

## 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.

*Merry Christmas & Happy Holidays from the Wyoming Lions Club & Newsletter Staff*

**Kevin, Ken, Mark, Guy, Justin, Steve, Jim & Rachel Nixon and Lois Eichhorn Fulton**

Continuing a tradition that started the first year of the newsletter, we include the lyrics to the Christmas song, "Have yourself a Merry Little Christmas". Don't try to sing it. Just read the words. It will give them more meaning and help you to find something positive.

### **Have yourself a merry little Christmas**

Let your heart be light  
From now on your troubles  
Will be out of sight

**Thanks** to everyone who worked to lighten and brighten their homes for the holidays!

**Lights Down – Sunday, January 4<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 am.** Everyone is welcome to help. It doesn't take long and mother nature & gravity help bring them down.

**Every year there is something** that makes you think we must be doing something right with the Christmas Lights. This year it was last Tuesday. A couple from Ames made a special 150-mile drive just to see the lights they had heard so much about and found on a search. While here they stopped at Lalo's and learned about the Museum for a future return trip.

**A history of the Wyoming Christmas Lights** – is attached.

### **Christmas Eve Church Services:**

**Zion American Lutheran** – Christmas Eve Service with candles for Silent Night, December 24<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 pm.

**Methodist Church** – Christmas Eve Service at 5:00 pm

**Onslow/Cascade Presbyterian Church** – Christmas Eve Service at 7:00 pm **at Cascade**

**Yearend Donation List:** Attached is a list of local organizations that could use your support. Your contributions show your support and appreciation for the work and services they do.

**Have yourself a Merry Little Christmas**

Make the yuletide gay  
From now on your troubles  
Will be miles away

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

- Senior Dining at Memorial Hall** – 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays of the month – Next will be January 5<sup>th</sup>
- Coffee & Conversation** – Tuesdays 9:00-11:00 am at the Library and Fridays at WICKS from 8:30-10:30 am.
- 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday for Pauline Antons** (Mrs. Antons to those of us who were former students) – **January 15<sup>th</sup>** - send a card – address on birthday list
- Wyoming Fair Fish & Chicken Fry** – Saturday, January 31<sup>st</sup>.
- Monticello Railroad Club Annual Train Show & Swap Meet** – January 31<sup>st</sup>-Feb 1<sup>st</sup>
- 57<sup>th</sup> Monticello Rod & Custom Car & Motorcycle Show** – coming in February
- Next HACAP food truck in Onslow**, Monday, - January 12th, 1:00-2:00 pm. Current pick up date is 2nd Monday of the month. Volunteers are welcome.

**Once again, as in olden times**

Happy golden days of yore  
Faithful friends who are dear to us  
Will be near to us once more

**DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS, ERRORS, OMISSIONS, LATE SUBMISSIONS, or we just messed up – some or all of the above, but thanks for not mentioning it.**

**REMEMBERING:**

**Robert “Bob” Lowell Dobling, 85, Springville**, passed away December 11, 2025. Full obituary may be seen at: [murdochfuneralhome.com/obituaries/robert-bob-dobling](http://murdochfuneralhome.com/obituaries/robert-bob-dobling)

**Janet Louise Fishwild, 77, Wyoming**, passed away December 25, 2025. Full obituary may be seen at: [www.dawsonfuneral.com/obituary/Janet-Fishwild](http://www.dawsonfuneral.com/obituary/Janet-Fishwild)

**Alan L. Wood, 85, Baldwin**, passed away December 9, 2025. Full obituary may be seen at: [www.carsonandson.com/obituaries/Alan-L-Wood?obid=46599723](http://www.carsonandson.com/obituaries/Alan-L-Wood?obid=46599723)

**Business Holiday Hours:**

**Dollar General:** Christmas Eve – closing at 6:00 pm  
Christmas Day – closed  
New Year’s Eve – open usual – 8 am – 9 pm  
New Year’s Day – open usual – 8 am – 9 pm

