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Eldora
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Recycling Event Return Possible

By Michael
Hohenbrink
Mid-America Publishing

A big response to the City of Eldora's appliance recycling event could see a future iteration return.

Right now, it's too early to say for sure, but a big participation rate might help that.

"I do not have the knowledge of another appliance recycling program being planned for 2024 but if the means are available for us to provide for the community in the same manner as we just did, then I hope to see it happen again," said Blake Jones, City of Eldora code compliance officer.

The big numbers turning out argue for themselves.

"I cannot speak for anyone but myself on how the event went or what the expectations were, but I personally think it was a huge success and definitely exceeded my expectations," said Jones. "I was involved in one meeting where everything seemed to be decided at that moment and certain individuals took small assignments to help get this big program rolling

in a short span of time. Once the contact was made with the recycling entity who would accept the appliances and the flyers were made, I began fielding calls for pick up. I don't think I would be out of line to say that the expectation was that we would get a response of 15-20 citizens requesting the service, but by weeks end, we had an estimated 88."

Eldora residents seemed quite happy with the event.

"I had several citizens ask me what the cost was going to be to them and when my response was "zero", they were excited, which made me feel good," said Jones. "It always feels good knowing that the citizens are happy with a service that was provid-

ed."

Getting out the word was a juggle.

"It's easy to hang flyers and field phone calls, but to maintain your regular work schedule while taking these pick up requests to the tune

of 88 addresses totaling well over 100 appliances in a five day span? That deserves a big thank you to the Eldora Street Maintenance Department for being the muscle behind the project," said Jones.



Prosecutor wants
Bahr murder,
burglary cases
consolidated

By Michael
Hohenbrink
Mid-America Publishing

ELDORA - A Hardin County man accused of murder could see cases against him for that offense and for burglary consolidated for trial.

Hardin County Attorney Darrell Meyer has petitioned the court to consolidate the murder trial of Nathan Cole Bahr, 29, of Iowa Falls, with a separate case with charges of Class "B" felony burglary – first degree, Class "C" willful injury with a specification

of causing serious injury and Class "D" felony going armed with intent.

Bahr is accused of the May 26 murder of Desiree Folsom inside her Eldora home.

Folsom had sought and obtained a protective order against Bahr shortly before her death.

Days after Folsom's murder, Bahr was apprehended in Arizona and has remained in custody since then.

A plea of not guilty has been entered by Bahr, who is set to go to trial April 30, 2024 at 9 a.m.

Hardin Ties State Jobs Report

By Michael
Hohenbrink
Editor

Hardin County's unemployment rate rose .3 percent to equal the state average, which rose to 3.2 percent for the latest figures.

The national average rose to 3.9 percent.

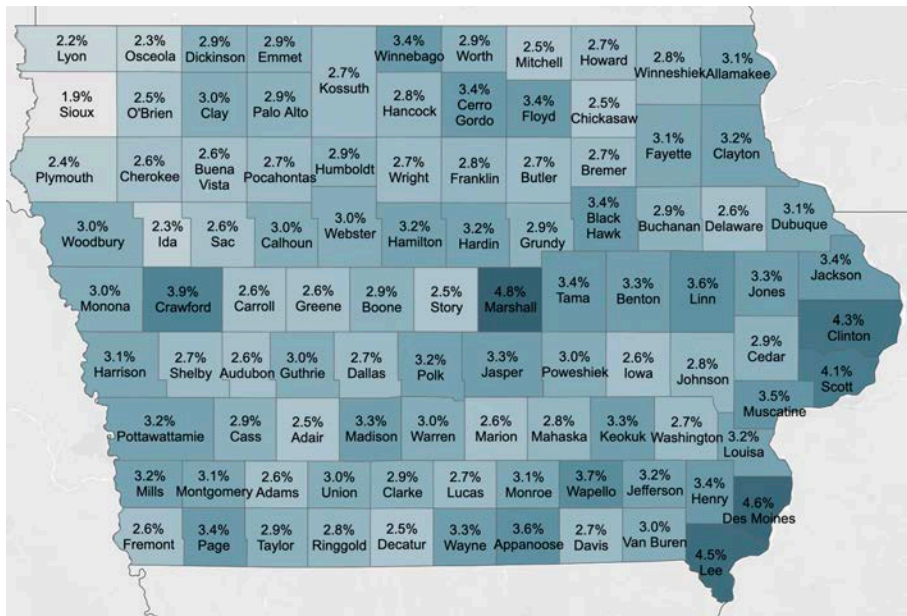
"October's numbers demonstrate that national economic pressures and the federal government's efforts to slow inflation are having

an impact on Iowa," said Beth Townsend, Executive Director of Iowa Workforce Development. "As we enter the winter, when we traditionally see higher seasonal unemployment rates, we will most likely see these trends continue. However, there are still almost 65,000 open jobs on IowaWORKS.gov.

Iowa's labor force participation rate declined from 68.6 to 68.4 percent as the number of unemployed rose to 56,000 up from 52,800.

Hardin County stood at 2.9 percent the month before.

Regionally, the latest figures have Story County the strongest as it stands at 2.5 percent with Wright and Butler both at 2.7 percent and Franklin at 2.8 percent while Grundy stands at 2.9 percent. Hamilton County matched Hardin at 3.2 percent. Marshall County was at 4.8 percent, down slightly from 4.9 percent the month before but still the highest in the entire state.



State Suspends License of Former Hampton
Prosecutor Convicted of Sex Crimes

By Clark Kauffman
Iowa Capital Dispatch

The state of Iowa has suspended the law license of a former county prosecutor who pleaded guilty to sex crimes involving children.

In June, the Iowa Attorney Disciplinary Board told the Iowa Supreme Court that it was ready to file disciplinary charges against attorney Daniel F. Wiechmann Jr. of Hampton, and that it expected to a formal complaint against him with the Grievance Commission of Iowa

Supreme Court immediately after the board's next quarterly meeting.

The board argued that because the procedural rules governing attorney disciplinary matters "include built-in delays" related to the filing of an answer, the discovery process, hearings, briefings, etc., Wiechmann's license should not remain active throughout the time-consuming process.

"Wiechmann pleaded guilty to three separate instances of sexual misconduct involving two different child

victims," the board told the court. "He is unfit to practice law and his continued practice damages the integrity of the profession in the eyes of the public."

Wiechmann, who is 74, had argued there was no need for an emergency suspension of his law license and said he should be allowed to retire rather than have his license suspended by the court.

The court sided with the Attorney Disciplinary Board and suspended Wiechmann's license based on his convictions. The suspension

is expected to remain in effect until the anticipated disciplinary charges are addressed by the court.

Wiechmann has previously told the court he expects to retire this year. However, Iowa Judicial Branch records indicate he has yet to surrender his license and it remains in "suspended" status.

Wiechmann served as Franklin County's elected county attorney from 2009 to 2014.

In July, he pleaded guilty in Dallas County District Court to a misdemeanor charge of

assault with intent to commit sexual abuse. That charge resulted in a suspended jail sentence, two years of probation and a 10-year "special sentence" that typically results in supervised form of release such as parole or work release.

Also in July, Wiechmann pleaded guilty in Polk County District Court to a misdemeanor charge of assault with intent to commit sexual abuse and misdemeanor indecent contact with a child. He was placed on probation for two years, concurrent

with the probation in the Dallas County case, and given a two-year suspended prison sentence. A charge of indecent exposure was dismissed.

