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CHRONICLE

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WEDNESDAY | 7.22.2026 | VOLUME 150 | ISSUE 30

hamptonchronicle.com

Carli Lyon Named 2026 Franklin County Fair Queen

BY ELIAN TREVINO
HAMPTON CHRONICLE

HAMPTON – Carli Lyon, 18, of Ackley was crowned the 2026 Franklin County Fair Queen Thursday evening, during the annual coronation at the Van Wall Tent.

Lyon is the daughter of Brandon and Lori Hardman and Steve and Annie Lyon. She was crowned by outgoing 2025 Franklin County Fair Queen Abby Schoning, who reflected on her year of service before announcing Lyon as the new queen.

Lyon will spend the next year serving as an ambassador for the Franklin County Fair and its communities.

Before crowning her successor, Schoning thanked the many people who supported her throughout her year as queen.

“I would first like to start with some

much-deserved thank yous,” she said. “First, thank you to all of you for coming out to support these wonderful queen candidates. The support from family members, friends and all fairgoers means so much on this journey.”

She also thanked the Franklin County Fair Board, the fair queen committee and her family for making her year possible.

Reflecting on her reign, Schoning said serving as fair queen allowed her to grow both personally and as a representative of the county.

“Over the past year, through this crown, I’ve met so many new people, had so many wonderful experiences and grown so much as a person,” she said.

Schoning shared one of the questions asked of this year’s contestants. “Do you wear the crown, or does the crown wear you?” She said her an-

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Carli Lyon is presented as the 2026 Franklin County Fair Queen. Photo by Elian Trevino.



The Franklin County Fair Queen Court gathers onstage as the new fair queen is about to be crowned.



Flags representing the U.S. Armed Forces stand ready before participants gathered for the inaugural 250 Freedom Ride at the Franklin County Fairgrounds.

250 Freedom Ride Brings Riders Across Franklin County

BY ELIAN TREVINO
HAMPTON CHRONICLE

HAMPTON — A new tradition made its debut during this year’s Franklin County Fair as veterans, motorcycle enthusiasts and community members took to the road for the inaugural 250 Freedom Ride.

The ride, organized by Franklin County Veterans Affairs Director Adam Akers, brought together 20 motorcycles for a more than 100-mile route through Franklin County. While it was the first year for the event, Akers said the response from participants made it a successful addition to the fair’s lineup.

The idea for the ride began with a simple conversation several months ago.

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Franklin General Hospital Holds Solar Array Ribbon Cutting

BY ELIAN TREVINO
HAMPTON CHRONICLE

HAMPTON – Franklin General Hospital marked a major step toward energy independence Wednesday as community leaders, board members, contractors and project partners gathered for a “flip the switch” ribbon-cutting ceremony celebrating the hospital’s completed solar array.

The project, years in the making, is expected to begin generating electricity by the end of July following final electrical inspections and communications work. Once operational, the system will provide renewable energy to Franklin General Hospital, Franklin General Hospital Assisted Living and the Franklin Wellness Center.

According to Facilities Director Brad Shupe, the hospital first began exploring solar energy in 2018. Planning was delayed during the COVID-19 pandemic before resuming in 2022, with construction beginning earlier this year.

The new installation includes 3,100 solar panels mounted on single-axis trackers, which follow the sun throughout the day



Hospital and project leaders stand behind a solar energy demonstration during the ribbon-cutting ceremony for Franklin General Hospital's new eight-acre solar array. Photo courtesy of Franklin General Hospital.

to maximize energy production. The array has a generating capacity of 2.17 megawatts DC and 1.434 megawatts AC.

Shupe said the system is designed to reduce the hospital's dependence on electricity purchased from the utility while providing

power directly to the campus.

“The electricity that’s generated is used by Franklin General Hospital first,” Shupe said. “If we’re generating more electricity than we’re using, it flows back to

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Hubbard man faces multiple charges

BY JASON EATON
RadioOnTheGo News

A 48-year-old Hubbard man was arrested on multiple charges over the weekend after allegedly fleeing a traffic stop in Franklin County.

Deputies attempted to stop Vince L. Ankrum around 6:50 p.m. in the 100 block of Highway 65 on July 12, while he was riding a 2000 Harley-Davidson motorcycle. Ankrum allegedly did not stop. Franklin County Sheriff Aaron Dodd tells RadioOnTheGo News Ankrum was later stopped by deputies in the 1000 block of Highway 65 around 7:04 p.m.

Ankrum was charged with eluding, driving while revoked, interference with official acts, failure to provide SR-22 insurance and failure to operate a vehicle with an ignition interlock device.

Dodd says Ankrum was held at the Franklin County Sheriff’s Office until he appeared before a magistrate. He was then released on his own recognizance.

The charges are accusations and Ankrum is presumed innocent unless proven guilty in court.



Photo provided by the Franklin County Sheriff's Office

Fair-Week Heat Wave Offers Summer-Long Safety Lesson

BY MITCH WILLIAMS
Hampton Chronicle

HAMPTON — While North Iowa is getting a brief, welcome break from high humidity and sweltering temperatures mid-week, local health officials are reminding residents that Iowa's summer heat is far from over.

