





**Blanket statement**

Girl Scout Troop 3605 recently made tie blankets and donated them to Bickford Nursing home in Iowa City. Troop 3605 is a multi-level troop with girls from third through seven grades. Pictured, from left, front row: Cecilia Regennitter, Emma Villalvazo, Chloe Huynh, and Falyann Johanns; second row: Abby Matthias, Macy Kinsinger, Ainsley Kinsinger, Rosemary Watson, and Chloe Matthias; back row: Morgan Zoulek, Cadence Heid, and Samantha Rozinek. Not pictured are Kalina Lagunas, Endi Klein, Breana Lagunas, and Ava Lampe. Troop leaders are Amanda Regennitter, Sarah Johanns, and Kalina Lagunas. **Photo courtesy Amanda Regennitter/Girl Scout Troop 3605**

**Hoover Foundation opens nominations for Uncommon Public Service Award for 2024**

In 2007, the Hoover Presidential Foundation established the annual Uncommon Public Service Award to recognize Iowa Legislators who demonstrate honesty, integrity, and uncommon and extraordinary public service to the people of Iowa beyond their duties in the legislature.

Each year, the award is presented to one member of the Iowa House and Iowa Senate, who exemplifies Herbert Hoover's humanitarian efforts, integrity, honesty, and commitment of uncommon service to the people of Iowa.

Recipients become honorary members of the Hoover Presidential Foundation for one year and will be included on the Wall of Uncommon Iowans at the Herbert

Hoover Presidential Library & Museum in West Branch, Iowa.

The public is invited to nominate a state representative and/or a state senator. Those wishing to nominate an Iowa Legislator should complete a nomination form available at [www.HooverPresidential-Foundation.org](http://www.HooverPresidential-Foundation.org).

A link for online nominations can be found under the Grants & Awards tab. All nominations must be received by March 1, 2024.

Please send printed nominations to Hoover Presidential Foundation, PO Box 696, West Branch, IA 52358.

Or submit by saving your nomination on your computer and sending it via e-mail to: [info@HooverPF.org](mailto:info@HooverPF.org).

The only U.S. President born in Iowa, Hoover was an uncommon and extraordinary public servant.

His commitment to public service is evident by his strong efforts to establish organizations known today as UNICEF, Boys Clubs, Girls Clubs, and the Hoover Institution on War, Revolution and Peace. His diligent, humanitarian efforts saved the lives of millions of people suffering from the devastations of World War I and World War II.

Previous Award Winners: 2023 Sen. Amy Sinclair and Rep. Bobby Kaufmann; 2022 Sen. Janet Petersen and Rep. Cecil Dolecheck; 2021 (the awards were paused this year); 2020 Sen. Brad Zaun and Rep. Ruth Ann

Gaines; 2019 Sen. Ken Rozenboom and Rep. John Forbes; 2018 Sen. Pam Jochum and House Speaker Dawn Pettengill; 2017 Sen. Rob Hogg and Rep. Zach Nunn; 2016 Sen. Tim Kapucian and House Speaker Linda Upmeyer; 2015 Sen. Wally Horn and Rep. Helen Miller; 2014 Sen. Nancy Boettger and Rep. Steven Olson; 2013 Sen. Amanda Ragan and Rep. Dave Heaton; 2012 Sen. Steve Soddars and Rep. Royd Chambers; 2011 Sen. Robert E. Dvorsky and Rep. Annette Sweeney; 2010 Sen. Daryl Beall and Rep. Lance J. Horbach; 2009 Sen. Dennis Black and Rep. Jeff Kaufmann; 2008 Sen. David Johnson and Rep. Mark D. Smith; and 2007 Sen. John Kibbie and Rep. Scott Raecker.

**BRIEFS**

**WBCSD responds to Perry HS shooting**

A suspect and one victim are dead and seven people were wounded following a shooting Jan. 4 at Perry High School, according to news reports. Just after 11 a.m. that day, West Branch Community Schools sent an email to parents in response to the shooting at the school that sits northwest of Des Moines:

*"Dear Families and Staff, As you may be aware, there has been an incident of school violence this morning at Perry High School, which is in a community near Des Moines. While the details are not yet clear, our thoughts are with the students, staff, and families of Perry at this time.*

*The safety and well-being of our students is our top priority. We want to assure you that we have comprehensive safety protocols/plans in place and are constantly working to strengthen them. These protocols include:*

- Secure building access
- Trained staff on protocols/plans
- School resource officer
- Mental health support

*We know that some students may struggle to process terrible news like this. Our school counselors are available and ready to assist, as needed. We encourage students to stop by the counseling office at their school at any time if they need support. While we cannot eliminate all risks, we are committed to doing everything we can to create a safe and secure learning environment for our students. We encourage you to talk to your children about this event and answer any questions they may have in an age-appropriate way. If you have any concerns, please do not hesitate to contact our district."*

**WBHS releases perfect attendance**

The following West Branch High School students had perfect attendance for the first quarter of the 2023-2024 school year.

