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Bulldogs Boys and Girls Wrestling Compete in Home Double Dual
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Historic 'Sentinel Tree' Comes Down

BY JENNIFER BURNHAM
 HAMPTON CHRONICLE

One of the county's oldest and tallest trees — an old cottonwood just east of Quail Avenue and 110th Street — was removed on Wednesday, Jan. 7.

The historic tree can be traced back to the 1850s, according to former Chronicle editor Ray Baltes, who's spent years researching historical sites around the county, including this tree.

"As early as the 1850s, it was known as the Sentinel Tree because it stood over the first settlements in the county and was visible from miles away," said Baltes. "It is a few hundred yards from the first settlement in the county, the first school house and the first cemetery. Until about 15 years ago when a large part of the tree broke off, it stood as a marker for the county's first settlers."

Franklin County Conservation Director Ned Parker told the Chronicle Wednesday morning that the tree had slowly been deteriorating over the years, becoming a hazard to those who drive by and a concern for those who live in the area, as the branches have begun to fall off and the tree is said to sway during strong winds. One major concern: the tree would eventually fall onto the nearby power lines.

Removal of the tree — which is being handled by Franklin REC, the Secondary Roads Department and the County Conversation Department — began shortly after 8 a.m. Wednesday morning and was completed by the end of the day.

The tree will eventually be replaced by a new cottonwood, said Hampton Tree Board member Randy Sanders. He added that they would also like to include a marker with history about the original tree.



Franklin County Secondary Roads Shop Foreman Clark Wilkinson and County Conservation Director Ned Parker watching a couple employees with Franklin REC work on the tree.



Hampton Tree Board members Randy Sanders, Craig Semler and Patti Walker on the morning of the tree removal.

Police Department to Hold Third Citizen's Academy

BY JENNIFER BURNHAM
 HAMPTON CHRONICLE

The Hampton Police Department is holding their third citizen's academy starting on Feb. 11.

According to the police department, the citizen's academy was created to provide community members with an inside look into their department while allowing them to ask questions and express ideas with staff. The classes are taught by police officers, city staff and emergency medical

staff. This year's five-week academy will kick off with their first class on Feb. 11, which will include an introduction from Police Chief Mark Morrison, as well as an overview of technology and equipment used by the police department, search and seizure and use of force and tasers. For their second class, a use-of-force simulation session is scheduled to take place at NIACC on Feb. 18. Following that, traffic stops, OWI impairment, CRASE training and nuisance enforcement will be covered during the Feb. 25 class. And CPR/AED, first aid and "Stop the Bleed" are slated for

their final class on March 4. Their graduation will be held during the March 12 city council meeting. Classes will be held from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Hampton Council Chambers, unless noted otherwise. As stated in the program's promotional materials, the academy will not train community members in becoming police officers. Their first academy was held in spring of 2024 and their second in spring of 2025. To sign up, stop by the police department at 17 2nd Street NW in Hampton or complete an online application, which



can be found at www.hamptonia.us/announcements.

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Hampton McDonald's Crew Takes First in Decorating Contest

BY JENNIFER BURNHAM
 HAMPTON CHRONICLE



The Hampton McDonald's team would like to thank the community for voting for their crew room in the 2025 Soifer Merriest Crew Room Contest, which they took first place in.

SWING Manager Maria Urbina told the Chronicle she's always loved decorating and making spaces look pretty. For this past contest, she and her helpers went with a McDonald's gingerbread house theme in the crew room, which took them several hours to complete.

"I got the idea from our crew," said Urbina, who's worked at the store since 2010. "We enjoy doing fun things like this! It puts us in the Christmas mood."

Urbina said that they participate in all of Soifer's contests, and that they've won this particular one several years in a row.

From left to right: Hampton McDonald's employees Maria Urbina, Kimberly Jobe, Devin Urbina, Angela Koath and Hope Baltes on Monday, Jan. 12.

Deadlines

Legals Monday, 12 p.m. | News Friday, 5 p.m. | Ads, Inserts Friday, 3 p.m. | Classifieds Friday 3 p.m. | Obituaries Monday, Noon | Coverage 24 Hours



Coaches VS Cancer Game Set for Jan. 24

BY JENNIFER BURNHAM
HAMPTON CHRONICLE

The 2026 Coaches VS Cancer game, organized by Franklin County Relay for Life, is coming up at the end of the month.

The game between H-D-CAL and West Fork is set for Saturday, Jan. 24 at West Fork High School. The game will begin at 3:15 p.m.

According to organizer Sheri Bogue, the Relay for Life group is eager to shift their focus towards Coaches VS Cancer this year, as a replacement for their annual Relay for Life event.

“With changes coming in 2026 without our annual Relay For Life event we are excited to focus more attention on the Coaches vs Cancer game,” she said. “While it’s not the same as the Relay event we will honor our survivors, have fun, some entertainment, silent auction and a soup supper. We are hoping for good weather so that everyone will come out to support us and join the fun.”

Stay tuned for more event details.



Don't Miss the Franklin County Soup Cook-Off

PRESS RELEASE

Hampton – The Franklin County Soup Cook-Off will take place on Jan. 20 at 11 a.m. at the Hampton Public Library, and everyone is invited to join the fun! Local businesses and community members are encouraged to bring their best soup recipes and compete for the title of best soup in Franklin County.

Whether it’s a classic chicken noodle, hearty beef stew, or a flavorful vegan dish, the Soup Cook-Off is an opportunity to showcase your culinary creations and enjoy a variety of delicious soups from fellow community members.

To sign up to participate, please contact Suzy at the Hampton Public Library at (641) 456-4451.

This event is hosted by Iowa State University Extension and Outreach – Franklin County and is open to everyone in the community. Come hungry, and bring your appetite for a fun-filled day of good food and local flavor!

For more information, contact the Hampton Public Library at 641-456-4451.



Extension Office employee Lili Velasco stirring some soup at last year’s event.

Coulter Man Arrested After Shots Fired on New Year's Day

BY JENNIFER BURNHAM
HAMPTON CHRONICLE

A Coulter man was arrested Friday morning, Jan. 9 after allegedly shooting at two different people in Hampton in the early morning hours of New Year’s Day.

According to a press release from the Hampton Police Department, Victor Ivan Ferman-Nava, 22, of Coulter is facing charges for intimidation with a dangerous weapon, assault while displaying a dangerous weapon and six counts of reckless use of a firearm.

Police responded to a report of multiple shots fired in the 300 block of 12th Ave NE shortly after 3 a.m. on Jan. 1, according to the press release.

“Witnesses reported hearing shots fired and responding officers recovered evidence of gunfire,” the release stated. “The subsequent investigation determined no persons were struck by gunfire and a person of interest was developed. Two victims were identified and the shooting followed a verbal argument.”

Ferman-Nava was arrested by the Hampton Police Department at 6 a.m. Friday morning, with assistance from the Franklin County Sheriff’s Office.

He was taken to the Franklin County Law Enforcement Center and then Hardin County Jail, where he is being held on a \$10,000 cash only bond.

The police department stated that the case is ongoing and any person with additional information can contact them at 641-456-2529.

“A criminal charge is an accusation and the defendant is presumed innocent until proven guilty,” the release stated.

Photo provided by the Franklin County Sheriff’s Office.



Victor Ivan Ferman-Nava

Hampton Senior Center Celebrates January Birthdays

BY JENNIFER BURNHAM
HAMPTON CHRONICLE

The Hampton Senior Citizen Center celebrated all of their January birthdays on Friday, Jan. 9. The birthdays that were celebrated:

- Marvel Burmester, Jan. 3
- LaDonna Jorges, Jan. 4
- Kristy Slotness, Jan. 5
- Sharon Nelson, Jan. 6
- Larry Crabtree, Jan. 7
- Dale Haver, Jan. 8
- Dave Booth, Jan. 17
- Lori Holmes, Jan. 18
- Esther Van Deest and Bob Moderman, Jan. 20
- Peggy Varrelman, Jan. 24
- Phil O’Connor, Jan. 25
- Teresa Harms, Jan. 30

The senior center’s new site manager, Krysta Weinandy, who started



Ruth Ann Kelch, Maggie Pearson, Vicki Naber and Diane Weldin during the celebration.

last Tuesday, Jan. 6, said she’d been loving the job so far.

“I really like working with the public, so this seemed like the perfect job,” she said.

More Photos on A6! See: "Birthdays"



The City of Hampton recently renewed a lease with a phone company who is renting space on their water tower for internet equipment.

City Renews Lease with Phone Company for Water Tower Use

BY JENNIFER BURNHAM, WREN MASTERS
HAMPTON CHRONICLE

The Hampton City Council renewed a one-year lease with Woolstock Mutual Telephone Association, who rents space on the city’s water tower for their internet equipment, during their Jan. 8 meeting.

Woolstock Mutual Telephone Association provides phone and internet services to those within city limits.

According to City Manager Ron Dunt, the rent is set at \$1,500 per month — a five-percent increase from last year’s rent, which was \$1,000 a month.

City Councilor Bill Holmstrom asked if this is the only lease they have for the water tower and City Manager Ron Dunt said yes.

The lease was approved by the council with a unanimous vote.

Also approved during the meeting were the claims as submitted by the staff in the amount of \$160,586.16, along with liquor license renewals for Rustic Brew and El Valle Tienda.

Latimer News

CAL Over 60’s met on Tuesday, January 6 in the Latimer Community Center. Lois welcomed everyone and Pastor Joe Dunnwald of Immanuel U.C.C had devotions and table prayer. Sue Gauger and Donna Halfwassen served the tables. Jolene had prepared meatloaf, cheesy potatoes, corn, applesauce jello and cream puff cake.

January birthdays recognized were Leona Meyer, Bob Trager and Jolene McWilliams.

Lois gave readings on life as a senior citizen and on Christmas and New Years.

There will be a community coffee on Thursday, January 15th at 9:00. Everyone is invited.

Next CAL Over 60’s dinner will be January 20th. Everyone is invited to attend and invite guests.

Speck ‘n Dicken & Pancake Meal

A Speck ‘n Dicken and pancake meal will be held on Sunday, January 18th from 11:00 to 1:00 at Zion Reformed Church 2029 B Jonquil Ave., Sheffield



A freewill donation will be taken to support the church youth group. In case of bad weather, we will have the meal the following Sunday, January 25th.

Get all your local news and events at
HamptonChronicle.com 24/7!

City Entities Present Funding Requests for FY27

BY JENNIFER BURNHAM
HAMPTON CHRONICLE

Representatives with a number of city entities presented their funding requests to the Hampton City Council during their Jan. 12 workshop.

Franklin County Development Association Director Mary Amsbaugh shared her proposal first, requesting \$50,000 for the FCDA.

"Originally, we focused on business expansion and



Franklin County Development Association Director Mary Amsbaugh addressing the city councilors on Monday evening, Jan. 12.



The Hampton City Council during their budget request workshop on Monday evening, Jan. 12.

retention and those are still our goals but something that we'd added is housing," she said. "Hampton is no different than any other community in this state. We are all short of housing and we're trying to figure out ways we can make things happen."

She also mentioned the NIACC Career Center that's coming to Hampton, which will be made possible by a \$3 million grant that she helped secure. The new center will serve Belmont-Klemme, West Fork and Hampton-Dumont schools, she said.

"So those students can get some of those specialized classes out there while they are attending school and also get college credit," she said. "So that's

exciting!"

She also discussed the recent career fair she helped with, which took place at H-D-CAL High School.

"In the past, I've requested \$45,000, and this year, I'm requesting \$50,000," she said. "The FCDA has the option to purchase some property and since Centro purchased our spec building out in Industrial Park, so we've been looking for some good land that we think would be eligible for some businesses and if we go ahead and do that, all of our resources would be depleted. We have some CDs we would need to be cashing in on and some general reserves that we have so that's where the additional \$5,000 came from."

The Hampton Public Library requested \$100,000, along with the use of the levy funding. The \$100,000 is a \$5,000 increase from



Hampton Public Library Director Suzy Knipfel addressing the city councilors on Monday evening, Jan. 12.

the previous fiscal year.

"Beginning with Fiscal Year 2024-25, the library funding from Franklin County to the six public libraries in the county was reduced by 40 percent and the percentage of disbursement to the Hampton Public Library was reduced from 42 percent to 32 percent," said Hampton Public Library Director Suzy Knipfel. "The total loss of funding to the library was \$34,000."

Knipfel said that the following actions were implemented due to the loss of funding: reduction of a part-time employee from 32 hours a week to 10 hours per week; Makerspace programs were eliminated due to the high cost of the materials needed; and the library is now closed on Saturdays before or after a major holiday.

"In addition, the library levy, which was voted on in 2005 by the citizens of Hampton, will no longer be in existence due to state legislative changes by 2029," she said. "This will be a loss of approximate-

See COUNCIL Page 6

HAMPTON CHRONICLE

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•Engagements, anniversaries, birthdays, weddings, births and family reunions information is published free of charge. There is a \$12 charge for each black and white photo and a \$24 charge for each color photo. Birthday and birth photos are published one column in width. Anniversary and Engagement photos are published two columns in width. Other such photos are published in a width appropriate to the number of people in the photo. Cards of thanks are \$18.

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Correction and Retraction Policy

The Hampton Chronicle strives for accurate and complete news reporting, but occasionally we get it wrong. In cases where an error has been made, we will run a correction, clarification, retraction, or editor's note in the next edition. Our goal in any event is to inform readers of corrections clearly and quickly, citing the incorrect information and updating with the correct information.

Corrections will be printed on page two in the next issue published. The correction will denote the issue, article and incorrect information along with the correction.

Digital corrections will also be made, and an editor's note will be added to the bottom of the article in question noting what was inaccurate and noting when the article was amended. If the article was posted on Facebook, Twitter, or any other online medium controlled by the Hampton Chronicle, a post will be made linking to the corrected article, noting the correction.

City Council Discusses Award Program for Firefighters

BY WREN MASTERS
HAMPTON CHRONICLE

The Hampton City Council discussed their resolution establishing the local Length of Service Award Program, known as LOSAP, for volunteer firefighters and reserve police officers during their Jan. 8 meeting.

Hampton City Manager Ron Dunt spoke about the approval of the program and the city's agreement to contribute local matching funds of 167 dollars for each volunteer firefighter and reserve police officer that meets the requirements, along with the criteria set by the guidelines. The total cost has been estimated to be a little over 4,000 dollars and is being addressed in the city's 2027 fiscal year budget.

The state of Iowa will provide 3-1 matching funds for each qualifying participant, with a grant maximum of 500 dollars. These matching funds will

be transferred into a retirement account for each individual. That's set up and managed by an independent advisor and will be held for the required vesting period, of five years.

As of now, the Hampton Fire Department guidelines have been set, and Police Chief Mark Morrison said he's working on establishing guidelines for the reserve police officers.

The council also approved their third and final reading for the additional no parking space on 3rd Ave SE that evening. This will be going to publication and signage will be posted in the foreseeable future.

Towards the end of the meeting, Dunt said local entities would present their funding requests for the 2027 physical year budget at the next workshop.

Reports

Chief Morrison stated in his report that the police citizen's academy is coming up and that they

are actively taking applications. This is a five-week course set to start on Feb. 11, with graduation scheduled to take place during the March. 12 city council meeting. You can apply on the city's website.

Public Works Director Doug Tarr reported that they had two court cases that afternoon, and the judge ruled from the bench. They will be taking possession of 321 Federal Street South and 416 1st Street Southwest. Tarr stated that he will start working on the asbestos testing and processing here in the next few weeks and get them ready for demolition.

Tarr also answered some questions about the replacement garage door for the water tower where they keep the mini excavator in heated storage. After the door suffered some damage in the recent windstorms, they got an insulated door to replace the previous one, and have hopes that it will also save some money on

the energy costs.

Councilor Jim Davies, stated that the Knights of Columbus would be taking down the nativity scene in Band Shell Park on Sunday, Jan. 11.

"On behalf of the Hampton Historic Preservation Commission, the certified local government is working on their annual report and will be presenting it to the council," Davies said. "They hope to have the report done by the end of January, however the presentation may be done sometime in February depending on their agendas."

There was no comment from Councilor Barry Lamos.

Councilor Jerre Grefe, wished everyone a good holiday season and wanted to thank everyone that chose to shop locally this season. She is also working on the chamber appreciation dinner which will be happening on Feb. 14. They still need nominations for people who deserve lead-

ership awards, community pride awards, business awards, member awards and organization awards. They are still accepting all nominations and will be voting on those this month and the next chamber board meeting.

There was no report from Councilor Bill Holmstrom.

Councilor Jeanne Fay thanked everyone for the opportunity to serve the city of Hampton. She said she's really looking forward to it. She attended the collaboration between the Hampton Public Library and the Windsor Theatre, where you could read the book "The Housemaid" and then go see the movie. Seventy one people had attended, and they plan on doing another collaboration in March for another "Read the Book, See the Movie" event.

Mayor Steve Birdsall welcomed all the new and old council members into the new year.

First Bank Hampton and ICBA Encourage Smart Credit Habits to Start 2026 Strong

As consumers set financial goals for the year ahead, First Bank Hampton and the Independent Community Bankers of America® (ICBA) are encouraging individuals and families to build a strong financial foundation by developing and maintaining healthy credit habits.

"Strong credit is one of the most important tools consumers have to support long-term financial stability," said Tyler Heeren, President and CEO at First Bank Hampton. "Whether saving for a home, managing day-to-day expenses, or preparing for future milestones, establishing sound financial habits today can help ensure greater flexibility and confidence to support more informed decisions in the future. We encourage people to stop in and visit with our Customer Service Representatives for more information on tools available within Digital Banking to help set budgets

and get a strong financial start this 2026."

First Bank Hampton and ICBA shared the following tips to help sustain strong credit:

- **Establish a financial foundation.** Open and actively manage a checking account to track spending and demonstrate responsible money management.
- **Use credit responsibly.** Make payments on time and avoid carrying high balances, as payment history and credit utilization are key factors in credit scoring.
- **Maintain a healthy credit mix.** Responsibly managing different types of credit—such as installment loans and revolving credit—can help strengthen your credit profile.
- **Plan for major financial decisions.** Avoid opening or closing accounts or making large financial moves in the months leading up to a major purchase.
- **Build an emergency**

fund. Aim to save at least three to six months of living expenses to help manage unexpected costs and reduce reliance on credit.

• **Monitor credit regularly.** Review your credit report for accuracy and signs of fraud by visiting

www.annualcreditreport.com.

"Healthy credit habits are foundational to long-term financial resilience," ICBA President and CEO Rebeca Romero Rainey said. "By pairing responsible money management

with guidance from a trusted community bank, consumers can better position themselves for life's opportunities and challenges as they work toward important financial milestones."

PRO RACING THIS WEEK

Racing News, Stats & Trivia

This Week's Racing News

NASCAR Prepares for 750-Horsepower Era as 2026 Testing Begins
The 2026 NASCAR season officially roars to life this week with a pivotal Cup Series organizational test on Tuesday, January 13. Hosted at the historic North Wilkesboro Speedway, the session marks the first on-track appearance of the sport's new 750-horsepower package, a significant power increase designed to improve short-track and road-course racing. The boost from the previous 670-hp limit aims to place a higher premium on driver skill and tire management. Fans attending the five-hour test will enjoy free grandstand access as stars like Joey Logano and Christopher Bell shake down the new configuration ahead of the July 19 Window World 450, the track's first points-paying Cup race in 30 years. Parallel to the physical testing, NASCAR is set to unveil a major rebranding of its championship format during a live-streamed press conference on Monday, January 12. Early indications from veteran drivers suggest a move toward a more points-oriented system. The preseason news cycle is further highlighted by a lineup shift for the February 1 "Clash" at Bowman Gray Stadium. Corey LaJoie will pilot the No. 6 Ford for RFK Racing as co-owner Brad Keselowski continues a rigorous 8-week rehabilitation following a femur fracture sustained in a December ski trip accident. Keselowski remains "laser-focused" on returning for the Daytona 500 on February 15.

All-Time Top Driver's Bio

Matt Kenseth
Born: Mar. 10th, 1972
Cup Wins: 39
Cup Top-Tens: 331
Cup Championships: 1

Born on March 10, 1972, in Cambridge, Wisconsin, Matt Kenseth began his racing career at age 16 at Madison International Speedway. Kenseth's NASCAR career began with a standout sixth-place finish in his 1998 Cup Series debut at Dover. Joining Roush Racing full-time in 2000, he won the Coca-Cola 600 and secured the Rookie of the Year title. His most significant achievement came in 2003, when he won the final Winston Cup Series championship. His clinical consistency during that season led to the points for 32 consecutive weeks famously cited as a primary reason NASCAR implemented the "Chase" playoff format the following year. Over 22 seasons, Kenseth accumulated 39 Cup victories, including two Daytona 500 wins (2009, 2012) and the 2013 Southern 500. He qualified for the playoffs in 13 of 14 attempts and added 29 Xfinity Series wins to his resume. After a final full-time stint with Joe Gibbs Racing and a part-time return to Roush and Ganassi, Kenseth retired in 2020 and was inducted into the NASCAR Hall of Fame in 2023. Matt Kenseth is currently 53 years old and serves as a competition advisor for Legacy Motor Club.

