

Whitney's Wings donates 60 gifts for Christmas

Whitney's Wings is thrilled to announce the success of its 4th Annual Adopt-A-Family Holiday Program, which provided holiday gifts to 60 children this year.

With the support of generous community members, gifts were purchased from carefully curated wish lists to bring joy to families in need during the holiday season.

Partnering with local nonprofit organizations such as Lutheran Services of Iowa, the Durant Food Bank, and the West Branch and Tipton School Districts, Whitney's Wings carefully identified families most in need of holiday cheer.

This heartfelt initiative is part of Whitney's Wings' mission to spread joy in memory of Whitney Frederick, who was lost due to complications during delivery in 2020.

"Our Adopt-A-Family

program is one of the many ways we celebrate Whitney's birthday on Dec. 6 by bringing light, love and joy into the lives of others," said Tiffany Frederick, Whitney's mother and founder of Whitney's Wings. "We are deeply grateful to our community for their overwhelming support and generosity, which helps us continue Whitney's legacy."

In 2024 alone, Whitney's Wings hosted events that brought joy to over 1,200 participants, fostering connection and community spirit throughout the year. The Adopt-A-Family Holiday Program remains a cornerstone of their mission, exemplifying the power of compassion and togetherness during the holiday season.

For more information about Whitney's Wings and how you can get involved in



Whitney's Wings announced last week that it was able to give Christmas gifts to 60 children by creating partnerships with other nonprofits and receiving donations from the community. Photo courtesy of Whitney's Wings

spreading joy, you may visit their facebook page, email WhitneysWingsIowa@gmail.com, or write to Whitney's

Wings at PO Box 654, West Branch, Iowa.

Whitney's Wings was established to honor

the memory of Whitney Frederick, who passed away in 2020. Through its programs and events, Whitney's

Wings aims to spread joy and make a positive impact on the community, keeping Whitney's spirit alive.

Numbers

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lar amount invested over 15 years by Liberty Communications to install fiber optic lines to its customers in West Branch, West Liberty, and surrounding rural areas.

11,400,000 The dollar amount the West Branch City Council approved for the City of West Branch's 2024-25 budget.

8,863,000 The dollar amount the city will spend at the completion of the new wastewater treatment plant.

7,350,000 The dollar amount from tourism spending to the region due to the draw of the Herbert Hoover National Historic Site.

3,000,000 The high estimate by the City of West Branch for reconstructing Cedar-Johnson Road.

2,500,000 The amount estimated by West Branch Community Schools to make major repairs to Hoover Elementary's heating, ventilation, and air conditioning

system.

840,000 The dollar amount the City of West Branch paid for the second phase of the East Side Water Main project.

813,000 The dollar amount spent on a new pumper tanker for the West Branch Fire Department. Ordered in March 2022, a new truck today would cost between \$1.2 million and \$1.3 million.

800,000 The dollar amount the city paid to Johnson County for its portion of the \$1.46 million roundabout at the intersection of Cedar-Johnson Road and Herbert Hoover Highway.

450,000 The dollar amount spent by the NPS to fix up the historic Amanda Garvin house.

280,000 The combined dollar amount, in raised in the Iowa House District 82 campaigns. Democrat Phil Wiese raised about \$59,000; incumbent Republican Robert "Bobby" Kaufmann raised about \$221,000 and won re-election.

95,000 The dollar amount the NPS spent on upgrading the Quaker Friends Meeting House.

76,000 The dollar amount the city still owed to 30 qualified homeowners to pay off a home-building rebate incentive when it decided to stop making payments.

28,876 The number of physical and digital items patrons checked out from West Branch Public Library.

4,000 The estimated number of people who visited the Hoover Complex during Hoover's Hometown Days, according to the National Park Service.

2,144 The number of visitors to see the Gibson Trains at Christmas Past. The Gibson family decided to "step away" from the beloved display, which began in 1990.

1,208 The number of career digs by West Branch High School senior volleyball player Madelynn Falco, a new school record. She had 459 this season alone.

1,000 The number of residential properties in West Branch following a surge in recent housing construction, a new record high.

794 The number of children enrolled in the West Branch Community School District, the highest number in six years of increasing enrollment.

