, when Manning arrived for work at the home on the afternoon of Feb. 18, 2023, she became aware Jacobs had a tracheostomy that would require suctioning at some point during the night and allegedly told Meyer and others she was unwilling or incapable of performing the work. Meyer allegedly told Manning to “watch a video and figure it out” and left the facility for the day, the lawsuit claims.

After the death, the family’s lawsuit claims, Manning falsely informed Jacobs’ son, Scott, that his father “went quickly and peacefully.” Scott Jacobs only learned of what actually transpired after being contacted by an Iowa Capital Dispatch reporter, the lawsuit claims.

The lawsuit alleges that after speaking to the reporter, Scott Jacobs called Jennifer Blair of Care Initiatives “to confront her about the (state’s) investigation and true facts of Pete Jacobs’ death.” According to the lawsuit, Blair “admitted to withholding information” from the family and not informing them of the state’s investigation and its findings.

Technically, the family’s lawsuit remains active, but all activity in the case has been stayed due to a judge’s finding that when Marvin Jacobs was admitted to the home, his son reviewed for 34 seconds an agreement that requires disputes over resident care to be settled through arbitration rather than the courts and then signed the document.

“The admittedly brief time he spent going over and eventually signing the arbitration agreement does not affect its validity or enforceability,” District Court Judge Michael D. Huppert ruled. Last week, the Iowa Supreme Court declined to review Huppert’s ruling.

WORDS OF WISDOM

Last week’s trivia questions:
What country singer had hit songs in the late 70s and early 80s with “Every Which Way But Loose”, “Drivin’ My Life Away”, and “I Love a Rainy Night”? Answer: Eddie Rabbitt.
What female country duo had hit songs in the 1980s with “Mama He’s Crazy”, “Why Not Me?”, and “Girls Night Out”? Answer: The Judds.

This week’s trivia questions:
What band, named after their lead singer, had hit songs in the 1970s including “Fly Like an Eagle”, “Take the Money and Run”, and “Jet Airliner”?
What band had hit songs in the 1970s with “More Than a Woman”, “Jive Talkin’ , and “Stayin’ Alive”?

May is National Barbecue Month, National Blood Pressure Month, Building Safety Month, Brain Cancer Awareness Month, National Egg Month, National Foster Care Month, National Hamburger Month, Healthy Vision Month, National Inventors Month, Mental Health Awareness Month, Military Appreciation Month, National Pet Month, National Salad Month, National Strawberry Month, National Dental Care Month, National Stroke Awareness Month, Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month, National Water Safety Month, National Photography Month, National Bike Month, and American Cheese Month.

May 7 is School Nurse Day, and Occupational Safety and Health Professional Day; May 8 is National Children’s Mental Health Awareness Day, and Time of Remembrance and Reconciliation for those who Lost their Lives during WWII; May 9 is National Public Gardens Day; May 10 is Archery Day, National Golf Day, and National Small Business Day; May 11 is Mother’s Day, and National Technology Day; May 12 is National Hospital Day; May 13 is Tulip Day, and National Apple Pie Day.

This week is National Small Business Week, Children’s Book Week, Sun Awareness Week, Drinking Water Week, Teacher Appreciation Week, National Pet Week, and National Nurses Week.

“To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under heaven.”
– Ecclesiastes 3:1

“For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.”
– Ephesians 2:8-9

“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.”
– John 10:11

Hit songs by famous singers that were actually written by other famous singers
“I Will Always Love You” by Whitney Houston, written by Dolly Parton.
“My Way” by Frank Sinatra, written by Paul Anka.
“My Girl” by the Temptations, written by Smokey Robinson.
“Islands in the Stream” by Kenny Rogers and Dolly Parton, written by the Bee Gees.
“I’m a Believer” by The Monkees, written by Neil Diamond.
“Respect” by Aretha Franklin, written by Otis Redding.
“Crazy” by Patsy Cline, written by Willie Nelson.
“Manic Monday” by the Bangles, written by Prince.
“Red Red Wine” by UB40, written by Neil Diamond.

The Kentucky Derby marks the oldest continuously running sport event in the U.S., dating back to 1875. The race, which is one-and-a-half miles long, kicks off the Triple Crown, including the Preakness Stakes in Baltimore and the Belmont Stakes in New York. Only 13 horses have won the Triple Crown, the last being “Justify” in 2018.

This past Saturday, May 3, racehorse “Sovereignty” won the 151st running of the Kentucky Derby, narrowly defeating the favorite “Journalism.” The winning time on the muddy track was 2 minutes 2.3 seconds. “Secretariat”, the horse who won the Kentucky Derby in 1973, still holds the record for fastest winning time at 1 minute 59.4 seconds.


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DON'T BE LATE!

Deadline for next week's paper is Friday.



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*Kantar Millward Brown, Feb. 2018



ESTATE FARM MACHINERY & SHOP AUCTION

Located at 1698 180th St Webster City, Iowa which is NW of Webster City on Blacktop R-27
Wednesday, May 21, 2025 • 11 AM
Lunch Available
On Line Bidding available by Proxi-Bid

Tractors: Case IH 1997 8920 FWA Tractor SN 78982, 1411Hours, sold w/ Great Bend 860 Quick Tach loader, 18.4 R -46 Duals sold separate, Cub Cadet 7275 SN 4436D100 WF utility tractor w/ 3pt. & 74" mower deck BOB CAT TOOL CAT 2012 5600 4x4 all wheel steer diesel SN A94Y12523 900 Hours
Bob Cat Attachments: 5' SB 200 Bobcat front mount snow blower, 8' Bob Cat M # 90 Finish mower
Pickup: 1991 Ford F-350 Dually 12' x 8' flatbed 4x4' pick up w/ hoist 48,700 miles. Sold w/hyd. snow plow
Trailers: H&H bumper hitch 20' x7' dbl. axel trailer, Ball creek 14'x7' dbl. axel trailer, Triton 10'x8' single axel bumper hitch trailer, 10'x8' lawnmower trailer w/ ramp
Snap On Tool Boxes: 6'x 4' America's Best Rolling Dbl. box, 6' x 4' rolling dbl. tool box
Machinery: MC 16' 1000 PTO stalk cutter Farm King 8' 3 pt. 1000 RPM snow blower, Case 3 Point fork lift, Winco 18KW PTO generator
Shop Equipment: Jet FMM 32813 Millwright: Milwaukee 545 Hammer drill, NAPA porta power, Coleman Powermate 400 Generator, 4 chain saws, 3' ¾" Snap On ratchet, many sets of wrenches, Air conditioner gauge set, Delta table saw, Craftsman 10" radial arm saw, Spraymatic power washer, hanging bolt boxes and many bolts, parts washer, Delta drill press, lubber, 3'x5' metal job box, HVB-180 4' band saw, acetylene torch kit, many sets of Snap ON Sockets & wrenches, Miller AC-DC welder, many hand tools
Lawn & Garden Equipment: 4' Land Pride solid stand 3-point hitch seeder, 10' McCormick IH drill, 7' 3 pt box scraper Honda water pump, many tow chains, 36 Cases of Dbl. A clay pigeon, Keller 36' Fiber glass extension ladder, Gentron 10k Watt GG10020 elec. Start generator, new 3 yd Tool shop cement mixer, new 3 pt seeder cart w/ PTO, 5' pull type lawn aerator, Trac Vac Leaf vac trailer w PTO blower, 6' Land Pride FDR 1572 3 Pt. mower, 4' pull type Estate rake, 6' land roller
4-wheeler: Honda Four trax 300 4-wheeler, 10' Jon Ride 12 Jon boats, 3 Trex biker
Dog Equipment: 2 cage stack SS Kennels, Small cages
Fuel Barrels: 2-300-gallon fuel barrels w/ pumps