Racing History

January 12, 1980 - On this date in 1980, driver Tim Williamson was fatally injured during the "Stock Car Products 300," a NASCAR-sanctioned Modified division race at Riverside International Raceway in California. While the event was a tragedy, it served as a sobering reminder of the inherent dangers of the Riverside road course, which was one of the few places NASCAR competed outside of its traditional oval-track heartland during the early winter months.

Racing Trivia

Which track is the longest oval on the NASCAR Cup Series schedule at 2.66 miles?

a) Daytona c) Pocono
b) Talladega d) Indianapolis

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STATE of IOWA MOTTO

Our liberties we prize and our rights we will maintain.

A NATION of LAWS

Where the will of men exceeds the rule of law, there, tyranny prospers.

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- If you're having a party.
- If you have out-of-town guests.
- If you take a trip.
- If a son or daughter leaves for college, or comes back for a visit.
- If a son or daughter enlists in the Armed Forces.
- If a son or daughter receives scholastic honors.
- If someone in your family or business receives a promotion, job change or retires.
- If a former resident passes away.
- If you entertain at a dinner or a party.
- If your club meets.
- If your class holds or plans a reunion.
- If you're celebrating a wedding anniversary.
- If you move out of town.
- If someone moves into your neighborhood.
- If someone enters a hospital.
- If a business is opening or closing.
- If something interesting is happening.

The Hampton Chronicle attempts to cover the news in Franklin county and adjoining areas as thoroughly as possible, and we appreciate it when you let us help you get the word out! We hope you'll let us know if you have news by emailing news@hampton-chronicle.com, or by calling or texting 515-988-3726.

Thanks for letting us know!

THE SENIOR SCENE

Where new friendships are made and old friendships are renewed



MONDAY-FRIDAY from 8 a.m.-4 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

Monday, Jan. 19

1:00 BINGO

Tuesday, Jan. 20

12:30 CRIBBAGE; 1:00 BOARD MEETING

Wednesday, Jan. 21

12:45 HAND & FOOT OR 500 CARDS

Thursday, Jan. 22

ANNIVERSARY DINNER; 1:00 BINGO

Friday, Jan. 23

STAY & PLAY

GREAT LUNCHEAS AT 11:30

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Menu

Monday, Jan. 19

Ham Loaf - Sweet Potatoes - Whole Wheat Roll - Vegetable - Peach Crisp

Tuesday, Jan. 20

Lasagna - Garlic Bread - Salad - Fruit Salad

Wednesday, Jan. 21

Tater Tot Casserole - Roll - Vegetable - Fruit Salad

Thursday, Jan. 22

Roast Beef - Mashed Potatoes & Gravy - Whole Wheat Roll - Vegetable - Fruit - Cherry Crisp

Friday, Jan. 23

Baked Chicken - Macaroni & Cheese - Roll - Vegetable - Fruit

HAMPTON SENIOR CENTER

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TRACT 2 - 80 acres m/l with 78.92 estimated FSA cropland acres; CSR2 of 83. Tracts are located in Section 31 of Dougherty Township, Cerro Gordo County, Iowa.

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Standing up for our farmers and rural communities



REP. RANDY FEENSTRA
COLUMNIST

As a lifelong Iowan and proud representative of one of the most productive agricultural districts in the country, I will always stand up for Iowa farmers and our rural communities. Since my first day in office, I have been committed to delivering real results for the farmers who feed and fuel our country and the world. Whether that be keeping our farmland out of the hands of foreign adversaries, keeping farmers safe on the job, or ensuring Iowa has a strong voice at the federal level, I take my job serving our producers very seriously.

Last week, the Trump

administration unveiled great news for rural Iowa by advancing the National Farm Security Action Plan, which includes my FARM-LAND Act. This plan is a necessary step in ensuring that foreign adversaries – like China – stay off our farmland and keep it in the hands of the next generation, not foreign hostile nations. It also includes my work to develop new oversight measures for foreign farmland purchases, require the Secretary of Agriculture to report threats of foreign acquisition of American farmland to Congress, and hold foreign investors who fail to properly disclose farmland purchases accountable.

Last month, the Trump administration and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) also formally finalized the Expanding Access to Risk Protection (EARP) rule, which cuts burdensome regulations and strengthens the farm safety net for Iowa producers. This includes implementing my Crop Insurance for Future Farmers Act, which lowers the cost of crop insurance for young producers and was signed

into law as part of President Trump's Working Families Tax Cuts. Crop insurance is a critical tool for Iowa farmers that must continually be defended and modernized, ensuring that Iowa agriculture can withstand the financial impacts of unpredictable natural disasters and disease outbreaks. I will continue to work with President Trump to lower costs for Iowa farmers, open new export markets, and grow our agricultural economy.

Additionally, protecting farmers also means protecting their lives and livelihoods. Iowa farmers feed and fuel our country and the world, working long hours, making unseen sacrifices, and risking their safety. That's why I introduced legislation, the Roll-Over Prevention and Safety (ROPS) Act, to help prevent fatal tractor incidents on our farms. This legislation would create a cost-share grant program at the USDA to assist farmers in retrofitting tractors with rollover protection structures (ROPS). Simply put, these measures will save lives and keep our farming communities safe and

strong.

Finally, I was glad to recently congratulate my dear friend and fellow Iowan Starlyn Perdue on her appointment as State Executive Director for the Farm Service Agency in Iowa. Operating a century farm with her family in Pottawattamie County, I know that Starlyn will be an unwavering champion for our farmers while delivering victories for our agricultural community. This position will give our producers and rural communities a strong voice at the USDA and ensure that our farmers receive the best and most responsive service possible from their government.

My promise to Iowans is that I'll continue to work every day to protect Iowa farmland, keep our farmers safe, and ensure rural communities have a strong voice in Congress. Representing the second largest agriculture-producing district in the country, I will continue to advance and support policies that benefit our agricultural communities and rural Iowa.

Primary Election Preparations



KATY FLINT
FRANKLIN COUNTY AUDITOR

I know what you're saying...preparing for the Primary Election already?! Well, that's how things work in our office! Believe it or not, it's been 64 days since the City-School Election was held in November and we're slowly starting

the process all over again because the Primary Election is just 146 days away and while that may seem like a long time, we truly must start this far in advance for several different reasons!

The first thing I did was send communications to the Central Committees (Franklin County Republican and Democrat parties) to highlight important info about the caucuses. The caucuses are not run or monitored by our office, but there are some intersecting duties, so this communication was important. The next thing I did was to send letters/emails to all our polling places to remind them of this year's elections dates and what we will need from them.

Since the polling places are not allowed to be open for their own business/events for two days, it is important for me to get those dates and information to them as soon as possible in the year!

I have also prepared graphics for the Facebook page (www.facebook.com/franklincountyio-wa) as part of my job is simple awareness. The graphics that I have prepared highlight filing deadlines for state, federal, and local positions that will be on the primary election ballot. I have also prepared graphics that highlight the county positions that will be on the ballot and the signatures required to be on the primary ballot as we are a nominated by petition.

Soon we will be reaching out to our Precinct Election Officials to see who is interested in working the elections this year and then slowly start scheduling them as well as training, etc. I have also created the schedule for our office to follow as there are MANY deadlines we need to be aware of, evenings we are required to stay late (past normal Courthouse closing time) and even a Saturday that we must be open. I like to give my staff as much heads up on these dates as possible.

While our daily work lives aren't filled with election preparations yet, they have begun and will continue to ramp up over the next several months! Until next time...

What We Learned Skipping School



reading between the lines

AMANDA RINK

"There is something about the outside of a horse that is good for the inside of a man."
- Winston Churchill

I'll be the first to admit it: sometimes I let my kids skip school for reasons that have nothing to do with doctors' appointments or sickness.

Last Friday, I let my daughter, Hayden, skip school so she could come with us to check out a horse.

I don't regret the unexcused absence. It gave her one-on-one time with her dad and me, something she doesn't get much of these days.

I sat in the backseat, flipping between notes from the school board meeting and trying to type a sensible article, all while a million other thoughts ran through my head. Travis and I would catch eyes in the rear-view mirror whenever Hayden said something that reminded us just how much we love her... how cool of a human she's becoming.

We drove to the border of Minnesota and Iowa to meet the horse, Clyde. We weren't told much about him. Mostly, we learned that he could really use someone to love him. He was a lucky guy to find Hayden.

Once we arrived at the small farm, I watched through tears as my husband worked Clyde, getting him to trot and canter while Clyde gave him plenty of attitude, making Travis earn

his trust. It was emotional to watch. Travis had a traumatic week, and seeing him do this for our daughter filled me with a mix of guilt, gratitude, joy, and sorrow. A million feelings all at once.

Those tears were quickly replaced with laughter when Travis handed Clyde over to Hayden, declaring him safe. I watched the two of them talk, Clyde offering feedback through his nose.

While Clyde allowed Travis to saddle him and put weight on him, no one had actually gotten on him.

I knew Hayden would be okay with the project Clyde would inevitably be when she said, "Owning a horse is about more than riding." While it was probably a bad idea to buy a horse we hadn't ridden, we went with our gut.

So we brought the apparent quarter horse (who names a quarter horse with foot feathers Clyde?) back to the barn outside of Hampton, where Hayden is paying monthly to board him. After a good brushing, he got the entire sand arena to himself for the night, a major upgrade from his previous living arrangements.

Hayden was reluctant to leave the horse she had worked so hard for, but she was already looking

forward to Sunday. Her Papa Mike, whose experience with horses is second to none if you ask me, agreed to help her. She spent the morning brushing Clyde and cleaning his hooves, showing him she wasn't there to hurt him.

Clyde seems wary of men, especially those with beards. But he also seemed to understand that if he wanted a chance with Hayden, he had to prove he wasn't going to go rogue. He let Mike work him, put a blanket and saddle on, and put weight on him, but

every time Mike tried to swing a leg over, Clyde pinned his ears and shifted sideways.

Eventually, we told Hayden to just go for it. After all, he was her horse, and he'd only allowed her to catch him to begin with. I thought of every worst-case scenario as I watched her mount a horse we barely knew. I held my breath, fists clenched, little Wil-low standing behind me.

But it turned out beautifully.

Clyde allowed it. Hayden leaned down and hugged her horse before giving him any direction. I glanced at Mike standing outside the ring with me. He was watching his granddaughter and his son with watery eyes.

I imagine he was seeing his son as a father, as his family's rock, seeing a little bit of himself in his horse whispering granddaughter, and the weight of all of it settling in at once.

I hugged him and told him we loved him.

Last week, I learned why people say horses are therapeutic. A horse none of us hardly knew gave most of my family permission to let a few very much needed tears fall.

I'm sure a few more will come once we get the first vet bill.

Amanda Rink is the Editor of The Wright County Monitor and a children's book author. Her (mostly) weekly column is published in The Wright County Monitor and The Hampton Chronicle. She writes about everyday life in rural Iowa through a unique lens filtered through motherhood and other life experiences. When she isn't caring for her family, writing for the newspaper, or avoiding laundry, she can be found hiding in the woods with a cup of coffee and a romance novel.

Submit any "Letters to the Editor" at news@hamptonchronicle.com

'Families All Over the World'

BY ISAAC VOSBURG
WHERE IN THE
WORLD IS ISAAC
VOSBURG?

When I was in Delhi for a day in transit to Malaysia, I met up with my internship mentor from this past summer, Aparna. Frankly, I met up with as many coworkers as possible, stopping by the Sehgal Foundation for a whole two hours and greeting everyone I could before I had to take the metro back to the airport and catch my next flight. During this semi-rushed interaction, it wasn't the game of carrom Aparna and I played, or the cups of scalding, yet soothing coffee we ordered from the stall across the street that I will remember most, but rather something that she mentioned in between sips of the latter liquid:

"You have families all over the world! And you certainly have one here."

We had been discussing my plan for returning to Malaysia: who I was going to be staying with, what and where I planned to visit—all the finer points of my itinerary. Speaking now, a dozen days after this exchange occurred, I can say with confidence that I have proved the above statement to be true.

For the past five days, I have spent time with four different families, and tomorrow, I will be off to visit another. While the majority of my time here in Malaysia has been spent with my main host family in Segamat, last week I took a train down



to Johor Bahru and visited three other families I had spent time with during my exchange program two years ago.

The first, Auntie Rosie and Uncle Patrick, had hosted me during the Christmas and Chinese New Year of 2023 and 2024, respectively. Of all the Malaysian families I have spent time with, they are the only Chinese, and thus my sole window into a different side of Malaysian culture and life. On the Thursday we spent together, we went to their Church, a rented space on the third floor of a multipurpose building, located just above a Mandarin preschool. I had been there once before for a Christmas Eve service, although this time, the space felt much different. All the chairs had been moved to make way for a 76-year-old Chinese auntie, who was there to teach us all how to line dance. After two hours of grapevining to Ed Sheeran's "Shivers" (amongst other hits) beside a room full of elderly Chinese folks, I

believe I have some great insights for any pastors back home looking to liven up their Sunday services.

The next day, Friday, I was with my Auntie Elizabeth and Uncle Milton, where we spent the majority of our time together simply chatting, as well as deciding where to eat. In the morning, we had dim sum, afternoon, biryani, and evening, nasi goreng kampung (village fried rice). In a single day, we had perused our way through the cuisines of each of the major ethnicities present here in Malaysia—Chinese, Indian, and Malay—with each food being just as delicious as the last.

My final day in Johor Bahru was actually spent just across the strait in Singapore with Mr. Kanna and his entire family. We traveled as a troop, the seven of us (four kids, two parents, and myself), and missed our train by less than one minute on the way there and missed our bus by the same minuscule increment when we were heading back. We spent

the day visiting Little India, the Changi Airport, and Marina Bay, and enjoyed some excellent tea and ice cream along the way. Aside from getting stuck in immigration on my way back into Malaysia, reminding me once more of the lessons I learned in Sejarah (history) class two years ago (that despite Singapore initially joining the Federation of Malaya, along with Sabah and Sarawak, to become a state in the new nation of Malaysia in 1963, it was expelled in 1965 and has very much been an independent nation ever since, and thus the basis of my brief troubles reentering Malaysia), it was an incredible day!

As I write this now, I have returned to my host family in Segamat—my Appa, Amma, and Akkas (elder sisters)—and am once again reminded of my incredible fortune to call so many people and places my family and home. Be it synchronized dance routines, tasting delicious cuisines, or visiting a new country to see its scenes, each was a beautiful experience that helped to expand my definition of what "family" means.

As luck, or more accurately, my ambitiously packed schedule, would have it, tomorrow I will be off to Sabah to visit another host family of mine. This, again, is but another experience proving the truth behind Aparna's words: I do have a family wherever I go, and to be considered a son or sibling by so many is an unbelievable blessing.

SUDOKU

	8	1				2		
			9		6			
5			4	2				
			7					
6	3	7			5			
			6		2	1		
						5		1
	4	3						7
		6		1				8

HERE'S HOW IT WORKS:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

LEVEL: INTERMEDIATE

SUDOKU ANSWERS

8	6	7	1	2	9	5	4	3
2	9	6	5	8	3	7	1	4
1	4	2	9	3	8	2	6	5
4	1	2	3	9	5	6	8	7
2	6	8	5	7	1	4	3	9
9	5	3	8	6	7	4	1	2
3	8	7	1	2	4	6	9	5
5	1	4	9	8	6	2	7	3
7	8	6	2	3	7	1	5	4

THIS WEEK'S SUDOKU IS SPONSORED BY:



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A Better Way (Part One)



THE ALTERNATIVE
FRITZ GROSZKRUGER
THE ALTERNATIVE

The river looks a little murky most of the time. But it's beautifully clear in a drought. Before the plow all of them were clear.

We have a lake nearby called Beed's Lake. There is an association dedicated to cleaning it up. Geese are partly to blame for the E. coli contamination that keeps people out of it.

Farmers are special so their role is excused.

The water running into the lake does not run clear. Farmers are stuck in the sodbuster days, believing that human intervention makes better soil. This contributes to the Gulf of America's (haha) dead zone as the soil, manure, and fertilizer eventually deplete the oxygen and kill the fish there. Louisiana fishermen are exempt from the compassion of Iowa farmers. When a motorist signals to a pedestrian that he is welcome to cross, they smile and care about each other. But the same sort of consideration for a fisherman 1,000 miles downriver is too much trouble.

After the millions of years it took God to create

our wonderful soil, these farmers think they are smarter than He. There's a \$3 million cement pond in Hampton full of disinfectant so we can still swim safely. And we can cook the E. coli out of the fish we catch in the lake, so who cares? Just wash your hands before you eat that sandwich. You might get an unplanned intestinal purge.

We should care as long as we support federal crop insurance and the corn lobby. We all subsidize the poison lake.

It is widely believed that melons grow best in sandy, well drained soil. We have heavy black soil at our place that produces abundant melons because it drains as well as sand but has the nutrient availability

of a high organic matter foundation for plants. Why is that? Because we leave it alone. We cultivate a spot for the seed to get it planted then mulch to regulate soil temperature and weed growth.

A cubic foot of soil holds more creatures than the earth holds people. Billions of bacteria, fungi and mycelia, protozoa, and nematodes form a community along with spiders, mites, beetles, ants, millipedes, centipedes, and earthworms. All these creatures burrow, eat, and excrete, forming cracks and tunnels that allow easy root development and access to nutrients. Each tiny resident depends on the activity of the others in a natural balancing act,

like in an economy without politicians.

When these communities are destroyed through tillage a cycle of dependency is created. The root friendly soil structure is replaced by powder that tends to form an air-absent slurry when wet and a hard crust when dry. So more tillage is necessary to partially remediate the damage tillage has done in the previous season.

Tillage becomes an addiction. Addiction is expensive. Next week I will discuss a new (old) way to use the land. There is no doubt that farmers are in crisis, almost like in a serfdom, while providing the country with agricultural necessities.

Like the river, the fu-

ture looks murky. We've been conditioned to turn to the government every time some little problem crops up. The government does not have a good track record at solving problems. A good business plan using proven methods is a better idea than bureaucratic guesses. The polluters of Beed's Lake should pay but it's not possible to pinpoint the culprits. Increased profits should steer them away from impacting others.

"Whenever you find yourself on the side of the majority, it is time to pause and reflect."

-Mark Twain

Part 2 will run in the next edition of the Hampton Chronicle.

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Top Movies at the Windsor in 2025

BY JIM DAVIES
WINDSOR THEATRE
MANAGER

The top five movies shown at the Windsor Theatre in 2025 were led by *A Minecraft Movie*, which played for two weeks from April 4–17 and sold 697 tickets. *Zootopia 2* followed with 576 tickets sold during its two-week run from November 28 through December 7. *Lilo & Stitch* ranked third, playing May 23–June 5 with 512 tickets sold. *Jurassic World Rebirth* was shown July 2–17 and sold 404 tickets, while *Wicked (Part 1)* rounded out the top five with 280 tickets sold during its run from December 27, 2024, through January 9, 2025.

Nationally, the top five domestic box office movies of 2025 were *A Minecraft Movie*, *Lilo & Stitch*, *Superman*, *Jurassic World Rebirth*, and *Zootopia 2*. Despite its national success, *Superman* sold only 129 tickets during its July 25–31 showing at the Windsor.

The limited 2025 re-release of Hamilton ranked 90th at the domestic box office. The Windsor Theatre was fortunate to secure the film for a one-week run from September 12–18, selling 246 tickets.

Wicked: For Good (Wicked, Part 2) played at the Windsor from December 14–24 but did not perform as well as *Wicked (Part 1)*, selling only 161 tickets. Nationally, *Wicked: For Good* ranked sixth at the 2025 domestic box office.

The best-attended movie of all time at the Windsor Theatre remains *The Passion of the Christ*, which was shown for two weeks over Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday weekends from April 2–15, 2004. Attendance totaled 2,225, with 1,065 attending



the first week and 1,160 the second. The highest attendance for a single week occurred during *The Polar Express* from December 10–16, 2004, when 1,949 people attended. School showings accounted for 1,418 of that total.

Overall annual attendance at the Windsor Theatre continues a downward trend. In 2025, there were 6,798 movie admissions, averaging 131 attendees per week. This compares to weekly averages of 154 in 2024, 162 in 2023, and 174 in 2022.

Nationwide, movie theater attendance remains well below pre-pandemic levels, largely due to the rise of streaming services and changing consumer habits that favor home viewing for convenience, although major blockbusters still draw audiences. Locally, busy schedules filled with school and sports events, church involvement, and volunteer activities further limit available leisure time.

The Windsor Theatre reopened on Memorial Day in 1999, returning movies to the big screen. Attendance peaked in 2004, when 35,928 tickets were sold—an average of 691 patrons per week. Since then, yearly attendance has steadily declined, a trend that began even before COVID-19 temporarily shut down operations in 2020.

I would like to thank the many individuals, businesses, organizations, and churches that made monetary donations to the Windsor Theatre Development Corporation in 2025, as

well as those who sponsored movies, rented the theatre for private events such as birthday parties, and purchased Windsor Bucks and movie passes. There are simply too many to list individually, but each contribution is deeply appreciated.

The Franklin County Community Foundation, the Foster & Evelyn Barkema Charitable Trust, and the A.M. & Helen L. Saylor Foundation deserve special recognition for the numerous grants they have awarded over the years. Their continued support has been essential to the maintenance and preservation of the 110-plus-year-old Windsor Theatre building.

Faithful volunteer ticket takers who generously gave their time throughout 2025 include Paulette Beyer, Wendy Buseman, Sally Crandell, Dick and Sharon Paulsen, and Nancy Richard.