Extreme temperatures hit the region last week—just as crowd-pleasing events like the Franklin County Fair were in full swing. With weeks of July and August still ahead, health experts stress that the hot spell was an important reminder to recognize the signs of heat exhaustion and heat stroke before they become life-threatening.

Nancy Retz, EMS Manager at Franklin General Hospital,

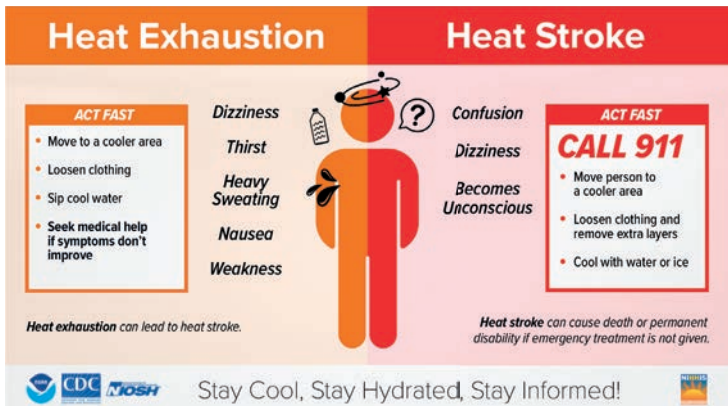


Image courtesy: National Weather Service and CDC

emphasized that high heat poses a serious danger to everyone in the community, regardless of what they are doing.

“It doesn’t just happen to people that are working outside,” Retz said. “Especially, it’s

important to remember that as we’ve got the Franklin County Fair this week and just remembering that we want to make sure everybody is staying cool.”

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Franklin County road closure scheduled for culvert replacement

BY MITCH WILLIAMS
RadioOnTheGo News

A portion of Mallard Avenue in Franklin County is closed for a culvert replacement project.

Franklin County Engineer Jay Waddingham says Mallard Avenue, or County Road S41, is closed between 130th and 140th streets since Monday, July 20. The project is expected to last about two weeks, weather permitting.

A signed detour will direct traffic east on 140th Street to Highway 65, south on Highway 65 to 70th Street near Bradford, then west on 70th Street back to Mallard Avenue.

Motorists are encouraged to plan ahead, allow extra travel time and use caution when traveling through the area.

Grandstand Photo Gallery

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North Iowa Model Railroad Club Named Grand Marshals

BY ELIAN TREVINO
HAMPTON CHRONICLE

HAMPTON – The North Central Iowa Model Railroad Club has spent nearly 15 years creating a destination that delights fairgoers of all ages. This year, the Franklin County Fair Board recognized those efforts by naming the club the 2026 Franklin County Fair Grand Marshals.

For club treasurer Bob Grant, the honor reflects years of dedication from the group's volunteers and the relationship they have built with the fair.

"I guess we just feel good about it, that the fair board thought enough of us to ask us to be the grand marshals," Grant said.

The club began in 2011, when members first displayed their layout during the Franklin County Fair. At the time, only about half of the track had been completed, with little to no scenery. Since then, the exhibit

has continued to grow through constant additions, remodeling and improvements.

Today, the club has 17 active members ranging in age from a 15-year-old who joined this year to members in their 80s. While many live busy lives, members travel from communities including Mason City and Rockwell to maintain and operate the layout.

The model railroad has become one of the fair's unique attractions. Throughout fair week, trains circle the layout while members operate them much like a real railroad, moving freight cars and switching tracks.

For Grant, the hobby began decades ago when he bought a train set for his son, who was about 6 years old at the time.

"My son never really got interested," Grant said with a laugh. "But I did."

That interest grew into a lifelong hobby. Grant now has



Members of the North Central Iowa Model Railroad Club, the 2026 Franklin County Fair Grand Marshals.

a model railroad at home and joked that once a layout is finished, "the only thing to do is tear it apart and start over again."

"It's best never to complete a railroad," he added.

Beyond the trains themselves, Grant said the club has connected him with people he

otherwise never would have met.

"These are people that I would have never met if it wouldn't have been for this hobby," he said.

"It's no different than golfers. This is our hobby."

The club's exhibit is housed in the fairground building's

basement, a space Grant said was once neglected and had previously flooded with several feet of water. Members transformed it into a permanent attraction that now welcomes lots of visitors during the fair.

"We've turned it into a viable exhibit for the fair," Grant said.

One of his favorite parts of fair week is watching first-time visitors walk through the door.

"You can just see it in their eyes," he said. "They never realized it was here."

Despite being part of the fair for years, Grant said many Franklin County residents are still surprised to discover the exhibit.

"We still have people in Hampton and Franklin County that do not know we're here," he said.

Grant especially enjoys seeing children experience the trains. One memory stands out from years past, when a young child reached into the display,

grabbed a railcar and somehow set it back down without derailling the train.

"Normally, if you touch it, it's derailed," he said. "She was so quick. That's a memory I'll always remember."

The club also recently completed an accessibility improvement by installing a chair lift at the south entrance, allowing visitors with mobility challenges to access the basement exhibit. Grant said the project was possible through donations from the club's sponsors.