Ninth grade: Jay Cantrell, Hunter Christoffel, Harper Driscoll, Grace Hamann, Sawyer Jeffries, Allison Tygrett, Victoria Vikel, Grace Vincent, Emma Wolf  
10th grade: Ewan Arlen, Wyatt Chapman, Sabree Depoorter, Cooper Gates, Jerricho Hobbs, Abigail Linn, Madalyn Neuberger, Addison Schultes  
11th grade: Reed Brooke, Caleb Reardon, Amber Wolf  
12th grade: None

The following students had perfect attendance for the second quarter of the 2023-2024 school year.

Ninth grade: Grace Hamann, Ethan Humphrey, Sawyer Jeffries, Preston Mayhew, Emalyn Poe, Lyla Popkes, Garrett Sotzen, Max Tucker, Holly Woody  
10th grade: Ewan Arlen, Carter Hetrick, Alex Moss, Lexi Skay, Madelynn Tygrett, Audrey Watt  
11th grade: Dawson Brick, Keegan Hansen, Caleb Reardon, Amber Wolf  
12th grade: None

The following students had perfect attendance for first semester of the 2023-2024 school year.

Ninth grade: Grace Hamann, Sawyer Jeffries  
10th grade: Ewan Arlen  
11th grade: Caleb Reardon, Amber Wolf  
12th grade: None

**Fidelity bank offering scholarships**

Fidelity Bank & Trust has announced that scholarship applications are now available for the 2024 College Scholarship Program.

The forms are available at all locations of Fidelity Bank & Trust or visit [www.bankfidelity.bank](http://www.bankfidelity.bank). Applications must be returned by March 31.

Under the program, 28 \$500 scholarships will be awarded to area high school seniors who plan to attend a two- or four-year college or vocational school. The students and their parents are not required to be Fidelity Bank & Trust customers.

The scholarships will be awarded based on scholastic standing, extracurricular activities, community involvement, financial need and a short essay on why the individual should be considered for this scholarship.

Interested high school students should contact their high school guidance office or Fidelity Bank & Trust for further assistance in completing the scholarship application. Scholarship winners will be announced in early April.

**MLK Celebration set for Jan. 14**

Humans for Racial Justice will host an "MLK Celebration: from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 14, at Town Hall.

"Come celebrate this great American dream in gathered community," reads a poster for the event. The time will included a community chorus with "inspiring songs" as well as readings, snacks and a food drive.

**Be in the know! Subscribe to the Times!**  
319-643-2131

**SCHOOL MENUS**

School menus for January 11 - 17, 2024, at West Branch Community Schools. Student breakfast price is \$1.65; lunch is \$2.75 EK-8, \$2.90 9-12.

**Elementary schools**

Thursday, January 11- B: French toast sticks, cereal, fruit, fruit juice, milk. L: Nachos, shredded lettuce, diced tomatoes, pineapple, fruit. Alt: Chicken nuggets.

Friday, January 12 - B: Whole grain mini John, cereal, fruit, fruit juice, milk. L: Pepperoni pizza, corn, broccoli, dried cranberries, fruit. Alt: Chicken patty on whole grain bun.

Monday, January 15- No School.

Tuesday, January 16 - B: Mini cinnis, cereal, fruit, fruit juice, milk. L: Meatball sub on whole grain bun, cucumber, carrots, fruit. Alt: Hotdog on whole grain bun.

Wednesday, January 17 - B: Sausage & hashbrowns, cereal, fruit, fruit juice, milk. L: Hamburger on whole

grain bun, French fries, broccoli, peaches, fruit. Alt: Rib patty on whole grain bun.

**Middle-high schools**

Thursday, January 11- B: Scrambled eggs & sausage, cereal, fruit, fruit juice, milk. L: Chicken quesadilla or ham & cheese sandwich, shredded lettuce, diced tomatoes, fruit.

Friday, January 12 - B: Breakfast burrito, cereal/bars, fruit, orange juice, milk. L: Cheese pizza or pork chop on whole grain bun, romaine salad, peas, fruit.

Monday, January 15 - No School.

Tuesday, January 16 - B: Breakfast sandwich, cereal/bar, fruit, orange juice, milk. L: Rib patty or hamburger on whole grain bun, corn, celery, fruit.

Wednesday, January 17 - B: Mini cream cheese bagel, cereal/bar, fruit, orange juice, milk. L: Italian chicken on whole grain bun or corn dog, curly fries, cauliflower, fruit.

**Flooding**

From Page 1

for the planned widening project.

"We're going to change where the deeper part of the creek is," he said, "and that will get into that gas line."

Councilmember Jodee Stoolman asked if this would prolong the project.

Schechinger said the widening project can "work around that area" if Alliant does not finish before the city comes in.

He estimated that Alliant would need about 20 feet of space in the project area.

"We have a whole project to do and this is just a small piece that requires some coordination," the engineer said.