100 The number of jobs Nordex Group/Acciona Windpower announced it plans to hire when it restarts its wind turbine plant in the industrial park.

70 The age of the Hoover Presidential Foundation. In March 1954, it was created by merging the Herbert Hoover Birthplace Society (established in 1938) and the Herbert Hoover Birthplace Foundation (established in 1954).

60.35 The percent of Iowa House District 82 voters who supported incumbent Republican Robert "Bobby" Kaufmann in the Nov. 5 election.

59 The number of foreign citizens who took the U.S. oath of citizenship at a naturalization ceremony

at the Hoover Museum and Herbert Hoover National Historic Site.

49 The distance in yards for the longest field goal kicked in West Branch High School history, by Reese Gingerich against Durant in October.

41.15 The distance in feet of West Branch High School junior Alyssa Pierce's shot put throw at Tipton, setting a school record. She finished fourth in the state competition.

35 The number of acres burned in the tallgrass prairie by the Hoover Site to kill invasive plants.

17 The number of candidates who applied for the West Branch High School varsity head coaching position. The school board in January selected John Nestor of Oak Lawn, Ill.

9 The number of WBHS varsity boys' wrestlers to qualify for the state tournament, a new school record.

5 The number of West Branch Police Officers on the force after a new initiative to raise salaries to

rebuild staff.

4:53.37 The time WBHS freshman Grace Hamann needed to run the 1500 at the River Valley Conference Meet, a school record.

4 The number of high school students to earn college scholarships related to their athletic achievements: Iowa City High School's August Palmer, women's basketball, Minnesota State University; WBHS's Quintyn "Quin" Rocha, football, Waldorf University; WBHS's Reese Trepanier, football, Wartburg College; and WBHS's Logan Wright, football, Upper Iowa University.

4 The number of new businesses that hosted ribbon-cutting ceremonies: Tura Lura, The Bronzing Bar, Martin Agency Insurance Services Inc., and Iowa Meat Shack.

2 The number of holes-in-one shot by 16-year-old McGavin Smith this year. The two came just three months apart.

1 The number of businesses that hosted a Grand Re-opening: Izzy's Treasurers.

SCHOOL MENUS

School menus for Jan. 9 through 15.

Elementary schools

Thursday, Jan. 9 - B: Two pancakes & sausage or cereal, fruit, fruit juice, milk. L: Chicken quesadilla or deli sandwich, shredded lettuce, diced tomato, fruit.
Friday, Jan. 10 - B: Whole grain donut holes or cereal, fruit, fruit juice, milk. L: Cheese pizza or pork chop on whole grain bun, romaine salad, grape tomato, fruit.

Monday, Jan. 13 - B: Froot Loop waffles or cereal, fruit, fruit juice, milk. L: Hot dog or rib patty on whole grain bun, cauliflower with cheese, celery, fruit.

Tuesday, Jan. 14 - B: Breakfast bar/roll or cereal, fruit, fruit juice, milk. L: Spaghetti or chicken nuggets, garlic breadstick, romaine salad, carrots, fruit.

Wednesday, Jan. 15 - B: Omelet & hashbrown or cereal, fruit, fruit juice, milk. L: Cheeseburger on whole grain bun or deli sandwich, potato smiles, broccoli fruit.

Middle-high schools

Thursday, Jan. 9 - B: Two pancakes & sausage or yogurt and granola, cereal, fruit, fruit juice, milk. L: Chicken quesadilla or deli sandwich, shredded lettuce, diced tomato, fruit.

Friday, Jan. 10 - B: Whole grain donut holes or yogurt and granola, cereal, fruit, fruit juice, milk. L: Cheese pizza or pork chop on whole grain bun, romaine salad, grape tomato, fruit.

Monday, Jan. 13 - B: Froot Loop waffles or yogurt and granola, cereal, fruit, fruit juice, milk. L: Hot dog or rib patty on whole grain bun, cauliflower with cheese, celery, fruit.

Tuesday, Jan. 14 - B: Breakfast sandwich or yogurt and granola, cereal/bar, fruit, fruit juice, milk. L: Spaghetti or chicken nuggets, garlic breadstick, romaine salad, carrots, fruit.

Outages

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ers lose power for about four hours on West Orange Street and Dawson Drive "due to a contractor digging into our line," read a Facebook post.

