

Wyoming Area News

A service of the Wyoming Lions Club

We also have the newsletter available on the <https://www.wyomingia.org> website. Under "Community" you can find the "Wyoming Lions Newsletter" tab.

DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS, ERRORS, OMISSIONS, LATE SUBMISSIONS, or we just messed up – some or all of the above.

We didn't forget, just wanted to be sure you noticed in the last issue that Denny Carstensen's birthday is February 17th – 80th

Never too late – surprise card shower for Laverne Bahnsen's 75th birthday, 901 Maplewood Dr., Center Point, IA 5221

Wyoming Fair Association served over 400 at the fish fry. Thanks to the Wyoming Pioneers 4-H Club members who did a super job of handling the dining room. Good job ladies!! The last year it was a stag event - years ago - attendance was 129 men.

It's been a while since we reminded/warned you about scams. Don't think they have forgotten you – they are just waiting. It might be a contact about a past due utility bill, a traffic citation, a call from someone pretending to be your child or grandchild who is in trouble. They all need money now, either cash, gift cards, or even bit coin. It has been a few years since the last time, but it has happened here. Once, very successful for the bad guys and the other time close to losing \$13,000. Don't panic. Take a deep breath and talk to someone. Even though your instructions were to tell no one. Think about it. Does the County Treasurer or the Clerk of Court take gift cards or bitcoin?

Check out the free seed library at the Wyoming Library. The display stand is up and running at the library. The seeds are free for anyone interested. There is a clipboard on the stand to just include your initials and what you took to help us with future offerings. The program is sponsored by the Jones County Master Gardeners. The seeds are generously donated by Anamosa Walmart, SW Earl May Garden Center and Bentley Seeds. See photo after the Looking Back section! The Library continues to have reduced hours pending hiring of a new librarian (know someone who would be great? Please encourage them to apply!) Current hours: Sundays 2 - 5 pm, Tuesdays 5:30 – 7:30 pm, Wednesdays 5:30 – 7:30 pm and Thursdays 5:30 – 7:30 pm. Beginning February 18th the library will not open Wednesdays during Lent, but will instead be open longer hours on Sundays (2 - 6:30 pm).

Never too soon to mark your calendars:

February 14th – Valentines Day - if this is your reminder, you are probably in trouble already.

Musings with Margs is back. Next gathering will be at Lalos on **February 16th at 7:00 pm.**

This is a relaxed group gathering to reflect on questions and musings of what God is up to in our lives. Drinking is not required and all are welcome, even just to listen in on the conversation.

ASH Wednesday Service – February 18th at 6:30 pm @ Zion Lutheran

Lenten Services: each Wednesday at 7:00 pm. Zion – Feb 25th, March 11th, March 25th; St. John – March 4th, March 18th

-**Senior Dining at Memorial Hall** – 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month – Next will be February 18th

-**Coffee & Conversation** – Tuesdays 9:00-10:30 at Lalos and Fridays at WICKS from 8:30-10:30 am.

-**Next HACAP food truck in Onslow**, Monday, - March 9th, 1:00-2:00 pm. Current pick up date is 2nd Monday of the month. Volunteers are welcome.

- **Tri-State Forest Stewardship Conference** – March 7th at Dubuque – if you own a tree or own a timber, you will enjoy this event. Preregister by February 12th for best rate. More information and registration at: go.illinois.edu/TristateForestry

-**57th Monticello Rod & Custom Car & Motorcycle Show** – February 21st & 22nd
You can drive 235 miles to the Chicago Auto Show, spend \$25, and see 300 cars,
OR drive 20 miles to Monticello, spend \$15 and see over 50 great vehicles and Tom Wopat “Luke Duke”. Easy choice.

-**Wyoming Historical Museum pancake breakfast** – Sunday, March 8th. Help is always needed – kitchen and dining room – whenever you can for as long as you can. Contact Jean Oberbreckling.

-**November 25, 2026 – Wednesday night – Christmas lights on at 4:45** (never too soon to put it on your calendar.)