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Job Opportunity
Heavy Equipment Operator

Wright County Secondary Road Department has one opening for a full-time road maintenance employee at the Clarion Maintenance Facility. Primary job classification is Heavy Equipment Operator. Primary job duties include assistance with county repair work orders, removal of snow, and may be called upon to assist in other operations within Wright County Secondary Roads. CDL is not required to apply but chosen applicant must obtain Class A CDL with air brakes learners permit before starting work with the County. County will provide assistance with acquiring full CDL if needed. Starting pay is \$28.96/hr. with increases at six and twelve months with satisfactory performance review. Wright County's benefit package includes health, dental and life insurance along with paid vacation, sick leave, and holidays (9). Applicant must show the ability to work with a team as well as accomplish tasks alone. Application form and job description is available at the Wright County Engineer's Office, 416 5th Ave SW St, PO Box 269, Clarion, IA 50525, telephone 515-532-3597 or at www.wrightcounty.iowa.gov, click on "Employment" or find us on Facebook, Wright County Secondary Roads. Applications will be accepted at the Wright County Engineer's Office until May 9, 2025, or until filled. Wright County is an equal opportunity employer.

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CITY OF EAGLE GROVE • AMENDMENT OF CURRENT BUDGET

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING - AMENDMENT OF CURRENT BUDGET				
City of EAGLE GROVE				
Fiscal Year July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025				
The City of EAGLE GROVE will conduct a public hearing for the purpose of amending the current budget for fiscal year ending June 30, 2025				
Meeting Date/Time: 5/19/2025 06:30 PM		Contact: Amy Willard		Phone: (515) 448-4343
Meeting Location: 210 East Broadway, Council Chambers				
There will be no increase in taxes. Any residents or taxpayers will be heard for or against the proposed amendment at the time and place specified above. A detailed statement of: additional receipts, cash balances on hand at the close of the preceding fiscal year, and proposed disbursements, both past and anticipated, will be available at the hearing. Budget amendments are subject to protest. If protest petition requirements are met, the State Appeal Board will hold a local hearing. For more information, consult https://dom.iowa.gov/local-gov-appeals .				
REVENUES & OTHER FINANCING SOURCES		Total Budget as Certified or Last Amended	Current Amendment	Total Budget After Current Amendment
Taxes Levied on Property	1	1,833,239	0	1,833,239
Less: Uncollected Delinquent Taxes - Levy Year	2	0	0	0
Net Current Property Tax	3	1,833,239	0	1,833,239
Delinquent Property Tax Revenue	4	0	0	0
TIF Revenues	5	865,119	-11,057	854,062
Other City Taxes	6	589,949	-5,000	584,949
Licenses & Permits	7	35,125	-9,850	25,275
Use of Money & Property	8	89,690	144,320	234,010
Intergovernmental	9	770,189	471,607	1,241,796
Charges for Service	10	4,567,060	282,880	4,849,940
Special Assessments	11	1,650	0	1,650
Miscellaneous	12	4,659,402	-3,230,584	1,428,818
Other Financing Sources	13	1,072,500	29,500	1,102,000
Transfers In	14	2,374,509	1,072,908	3,447,417
Total Revenues & Other Sources	15	16,858,432	-1,255,276	15,603,155
EXPENDITURES & OTHER FINANCING USES				
Public Safety	16	1,640,520	129,719	1,770,239
Public Works	17	846,351	0	846,351
Health and Social Services	18	0	0	0
Culture and Recreation	19	492,110	98,850	590,960
Community and Economic Development	20	98,037	430,832	528,869
General Government	21	289,520	0	289,520
Debt Service	22	1,086,912	124,780	1,211,692
Capital Projects	23	798,300	729,839	1,528,139
Total Government Activities Expenditures	24	5,251,750	1,514,020	6,765,770
Business Type/Enterprise	25	5,505,051	210,537	5,715,588
Total Gov Activities & Business Expenditures	26	10,756,801	1,724,557	12,481,358
Transfers Out	27	2,374,509	1,072,908	3,447,417
Total Expenditures/Transfers Out	28	13,131,310	2,797,465	15,928,775
Excess Revenues & Other Sources Over (Under) Expenditures/Transfers Out	29	3,727,122	-4,052,741	-325,619
Beginning Fund Balance July 1, 2024	30	1,613,423	0	1,613,423
Ending Fund Balance June 30, 2025	31	5,340,545	-4,052,741	1,287,804
Explanation of Changes: Public Safety had additional raises and added staff in both EMS and Police depts, as well as health care expenses that were not originally budgeted. ADA doors were installed at the Library, steps at Museum. Ash trees were removed from the parks and additional wages at the Pool. Added Nuisance costs for multiple properties and Upper Story Project was added that was not in the budget. Fire Dept received new airpaks and gear, costs associated with a Neighborhood Revitalization project, additional costs for the 2024 Street Project and start to the 2025 Street project, as well as Museum carpet and Daycare and awning at multiple businesses. Purchase of 4 vehicles, snow plow, 2 mowers, and bulk water meters. Revenues had a big decrease with a settlement that was budgeted to be in 2025 fiscal year but was received the year before.				

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The City of Eagle Grove Iowa is hereby serving as Public Notice that on May 19, 2025, at 6:30 p.m., the City Council will hold a public hearing during the regular City Council meeting to consider the submission of an application for a Community Development Block Grant. The grant application will request funding assistance for improvements to the City's Northeast Neighborhood. This meeting will be held to give residents information concerning the proposed project. Citizens are encouraged to attend and express their preferences about the proposed activities. Residents are able to provide comments in writing in advance of the meeting by email to b.davis@eaglegrove.gov or by mail to PO Box 165, Eagle Grove, IA 50533. Additionally, citizens who wish to participate in the public hearing can do so by attending the meeting on May 19, 2025, at 6:30 PM at Eagle Grove Public Safety Building, 210 E Broadway, Eagle Grove, Iowa. Anyone who has questions about this assessment or requiring special accommodation at the upcoming hearing may contact the City Clerk at 515-448-4343.

