

## 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.**

**While you are looking for mushrooms,** look for the expiration date on your license.

**Welcome to Stephanie Dosland,** new director of the Wyoming Public Library. Stop in, say “HI!”, check out a book, learn about the programs and resources available to kids and adults of all ages. Thanks to the Anamosa Journal/Eureka for doing a nice article on Stephanie.

### **New Hours for the Wyoming Public Library**

Sundays: open 1-5 pm

Mondays: closed

Tuesdays: open 8 am – noon

Wednesdays: open 1-6 pm

Thursdays: open 3-6-pm

Fridays: open 11am – 3 pm

Saturdays: closed

**433 Council Street, Anamosa, IA 52205** – That is where you will now find **Duane and Jan Wenndt**. Not gone, certainly not forgotten, just moved to a more age-appropriate home. Thanks for many years of community service, participation in church activities, and Wyoming Fair Association leadership.

### **Lost & Found Department:**

**Found** – garage door opener in the Post Office parking lot by Postal patron.  
Contact Collette at the post office to claim.

**Flushing of water hydrants will begin in April.** Hydrants will be flushed on the third Monday and Tuesday of every month, weather permitting, starting April 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>. If you have a water softener, be sure to bypass it to avoid any problems.

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

**April 4<sup>th</sup>** was Marion Stevens’ **90<sup>th</sup> birthday** – Marion is Jade Eichhorn’s mother

**April 14<sup>th</sup>** will be Gary Sievers’ birthday

**NOTICE:** Winter decorations have been removed from the Wyoming Cemetery. The decorations can be replaced after April 15<sup>th</sup>.  
Wyoming Cemetery Board.

**Never too soon to mark your calendars:**

- **Christ's Community Church spaghetti supper – April 11<sup>th</sup>, - Dine in or Carryout – 4-7:00 pm, 108 East Washington, Monmouth**
- **Scotch Grove Antique Fair & Flea Market – Friday, April 17<sup>th</sup>, noon-6pm; Saturday, April 18<sup>th</sup>, 9am – 3 pm – FREE**
- **Keeper of the Crafts Spring Open House – Friday and Saturday, April 24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup>. 9 am – 7 pm each day. Located at 162 W. Broadway in Oxford Junction.**
- **OJ Improvement Inc. is offering a \$500.00 scholarship to anyone living in the Midland School District. Applications may be obtained at the School or from Kathy Chase. Applications are due by May 1<sup>st</sup>.**
- **Open burning for yard waste only is March 15<sup>th</sup> through June 1<sup>st</sup> and September 15<sup>th</sup> through December 1<sup>st</sup>. Fires must be attended and out by dark. Burning in any curb, gutter, culvert, or any paved or surfaced street or alley is prohibited.**
- **Wyoming Citywide garage sales will be held Friday and Saturday, May 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup>. Contact Jean Oberbreckling at 563-488-3442 or [rjoberbreckling@netins.net](mailto:rjoberbreckling@netins.net) to be added to the list and map. Sponsored by the Wyoming Area Betterment (WABC).**
- **Jones County Historical Society – pancake breakfast – Sunday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> – at the Edinburgh depot - they always need help if you can**
- **Camp Bear Creek – Volunteer Work Day, Saturday, May 9<sup>th</sup>, 9:00 am – 2:00 pm.** Help get the Camp ready for summer. This will include setting up arts & crafts, moving furniture, cleaning caving helmets and life jackets, organizing supplies, splitting firewood, painting, landscaping, and a whole host of other projects. Please RSVP to the Camp Office or the website so they can prepare enough food and match project types to the volunteers.

- **ATTN: Fire Departments & Ambulance services**

Applications for **St. Luke's Rural Healthcare Grants are now being accepted.**

Matching grants of up to \$6,000.00 are available to ambulance services, fire and rescue departments,  
and transportation programs.

Applications are due by Monday, May 11<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 pm.