The Hampton Old Time Country Hoedown is entering its 14th year because of the dedicated leadership of Don and Judy Wolson as well as volunteer Phil Johnson who sets up the stage and sound system at each hoedown. The next hoedown is Monday, February 2 from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m.

For more information or to contact the Windsor Theatre, visit www.windsortheatre.com or call or text theatre manager Jim Davies at 641-425-4707.

WORDS OF WISDOM



Last week's trivia questions:

The Golden Globe Awards for movies and television will be held this Sunday, Jan. 11. What movie actress holds the record for winning the most Golden Globe awards? Answer: Meryl Streep, with eight.

Who holds the record for winning the most Golden Globe awards by a male movie actor? Answer: Jack Nicholson, with six.

Match the college football bowl game with its location -

- | | |
|-----------------|---------------------|
| 1. Citrus Bowl | A) Atlanta, GA |
| 2. Cotton Bowl | B) Dallas, TX |
| 3. Fiesta Bowl | C) El Paso, TX |
| 4. Gator Bowl | D) Glendale, AZ |
| 5. Liberty Bowl | E) Jacksonville, FL |
| 6. Orange Bowl | F) Memphis, TN |
| 7. Peach Bowl | G) Miami, FL |
| 8. Rose Bowl | H) New Orleans, LA |
| 9. Sugar Bowl | I) Orlando, FL |
| 10. Sun Bowl | J) Pasadena, CA |

Answer:

1. Citrus Bowl - Orlando, Florida
2. Cotton Bowl - Dallas, Texas
3. Fiesta Bowl - Glendale, Arizona
4. Gator Bowl - Jacksonville, Florida
5. Liberty Bowl - Memphis, Tennessee
6. Orange Bowl - Miami, Florida
7. Peach Bowl - Atlanta, Georgia
8. Rose Bowl - Pasadena, California
9. Sugar Bowl - New Orleans, Louisiana
10. Sun Bowl - El Paso, Texas

This week's trivia questions:

Match the state with its nickname -

- | | |
|-----------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Iowa | A) The Beehive State |
| 2. Kansas | B) The Bluegrass State |
| 3. Kentucky | C) The Green Mountain State |
| 4. Louisiana | D) The Hawkeye State |
| 5. Mississippi | E) The Keystone State |
| 6. Missouri | F) The Land of Enchantment |
| 7. New Mexico | G) The Magnolia State |
| 8. Pennsylvania | H) The Pelican State |
| 9. Utah | I) The Show Me State |
| 10. Vermont | J) The Sunflower State |

Jan. 14 is Organize Your Home Day, and International Kite Day; Jan. 15 is National Hat Day, and Strawberry Ice Cream Day; Jan. 16 is National Religious Freedom Day; Jan. 17 is Benjamin Franklin Day; Jan. 18 is Winnie the Pooh Day; Jan. 19 is National Popcorn Day, and Jan. 20 is National Penguin Day.

This week is National Pizza Week.

"O LORD my God, I cried out to You, And You healed me." – Psalm 30:2

"Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and healing every disease and sickness among the people." – Matthew 4:23

"He Himself bore our sins' in His body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; 'by His wounds you have been healed." – 1 Peter 2:24

Funny actual notes from kids to teachers:

"Dear Mrs. Kline,

You are my favorite teacher. But sometimes you talk too much and I get sleepy. Please don't be mad. Love, Emma"

"Dear Mr. Thomas,

I didn't do my homework because my cat was sitting on it and she looked too comfortable to move. I hope you understand."

"Dear Miss Larson,

You are very smart. I think you could be president, but then who would teach us math? Probably someone not as fun."

"Dear Mrs. Petersen,

Can we have recess all day tomorrow? I promise to learn extra hard the next day."

"Dear Mr. Bennett,

You are the best teacher I've ever had. You are also the only teacher I've ever had, but still, you're the best."

"Dear Miss Nelson,

Amanda has a worm in her pocket. I don't think she is going to let it out. Just thought you should know."

Actor Ricky Schroder was nine years old when he won a Golden Globe for the motion picture "The Champ" in 1980.

Actress Jessica Tandy was 80 years old when she won a Golden Globe for the motion picture "Driving Miss Daisy" in 1990.

Franklin REC Opens Applications for Iowa Youth Tour to Washington, D.C.

PRESS RELEASE
FRANKLIN REC

Franklin REC is now accepting applications for the 2026 Iowa Youth Tour, a unique educational opportunity for local high school sophomores and juniors, including home school equivalents, to travel to Washington, D.C. this summer.

The Iowa Youth Tour is a nationally recognized leadership program sponsored by electric cooperatives across Iowa and the nation. Students selected by Franklin REC will spend a week in the nation's capital visiting historic landmarks, memorials, and

museums, while also learning about government, civic engagement, leadership, and the cooperative business model.

The trip is provided at no cost to the selected student, with transportation, lodging, and most meals covered by Franklin REC. Participants gain valuable leadership experience, a greater understanding of how electric cooperatives serve their communities, and the opportunity to connect with students from across Iowa and the United States.

Students must reside within Franklin REC's service territory and

be a current high school sophomores or juniors, or the home school equivalent, to be eligible.

Applications are now open, and interested students are encouraged to apply. Additional information, eligibility requirements, and application materials are available through Franklin REC.

For more information or to apply, contact:

Franklin REC
Phone: 641-456-2557
Mailing Address: PO Box 437, Hampton, Iowa

COUNCIL: FROM PAGE 3

ly \$30,000 to the library budget."

She added that beginning with the Fiscal Year 2027, the library levy funding will be reduced by 25 percent, from \$23,250 to \$15,500.

"The total loss of funding will be an additional \$7,750," she said.

She said the following actions have been discussed by the library budget committee to compensate for the loss, but no action has been taken: reduction in the purchase of books/magazines, changing summer hours (which would include being open until noon and/or closed Saturdays from from Memorial Day to Labor Day) and permanently reducing hours on Saturdays from the current 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. to 9:30 a.m. to noon year-round.

Main Street Hampton requested \$20,000 for administration of the program and \$15,000 for the Building Improvement Grant

Program. Greater Franklin County Chamber of Commerce Director Elisa Van Wert, who was hired six months ago, presented the proposal that evening.

"We request \$15,000 for our design grant, which is specifically used for local businesses that apply for a grant that helps with signage outside, the facade, if they need a new awning," she said. "For the Main Street program, we are requesting \$20,000 ... They offer information and technical assistance. They hold conferences and workshops. They conduct research and advocacy on critical revitalization issues. It works with a nationwide network of coordinating programs and local communities to encourage preservation-based community revitalization."

City Councilor Jerre Grefe asked how much of the \$15,000 goes towards grants and City Councilor Jim Davies, who serves on the design committee,

said that the money is well utilized.

The Hampton Municipal Band requested \$9,000—a \$500 increase from the previous fiscal year. There were no representatives for the band at the meeting.

The Hampton Senior Citizen Center requested \$5,000—a \$1,000 increase from the previous fiscal year. There were no representatives for the senior center at the meeting.

"I think that's a good place to put our money, for the seniors," said Mayor Steve Birdsall. "I know there's a lot of talk about senior housing and stuff like that."

The Hampton Historic Preservation Commission requested \$1,000. City Councilor Jim Davies, who serves on the commission, spoke on behalf of the entity.

"The Hampton Historic Preservation Commission serves as our certified local government and part of that requirement is that some



Greater Franklin County Chamber of Commerce Director Elisa Van Wert addressing the city councilors on Monday evening, Jan. 12.

money be allocated and spent on attending a mandatory training that at least one of the members needs to go to every year," Davies said. "And, generally, we have not spent that whole \$1,000."

No decisions were made during the meeting. It takes a month or two for the city's budget to be finalized and approved, requiring numerous discussions.

BIRTHDAYS: FROM PAGE 2



Raquel Uribe and Mary Booth take a quick break from preparing food during the celebration.



The Senior Center's new site manager, Krysta Weinandy, at their big celebration last week.

What's At The Windsor

BY JIM DAVIES
WINDSOR THEATRE
MANAGER

Showing at the Windsor Theatre Friday, January 16 through Thursday, January 22 is the biographical musical drama film *Song Sung Blue*.

Regular showtimes are Friday, Saturday, Sunday, Wednesday and Thursday at 7:00 PM, with afternoon matinees on Sunday at 1:00 PM and Wednesday at 2:00 PM.

Song Sung Blue is a writer/director Craig Brewer drama based on the same-named 2008 documentary about Mike and Claire Sardina, a Milwaukee couple who started a popular local Neil Diamond tribute band.

The film stars Hugh Jackman and Kate Hudson as Mike and Claire, who performed as the Neil Diamond tribute band Lightning & Thunder. It also stars Michael Imperioli, Ella Anderson, Mustafa Shakir, Fisher Stevens, and

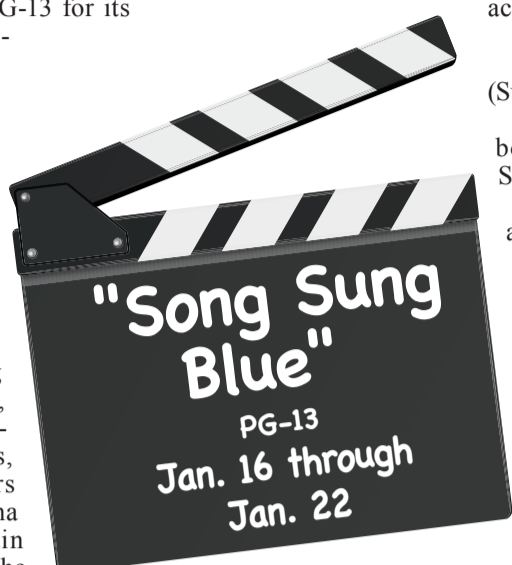
Jim Belushi.

Song Sung Blue is distributed by Focus Features and is rated PG-13 for its thematic material, strong language, sexual content, and brief drug use, which includes addiction, implied off-screen sex, some profanity (including the F-word), teen pregnancy discussions, and characters using marijuana or abusing pain medication. The running time is 132 minutes.

Common Sense Media Review gives it 4 of 5 stars for ages 13+. *Song Sung Blue* is a heartfelt love story that mixes Diamond songs with mature themes. The movie encourages viewers to pursue their

artistic dreams, especially when they're supported by a loving partner, family, and friends.

Tickets are available for purchase at the door or online at www.windsortheatre.com. Credit cards are accepted.



Upcoming Movies
(Subject to Change)

- Jan 23 - The Spongbob Movie: Search for Squarepants
- Jan 30 - Avatar: Fire and Ash
- Feb 6 - Solo Mio
- Feb 13 - Goat
- Feb 20 - Goat
- Feb 27 - Anaconda
- Mar 6 - Hoppers
- Mar 13 - Hoppers
- Mar 20 - I Can Only Imagine 2
- Mar 27 - Reminders of Him
- Apr 3 - The Super Mario Galaxy Movie
- Apr 10 - The Super Mario Galaxy Movie

For more information or to contact the Windsor Theatre, visit www.windsortheatre.com or call or text theatre manager Jim Davies at 641-425-4707.



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WINDSOR THEATRE

NOW SHOWING

"Song Sung Blue"

PG-13

SHOW DATES:
1/16/26 thru 1/22/26

REGULAR SHOWTIMES

7:00 PM Friday, Saturday, Sunday, Wednesday & Thursday
1:00 PM Sunday,
2:00 PM Wednesday

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Readers of the Week at the Hampton Public Library

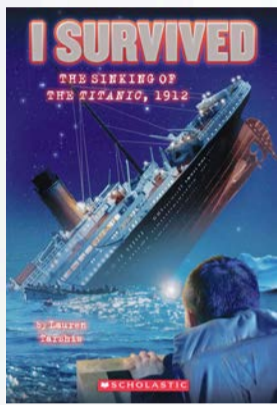


BY BRENDA VAN WERT
CHILDREN'S LIBRARIAN

Reader of the Week at the Hampton Public Library is Buck Van Wert, age 10. He is a 4th grader this year.

Buck is the son of Elisa and Jason Van Wert. One of his favorite books is I Survived the Sinking of The Titanic, 1912.

Buck placed 2nd in our Tree Decorating Contest this year. Congratulations Buck!



Area Students Named to ECC's Fall 2025 Deans List

PRESS RELEASE
ELLSWORTH COMMUNITY COLLEGE

IOWA FALLS – One hundred and sixty-nine students were named to the Fall 2025 (August to December) Dean's List at Ellsworth Community College. To be eligible for the Dean's List, students must have taken 12 or more credit hours during the semester (a full-time class load) and have earned at least a 3.5 grade point average while attending ECC classes in Iowa Falls or online. Part-time students are not included in this list. The ECC administration, faculty and staff congratulate these students for their academic excellence.

Students from the Chronicle's coverage area are listed below by hometown; those with an asterisk (*) after their name earned a perfect 4.0 GPA.

Bristow, IA - Kaycee Wiebke

Dows, IA - Belle Wharton Dumont, IA - Sage Menne
Dumont, IA - Sage Menne
Geneva, IA - Hailey Milius
Hampton, IA - Kera Anderson*, Natalie Moreno Dohlman, Indy Mouw
Popejoy, IA - Willow Ball*
Rockwell, IA - Brittlyn Starr
Sheffield, IA - Lily Dirksen, Jana Harms, Justin Schulz

Ellsworth Community College, located in Iowa Falls, is a member of the Iowa Valley Community College District. The District is comprised of Ellsworth Community College, Marshalltown Community College, Iowa Valley Grinnell, and Iowa Valley Business and Community Solutions. The District serves a broad range of students and businesses throughout Central Iowa. For more information, check out the website at ecc.iavalle.edu.

Mount Mercy University Congratulates December 2025 Grads

PRESS RELEASE

CEDAR RAPIDS, Iowa (January 9, 2026) - The following area student graduated from Mount Mercy in December 2025.

• Elizabeth Zuhlke of Allison, IA, Master of Science in Education

Located in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, Mount Mercy University is the regional Catholic,

Mercy University that promises students of diverse backgrounds, ages, and faiths a challenging, practical education that inspires them to discover knowledge, build community, and live their values. Mount Mercy provides a forward-thinking, future-focused education, offering baccalaureate and graduate education to 1,400+ enrolled students and uniquely blending a quality liberal arts education with career-focused professional preparation.

Nikolas Bautista Makes Fall Dean's List at MCC

MARSHALLTOWN, Iowa (January 12, 2026) - Two hundred and sixty-nine students were named to the Fall 2025 (August to December) Dean's List at Marshalltown Community College.

Nikolas Bautista of Hampton was among those on the Dean's List.

To be eligible for the Dean's List, stu-

dents must have taken 12 or more credit hours during the semester (a full-time class load) and have earned at least a 3.5 grade point average while attending MCC classes in Marshalltown, at Iowa Valley Community College Grinnell, or online. Part-time students are not included in this list. The MCC administration, faculty and staff congratulate these students for their academic excellence.



Five Nights at Freddy's 2 managed to scare up 43 patrons last weekend. Two more night showings remain at 7 p.m. on Wednesday and Thursday as well as a 2 p.m. matinee on Wednesday.



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January Events Program



HAMPTON PUBLIC LIBRARY PUZZLE CHALLENGE, ROUND TWO, from 10 a.m. to noon. Each team will have two hours to complete a 300-piece puzzle, eat a small pizza and two glasses of juice. Five dollar fee per person. Teams of three people. Register by Jan. 15. To register, call 641-456-4451.



FRANKLIN COUNTY SOUP COOK-OFF AT THE HAMPTON PUBLIC LIBRARY, starting at 11 a.m. Local businesses and community members are invited to bring their homemade soups. To sign up, call Library Director Suzy Knipfel at 641-456-4451.



SPECK N' DICKEN & PANCAKE MEAL, 11:00 to 1:00 at Zion Reformed Church 2029 B Jonquil Ave., Sheffield. Free will donation.



FRANKLIN COUNTY CATTLEMEN'S ANNUAL BANQUET, 6 p.m. (Doors open at 5) Franklin County Concession Center. Prime Rib Meal \$30 at the door.

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UPCOMING

WELCOME BACK TO STORYTIME!

Storytime is for children 12 months of age through kindergarten. There will be books read, songs, rhymes, movement activities and more. Storytime will be held on Wednesday mornings at 10:30 a.m. Families are welcome to stay afterwards for playtime. There will be different toys, games, and activities provided each week for informal play.

Please do not bring your own toys.

Storytime will repeat at 6:00 p.m. that same day. (without playtime)

Got an event you'd like listed in our weekly Calendar?

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The City of Hampton is offering **FREE** registration for one year (9-25-25 thru 9-24-26) Registration forms available at City Hall, Center One, Post Office and Library.



CIVIC CALENDAR

FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

DETAILS:
Monday 8:30 AM
Franklin County Courthouse

FRANKLIN COUNTY TOURISM BOARD:

DETAILS:
Second Thursday,
4:30 PM,
Center 1

FRANKLIN COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD:

DETAILS:
Second Monday of month,
6:30 PM
Maynes Grove Shelter

FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

DETAILS:
Second Monday every other month
(usually) February 13th 4:00 PM

GREATER FRANKLIN COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE:

DETAILS:
3rd Monday of the month at noon
at Center 1.

ACKLEY CITY COUNCIL MEETING:

DETAILS:
Second Tuesday

ALEXANDER CITY COUNCIL:

DETAILS:
Alexander Library, 409 Harriman St
City Council meetings on the First
Tuesday of every month

COULTER CITY COUNCIL:

DETAILS:
Second Wednesday of the month,
6:30 PM

DOWS CITY COUNCIL:

DETAILS:
First Monday of every month
6:00 PM

DUMONT CITY COUNCIL:

DETAILS:
Second Thursday
7:00 PM
At EMS Center Dumont

GENEVA CITY COUNCIL:

DETAILS:
Second Tuesday of every month
6:30 PM

HANSELL CITY COUNCIL:

DETAILS:
Second Wednesday every month,
Community Center 7:00 PM

LATIMER CITY COUNCIL:

DETAILS:
Second Wednesday,
6:30 PM

SHEFFIELD CITY COUNCIL:

DETAILS:
Every second Monday
of the month at 6 PM

FRANKLIN COUNTY VETERANS AFFAIRS:

DETAILS:
First Tuesday of the Month
4:00 PM,
Franklin County Veterans Affairs
Office

ALEXANDER LIBRARY BOARD:

DETAILS:
Third Wednesday of every month

HAMPTON PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD:

DETAILS:
Board meets every 3rd Wednesday
of the month, 5:15 PM-6:15 PM
Library board meets to discuss
library business, budgeting, funding
and happenings.

DUMONT LIBRARY BOARD:

DETAILS:
Dumont Public Library
Second Wednesday of every month

HAMPTON DUMONT SCHOOL BOARD:

DETAILS:
Fourth Monday of the month
6:00 PM

WEST FORK SCHOOL BOARD:

DETAILS:
Third Monday of the Month,
5:00 PM,
West Fork High School Sheffield

CAL SCHOOL BOARD:

DETAILS:
2nd Thursday of the month
at 5:30 PM

ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT:

DETAILS:
5:30 PM
City Council Chambers

HAMPTON CITY COUNCIL:

DETAILS:
Hampton City Council meets in
Regular Session on the 2nd and 4th
Thursdays of each month at 6:00
PM, in the City Council Chambers.

Workshops are held on the
Mondays preceding the 2nd and
4th Thursday Regular Sessions
at 6:00 PM, in the City Council
Chambers.

FRANKLIN COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COMMISSION:

DETAILS:
First Wednesday of month,
7:00 PM
Franklin County Law
Enforcement Center

FRANKLIN COUNTY EXTENSION COUNCIL :

DETAILS:
Franklin County Extension Council
ISU Extension & Outreach 6 2nd St.
NW, Hampton 50441
Council members help determine
local priorities for agricultural,
youth (4-H), health and human
science, and community/economic
development program areas.

Warhawks Bounce Back with Win Over Bearcats



Evelyn Hitzhusen attempts a three-point shot in game versus North Butler on Tuesday, Jan. 6. Photo by Evan Pharr.

BY EVAN PHARR
HAMPTON CHRONICLE

SHEFFIELD - The West Fork girls basketball team bounced back from their loss to Osage on Monday, Jan. 5 with a dominate 59-25 victory over the North Butler Bearcats on Tuesday, Jan. 6. The Warhawks jumped out to a big lead early, outscoring the Bearcats 15-4 in the first quarter, and never looked back. Warhawks head coach Rodney Huber on how his team was able to put the loss to Osage behind them and get a win 24 hours later.

"We are a little bit Jekyll and Hyde right now," Huber said. "We got the overtime win over Iowa Falls at the Casey's Center coming from behind and then shot really bad against Osage and played one of our worst games of the year and then of course this

tonight. You can't ask for anything more than a bounce back like that. The girls responded and didn't let it affect them."

The Warhawks outscored the Bearcats in all four quarters and had a strong shooting night, as they knocked down 10-of-29 three point shots on the night. Senior Brylee Dickman knocked down 4-of-6 threes herself as she scored 14 points and pulled down six rebounds. Dickman discussed her strong shooting night.

"I didn't have as much good luck shooting twos," Dickman said. "The back board just wasn't my friend tonight, so I was like might as well get the points shooting from the outside."