A Franklin County case in which Wiechmann was charged with indecent exposure and assault with intent to commit sexual abuse was dismissed by prosecutors.

Court records indicate the offenses that led to the criminal charges date back to 2014 and all involve victims who were known to Wiechmann at that time.

Dorothy's Senior Center

1306 17th Ave., Eldora Phone 858-5152

Weekly menu - program Open to all persons 60 years of age or older

NOTICE: Call in to Dorothy's by 8:30 AM the day before to order or cancel a meal.

Phone 641-858-5152.

Monday, Dec. 4

Menu - Chicken Breast, Savory Apricot Sauce, Brown Rice, Whole Kernel Corn, Fresh Seasonal Fruit, Fruit Punch

Tuesday, Dec. 5

Menu - Goulash, Broccoli, Winter Squash, Fresh Seasonal Fruit, Milk

Wednesday, Dec. 6

Menu - Fajita Chicken, Spanish Rice, Refried Beans, Flour Tortilla, Mandarin Orange, Fruit Punch

Thursday, Dec. 7

Menu - Pork Loin, Brown Gravy, Whipped Sweet Potatoes, Green Beans, Gelatin, Fruit Punch

Friday, Dec. 8

Menu - Breaded Chicken Patty, Shredded Lettuce & Tomato, Hashbrowns, Hamburger Bun, Hot Cinnamon Applesauce, Milk, Ketchup, Mayonnaise

A Person's Fight Against Cancer

There will be a fundraiser for Rebecca Driggers who is fighting Stage 4 Cancer on Sunday, December 3, 2023. A lunch of Chili, potato soup, desserts and beverages will be served at the Dorothy Senior Center located at 1306 17th Avenue in Eldora at 11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

There will also be a Silent Auction listed on Facebook's "What's Up Eldora IA" before auction day. All donations will go toward Rebecca's medical bills.

Retirement Party

Central Iowa Community Services, Hardin County will be hosting a retirement party for Linn Adams. Linn has worked for Central Iowa Community Services for 38 years.

The retirement party will be on Friday, December 8, 2023 at The Friendship Club located at 602 S. Oak St., Iowa Falls from 2:00-4:30. All are welcome! Refreshments will be served.

Reimagining Advent

The First Congregational Church is offering a Advent Bible Study entitled "Reimagining Advent". It will be held in the Fireside room at 1209 12th St. on Tuesday, December 12, 2023 and Thursday, December 19, 2023 at 9:30 a.m. All are welcome!

New Providence will see Christmas Tree Lighting

The New Providence Christmas Tree Lighting will feature Santa, soup and s'mores.

The event is sponsored by the New Providence Heritage Festival committee.

The action takes place Friday, Dec. 8 at 6 p.m.

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Court suspends area lawyer's license

By Clark Kauffman
Iowa Capital Dispatch

An area attorney has lost her license to practice law.

Gina Jorgensen, of Hampton, who in recent years established general-practice law offices in both Hampton and Iowa Falls, is among disciplinary cases addressed.

State records indicate the Attorney Disciplinary Board is investigating three separate complaints against Jorgensen that date back to 2022, although the precise nature of the complaints has yet to be disclosed.

According to the Iowa Supreme Court, Jorgensen did not to respond to any of the board's inquiries in those matters. On Sept. 6, 2023, the court clerk issued a notice that Jorgensen's license would be suspended unless she contacted the board within 20 days. One of the notices was confirmed as delivered, while another was returned as "unclaimed."

Effective Oct. 25, Jorgensen's license to practice law in Iowa is suspended. This suspension will continue until she pays a reinstatement fee, the board files a withdrawal of its notice of noncompliance, and the court enters an order reinstating the license.

Additionally, the state of Iowa has suspended the license of a central Iowa attorney who has been sanctioned on eight prior occasions.

The Iowa Supreme Court has suspended the law license of Alexandra Maria Nelissen, of Clive, for six months due to her actions in two family-law cases. Court records indicate Nelissen admits that in one of the cases, she falsely informed the court that various investigations had suggested her client's ex-husband might be sexually abusing his child.

According to the Iowa Attorney Disciplinary Board, Nelissen waited several weeks before filing a petition to modify a divorce decree in one of the two family-law cases. She then failed to serve the opposing party and failed to schedule mediation even though the case involved an urgent matter pertaining to a child left in the care of an apparent drug addict.

Nelissen also concealed from her client the court's subsequent dismissal of the case, even after her client requested a refund and copies of any documents she'd filed in the case. According to the disciplinary board, Nelissen falsely informed her client mediation had been scheduled and a new hearing was coming up and did so in an effort to "conceal her mismanagement" of the case. Nelissen then failed to respond to board inquiries on the matter.

In the other family-law case, Nelissen filed statements with the court suggesting a man was sexually abusing his son when she knew such claims were untrue. The board alleged she told the court there had been "a forensic investigation, DHS investigations, therapeutic work, and statements made by the child that all indicate some form of assault has occurred." According to the board, Nelissen was aware that no such investigation or therapeutic work concluded any form of assault had occurred.

Nelissen admitted to all of the allegations in an affidavit consenting to the suspension of her license.

Court records show Nelissen has an extensive history of disciplinary action, including one private admonition, five public reprimands, one administrative suspension, and one 30-day suspension.

Although the court imposed a six-month suspension, the Attorney Disciplinary Board had recommended a 90-day suspension.

Herman's a real pal

Outside with 'Ace'

By Steve Throssel



Meet Herman, the albino chipmunk. Herman is a resident of the south deck and landscaping on the south side of the Pine Lake Country Club main building. PLCC is a public course, reasonably priced, and very challenging for long ball hitters, with tight fairways. It also includes a dog leg, which is a lot easier to play than it has been in a long time (#4). Anyway, all the girls at the club kind of adopted Herman and Amanda Grace, a working member of the club and a pretty good golfer, gave him the name Herman, after a cartoon mouse she recalled. He darted about, snatching up popcorn from the indoor/outdoor carpeting the first time I spotted him. He's pretty hard to miss.

There are twenty five varieties of chipmunks and since Herman is all white, it's impossible to say what species he represents. The five striped Eastern Chipmunk looks a lot like the Western Chipmunk. No one agrees on what constitutes an albino chipmunk anyway, since there are white varieties in various shades. Herman should live four or five years, no problem. They actually live longer when not in captivity, up to eight years. The word chipmunk is from Latin phraseology and means, "superintendent of the house". They are very high strung and literally spend their free time cleaning their nests.



They weave mats for insulating their nests and on nice days will drag some of their mats out to let the sunshine dry and clean them.

Come on out in 2024 and spend sometime with Herman and some of the other characters who hang out on the deck.



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EDITOR'S NOTES

Michael Hohenbrink

Juggling the holidays, the wife went down to her parents for Thanksgiving Dinner while I stayed home with our third-oldest as he nursed an ear infection.

Going to get it checked out, he found amusement in that the doctor took a look at his left ear and found it good and then checked out his right ear.

"Right ear...infection," she said almost instantaneously.

Apparently, it was pretty open and shut as a diagnosis.

So, lying on his side, dosing himself with his prescription and nursing his way through it, he was home with me for the day.

Having hit daily Mass for Thanksgiving, I came home bearing pie.

"That better be pumpkin," he announced.

For being an identical twin, he and his doppelgänger have some decidedly different tastes.

My choice of a cherry pie would have been quickly devoured by his twin, but for Nick, it's pumpkin or nothing.

I'm okay with that, but I'm a cherry man, at times peach or raspberry.