Bryce Davis
City Administrator/Clerk
City of Eagle Grove, Iowa

Published in the Eagle Grove Eagle on Thursday, May 8, 2025

WRIGHT COUNTY BOS • APRIL 21, 2025

April 21, 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 9:10 a.m. Members present were Kluss, Bosch, Rasmussen, Loux, and Ellis. Motion by Ellis and seconded by Bosch to approve the tentative agenda. Motion carries. Motion by Kluss and seconded by Loux to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of April 14, 2025 with two corrections. Motion carries. Approved claims for payment. Landon Beck with Text My Gov, presented services what the company can offer to Wright County. This allows the Government Entities to connect with citizens via text messages. Beck will send estimates for the Board to review. Motion by Ellis and seconded by Kluss to approve the Liquor License for Top of Iowa Lucky Wife, LLC for

the effective dates of August 28th , 2025 to September 2nd , 2025. Motion carries. Motion by Ellis and seconded by Loux to appoint Savannah Schnetzer to be a Medical Examiner Investigator per Dr. Jon Ahrendsen's email. Motion carries. Motion by Kluss and seconded by Bosch to have County Engineer create a job posting for a Heavy Equipment Operator in the Bridge and Sign Maintenance Facility with a base pay of \$29.46. Motion carries. Adam Clemons, Wright County Engineer, gave an update on the Secondary Roads. Chairman Rasmussen congratulated Eric Rector, Wright County Conservation Director, for 30 years of service to Wright County. Motion by Kluss and seconded by Loux to adjourn the meeting. Motion carries.
*Rick Rasmussen, Chairman,
Wright County Board of Supervisors
Amanda Meyer,
Wright County Auditor*

Published in the Eagle Grove Eagle on Thursday, May 8, 2025

Published in the Eagle Grove Eagle on Thursday, May 8, 2025

Eagle Grove Police Report

April 24
6:03 AM: Checking on an open door in the 2700 block of Highway 17.
8:04 AM: Caller outside the police department requested to talk to an officer about an employee.
12:10 PM: Wallet with cash turned in as found property.
12:20 PM: Caller requested a return call.
3:32 PM: Caller requested to speak with an officer about a relative.
4:34 PM: Stop conducted near Rails.
11:43 PM: Parking violation on Walnut Ave.

April 25
12:05 AM: Parking violation in the 1100 block of W Broadway.
1:22 AM: Parking violation in the 400 block of N Lincoln.
12:18 PM: Officer assistance requested at Eagle Grove Middle School for a student with a vape pen.
5:37 PM: Officer met with a complainant in the 300 block of NE 4th Street.

April 26
6:15 AM: Caller stated they believed they heard a gunshot south of them by the apartments about three hours earlier. Return call requested.
7:22 AM: Traffic stop in the 2800 block of Highway 17.
8:08 AM: Traffic stop in the 3000 block of Highway 17.
12:11 PM: Maroon Toyota reported smoking badly and parked near First Bank.
12:38 PM: Traffic stop in the 400 block of W Broadway.
2:04 PM: Caller had a statement to drop off at the police department and requested a return call.
9:09 PM: Noise complaint in the 500 block of SW 1st Street.
9:29 PM: Traffic stop in the 400 block of N Commercial.
10:52 PM: Traffic stop at N Western and W Broadway.

April 27
1:41 AM: Assault reported at Jalapenos. Caller alleged being punched in the face by a known assailant.
8:34 AM: 911 call, dispatcher heard crying, possibly a child. Officers dispatched to 100 block of N Lucas.
3:58 PM: Domestic issue reported at the police department.
7:32 PM: Officer met with a complainant in the back alley of the 400 block of S Lucas.
10:35 PM: Traffic stop near the Smoke Shop.

April 28
12:14 AM: Caller requested a return call. Subject was at the ER waiting room and requested a ride home.
9:28 AM: Officer-initiated case at the police department.
9:55 AM: Caller seeking information about an impounded car.
3:40 PM: Scam reported. Caller advised they received a suspicious call and was

given a number to call back.
4:58 PM: Concerned citizen reported a woman and multiple children at the corner of Broadway and Commercial with signs asking for help, but the group refused assistance, stated they were just passing through.
8:30 PM: Traffic stop in the 1100 block of N Iowa, maroon Chevy Impala with no plates.
9:45 PM: Traffic stop in the area of Jackson and SE 2nd.

April 29
12:16 AM: Traffic stop in the Bomgaars parking lot.
6:37 AM: Vehicle with a flat tire observed occupied on Highway 17 near Kum & Go.
5:58 AM: Traffic stop near Kum & Go on Highway 17.
12:06 PM: Violation of a protective order reported at the EMS Shed.
12:13 PM: Caller reported two dogs, one black and white hunting type and one tan, running loose and showing aggressive behavior at Broadway by Greenwood Park.
4:01 PM: Return call requested regarding a mobile home in the impound.
4:52 PM: Traffic stop in the 200 block of Highway 17.
6:22 PM: Small dog running on Commercial in front of Family Table.
6:41 PM: Traffic stop at Lucas and NW 2nd.
6:52 PM: Traffic stop in the Ampride lot.
10:14 PM: Traffic stop at N Blaine and NE 3rd. Gray Chevy Silverado had no plates.

April 30
5:25 AM: Burglar alarm triggered by motion in the 400 block of NW 10th Street, reported by ADT operator.
10:11 AM: Return call requested information about new charges caller may face.
10:51 AM: Vehicle stuck on a pole wire in the EG High School parking lot.
1:07 PM: Two-vehicle accident with no injuries reported near AGP.
1:44 PM: Damaged black cell phone found at Highway 17 and NW 4th Street, kept at EGPD as found property.
6:54 PM: Caller requested a return call regarding a stolen cell phone from DG Market. She was currently using her husband's phone.
10:37 PM: Caller reported someone not supposed to be on the premises was seen at the Sandman, possibly attempting to steal. The subject was described as wearing all black.
11:52 PM: Caller reported their truck was just stolen from the 300 block of SE 2nd Street.

May 1
12:18 AM: Caller reported their wallet had been stolen out of their car within the last few hours. The debit card had been used at Casey's around 10:30 PM.
1:42 AM: Alarm reported at the Eagle Grove Truck Shop, located in the 400 block of NW 10th Street.