Sophomore Zada Huff knocked down three three-pointers of her own and was the Warhawks leading scorer with 15 points. Junior Evelyn Hitzhusen

led the Warhawks with seven assists to go along with her 10 points scored. The Warhawks dominated on the glass, out rebounding the Bearcats 44 to 26 in the game. Sophomore Josephine Schmidt led the Warhawks with 11 rebounds, including eight on the offensive end. Coach Huber spoke on Schmidt's impact on the glass.

"She's definitely very physical," he said. "As she gets more comfortable I think she will get even better on the glass because she's a good leaper and she's athletic and has good strength."

The Warhawks ended the week with a loss to Nashua-Plainfield on Friday, Jan. 9 and are now 4-6 on the season and 2-4 in conference play. The girls next game is on Thursday, Jan. 15 when the host Dike-New Hartford at 6:15 p.m.

Warhawks Boys Basketball Drops Game Versus Bearcats

BY EVAN PHARR
HAMPTON CHRONICLE

SHEFFIELD - West Fork boys basketball lost to North Butler on Tuesday, Jan. 6 by a score of 54-40. This comes a day after the Warhawks fell to Osage on Monday, Jan. 5 by a score of 58-38. The Warhawks were in the game early until the Bearcats began to pull away in the second half.

Junior Ayden Bonner was the Warhawk leading scorer, as he scored 10 points on 4-of-9 shooting, including knocking down one of his two three-point attempts. Bonner also dished out three assists and four rebounds. Junior Zander Hansen scored eight points and led the Warhawks with six assists. Junior Lane Kollmann and sophomore

Jayden Haller led the Warhawks with five rebounds each.

The Warhawks would respond with a 57-55 win over the Nashua-Plainfield Huskies, who came into the game with a record of 7-2, on Friday, Jan. 9. Warhawks head coach Abraham Maske discussed his team's victory over the Huskies.

"Beating a good Nashua-Plainfield team and beating them on their home court is always a great win," Maske said. "We have been able to put together partial quarters and games and really focused on putting together a full game and limiting our mistakes. I felt we did that versus Nashua. Our practices Wednesday and Thursday leading up to the game were extremely intense, and the boys

worked very hard."

The Warhawks now stand with a 3-5 record on the season and a 2-5 record in conference play. The Warhawks battled Madrid on Tuesday, Jan. 13 and their next game is on Thursday, Jan. 15 when they host Dike-New Hartford at 7:30 p.m. Coach Maske explained how his team can carry momentum from the win over Nashua-Plainfield into this weeks games.

"The win showed our players what we are capable of," he said. "We have a tough schedule, especially our non-conference schedule. We do this to prepare our players and make it so they understand the importance of coming ready to play each and every game."



Connor Swenson looks to make a pass in game versus North Butler. Photo by Evan Pharr.



Jordan Sosa-Martinez dribbles the ball into the offensive end in game versus Algona on Friday, Jan. 9. Photo by Evan Pharr.

Rough First Quarter Leads Bulldogs to Fall to Algona

BY EVAN PHARR
HAMPTON CHRONICLE

Hampton-Dumont-CAL (HDCAL) boys basketball fell to the Algona Bulldogs by a score of 80-65 on Friday, Jan. 9 after falling behind 18-0 in the first quarter. After Algona's 18-0 run to begin the game, HDCAL fought back and outscored Algona 65-62 for the remainder of the game, tough it wasn't enough to pull out a victory. This comes after HDCAL lost 52-46 to North Butler on Monday, Jan. 5 and beat Iowa Falls-Alden 47-44 on Tuesday, Jan. 6. HDCAL head coach Matt Lokenvitz was proud of the effort and refusal to quit from his team

on Friday.

"It's tough to win games when you spot a team 18 points, but I'm proud of how they battled," Lokenvitz said. "We outscored them by 20 points for 25 minutes of the game. Unfortunately, they outscored us 35-2 for the other seven."

HDCAL went into halftime trailing 37-27 and were more competitive in the second half, including outscoring Algona 21-13 in the fourth quarter in a late comeback attempt. Senior Brady Harr had a monster game, as he recorded a double-double, scoring a team-high 26 points on 11-of-14 shooting and pulling down 25 rebounds. Harr also led the

team with eight assists. Senior Caden Woods also had a strong game, as he scored 20 points, including HDCAL's first 10 points of the game.

As HDCAL heads into the second half of the season, coach Lokenvitz spoke on what his team will be focused on for the rest of the season.

"We are competing and doing a lot of good things," he said. "If we keep this type of energy and focus for 32 minutes, we will start winning more of these closer games."

HDCAL played at Charles City on Tuesday, Jan. 13 and their next game is on Friday, Jan. 16 at 7:45 p.m.

Weekly Recap

Hampton-Dumont-CAL:

Jan. 5: Girls wrestling won all three of their duals in home quad. The Bulldogs defeated Northwood-Kensett 48-6, AGWSR 54-12 and Charles City 36-30.

Jan. 5: Girls basketball lost to North Butler by a score of 36-34. MacKenzy Valley led the Bulldogs with 22 points scored.

Jan. 5: Boys basketball lost to North Butler by a score of 52-46. Brady Harr recorded a double-double with 33 points and 12 rebounds.

Jan. 5: Boys wrestling went 1-1 in triangular at St. Edmond. The Bulldogs lost to Humboldt 35-34 and defeated St. Edmond 72-12.

Jan. 6: Boys wrestling went 1-1 in triangular at Webster City. The Bulldogs lost to Clarion-Goldfield-Dows 59-17 and defeated Webster City 55-24.

Jan. 6: Girls basketball lost to Iowa Falls-Alden 44-40. MacKenzy Valley led the Bulldogs with 19 points scored.

Jan. 6: Boys basketball beat Iowa-Falls Alden 47-44 in overtime. Brady Harr recorded a double-double, scoring 33 points and pulling down 16 rebounds.

Jan. 8: Girls wrestling went 1-1 in their duals in home double dual. The Bulldogs defeated Charles City 36-30 and lost to Iowa Falls-Alden 42-24.

Jan. 8: Boys wrestling won both of their duals in home double dual. The Bulldogs defeated Charles City 63-14 and Iowa Falls-Alden 46-42.

Jan. 9: Girls basketball lost to Algona 61-17. Stats for this game not made available by 12 p.m. on Monday, Jan. 12.

Jan. 9: Boys basketball lost to Algona 80-65. Brady Harr recorded a double-double, scoring 26 points and pulling down 25 rebounds.

Jan. 10: Girls wrestling finished in fourth place out of 15 teams in the Trojan Tangle. Elsie Kuper and Maren Subbert were champions of their respective weight classes. Avalon Mulford placed second in her weight class, Juliette Koch placed third in her weight class and Megan Severs placed fourth in her weight class.

Jan. 10: Boys wrestling went 1-1-1 in their duals in the Glenn Brand Duals. The Bulldogs defeated Ballard 64-14, lost to Decorah 70-12 and tied with West Marshall 36-36.

West Fork:

Jan. 5: Girls wrestling lost all three of their duals in quad at Clear Lake. The Warhawks lost to Iowa Falls-Alden 54-24, Webster City 47-24 and to Clear Lake 54-18.

Jan. 5: Girls basketball lost to Osage 56-28. Brylee Dickman was the Warhawks leading scorer with 14 points scored.

Jan. 5: Boys basketball lost to Osage 58-38. Zander Hansen led the Warhawks with seven points scored.

Jan. 6: Girls basketball defeated North Butler 59-25. Zada Huff led the Warhawks with 15 points scored.

Jan. 6: Boys basketball lost to North Butler 54-40. Ayden Bonner led the Warhawks with 10 points scored.

Jan. 8: Girls wrestling went 1-1-1 in quad at Rockford. The Warhawks lost to North Butler-Clarksville 42-24, defeated Rockford 36-18 and tied Saint Ansgar 30-30.

Jan. 8: Boys wrestling last all three duals in quad at Lake Mills. The Warhawks lost to Forrest City 65-18, to Lake Mills 84-0 and to North Butler-Clarksville 78-6.

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Bulldogs Boys and Girls Wrestling Compete in Home Double Dual

BY EVAN PHARR
HAMPTON CHRONICLE

The Hampton-Dumont-CAL boys and girls wrestling teams wrestled in a home double dual that featured both teams on Thursday, Jan. 8. The boys team won both of their matches, defeating Charles City 63-14 and Iowa Falls-Alden 46-24, while the girls split their two duals, defeating Charles City 36-30 and falling to Iowa Falls-Alden 42-24. Head coach of the boys wrestling team, Colin Muller, was proud of how his team performed in front of the home crowd.

"It was very cool to have both our boys and girls programs com-

peting in a great home environment," Muller said. "Our boys wrestled very well, and our coaches are proud of their efforts. Our boys are continuing to improve every single day and improve their positioning and technique."

In the boys' win over Charles City, freshman Kinnick Perez, senior Brody Strother, sophomore Luke Showalter, junior Jory Angstman, junior Joseph Cruz and senior Maddon Evans won their matches via forfeit. Freshman Paolo Ayala won his match via fall at 1:03, freshman Hector Gutierrez won his match via fall at 2:57, senior Arnold Guevara won his match by decision (10-4),

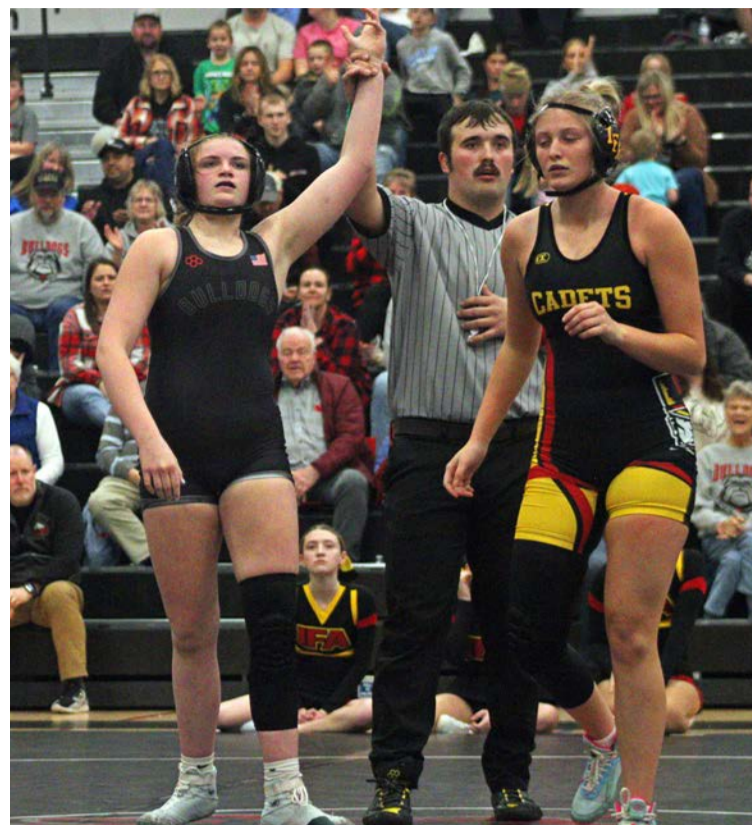
senior Jacob Mahler won via fall at 1:22 and senior Ryder Strother won via fall at 0:54.

In the boys' win over Iowa Falls-Alden, freshman Joe Guevara won his match via forfeit. Arnold Guevara won his match via major decision (17-5), Brody Strother won his match via fall at 1:06, Showalter won his match via major decision (12-1), Angstman won his match via fall at 2:42, Ryder Strother won his match via technical fall (19-2) at 4:16, Cruz won his match via fall at 0:32, junior Beau Morton won his match decision (6-2) and Evans won his match via fall at 4:26.

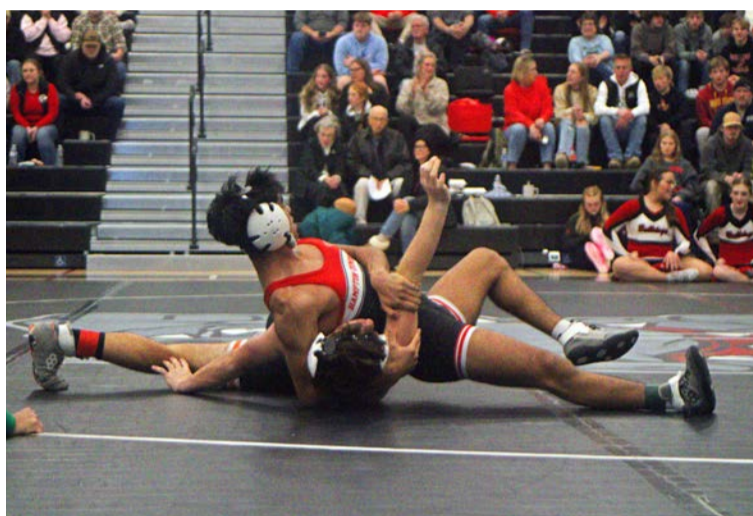
In the girls' win over Charles City, sophomore Ava Blau, sophomore Megan Severs, sophomore Juliette Koch, junior Maren Subbert and junior Avalon Mulford won their matches via forfeit. Junior Elsie Kuper won her match via fall at 0:50.

In the girls' loss to Iowa Falls-Alden, Koch won her match via fall at 1:07, Kuper won her match via fall at 1:06, Subbert won her match via fall at 1:54 and Mulford won her match via fall at 5:35. Head coach of the Bulldogs girls team, Brittany Stevens, discussed how she thought her team performed in the home double dual.

"The girls had a good showing at home," Stevens said. "It is fun to compete in front of our



Juliette Koch's hand raised after winning her match vs Iowa-Falls Alden on Thursday, Jan. 8. Photo by Evan Pharr.



Arnold Guevara pins his opponent to the ground in match vs Charles City on Thursday, Jan. 8. Photo by Evan Pharr.

hometown crowd. The energy and atmosphere was great, and that always helps. The nerves got in the way for a few of the girls, but overall, we are happy with the performances."

The boys team's next competition is on Thursday, Jan. 15 in

a home triangular versus Clear Lake and Algona at 6 p.m. The girls team wrestled in a quad at West Fork on Monday, Jan. 12 and their next competition is the NCC girls wrestling tournament at Algona on Saturday, Jan. 17 at 6 p.m..



Madosn Heilskov drives to the basket in game versus Algona on Friday, Jan. 9. Photo by Evan Pharr.

Bulldogs Girls Basketball Falls to Algona

BY EVAN PHARR
HAMPTON CHRONICLE

The Hampton-Dumont-CAL (HDCAL) girls basketball team lost to the Algona Bulldogs on Friday, Jan. 9 by a score of 61-17. HDCAL was outscored 17-2 in the first quarter, 18-3 in the second quarter, 16-6 in the third quarter and 10-6 in the fourth quarter. This comes after HDCAL lost close battles to North Butler and Iowa Falls-Alden earlier in the week. HDCAL lost to North Butler by a score of 36-34 on Monday, Jan. 5 and to Iowa

Falls-Alden by a score of 44-40 on Tuesday, Jan. 5. Stats for the Algona game not made available as of Monday, Jan. 12 at 12 p.m. Head coach of the Bulldogs, Miranda Stafford, spoke on what she has liked about her team through the first half of the season.

"The girls have impressed me with their coach-ability and their resiliency," Stafford said. "The players continue to grow in their fundamentals and basketball knowledge by coming to practice everyday and working hard and listen."

The Bulldogs are now 2-9 on

the season and 1-5 in conference play. The Bulldogs played at Charles City on Tuesday, Jan. 13 and their next game is on Friday, Jan. 16 when they play at Clarion-Goldfield-Dows at 6 p.m. Coach Stafford discussed what the girls will need to focus on in the second half of the season.

"We have to continue to get stronger with the basketball in our hands and in our passes," she said. "Make better basketball decisions and continue to get more confident as the season progresses."

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Upcoming Sports Events

Hampton-Dumont-CAL:

- Jan. 15: Boys wrestling double dual at home 6 p.m.
- Jan. 16: Girls basketball @ Clarion-Goldfield-Dows 6:15 p.m.
- Jan. 16: Boys basketball @ Clarion-Goldfield-Dows 7:45 p.m.
- Jan. 17: Boys wrestling @ Osage 9 a.m.
- Jan. 17: Girls wrestling NCC conference tournament @ Algona 10 a.m.
- Jan. 20: Girls basketball vs Webster City 6:15 p.m.
- Jan. 20: Boys basketball vs Webster City 7:45 p.m.

West Fork

- Jan. 15: Boys wrestling quad @ North Union Middle School 6 p.m.
- Jan. 16: Girls basketball vs Dike-New Hartford 6:15 p.m.
- Jan. 16: Boys basketball vs Dike-New Hartford 7:45 p.m.
- Jan. 16: Girls wrestling TIC conference meet 5 p.m.
- Jan. 17: Boys wrestling @ AGWSR 10 a.m.
- Jan. 20: Girls basketball vs Northwood-Kensett 6:15 p.m.
- Jan. 20: Boys basketball vs Northwood-Kensett 7:30 p.m.

Readers! We need YOUR HELP!

Please submit any stories or events to us at

news@hamptonchronicle.com Lets keep our community informed!

MEXICO TRIP PART 2



Part of the reason my travel agent picked the resort she did for us was that I had asked for a resort with good snorkeling close by. While our resort did have a wonderful, sheltered beach, the snorkeling was not doable. The wind was just blowing in too much to make snorkeling on the reef by our resort safe. Because of that, I decided to take my family on a snorkeling adventure away from the resort. They had all purchased snorkeling gear before the trip, and I really wanted them to experience the reefs.



We booked a catamaran adventure that would take us to a snorkeling reef, provide us with some food and then stop at a nice beach area. My daughter-in-law is pregnant so unfortunately, she would not be able to go with us, so my son stayed with her, and they spent the day at the nearby

park. The 7 remainder of my crew were picked up by a van from our resort and driven to a marina where we boarded our vessel. Once we cast off, the boat headed out into the ocean for a ride to the snorkel reef. The wind was brisk, so the ride was a bit rough, but not too bad. When we anchored at the snorkel reef we received instructions from the crew. I volunteered to stay with my two grandchildren and that left my wife, daughter, her boyfriend and his daughter to fend for themselves.

Suddenly I noticed my granddaughter was in line to jump off the deck of the boat instead of going off the ramp in the back. This was not in the plans, but I quickly jumped off right after her. I helped her get her fins and mask on and then we swam to my grandson for the swim to the reef. This is when we all discovered that the current was very

strong and pushed us around. My grandson did not have fins on, so he was really struggling. I grabbed him by his life vest and pulled him to the reef. I stayed close to my grandkids, and we struggled to keep up with the group. The rest of my crew had already given up and headed back to the boat.

The reef was great and the fish were numerous, but by the time we caught up with the group, it was time to head back to the boat. This was more work than what it was worth. Once back on the boat we traveled a short distance to a sandy beach area for lunch. People were allowed to get back in the water and hang out at the beach, but my crew were too worn out, so we stayed on the boat and ate our lunches.

My son and daughter-in-law spent the day exploring the park next to our resort while we were snorkeling so the next day my wife and I let them be our tour

guides in the park. My daughter and her crew wanted a day by themselves, so we went our separate ways for that day.

The park was amazing. The first place we went was through the butterfly enclosure. The butterflies were many in number and colors. I have never seen so many varieties of butterflies in one area. Once you walk out of the butterfly enclosure you immediately enter the bird aviary. So many unusual birds in a multilevel enclosure. Just when you spotted the most beautiful bird you had ever seen, another one would be perched on a branch close by.

We all returned to the park on another day to take in the aquarium and other water areas. The rest of the trip was spent at our resort beach just sitting and relaxing. We ate at a few of the specialty restaurants for evening meals but came to appreciate the ala carte taco and pizza places best.

I want to give shout out to the special travel agent who helped with so many details of the trip. She helped select the perfect resort location, but most importantly she arranged the flights for my entire family. Seven of us from Iowa and 2.3 people from South Carolina. She kept me informed of all the details and answered my multiple questions. Janet Tracy from the Travel Dreamer based out of Des Moines handled so many details. If you are planning a trip, you can contact her at The Travel Dreamer 515-689-4787 janet@thetraveldreamer.com or visit her website at <https://www.thetraveldreamer.com>.



Planter University Workshops Focus on Optimizing Planter Setup across All Brands

Workshops to be held in five locations across Iowa

PRESS RELEASE
ISU EXTENSION AND OUTREACH OFFICE
FRANKLIN COUNTY

AMES – Specialists with Iowa State University Extension and Outreach are once again teaming up with ISU Agriculture and Biosystems Engineering specialists to bring planter equipment expertise to farms across the state Feb. 2–6 with Planter University.

The workshops are an opportunity for farmers, agricultural service providers, equipment and precision ag dealers and others to gain insight into how planters function; optimizing settings for individual seed, field, and equipment needs; and improving understanding of planter wear and calibration. Prior attendees have noted the value this workshop provides, with 80% of 2025 survey respondents stating it was worth more than \$10 per acre to their farming operation.

“Planter University goes far beyond a typical planter clinic and provides attendees direct access to specialists with expertise in planter technology and



Photo courtesy: ISU Extension and Outreach Office

settings,” said Meaghan Anderson, field agronomist with ISU Extension and Outreach. “We are excited to host these workshops across the state again this February.”