At a Dec. 21 meeting regarding a separate project, a homeowner asked about the city's progress on widening Wapsinonoc Creek to reduce downtown flooding.

Schechinger said the city hopes to bid out that project in January with work to again begin in the

spring.

He said the city has to go through more steps before bidding that project, but if the work can begin in the spring, then it could possibly wrap up by October.

"That project is more weather-sensitive," he said.

Schechinger said the city awaits more comments from the Iowa Department of Natural Resources on the city's application. The IDNR must sign off on "modifying the flood plain."

Herbert Hoover National Historic Site in 2020 widened Hoover

Creek — the portion of the Wapsinonoc that runs through the National Park Service property. Since then, the downtown has not experienced a rain heavy enough to flood the banks of Hoover Creek.

While West Branch has had thunderstorms and heavy rain, none of the rain events have brought the volume that causes the Wapsinonoc to back up and flood the southeast downtown.

Still, the city spent years planning for this project and the council made it a budget priority.

**LEGALS**

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Motion by Dean, second by Sexton to approve Resolution 2024-02. AYES: Dean, Sexton, Horihan, Stoolman. NAYS: None. Absent: Goodweiler. Motion carried.

**CITY ADMINISTRATOR REPORT - No report**  
**CITY ATTORNEY REPORT - Absent**  
**CITY ENGINEER REPORT - Absent**  
**STAFF REPORTS - No reports**  
**COMMENTS FROM MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEMBERS**

Laughlin said police chief interviews have been scheduled for Saturday, January 13th. Sexton said he has heard of sever-

al complaints in recent months regarding trash and recycling services. Sexton said he reviewed the city's current contract which expires in June 2025. Sexton suggested the Council and staff consider and possibly research if it was feasible to take the service in-house when the contract expires. Sexton suggested that the subject be discussed during the upcoming budget sessions.  
**ADJOURNMENT**  
Motion to adjourn by Dean, second by Sexton. Motion carried on a voice vote. City Council meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

Roger Laughlin, Mayor  
ATTEST:  
Leslie Brick, City Clerk  
WBT 2

**City of West Branch Salaries 2023**

Alyssa Barnhart-\$9,157.50  
Ben Barrett-\$2,525.00  
Gerry Brick-\$19,949.39  
Leslie Brick-\$62,790.92  
Grady Burmeister-\$1,827.00  
Branden Chiles-\$1,000.00  
Logan Cilek-\$50,255.92  
Craig Cochran-\$3,105.00  
Matthew Condon-\$31801.72  
Thomas Dean-\$2,613.32  
Andrew Finnegan-\$59,465.87  
Terence Goerd-\$17,889.44  
Jose Gongora-\$885.00  
Donald Goodale -\$10.00  
Matt Goodale-\$79,571.05  
Nicholas Goodweiler-\$1,754.76  
Gregory Hall-\$168.82

John Hanna-\$79,389.44  
Trent Hansen-\$330.00  
Tanya Havlik-Smith-\$3735.00  
Daniel Heick-\$575.00  
Sandra Heick-\$1,195.00  
Gavin Hills-\$645.00  
Matthew Hills-\$5,365.00  
Alysia Horcher-\$1060.00  
Rebecca Knoche-\$58,168.20  
Henry M Kober-\$63,904.51  
Alex Koch-\$40.00  
Tatum Koenig-\$1,580.50  
Adam Kotoed-\$100,520.03  
Katrina Korsmo-\$24,528.32  
Michael Kusick-\$335.00  
Roger Laughlin-\$5,222.28  
Breanna Lewis-\$286.38  
Erik Lewis-\$985.00  
Abigail Linn-\$343.76  
Clinton McFarland-\$2,525.00

Gary Milder-\$195.00  
Colton Miller-\$2,005.44  
Lucas Moore-\$24,518.11  
Zachary Murdoch-\$73,217.34  
Hunter Niles-\$620.00  
Baylor Piegors-\$95.00  
Alyssa Pierce-\$930.26  
Daniel Powers-\$3,320.00  
Jayden Robb-\$5,345.00  
Sidney Robb-\$1,720.00  
Gabriella Rushton-\$75.00  
Melissa Russell-\$7432.97  
Jessica Schafer-\$46,931.40  
Chad Schutte-\$1,810.00  
Trey Schutte-\$1,280.00  
Jerry Sexton-\$2,005.44  
Nicholas Shimmin-\$21,653.88  
Catherine Steen-\$75,811.71  
Jodee Stoolman-\$1,754.76  
Kevin Stoolman-\$15,440.00

Kyle Tsinger-\$520.00  
Matthew Tisinger-\$5,215.00  
Gabriel Trimpe-\$40,121.88  
Jamie Tucker-\$20,730.41  
Heidi Van Auken-\$63,877.91  
Alyssa Vargason-\$882.26  
Gross Total Payroll-\$1,111,017.08  
WBT 2

**Classifieds  
Get  
Results**