By Russ Pankonin
The Imperial Republican

Having lunch or dinner brought out to the field during harvest is not uncommon in these parts.

But Gregg Smith's harvesting crew, who were picking corn on Thanksgiving day for Rich and Lois Peterson, got a special treat—not once, but twice.

Katie Anderson of Holyoke and one of her friends drove into the harvest field about noon. Her husband, Billy, was working on the harvest crew.

When the crew stopped for lunch, they found a lot more than just sandwiches and chips.

Katie set out camping chairs and filled a folding table with salads, veggies, pies and bread and table ware.

Then, she opened up the back of her SUV where she had a full Thanksgiving dinner for the crew, complete with a turkey, potatoes and vegetable casserole.

The Petersons said it was an unexpected treat and shows the lengths people in small towns will go to to help others.

The crew gathered for a Thanksgiving prayer provided by Matt DuPeire, who is pastor at the Lighthouse Fellowship Church. He was also a member of the crew.

A second dinner

Chris and Stacy (Hust) Towns of Cheyenne, Wyo., are friends of DuPeire's wife, Kristi.

When the Towns' Thanksgiving plans fell through, they wanted to share their Thanksgiving dinner so decided to come to Imperial to treat the harvest crew.

They drove here with the meal and re-heated it at Brian and Lynn Prosser's house before taking it to the field.

As a result, the harvest crew got to enjoy another full Thanksgiving meal, this time for supper.

Petersons, who live here in the summer and return to Arizona in the winter, couldn't express their thanks enough and were captivated by the small town friendliness so prevalent here.