Specialists from the ISU Digital Ag group will lead each workshop, focusing on small-group, hands-on learning with row units that represent a variety of technologies currently available for planters. The Digital Ag group is renowned for their key industry partnerships and unique expertise in equipment development and precision agriculture. Meetings will also offer continuing education credits for Certified Crop Advisers.

“We are going to help attendees better understand the physics behind traditional and high-speed planters and how to evaluate planting performance, because every planter, operator and operation is different,” said Levi Powell, Iowa State ag and biosystems engineering program specialist. “This event will focus on how to dial in the right settings for you and your operation.”

The training will be offered at five locations. Attendance will be limited to maintain small group sizes and allow for hands-on activities. Registration for each location is \$100 and closes seven days ahead of each meeting. On-site

registration is not available, but online registration (<https://go.iastate.edu/planter>) will be available starting Jan. 5.

Registration includes lunch, refreshments, reference materials and CCA credits. Registration check-in opens at 8:30 a.m., and the program begins at 9 a.m. The program concludes at approximately 3 p.m.

Feb. 2 – Alliant Energy Ag Innovation Lab, 3800 University Boulevard, Ames

Feb. 3 – Carroll County Conservation Center, 22676 Swan Lake Trail Drive, Carroll

Feb. 4 – Northern Research and Demonstration Farm, Kanawha

Feb. 5 – Heartland Acres Agriribition Center, Independence

Feb. 6 – Prime Ag, 571 180th St., Otley

For registration-related questions, please contact ISU Registration Services at 515-294-6222 or registrations@iastate.edu. For all other inquiries, email crops@iastate.edu.

Breed Back Better Workshop Offered in Hampton

PRESS RELEASE
ISU EXTENSION AND OUTREACH OFFICE
FRANKLIN COUNTY

HAMPTON – Amidst volatile markets, historic low herd numbers indicate an imminent cow-herd expansion. During this expansion, reproductive efficiency, intentional record keeping and sound financial management will set apart industry leaders that expand successfully without compromising quality.

In the month of January, the Iowa Beef Center has organized six Breed Back Better workshops across the state for cow-calf producers.

“Each part of this program has been designed to incorporate interactive learning.” According to cow-calf specialist, Randie Culbertson. “From a reproductive technology session that uses a beef breeding model, like the popular calving model, to a session challenging producers to put a pencil to paper to effectively use depreciation as a financial management tool, this will be a great program.”

Denise Schwab, northeast IA beef specialist highlights another part of the program. “There are some key measures producers can use to benchmark their herd’s calving season results against industry standards as well as the herd’s own history. We’ll work through calculating those, because most producers have the records to do it already.”

All workshops will begin with a light meal, and a brief market update from an Ever.Ag livestock economist. Registration for these workshops is \$20 and will be made payable to the host county extension office.

Dates and locations include:

January 8th in Creston, IA: From 5:30 pm to 9:00 pm at the SWCC Ag Site, 1545 W. Green Valley Road. Register to the Union County Extension Office by January 6th at 641-782-8426.

January 26th in Centerville, IA: From 5:30 pm to 8:30 pm at Indian Hills Community College, 721 N 1st St. Register to the Appanoose County Extension Office by January 24th at 641-856-3885 or lfirkins@iastate.edu.

January 27th in Fairfield, IA: From 5:30 pm to 8:30 pm in the Cambridge building at 2606 W Burlington Ave. Register to the Jefferson County Extension Office by January 25th at 641-472-4166.

January 28th in Dunlap, IA: From 12:30 pm to 4:00 pm at the County Fairgrounds, 405 N 10th Street. Register to the Harrison County Extension Office by January 26th at 712-644-2105.

January 29th in Hampton, IA: From noon to 3:30 pm at the Franklin County fairgrounds convention center, at 1008 Central Ave. W. Register to the Franklin County Extension Office by January 27th at 641-456-4811 or xfranklin@iastate.edu.

January 29th in Calmar, IA: From 5:30 pm to 9:30 pm at the Northeast Iowa Community College, Room 115 in the Dairy Center building. Register to the Winneshiek County Extension Office by January 27th at 563-382-2949.

The Calmar location will also include a discussion on late gestation nutrition. Additional support for these programs has been provided by the Iowa Beef Checkoff, ABS Global, Inc., Ever.Ag and multiple local sponsors. Email the Iowa Beef Center with additional questions at beefcenter@iastate.edu.

African Violets Bring Winter Color Indoors with Proper Care

PRESS RELEASE
ISU EXTENSION AND OUTREACH OFFICE

AMES – African violets (Saintpaulia) have long been favorites among indoor gardeners for their velvety leaves and vivid blooms while many outdoor landscapes are dormant. When properly cared for, these plants can bring vibrant color to homes during the winter months.

Native to the Usambara Mountains of Tanzania, African violets were discovered in the late 1800s and quickly gained worldwide popularity. Today, hundreds of hybrid varieties are available in a range of flower and leaf colors,

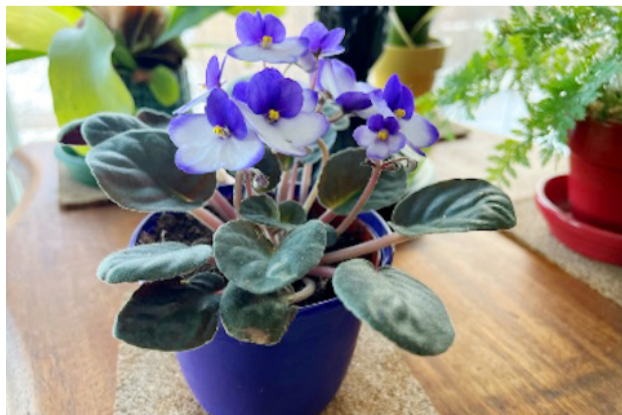


Photo courtesy: ISU Extension and Outreach Office

shapes and sizes.

“It’s fascinating to think that a plant from a remote African forest is now one of the most common houseplants,” said Aaron Steil,

consumer horticulture extension specialist at Iowa State University. “African violets are most rewarding when their basic needs are met.”

Bright light and household temperature

African violets thrive in bright, indirect light. The light should be bright enough to cast a shadow, but avoid placing the plant in direct sunlight, as this can scorch its leaves. In many homes, a north- or east-facing window works well. The plants can also grow easily under fluorescent or LED grow lights.

Typical household temperatures are ideal. Maintain temperatures between 60 F and 80 F, avoiding any sudden temperature changes from cold drafts or heat

See **VIOLETS:**
Page 4

In loving memory of Pauline Siems 1943-2026

Pauline Siems, 83, of Hampton, passed away peacefully, surrounded by her loving family, on Thursday, January 8, 2026, at Franklin Country View. Funeral services will be 11 a.m. on Monday, January 12, 2026, at Faith Baptist Church in Hampton. Visitation will be from 1-3 p.m. on Sunday at the Sietsema-Atkinson Funeral Home in Hampton. A private family burial will take place in the Hampton Cemetery. Funeral arrangements are under the guidance of the Sietsema-Atkinson Funeral Home in Hampton.

Pauline was born on January 4, 1943, in Hampton, Iowa, to Pete and Becky (Jackson) Casey. She attended Hampton schools and graduated in 1961. On August 6, 1961, she was united in marriage to Robert "Bob" Siems, and together they shared many years of love, faith, and devotion to family.

Pauline found great joy and strength in reading her Bible and was widely known as a true prayer warrior. Her faith was the foundation of her life. Through her service as a youth group leader and Sunday school teacher, she poured her heart into nurturing the faith of others, leaving a lasting spiritual impact on many lives.

She is survived by her husband, Bob Siems of Hampton; her brother, Leon (Sue) Casey; her daughter, Chris (Mark) McArthur; her sons, Kevin (Maria) Siems and Kent (Angel) Siems; and her cherished grandchildren: Dana (Maggie) McArthur, Brandi McArthur, Amanda (Jeremy) Fender, Alysha (Dennis) Palmer, Abram (Danielle) Siems, Blaize Siems, Izabela (Jack) Schaffer, Aaron Siems and Rebecca Siems, 14 great-grandchildren and 2 great-great-grandchildren.

Pauline was preceded in death by her parents, Pete and Becky Casey, and her brother, Lloyd Casey.



In loving memory of Lester Theodore Happel 1936-2026

Lester Theodore Happel, 89, entered heaven on Jan 2, 2026. Visitation will be held Friday, January 9, 2026, from 4:00-7:00 p.m., and Saturday, January 10, 2026, from 10:00-10:45 a.m. The funeral service will be held Saturday, January 10, 2026, at 11:00 a.m., all at King of Kings Lutheran Church, 3275 N. Center Point Rd., Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

He was born September 5, 1936 near Atkins, Iowa and claimed by Christ in the waters of baptism at St. Stephen's Lutheran Church in Atkins, Iowa.

He is survived by his wife, Alma Happel, of Cedar Rapids; daughter, Rachel Happel; son, Gregory (Andrea) Happel; grandsons, Martin, August, and Stefan Happel; nephews, Larry Happel, Joel (Susan) Happel, Charlie (Anne) Happel, Ron (Kris) Happel and Jamie (Amanda) Jorgensen; nieces, Jeanine Efflandt, Peggy (John) Badger, Barbara (Jamie) Badger, and Karen (Gary) McVicker, Janet (Dennis) Brown; and many extended family members.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Theodore and Clara (Clausen) Happel; infant brother, George; sister, Elaine; brothers, Richard (Lois) Happel, Alfred (Norma) Happel, and Paul (Kathy) Happel; sister, Helen (Jim) Jorgensen; nephew, Keith Happel; and niece, Betty Happel.

He grew up in Latimer, Iowa and graduated from Latimer High School in 1954. He worked in farming, construction, banking, and served in the US Army. He studied business at UNI, and later worked in sales. He married Alma Happel on June 26, 1965, in Nerstrand, Minnesota after meeting through mutual friends and family members. Lester and Alma made their home in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. He retired from Cortez trucking in 2002.

Faith, Family, and Farming were always present in Lester's life. Lester enjoyed time with family. He was a loving husband, father, and grandfather.

He was an active member of Trinity Lutheran Church for 38 years. He served on the Board of Elders, Board of Trustees, Board of Education, and sang tenor in the Men's Choir.

For the last 23 years, he was a member of King of Kings Lutheran Church. He trusted in Jesus as his Lord and Savior. By faith we will meet again.

Memorials may be directed to King of Kings Lutheran Church and the Alzheimer's Association in Lesters name.

Online condolences can be left at www.teahenfuneralhome.com.



In loving memory of Sherry Lynn (Tripkosh) Lutgen

Sherry Lynn (Tripkosh) Lutgen, age 77 of Jeffersonville, Indiana, passed away on Tuesday, December 23, 2025, at Baptist Floyd Hospital, surrounded by the love she so freely gave throughout her life. Born to the late Vernon Charles and Arlene Loie (Tweeten) Tripkosh, Sherry lived a life defined by warmth, kindness, and genuine connection. She spent many years as a waitress at the Ponderosa Steakhouse in Wausau, Wisconsin, where her bright smile and welcoming spirit made everyone feel right at home. Sherry's regular customers quickly became friends, drawn to her easy laughter and caring heart.

As a movie lover, Sherry delighted in watching her favorite films, especially Pearl Harbor and Legends of the Fall. She treasured sharing a good meal with her family, laughing around the table, and enjoying life's simple pleasures, like a cold Dr. Pepper. Late nights often found her playing 500 with her friends or video poker with her husband into the wee hours of the morning, content and carefree. Sherry also liked to go shopping. She didn't buy much, but enjoyed getting out and seeing all of the new items. Hallmark stores were her favorite. She had a keen eye for finding the most meaningful collectibles for herself and others. The beach held a special place in Sherry's heart. She loved feeling the warmth of the sun on her face and listening to the soothing rhythm of the waves. Some of her most cherished memories were made during trips to San Diego to visit her son, where she enjoyed sightseeing, time together, and the beautiful weather she adored.

Above all else, Sherry delighted in the accomplishments of her children and grandchildren. She was their biggest fan, proudly attending basketball games, cheer competitions, graduations, and milestones. Her love for them and pride in them was boundless, and her encouragement unwavering. In addition to her parents, Sherry was preceded in death by her brother-in-law, Vic Leutwyler.

She leaves behind a loving family who will forever cherish her memory: her husband of 56 years, Mark Lutgen; daughter, Amy DeWitt (Brian); son, Wade Lutgen (Emese Gaal); sister, Sue Leutwyler; brother, Steve Tripkosh; and her beloved grandchildren, Kendall, Brielle, and Maddox.

Sherry's kindness, laughter, and loving spirit will live on in the hearts of all who knew her. She will be deeply missed and forever remembered.

Sherry will be cremated according to her wishes. Arrangements are entrusted to Scott Funeral Home, 2515 Veterans Parkway, Jeffersonville, IN 47130.



In loving memory of Jo Ann L. Petersen 1936-2025

Jo Ann L. Petersen, 89, of Rockwell, IA passed away peacefully at home, surrounded by family, under the care of Hospice of North Iowa on Wednesday, January 7, 2026. Per her wishes, she will be cremated with no services scheduled at this time. Arrangements are with Fullerton Funeral Home.



Jo Ann was born in Rockwell on February 22, 1936, in Cerro Gordo County, to Russell and Alberta (Wray) Conway. She grew up in Dougherty/Rockwell and graduated from Rockwell High School. On April 25, 1954, Jo Ann was united in marriage to Jackie "Jack" Petersen at St. Peter Lutheran Church and to their union, four children were born. The couple shared 66 years together until Jack's passing in 2020.

Jo Ann worked as a bookkeeper for the Rockwell Elevator until her retirement in 1981. She was a proud member of the Iowa Bookkeeper's Association and elected the first women's president of the association. Jo Ann was also a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution. She spent a lot of her time researching family history and tracking genealogy. Jo Ann was an avid golfer and played in many club championships in Rockford, Rockwell and Arizona. She was so proud to have three holes-in-ones throughout her lifetime. Jo Ann and her husband, Jack, enjoyed traveling and snow birding in Arizona together. They were constantly taking camping trips in the summers as they were able. Jo Ann was an excellent gardener and loved tending to her flowers. She loved being a grandmother; Jo Ann attended many of her grandchildren and great-grandchildren's ball games and activities. Her legacy she left as a wife, mother and grandmother will always be remembered.

Those left carry on her legacy include her children: Antoinette (Todd) Becker, Kim Bosch, Scott (Stephanie) Petersen and Kevin (Jacque) Petersen; sister, Karen Dralle; brother, Allen (Diane) Conway; grandchildren: Ezra Pierce, Bob Bosch, Krystle (Adam) Bosch-Allison, Tyler Petersen, Sadie (Kevin) Kurtz, Ashley Petersen and Brad Petersen; great-grandchildren: Nathaniel, Alexander and Kendrick Bosch and Ace, Eli, Leo and Fyn Allison and sister-in-law, Huberte Conway.

She was preceded in death by her husband; parents; parents-in-law; siblings: Jerry Conway and Kay Peters and son-in-law, Lonnie Bosch.

In loving memory of Stanley Frederick Caspary 1935-2026

Stanley Frederick Caspary, 90, of Sheffield, Iowa, passed away due to complications from a fall on January 2nd, 2026. He was a cherished father, grandfather, partner, and friend, and his presence will be deeply missed. Woodley Funeral Home, Hampton is caring for Stan and his family. Private family graveside services will be held at Carroll Cemetery, Carroll, Iowa.

Stan was born May 26, 1935, in Los Angeles, California. He attended St. Anthony's Seminary in Santa Barbara and graduated from San Luis Rey College in California. He studied theology for four years at Old Mission Santa Barbara in preparation for his ordination as a Franciscan Priest on December 23, 1961. He served for seven years in Santa Barbara as a teacher, athletic director, baseball and basketball coach at St. Anthony's Seminary. He received his Master's Degree in Special Education in June of 1980 from Cal-State Fullerton and inspired many generations of students (including his children) as a Superintendent and Principal in Northern California. He went on to successfully run a ribbon business, Flash Award Ribbons, for the next thirty years.

Stan was a winner with a kind and generous heart. He had the strength of character and bravery to follow the courage of his convictions, and that has made all the difference to those who survive him. He won writing and art contests, the lottery, trips, cruises, and five cars. He had a passion for art, comics, and calligraphy. He loved sports and wooden roller-coasters. For those of us who are lucky enough to have known such kindness, it has left an indelible impression on our hearts.

Stan is survived by his partner, Rachele Villeneuve, of Sheffield, Iowa, his children, Michelle, Dan, Melissa, and Scott, and his grandchildren, Adin, Ethan, Samantha, and Evan.

The family requests that donations be made in Stan's memory to the Saint Anthony's Seminary Alumni Association: <https://www.sasalumni.org/support>.

We invite you to share your own photos and memories in the online guestbook to help celebrate his life. Please share this news with anyone who was touched by Stan's life. Please visit his online tribute page at everloved.com to leave a message of condolence or share a favorite memory: <https://everloved.com/life-of/stan-caspary/obituary/>



In loving memory of Janet Siems 1939-2025

Janet Siems, 86, of Hampton, passed away on Saturday, December 27, 2025, at MercyOne North Iowa Medical Center. Funeral services will be 1:30 p.m. on Saturday, January 10, 2026, at the Hampton Seventh-Day Adventist Church, formerly the First Christian Church, in Hampton. Visitation will be from 1 p.m. until the start of the service. In lieu of flowers, the family asks you to give a gift to your favorite charity or one of Janet's favorites, DAV or the Wounded Warrior Project. Funeral arrangements are under the guidance of the Sietsema-Atkinson Funeral Home in Hampton.

Janet was born March 25, 1939 in Hampton, Iowa to George and Avis (Pink) Berlin. Janet graduated from Hampton in 1957. She was united in marriage to Darel Siems June 15, 1958.

Janet was a member of the Franklin General Hospital Board of Trustees and the Hospital Auxiliary for many years. She enjoyed needlework, floral arranging, reading and traveling. Her travels included South Africa, Wales, England, Scotland, Ireland, Netherlands, Australia and other countries. She was active with AFS Intercultural Programs at the local, regional and AFS-USA levels. She was a member of the First Christian Church and served in many positions on the board and as an Elder.

Janet is survived by her daughter Dianne Christians, Iowa Falls, daughter Brenda (Warner) Beckmann, Lake Crystal MN. Grandchildren Devon (Chris Stober) Christians, Dan (Carolynn Duvall) Christians, Elizabeth Beckmann, Emily Beckmann, Nolan (Andrea) Beckmann and six great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents, husband, brother Milton "Buck" Berlin, and son-in-law Don Christians.



Death Notices

Cynthia Ann Madole

Cynthia Ann Madole, 75, of Charles City, Iowa, passed away Tuesday, January 6, 2026 at St. Lukes Hospital in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Private Graveside services will be held at Union Cemetery. Linn's Funeral Home is assisting the family with arrangements. Memorials may be directed to the family of Cynthia Madole Memorial, c/o Linn's Funeral Home, 1521 Washington Avenue, Iowa Falls, 50126.

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BAPTIST

Faith Baptist
Lead Pastor: Robert Anderstrom
 Address: 1701 Central Ave E., PO Box 515, Hampton, IA 50441
 Telephone: 641-456-4887
 Website: faith-hampton.com
 Facebook: FBC-Hampton
 • Wednesday, January 14, 8:30 a.m. Men's Prayer
 • Sunday, January 18, 9:30 a.m. Worship Service; 10:45 a.m. Youth Sunday School; 11 a.m. Sunday School Class
 • Tuesday, January 20, 9:30 a.m. Women's Prayer
 • Wednesday, January 21, 8:30 a.m. Men's Prayer

CATHOLIC

St. Mary's Catholic
 611 Sherman Ave., Ackley
Fr. Kevin Earleywine, Priest
 • Sunday, 8 a.m.

St. Patrick's Catholic
 1405 N. Federal St., Hampton
Fr. Kevin Earleywine, Priest
 Tuesdays 8:30 AM
 Thursdays 5:30 PM with Adoration at 6:00 PM
 Sunday 10:30 AM English
 5:30 PM Spanish

LATTER DAY SAINTS

The Church of Jesus Christ Of Latter Day Saints
 Hampton / Miguel Sosa Garcia, Branch President
 • Sunday, April 6, 10:30 a.m. Worship Service; Food Pantry Sunday

LUTHERAN

Our Savior's Lutheran
 121 Prospect, Ackley
 • Sundays, 9 a.m. Sunday School; 10 a.m. Divine Service (Communion 2nd, 4th, 5th); 11 a.m. Fellowship
 • Tuesdays, 4 p.m. Tuesday School

Richland Evangelical Lutheran Church (ELS/WELS)
 300 Elm St., Thornton
 952-607-1293
Pastor Caleb Helmen
 • February - July 8:30 a.m. church and 9:30 a.m. Sunday School.
 • August - January 10:30 a.m. Church and 9:30 a.m. Sunday School.
 • Bible class Tuesday 10:00 a.m. September through May.