Unfortunately, it's more or less the law that pumpkin rules the table for Thanksgiving Day.

Commentator Matt Walsh actually has had some fun of late insisting that it is federal law that certain things are mandated for a Thanksgiving Dinner while others are prohibited under penalty of law. Salads? They have no place at a Thanksgiving Feast. Any type of seafood? Likewise. And turkey is the

only allowed meat. Ham can wait its turn for a few weeks until Christmas Day.

Personally, watermelon would be on my list for foods that have no place in a civilized world on this of all days. Nothing against it, just not for Thanksgiving.

Ditto for hot dogs, baked beans or sauerkraut.

I'm a fan of all three, but the kraut needs to wait until New Year's Day, along with some sausage and a strong cup of coffee.

Of course, to get me there, I shall require the services of a couple of candy trays as we hit the Christmas Season, possibly with some peanut brittle.

No eggnog, though, please. And some hot chocolate.

That can carry me to Christmas Dinner, which I'm open to including a bird making an appearance, be it goose or turkey, as well as ham.

Call me ecumenical. The more the merrier.

Sadly, that's still a few weeks out, so I'll have to make do in the meantime with what I hope as of this writing to be the prospect of a few meals worth of my mother-in-law's leftovers, starting with turkey on the plate and graduating to turkey sandwiches and possibly a few deviled eggs.

Then, along with the occasional candy cane to stir my coffee, I can tough it out to the next chance at a feast.

At least until one of the munchkins develops a fever.

Perhaps the wife can take one for the team, while I devour a couple plates of Christmas goodness.

I'll even make a game attempt at the chili and oyster stew, one of her family's traditions my German forebears never envisioned.

Just stuff an extra helping of stuffing, and we're all good.



Memories Of A Former Kid

MugWump Marketing (319) 800-4774

Walk a mile in another man's shoes

By Linda Halfpop

I joined a Grief Support group at a local church near my daughter's house. I thought it would be a good thing for me and I was right. It has really helped me understand a lot of things I was feeling and didn't know why I was experiencing certain emotions.

We are a small group, only 3 men and 3 women. No one knows each other. That's good because we can all get to experience things together.

John is in his eighties and lost his wife of 65 years (he's lost without his love); Joseph lost his sister and mother (he had to clean out their homes and it broke him); Kathleen lost her husband (she cried during the session but identified with an emotion I was feeling) and then felt better; Wolfgang lost his mother Lina (he's Italian and showed us her photo) Wolfgang looks like Alice Cooper and drives a motorcycle; Char lost her young daughter and her mother (so fresh was

her grief she too cried during our session) and Marilyn our leader lost her husband (it's still painful even though she has remarried)

Last week we learned about "grief bursts"...it explained how they come on uninvited even when you're having one of your good days. It was something I had experienced that very day and made so much sense.

The meeting was so helpful and we were given tips on how to survive the holidays. One of our tips was

to start a new tradition or even do something different at Thanksgiving and Christmas that we hadn't ever done with our loved one...so, next time we meet we're going to share what we changed.

I'll let you know what the group individually did...they are beginning to be like family.

You never know the pain others are experiencing, but your pain is just as important, and your presence will comfort your fellow traveler's on the road to healing.

New books are on tap

By Joan Grothoff
Eldora Public Library
Director

The staff at the library hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving. We all enjoyed time with our families.

Did you have a chance to see our story walk on the square last week? Every year we try to find a funny, family friendly book. Santa Jaws is so cute! We were laughing the entire time it

was being assembled. Shout out to Bill for hauling it up to the square and putting it in the ground! This will be our last one until spring.

I was on vacation last week, and when I came back, we had a table full of new books to process! Please check the catalog for the newest books. Thank you to the Friends of the Library for our subscription to Book Page magazine. It is free for all to take, and has descriptions of newest books. I often have patrons

find a book they would like the library to purchase!

Our Friends of the Library annual campaign is underway. If you don't receive a flyer in the mail, please stop in and pick one up. The Friends supports us in many ways. Summer reading, Adult programming, Dolly Parton Imagination library to name a few. All donations are greatly appreciated and tax deductible.

We are currently planning our December sched-

uling, we will be hosting an adult craft day or two, along with various activities over Christmas break.

Trivia Question: Most species of sharks will do what if they stop moving?

- a. Fall asleep
- b. Drown
- c. Float to the Surface
- d. Eat

Answer: b. drown (Glad I didn't see any sharks while I was floating in the Caribbean sea last week!)

Dose of Relief Needed to Fix Pharmacy Fees

By Chuck Grassley
U.S. Senator

Q: How do DIR fees drive up costs for prescription drugs?

A: Sticker shock at the pharmacy counter continues to hammer patients when they pick up their prescription medicines. Coupled with historic inflation that pushed up prices for groceries, rent and gas, U.S. households are stretched thin to afford their medications. Iowans may not realize the sticker shock at the pharmacy counter goes both ways. Community pharmacies are being pinched by excessive fees and surprise bills that are forcing some of them to close their doors. These fees and bills come from middlemen called pharmacy benefit managers (or PBMS) who are often vertically integrated with a large chain store pharmacy. So-called direct and indirect remuneration (DIR) fees took root from a loophole in Medicare regulations intended to reward quality care not harm it. It fostered an opaque payment scheme that forces pharmacies to make retroactive "clawback" payments for filling Medi-

care prescriptions, sometimes long after the patient received the medication. According to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), the use of DIR fees has exploded by 107,400 percent between 2010 and 2020. Now that's sticker shock. Closing the loophole that enabled DIR fees to explode would save patients tens of billions of dollars from inflated out-of-pocket costs over the next decade and give pharmacies more predictability. What's more, lowering prescription drug costs for patients will help ensure patients are taking their medications as prescribed by their health care provider, resulting in better outcomes, fewer hospital stays and taxpayer savings in the long run.

From my committee assignments in the U.S. Senate, I'm leading efforts to drive down the cost of prescription drugs. Specifically, I'm working to deliver a dose of common sense to these federal regulations that will have a detrimental impact on pharmacies integral to our health care system, particularly in Rural America.

Pharmacy closures in rural areas would pull the rug out from patients who may no longer have access to a local pharmacist to provide essential health care services. According to one recent study by Drake University and the University of Iowa Carver College of Medicine, nearly 100 pharmacies in Iowa have closed their businesses since 2008. What's more, rural pharmacies accounted for 75 percent of the closures, reflecting a shrinking footprint of community pharmacies. If this trend continues, our state could see a pharmacy desert that leaves rural residents high and dry. Although mail-order services are an option, prescriptions take time to deliver and don't give patients the benefit of having the opportunity to have a face-to-face consultation with a pharmacist.

Q: What are you doing to help community pharmacies stay in business?

A: Throughout the last year, I've supported a bipartisan effort urging the Biden administration to end the unsustainable growth in DIR clawback fees. As former chairman of the Senate Fi-

nance Committee with jurisdiction over Medicare policies, I spoke directly with the CMS Administrator to take urgent action ahead of the final rule that will hit rural drugstores and their patients on Jan. 1, 2024. That's because the transition to a new and much-needed regulatory update to Medicare will put pharmacies and patients between a rock and a hard place, what many in the industry are calling a DIR cliff. As Iowa's senior U.S. Senator, I'm pulling out all the stops to prevent our community drugstores from getting pushed off the cliff because of unfair reimbursements and unreasonable payment arrangements involving CMS and powerful PBMS.