**Casey's:** Christmas Eve – closing at 6 pm; kitchen closes at 4 pm  
Christmas Day – open 10 am – 10 pm  
New Year's Eve – open usual – 5 am – 10 pm  
New Year's Day – open usual – 5 am – 10 pm

**Lalo's:** Christmas Eve – closing at 3 pm  
Christmas Day – closed  
New Year's Eve – closing at 3 pm  
New Year's Day – closed

**WY Saloon:** Christmas Eve – closed  
Christmas Day – closed  
New Year's Eve – OPEN  
New Year's Day – closed

**City Hall:** Closed December 23<sup>rd</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup>, & 25<sup>th</sup>  
Closed January 1st

**WICKS:** Christmas Eve – 11 am – 1 pm  
Christmas Day – closed  
New Year's Eve - ?  
New Year's Day - closed

**Citizens State Bank:** Christmas Eve Day – closing at noon  
Christmas Day – closed  
New Year's Eve – closing at 4:00 pm  
New Year's Day - closed

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

**Someday soon we all will be together**

If the fates allow  
So, hang a shining star upon the highest bough  
And have yourself a Merry Little Christmas now

**Truth Be Known:** "Water drinkers don't write good verse." Horace – translated from the Latin

**Humor is Where You Find It:** What do you get when you cross a turkey and a centipede?  
Drumsticks for everyone.

**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.

**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](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.)

**January**

- 1** Sandy Tracy
- 1** Eric Althaus
- 1** Kyle Pegorick
- 1** Jenna Jepson
- 2** Sage Eichhorn - Cam & Addie
- 3** Heather Hansen
- 3** Tom Rohwedder
- 5** Ryan Andresen
- 6** Kelli Hacke
- 6** Stella Buresh
- 7** Katie Manners
- 8** Ginger Thomas
- 8** Kris Kreel
- 9** Joel Zamastil
- 10** Scott Fishwild
- 10** Derek Bendixen
- 11** Bev Carstensen
- 11** Lois Eichhorn (Fulton)
- 11** Erin Eichhorn
- 12** Rowan Dirks
- 12** Linda Fairley

**13** Marilyn Heiken  
**13** Conner James Althaus  
**13** Collins McCord  
**14** Jade Eichhorn  
**15** Tom Doll  
**15** **Pauline Antons - 100th**  
**13481 - 105th Ave, Center Jct, IA 52212**

**17** Olivia Bahnson  
**18** Nancy Keith  
**18** Morgan Eggert  
**18** Nancy Snyder  
**19** Katie Andresen  
**19** Elmer Nissen  
**19** Mona Feuss  
**19** Trish Eichhorn  
**20** Anthony House  
**22** Tom Oberbreckling  
**22** Keith Somerville  
**22** Brenda Farrington  
**23** Brenda Meade  
**23** Jackson Zamastil - 5th  
**25** Kaye Chatterton  
**25** Jake Gravel  
**26** Dana Ellefson  
**26** Dane Ballou  
**26** Roxanne Streets  
**26** Gabe Gile  
**26** Heather Gudenkauf  
**26** Casey Huston  
**26** Emerson Huston  
**27** Larry Buck  
**27** Allison Andresen  
**27** Kevin Boge  
**27** Stephanie Miller  
**27** Hailey Althaus - Kcity  
**28** Tim Fulton  
**28** Linda Lehrman  
**28** Eisenhower (Ike) Boge  
**29** Dale Chatterton  
**29** Louis Alan Lineburg - (Cole & Elli)  
**30** Faith Hansen  
**30** Jon Hansen  
**30** Sara Bauer

**January**

**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.)

<b>January</b>	7 Gerard & Diane Gnade
	17 Dan & Becky McAtee
	24 Mike & Pam Williams
	24 Sheldon & Andrea Hunter

**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.**

<b>Jim Eichhorn</b>	<b>563-212-0013</b>
<b>Dick &amp; Joyce Fishwild</b>	<b>563-488-3804</b>
<b>Pat</b>	<b>563-488-3123</b>

**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 December 23, 2025

### Midland Times: December 15, 2000 – Page 1

#### Wyoming landmark destroyed

Billowing clouds of dense smoke covered Wyoming Wednesday afternoon and evening as the largest house in the city was destroyed by fire. The sprawling home of Arlo and Gladys Ireland on Green Street became engulfed in flames at 2 p.m.