St. John's Lutheran
 1207 Indigo Ave., Hampton
 • 11 a.m. Worship - 2nd and 4th Sundays

Zion St. John Lutheran Sheffield
 422 Sherman St, Sheffield, IA 50475
 • Wednesday, January 14, 8:30 a.m. ZSJ Quilters; 5:15 p.m. 7-8th Confirmation Class; 6:15 p.m. ZSJ Handbell Rehearsal; 7:15 p.m. ZSJ Chancel Choir Rehearsal
 • Thursday, January 15, 2 p.m. West Fork Food Pantry; 4:30 p.m. **Lion's Supper**
 • Saturday, January 17, 9 a.m. **ISU Extension Education**
 • Sunday, January 18, 9 a.m. Worship Service with Holy Communion; 10:15 a.m. Fellowship & Sunday School
 • Monday, January 19, 1 p.m. **Card-ian Angels**

• Wednesday, January 21, 8:30 a.m. ZSJ Quilters; 5:15 p.m. 7-8th Confirmation Class; 6:15 p.m. ZSJ Handbell Rehearsal; 7:15 p.m. ZSJ Chancel Choir Rehearsal

St. Paul's Lutheran
 304 W Main, Latimer
Reverend Joel Peter Wagner
 • Sunday, January 18, 9 a.m. Divine Service

St. Paul's Church
 400 Larch St., Thornton

St. Peter Lutheran Church
 502 2nd St. S, Rockwell

Trinity Lutheran Church
 16 12th Ave. NE, Hampton
 www.trinityhampton.com
Vicar - Tyler Linneman, Rev. Karl C. Bollhagen, Pastor
 • Sunday, January 18, 8:30 a.m. Worship Service with Holy Communion; 9:45 a.m. Sunday School & Adult Bible Study
 • Sunday Radio Broadcasts: 7:30 a.m. Lutheran Hour on KLMJ, 104.9 FM; 10:15 a.m. Radio Worship Broadcast on KLMJ, 104.9 FM

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church - Vilmar
Rev. Tamara J. K. Keen, Pastor
 • Sunday, January 18, 8:45 a.m. - 9:45 a.m. Sunday School; 9:15 a.m. Choir Practice; 10 a.m. Worship Service; 11 a.m. Coffee & Fellowship

First Lutheran Church - Dows
 206 W Ellsworth St, Dows
 • Sunday, January 18, 10 a.m. Worship Service

METHODIST

Ackley United Methodist
 416 Hardin St., Ackley
Pastor Kalvin Scholte
 • Sundays, 9-9:45 a.m., Sunday School; 10 a.m. Worship Service

First United Methodist
 510 Thompson St., Sheffield
Pastor Pastor Wendy Johannessen
 • Sundays, 9 a.m. Worship Service

Geneva United Methodist
 603 Front St., Geneva
 • Sundays, 9:30 a.m. Sunday School; 10:30 a.m. Worship

Hampton United Methodist
 100 Central Ave. E, Hampton
Pastor Dennis Burns
 • Wednesday, January 14, 5:30 p.m. Wacky Wednesday & Confirmation Class
 • Thursday, January 15, 9:30 a.m. BeFriends; 10:30 a.m. **Chapel at Leahy Grove**; 6:30 p.m. **SPRC Hampton/New Hope**; 7:30 p.m. **SPRC Hampton**
 • Saturday, January 17, 5 p.m. Worship Service
 • Sunday, January 18, 9:30 a.m. Adults Bible Study; 11 a.m. Worship Service; 11:30 a.m. Radio Broadcast on KLMJ, 104.9 FM; 12 p.m. Fellowship; 12:30 p.m. Facebook Broadcast
 • Monday, January 19, 1:30 p.m. God's FLOCK
 • Tuesday, January 20, 1:30 p.m. Faithful Stitches
 • Wednesday, January 21, 10:30 a.m. **NAOMI Coffee**; 5:30 p.m. Wacky Wednesday & Confirmation Class

West Fork United Methodist
 2200 Tulip Ave., Sheffield
Pastor Wendy Johannessen

New Hope United Methodist Parish: Aredale, Bristow, Dumont
Pastor Dennis Burns
 • Aredale: Worship, 8:15 a.m.
 • Dumont: Worship, 9:30 a.m.

United Methodist Church
 Morgan/Bradford, 569 100th St., Dows
 Lee Center, 393 Ironwood Ave., Alden
Rev. Judy Eilderts
 • Sundays, 10 a.m. Worship service with fellowship time following (Lee Center, odd months; Morgan/Bradford, even months)

United Methodist Dows
 • Lay Speaker Richard Eichelberger
 • Discipleship class - Sunday @8:30am
 • Worship Service @ 10:00am

NON-DENOMINATIONAL

Church of the Living Word
 420 First Ave. NE, Hampton
 641-456-8175
Pastor Brian Rihner
 www.clwhampton.org
 • Sundays, 10 a.m. Worship
 • Sunday: 9AM - Adult Sunday school
 • Wednesday: 5:30PM- PK - Grade 6 WOW! and Adult Bible Study. 6:30PM: MS & HS Youth, 7:00PM - Adult Bible Study.
 • Wee Ones Christian Preschool: Mon., Tues., Thurs.; Mary Mollenbeck, Director, 641-456-8471

Living Well Fellowship
 917 Howard St. (First Presbyterian Church), Aplington
 • 319-247-5569
 • Mondays, 7 p.m., Contemporary Worship Exploring Redemption and Healing. Come early for hot chocolate or cappuccino.

Sovereign Grace Church
 109 N Eskridge St., Dows
Pastor Doug Holmes
 www.sgcdows.com
 • Sundays, 10:15 a.m. Sunday School; 11:15 a.m. Worship at First Presbyterian in Dows

Hampton Church of Christ
 811 4th St. NE, Hampton, IA.
 hamptonchurchofchrist.com
Pastor Joe Peter
 • Sundays, 9:30 a.m. Morning Café; 10:15 a.m. Worship Gathering

Sixth Street Church of Christ (Acapella)
 909 Sixth St. SW, Hampton
Minister Jim Zacharias
 • Sundays, 9:30 a.m. Sunday School; 10:30 a.m. Worship; 4:30 p.m. Worship
 • Wednesdays, 4:30 p.m. Bible Study

PRESBYTERIAN

Aplington Evangelical Presbyterian Church
 917 Howard St., Aplington
Rev. Michael McLane
 • Sundays, 9:30 a.m. Worship Service with fellowship following services

REFORMED

Dumont Reformed
 912 Third St., Dumont
Pastor Chris Meester

•Sundays, 9 a.m. Sunday School; 10 a.m. Worship (nursery care provided each week)
 • First Monday of the month, 1 p.m. Reformed Church Women (RCW)
 • Wednesdays, 7 p.m. RCYF (High School youth group from 8-12 grade)
 • All times and schedules are subject to change due to pandemic. You can join us online Youtube and Facebook: **Dumont Reformed** Church, website: dumontreformed.com, and Dumont Cable 1000

First Reformed
 214 Brown St., Alexander
 • Sunday, 9:15 a.m. Worship Service; 10:30 a.m. Kids Choir & PreK-HS Sunday School; **Sunday School Children Sing during Worship Service**

Zion Reformed Church
 2029 Jonquil Ave., Sheffield
Rev. Petri van Rooyen, Pastor
 Office Hours: M,W, Th: 8-Noon * Bad Weather KLMJ*
 • Wednesday, January 14, 7 p.m. RCYF
 • Sunday, January 18, 9:15 a.m. Worship Service; 10:30 a.m. Sunday School; 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. **Spec'n Dicken**
 • Wednesday, January 21, 6:30 p.m. **Family Ministry**

Hampton Seventh Day Adventist Church
 605 4th St. NE, Hampton
Pastor Steven Shafer
 Phone: 641-424-3055
 Email: SDAHamptonIA@gmail.com
 • Sunday, 9:15 a.m. Sunday School; 10:30 a.m. Worship Service with Communion

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
First Congregational U.C.C.
 22 First Ave. SW, Hampton
 (641) 456-2192
Pastor Karen Koenig and Pastor Peggy Allison
 • Sunday, January 18, 9:15 a.m. Sunday School; 10:30 a.m. **Sunday Worship Service with annual meeting following**

Immanuel U.C.C.
 204 E. South St., Latimer
Pastor Joe Dunwald
 • Sunday, January 18, 9:30 a.m. Sunday School; 10:30 a.m. Worship Service

St. Peter's United Church Of Christ - Geneva
 496 Raven Ave # B, Geneva, IA 50633
 • Sunday, January 18, 9:30 a.m. Worship Service with Dave Harms

NEWS

Board warns nurse accused of using stolen patient opiates while on duty

BY CLARK KAUFFMAN
 IOWA CAPITAL DISPATCH

State regulators have issued a warning to a nurse accused of using stolen patient opiates while on duty.

The Iowa Board of Nursing alleges that on Dec. 3, 2024, licensed practical nurse Rachel Blair of Windsor Heights was working at an unspecified Urbandale care facility when the medication count was reported as being off during her shift, indicating the staff was unable to account for missing drugs.

According to the board, the facility was missing one fentanyl patch. During that same shift, the board alleges, Blair “fell to her hands and knees and struggled to stand.” Paramedics were called to the scene and administered Narcan — a drug commonly used for emergency treatment of an opioid overdose — to Blair.

As a result of that incident, the board recently charged Blair, 35, with misappropriating the medications of a patient or agency, then agreed to settle the case by providing Blair with a warning that any future violations could result in some form of disciplinary action. As part of that settlement, Blair agreed to participate in the Iowa Practitioner Health Program and to comply with any requirements of the program.

Blair’s nursing license remains otherwise unencumbered by any restrictions on her practice.

In 2020, the board charged Blair with attempting to initiate a sexual, emotional or business relationship with a patient. According to the board, Blair was working at a county jail in April 2019 when she participated in personal telephone calls with an inmate. “At times, the calls were sexually explicit in nature,” the board alleged.

According to the board, Blair was then fired from the jail for providing “treatment” for an inmate despite the lack of a physician’s order, and for admitting to having “feelings for an inmate.”

Court records show that a Polk County Jail inmate at the time told jail officials that a nurse, later identified as Blair, had been providing tobacco, drugs and sex to an inmate known as “Casper.” According to a search warrant application filed by the sheriff’s department, Blair admitted to providing “Casper” with unsorted, undocumented “massaging treatments,” approximately 15 times over four to six weeks, in a private treatment room.

According to the warrant application, a subsequent review of the jail’s recorded telephone calls uncovered communications between Blair and the inmate that included “sexual content and comments referencing a personal relationship.”

A review of text messages then uncovered 199 written exchanges between Blair and the inmate, according to the warrant application. The messages also included 21 photos of Blair, the sheriff’s department alleged. In addition, the warrant application alleged that money had been deposited into the inmate’s account three separate times by depositor “Clare Loren” — Loren being Blair’s middle name and the name associated with the text messages attributed to Blair.

According to the application, Blair admitted destroying potential evidence in the case during the initial stages of the sheriff’s investigation of the matter.

In that case, the Board of Nursing suspended Blair’s nursing license pending the completion of a mental health evaluation and also required her to complete an educational course on professional boundaries.

At the end of the suspension, Blair’s license was placed on probation for two years.

Read more from Clark Kauffman online at IowaCapitalDispatch.com

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 “Set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity.”
 1 Timothy 4:12 (NIV)
Guiding Others in Faith
 Following last month’s celebration of Christ’s birth, we plan for the season to honor His passion, death, and resurrection through Easter. As our own lives can sometimes feel slow leading up to this celebration, it is important to guide others in faith if they are in need of it. Perhaps a matter in someone’s personal life or career could be affecting one’s faith, or even questions about their faith itself. In approaching issues such as this, as laypeople, we may find it best to guide people to open discussion, perhaps with someone such as a priest or pastor at their congregation. While we should always try to maintain our own path in faith, we can always help others do so as well.
 —James Stone
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FROM THE LOG

Franklin County

Traffic: Traffic: Joshua Thomas Stevens, of Northwood, operating non-registered vehicle; Daniel Alan Embree, of Hampton, operation without registration card or plate;

Keyla Alexandra Jaquez, of Hampton, operation without registration card or plate and failure to provide proof of financial liability;

John Mathiang Ayor, of Pearl, Mississippi, speeding;

Rafael Partida Jr., of Coulter, no valid driver's license;

Brooke Michelle Crotts, of Lake Lotawana, Missouri, speeding; Bhupinder S Grewal, of Ancaster L9K0K2, Ontario, Canada, violation of oversized vehicle requirements;

Jori A Johnson, of Alexander, speeding;

Jorge Coello De Jesus, of Hampton, speeding;

Dustin Odem, of Hampton, speeding;

Cole Edward Hall, of Sheffield, fishing and hunting – no license over \$20;

Austin Bogue, of Sheffield, failure to maintain control;

Austin John Visker, of Little Falls, Minnesota, failure to maintain or use safety belts;

Amilcar Leonidas Rodriguez Lemus, of Des Moines, no valid driver's license;

Bobbie Jay Johnson, of Dumont, speeding;

Luke Roger Hagenberg, of Clive, speeding;

Amy Rose Taylor, of Ames, speeding;

Adelso Acajabon, of Iowa Falls, no valid driver's license;

Elbin Perez, of Latimer, unsafe passing;

Sarah Marie Deorian Kolb, of Hampton, at large prohibited – first offense;

Civil: PHH Asset Services LLC versus Capital One, Darryl L Lumley, parties in possession, petition filed;

Velocity Investments LLC versus Kenneth Charles Walker, non jury order setting trial;

First Bank Hampton versus Diana Harper, order for judgment, \$27,001.80 fine;

OWI: Maicol Vinicio Lopez Barrios, of Clarion, order of dismissal;

Aaron Michael Miller, of Hampton, order setting hearing;

Small Claims: Quad Corporation INC, of Davenport, versus Brianna Christensen, of Rockford, dismissed without prejudice;

Capital One NA, of Des Moines, versus Silvano Calles, of Hampton, original notice;

Criminal: Ashton Ray Piersol, of Eldora, order of arraignment, order setting trial, March 12, 9 a.m.;

Shane Eugene Muller, of Hampton, order of arraignment, order setting trial, February 12, 9 a.m.;

Luis Adrian Ramirez, of Marshalltown, criminal complaint and hearing for initial appearance;

Victor Amador, of Hampton, criminal complaint, hearing for initial appearance, and no contact order;

Carlos Alberto Palma Mejia, of Hampton, order setting hearing;

Anubis Elias Tehuintle Escobar, of Rowan, order of arraignment, order setting trial, February 12, 9 a.m.;

Joshua Michael Rapp, of Coulter, search warrant; Rafael Geovany Corio Solis, of Webster City, search warrant

Police & Sheriff report 1-5 to 1-11

Hampton Police Reports

Monday, January 5:

• Officers assisted with one medical call, assisted one motorist, and received one general call.

• 12:20 a.m.: Report of harassment in the 400 block of 10th Ave NE, Hampton.

• 7:33 a.m.: Report of dog calls in the 200 block of 2nd Ave NW, Hampton.

• 12:44 p.m.: Report of a nuisance/junk ordinance violation in the 200 block of 4th St. SE, Hampton.

• 6:21 p.m.: Report of false 911 calls in the 200 block of S Federal St., Hampton.

• 6:39 p.m.: Report of dog calls in the 10 block of 3rd Ave SE, Hampton.

• 7:23 p.m.: Report of false 911 calls in the 500 block of 2nd St. SE, Hampton.

• 11:35 p.m.: Report of disturbance in the 300 block of 3rd Ave NW, Hampton.

Tuesday, January 6:

• Officers received three general calls.

• 12:56 a.m.: Report of a suspicious vehicle in the area of Americlnn, Hampton.

• 9:49 a.m.: Report of theft of services in the 100 block of 11th PL NE, Hampton.

• 10:43 a.m.: Report of theft/larceny in the 300 block of 17th Ave NE, Hampton.

• 1:10 p.m.: Officers responded to a fire in the 800 block of 4th St. SE, Hampton.

• 2:30 p.m.: Report of trespass in the 1800 block of N Federal St., Hampton.

• 2:47 p.m.: Officers conducted a welfare check in the 100 block of 6th St. NW, Hampton.

Wednesday, January 7:

• Officers received two general calls.

• 1:49 p.m.: Report of a parking ordinance violation in the area of the Senior Center, Hampton.

• 8:06 p.m.: Report of dog calls in the 20 block of 3rd Ave NW, Hampton.

Thursday, January 8:

• Officers assisted with two medical calls and received five general calls.

• 7:49 a.m.: Report of traffic complaints in the area of First Bank, Hampton.

• 12:39 p.m.: Officers assisted with a funeral in the 1400 block of N Federal St., Hampton.

• 3:37 p.m.: Report of a hit and run accident in the 300 block of Central Ave E, Hampton.

• 4:49 p.m.: Report of an accident with property damage in the area of 1st Ave SE and Hwy 65, Hampton.

• 4:51 p.m.: Report of neigh-

borhood complaints in the 700 block of 8th St. SW, Hampton.

• 7:07 p.m.: Report of false 911 calls in the 1700 block of Central Ave E, Hampton.

• 9:14 p.m.: Report of dog calls in the 300 block of 1st St. SW, Hampton.

Friday, January 9:
• Officers executed one traffic stop and received six general calls.

• 6:07 a.m.: Officers executed local warrants in the 100 block of 5th St. SW, Hampton.

• 6:10 a.m.: Officers assisted with booking information in the 100 block of 5th St. SW, Hampton.

• 12:33 p.m.: Officers conducted a welfare check in the 300 block of 1st St. SW, Hampton.

• 4:48 p.m.: Report of neighborhood complaints in the area of 2nd Ave and 10th St. NW, Hampton.

Saturday, January 10:

• Officers received three general calls.

• 3:58 a.m.: Report of a parking ordinance violation in the 10 block of 1st St. NW, Hampton.

• 12:00 p.m.: Report of a stolen property offense in the 400 block of 8th Ave SW, Hampton.

• 3:40 p.m.: Report of traffic complaints in the area of Central Ave E and Hospital Dr, Hampton.

• 11:05 p.m.: Report of neighborhood complaints in the area of the Lantern Park Apartments, Hampton.

Sunday, January 11:
• Officers executed one traffic stop and received three general calls.

• 12:53 a.m.: Report of a domestic matter in the 00 block of 4th Ave NW, Hampton.

• 5:44 p.m.: Officers conducted a welfare check in the 200 block of 12th Ave NE, Hampton.

Franklin County Sheriff Reports

Monday, January 5:

• Officers assisted with one medical call, received a report for two controlled burns, and received one general call.

• 6:54 a.m.: Officers assisted with prisoner transport in the area of 14th Ave, Eldora.

• 7:50 a.m.: Report of false 911 calls in an unlisted area.

• 8:28 a.m.: Report of a disabled vehicle in the 800 block of Hwy 65, Bradford.

• 9:27 a.m.: Report of a disabled vehicle in the area of Hwy 65 and the Bradford corner, Bradford.

• 11:25 a.m.: Officers assisted other agencies with an issue in the area of 1st Ave NW, Hampton.

• 5:46 p.m.: Report of an animal

on roadway in the area of Hwy 3, Hampton.

• 6:06 p.m.: Report of traffic complaints in the area of Hwy 57, Aplington.

• 6:44 p.m.: Report of a domestic matter in the area of 200th St., Chapin.

Tuesday, January 6:

• Officers executed one traffic stop, received a report for one controlled burn, and received two general calls.

• 6:16 a.m.: Report of an animal on roadway in the area of 1st St., Chapin.

• 7:50 a.m.: Officers assisted other agencies with an issue in an unlisted area, Williams.

• 8:42 a.m.: Report of an accident with personal injury in the area of Heather Ave, 100th St., and 90th St., Alexander.

• 9:25 a.m.: Report of juveniles in the area of Gull Ave, Latimer.

• 11:24 a.m.: Report of traffic complaints in the area of I-35 north and mile mark 172, Sheffield.

• 4:59 p.m.: Report of dog calls in the area of Mallard Ave, Hampton.

Wednesday, January 7:

• Officers executed four traffic stops, assisted with one medical call, and received three general calls.

• 6:47 a.m.: Report of animals (except dogs) in the area of 210th St., Aredale.

• 7:20 a.m.: Officers assisted with prisoner transport in the area of 14th Ave, Eldora.

• 2:03 p.m.: Report of traffic complaints in the area of Quail Ave, Hampton.

• 5:09 p.m.: Report of false 911 calls in the area of 230th St., Sheffield.

• 6:05 p.m.: Report of animals (except dogs) in the area of 255th St., Dougherty.

• 7:21 p.m.: Officers assisted Iowa State Patrol with an issue in the area of I-35 and mile mark 160 northbound, Dows.

• 9:01 p.m.: Officers executed local warrants in an unlisted area, Mason City.

• 11:19 p.m.: Officers assisted with booking information in the area of 5th St. SW, Hampton.

Thursday, January 8:

• Officers assisted one motorist, received a report for two controlled burns, and received three general calls.

• 8:51 a.m.: Report of a domestic matter in the 400 block of Faulkner Lane, Faulkner.

• 9:17 a.m.: Report of dog calls in the 300 block of Finch Ave, Alden.

• 12:27 p.m.: Officers assisted with prisoner transport in the 1100 block of 14th Ave, Eldora.

• 1:12 p.m.: Report of a disabled vehicle in the area of Balsam Ave and 220th St., Alexander.

• 1:45 p.m.: Report of debris on roadway/right of way in the area of Balsam Ave, 170th St., and 180th St., Alexander.

• 5:02 p.m.: Report of traffic complaints in the area of I-35 and mile mark 176-177 northbound, Sheffield.

• 7:00 p.m.: Report of false 911 calls in the 200 block of S Van Kirk St., Latimer.