If the Biden administration doesn't take action before the New Year, a combination of lower reimbursements and high clawback risks will create cash flow challenges for community pharmacies. So, I've been pressing CMS and PBMS to work with drugstores so they can keep their employees on the payroll, keep their doors open and lights on and continue serving patients.

Iowans share their concerns about community pharmacy closures during my annual 99 county meetings across the state. Following my call with the CMS Administrator, I'm glad CMS on November 6 finally issued a public memo to Part D plans and their PBMS, acknowledging pharmacies' concerns and backing the adoption of some solutions I've proposed. This is what I've been asking the agency to do for months. This is good news,

but action better follow suit. CMS and PBMS need to step up and do what's right on behalf of Medicare patients and the pharmacies they depend on to get prescription drugs, receive preventative care and other essential health care services. In the meantime, I'll continue pushing to get my bipartisan legislation to boost transparency and hold PBMS accountable across the finish line in the 118th Congress.

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The **Eldora Herald Ledger** 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 **Eldora Herald Ledger** 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 **Eldora Herald Ledger** 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 indi-

vidual 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

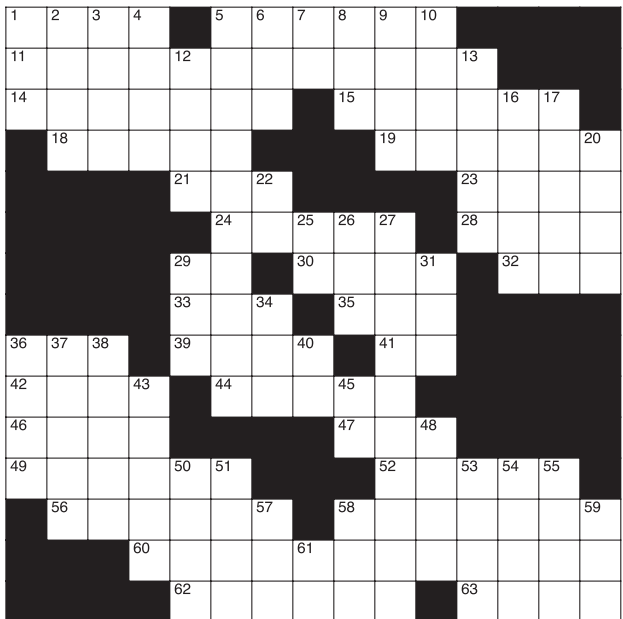
Your address and telephone number will not be printed in the newspaper, but will be used for verification by newspaper editorial staff.

Unsigned letters and letters containing personal attacks the newspaper deems to be of a libelous nature will not be published. The **Eldora Herald Ledger** reserves the right to end debate on a topic after both sides have had ample chance to express their views. The **Eldora Herald Ledger** 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 **Eldora Herald Ledger**.

Correction and Retraction Policy

The **Eldora Herald Ledger** 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 **Eldora Herald Ledger**, a post will be made linking to the corrected article, noting the correction.



CLUES ACROSS

1. Old English letters
5. Sculpture
11. Showing up again
14. Tie the knot again
15. Washington city
18. Stiff structures in invertebrates
19. Mark over a vowel
21. Explosive
23. Popular race: __ 500
24. Pile up
28. Mint
29. Commercial
30. A minute amount (Scottish)
32. Small Eurasian deer
33. Baseball stat
35. Numbers cruncher
36. Japanese masked drama
39. Gasteyer and de Armas are two
41. Blood group
42. Assist in wrongdoing
44. Language spoken in Cameroon and Chad
46. Grayish-white
47. A woolen cap of Scottish origin
49. Microorganism
52. Place under prohibition
56. Calm, dependable
58. Congressman
60. Force
62. As a result of this document
63. One of two main branches of Islam

CLUES DOWN

1. Make a mistake
2. Gordon and Snider are two
3. Geographical region of Finland
4. Ejected saliva
5. A way of performing
6. Scotland's longest river
7. One of the six noble gases (abbr.)
8. Body art
9. Two-toed sloth
10. Electronic counter-countermeasures
12. Foolish person (Brit.)
13. Of the wind
16. Grand home
17. Sound
20. English river
22. Symbol indicating ownership
25. Exclamation of surprise
26. Pouch
27. Apart from
29. Satisfaction
31. The bill in a restaurant
34. Sea bream
36. Port in southern Japan
37. Double-reed instruments
38. Center
40. South Dakota
43. An orderly crowd
45. Indicates position
48. __-pedi
50. Nonsense (slang)
51. Republic of Ireland
53. Nocturnal flyers
54. American state
55. Clusters in fern fronds
57. Patriotic women
58. A person's brother or sister
59. Breed of sheep
61. Popular film "Despicable __"

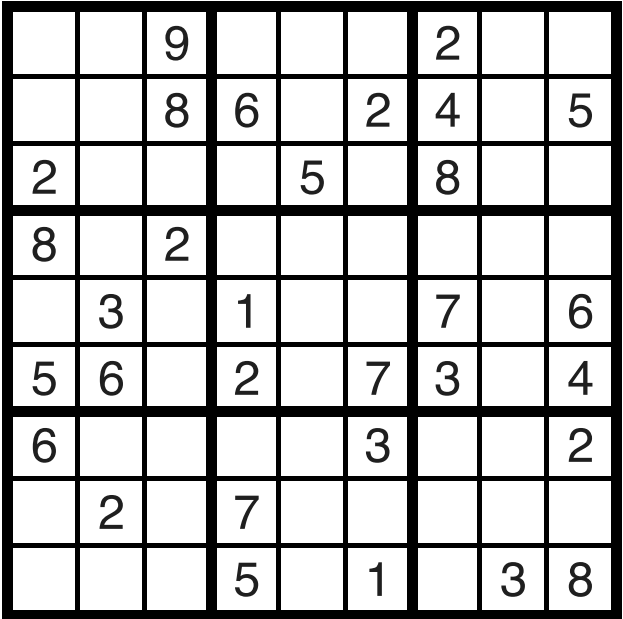
Solutions can be found on the Classified page

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

TECHNOLOGY WORD SEARCH



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

- APP
LAPTOP
CABLES
COMMUNICATIONS
DATA
DEVICE
EMAIL
FEATURES
- FILE
MEMORY
MERGE
MODEM
QUEUE
REBOOT
RELIANT
- ROUTER
SMARTPHONE
SPAM
SPLITTER
TABLET
TECHNOLOGY
VIRTUAL
WIFI

Obituary

Michael Ray Ludwigs Zachariah Thomas

1961-2023

Michael Ray Ludwigs, 62, of Hawarden, passed away Tuesday, Nov. 21, 2023, at Hillcrest Health Care Services in Hawarden.

No services are planned at this time for Michael. The Porter Funeral Home in Hawarden is assisting the family. Condolences may be sent to www.porterfuneralhomes.com.



Michael Ray Ludwigs was born May 1, 1961, in Hawarden, the son of Leslie Raymond Ludwigs and Marcene Audrey (Schwiesow) Ludwigs. He received his GED and graduated from Western Iowa Tech Community College with a degree in Police Science.

Michael started his police career with the Hawarden Police Department. He then worked for Sioux County Sheriff's Department, first in dispatch, then as a deputy and later as a jailer. He was an officer in Waukee for seven years and then the Chief of Police in Lake Park, then in Manning, before moving to Eldora, Iowa. Michael was the Chief of Police for Eldora until he was diagnosed with brain cancer in 2018. Michael handled the diagnosis with faith and dignity and often would tell his mother, "It is what it is, Mom, God will guide us through it."