Births
Westen Lane Bange was born on March 17, 2025, to Alison and Mark Bange of Belmond.
LillyAuna Denise Blocton was born on March 25, 2025, to Chelsea Harms of Crystal Lake.
Sadie Jo Abendroth Brown was born on March 26, 2025, to Kati Brown of Belmond.
Colsen Richard Langerman was born on March 27, 2025, to Kyarsten and Cameron Langerman of Bode.
Kendrick Noe Garcia Brito was born on March 27, 2025, to Juliana Brito Ramirez of Webster City.
Avalon Lee Simmer was born on March 27, 2025, to Megan Retterath of Mason City.
Griffyn James Merriam was born on March 27, 2025, to Arianna Kennedy of Clear Lake.
Malcolm Arden Merriam was born on March 27, 2025, to Arianna Kennedy of Clear Lake.
Adalee Mae Gramblin was born on March 28, 2025, to Haylee Wingerson of Webster City.
Jack Antonio Yanez was born on March 28, 2025, to Dawn and Ramiro Yanez of Latimer.
Riley James Blunt was born on March 28, 2025, to Jami and Carson Blunt of Kensett.
Elouise Elaine Currier was born on March 28, 2025, to Bethany Currier of Thornton.
Jayden Daniel Legliu was born on March 30, 2025, to Heidy and Jose Legliu Valemzuola of Humboldt.
Emmett Joseph Johnson was born on March 30, 2025, to Erin and Eric Johnson of Fort Dodge.
Amilyah Enaid Kliven was born on March 31, 2025, to Miranda Wright of Manly.
Milana Leigh Kibodeaux was born on April 1, 2025, to Alexis and Zachary Kibodeaux of Fort Dodge.
Nathalie Martinez Cordova was born on April 1, 2025, to Sileny Cordova Amador of Hampton.
James John Fjone was born on April 1, 2025, to Katelyn and Michael Fjone of Garner.
Thiago Rodrigo Sajche Lopez was born on April 2, 2025, to Miriam Lopez Lopez of Webster City.
Lawrence Carl Spencer was born on April 2, 2025, to Amanda and Jeffery Spencer of Goldfield.
Oliver David Wolfram was born on April 2, 2025, to Lacey and David Wolfram of Leland.
Kimberly Anahi Poac Gerardo was born on April 3, 2025, to Maria Gerardo Garcia of Clarion.
Bexley Dawn Christensen was born on April 4, 2025, to Marisa Jones of Boone.
Cooper Gregory Knopf was born on April 4, 2025, to McKhayla Paul of Clear Lake.
Carver Lee Craig was born on April 5, 2025, to Kaylea and Trevor Craig of Hampton.

Wright County Courthouse

Nio Leon Gregory was born on April 5, 2025, to Alexis Gregory of Sheffield.
Leo David Voigts was born on April 5, 2025, to Cara and Hunter Voigts of Clarion.
Mark Tertytsia was born on April 5, 2025, to Daryna Kukharenko and Vladyslau Tertytsia of Garner.
Waylon Alexander Foulk was born on April 6, 2025, to Rylie and Lucas Foulk of Mason City.
Anabella Lanette Sheka Albright was born on April 6, 2025, to Aryanna Albright of Northwood.
Colton Lyle Pommrehn was born on April 6, 2025, to Danielle and Blake Pommrehn of Rockwell.
Eithan Antonio Ixcoy De Leon was born on April 7, 2025, to Griselda De Leon Matom and Eduardo Ixcoy Raymundo of Webster City.
Abigail Mae Chambers was born on April 9, 2025, to Heather and Christopher Chambers of Dows.
Elise Renae Bockelmann was born on April 8, 2025, to Shelby and Cole Bockelmann of Humboldt.
Hallee Mae Berhow was born on April 9, 2025, to Carlee and Chase Berhow of Webster City.
Braxton Hayes Ostendorf was born on April 9, 2025, to Jessica and Ross Ostendorf of Thornton.
Kieran Atreus Hovellon was born on April 10, 2025, to Mya and Liam Hovellon of Kanawha.
Oliver Idriel Velasco Bravo was born on April 11, 2025, to Maria Bravo Perez of Thornton.
Everett Axle Dean Askvig was born on April 11, 2025, to Britni and Myles Askvig of Vincent.
Cove Clair Dahlby was born on April 11, 2025, to Samantha Cooper of Northwood.
Lincoln Wade Anderson was born on April 11, 2025, to Peyton and Michael Anderson of Belmond.
Rhett Dean Nelson was born on April 12, 2025, to Sarah and Taylor Nelson of Leland.
Edward Ronaldo Vicente Estrada was born on April 13, 2025, to Margarita Estrada Reyes and Gilmar Vicente Maldonado of Eagle Grove.
Levi Gaspar Raymundo Perez was born on April 15, 2025, to Catarina Perez Raymundo and Jose Raymundo Lopez of Webster City.

Deaths
Kent E. Brooks, 75, of Clarion, was born on June 26, 1949, and died on March 19, 2025, at the age of 75.
Tracy LeAnn Matuz (Gamble), 50, of Dows, was born on June 3, 1974, and died on March 23, 2025, at the age of 50.
Joseph Lee Anderson, 88, of Woolstock, was born on

April 13, 1936, and died on March 23, 2025, at the age of 88.
David Eugene White, 72, of Eagle Grove, was born on May 29, 1952, and died on March 27, 2025, at the age of 72.
Robert Louis Madison, 82, of Goldfield, was born on February 8, 1943, and died on March 30, 2025, at the age of 82.
John Henry Meyers, 87, of Dows, was born on May 25, 1937, and died on March 28, 2025, at the age of 87.
Tommy John Hill, 83, of Belmond, was born on June 4, 1941, and died on March 31, 2025, at the age of 83.
Barbara Ann Riedel (Finn), 73, of Belmond, was born on September 10, 1951, and died on April 4, 2025, at the age of 73.
Chan-Elen Edith Brass (Taft), 76, of Clarion, was born on December 24, 1948, and died on April 6, 2025, at the age of 76.
Keith Arthur Riley, 88, of Eagle Grove, was born on July 24, 1936, and died on April 6, 2025, at the age of 88.
Robert Dean Campbell, 82, of Eagle Grove, was born on June 22, 1942, and died on April 6, 2025, at the age of 82.
Earnest Dean Kiley of Eagle Grove was born on April 21, 1936, and died on April 14, 2025, at the age of 88.

Marriages
Anthony E. Miller, 39, of Clarion was wed to Sarah M. Tillman, 43, of Clarion on March 5, 2025.

Traffic
Norma Elena Gomez of Fort Dodge, IA, speeding 55 or und Zone (21 or over).
Pao Vang of Mounds View, MN, speeding 55 or und Zone (6 thru 10 over).
Jordann Pauline Cataldo of West Des Moines, IA, speeding OVR 55 zone (21 or over).
Christam Vasquez Rosario of Ankeny, IA, speeding 55 or und Zone (11 thru 15 over).
Christam Vasquez Rosario of Ankeny, IA, no valid drivers license.
Caleb Alexander Young of West Des Moines, IA, speeding 55 or und Zone (11 thru 15 over).
Jose Daniel Contreras Rocha of Belmond, IA, speeding 55 or und Zone (1 thru 5 over).
Jose Daniel Contreras Rocha of Belmond, IA, failure to provide proof of financial Liabili.
Aurelio Aburto Garcia of Hampton, IA, speeding 55 or und Zone (1 thru 5 over).
Douglas John full of Belmond, IA, speeding 55 or und Zone (21 or over).
Judith Ann Wibholm of Dows, IA, speeding 55 or und Zone (6 thru 10 over).
Cory Lee Brown of Belmond, IA, speeding 55 or und Zone (1 thru 5 over).