To apply for a grant, visit the website or call St. Lukes Foundation at 319-369-7572.

This is not a difficult application.

**-Senior Dining at Memorial Hall – 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays of the month – Next will be April 15th**

**Musings with Margs.** Next gathering date to be announced. 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.

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

**-Next HACAP food truck in Onslow, Monday, - April 13th, 1:00-2:00 pm. Current pick up date is 2nd Monday of the month. Volunteers are welcome.**

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

**REMEMBERING:**

**David Lee Fall, 76, Olin**, passed away March 24, 2026. Full obituary may be seen at: [www.iowacremation.com/obituary/2026/Mar/David-Lee-Fall](http://www.iowacremation.com/obituary/2026/Mar/David-Lee-Fall)

**Sylvia Rickels, 90, Anamosa**, passed away April 3, 2026. Full obituary may be seen at: [www.goettschononline.com/obituary/sylvia-rickels](http://www.goettschononline.com/obituary/sylvia-rickels)

**Fern Blume Hahn, 85, Wyoming**, passed away April 9, 2026. Arrangements are pending.

**Owen M. Doll, 23, Monticello**, passed away April 7, 2026. Full obituary may be seen at: [www.dawsonfuneral.com/obituary/Owen-Doll](http://www.dawsonfuneral.com/obituary/Owen-Doll)

**NEW KID ON THE BLOCK:** none reported

**Truth Be Known:**

*Humor is Where You Find It:*

*Looking Back:* (by Lois, Jim's sister) KEEP SCROLLING!

**Hope, Community** – also please keep scrolling for an article submitted by Stacy Agnitsch, wife of mayor Steve Agnitsch!

**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 April will be at Onslow at 9:30. Services for May and June will be at Cascade.

**Wyoming Methodist Church:** 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](http://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 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of the month for the following month. Please get them to us early.)

**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!!!** (We will run anniversaries on the 4<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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 for April 9, 2026

**Midland Times: April 13, 2001- Page 1**

### **Archaeological dig reveals Wyoming history**

By Shirley Jones

A snapshot of Wyoming's early history was revealed Saturday during a privy excavation in the yard of Don and Susie Schaeffer of Wyoming.

After excavating a three-foot "cap", evidence of Wyoming's past began to reveal itself. The diggers noted that the walls of this pit were wood-lined. During its original construction, someone had enjoyed a beer, as shards of a circa-1870 beer bottle were found in the wall of the pit but outside the liner. A "One Minute Cough Cure" bottle at the bottom of the cap revealed the latest age of the pit to be around 1890. They excavated the cap to a depth of nearly four feet, squaring up the hole as they dug. At that point, stratified lime and ash layers indicated that they were in the "use layer".

Once the date of a pit is determined, cross-referencing the site with an abstract will reveal who actually used it. The oldest artifacts recovered in the lower strata of the Wyoming pit, . . . belonged to an "E. Perkins"; the remaining artifacts including the Kickapoo Indian Oil, the Mellin's Infant Food, and the OJ druggist bottle were the trash of Oliver Bisbee, who owned the property from 1875-1897.

*NOTE: The digging team consisted of Don and Susie Schaeffer's son Matt Schaeffer of Wellman, Iowa as well as Jason and Rick Blevins of North Manchester, Indiana. They emphasized safety is a top priority in digging privies. No one should be digging privies without proper training otherwise they could put their life at risk.*

**Midland Times: April 23, 1976 – Page 1**

### **Can We Beat The Whole Nation?**

Wyoming is accepting the challenge to become the votingest city in the nation this year at our polls in November. We must raise our registra and actual turnout from the election in 1974.

Now is the time to act!! Anyone 18 years of age or older must register by May 29th to become eligible to vote in November. It is your duty as a citizen of America to help keep our government strong by electing officials to do the best possible job they can.

Contact Harriet Usher and register today!!