Michael loved to travel, and site see. He loved all of his friends and always seemed to know someone in every city that he stopped in. Michael was a person of strong faith.

He is lovingly survived by his mother, Marcene of Hawarden; his older sister, Lea, also of Hawarden; a nephew, Dustin (Alexandria) Smith; great-nephews and great-niece, Christian, Trinity, Matthew, and Liam; great-great-nephew, Bryson; 2 uncles, Lowell (Jan) Ludwigs and Mel Schwiesow; aunt, Eunice Vetos; and many cousins.

Michael was preceded in death by is father, Leslie; great-nephew, Timothy; and many aunts and uncles.

1982-2023

Zachariah Nathaniel Thomas, 41, of Holland, passed away Saturday, Nov. 11, 2023, at his home. A visitation for Zach is set for Friday, Dec. 1, 2023, beginning at 7 p.m. at Ivester Church of the Brethren with a memorial service Saturday, Dec. 2, 2023, at 10 a.m. at the church with interment to follow at Sheller Cemetery. Memorials may be directed to the family. Online condolences may be directed to www.abelsfuneralhomes.com



Zach was born Feb. 19, 1982, to Sherri Cox and Paul Thomas in Marshalltown. He spent much of his early life in the Eldora-Ivester area. He later went on to attend McPherson College, where he majored in automotive restoration. He was united in marriage to Taresa Lafrentz Aug. 6, 2022, at their home in Holland.

Zach held many jobs in his life, working for Pine Lake Foams, Inc, PCI, farming, and most recently working as warehouse manager at ELM. He enjoyed rebuilding things and automotive repair. He loved hunting, fishing, and bonfires with friends. He also enjoyed building things, and previously made toyboxes for underprivileged children. Zach was a caring person and always wanted to help people as much as he could.

Zach is survived by his wife, Taresa Thomas; daughter GG; Mother Linda Thomas; brother Jacob (Maud) Thomas and children Aethel and Briac; stepbrothers Andrew Helmly and Jeff (Lynn) Helmly and their daughter Andi Lynn; beloved companions Barny and Pixie; as well as many friends and family. He was preceded in death by his father, Paul, birthmother, Sherri, grandparents Marvin and Marjorie Thomas and Warren and Ritta Kurth, and favorite dog, Eddie.

Zach's family would like to extend a special thank-you to all family and friends who have offered their support and compassion at this difficult time.

Services: 10 a.m., Saturday, Dec. 2
Ivester Church of the Brethren
Abels Funeral and Cremation Service
319-824-3319 • abelsfuneralhomes.com

Death Notice

Pamela Kulow

Pamela "Pam" Kulow, 80, of Hubbard, passed away Friday, Nov. 24, 2023, at the Mary Greeley Medical Center in Ames with visitation from 5 to 7 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 28 at the Zion United Church of Christ, Hubbard, with a service Wednesday, Nov. 29 at 11 a.m. at the church.

Raymond Schumacher

Raymond Schumacher, 86, of Hubbard, passed away Nov. 22, 2023 at the Hubbard Care Center. Visitation was set for 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 26, at Faith Evangelical Church, Radcliffe, with a funeral service at 3 p.m. that day at the church and burial in the Hubbard Cemetery.

Death Notice

Dixie Beaupain

Dixie Venz Beaupain, 71, of Iowa Falls passed away Sunday, Nov. 19, 2023, at Mary Greeley Hospital Ames. Funeral services for Dixie Beaupain were set for 10:30 a.m. Monday, Nov. 27 at the Immanuel Lutheran Church, 313 Lee Lane, Iowa Falls with visitation from 4 to 6 p.m. Sunday NNov. 26 at Linn's Funeral Home Iowa Falls Chapel with burial at the Hubbard Cemetery.

God Winks

By Curt Swarm
Columnist

God Wink: those moments we feel touched by God in a unique and unexpected way, as if God were winking at us. Often chalked up as coincidence by "non-believers," God Winks are considered signs that God is looking out for us.

I had a God Wink the other day. It was so subtle that I almost didn't recognize it. But once it revealed itself to me, I had to share.

I was writing one of my columns about a Ukrainian family who just arrived in Mt. Pleasant. I had the rough draft of the story written and wanted the family to proof it. On the way out of the house I noticed a hundred dollar bill lying on my desk. I don't often have hundred dollar bills, and like to hang onto them. God spoke to my heart and said, "Give it to the Ukrainian family. They need it."

I didn't want to because I'm a selfish person and, even though Ginnie and I have all we need, I wanted to keep that hundred dollar bill for myself. But I followed the command God laid on my heart, and left the hundred dollar bill with the Ukrainian family. It was obvious they needed it, and they did appreciate it, giving me a nice warm hug.

That afternoon I was paying bills. I always check my bank balance when paying bills. Lo-and-behold, there was an unexpected deposit of \$1,000 in my bank account from my employer. It

took me a few minutes to realize what happened. When I did, I had to stop and say a little prayer of thanks, and ask forgiveness for not trusting Him.

I've had tinnitus (ringing in the ears) for over 20 years. There is no cure. I've tried the home-grown remedies, like drinking vinegar until I was sick, to no avail. I also prayed for a cure. Tinnitus is quite irritating. It sounds like an Iowa ditch full of insects.

Recently, at my annual eye check-up, the doctor told me I have early stage Macular Degeneration, and prescribed an over-the-counter eye vitamin. I've been taking the vitamin for six months now. I'll be danged if the tinnitus hasn't subsided to an almost imperceptible sound. It's still there, but doesn't have near the volume. My only explanation is that the eye vitamin is also repairing the damaged auditory nerves. Is this an answer to prayer, or the action of a vitamin, or both? You be the judge. (Sorry, I can't list the brand name of the eye vitamin.)

My last example is a flat-out miracle. I wrote about it in my first book, "Protected" but it's worth retelling. I've been clean and sober 34 years. About 20 years sober, I found myself out late at night, hungry, lonely and tired. I needed something to eat, and the only place open was a bar. I didn't want to go in because I was afraid I would be tempted to drink. I prayed to God for protection. I walked into the bar, and the bartender said, "Sorry, we



can't serve you. We just lost our liquor license." True story. There is no doubt in my mind that God took immediate and swift action to help me stay sober. (He still has work left for me to do.)

One more God Wink: after an outrageous wind storm this spring, filling our yard with drifts of corn shucks and stalks, we went outside to find downed limbs, one of my sculptures blown across the highway, and a stick

cross in front of our house, like God was protecting our home. That cross is still there.

Have a good story? Call or text Curt Swarm in Mt. Pleasant at 319-217-0526, email him at curtswarm@yahoo.com, or visit his website at www.empty-nest-words-photos-and-frames.com

After a violent storm, this cross was left in front of Curt and Ginnie's house. It's still there. God wink?