REMEMBERING:

Verlyn R. Wenndt, 84, of Coon Rapids, MN, formerly of Wyoming, passed away January 22, 2026. Services were to be held at Zion Lutheran Church, Anoka, MN

Gary Lee Grant, 81, of Anamosa, passed away January 26, 2026. Full obituary may be seen at: www.goettschonline.com/obituary/gary-grant

Edith Bertha Schwerts, 88, of Anamosa, passed away January 25, 2026. Full obituary may be seen at: www.goettschonline.com/obituary/edith-schwerts

Judith Ann (Hansen) Beranek, 84, Oxford Junction, passed away February 5, 2026. Full obituary may be seen at: www.dawsonfuneral.com/obituary/Judith-Beranek

NEW KID ON THE BLOCK: none reported

Truth Be Known : If at first you don't succeed, skydiving is not for you.

Humor is Where You Find It: I wonder if my recorded call has ever been used for training purposes.

Looking Back:

Keep Scrolling!!

Zion American Lutheran Church – Sunday Services at 10:30 am, continuing at that time through June 2026.

First Presbyterian Church – Onslow & Cascade - Sunday services for January will be at Onslow at 9:30. Services for February and March will be at Cascade.

Wyoming Methodist Church – **NOTE NEW TIME:** Sunday Services at **8:30 am**. Pastor Byron Miller. Food pantry Saturdays 9:30 am – 10:00 am.

Christ's Community Church, Monmouth – Sunday services at 9:00 am. Sunday school at 10:00 am. Youth Group – grades 6-12, Wednesday from 6-8 pm at the church. Women's Bible Study Mondays at 5:30 pm and Men's Bible Study Thursdays at 6:00 pm. For more information, please call 563-673-4131. Facebook at Christ's Community Church or website: [Sites.google.com/view/christscommunitychurchia/home](https://sites.google.com/view/christscommunitychurchia/home)

Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Oxford Junction – Mass is at 10:30 am each Sunday and CCD classes are the First and Third Sundays of each month.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!!! (We will run birthdays on the 4th Thursday of the month for the following month. Please get them to us early.)

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!!! (We will run anniversaries on the 4th Thursday of the month for the following month. Please get them to us early.)

RESERVATIONS:

Wyoming Fairgrounds – Steve Agnitsch – call or text 319-480-2883
Memorial Hall – Holly Lane – call 319-480-4566
Calkins Barn – call 563-488-8404

Wyoming Historical Museum Commission- call for a tour right now or later.

Jim Eichhorn	563-212-0013
Dick & Joyce Fishwild	563-488-3804
Pat	563-488-3123

You don't have to be a Wyoming resident to get the newsletter. Anyone can sign up at wyonews@netins.net. Submit items to this same address.

We need your stories, ideas, birthdays, anniversaries, honors, and accomplishments. We'll help you write or rewrite. We don't have a reporting staff to gather information, so you are our reporters. Please feel free to make a copy of this newsletter to share with your friends or neighbors who do not have email.

Looking Back February 12, 2026

Midland Times: February 9, 2001 – Page 2

Midland students display 11 inventions

Fourteen inventors displayed 11 inventions in the 2001 Midland Invention Convention Jan. 30. John Byers coordinated the local convention.

In the K-3 Division first place went to Stacie Miller with her invention, My Handy Helper.

In the Intermediate School Division Katie Woodley and Sarah Jones were awarded first place with their Wheel Chair Desk. Shasta Eganhouse and Erika Lineburg were second with Sip on the Spoon. Third place went to Mathew Gerdes with Mini Power Plant.

In the Middle School Division first place went to Amanda Ellison with Super Slurper for the Sick. Second place went to Zach Bickford with The Alarming Mouse Trap. In third place was Kyle Yarolem with The Carrier.

Also receiving blue ribbons were Natalie Smice with Snow Blower, Mandy Ralston with Stickyness – Hair Spray with your Eyes Protector, Nicole Ehlers with Childrens Explorer Wagon and Ashley Fecht with Candy Shoe.

All on the inventions will be entered in the regional Invent Iowa convention which will be March 7 at the US Cellular Center (same location, new name) in Cedar Rapids.