**The Wyoming Journal: April 1, 1926 – Page 1**

MRS. E.D. CHASELL

With a wealth of Easter Lillies , roses, callas, carnations, tulips, jonquils, hyacinths, narcissus, ferns, and laurel tastefully banked about her casket until it became a floral bower of sweet and beauteous repose the funeral service for Mrs. E. D. Chassell was conducted at the old home in Wyoming last Thursday afternoon.

Friends from far and near were there to present their tender tributes of affection for one who since childhood had won and held the love and respect of a ever-widening circle. Tears flowed unrestrained from eyes of old friends and young as they gazed on the silent face which

for the first time did not answer with the accustomed smile. At rest she slumbers, as pure as the Easter lilies that clustered above her breast.

The home had been closed since last summer during the absences of Mr. And Mrs. Chassell, but sympathetic neighbors started the furnace, put down rugs and had breakfast ready in the dining room when the family arrived Wednesday morning. The generous and voluntary helpfulness shown the bereaved ones by these and other kind friends caused them to express the belief that there is much truthfulness in the saying: "There are no friends like the old friends of a small town."

Interment was in the beautiful Wyoming cemetery, where armfuls of flowers covered from sight and adorned Mary's last earthly home and protecting it from the drifting snow which whitened the ground after the sun went down.

*NOTE: Mary A. Calkins Chassell was born in Wyoming to Dr. Martin H. and Lucinda Loudon Calkins in 1865 and died in 1926 at the age of 60. Though she lived in Des Moines, Minneapolis, Topeka, Chicago, and Washington D.C. she always considered Wyoming home and maintained a home there. Her obituary took up 3 ½ columns of the 6 column front page of the paper. The entire back page was a portrait of Mrs. Chassell. Her niece was Mary Calkins Briggs who is also buried in the Wyoming cemetery.*

### **The Wyoming Journal: April 6, 1876 – Page 3**

#### **Wrestling Match.**

The congregating of several individuals of sporting taste at the livery barn of Charley Leffingwell Tuesday morning, was in itself an indication that some event was about to transpire, and our reporter immediately betook himself thence, when he soon found that a big wrestling match was on the tapis, and the combatants, Hi Arnold and Albert Elwood, stripping themselves for the fray. No umpire or referee being chosen, the inference was drawn that the spectators could each and individually decide for themselves who was the victor.

The wrestle was a side hold.

The boys stepped into the ring. Their appearance indicated that they both contained considerable youthful fire and vinegar. They grappled, and the commenced the

**First Round** – Both went down and Elwood struck the floor first, and endeavored to get on top. Arnold "wasn't wrestling on the floor" and it was declared a "dog fall."

**Second Round** – Both up and ready for business. Holds broken, and neither one claimed a fall.

**Third Round** – Arnold took a back hip lock, and Elwood broke his hold.

**Fourth and Last Round** – Elwood tore loose from Arnold's hold, Arnold striking on his knees.

The wrestling match was ended, and it was declared a draw game. It seems that Elwood is a noted wrestler, being victor in a match with the champion of Illinois.

*NOTE: In a side-hold contest, the wrestlers stood side to side facing forward while clasping hands of their outside arms. A dog fall is when both wrestlers touch the ground at the same time. At one time Hi Arnold was a Deputy Sheriff.*

## Community.

A word that seems to have become lost in our society. In a time where everyone is supposed to be more connected, it feels like our connections are farther apart than ever.

We have gone from a time where everyone knew who their neighbors are, to not even knowing the names of our neighbors. We are all so "busy" that we seem to have forgotten the importance of neighbors, and community.

So, what exactly is community? Merriam-Webster defines community as "a unified body of individuals, such as a state or feeling of caring about and wanting to interact with others in a group". Community-minded individuals are the ones willing to help whenever asked, donating their time and talents to any group needing assistance. And if you ask most of them, most days they don't mind it; in fact, they truly like helping out.

There are some of you who think that it must be nice to have time to do this, but I am just too busy to help. Time is an important factor, but the reasons they donate their time might surprise you.