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8 7 2 4 3 6 9 5 1
9 3 4 1 8 5 7 2 6
5 6 1 2 9 7 3 8 4
6 8 5 9 4 3 1 7 2
1 2 3 7 6 8 5 4 9
4 9 7 5 2 1 6 3 8

EDHS STATUE
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REMARRY TACOMA
SETAE UMLAUT
TNT INDY
AMASS COIN
AD HAET ROE
HIT CPA
NOH ANAS AB
ABET GIDAR
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FARM REAL ESTATE FOR SALE
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TRACT I
89.51 taxable acres, more or less
Average CSR2 82.21 (estimated)
The following real estate situated in Grundy County, Iowa, is being offered for sale and is legally described as follows, to-wit:
The West One-half of the Northeast Quarter, the Northwest Quarter of the Southeast Quarter EXCEPT the East 30 Acres thereof, and the West 2 Rods of the Southwest Quarter of the Southeast Quarter, all in Section 24, Township 89 North, Range 18, West of the 5th P.M., Grundy County, Iowa.
TRACT II
69.00 taxable acres, more or less
Average CSR2 87.58 (estimated)
The Northeast Quarter of the Southeast Quarter (NE¼SE¼) and the East Thirty Acres (E 30 A.) of the Northwest Quarter of the Southeast Quarter (NW¼SE¼) of Section Twenty-four (24), Township Eighty-nine (89) North, Range Eighteen (18), West of the 5th P.M., Grundy County, Iowa.
These two tracts are being sold separately, and the Sellers will accept sealed bids separately for each tract, which sealed bids must be received by 4:30 p.m. on December 15, 2023. The sealed bid must contain the name, address and telephone number of the bidder, the amount of the bid per acre for each tract, and which tract the bid is for. Bidders may submit a bid for either or both tracts. All bids shall be delivered to Attorney Seth R. Schroeder at the address shown below.
The top bidders of each tract will be notified and invited to attend a private auction to be held December 19, 2023, at 11:00 A.M. at the law office of Heronimus, Schmidt, Schroeder & Geer, 630 G Avenue, Grundy Center, Iowa 50638. A separate private auction will be held for each tract. The sale price of each tract will be the highest acceptable bid multiplied times the number of taxable acres in each tract.
This is a cash sale with closing to take place on January 26, 2024. Ten percent (10%) of the purchase price will be due on the date of sale, and the winning bidder of each tract will be expected to sign a short form real estate contract immediately after the private auction.
Sellers reserve the right to reject any and all bids. Any announcements made on the date of sale will take precedence over any prior advertisements.
For other information concerning the farms, interested bidders should obtain a copy of the bidder's information sheet from Attorney Seth R. Schroeder at the law office of Heronimus, Schmidt, Schroeder & Geer, 630 G Avenue, Grundy Center, Iowa 50638 Telephone: 319-824-6951; Fax: 319-824-6953; E-mail: grundylaw@gcmini.net

South Hardin Holiday Concerts
December 7th H-R Elementary Music
6:30 PM H-R Elem. Gymnasium
December 11th MS & HS Band & Choir
6:30 PM SHHS Auditorium
December 18th E-NP Elementary Music
6:30 PM E-NP Elem. Gymnasium
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Community Church

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ELDORA
Congregational United Church of Christ
Mac McDonald, Pastor
1209 12th St.
(641) 939-3113
SUNDAY
9:30 a.m., Worship every Sunday

First Baptist
1307 3rd St.
(641) 939-2366
SUNDAY
9:30 a.m., Sunday School
10:30 a.m., Worship

St. Mary Catholic
Rev. Rod Allers, Priest
614 Washington
(641) 939-5545
Deacon Rob Claypool,
Pastoral Associate
SATURDAY:
5:00 p.m., St. Mark, Iowa Falls
SUNDAY:
8:00 a.m., St. Mark, Iowa Falls
10:30 a.m., St. Mary, Eldora

Christian Fellowship Church of Eldora
Pastors Patrick and Susan Schnieders
1415 12th St.
(641) 939-2057
SUNDAY
9 a.m., Worship
10:15 a.m., Sunday School

St. Paul Lutheran
Aaron Hambleton, Pastor
1105 Washington
(641) 858-2464
SUNDAY
8:30 a.m., Sunday School
9:30 a.m., Worship

Free Grace United Church Eldora
32203 230th St.
Meeting at Pine Lake Camps

BANGOR
Bangor-Liberty Friends
Matt Bishop, Pastor
1260-B Hopkins Ave
(641) 486-5434
SUNDAY
8:30 a.m., Prayer Group
9:30 a.m., Sunday School
10:30 a.m., Worship

BUCKEYE
Cottage Community Church
Ken Nason, Pastor
20042 Co. Hwy. D41
(515) 855-4361
SUNDAY
9:30 a.m., Sunday School
10:30 a.m., Worship

St. Paul Lutheran
Pastor Traphagan
408 Berlin Ave.
(515) 855-4240
SUNDAY
8 a.m., Worship
9:15 a.m., Sunday School

CONRAD
Blue Collar Community Church
Troy Ralston, Pastor
109 West Center St.
(641) 485-5743
SUNDAY
9 a.m., Worship

GARDEN CITY
Stavanger Free Lutheran
Eric Swenson, Pastor
15407 Oak St.
(515) 893-2240
SUNDAY
9 a.m., Sunday School
10 a.m., Worship (live-streamed)

GIFFORD
Methodist Church
Ward Richards Jr., Pastor
SUNDAY
8 a.m., Worship

HUBBARD
St. John Evangelical Lutheran
Matthew W. Rueger, Pastor
116-124 S Iowa St.
(641) 864-2672
SUNDAY
9 a.m., Christian Education
10 a.m., Worship

Salem United Methodist
Ward Richards Jr., Pastor
115-123 S. Illinois St.
(641)864-2625
SUNDAY
9 a.m., Coffee
9:30 a.m., Worship

Zion United Church of Christ
Laura Renault, Pastor
201 E Chestnut St.
(641) 864-2600
SUNDAY
9 a.m., Sunday School
10 a.m., Worship

IVESTER
Ivester Church of the Brethren
Betsy Kuecker, Pastor
25056 E Ave.
(641) 858-3879
www.iverchurch.org
SUNDAY
10:30 a.m., Worship on Facebook and in person

LISCOMB
Church of Christ
Ralph Norman, Minister
403 State Street
(641) 496-5424
SUNDAY
9:30 a.m., Sunday School
10:30 a.m., Worship

NEW PROVIDENCE
Honey Creek New Providence Friends
604 Cherry Dr.
(641) 497-5333
Chuck Hartman, Pastor
SUNDAY
8:30 a.m., Fellowship
9 a.m., Sunday School
10 a.m., Worship

OWASA
Owasa Methodist
Ward Richards Jr., Pastor
SUNDAY
11 a.m., Worship Service
For cancellations - KIFG 95.3 FM

RADCLIFFE
Faith Evangelical
Andrew Johnson, Pastor
26902 Cty. Hwy. S-27
(515) 899-7816
SUNDAY
9 a.m., Worship (Nursery)
10 a.m., Fellowship
10:30 a.m., Sunday School for all ages (Nursery)

Our Savior's Lutheran
601 Isabella St.
(515) 899-2247
SUNDAY
9 a.m., Worship
9:15 a.m., Worship

St. John United Methodist
Pastor Anita Matchie
207 Amanda St.
(515) 899-2327
SUNDAY
9:30 a.m., Sunday School
10:30 a.m., Worship

RADCLIFFE
Zion Lutheran Church
13171 330th St., rural Radcliffe
SUNDAY
9:30 a.m., Sunday School
10:30 a.m., Worship

STEAMBOAT ROCK
Steamboat Rock Baptist
Harrison Lippert, Pastor
1072nd (641) 868-2458
www.steamboatbaptist.org
SUNDAY
8:30 a.m., Traditional Worship
10 a.m., Contemporary Worship
10 a.m., Pathway Classes
Sunday School for all ages
11:15 a.m., Contemporary Worship
11:15 a.m., Children's Church