The North Central Iowa Model Railroad Club welcomes visitors every Thursday evening, with business meetings held on the third Thursday of each month. Grant encourages anyone interested in model railroading to stop by, ask questions and see the layout in action.

"It's just a fun hobby," Grant said. "People are welcome to come visit, see it and enjoy it."

Ballard's Boba Brings Fresh Flavors to Hampton

BY ELIAN TREVINO
HAMPTON CHRONICLE

HAMPTON – A trip to Chicago inspired sisters-in-law Halie Ballard and Sarah Ballard to bring something new to Franklin County, and just a month after opening, Ballard's Boba is introducing local customers to handcrafted drinks and a taste of a growing beverage trend.

The idea for the business began about two years ago during a trip to Chicago with employees from the pair's cleaning company. While visiting a specialty drink shop called Candy Cloud, they tried boba drinks for the first time and immediately saw an opportunity to bring the concept home.

"It had a lot of specialty drinks and boba, and we kind of all just fell in love with it," Halie Ballard said. "We thought this would be a big hit back home because there wasn't really anything like it around."

The sisters-in-law already own a cleaning business and also host online auctions. Adding Ballard's Boba became their third business venture together, but they said making the dream a reality took more than a year of planning.

Before opening, the pair completed licensing requirements, formed an LLC, established business accounts and searched for the right trailer. They eventually found a former coffee trailer through Facebook Marketplace and drove nearly four hours to pick it up.

Although the trailer already had much of what they needed, it still required remodeling.

"We didn't want a trailer that had all the cooking equipment because we didn't need that," Halie Ballard said. "So we brought it back and started tearing into it."

Today, the trailer serves a variety of specialty drinks, including dirty sodas, fresh-squeezed lemonades and customizable beverages with popping boba, flavored cold foams and candy toppings. Signature favorites include the Pink Burst and Blue Lagoon Drinks, while weekly specials keep the menu changing throughout the season.

For special events, Ballard's Boba also offers Italian ice and specialty pickles. Drinks start at \$7, with dirty sodas served in 24-ounce cups and lemonades in 32-ounce cups.

One of the business' biggest points of pride is the freshness of its lemonade.

"Our lemonade is prepared right



Sarah Ballard, left, and Halie Ballard stand outside Ballard's Boba trailer, where they serve fresh-squeezed lemonade, dirty sodas and specialty boba drinks at events throughout the area.

when you order it," Sarah Ballard said. "We slice the lemons here, we muddle them. It's as fresh as you can get."

The owners said introducing customers to boba has become one of the most rewarding parts of the business.

"So many people ask us, 'What's boba?'" Halie Ballard said. "Our kids really enjoyed it, and that's part of what

made us want to bring it here. Once people try it, they usually love it. But we also have plenty of drinks without boba, so there's something for everyone."

Balancing three businesses while remodeling the trailer proved to be the biggest challenge. Finding time to work on the trailer around busy schedules, along with weeks of hot temperatures

and rainy weather, slowed progress.

Even so, the owners said seeing the transformation has made every hour worthwhile.

"The before and after pictures are amazing," Sarah Ballard said. "It looks so much different than when we first got it."

Positive feedback from customers has also made the hard work worthwhile.

"When people try one of our drinks for the first time and tell us how much they like it, that's really rewarding," Halie Ballard said.

Beyond serving drinks, the owners hope every customer leaves with a positive experience.

"We want people to feel welcomed," Halie Ballard said. "You're always going to get a smile and friendly service. If something isn't right, tell us, and we'll make it right."

The pair hopes to continue growing the business by participating in more community events. Upcoming appearances include Latimer Day and the Iowa BBQ Society competition in Ackley, and they are also working with the City

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FC Fair Crowns 2026 Prince and Princess

BY ELIAN TREVINO
HAMPTON CHRONICLE

HAMPTON – The Franklin County Fair introduced a new tradition Thursday afternoon by crowning its first-ever Fair Prince alongside the 2026 Fair Princess during the Prince and Princess coronation at the Van Wall Tent.

Mateo Velasco, 8, the son of Lili and Juan Velasco, was crowned the inaugural Franklin County Fair Prince. Velasco, who will be a third-grade student this fall, said he was nervous before taking the stage but excited when he was crowned.

Velasco enjoys many of the attractions the fair has to offer. He said he is most looking forward to riding the Tornado and has already enjoyed eating a corn dog. He is also active in Clover Kids, where he exhibited flower photography and a Lego project at this year's fair.

Outside of the fair, Velasco enjoys swimming at the Hampton Aquatic Center and hopes



Mateo Velasco was crowned the fair's first-ever Prince.



Luci Mollenbeck was crowned the 2026 Franklin County Fair Princess.

Mollenbeck will serve as youth ambassador for the fair, representing the fair during events and greeting fairgoers. Her selection recognizes her enthusiasm for the Franklin County Fair and her involvement in

activities throughout the week.

Mollenbeck said she enjoys attending the fair each summer and looks forward to being in the parades while serving as princess. Throughout her reign, she will appear at fair activities, encourage younger fairgoers to become involved and help promote all the fair traditions.