Friday, January 9:

• Officers executed two traffic stops, assisted with one medical call, and assisted three motorists.

• 1:22 a.m.: Officers assisted other agencies with an issue in the area of 1st Avenue, Ackley.

• 3:13 a.m.: Officers executed local warrants in an unlisted area, Marshalltown.

• 8:05 a.m.: Report of a vehicle off roadway in the area of Hwy 3, Hansell.

• 9:50 a.m.: Officers conducted a welfare check in the area of Geneva St., Geneva.

• 12:55 p.m.: Officers assisted with prisoner transport in the area of 14th Ave, Eldora.

• 1:41 p.m.: Report of dog calls in the area of 250th St., Thornton.

• 2:57 p.m.: Report of traffic complaints in the area of 250th St. and Hwy 65, Sheffield.

• 3:16 p.m.: Report of theft/larceny in an unlisted area, Latimer.

• 3:18 p.m.: Officers conducted a welfare check in the area of Pearl St., Popejoy.

• 7:37 p.m.: Report of a deer accident in the area of N 2nd St., Sheffield.

Saturday, January 10:
• Officers received two general calls.

• 12:43 p.m.: Report of an abandoned vehicle in the area of S56 and 180th St., Rockwell.

• 1:03 p.m.: Report of harassment in the area of Monroe St., Geneva.

• 2:18 p.m.: Report of an animal on roadway in the 400 block of Mallard Ave, Bradford.

• 2:39 p.m.: Report of false 911 calls in the area of 2nd St. SE, Hampton.

• 4:11 p.m.: Report of dog calls in the 400 block of 250th St., Thornton.

• 4:33 p.m.: Report of a violation in an unlisted area, Coulter.

• 5:01 p.m.: Report of an accident with property damage in the area of 105th St. and Partridge Ave, Sheffield.

• 5:05 p.m.: Report of dog calls in the 1300 block of 170th St., Hampton.

• 8:26 p.m.: Report of a parking

ordinance violation in the 400 block of Warbler Ave, Ackley.

Sunday, January 11:

• Officers executed two traffic stops, assisted with one medical call, assisted one motorist, and received two general calls.

• 8:43 a.m.: Report of dog calls in an unlisted area, Hampton.

• 11:18 a.m.: Report of suspicious activity in the area of Vine Ave, Geneva.

• 3:15 p.m.: Report of traffic complaints in the area of mile mark 159 northbound and I-35, Dows.

• 5:09 p.m.: Report of a domestic matter in the area of 170th St., Hampton.

• 5:57 p.m.: Report of an accident with property damage in the area of Cardinal Ave, Dows.

• 10:55 p.m.: Report of a suspicious person in the area of Main St., Coulter.

Butler County Sheriff Reports

Monday, January 5:

Officers executed one traffic stops, assisted with six medical calls, assisted three motorists, received a report for two controlled burns and received four general calls.

7:33 a.m.: Report of dog/deer/livestock in the area of Beaver Valley St and Butler Ave.

9:32 a.m.: Report of civil department requests in the 27300 block of Temple Ave.

9:44 a.m.: Report of funeral traffic in the 600 block of Cherry St.

9:51 a.m.: Officers conducted fingerprints for the public in the 700 block of Cherry St.

10:28 a.m.: Officers conducted an arrest warrant in the 400 block of 6th St.

11:12 a.m.: Report of a weapon permit issue in the 14300 block of 250th St.

11:13 a.m.: Report of dog/deer/livestock in the 25000 block of Range Rd.

11:38 a.m.: Report of dog/deer/livestock in the 25000 block of Range Rd.

11:42 a.m.: Report of a violation of no contact order in the 700 block of Elm St.

12:25 p.m.: Report of property damage in the area of 245th St and Grand Ave.

12:45 p.m.: Report of a weapon permit issue in the 400 block of 6th St.

1:43 p.m.: Report of a weapon permit issue in the 27600 block of Butler Center Rd.

2:55 p.m.: Report of road debris in the 100 block of 4th NE

VIOLETS: FROM B1

sources.

Water carefully and fertilize

Proper watering is essential for African violets. African violets prefer evenly moist soil; be careful not to overwater. When watering from above, avoid getting water on the foliage, as this can cause leaf spotting. To avoid this issue, bottom watering is an effective method. Place the pot in a shallow dish for 20 to 30 minutes, allowing the soil to absorb moisture.

“One of the biggest mistakes people make is overwatering,” Steil noted. “Let the soil dry slightly before watering again, and be sure the soil is a lightweight, well-draining potting mix that is organic, but doesn’t

hold too much moisture.”

African violets should be fertilized regularly, but not excessively. Use fertilizer labeled for African violets or dilute an all-purpose fertilizer to one-half or one-quarter strength.

“When you get the light, watering and fertilizer just right, African violets can bloom almost continuously, making them one of the few houseplants that provide color year-round,” Steil added.

Common problems and solutions

Yellowing leaves that droop and become mushy are often the result of excessive watering or poor drainage, which leads to root rot. Proper watering is the best defense against

root rot.

A lack of blooms can be caused by inadequate light or improper fertilization. “African violets need regular fertilization, but too much leads to vigorous vegetative growth and poor flowering,” explains Steil.

Pests such as spider mites or mealybugs require prompt treatment. Steil advises home gardeners to inspect plants regularly. “If you see pests, thoroughly rinse with room temperature water, isolate the plant and treat with an insecticidal soap,” he added.

Easy to propagate and rejuvenate

African violets can be easily propagated from leaf cuttings, making them great for sharing. Remove a

healthy leaf with about an inch of stem, insert it into moist perlite or a very well-drained potting mix and cover it with a clear dome or plastic bag to maintain humidity. New roots usually form in three to four weeks, followed by young plants a couple of weeks later. Once the new plants are several inches tall, separate them and pot them individually.

As plants age, repotting can help them maintain their appearance and health. “If more than one rosette of leaves develops, carefully divide the crowns and replant in fresh potting soil,” Steil said. “For plants with a neck, repot deeply, burying the stem up to the lowest leaves,” Steil said.

Informed citizens build stronger communities

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St.
 2:55 p.m.: Report of return calls/follow-ups in the 200 block of Locust St.
 3:25 p.m.: Report of a weapon permit issue in the 400 block of 6th St.
 3:27 p.m.: Report of a weapon permit issue in the 400 block of 6th St.
 3:48 p.m.: Report of jail inquiries in the 10500 block of Franklin Ave.
 5:53 p.m.: Report of a driving complaint in the area of Forest Ave and Hwy 57.
 6:35 p.m.: Report of a 911 call in the 300 block of 6th St.
 8:19 p.m.: Report of office personnel calls in the 400 block of 6th St.
 10:46 p.m.: Report of dog/deer/livestock in the area of Beaver Valley St and Willow Ave.

Tuesday, January 6:
 Officers executed three traffic stops, assisted with three medical calls, assisted four motorists, received a report for three controlled burns and received two general calls.
 1:18 a.m.: Officers conducted a business door check in the area of 9th St and Parriott St.
 2:55 a.m.: Report of a theft of a vehicle in the 400 block of 6th St.
 7:06 a.m.: Report of a sex-offender registry issue in the 200 block of W Washington St.
 8:35 a.m.: Report of return calls/follow-ups in the 400 block of 6th St.
 8:52 a.m.: Dean Rex Hobson, 71 of Greene, arrested for a 2nd degree burglary, jailed.

10:05 a.m.: Report of fraud/identity theft in the 100 block of E Traer St.
 12:59 p.m.: Report of a burglary in the 21500 block of Hwy 57.
 1:10 p.m.: Report of return calls/follow-ups in the 400 block of 6th St.
 1:12 p.m.: Report of dog/deer/livestock in the 31000 block of Beaver Valley St.
 1:14 p.m.: Report of a weapon permit issue in the 400 block of 6th St.
 1:19 p.m.: Report of a weapon permit issue in the 400 block of 6th St.
 1:26 p.m.: Report of a weapon permit issue in the 400 block of 6th St.
 1:46 p.m. Report of jail inquiries in the 400 block of 6th St.
 2:36 p.m.: Report of weapon permit issue in the 29400 block of 290th St.
 2:49 p.m.: Report of return calls/follow-ups in the 400 block of 6th St.
 3:04 p.m.: Report of maintenance in the 100 block of W Superior St.
 3:23 p.m.: Report of dog/deer/livestock in the 400 block of Lincoln St.
 4:14 p.m.: Report of dog/deer/livestock in the area of 240th St and Douglas Ave.
 4:17 p.m.: Report of dog/deer/livestock in the 31000 block of Beaver Valley St.
 5:15 p.m.: Report of harassment in the 100 block of S Main St.
 5:35 p.m.: Report of dog/deer/livestock in the area of 110th St and Hickory Ave.

Wednesday, January 7:
 Officers executed five traffic stops, assisted with one medical calls, assisted two motorists, received a report for three controlled burns and received one general calls.
 12:52 a.m.: Report of civil department requests in the 500 block of E Courtland St.
 9:39 a.m.: Report of probation calls in the 400 block of 6th St.
 10:41 a.m.: Report of a weapon permit issue in the 400 block of 6th St.
 11:54 a.m.: Daxton Jay Engelkes, 25 of Maxwell, arrested for two counts of unauthorized credit card use <\$1,500, jailed.
 1:45 p.m.: Officers conducted an arrest warrant in the 400 block of 6th St.
 1:56 p.m.: Report of a weapon permit issue in the 400 block of 6th St.
 2:24 p.m.: Report of a suspicious vehicle/person.activity in the area of 190th St and Dodge Ave.
 2:58 p.m.: Report of a weapon permit issue in the 400 block of 6th St.
 4:14 p.m.: Officers conducted an arrest warrant in the 100 block of 5th St SW, Hampton.
 4:34 p.m.: Takoda Digger Lohrer, 22 of Masonville, arrested for fraud practice >\$1,000<\$10,000, jailed.
 5:55 p.m.: Officers conducted an arrest warrant in the 500 block of Montrose Ave.
 6:18 p.m.: Daniel Earl Brown Jr, 38 of Dumont, arrested on two court ordered hold, jailed
 7:48 p.m.: Report of jail inquiries in the 400 block of 6th St.

Thursday, January 8:
 Officers executed two traffic stops, assisted with three medical calls, assisted two motorists, and received a report for two controlled burns.
 7:09 a.m.: Report of dog/deer/livestock in the 500 block of W PProspect St.
 7:48 a.m.: Report of juvenile problems in the 13600 block of Packard Ave.
 9:21 a.m.: Report of a fire alarm in the 300 block of PArriott St.
 10:44 a.m.: Report of dog/deer/livestock in the 900 block of Florence St.
 11:02 a.m.: Report of a weapon permit issue in the 400 block of 6th St.
 11:38 a.m.: Report of a weapon permit issue in the 400 block of 6th St.
 11:59 a.m.: Report of a weapon permit issue in the 400 block of 6th St.
 1:00 p.m.: Report of a weapon permit issue in the 400 block of 6th St.
 1:58 p.m.: Report of a weapon permit issue in the 400 block of 6th St.
 4:12 p.m.: Report of jail inquiries in the 700 block of 8th St.
 6:00 p.m.: Report of civil department requests in the 100 block of South Main St.
 9:17 p.m.: Report of civil department requests in the 300 block of Main St.
 10:33 p.m.: Brooke Lynn White, 23 of Clarksville, arrested for driving while barred, jailed.
 11:30 p.m.: Report of jail inquiries in the 400 block of 6th St.
 11:28 p.m.: Report of a suspi-

cious vehicle in the 600 block of 5th St.
 11:51 p.m.: Report of civil department requests in the 500 block of E Courtland St.
Friday, January 9:
 Officers executed three traffic stops, assisted with two medical calls, assisted three motorists, received a report for three controlled burns and received three general calls.
 7:11 a.m.: Report of property damage in the area of HWy 57 and Sinclair Ave.
 9:00 a.m.: Report of a weapon permit issue in the 400 block of 6th St.
 11:54 a.m.: Report of a weapon permit issue in the 400 block of 6th St.
 12:45 p.m.: Report of a weapon permit issue in the 400 block of 6th St.
 1:37 p.m.: REport of a 911 call in the 300 block of E Ilgenfritz Ave.
 2:20 p.m.: Report of a weapon permit issue in the 400 block of 6th St.
 3:05 p.m.: Report of a weapon permit issue in the 400 block of 6th St.
 3:14 p.m.: Report of a weapon permit issue in the 400 block of 6th St.
 3:29 p.m.: Report of a weapon permit issue in the 400 block of 6th St.
 3:30 p.m.: Report of a suspicious vehicle/person/activity in the 500 block of S 2nd St.
 3:47 p.m.: Report of a weapon permit issue in the 400 block of 6th St.
 4:08 p.m.: Officers conducted a welfare check in the 31600 block of 180th St.

4:24 p.m.: Report of a juvenile problems in the 600 block of and St.
 4:29 p.m.: Report of a weapon permit issue in the 400 block of 6th St.
Saturday, January 10:
 Officers assisted with six medical calls, assisted four motorists, and received two general calls.
 12:30 p.m.: Report of dog/deer/livestock in the 500 block of N 5th St.
 4:56 p.m.: Report of a road closed in the area of 230th St and Fir Ave.
 5:47 p.m.: Report of damage in the area of 200th St and Hwy 188.
 6:28 p.m.: Report of property damage in the 17900 block of Hwy 57.
 6:59 p.m.: Report of a violation of no contact order in the 400 block of Montrose Ave.
Sunday, January 11:
 Officers executed five traffic stops, assisted with four medical calls, and assisted one motorist.
 12:40 a.m.: Report of jail inquiries in the 400 block of 6th St.
 2:40 p.m.: Report of a 911 call in the 900 block of Parriott St.
 5:50 p.m.: Report of a Sunday Night Test Page in the 400 block of 6th St.
 9:05 p.m.: Report of a an unknown problem in the 300 block of Locust St.
 11:18 p.m.: Jessica Faye Sahli, 34 of Shell Rock, arrested for possession of drug paraphernalia, possession of a controlled substacne-1,2,3rd, and possession of marijuana 1st, jailed.

PROPERTY TRANSFERS

Contract: Corey A Eberling, Amy Eberling to Ty A Eberling; Shef Sheffield Throssel's Blk 7 Lot 10, Shef Sheffield Throssel's Blk 7 Lot 11, Shef Sheffield Throssel's Blk 7 Lot 12
Affidavit of Transfer: Collin M Davison, Douglas P Jacobsen Estate to Carolyn M Jacobsen; 24-91-22 E2 Part

Contract: Frances Ellen Tagesen to Robert Merfeld, Jennifer J Merfeld; 15-93-22 W2 SW
Warranty Deed: Hampton Hydraulics LLC to Sentinel Holdings Series LLC The Foundry PS; 31-92-20 S2 NE Tract
Quit Claim Deed: City of Hansell to Brett L Harlan, Brooke A Harlan; 28-92-19 NW Tract
Change of Title: Everett A Siddell Estate to Imogene L Siddell, Marloe D Ellingson, Alice Ellingson; 28-92-20 NE SE Tract

MARRIAGE LICENSES

Steven Canseco Rivera, 22, Hampton, to Yulissa Perez Hernandez, 27, Hampton.

NEWS

Counselor accused of violating professional boundaries with client

BY CLARK KAUFFMAN
 IOWA CAPITAL DISPATCH

A state licensing board has sanctioned a mental health counselor for allegedly failing to maintain professional boundaries with a client.
 According to the Iowa Board of Behavioral Health

Professionals, Jerome Miller, who has practiced mental health counseling in Des Moines, was issued a three-year temporary license in August 2022.
 The board alleges it fielded complaints alleging Miller's conduct was unprofessional and demonstrated a failure to maintain professional boundaries

with a client.
 According to the board, in July 2024, Miller disclosed personal information about himself to a client, which the client stated made them feel uncomfortable. Miller also hugged the client, the board alleged, telling the client they gave "good hugs." The board says the client also

alleged Miller made other inappropriate comments, undisclosed by the board, which Miller denied.
 The board charged Miller with engaging in unethical conduct, including, but not limited to, improper sexual contact with a client or making suggestive or improper remarks to a client.

The case was resolved with a settlement in which Miller agreed to accept a warning that any future misconduct could result in additional discipline.
 Miller, whose license has expired, also agreed to complete six hours of board-approved education in area of professional boundaries, plus six

hours of board-approved education in the area of professionalism.
 Read more from Clark Kauffman online at IowaCapitalDispatch.com
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IT'S NEWS TO US!

IF SOMETHING INTERESTING IS HAPPENING.

IF A BUSINESS IS OPENING OR CLOSING.

IF A SON OR DAUGHTER LEAVES FOR COLLEGE, OR COMES BACK FOR A VISIT.

IF YOU'RE HAVING A PARTY.

IF YOU'RE CELEBRATING A WEDDING ANNIVERSARY.

IF YOU HAVE OUT-OF-TOWN GUESTS.

IF A SON OR DAUGHTER ENLISTS IN THE ARMED FORCES.

IF SOMEONE MOVES INTO YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD.

HAMPTON CHRONICLE EXTRA!

The Hampton Chronicle attempts to cover the news in Franklin county and adjoining areas as thoroughly as possible, and we appreciate it when you let us help you get the word out! We hope you'll let us know if you have news by emailing news@hamptonchronicle.com, or by calling or texting 317-443-3582

Election Notice: Drainage District #58

Notice of Election in Drainage District No. 58 Franklin County, Iowa To the Landowners in Drainage District No. 58: You and each of you are hereby notified that an election will be held at the Merlyn Wiarda home, 240 110th St, Dows, IA, on Saturday, January 31, 2026, for the purpose of electing one trustee for the drainage district for a three year term and for any vacancy which may exist.

Polls will be open at 9 a.m. to 12 noon. This election is held in accordance with the provisions of Sections 468.521 and 468.523 inclusive of the Code of Iowa. Trustees Merlyn Wiarda John Coombs Andrew Coombs

Published in the Hampton Chronicle on January 7, and 14, 2026.

Election Notice: Drainage District #70

NOTICE OF ELECTION IN DRAINAGE DISTRICT NO. 70 FRANKLIN COUNTY, IOWA To the Landowners in Drainage District No. 70: You and each of you are hereby notified that an election will be held at Wesley Swieter's house, 743 Wren Ave. Ackley, IA, 50601, on Saturday, Jan. 17, 2026, for the

purpose of electing one trustee for the drainage district for a three year term and for any vacancy which may exist. Polls will be open from 9 a.m. This election is held in accordance with the provisions of Sections 468.521 and 468.523 inclusive of the Code of Iowa.

Published in the Hampton Chronicle on January 7, and 14, 2026

Election Notice: Drainage District #69

NOTICE OF ELECTION IN DRAINAGE DISTRICT NO. 69 FRANKLIN COUNTY, IOWA To the Landowners in Drainage District No. 69: You and each of you are hereby notified that an election will be held at the Don Kloetzer home, 2223 100th St., Geneva IA, 50633, on Saturday, Jan. 17, 2026, for the

purpose of electing one trustee for the drainage district for a three year term and for any vacancy which may exist. Polls will be open at 11 a.m. This election is held in accordance with the provisions of Sections 468.521 and 468.523 inclusive of the Code of Iowa.

Published in the Hampton Chronicle on January 7, and 14, 2026

Election Notice: Drainage District #25

NOTICE OF ELECTION IN DRAINAGE DISTRICT NO. 25 FRANKLIN COUNTY, IOWA To the Landowners in Drainage District No. 25: You and each of you are hereby notified that an election will be held at the Corey Jacobson home, 1060 Cardinal Ave., Dows, IA, 50071, on Saturday, Jan. 17, 2026, for the pur-

pose of electing one trustee for the drainage district for a three year term and for any vacancy which may exist. Polls will be open at 9 a.m. This election is held in accordance with the provisions of Sections 468.521 and 468.523 inclusive of the Code of Iowa.

Published in the Hampton Chronicle on January 7, and 14, 2026

Election Notice: Drainage District #3-47

NOTICE OF ELECTION IN DRAINAGE DISTRICT NO. 3-47 FRANKLIN COUNTY, IOWA To the Landowners in Drainage District No. 3-47: You and each of you are hereby notified that an election will be held at the Alan Muller home, 1777 30th St. Ackley, IA, 50601, on Thursday, Jan. 17, 2026, for the purpose of

electing one trustee for the drainage district for a three year term and for any vacancy which may exist. Polls will be open at 1 p.m. until 4:00 p.m. This election is held in accordance with the provisions of Sections 468.521 and 468.523 inclusive of the Code of Iowa.

Published in the Hampton Chronicle on January 7, and 14, 2026

Election Notice: Drainage District #35 & 56

NOTICE OF ELECTION IN DRAINAGE DISTRICT NO. 35 & 56 FRANKLIN COUNTY, IOWA To the Landowners in Drainage District No. 35 & 56: You and each of you are hereby notified that an election will be held at the Scott Simons home, 1063 Nettle Ave., Hampton, Franklin County, Iowa, on Saturday, Jan. 17,

2026, for the purpose of electing one trustee for the drainage district for a three year term and for any vacancy which may exist. Polls will be open at 1 p.m. until 4 p.m. This election is held in accordance with the provisions of Sections 468.521 and 468.523 inclusive of the Code of Iowa.