The Wyoming Fire Department was assisted by the Oxford Junction, Onslow and Anamosa Departments. Firefighters were hampered by the intensity of the blaze, below freezing temperatures, falling snow and slick streets. The area was blocked off by Jones County sheriff's deputies and fire marshal officials. Numerous vehicles ended up in the ditch trying to get closer to the scene.

The Wyoming water tower could not keep up with the demand for water and ran dry at about 5 p.m. Water was hauled from neighboring towns, with the National Guard assisting the efforts.

*NOTE: The house at 205 E. Green Street, was Victorian style and built in the early 1900s. It was replaced in 2001 by a 3 bedroom, 2 bathroom ranch style house. Cody Dirks is the current owner.*

### Anamosa Journal: December 16, 1975 – Pages 1 and 5

Dec. 14 is a time most farmers expect to be putting the snow blade on the tractor and fighting a blizzard – instead temperatures hit a high of 60 degrees about midnight Saturday, and some four hours later a wind, from the southeast, swept across the Linn-Jones area. Even where farm buildings were not smashed, many hog shelters, sun shades, doors, etc. were rolled around and ripped off on farms in the wake of the wind. Antennas took a beating, and shingles and metal roofs went flying.

*NOTE: Among others, Richard Brownell northwest of Wyoming and Hugh Tasker northeast of Wyoming reported losing buildings and livestock.*

### The Wyoming Journal: December 24, 1925 – Page 3

#### The gift for her.

Give your wife a bank account for Christmas - either a Savings Account or a Checking Account. It is one of the most practical and useful gifts you can give. A checking account supplies her with a plan for keeping accurate account of her household expenses. A savings account affords her the opportunity to save regularly what ever balance remains from her allowance.

*NOTE: Wyoming's Citizens State Bank was so thoughtful 100 years ago. The little woman could save whatever was left of her allowance to purchase a Premier Duplex Vacuum Cleaner.*

### The Wyoming Journal: December 23, 1875

LEAD DISCOVERED - A few weeks since, lead was discovered on the farm of Geo. Ward residing a few miles east of Wyoming. Specimens have been sent away for the purpose of ascertaining whether it is of rich enough yield to pay to get facilities to take it out in quantities.

*NOTE: At one time, Iowa had 115 mines listed by the United States Geological Survey (USGS). Nine of them were in Jones County.*

## Wyoming Christmas Lights History

Although there is not much written history of the lights, the following article in the December 2, 1937, Wyoming Journal, is the earliest mention of them:

“Wyoming, famous for its fall celebration, has done it again, this time with pretty colors and Christmas trees.

Now traffic goes through town between lanes of evergreen trees sparkling with lights of all colors at night. Arching across the street are rows of colored lights, and over the middle of the street hangs a great star, glowing white when dusk falls and extending to all in huge red letters the town’s wish of a ‘Merry Christmas’.

Travelers who have passed through dozens of towns stop their automobiles and say ‘Mister, I’m telling you, you’ve got the prettiest, most Christmasy town I’ve ever seen.’”

Each year correspondence similar to the above is received. One of the more memorable was referenced in a Cedar Rapids Gazette article in the December 23, 1956, edition. It recounted a mother passing through town at 3:00 am, going from Great Lakes Naval Training station where she was visiting her son. She was returning to Nebraska. “Her gloom all but disappeared as her car rounded a curve and she found herself in fairyland of multi-colored lights.” Upon returning home she wrote to the volunteer group, thanking them.

The project started with a group of volunteers, passed to the Commercial Club, then to the Wyoming Fair Association and now the Wyoming Lions Club with help from Elves.

During WWII a handful of men left behind, including Marty Botkin, were able to get the lights up. Purdy Reitz and Cecil Lambert were in charge for many years until Cecil’s untimely death due to a drunk driver.