The Prince and Princess programs give younger fair participants the opportunity to serve as ambassadors for the fair while celebrating the community and youth leadership. Family members, friends and fairgoers gathered to cheer on both children as they received their crowns. Both earned a loud applause.

Together, Velasco and Mollenbeck will help celebrate the traditions that bring families and communities together each summer while encouraging the next generation to take part in everything the Franklin County Fair has to offer.

Lt. Gov. Chris Cournoyer Attends July Rotary Kiwanis Meeting



Iowa Lt. Governor Chris Cournoyer (center) presented a program on Iowa America 250 during the Tuesday, July 14, Rotary/Kiwanis meeting. Iowa America 250 is the state's official observance and coalition commemorating the 250th anniversary of the founding of the United States. Pictured (left to right) are Tom Teggatz, Brad Staley, Lt. Gov. Chris Cournoyer, Diane Welden, and Mary Amsbaugh.

Correction

In last week's front page story "Benning Blooms Flower Farm Prepares to Open in Hampton," we incorrectly named the owner as Megan Benning. Her name is Madison Benning.

Little Miss, Little Mister Crowned at FC Fair

BY ELIAN TREVINO
HAMPTON CHRONICLE

HAMPTON – Two young fair enthusiasts were all smiles Thursday afternoon as they were crowned the 2026 Franklin County Fair Little Miss and Little Mister during a ceremony at the Van Wall Tent.

Five-year-old Brexley Alert, of Hampton, was named the 2026 Franklin County Fair Little Miss. She is the daughter of Robert and Madison Alert.

Brexley enjoys spending time at the Franklin County Fair each summer, especially showing her goat Wilburt. She said one of her favorite parts of the fair is getting to play with and care for her goat before taking him into the show ring.

When asked what she wants to become when she grows up, Brexley said she hopes to become a teacher. Following her coronation, she described the experience of being crowned in one word: "delightful."



Brexley Alert was crowned 2026 Little Miss Franklin County. She hopes to become a teacher.



Colin Showalter was crowned the 2026 Franklin County Fair Little Mister. He hopes to become a farmer.

While he enjoys many activities at the fair, his favorite is riding the carnival rides.

Winning the Little Mister title was a memorable moment for Colin, who said being on stage and hearing his name announced made him feel

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Classic vehicles to take over downtown Clarksville

BY JASON EATON
RadioOnTheGo News

Clarksville’s annual Cruise Night Show N’ Shine will return Saturday, Aug. 1, in the city’s downtown district.

Owners of classic cars, trucks and motorcycles are invited to display their vehicles from 5 to 8 p.m. Cruisers may park downtown during the show or continue driving through the

community.

No entry fee or advance registration is required.

Spectators are encouraged to bring lawn chairs and watch the vehicles from the sidewalks. The downtown popcorn stand will be open, and local restaurants will offer grilled food in addition to regular indoor seating and carryout service.

In the event of rain, the show will be cancelled.



Photo provided by Jeff Kolb

Marshalltown Man Faces Seven Charges After Alleged Shooting During Domestic Dispute

BY ANDY JENNINGS
RadioOnTheGo News

A Marshalltown man is facing seven criminal charges, including four felony counts, after authorities say he fired a handgun during an argument Wednesday at a home on East Church Street.

According to a criminal complaint, 44-year-old Josh Warnell became involved in a verbal dispute with another person. Investigators say Warnell left the residence, then returned armed with a pistol. He allegedly displayed the firearm before firing a single shot into the floor of the home.

No one was injured in the incident, which was witnessed by several people, according to court documents.

Warnell is charged with going armed with intent, intimidation with a dangerous weapon, possession and control of a firearm by a convicted felon, assault, and interference with official acts, along with other related offenses.

Warnell is being held without bond in the Marshall County Jail. A preliminary hearing has been scheduled for 9:30 a.m. on Tuesday, July 21. Court records indicate the investigation remains ongoing.

Pickup strikes tractor, trailer Friday near Sheffield

BY MITCH WILLIAMS
RadioOnTheGo News

One person suffered minor injuries Friday afternoon in a vehicle-versus-tractor accident northwest of Sheffield.

According to the Cerro Gordo County Sheriff’s Office, deputies responded at about 12:15 p.m. to the intersection of 110th Street and Nettle Avenue.

Authorities say 43-year-old Matthew Varner of Kensett was driving a 2013 Chevrolet Silverado south on Nettle Avenue when the pickup struck the rear of a trailer being pulled by a John Deere 2555 tractor, driven by 62-year-old Mark Lage of Sheffield. After the collision, Varner’s pickup left the road-



way and entered the ditch.

Varner sustained minor injuries and was taken by private vehicle to MercyOne North Iowa Medical Center in Mason City. Lage was not injured.

The accident remains under investigation by the Cerro Gordo County Sheriff’s Office.

Hawkeye offers one-stop enrollment events for fall classes

BY JASON EATON
RadioOnTheGo News

Hawkeye Community College will hold three Instant Enrollment Days for people interested in beginning classes this fall.

The first event is scheduled from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tuesday, July 28, at the Hawkeye Center on the college’s main campus, 1501 E. Orange Road in Waterloo.