NOTE: Amanda Ellison advanced to the State Invent Iowa Convention in Des Moines in April.

Midland Times: February 6, 1976 - Page 1

[Minutes from special council meeting held on January 22, 1976]

Mayor Thompson would like to get congregate meals for the elderly in Wyoming. Jones County doesn't have this now. The Memorial hall would be a good location for these. The Council would be the sub-contracting agent, unless some club in Wyoming would do the job. The meals would be served once a day, 5 days a week. The Council decided to go to the meeting on this before making any definite commitments.

NOTES: At the Regular Council Meeting on February 2, 1976, "The Council decided to become the sub-contractors for the congregate meals, because no one else volunteered to do this. Now they have to wait for final approval from the state for funding." It was estimated the program would be ready by June.

Midland Times: February 4, 1926 - Page 8

The Wyoming public schools, Sunday schools, movies, dances, and all public places where children assemble, were closed Monday due to the prevalence of scarlet fever. Six cases are reported, and Dr. Hoegen as health physician, took the action as a step toward checking the spread of the epidemic. Just how long the ban will be held on these gatherings is not known at this time. It may be a week and it may be two. So far the cases have been of a light nature.

NOTE: Schools were closed for two weeks. In 1920 former President John F. Kennedy, not yet 3 years old, was diagnosed with scarlet fever. It took him over a month to recover. Left untreated, scarlet fever which is caused by a bacterial infection can result in more serious conditions that affect the heart, kidneys and other parts of the body.

The Wyoming Journal: February 11, 1926 - Page 5

THE COMMUNITY FIRE TRUCK

The new community fire truck arrived Tuesday forenoon and immediately a large crowd gathered in front of the Big Chief's place of business to give the truck the once over. Wednesday forenoon a thorough "try out" was given the outfit, and all tests proved satisfactory to the Big Chief and the truck was accepted. The outfit is a combination chemical and pump concern, of the latest model and no doubt will prove all that has been claimed for it. Wyoming has long been agitating the question of owning a fire truck. Now our dreams have come true. Here's a toast to the new truck. "May it be like Bachelor Henry: 'Always ready but never called for.'"
NOTE: Big Chief, who today would be called Fire Chief, was restaurant owner W.N. Morse. Bachelor Henry appears to have been treasurer for the volunteer fire department.

The Wyoming Journal: February 3, 1876 - Page 1

IN JAIL – Constable Milner took young Courtney to jail on Saturday last. Courtney is now sawing wood with a ball and chain attached to his leg.

The Back Story: George M. Courtney was arrested for stealing a watch from a man in Maquoketa. Courtney took the watch to a jeweler in Wyoming where it was identified as the stolen watch. Constable Milner took the prisoner to Maquoketa for trial. Courtney was released upon payment of all costs. It appears he still had some wood sawing to do as additional punishment for his crime.





UNITED WAY
East Central
Iowa

VITA
VOLUNTEER INCOME TAX ASSISTANCE



FREE TAX PREPARATION ASSISTANCE

United Way of East Central Iowa's Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program is dedicated to providing free, quality tax preparation services to income eligible individuals and families in East Central Iowa.

If your household income is less than \$69,000, you may qualify for VITA's services.

Onsite, Personal Assistance

Meet one on one with an IRS-certified VITA tax assistant and pick the option that fits your schedule. You can complete your federal and state returns in just one hour at a VITA site or choose a 30-minute intake appointment to review your information and come back in two weeks to finalize your return.

Convenient Locations

VITA will have several appointment sites throughout East Central Iowa in the Cedar Rapids Metro, Mount Vernon, and Monticello. Sites are open days, evenings, and Saturdays.

Simplified Process

VITA volunteers will assist in making a sometimes complex and complicated tax preparation process a more trouble-free experience for you.

Schedule an Appointment

Appointments will open end of January 2026.

Visit: uweci.org/VITAcient
to schedule an appointment.



Required Documents

1. Government photo ID for the client and spouse
2. Social Security card for the client and all household members
3. All current year tax documents
4. Checking account number for refund and payment
5. Prior year's tax return (helpful)

VITA Sponsors:



