



PHOTOS SUBMITTED  
Alden Elementary second grade teacher Wendy Cooper (back left), and multiple students met at Walmart to select gifts with the money they raised. The gifts will go to a 6-year-old.



Alden Elementary students display some of the gifts that were selected with the money that was raised from their paper light bulb sales.

► **ALDEN STUDENTS**  
CONTINUED FROM A1

During the WIN class time, those enrichment students have been cutting the paper bulbs and hanging them in the cafeteria. They are also learning how to manage the money, and see how much that cash can be utilized

to purchase gifts for others. “We have all that money but it is good for them to go and see what we spend it on. We can’t have everything we want but how far does \$280 go in a store and how far does that go when you buy gifts?” Cooper said. “The kids like shopping for a younger person, so

the parents dropped them off at Walmart and then we go around the store. We buy wrapping paper and then the kids decide what they want to buy for our 6-year-old girl. We have the right size if we choose coats, other clothing or shoes.” This past Monday, the students utilized class time to wrap

the gifts. Cooper said other adults in the store have donated money to the students to assist them with their project. That is another lesson they can take to heart. “Every time we do something similar to this, someone in Walmart will walk over and hand my kids money. It helps show the students that when

you put good vibes and acts out, that is reciprocated,” Cooper said. “We are lighting up someone else’s holiday, but we are also lighting up our own.” Once the gifts were wrapped on Monday, Alden Elementary School Nurse Kari McCracken was scheduled to take the gifts to the recipient. ■

► **RED ROOSTER**  
CONTINUED FROM A1

While he explained, the breathe-easy diner on the corner of Rocksylvania and Oak had already been a hub for local camaraderie. Several men of a certain age were scattered to different booths or tables, sipping on cups of joe while others waited for plates of pancakes and breakfast meat. Dark and dreary on a December morning might have made for a lighter Tuesday crowd, but there were still several local characters dispersed throughout the Rooster. Either way, and as is expected in a diner, small

talk was consistently going on in the background, and the dividing line between interview and casual conversation didn’t exist. While there are plenty of menu favorites and rotating specials, the cuisine is exactly what many would expect. Breakfast foods (especially the Rooster’s omelets) and sandwiches are heavy hitters on the Rooster’s menu, but some other bigger choices include hamburger steaks, meatloaf, and biscuits and gravy. Moreso, Lathrop makes numerous types of homemade pies that help keep people coming in the doors. They listed lemon meringue, sour cream raisin, banana cream, coco-



Beth Ites, who’s been at the Red Rooster for 39 years, is pictured working at the register.

nut cream and chocolate as some of the popular choices. In fact, Lathrop stated that if she doesn’t concoct a chocolate pie frequently enough, she’ll get an earful from some of the restaurant-goers. Many locals might wonder where such a unique restaurant came from, and well, Goodale was bluntly honest on its origins: “The name, I don’t know where

that came from.” Neither Lathrop nor Ites knew either. “It’s been the Rooster forever,” though, Goodale mentioned. The restaurant has been in Iowa Falls for decades and has remained cash only the whole time, and simply put, Goodale doesn’t envision that changing. He doesn’t want to pay out to credit card companies when they

receive a cut of profits every month. What’s a small percentage on paper would ultimately mean hundreds of dollars per month in service charges. So as far as using credit cards in the future, “If it’s not broke, don’t fix it,” he stated, in what might make a suiting slogan for the Rooster. You don’t have to overcomplicate the Red Rooster’s formula. And the owner’s laid-back persona was indicative of the diner’s atmosphere as a whole. “Well, it’s the local breakfast place that’s been here, I think, since 1955,” Goodale explained. It’s an easygoing setting with “hometown comfort food” in a 1950s diner and a place where everybody knows everybody. The Red Rooster is aware of what it is and opens and closes unconcerned about changing the recipe. After all, if it’s not broke, don’t fix it. ■

**SHOWING DECEMBER 23 - 29**

**Avatar: The Way of Water**  
RATED PG-13  
TUES. - FRI. 7 p.m.  
SAT. & SUN. 3 & 7 p.m.

**Puss in Boots: The Last Wish**  
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TUES. - FRI. 7 p.m.  
SAT. & SUN. 3 & 7 p.m.

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**IF school board holds organizational meeting**

BY ELAINE LORING  
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The Iowa Falls Community School Board met Monday, Dec. 12 and held their annual organizational meeting. Todd Bicknese was voted to another term as board president and Chris Stauffer was voted to another term as vice-president.

The board discussed replacing three doors on the concession stand at Cadet Field, as one had previously been kicked in. The board approved the doors, which will swing out so then can’t be as easily damaged, at a cost of \$10,920.

- Accepted resignations from:**
- Kylee Clouse, middle school associate
  - Jason Smuck, high school assistant softball coach
- Accepted early retirements requests from:**
- Steve Ritter, high school business teacher
  - Lori Lyman, high school special education teacher
  - Nicki Smith, district librarian
  - Karen Varrelman, middle school custodian

- Accepted contracts for:**
- Kendra Odom, 50 percent split high school cheer
  - Grace Viktora, 50 percent split high school cheer
  - Lance Keller, 7-12 throws coach
  - Jon Nederhoff, high school science teacher (2023-24 school year with \$5,000 signing bonus over 3 years)
  - Molly Gillespie, middle school associate
  - Emily Banken, high school assistant track
  - Nicole Miller, FMLA, PV teacher.

- In other business the board approved:**
- Approved a bid from Carstens for the main boys locker room and the basement girls and boys locker room shower project at a cost of \$33,820.00
  - A change order for the team shed, which eliminates LED light fixtures and adds electric hand dryers

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Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

AT POET, we believe in the power of agriculture to play a key role in solving global challenges. By embracing the Earth’s inherent rhythm and creating energy from its surface, we will compose a brighter future for our children and grandchildren. | poet.com/iowafalls