Participants can complete the admissions process during the event, including submitting an application, taking assessments, attending orientation and registering for classes.

Those attending should bring a valid photo identification card and a high school transcript or GED or HSET scores



and certificate.

Additional Instant Enrollment Days are scheduled for Saturday, Aug. 8, and Thursday, Aug. 13.

Advance registration is encouraged but is not required. Participants can register at hawkeyecollege.edu/instant.

More information about enrolling at Hawkeye Community College is available by calling 319-296-4000 or emailing admission@hawkeyecollege.edu.

Wright County motorists to see Highway 3 detour

BY JASON EATON
RadioOnTheGo News

Beginning on Monday motorists in Wright County will be affected by a construction project that could take months to complete.

Iowa Department of Transportation officials say the project to replace the bridge over Eagle Creek on Iowa Highway 3 between Clarion and Goldfield will begin July 20, with an expected completion date of Nov. 15, weather permitting.

While the project is underway, motorists will be detoured around the work zone by traveling about 5 miles south on

Wright County Road R-33 to Wright County Road C-54. Motorists will then travel about 10 miles east on C-54 and about 5 miles north on U.S. 69 back to Iowa Highway 3.

Officials are reminding motorists to drive with caution and obey posted speed limits and other signs in the work area. Motorists are also reminded that traffic fines for moving violations are at least double in work zones.

Motorists can find the latest travel information by visiting 511ia.org. A map of the affected area can be found at radioonthe-go.com.

That ‘explosive’ intestinal sickness is in Iowa, but it’s not considered an outbreak

RADIO IOWA

Iowa is among at least 34 states where cases of a parasitic illness are being reported that causes severe intestinal distress, what some are calling explosive diarrhea. State health officials confirm 112 cases of cyclosporiasis in Iowa this year, which is up from 57 cases reported statewide at this same time a year ago. Pharmacist Sayo Weihs says over-the-counter treatments are available but they may -not- be very effective in treating this infection.

“Anti-diarrheal, unfortunately, just the one thing it does is stop the diarrhea,” Weihs says. “It does not stop the parasite from getting out of your body.”

Investigators suspect con-

taminated lettuce and pre-packaged salad greens were the source of the national outbreak, which has sickened as many as seven-thousand people across the U.S. The symptoms can last several weeks and may lead to serious health troubles. Weihs says Iowans who think they have this illness should see a doctor and get the proper meds prescribed.

“There are actually several treatments available,” she says, “and so it’s something that can be treated, if tested and appropriately identified.”

People are urged to take precautions with fresh produce by thoroughly washing it before eating it, even if its label says it’s pre-washed.

DNR Changing To Two Deer License Zones

RADIO IOWA

The Iowa DNR is making changes to the way licenses are distributed for deer hunting. State deer biologist Jace Elliott says it is probably the biggest change to the deer harvest framework in almost 40 years. For the next deer hunting season, eight counties in northwest Iowa will be in one zone — for antlered bucks only. The counties in that zone are Crawford, Ida, Lyon, O’Brien, Plymouth, Shelby, Sioux and Woodbury. Hunting licenses for the other



91 counties in Iowa will remain the same — for female and male deer. Elliott says disease outbreaks and limited habitat have hurt the deer population in northwest Iowa and DNR officials hope the restrictions will help restore the deer population.

Conrad Library to Host Two Free Educational Programs

BY ANDY JENNINGS
RadioOnTheGo News

The Conrad Public Library is offering two free programs for adults and high school-age students over the next two weeks.

The first program will be held Monday at 4:30 p.m. and features a guest presenter from Iowa State Archaeology. The presentation will explore what the state of Iowa looked like during the Ice Age, giving attendees an opportunity to learn about the region’s ancient landscape, wildlife, and early history.

The second program is scheduled for Tuesday, July 28, at 4:30 p.m. Iowa author Linda McCann will present “Unearthing Your Family’s Past,” a program focused on genealogy and family history research. McCann will share tips and techniques for tracing family roots, locating historical records, and beginning a family tree.

Both programs are free to attend and are open to adults and high school-age students interested in history, archaeology, or genealogy. The events will be held at the Conrad Public Library.

My HUGE Bass



BY RICK JANSSEN

Are you getting tired of hearing about my fishing trips? Too bad, because that is what I do the most during summer. Here is another story about a recent trip to Beeds Lake where I caught the heaviest bass of my life.

As you loyal readers know, my wife likes to come fishing with me, and I take her as often as possible. It just so happened that a few weeks ago she had an

appointment in Mason City on a Friday morning, so I decided to go fishing at Beeds Lake on my own. I call this my “serious” fishing time. With her along I would rather see her catch fish than me, but on this trip, I was going to focus on serious bass fishing.

I hooked up my boat the night before and got 4 poles all rigged up with different lures. This is part of the serious fishing I was talking about. With another person in the boat, it is hard to have 4 poles laying around. Something would get tangled up for sure. Since I was alone, this would not be a problem.

I had been watching videos of a guy who catches large bass on plastic frogs. This is a very exciting way to catch fish. You cast the frog close to shore and then twitch it back to the boat. The

frog floats on top of the water and when a bass hits the lure it is very visual and loud. It might be the most fun way to catch a bass.