Landon Garrett Shaw of Farmersburg, IA, speeding 55 or und Zone (11 thru 15 over).
Chad Allen Eastwood of Fort Dodge, IA, speeding 55 or und Zone (6 thru 10 over).
Zachery Ryan Heiden of Belmond, IA, dark window or windshield.
Mario Rivera of Belmond, IA, permitting unauthorized person to drive.
Neil Lester Gabrielson of Britt, IA, stopping on paved part of highway.
Jessica Anne Dupre of Belmond, IA, speeding 55 or und Zone (6 thru 10 over).
Riley Jon Hanson of Britt, IA, failure to maintain or use safety belts – Adu.
Vicki Lynn Nelson of Fort Dodge, IA, speeding OVR 55 zone (11 thru15 over).
Melky Hernandez of Clarion, IA, no valid drivers license.
Kathrine Laurine Krukow of Cedar Falls, IA, excessive speed 6 thru 10.
Denis Roman Kloewer of Panama, IA, excessive speed 6 thru 10.
Abisaid Bello Perez of Eagle Grove, IA, no drivers license.
Alexis Manzo Hurtado of Eagle Grove, IA, speeding 6 thru 10 over.

Small Claims
BF210, LLC V. Scott Collins and parties in poss., case dismissed without prejudice.

Civil
STATE OF IOWA, EX REL, L.P.E. VS Benjamin Hawk Eberly, child and medical support suspended 4/29/25.

Criminal
State Of Iowa VS Burns, Kasey Alan, Aggravated Misdemeanor Assault While Displaying A Dangerous Weapon. Defendant pled guilty and was given a one year suspended jail sentence, placed on probation for one year, and fined \$430.00, plus \$633.35 in court costs, and a \$64.50 surcharge. An additional charge of Class D Felony Going Armed With Intent, and a charge of Aggravated Misdemeanor Assault While Displaying A Dangerous Weapon were both dismissed by the court.
State Of Iowa VS Erickson, Brian Lee, Serious Misdemeanor Driving While License Denied Or Revoked. Defendant pled guilty and was fined \$1,000.00, plus \$121.00 in court costs, and a \$150.00 surcharge.
State Of Iowa VS Snyder, Timothy James, Serious Misdemeanor Reckless Use Of Fire/Explosives/Destructive Devices. Defendant pled guilty and received a suspended 30 day jail sentence, was placed on probation for one year, and was fined \$430.00 plus \$180 in court costs, and a \$64.50 surcharge.

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What's Cookin' this week?

Chocolate is the finishing touch this Mother's Day

Mother's Day presents an opportunity for people to shower the special women in their lives with extra love and affection. There are many ways to show Mom you care apart from gifts and dining out. A homemade dessert featuring rich and creamy chocolate might be exactly what Mom needs to cap off a perfect day spent with her family.

This recipe for "Mint Chocolate Mousse" from "Chocolate: Deliciously Indulgent Recipes for Chocolate Lovers" (Ryland, Peters & Small) by Maxine Clark is ideal for mothers who love the taste of mint and chocolate. It's relatively simple to make, so it should be something that young children can handle with a little help from an adult.

Mint Chocolate Mousse

Serves 4

5 ounces dark chocolate (60 to 70 percent cocoa solids), chopped or broken up into smaller pieces
4 to 6 chocolate covered dinner mints, chopped
4 eggs, separated
2 tablespoons sugar
4 tablespoons heavy cream
1 teaspoon powdered gelatin
2 tablespoons chopped chocolate mint sticks, or frosted mint leaves and 1 cup heavy cream, to decorate
4 pots or dessert cups, for serving

Melt the chocolate with the dinner mints over a double boiler or in the microwave. Let cool slightly. Using an electric mixer, beat together the egg yolks and sugar in a large bowl until thick and mousselike, then beat in the melted chocolate-mint mixture.

Sprinkle the gelatin over 4 tablespoons water in a small, heatproof bowl and let soak and swell for 2 to 3 minutes. Put the bowl in a pan of simmering water and stir until the gelatin has dissolved. Beat into the chocolate-mint mixture.

Working quickly, beat the egg whites in a clean, dry bowl until stiff but not dry, then fold into the chocolate mixture with a metal spoon.

Divide the mousse between the pots. Scatter with the chopped mint sticks, then refrigerate until set. Alternatively, whip the 1 cup cream and use to decorate the mousses, along with the frosted mint leaves. Leave at cool room temperature for about 20 minutes before serving.



- May 4 - Will Arnett, Actor (55)
- May 5 - Henry Cavill, Actor (42)
- May 6 - Angel Reese, Athlete (23)
- May 7 - Jake Bongiovi, Instagram star (23)
- May 8 - Enrique Iglesias, Singer (50)
- May 9 - Mary Mouser, Actress (29)
- May 10 - Bono, Singer (65)



ARIES - Mar 21/Apr 20

Aries, this week you may feel a desire to take charge of your professional life. Trust your instincts, but remember that you may have to go out of your comfort zone at some point.

TAURUS - Apr 21/May 21

Taurus, expect a week of self-reflection. Old emotions might resurface and offer you a chance to grow and heal. If you're feeling out of sorts, make a plan to hang out with close friends.

GEMINI - May 22/Jun 21

Make sure you are not spreading yourself too thin this week, Gemini. Even though you are eager to connect and socialize, you might want to limit the number of events you attend.

CANCER - Jun 22/Jul 22

Home and family matters may occupy most of your time this week, Cancer. It's good to reconnect with loved ones and spend time with your immediate family.

LEO - Jul 23/Aug 23

Leo, now could be an excellent opportunity to express your ideas and opinions to some of the higher-ups at your place of employment.

VIRGO - Aug 24/Sept 22

Exercise caution with your spending and investments right now, Virgo. Although you have some financial opportunities on the horizon, it's best to be careful going forward.

LIBRA - Sept 23/Oct 23

A fresh burst of energy could be coming your way, Libra. This may provide the boost you need for self-improvement. You may be inspired to make many changes in your life right now.

SCORPIO - Oct 24/Nov 22

Scorpio, you may find yourself reflecting on your mental and emotional well-being this week. Some introspection could lead to a breakthrough that helps you understand the past.

SAGITTARIUS - Nov 23/Dec 21

Expect your social life to pick up speed this week, Sagittarius. Invitations and opportunities to connect abound. Pay attention to your network as it may lead to connections.