First Presbyterian
Lynn Arends, Pastor
401 Market
(641) 868-2292
SUNDAY
9:15 a.m., Fellowship
10:30 a.m., Worship Service

WELLSBURG
United Reformed Church
Rev. Matthew Nuiver, Pastor
608 S. Adams
(641) 869-3633
SUNDAY
9:30 a.m., Worship
10:45 a.m., Sunday School
7:00 p.m., Evening Worship

First Christian Reformed
Steve Mulder, Pastor
12419 18th St.
(641) 869-3305
SUNDAY
9:30 a.m., Worship
10:45 a.m., Sunday School

St. John Lutheran
Bruce Zimmermann, Pastor
S. Wash. at 6th St. 6006th
(641) 869-3911
SUNDAY
9 a.m., Worship
9:45 a.m., Sunday School

WELLSBURG
St. Paul Lutheran
Victoria Shepherd, Pastor
16553 H Ave
(641) 869-3992
SUNDAY
8:15 a.m., Sunday School
9:30 a.m., Worship

St. Peter Country Church
Elton LaBree, Pastor
13607 D Ave.
SUNDAY
8 a.m., Worship

Wellsburg Reformed
Mark Andersen, Pastor
617 E 4th
(641) 869-3316
SUNDAY
9:30 a.m., Worship
10:45 a.m., Sunday School

UNION
Calvary Baptist
404 Commercial St.
(641) 486-2449
SUNDAY
9:30 a.m., Sunday School
10:30 a.m., Worship
Wednesday 6:30 Kid's Club & Prayer Meeting

Community Church
Rev. John Richter
402 3rd St.
(641) 486-5469
SUNDAY
8:30 a.m. Sunday School
9:30 a.m., Worship

Union Church of Christ
Dave Fink, Pastor
501 Commercial St.
(641) 486-5596
SUNDAY
9:30 a.m., Sunday School
10:30 a.m., Worship Hour

WHITTEN
Community Church
Jim Hartman, Pastor
812 Irwin St.
(641) 486-5470
SUNDAY
9 a.m., Worship Service
10:15 a.m., Sunday School

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Back row left to right: Gabe Steiner, Beau Towne, Zaden Eggers, Ethan Lindsey, Chase Bruns, Will Feldpausch, Edwin Wanken, Nate Bishop, Coach Jacob Groeneveld. Front row: Wyatt Guiles, Cash Moore, Sean May, Chance Cordes, Alex Paxson, Sam Garber. Not pictured: Coach Christian Miller.

SH-BCLUW wrestling returns experienced roster

2023 Results: Sean May qualified for State

Jacob Groeneveld and Christian Miller
Head Coaches

The first season under both Coach Jacob Groeneveld and Christian Miller saw a State qualifier make it to Des Moines and several other wrestlers come up just short in 2023. Despite graduating four seniors from last year's team, the Storm are still an

upperclassmen-heavy team going into this season. "They really bought into what Coach Miller and I have brought into this program," Groeneveld said. "We bring a lot of guys back from last year and a lot of leadership. Every kid has bought it and wrestling hard in practice."

The Storm will have a mix of experienced wrestlers with May, senior Chance

Cordes, senior Alex Paxson and sophomore Zaden Eggers either qualify or were close to qualifying for State last season. New faces to the wrestling room will help SH-BCLUW fill out a majority of their lineup. "We have 22 or 23 guys out, which is the largest number we've had out since we've been here," Groeneveld said. "It's also

the deepest team and probably the most talented across the board that we've had. We're pretty balanced all the way through and everyone gets along." May has his sights not only on returning to State, but standing atop the podium at heavyweight. Cordes, Eggers and Paxson also have goals to not only get over the hump and qualify for State,

but also place. Yet before that, the Storm will seek a top-three finish in a competitive NICL conference tournament in late January. "This is a large conference and we expect Wapsie Valley to be one of the top dogs," Groeneveld said. "Dike-New Hartford should have a good team out and Union has two champs back. But when we look at the guys and the

talent we have in our room, we think we can be competitive with anyone in the conference." Groeneveld's own goal is to see the momentum he's seen in December carry into January and keep kids out for the sport through the season as the Storm look to qualify multiple guys and be competitive in their conference.



From left to right: Madison Ibeling, Aspen McStockard, Melanie Searcy, Elsie Kuper.

Cougars seek growth in second sanctioned season

2023 Results: Trinity Rotgers and Kylie Willems were State Qualifiers

Dustin Meyer
Head Coach

The first sanctioned season of girls wrestling in Iowa saw AGWSR's Trinity Rotgers and Kylie Willems both qualify for State last season. While neither reached the podium, it did set a precedent for the future under coach Dustin Meyer. "We did pretty well for our season with two seniors qualifying," Meyer said. "That experience is gone, but the returning girls want to make a mark for themselves. We have some learning to do this season." Senior Rory Siems was a State placewinner as a freshman before the sport was sanctioned in 2022. Sophomore Aspen McStockard and junior Melanie Searcy also return from last year's team, while freshmen Madison Ibeling and Elsie Kuper add brand new faces to the program. "We're pretty green this season, but they have motivation," Meyer said. "They want to get better however they can on the mat. They saw the work ethic last year's seniors had. The returning girls are doing what they can to help." While AGWSR is the NICL, the conference has yet to add a component for girls

wrestling and the Cougars will instead travel far and wide for tournaments, much like most schools in the state do with girls wrestling. "Our goal is to learn every day in practice and for everyone to compete at Regionals," Meyer said. "If we can get girls to State, that's great. First, we have a lot of growing to do before the end of January."



Rory Siems

Cougars poised to continue success under Abbas

2023 Results: Jariyah Bowles, Kaden Abbas, Ben Puente State Qualifiers, Aiden Heitland eighth at 220 lbs in Class 1A



Back row from left to right: Collin Willems, Clayton Van Loh, Aiden Heitland, Gage Van Loh, Kaden Abbas, Noah Clikeman. Front row: Jaedrek Bowles, Karder Brekunitich, Kael Dodd, Brady Abbas, Nick Buchholz, Jariyah Bowles. Not pictured: Chris Surprenant, Mo Smidt, Jayden Nagel.

James Abbas
Head Coach

AGWSR wrestling enjoyed its most successful season in terms of dual wins last season and sent on four wrestlers to the State tournament last February, where then-junior Aiden Heitland earned a spot on the podium at 220 lbs in Class 1A. The season also marked the final season for Chad Gerbracht, and the program is now under the leadership of former assistant coach James Abbas. "It is hard to replace the quality and depth that wrestlers like Bo Gerbracht, Tate Miller, Ben Peunte, Eli Brandt, Aron Huber and Jared Granzow brought to the table," Abbas said. "They helped make our line up close to full with quality wrestlers. This makes teams unable to pick and choose who to wrestle in the dual meet situation. When the lineup has holes the opponent can move their more con-

fident wrestlers to wrestle and pick up forfeits with their less experienced kids." Three of the four 2023 qualifiers are back for this season in senior Kaden Abbas (39-8, 145 lbs), sophomore Bowles (27-20, 106 lbs) and senior Heitland (37-10, 220 lbs), who will bring a lot of experience to the Cougars wrestling room. Jaedrek Bowles and Noah Clikeman are also seniors with varsity experience, alongside juniors Collin Willems and Clayton Van Loh. "These guys have worked hard in the off season and we are looking forward to seeing them compete," Abbas said. "This year our team goal is for every individual to improve in the sport. We want to push our more experienced wrestlers to perform to the best of their abilities with the hopes of getting as many wrestlers as possible to the state tournament."