Published in the Hampton Chronicle on January 7, and 14, 2026

Election Notice: Drainage District #24

NOTICE OF ELECTION IN DRAINAGE DISTRICT NO. 24 FRANKLIN COUNTY, IOWA To the Landowners in Drainage District No. 24: You and each of you are hereby notified that an election will be held at the Bruce Balvanz home, 1582 40th St., Iowa Falls, 50126, on Saturday, Jan. 17, 2026, for the purpose of electing one trustee for the drainage district for a three year term and for any vacancy which

may exist. Polls will be open from 1:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m. This election is held in accordance with the provisions of Sections 468.521 and 468.523 inclusive of the Code of Iowa.

Mitch Meyer Bruce Balvanz Don Swieter Trustees

Published in the Hampton Chronicle on January 7, and 14, 2026

Estate of Jackie Zimmerman

IN THE IOWA DISTRICT COURT FOR FRANKLIN COUNTY IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF JACKIE ZIMMERMAN, Deceased.

Probate No. ESPR502071 NOTICE OF PROBATE OF WILL, OF APPOINTMENT OF EXECUTOR, AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS

To all persons interested in the estate of Jackie Zimmerman, deceased, who died on or about September 19, 2025: You are hereby notified that on November 19, 2025, the Last Will and Testament of Jackie Zimmerman, deceased, bearing the date of January 18, 2008, was admitted to probate in the above-named court and that the undersigned was appointed Executor of the estate. Any action to set aside the Last Will and Testament must be brought in the District Court of the above county within the later to occur of four months from the date of mailing of this Notice to the surviving spouse and all heirs of the Decedent and devisees under

the Last Will and Testament whose identities are reasonably ascertainable, or thereafter be forever barred. Notice is further given that all persons indebted to the estate are requested to make immediate payment to the undersigned, and creditors having claims against the estate shall file them with the Clerk of the above-named District Court, as provided by law, duly authenticated, for allowance, and unless so filed by the later to occur of four months from the second publication of this Notice or one month from the date of mailing of this Notice (unless otherwise allowed or paid) a claim is thereafter forever barred. Dated: November 21, 2025 Angela Jones Executor of the Estate 2225 Hearthstone Circle SW Altoona, IA 50009

Jessman D. Smith Attorney for the Estate ICIS PIN#: AT0009294 DENTONS DAVIS BROWN, PC 4201 Westown Parkway, Suite 300 West Des Moines, IA 50266

Published in the Hampton Chronicle on January 14, and 21, 2026

Conservation Board Vacancy

Franklin County Conservation Board Appointment

Applications are now being accepted for an appointment that will be made on January 26 th for a vacancy on the Conservation Board. The Appointee will complete the existing term (through December 31, 2026). Applications may be filed at any time with the Franklin County Auditor but must be received by 4PM on January 24 th, 2026 at 4PM. Please be advised that applications are public documents and may be reproduced and distributed to the public upon request. Questions may be directed to the Franklin County Auditor's Office at 641-456-5622. Forms to fill out and more information can be found at: www.franklincountyia.gov.

Published in the Hampton Chronicle on January 14, 2026

Coulter 2025 Gross Wage Report

Table with 2 columns: Name and Amount. Includes City of Coulter Gross Wage Report, 01/01/2025 - 12/31/2025, Employee Name Gross Wage, and a list of employees with their respective wages.

Published in the Hampton Chronicle on January 14, 2026.

Hampton 2025 Gross Salaries

Table with 2 columns: Name and Amount. Includes CITY OF HAMPTON 2025 GROSS SALARIES, a list of employees with their gross salaries, and a total of \$1,686,718.52.

Published in the Hampton Chronicle on January 14, 2026

Ordinance No. 409

ORDINANCE NO. 409 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 69.08 OF THE HAMPTON MUNICIPAL CODE BY ADDING SUBSECTION THERETO DESIGNATING ADDITIONAL NO PARKING ZONE.

BE IT ENACTED by the City Council of the City of Hampton, Iowa: SECTION I. AMENDMENT: Section 69.08 of the Hampton Municipal Code is herewith amended by adding new Subsection thereto as follows: 3rd Avenue SE, on the South side from 4th Street SE westerly to the alley between 4th St SE and 3rd St SE.

SECTION II. REPEALER: All Ordinances or parts of Ordinances in conflict with the provisions of this Ordinance are hereby repealed.

SECTION III. SEVERABILITY CLAUSE: If any section, provision or part of this Ordinance shall be adjudged invalid or unconstitutional, such adjudication shall not affect the validity of the Ordinance as a whole or any Section, provision or part thereof not adjudged invalid or unconstitutional.

SECTION IV. EFFECTIVE DATE: This Ordinance shall be in effect after its final passage, approval and publication as provided by law. PASSED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF HAMPTON, IOWA, ON THE 8 DAY OF JANUARY, 2026, AND APPROVED THIS 8 DAY OF JANUARY, 2026

Seve Birdsall, Mayor Attest: Ron Dunt, City Manager

Published in the Hampton Chronicle on January 14, 2026

Franklin Co Claims, 1/6/2026

Table with 2 columns: Vendor/Description and Amount. Lists various vendors and their claim amounts, totaling \$980,891.3.

Published in the Hampton Chronicle on January 14, 2026

Hampton Council Meeting/Claims 1.8.26

HAMPTON CITY COUNCIL REGULAR SESSION MINUTES THURSDAY, JANUARY 8, 2025, at 6:00 P.M.

The Hampton City Council Regular Session Meeting was called to order at the Hampton City Council Chambers by Mayor Birdsall at 6:00 p.m. Council members in attendance were James Davies, Jeanne Fay, Jerre Grefe, Bill Holmstrom, and Barry Lamos. Kristin Roode was absent. Also present were City Manager Ron Dunt, Police Chief Mark Morrison and Public Works Director Doug Tarr. Mayor Birdsall invited those present to join in the Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. flag.

Mayor Birdsall called for a motion to approve the agenda. Motion by Davies, second by Lamos to approve the agenda. Motion approved unanimously.

Mayor Birdsall read the City Leadership Statement. Council Workshop Report from January 5, 2026 workshop. Public Comment: None. Public Hearing: None. Old Business: None.

New Business: City Manager Dunt presented details of a Water Tower Lease renewal. Motion by Grefe, second by Holmstrom to approve Water Tower Lease renewal between the City of Hampton and Woolstock Mutual Telephone Association. Motion approved unanimously.

Approval of claims. Motion by Davies, second by Fay to approve the claims as submitted by Staff in the amount of \$160,586.16. Motion approved unanimously.

Consideration of Approval and Adoption of the Ordinances/Resolutions: Resolution 2026-01: "RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING A LOCAL LENGTH OF SERVICE AWARD PROGRAM (LOSAP) FOR VOLUNTEER FIRE FIGHTERS, AND RESERVE POLICE OFFICERS AND ESTABLISHING AND AUTHORIZING A LOCAL FUNDING MATCH". Motion by Lamos, second by Grefe to approve Resolution 2026-01. Roll Call Votes: Ayes: Grefe, Lamos, Holmstrom, Fay and Davies. Nays: None. Absent: Roode. Resolution 2026-01 approved.

Ordinance 409: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 69.08 OF THE HAMPTON MUNICIPAL CODE BY ADDING SUBSECTIONS THERETO DESIGNATING AN ADDITIONAL NO PARKING SPACE. (third and final reading). Motion by Davies, second by Fay to approve the third and final reading of Ordinance 409. Roll Call Votes: Ayes: Fay, Grefe, Lamos, Holmstrom, and Davies. Nays: None. Absent: Roode. Third and final reading of Ordinance 409 passed.

Consent Agenda: Mayor Birdsall presented the consent agenda. Motion by Grefe, second by Lamos to approve the Consent Agenda and the following items: approve previous minutes as drafted from Monday, December 22, 2025 Regular Session; schedule the next Regular Session for Thursday, January 22, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. at the Hampton City Council Chambers; approve alcohol licensing for: Rustic Brew, 117 1st St NW, Hampton, IA and El Valle Tienda, 212 1st Ave NW. Motion approved unanimously.

Staff Reports given by Police Chief Morrison, Public Works Director Tarr, and City Manager Dunt.

Council Reports given by Davies, Grefe, and Fay. Mayor's Report given by Mayor Birdsall.

Motion to adjourn by Fay, second by Holmstrom at 6:21 pm. Motion approved unanimously.

Attest: Ron Dunt, City Manager Mayor Steve Birdsall

FINANCIAL REPORT CLAIMS FOR APPROVAL VENDOR DESCRIPTION AMOUNT

Table with 2 columns: Vendor Description and Amount. Lists various vendors and their claim amounts, totaling \$160,586.16.

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Published in the Hampton Chronicle on January 14, 2026

Got a Legal Notice to Submit?

Deadline for legal notice submissions is Monday at noon

Published in the Hampton Chronicle on January 14, 2026

FGH Oct/Nov/Dec Checks Written

Table with 3 columns: Vendor/Internal Remarks, Sum of Amount, and numerical values. Lists various vendors and their payment amounts for October, November, and December.

Published in the Hampton Chronicle on January 14, 2026

Franklin Co BOS Minutes. 1/6/26

PROCEEDINGS OF THE FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS January 6th, 2026

A recording of the meeting can be found at www.youtube.com/@FranklinCountyBoardofSupervisors

The Board of Supervisors met at 8:30AM on Tuesday, January 6th, 2026, at the Franklin County Courthouse for a regular session with Board members Lukensmeyer, McVicker, and Vanness present.

Motion by Lukensmeyer, seconded by McVicker to approve the agenda as presented. All ayes. Motion carried.

Motion by McVicker, seconded by Lukensmeyer to approve the minutes from the 1/2/2026 special session. All ayes. Motion carried.

Board Committee Updates & Public Comment: McVicker attended North-east Iowa Workforce Development Finance Committee.

Jay Waddingham, Secondary Roads Engineer met with the Supervisors for a department update.

Motion by McVicker, seconded by Lukensmeyer to approve a resolution authorizing the County Engineer to execute certification of completion and final acceptance on farm-to-market construction projects. The resolution reads in full:

RESOLUTION #2026-7

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY ENGINEER TO EXECUTE CERTIFICATION OF COMPLETION AND FINAL ACCEPTANCE ON FARM-TO-MARKET CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

Be it resolved by the Franklin County Board of Supervisors that John (Jay) Waddingham, the County Engineer of Franklin County, Iowa, is hereby designated, authorized and empowered on behalf of the Board of Supervisors of said County to execute the certification of completion of work and final acceptance thereof in accordance with plans and specifications therefore in connection with all Farm to Market construction projects in this county.

Roll call vote was as follows, Ayes: Lukensmeyer, McVicker, Vanness; Nays: None. Motion carried and resolution duly adopted.

Motion by Lukensmeyer, seconded by McVicker to approve a resolution authorizing the County Engineer to sign for and collect federal disaster relief funds. The resolution reads in full:

RESOLUTION #2026-6

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY ENGINEER TO SIGN FOR AND COLLECT FEDERAL DISASTER RELIEF FUNDS

The Franklin County Board of Supervisors does hereby authorize the County Engineer for Franklin County, John (Jay) Waddingham, to sign for and collect Federal Disaster Relief funds on behalf of Franklin County for any secondary road or bridge damage. Roll call vote was as follows, Ayes: Lukensmeyer, McVicker, Vanness; Nays: None. Motion carried and resolution duly adopted.

Motion by McVicker, seconded by Lukensmeyer to approve a resolution authorizing the county engineer to close secondary roads in emergency and necessary situations. The resolution reads in full:

RESOLUTION #2026-5

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY ENGINEER TO CLOSE SECONDARY ROADS IN EMERGENCY & NECESSARY SITUATIONS

Be it resolved by the Franklin County Board of Supervisors that John (Jay) Waddingham, the County Engineer for Franklin County, Iowa, is hereby authorized to close secondary roads or portions thereof in emergency situations to safeguard the traveling public. Be it also resolved by the Franklin County Board of Supervisors that John (Jay) Waddingham, the County Engineer for Franklin County, Iowa, is hereby authorized to close secondary roads or portions thereof in necessary situations for the construction or repair of roads. Roll call vote was as follows, Ayes: Lukensmeyer, McVicker, Vanness; Nays: None. Motion carried and resolution duly adopted.

The Supervisors continued discussion regarding funding of courthouse projects. After discussion, they directed the Auditor to move forward with a GO Bond and placing the Courthouse into an Urban Renewal Area for funding

purposes.

Motion by Lukensmeyer, seconded by McVicker to approve claims as presented. All ayes. Motion carried.

Acting as drainage trustees, motion by Lukensmeyer, seconded by McVicker to approve drainage claims as presented. All ayes. Motion carried.

Motion by Lukensmeyer, seconded by McVicker to appoint Eric Arenholz as EMA Director for 2026. All ayes. Motion carried.

Motion by McVicker, seconded by Lukensmeyer to appoint Dan Tilkes as Weed Commissioner/Sanitarian/Planning & Zoning Administrator for 2026. All ayes. Motion carried.

Motion by Lukensmeyer, seconded by McVicker to appoint Adam Akers as Veterans Affairs Director for 2026. All ayes. Motion carried.

Motion by Lukensmeyer, seconded by McVicker to appoint John "Jay" Waddingham as Secondary Roads Engineer for 2026. All ayes. Motion carried.

Motion by McVicker, seconded by Lukensmeyer to appoint Julie Pralle as General Services Director for 2026. All ayes. Motion carried.

Motion by Lukensmeyer, seconded by McVicker to set Hampton Chronicle as the official newspaper of Franklin County for 2026. All ayes. Motion carried.

Motion by Vanness, seconded by McVicker to authorize the Auditor to issue checks in 2026 per Iowa Code §331.506. All ayes. Motion carried.

Motion by Lukensmeyer, seconded by McVicker to approve the list of Board & Commission appointments for members of the Board of Supervisors for 2026. All ayes. Motion carried.

Motion by Lukensmeyer, seconded by Vanness to approve a resolution for Master Matrix Construction Evaluation. The resolution reads in full:

RESOLUTION #2026-2 CONSTRUCTION EVALUATION RESOLUTION

WHEREAS Iowa Code section 459.304(3) sets out the procedure if a board of supervisors wishes to adopt a "construction evaluation resolution" relating to the construction of a confinement feeding operation structure; and WHEREAS only counties that have adopted a construction evaluation resolution can submit to the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) an adopted recommendation to approve or disapprove a construction permit application regarding a proposed confinement feeding operation structure; and WHEREAS only counties that have adopted a construction evaluation resolution and submitted an adopted recommendation may contest the DNR's decision regarding a specific application; and WHEREAS, by adopting a construction evaluation resolution the board of supervisors agrees to evaluate every construction permit application for a proposed confinement feeding operation structure received by the board of supervisors between February 1, 2026, and January 31, 2027, and submit an adopted recommendation regarding that application to the DNR; and WHEREAS the board of supervisors must conduct an evaluation of every construction permit application using the master matrix created in Iowa Code section 459.305, but the board's recommendation to the DNR may be based on the final score on the master matrix or may be based on reasons other than the final score on the master matrix. NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF FRANKLIN COUNTY that the Board of Supervisors hereby adopts this construction evaluation resolution pursuant to Iowa Code section 459.304(3).

Roll call vote was as follows, Ayes: Lukensmeyer, McVicker, Vanness; Nays: None. Motion carried and resolution duly adopted.

Motion by McVicker, seconded by Lukensmeyer to approve a resolution for investigation of drainage districts per request. The resolution reads in full:

RESOLUTION 2026-3

FRANKLIN COUNTY INVESTIGATION OF DRAINAGE DISTRICTS PER REQUESTS

NOW, ON THIS 5TH DAY OF JANUARY 2026, THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION WAS PRESENTED TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS ACTING AS DRAINAGE DISTRICT TRUSTEES: WHEREAS, SAID TRUSTEES BELIEVE THAT IT IS IN THE BEST INTERESTS OF DRAINAGE DISTRICTS THAT INDIVIDUALS, LANDOWNERS, OR ENTITIES MAKING REQUESTS FOR DISTRICT INVESTIGATION OF REPAIRS BE RESPONSIBLE FOR

THE COSTS OF THOSE INVESTIGATIONS IN THE EVENT THAT THE SOURCE OF THE NEED FOR REPAIRS WOULD BE PRIVATELY-OWNED TILE AND NOT PART OF THE DRAINAGE DISTRICT FACILITIES OR NO PROBLEM IS FOUND AND THE DRAINAGE DISTRICT FACILITY IS ANYTHING OTHER THAN OPEN DITCH. BE IT RESOLVED THAT IN THE EVENT ANY INDIVIDUAL OR ENTITY MAKES A REQUEST TO THE DRAINAGE DISTRICT TO INVESTIGATE PROPOSED REPAIRS WHICH REQUIRE THE DISTRICT TO EXPEND FUNDS TO DETERMINE THE LOCATION OF NEEDED REPAIRS, FEASIBILITY OF REPAIRS, OR ANY OTHER COSTS INCURRED IN CONNECTION WITH INVESTIGATING THE REQUEST AND THAT IN THE EVENT IN THE COURSE OF INVESTIGATION IT IS DISCOVERED THAT THE DRAINAGE TILE OR RELATED STRUCTURES NEEDING REPAIR ARE NOT UNDER THE DRAINAGE DISTRICT'S CONTROL, THEN THE INDIVIDUAL, LANDOWNER, OR ENTITY REQUESTING THE INVESTIGATION SHALL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR PAYMENT OF ANY EXPENSES INCURRED BY THE DISTRICT. IF SAID INVESTIGATION RESULTS IN NO PROBLEM DISCOVERED, SAID REQUESTOR IS RESPONSIBLE FOR PAYMENT OF ANY EXPENSES INCURRED BY THE DISTRICT. THIS DOES NOT APPLY TO DRAINAGE DISTRICT FACILITIES THAT ARE OPEN DITCHES. IF THE INVESTIGATION IN THE DISTRICT FINDS A PROBLEM WITH DISTRICT FACILITIES, THEN SAID DISTRICT WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR PAYMENT OF ANY EXPENSES INCURRED BY THE DISTRICT AS ALLOWED BY IOWA CODE. THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS ACTING AS DRAINAGE DISTRICT TRUSTEES AUTHORIZE THE FRANKLIN COUNTY AUDITOR TO PREPARE THE NECESSARY FORM FOR THE INDIVIDUAL LANDOWNER, OR ENTITY TO EXECUTE PRIOR TO ANY INVESTIGATION (EXCEPT OPEN DITCHES) IN A FORM NECESSARY TO CARRY OUT THE INTENT OF THIS RESOLUTION.

Roll call vote was as follows, Ayes: Lukensmeyer, McVicker, Vanness; Nays: None. Motion carried and resolution duly adopted.

Motion by McVicker, seconded by Lukensmeyer to approve a resolution appointing deputies and assistants:

RESOLUTION #2026-1

RESOLUTION TO APPOINT DEPUTIES AND ASSISTANTS

WHEREAS, Iowa Code 331.903 requires that the number of deputies, assistants, and clerks for each office shall be determined by the board and the number and approval of each appointment shall be adopted by a resolution recorded in the minutes of the board. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors approve the appointments of the following staff members to fill the positions authorized above:

- Amy Holmgard, Deputy Auditor
Stacey Pratt, Deputy Recorder
Joel McWilliams, Chief Deputy Sheriff
Cindy Shelton, Deputy Treasurer
David Kuehner, Assistant County Attorney

Roll call vote was as follows, Ayes: Lukensmeyer, McVicker, Vanness; Nays: None. Motion carried and resolution duly adopted.

Motion by Lukensmeyer, seconded by McVicker to freeze the current mileage rate at .70 per mile and re-evaluate in 6 months. All ayes. Motion carried.

Motion by Lukensmeyer, seconded by McVicker to approve the list of representatives to various NIACOG boards as presented for 2026. All ayes. Motion carried.

Motion by McVicker, seconded by Lukensmeyer to appoint Jay Waddingham to the Landfill of North Iowa Board of Directors for 2026. All ayes. Motion carried.

Chairman Vanness adjourned the meeting at 9:38AM until Tuesday, January 13th, 2026, at 8:30AM at the Franklin County Courthouse for a regular session.

Chris Vanness, Chairman
ATTENT:

Katy A. Flint, Auditor & Clerk to the Board

Published in the Hampton Chronicle on January 14, 2026

IOWA VS ILLINOIS Basketball

The Iowa Hawkeyes battled the Illinois Fighting Illini in a top 25 match up on Sunday, Jan. 11. The Hawkeyes fell to the Fighting Illini 75-69 and here are some photos captured by our sports reporter Evan Pharr.



Iowa's Alvaro Folgueiras attempts a three-point jump shot.



Alvaro Folgueiras fouled as he goes up for a layup.



Iowa's Tavion Banks attempts a reverse layup.



Iowa fans in the crowd wave their gold rally towels.



Iowa's Tate Sage shoots a free throw.



From left to right: Cam Manyawu, Cooper Koch and Tavion Banks celebrate a Hawkeyes made shot from the bench.



Hawkeyes head coach Ben McCoolum talks with his assistant coaches.



From left to right: Alvaro Folgueiras and Bennett Stirtz listen to head coach Ben McCoolum during a time huddle after a timeout.



Iowa's Bennett Stirtz dribbles the ball while looking to make a play.



Iowa's Kael Combs dribbles the ball while looking to make a play.

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