CAPRICORN - Dec 22/Jan 20

Your hard work is paying off, Capricorn, but you also need to tend to your personal needs right now. This is the week to find better balance and take care of your health.

AQUARIUS - Jan 21/Feb 18

Aquarius, you may be feeling more curious about the world around you and could find this is the week for some unexpected travel. It's a great time to embrace new ideas..

PISCES - Feb 19/Mar 20

Your intuition will guide you this week, especially when it comes to romance and other matters of the heart, Pisces. Expect relationships to grow for the better.

Gov. Kim Reynolds signs bill restricting cellphones in classrooms

By Robin Opsahl

Starting in the 2025-2026 school year, public Iowa K-12 school districts will be required to set policies that, at minimum, ban the use of cellphones during class time under a law signed by Gov. Kim Reynolds Wednesday.

The ban on cellphones during instructional periods was one of the governor's top priorities heading into the 2025 legislative session. At a ceremony signing the measure into law, Reynolds said House File 782 will help improve Iowa students' learning and mental health.

"Smartphones and other digital devices have made information, media and entertainment immediately available at any time, any place, and this level of connectivity has changed the way that we live, learn and communicate," Reynolds said. "And while the positive impacts are undeniable, we can't ignore that our phones can also be a source of constant distraction in our daily lives, whether at home or at work or, especially for our kids, at school."

Reynolds cited a Pew Research Center survey that found 72% of high school teachers say students being distracted by cellphones is a major problem in their classroom. Data also shows policies limiting cellphones and other personal electronic devices have a positive impact on student outcomes, Reynolds said, pointing to statistics on higher grades and lower disciplinary rates at Iowa schools that have already put cellphone policies in place.

The Ottumwa Community School District, which implemented a cellphone ban for the entire school day starting in the current school year, saw a 12%



Mike McGrory, left, superintendent of the Ottumwa Community School District, thanked Gov. Kim Reynolds as she signed into law a bill setting a statewide minimum ban on cellphones during instructional time at public K-12 schools. (Photo by Robin Opsahl/Iowa Capital Dispatch)

increase in A and B grades and a 60% decrease in failing grades for 8-12 students compared to the first semester of the previous year. Additionally, the district saw a 20% decrease in referrals for behavior issues.

Mike McGrory, superintendent of the Ottumwa Community School District, said "Ottumwa schools this year experienced firsthand how powerful a bell-to-bell cellphone policy can be," and said the new law will help other schools across the district see improved learning and engagement with students.

"The results, as the governor was alluding to, far exceeded our expectations," McGrory said. "They were truly profound ... by eliminating those learning distractions for our students, it allowed the following three things: (for) our students to refocus on their learning, focus on their mental health, and also — this is so important — with building meaningful face-to-face relationships with each other."

The Ottumwa school district's policy of no cellphone use for the entire

school day is a higher standard than what would be required under the new law. School boards are required to set a ban on cellphone use during class times by July 1, but have discretion on whether to restrict devices during other periods of the school day. The Iowa Department of Education is required to develop and distribute a model policy for use as boards develop their own policies.

The law requires that cellphone bans include exceptions, such as for students who are English Second Language (ESL) learners or who have an Individualized Education Program (IEP) or 504 plan that involves accommodations using a cellphone or other personal electronic device. Parents will also be allowed to petition a school district for their child to retain access of their cellphone during class periods, if they establish a "legitimate" reason related to a student's mental or physical health that requires the device to be readily available.

Gabe Polich, a senior at Des Moines Hoover High School, also spoke on the

measure, saying that he has seen improved grades as a result of not using his cellphone in class. Hoover High School implemented a ban on cellphones during class at the beginning of the 2024-2025 school year, which Reynolds said resulted in a 14% increase in A and B grades, a 12% decrease in students' failure rate and decrease of out-of-school suspensions by 60%.

Polich said he is less distracted in class and that students are happier in school because of the ban.

"I wasn't happy they were taking away our cellphones," Polich said. "But now I can see that it's really improved our school."

Reynolds joked "my grandchildren weren't very happy with me either" when she brought up the school cellphone ban, but that the measure will help other students like Polich learn and be more engaged in schools with the policy in place.

The governor said she believes the policy will help Iowa schools and students while including important provisions addressing concerns about students' lack of access to phones. This includes the provisions allowing exceptions, as well as requiring schools update their safety and emergency plans, with guidance from the state departments of Education and Public Safety, to account for communications needs during these situations.

Reynolds also thanked lawmakers for their efforts getting the bill to her desk, saying she was happy to see it pass through the Legislature with bipartisan support.

"I think it's a great example of how we can come together to support simple, common sense solutions that can make an overwhelmingly positive difference," Reynolds said.

Senate Approves Bill Requiring Schools To Publicize Vaccine Exemption Information

by Robin Opsahl

Any communication from schools on immunization requirements would have to include information and requirements for families seeking an exemption under a bill sent to the governor April 29th.

House File 299 was passed by the Senate 32-16. The bill requires all Iowa K-12 schools, as well as child care centers, community colleges, universities under the Iowa Board of Regents as well as private universities using the tuition grant program, to include information on exemptions when communicating with students and families about vaccine requirements. For child care facilities and K-12 schools, information on vaccine requirement exemptions must also be published on their website and be included in student registration documents.

Republicans who spoke in support of the measure said it was needed because there were some reports of school staff falsely claiming that vaccines were required — with no exceptions — for students to be able to attend school.

Sen. Dennis Guth, R-Klemme, shared a story from a mother who spoke on the bill during a subcommittee meeting. He said the woman claimed that while she was registering her child for an exemption to vaccine requirements, she witnessed another parent being told they needed to get vaccinations despite expressing they did not want to vaccinate their child.

"The first mother came and said, 'There are exemptions, you know, you don't have to do that,' and the school official said, 'I'm sorry, no shots, no school,'" Guth said. "That's just not the truth. We have a law in Iowa, and this will help make sure that that law is upheld."

Iowa law requires students to receive vaccinations to enroll in schools, including receiving the polio, measles, hepatitis B, varicella and meningococcal vaccines while in the K-12 school system. However, families have the ability to opt out from these requirements if vaccinating their child "conflicts with a genuine and sincere religious belief." The law does not require families to obtain a waiver or specify their religion to claim the exemption.

Medical exemptions can also be granted by a physician, physician assistant, or nurse practitioner who finds a required vaccination would be harmful to the health and well-being of the child or a member of their family.

While exemptions exist, Sen. Molly Donahue, D-Marion, said the bill "risks sending a mixed message about the importance of the safety of vaccines" by emphasizing vaccine exemptions, potentially putting students in danger by diminishing herd immunity.