I started fishing the frog along the shore of the inlet where the boat landing is. I was on the water by 7 am and the water was smooth and perfect for frog fishing. I was making some great casts along the shore, but I was not getting any bites. I arrived at a spot where I knew there was an underwater log that stuck out from the shore. I made my cast to the shore and gave the frog a few twitches. Suddenly I heard a noise that sounded like someone had thrown an anvil in the water. There was a huge splash and I set the hook. As soon as I had the fish hooked, I knew I had something big.

I turned my trolling motor to get away from the logs and out

into the open water. I still had not seen the fish, but I knew it was big. I kept pressure on the fish when suddenly it jumped clear out of the water. At that point I saw just how big this fish was. I told myself to keep calm and get it in the boat. I don’t use a net as I can normally just reach down and grab the fish and bring it in the boat. I admit that at this point I wanted a net.

I fought the fish to the side of the boat and with a shaking hand I reached down and grabbed the fish by the jaw and got it in the boat. My whole body was shaking when I lifted it out of the water. I had never lifted a bass this heavy!

I grabbed my phone and dialed up a FaceTime call with my wife. It was 7:20 so I had only been out fishing for 20 minutes. When she answered I “tried” to

hold the fish up and get it in the picture for her to see. She was excited and watched as I measured the fish. Again, I was having a hard time holding the fish, the phone and measuring it. The ruler on the side of my boat said 20”. That is a huge bass. I have caught a bass that measured 23 “ but this one was so much heavier. I tried to get a selfie with the fish, but it was too heavy to hold up for long. I was now wishing I had someone along to help with a photo. My guess was between 6.5 to 7 pounds. My heaviest bass ever!

I continued to fish along the shore and had another huge splash at my lure. I was still excited from the first fish, and I set the hook too fast to get the bass. Wow, my heart was pumping. I would love to say that I caught more fish that day, but I did not.



I managed to catch one more smaller fish before the wind pushed me off the lake. I was ready to head home and after catching that huge fish I was satisfied with the morning.

So, for all of you that say there are no big fish at Beeds Lake I can tell you that there are some giants out there. I have even seen bigger bass than mine being caught and returned to the lake. Get out fishing and maybe you will catch one of these giants. Just be sure to let it go if you catch one.



Enjoy the column?

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Ringneck Barbecue Co. Earns Franklin County Cookout Title

BY ELIAN TREVINO
HAMPTON CHRONICLE

HAMPTON — What began as a leap of faith turned into a championship for Refugio Contreras and Ringneck Barbecue Co. after taking first place in the Franklin County Farm Bureau Cookout Contest during the Franklin County Fair.

The victory earned Contreras the opportunity to represent Franklin County at the Iowa State Fair barbecue competition in August while bringing recognition to his growing barbecue business.

Contreras, 27, was born in Chicago before moving to Hampton with his family in 2005 when he was 5 years old. A 2017 Hampton-Dumont High School graduate, he said his love for cooking started at a young age, but smoking and grilling eventually became his favorite way to prepare food.

"I have always loved to cook, but I really enjoy smoking and grilling food and being outside," Contreras said.

Ringneck Barbecue Co. is still in its early stages, but Contreras already has ambi-



Ringneck Barbecue Co. accepts the \$200 grand prize check and championship trophy after winning the Franklin County Farm Bureau Cookout Contest. Refugio Contreras stands with contest judges and Franklin County Fair Queen Candidate Maren Subbert during the presentation.

tious plans for the future. He hopes to one day open his own smokehouse in Hampton while continuing to expand his line of homemade barbecue sauces and seasonings.

Although this year's contest marked another opportunity to showcase his skills, Contreras said entering competitive barbecue came down to simply taking a chance.

"Many people encouraged me to enter competitive barbe-

cue competitions, and I simply took a chance and entered," he said.

Preparing for the Franklin County Farm Bureau Cookout Contest took days of planning and testing before competition day arrived. Contreras said he completed multiple trial runs on each recipe to make sure every protein met his expectations before finalizing his menu.

"I did several trial runs on each of the meats that I planned

to prepare for the contest," he said. "After achieving the flavors that I desired, I began to prepare everything that was needed to replicate each dish."

His award-winning menu featured five smoked proteins across the contest's categories. For beef, he prepared a smoked picanha steak roast. His pork entry consisted of smoked spare ribs glazed with a homemade blackberry barbecue sauce. In the poultry category, he served smoked chicken thighs topped with a homemade honey kiwi barbecue sauce. His lamb entry featured a smoked rack of lamb marinated with garlic, lemon and olive oil, while his turkey category entry included smoked turkey breast finished with a homemade raspberry chipotle barbecue sauce.

Every seasoning blend and barbecue sauce used in the competition was made from scratch by Contreras.

Beyond developing recipes, he purchased ingredients, mixed his own seasonings, prepared homemade sauces and carefully planned how each

See **COOKOUT:**
Page 12

Paul Bunyan Lumberjack Show Mixed Skill, Comedy

BY ELIAN TREVINO
HAMPTON CHRONICLE

HAMPTON — For 19-year-old Caden Williams, performing in the Paul Bunyan Lumberjack Show is more than demonstrating traditional logging skills. It's about entertaining fairgoers, making them laugh and giving them an experience they won't forget.