Points in paint carry Cougars over Comets in season opener

By CJ Eilers
Regional Sports Editor

ACKLEY - A “classic” first game. “Not pretty basketball.”

Coach Mike Finger had plenty to say after Tuesday’s 39-34 season opening win over BCLUW, including heaping praise upon junior Trevyn Smith after she helped lead the Cougars past the Comets.

“When we were in the locker room after the game, I said ‘man Trevyn, I’m glad you’re on our team,’” Finger said. “She does so many things for us. We got her playing in a position that honestly isn’t her best position. But she did a great job running the point in our first game.”

The Cougars looked to Smith early for offense, but it was a solid defensive effort that put AGWSR up 15-9 over BCLUW after one quarter. A couple steals from sophomore Piper Smith each led to points for the Cougars as they pressured the ball extensively.

“We knew we had to keep BCLUW out of the post and get to [Syd Anderson] because she’s a good three-point shooter,” Finger said. “In large, I feel we accomplished those objectives. They didn’t kill us in the post and she had two threes.”

Foul trouble crept up early on the Comets, much like it had in their win over Clarksville the previous day. The Comets would cut the deficit down to two in the second quarter before Smith and junior Josie Kuper both caught fire again to put the Cougars up 25-16 at halftime.



BCLUW junior Abby Kemp and AGWSR senior Elizabeth Kielty fight for a loose ball in Tuesday’s 39-34 win for the host Cougars.

“We were tired after playing yesterday, but we can’t use that as an excuse,” coach Joel Johnson said. “We turned the ball over way too many times against an aggressive team. We just couldn’t make shots tonight and when you don’t shoot well, your defense has got to almost be perfect. Our defense was not.”

Anytime the Comets came within a couple scores of the Cougars, Kuper and Smith answered back in the post and on the drive respectively. The duo

combined for 29 of AGWSR’s 39 points and also half of their rebounding. “Josie can catch passes really well and finish,” Finger said. “She’s a huge component of our offense. At times during the game, we weren’t working the defense enough to get the ball inside. We instead settled for shots or turned the ball over. That’s something we can improve on.”

While the Cougars only got two points in the remaining 5:33 of the game, the Comets were unable to

take advantage and put up four points in the stretch against the stingy AGWSR defense, especially keyed in on Anderson.

“Teams are going to guard Sydney that way going forward,” Johnson said. “I think that we need to get her running off of screens, whatever works to get her better looks. We need her in games like this and we have to make our free throws.”

Anderson was able to put together 12 points, the only Comet in double figures. Sophomore Grace Farn-

sworth and junior Morgan Bergman each had five points for BCLUW. The Comets went six of 18 (33 percent) at the free throw line.

Smith led all scorers with 18 points, nine rebounds and four steals. Kuper also flirted with a double-double with 11 points and nine boards to go along with four steals and four blocks. Senior Ava Olson had eight rebounds and Piper Smith four steals. The Cougars were 17 of 55 from the field and five of 18 (28 percent)

from the free throw line in their win.

“We had a lot of good shots tonight and it was disappointing to see so many not go in,” Finger said. “We have to be better offensively going forward, clean up some things defensively too.”

AGWSR (1-0) traveled to Wapsie Valley on Tuesday and will host Union on Friday. BCLUW (1-1) traveled to Collins-Maxwell on Tuesday and will host North Tama on Friday.



AGWSR junior Trevyn Smith put up 18 points, nine boards and four steals in last week’s 39-34 win over visiting BCLUW as the Cougars opened their season.



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Front row left to right: Tyler Nederhoff, Blake Willems, Owen Penning, Colton Diamond, Lane Rose, Trace Eiten, Kingston Holman. Second row: Jayden Berg, Jesus Garibay, Twan DeRoode, Carter Roder, Talan Mutschler, Nico Ceron, Ryne Pickering. Back row: Anders Melve, Eli Kuper, Gabe Nederhoff. Bo Starr, Tristen Dennnis, Carver Brown.

Cougars look to put last season behind them

2023 Record: 0-21 (L to Riceville in District First Round)


Ryley Schipper
Head Coach

A small roster and little depth off the bench was one of several factors that hurt AGWSR boys basketball last season, going winless overall and facing challenges to compete against a tough conference slate.

“We played a lot of zone defense last year, a lot of that was because of lack of depth and not being able to afford getting in foul trouble,” coach Ryley Schipper said. “We have guys back who know what it will take in order for us to not have a repeat of last year.” The Cougars saw last season’s leading scorer in Carter Roder graduate, but return


all four other starters. Senior Gabe Nederhoff (9.5 ppg, 7.7 rpg, 1.4 blocks per game) is lone returning All-Conference selection for the Cougars. Junior Ryne Pickering (4.6 ppg, 2.0 rpg), Eli Kuper (3.2 rpg), senior Talan Mutschler (2.6 rpg) all started at least 17 games last season. “We return a lot of guys with experience at the varsity level,” Schipper said. “While it may not have been extended minutes at times. I also think our ability to beagle to spread the ball around to different people to score it, rather than rely on two guys to do so will benefit us in the long run.” Defense will be an area Schipper will seek to improve on with a deeper squad this season, moving more to man-to-man for an “ag-

gressive defense.” But until the Cougars can prove their ability on that end of the floor, Schipper knows that will be an area AGWSR will struggle with against their competition in their division and beyond. “I see Gladbrook- Reinbeck and Grundy Center as being the favorites in the conference this year,” Schipper said. “Both return very experienced groups and have had success the past couple seasons.” Staying healthy and injury free, sharing the ball, trusting the team over the individual. These are goals and keys to success in Schipper’s mind if the Cougars want to improve on both ends of the floor this season.




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May named Second Team All-State

By CJ Eilers
Regional Sports Editor

South Hardin senior offensive lineman Sean May earned Second Team All-State honors from the The Iowa Print Sports Writers Association (IPSWA) recently to highlight postseason football awards given to area athletes. The Tigers senior finished his final season with 25.5 tackles, including four for loss and three fumble recoveries. He was also named First Team All-District as a lineman. Joining May on the All-District teams for District 4 were junior Jaxson Drury at First Team Running Back, senior Caden Steding at First Team Defensive Line, senior Logan Faris at First Team Linebacker, and senior Ethan Klendworth at First Team Defensive Utility. Senior Drew Stansbury (OL), sophomore Sam Benson (running back), junior Dax Thompson (DL) were named Second Team All-District. Sophomore Peyton Welch (quarterback), senior Carter Kies (OL/DL) and senior Nolen Steiner (OL/DL) were named Honorable Mentions. Earning Academic All-District were Izaak Hollingsworth, Lucas Perry, Gavin Starr, Peyton Welch, Managers Bella Keavany and Lila Warbur-

ton. Two BCLUW Comets were recognized for All-District this season. Senior Cael Keller was named First Team All-District as a Wide Receiver and junior Emmitt Petermeier was named Second Team All-District as an Offensive Lineman. For AGWSR, senior Kaden Abbas was named Second Team All-State and

First Team All-District as a running back. Senior Aiden Heitland was selected First Team All-District and Lineman MVP in his District. Gabe Nederhoff was selected Second Team All-District (Wide Receiver), junior Clayton Van Loh selected Second Team All-District (Defensive Line) and senior Eli Kuper Honorable Mention All-District.



Sean May, Second Team All-State (OL)