The post was put up about 12:30 p.m. on Dec. 23. According to Linn County REC Operations Supervisor, the power went out at 10:09 a.m. and was restored at 2:11 p.m.

— Gregory R. Norfleet

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING BUDGET ESTIMATE Fiscal Year July 1, 2025 - June 30, 2026 Cedar County 911 Service Board

The 911 Service Board of the above named jurisdiction will conduct a public hearing on the proposed fiscal year budget as follows:
Meeting Date: 1/21/2025 Meeting Time: 08:15 AM Meeting Location: Small Basement Meeting Room, Cedar County Courthouse, 400 Cedar Street, Tipton -OR- via phone at (571) 317-3122, Access Code 794 650 117
At the public hearing, any resident or taxpayer may present objections to, or arguments in favor of, any part of the proposed budget. This notice represents a summary of the supporting detail of budgeted receipts and expenditures on file with the 911 Service Board Secretary. Copies of the Supplemental Budget Detail will be furnished upon request.

	FYE June 30, 2024 Actual Expenditures	FYE June 30, 2025 Re-Estimated Expenditures	FYE June 30, 2026 Proposed Expenditures	Transfers Out	Estimated Ending Fund Balance June 30, 2026	Estimated Beginning Fund Balance July 1, 2025	Estimated Other Receipts	Transfers In	Estimated Amount To Be Raised By Surcharge
1. Surcharge Fund	55,702	163,350	157,300	67,000	684,022	674,522	18,800		215,000
2. Operating Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
3. TOTAL	55,702	163,350	157,300	67,000	684,022	674,522	18,800	0	215,000

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING --- PROPOSED BUDGET Fiscal Year July 1, 2025 - June 30, 2026 Cedar County Emergency Management Commission

The Emergency Management Commission of the above-named County will conduct a public hearing on the proposed fiscal year 2025/2026 budget as follows:
Meeting Date: 1/21/2025 Meeting Time: 08:20 AM Meeting Location: Small Basement Meeting Room, Cedar County Courthouse, 400 Cedar Street, Tipton -OR- via phone at (571) 317-3122, Access Code 794 650 117
At the public hearing any resident or taxpayer may present objections to, or arguments in favor of, any part of the proposed budget. This notice represents a summary of the supporting detail of receipts and expenditures on file with the County Coordinator.

	Actual FYE June 30, 2024	Estimated FYE June 30, 2025	Proposed FYE June 30, 2026
BEGINNING FUND BALANCE:	1	128,934	112,337
REVENUES:			
County Contribution	2	33,825	35,605
Other Revenues	3	216,129	159,970
Total Revenues (2+3)	4	249,954	195,575
EXPENDITURES:			
Administration and Operations	5	192,401	221,701
Capital Outlays	6	74,150	23,000
Total Expenditures (5+6)	7	266,551	244,701
Total Ending Fund Balance	8	112,337	63,211

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING - AMENDMENT OF CURRENT BUDGET Cedar County Emergency Management Commission Fiscal Year July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025

The Cedar County Emergency Management Commission will conduct a public hearing for the purpose of amending the current budget for fiscal year ending June 30, 2025

Meeting Date/Time: 1/21/2025 08:10 AM Contact: Jodi Freet Phone: (563) 886-3355
Meeting Location: Small Basement Meeting Room, Cedar County Courthouse, 400 Cedar Street, Tipton, IA -OR- via phone at (571) 317-3122, access code 794 650 117

There will be no increase in taxes. Any residents or taxpayers will be heard for or against the proposed amendment at the time and place specified above. A detailed statement of: additional receipts, cash balances on hand at the close of the preceding fiscal year, and proposed disbursements, both past and anticipated, will be available at the hearing. Budget amendments are subject to protest. If protest petition requirements are met, the State Appeal Board will hold a local hearing. For more information, consult <https://dom.iowa.gov/local-gov-appeals>.

EXPENDITURES	Total Budget as Certified or Last Amended	Amendment Increase	Total Budget After Current Amendment	Reason
Administration and Operations	200,876	20,825	221,701	Vacation Payout, Insurance Changes, Travel/Training, Publication Fees
Capital Outlays	23,000	0	23,000	
Total	223,876	20,825	244,701	