Williams, who is from Texas and performs with a Florida-based lumberjack entertainment company, spent fair week demonstrating events ranging from axe throwing and crosscut sawing to chainsaw carving and log rolling.

Williams joined the company about a year ago after hearing about the opportunity while he was still in high school. Curious about the unique line of work, he called the company and completed an interview



Photo by Elian Trevino

over the phone before being invited to a trial show in Georgia.

"They liked me enough to keep me around," Williams joked.

His first performance also served as his training. Williams watched one show before jumping into the action himself, gradually learning the demonstrations, jokes and routines

that make up each performance.

Throughout the fair season, the performers spend as much time preparing the show as they do performing it. Before the first audience arrives, the crew unloads trailers, assembles equipment and fills a large pool used for log rolling. Once everything is in place, the performers settle into a schedule of

multiple daily shows.

The Franklin County Fair performances featured a variety of classic lumberjack competitions. Williams said log rolling has become his favorite event.

"It's the most fun for me," he said. "It's really nice to cool off afterward."

Although the athletic demonstrations draw attention, Williams said the audience ultimately determines the energy of each performance.

"It's hard to get the show going if the crowd's not engaging," he said. "When they're talking to me, laughing and having a good time, it makes me feel a lot better with the show. It helps everything go a little smoother."

That interaction often leads

See **LUMBERJACK:**
Page 12



Jennifer and Crystal Klooster of Rockwell were named the winners of the Mother-Daughter Look-Alike Contest during the Franklin County Fair.

ANNUAL LOOK-ALIKE CONTEST

The annual Look-Alike Contests were held Wednesday, July 15 in the Van Wall Tent at the Franklin County Fair. Photos by Elian Trevino



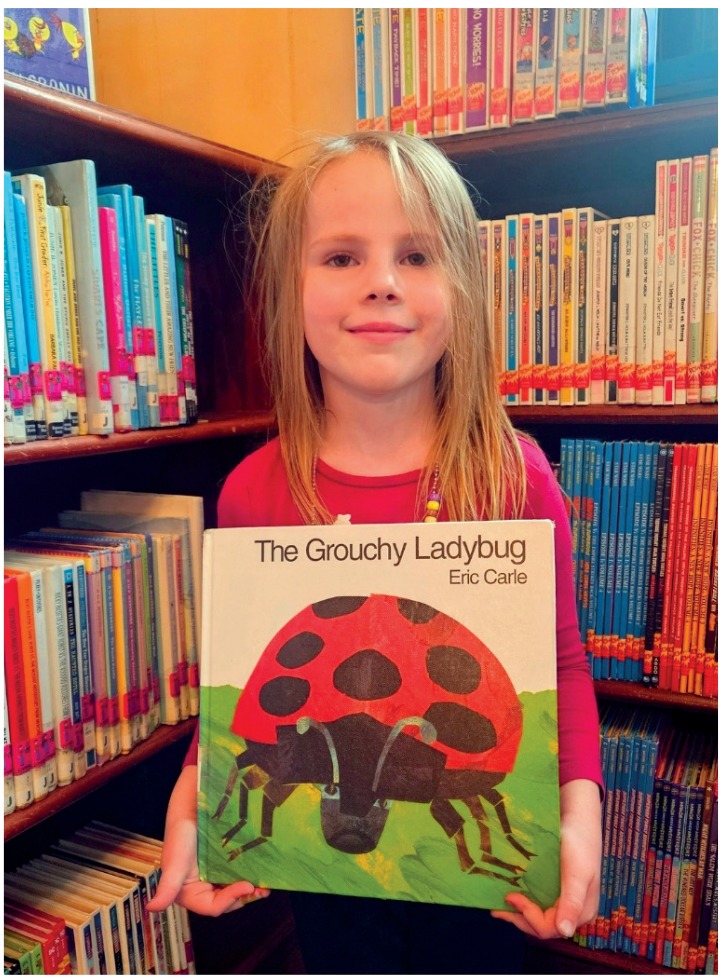
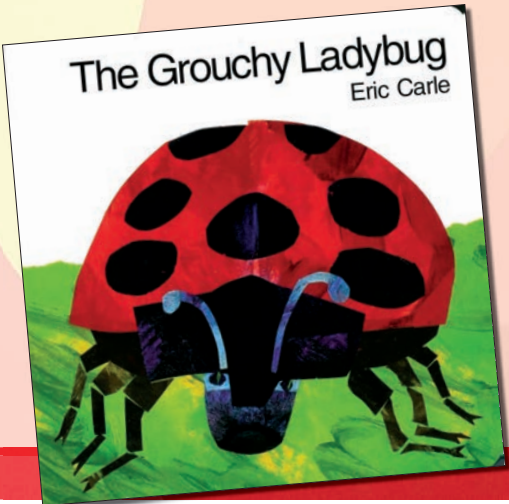
Raul and Liam Romero share a smile after being named winners of the Father-Son Look-Alike Contest at the Franklin County Fair.