"The implications of this legislation could undermine public health efforts and lead to increased vaccine hesitancy, weakening

our state and threatening our children," Donahue said. "To be clear, vaccinations are safe. And this bill is particularly troubling when a resurgence of preventable diseases in areas with low vaccine rates is happening. Right now, we see measles popping up in multiple states."

As of April 24, there have been a total of 884 confirmed measles cases in 29 states, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The largest outbreak has been in Texas, where two unvaccinated children died from the disease. Though no cases have been reported in Iowa since 2019, according to state public health officials, the neighboring states of Illinois and Minnesota have reported confirmed measles cases in 2025.

Senate Minority Leader Janice Weiner also emphasized the efficacy of the measles vaccine in the wake of the recent outbreak and deaths from the disease.

"I'm left wondering how many have looked at the numbers of graves of young children in cemeteries prior to the advent of these vaccines, or looked into the long-term effects of measles on the immune system," Weiner said. "... It is preventable, completely preventable through vaccination, and that is the most effective way to protect individuals and communities from measles."

Having a wide majority of a people vaccinated — 95% — is needed to pro-

vide overall community protection from measles, according to medical professionals, especially for those who cannot get vaccinated because of issues like age or other health problems. Weiner said the bill will allow families to "feel free and are actually encouraged to opt out of life-saving vaccines," which will put others at risk.

"This is unnecessary and in my view, irresponsible," Weiner said. "We have a duty to Iowans. We should be informing the public about the safety, efficacy and importance of the measles and other vaccinations, and working to keep kids healthy and Iowans healthy."

But Sen. Jesse Green, R-Boone, said the measure is not taking a stance on vaccines. He called the bill "an honesty bill," because it is requiring schools share accurate information on vaccination requirements — and the fact that parents can seek exemptions.

"What's troubling to me is a handful of schools in the state that decide it's okay to lie to parents, that if you don't receive shots then you can't send your kids to school," Green said. "That is a lie, and our parents in the state of Iowa deserve better. And so that's what this bill ensures. It ensures an honest conversation between the taxpayers, the parents and the schools."

The bill, which the Iowa House passed in March, goes to Gov. Kim Reynolds for final approval.

SPORTS

UPCOMING
SPORTS
SCHEDULE

Thursday, May 8

- Top of Iowa-West Girls Track @ West Hancock, 4:00 p.m.
- Top of Iowa-West Boys Track @ West Hancock, 4:00 p.m.
- Boys Golf @ Garner-Hayfield-Ventura, 4:15 p.m.
- Boys Soccer vs. Webster City @ Belmond-Klemme, 5:30 p.m.
- Girls Soccer @ Webster City, 5:30 p.m.

Friday, May 9

- Girls Golf @ South Hamilton Tournament, 2:00 p.m.
- 8th Grade Boys Track @ Manson Northwest-Webster, 4:15 p.m.

Monday, May 12

- Top of Iowa-West Girls Golf @ Belmond, 10:00 a.m.
- Top of Iowa-West Boys Golf @ Spring Valley Golf Course, 10:00 a.m.
- 7th/8th Grade Girls Track @ Bishop Garrigan, 4:30 p.m.
- Girls Soccer @ Charles City, 5:30 p.m.

Tuesday, May 13

- 5th/6th Grade Band & Vocal Concert @ EG Elementary, 6:00 p.m.
- 7th/8th Grade Band & Vocal Concert @ EG Elementary, 7:30 p.m.

Baez Signs With Storm

Taylor Smith, Sports Editor

On Monday morning in the high school upper commons, family and friends surrounded Jesus “Javy” Baez as he signed his letter of intent to continue his football career at Simpson College. Before the signing, Coach Logan Willard shared a few words about Baez’s dedication to the program and wished him the best in his future endeavors. Javy is a member of the Class of 2025 and is the son of Guadalupe Lobato and Jose Baez. He was a guard, kicker, and defensive tackle

for Eagle Grove. This fall, he will join Class of 2023 EGHS graduates Trent Sorensen and Zach Pamperin on the field in Indianola. Aside from football, Baez was also involved in track and field, golf, and baseball during his high school years. He is a member of the National Honor Society and qualified for state wrestling this year after winning districts. After his state wrestling berth earlier this year, Baez told The Eagle that Eagle Grove is just a town full of “small town kids with big dreams,” and eagerly added that he’s “proud to represent EG.”

“Eagle Grove is just a town full of small town kids with big dreams”



“It all comes back to your work ethic and being dedicated to something,” Coach Logan Willard remarked before Monday’s signing. “You do that and you’ll be awarded opportunities to advance.” (Photos by Taylor Smith)



Back row (L to R): Dalton Draeger, Radney Roosa, Logan Willard, Jim Alesch. Front Row (L to R): Guadalupe Lobato, Jesus Baez-Lobato, Jose Baez.

Purple and Gold Place 4th In Eldora

Taylor Smith, Sports Editor

On Friday, the EGHS track and field team competed at the South Hardin Boys Invite in Eldora. A sprint medley foursome of Leelan Spencer, Syrus Willard, Patrick Heaton, and Anthony Vasquez clocked in at 1:47.48 for silver. Individually, Leelan Spencer would have a 2nd place finish in the 100 (11.43) and a 3rd place finish in the 400 (55.18). Syrus Willard cleared six feet in the high jump to bring home a 1st place medal. The boys compiled 86 points for 4th place out of seven schools. South Hardin won their home meet with 159, followed by Collins Maxwell (105) and Gilbert (104).

3200m Run –		
3 – Felix Reyes.....	11:14.75	
6 – Hunter Waldo-Martinez.....	11:46.61	
4x800 –		
6 – Gonzalez, Sisson, Terwilliger, Beck.....	9:50.92	
Shuttle Hurdle –		
2 – Cooper, Schafer, Pedersen, Reyna.....	1:16.3	
Distance Medley –		
2 – Heaton, Nielsen, Castro, Castro.....	3:58.08	
4x200 –		
3 – Heaton, Nielsen, Miller, Thacker.....	1:40.65	
110m Hurdles –		
5 – Evan Cooper.....	20.8	
800m Run –		
6 – Zabdi Castro.....	2:24.68	
7 – Asarel Castro.....	2:24.69	
1600m Run –		
5 – Felix Reyes.....	5:14.84	
High Jump –		
1 – Syrus Willard.....	6’	
2 – Josh Miller.....	5’ 10”	
Long Jump –		
2 – Josh Miller.....	19’ 5 ½”	
Discus –		
7 – Gavin Pedersen.....	107’ 9”	

Ladies Dominate At Home Triangular

Taylor Smith, Sports Editor

Eagle Grove’s girls golf team continued their stellar play last week at three area meets. In a five-team, Tuesday afternoon tournament at Belmond County Club, the purple and gold placed 2nd overall with 217 total points. Garner-Hayfield-Ventura won with 189, and Belmond-Klemme took 3rd with 226. Kennedy Thacker tied for 2nd with a score of 45. Caitlin Christopher and Piper Willard tied for 7th with 55’s, and Salem Willard shot a 63 for 16th. After a day off, the girls were back in action at Eagle Grove Golf Course on Thursday against a pair of conference opponents. The Eagles would finish with a score of 206 and win their home triangular over Belmond-Klemme (221) and West Hancock (303).

Thacker was the meet medalist after shooting a 49 through nine holes. Azlyn Amonson was runner-up with a 50, and Salem Willard finished close behind in 4th with a 52. Piper Willard rounded out the top-5 with a 55, and Christopher shot a 59 for 8th overall. The ladies enjoyed a Friday off and got back to it on Saturday with 18 holes at Clarmond Country Club. Garner-Hayfield-Ventura won the day with a team score of 385, but Eagle Grove finished ahead of Lake Mills and Clarion-Goldfield-Dows with 410. Amonson was once again runner-up. She finished with a score of 88, ten strokes shy of Audrey Overgaard’s 78. Thacker placed 5th with a 98, and Piper Willard came in 7th with a 103. Christopher was the last Eagle Grove scorer with a 121 and 16th place.

Middle Schoolers Break Distance Medley Record

Taylor Smith, Sports Editor

Last week, the middle school girls track team placed 3rd as a team at a meet in Gowrie. The distance medley team of Arianna Montero Cordero, Jaden Sadler, Morgan Whipple, and London Parrott defeated all comers and finished their mile in 4:59 for a new Robert Blue Middle School record. In the 200m hurdles, Parrott and Alexa Nelson took 2nd and 4th, respectively. “After a long layoff due to weather, the girls were finally able to go out and race again,” Coach Zach Whipple commented after the meet. “They ran really well and were right there in a lot of races. We will tweak a few things and look to bring more blue ribbons home next Tuesday!”


Shuttle Hurdle –	
1 – Surber, Sadler, Nelson, Larsen.....	1:15
100m Hurdles –	
1 – Mackenzie Larsen.....	17.2
4x100 –	
1 – Larsen, Surber, Alaniz, Link.....	56.7
200m Dash –	
2 – Alayna Alaniz.....	30.4

Tracksters Race In Hampton

Taylor Smith, Sports Editor

After a week and a half of rest, the Eagle Grove girls track and field team got their legs back underneath them at a May 2 meet in Hampton. Thirteen other schools attended the Jim Basye Coed Relays, and the girls placed 12th as a team after scoring 27 points. Forest City (117), Lake Mills (92), and Hudson (79.5) were all in the top-3. Taytum Edwards was Eagle Grove’s top finisher after completing the open 200 in 27.64 for 3rd overall. Edwards and the 4x400 team of Myka Anderson, Ellie Lenning, and Addy Jeske finished their mile in a season best time of 4:33.01 for 3rd place.

100m Dash –	
13 – Ellie Lenning.....	14.05
100m Hurdles –	
6 – Myka Anderson.....	18.26
400m Hurdles –	
7 – Myka Anderson.....	1:14.2
Discus –	
13 – Rynn Ettinger.....	83’ 10”
Long Jump –	
7 – Addy Jeske.....	14’ 3”
4x100 –	
4 – Jeske, Morgan, Lenning, Edwards.....	53.6
4x200 –	
6 – Jeske, Morgan, Lenning, Edwards.....	1:56.26



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Youngsters Shine at Spring Concerts

Last week, four of music teacher Karla Tweeten's classes had the chance to perform in front of their family and loved ones at Robert Blue Middle School.

On Tuesday, the 2nd graders began their show with a rendition of "Hakuna Matata," "She'll Be Comin' Round The Mountain," and Randy Newman's "You've Got a Friend in Me." They followed it with another Disney classic in "It's a Small World," and closed out the concert with "The Best That I Can Be."

The 3rd graders started out with a rousing version of "I've Been Working On The Railroad" and later sang the classic earworm "John Jacob Jingleheimer Schmidt."

A few days later, the kindergarten and 1st graders would have their time in the spotlight.

On Thursday, the kindergarten performance was highlighted by a performance of the traditional American song "The Old Gray Cat." The group closed the show with "Mickey Mouse March."

The 1st graders would sing "Mi Cupero," a Puerto Rican folk song and "Let's Go Driving" by Jeff Moss before ending the night with "Zip-A-Dee-Doo-Dah."

As always, Mrs. Erdman's art classes were responsible for the artwork in the auditorium. The Schwakes operated the sound booth so all of the singers' voices were heard, and a special thank you was given to the administration for their support of music.



A kindergartener sings along to the "Hello Song."



Mrs. Tweeten accompanied and conducted all of last week's performances.



There were a few smiles at the concert on Tuesday.

MORE PHOTOS FROM VEGAS NIGHT from page 1A



Free snacks aplenty included nacho cheese dip, a variety of salsas, vegetables, pinwheels, little smokies in barbecue sauce, and a charcuterie platter of lunchmeats, cheeses, and crackers.



Casino cash converted into raffle tickets and mystery prizes, with each raffle ticket earning a shot at one of the main prizes. (Photos by Edward Lynn)



The 5th Grade choir performs on Monday, May 5th, 2025. (Photo courtesy of Amy Hunt)

4th & 5th Grade Spring Concerts Delight

By Edward Lynn

EAGLE GROVE, Iowa — The 4th and 5th grade choirs of Eagle Grove Elementary School delivered a lively and heartfelt performance during their spring music concert held Monday evening, May 5, 2025.

A crowd of proud families and supporters gathered to watch students showcase a range of music, from patriotic tributes to beloved pop favorites. The program, organized by music teacher Karla Tweeten with support

from art teachers Meghan Erdman and Brandi Weselink, reflected weeks of hard work and collaboration.

The 4th grade choir presented a selection of tunes including the American folk song "Love Somebody," Richard Starkey's "Octopus's Garden," and timely patriotic numbers like "This Is My Country" and "What Can One Little Person Do" by Sally Rogers. They wrapped up with a crowd favorite: Elton

John's "I'm Still Standing," co-written with the iconic rock superstar's regular writing partner, Bernie Taupin.

The 5th graders followed with a spirited lineup that included Ray Charles' catchy classic "Fifty Nifty," the traditional African American folk song "Follow the Drinkin' Gourd," and a medley of "When Johnny Comes Marching Home" with "The Caissons Go Rolling Along." They also performed "Yakety

Yak" by Leiber & Stoller and closed with "Wonderful Life" by the Kirkpatrick.

Teachers, staff, and volunteers received thanks for their support, including Mrs. Kist for organizing music notes, Mrs. Erdman for artwork in the auditorium, and local music teachers Justin and Elizabeth Schwake for running sound. Custodians and Music Boosters were also recognized, along with donors who contributed to the fall fundraiser.



Soloists wait for their turn at the microphone.



Whose turn is it to sing? (Photos by Taylor Smith)

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