It's not about recognition, or glory. It's about feeling good. There are studies that show that getting involved in your community can benefit your health. Mayo Clinic online lists these 3 health benefits of volunteering:

1. Improves Mental Health. Volunteer activities keep people moving and thinking at the same time and lead to lower rates of depression and anxiety, especially for people 65 and older.
2. Provides a sense of purpose and teaches valuable skills. The work that volunteers provide is essential to everyday activities and gives them a sense of purpose.
3. Nurture new and existing relationships. Volunteering increases social interaction and helps build a support system.

And why this is important: Suicide is one of the leading causes of death in the United States, with over 49,000 people dying by suicide in 2023. Or 1 death every 11 minutes. And in our veterans, in 2022, 6,407 suicides occurred, or 17.6 on average per day. These numbers are both staggering and heartbreaking.

Loneliness is an epidemic in our society. We are more connected than ever, technology wise, but farther apart than ever community wise. Social media apps are replacing true friendships and "hanging out". And if you look around when out and about, it's hard to miss so many looking at their screens instead of enjoying the company of the people they are with. And we are all guilty of that.

The big question is, how do we fix this? It's pretty simple yet hard: Talk to people, tell your stories and share your interests. Walk over and talk to your neighbors, welcome new neighbors into the area. And if you are part of a local community group, tell them about your group and what you do for the community.

Are there really that many places to volunteer in our small community?

The short answer is yes; there are MANY places where volunteers are needed. The problem is that most organizations assume everyone knows they exist and that they need help.

For those of you who are part of organizations and are a volunteer, our community needs you to be an advocate. Tell your story and spread it, so others know what your group does and why they might want to be a part of that. Most volunteers are not good at bragging up their groups or their talents. You do your volunteer work and don't expect any recognition in return. Simply passing on your information may not only bring you members but preserve the heritage and tradition of your group.

The most important part of getting your word out is being open to new members. Sometimes our groups are so stuck in our ways, we don't appreciate what new members may bring.

Those who are not part of a group or organization, be encouraged to search for groups in your community and reach out to someone in that group. There are truly so many organizations that no one even knows still exist.

A statement I recently heard explained so eloquently how we are all important, even if we don't think that we are. Those words, paraphrased, are below.

You are only one person, as am I, but one person can do a great deal for humanity. Big or small we all have a voice, and we must use our voice whenever we can, and trust that we will be heard.

Look back at history to see those who have not only changed and shaped our lives, but history and our future. Rosa Parks was only one woman, with a small voice, but she made it heard and it is still heard today. Nelson Mandela, Martin Luther King, Mother Teresa, Gandhi and so many others started as a movement of one, with a small voice, but they never let go of hope and they became the voices of the world. You, and you alone, can make a difference.

Lastly, I challenge all volunteer organizations to put together an information article that explains who you are, what you do, and why you are doing what you do. And brag on yourselves!! There are some truly amazing groups and people in our community who do

more than anyone realizes, and it's time to shine the light on them. Not only to show what they do, but how others can join and keep it going into the future.

# KEEPER OF THE CRAFTS

STONED ART DESIGNS AND  
OXFORD JUNCTION SOAPERY

## SPRING OPEN HOUSE

Friday and Saturday, April 24th and 25th

In house specials, drawings for gift certificates and baskets filled with something you'll love. Hand baked treats and refreshments will be served.

Located at 162 W Broadway in Oxford Junction, Ia.

Hours for both days: 9am to 7pm

Flowers on stakes

Home decor

Yard art

Quilts

Jewelry

Door County coffee

Funny signs

Soap

Lotions

Antiques

Milk house candles

Bird houses

Myra bags

Metal yard art

Pillows

Wooden barns with barn quilts

Just remember; Nothing haunts you like the crafts you didn't buy

Famous OJ Chickens

Rag rugs

Nautical decor

Drink infusions

Kitchen items

Jams and jellies