The equipment used to get the lights up has progressed from tall ladders to ladders mounted on the back of the City dump truck and finally to forklifts with tall towers reaching more than 30’ high. The forklifts were first provided by Walters/Kennedy Lumber and now by Nutrien.

The lights have been featured on TV stations from Moline to Omaha. Many news articles have been written about them. Dave Radsal of the Cedar Rapids Gazette wrote several pieces as did Bill Wundrum of the Quad City Times. Bill always enjoyed stopping at Virginia Pace’s café for one of her LARGE pieces of pie and always mentioned the pie in his story. In 2012 the Des Moines Register sent a photographer to take pictures to use in their Iowa Christmas Lights competition - AND THE LIGHTS WON!!!! The lights were pictured on the front page of the December 16, 2012, edition.

For many years, the lights were stored in the Opera House above the Bank. An aging workforce and climbing the stairs necessitated a move to ground level storage.

What creates the magic of the lights? Most important of all, topography. Coming from the west, you look over the top of 4 blocks of colored lights. Then you drop down into the tunnel. There are several other minor elevation changes before the east end. The main block portion of this is covered by the 6 spiders – big overhead x's – each having 80 red and green bulbs. They are supported by cables 30' in the air and draping down to the sides of the street. From one end to the other and on both sides are 38 vertical boards with 8 blue bulbs each. At each end, connecting the blue boards are overhead strings of red and green bulbs. Each overhead string has 16 bulbs. Lining the main street block, connecting the spiders, are horizontal strings of 140 red, yellow, blue, and green bulbs.

The finishing touch is given by almost 40 small, decorated trees along the sidewalks. All kinds and sizes of trees have been used. Currently, cedar trees cut from the highways and gravel roads are used. If they are too big, they block the sidewalks. If they are too nice, they are subject to being "borrowed". Some don't look the best, but in the dark, holding lights, they are not seen and serve their purpose very well.

All of this adds up to about 3 miles of wire and over 100 places for something to not light up. Turning the lights on involves flipping 2 switches and a 3<sup>rd</sup> switch to turn other lights off. The process is reversed when it is time for the Christmas lights to be turned off. All of this is done manually. *Editor's note: This is done manually by our very own Jim Eichhorn – twice each day, to turn the lights on about 4:30 pm, then to turn them off again at night!*

Lights on are on by 4:30 pm and at least until 10:00 pm Monday – Saturday, and until 9:00 pm on Sundays. Lights are left on overnight on Christmas Eve and New Years Eve.

## **Where to send those 2025 year-end contributions for local organizations and churches:**

### **Midland Ambulance Service:**

**% Brittney Boge, Treas., P.O. Box 431, Wyoming, IA 52362**

### **Wyoming Public Library:**

**% City of Wyoming, P.O. Box 76, Wyoming, IA 52362**

### **Wyoming Volunteer Fire Company:**

**% Kevin Ellison, Treas., P. O. Box 104, Wyoming, IA 52362**

### **Camp Bear Creek (formerly Camp Wyoming):**

**% Kevin Cullum, 9106-42<sup>nd</sup> Ave, Wyoming, IA 52362**

### **Wyoming Cemetery Association:**

**% Sue Brodersen, Sec/Treas, P.O. Box 463, Wyoming, IA 52362**

### **Wyoming Historical Museum Commission:**

**%City of Wyoming, P.O. Box 76, Wyoming, IA 52362**

### **Zion American Lutheran Church:**

**P.O. Box 137, Wyoming, IA 52362**

### **Wyoming Methodist Church:**

**%Virginia Pace, Treas., 4306 – 115<sup>th</sup> St., Wyoming, IA 52362**

### **Community Food Pantry:**

**% Gary Sievers, Treas., 7347 – 100<sup>th</sup> Ave., Wyoming, IA 52362**

### **Midland Council of Churches:**

**%Virginia Pace, Treas., 4306 – 115<sup>th</sup> St., Wyoming, IA 52362**