Reader 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 Sylvia Burman, age 6. She will be in 1st grade this Fall. Sylvia is the daughter of John and Jayme Burman.

Her favorite book is *The Grouchy Ladybug* by Eric Carle.



Fascinating Facts:

Artist Edition:

• Piet Mondrian's abstract painting New York City I hung upside down in a New York museum for 77 years before anyone noticed. Similarly, Henri Matisse's Le Bateau was displayed upside down at the Museum of Modern Art for 46 days.

• When the Mona Lisa was famously stolen from the Louvre in 1911, police suspected Pablo Picasso and arrested him for questioning before later releasing him.

• Contrary to popular belief, Van Gogh did sell more than one painting during his lifetime, including The Red Vineyard, which he sold for 400 francs.

• Michelangelo, who is best known for painting the Sistine Chapel, didn't like taking a bath. He would also rarely change his clothes. One of his servants remarked that he would spend so much time in his shoes that when he finally did take them off, "the skin came away, like a snake's, with the boots."

• Leonardo DaVinci loved animals so much that he reportedly bought caged birds in markets just to set them free. His friends said he couldn't walk past a birdcage without turning it into a jailbreak.

Quality Quotes:

Artist Edition:

"Inspiration exists, but it has to find you working."
— Pablo Picasso:

"I saw the angel in the marble and carved until I set him free."
— Michelangelo

"Great things are done by a series of small things brought together."
— Vincent van Gogh

"Art is not what you see, but what you make others see."
— Edgar Degas

"Look at life with the eyes of a child."
— Henri Matisse

"It took me four years to paint like Raphael, but a lifetime to paint like a child."
— Pablo Picasso

"If you could say it in words there would be no reason to paint."
— Edward Hopper

Trivia Answers:
Answer #1: 1. Jackson Pollock

Answer #2: 2. John Singer Sargent

AGRICULTURAL News

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Iowa Ag Experts Release Report on State Ag Economy Amid Downturn

BY BROOKLYN DRAISEY
IOWA CAPITAL DISPATCH

A new report suggests Iowa's agricultural industry is in a multi-year downturn that might not let up for a few more years, and experts are advising farmers to look back to the practices that got them through tough financial times a decade ago to weather the current storm.

The Iowa Farm Bureau Federation, Iowa State University's Center for Agricultural and Rural Development and the Iowa Bankers Association released the executive summary of the report Friday at the Iowa Farm Bureau Economic Summit in Ankeny, detailing Iowa's current agriculture economy from different perspectives, how it came to reach this point and what the future holds.

Christopher Pudenz, an economist with the Iowa Farm Bureau, moderated a presentation of the report as well as a discussion by ISU economics professor Chad Hart and Center for Agricultural and Rural Development Director John Crespi. Hart wore suspenders to the panel discussion, a fashion choice he said was to help people recall the past and how they've made it through times like this.

Pudenz laid out the main facts for the audience: Iowa's agriculture industry is in its third year of a downturn, with a third year of crop costs outpacing crop revenues and net farm income falling 53% between 2022 and 2024.

Record and near-record crop production in recent years has caused prices to trend downward, Hart said during the panel discussion, creating a tighter squeeze on farmers dealing with higher costs. Rising costs of fertilizer, seed, and other necessities have combined with conflicts outside of the U.S. and

other trade and economic uncertainties, but Hart and Crespi said that doesn't mean people should do nothing.

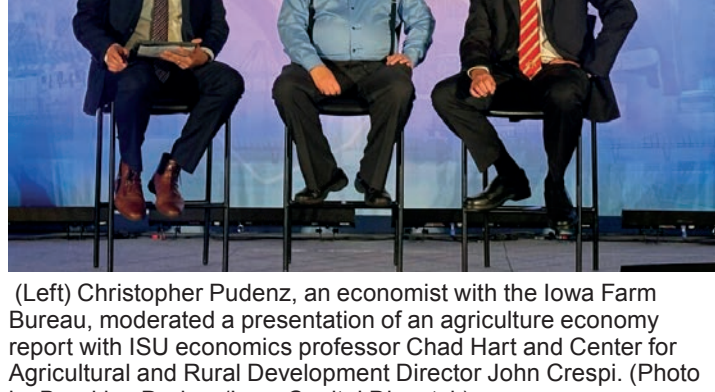
"It comes back to managing what we can, and sort of letting the uncertainty sort of wash over you. If we're just going to sit on our hands, we may find ourselves in an even worse situation than that has happened before," Hart said during a media availability after the panel.

"So that's why I dress like this, to get people to think, 'Old-timey, yeah,' because some of those old ideas of working through this, and like I say, sort of pinching that penny, even though we don't have pennies anymore, still matter today."

A new report suggests Iowa's agricultural industry is in a multi-year downturn that might not let up for a few more years, and experts are advising farmers to look back to the practices that got them through tough financial times a decade ago to weather the current storm.

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(Left) Christopher Pudenz, an economist with the Iowa Farm Bureau, moderated a presentation of an agriculture economy report with ISU economics professor Chad Hart and Center for Agricultural and Rural Development Director John Crespi. (Photo by Brooklyn Draisey/Iowa Capital Dispatch)

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The report, titled "2026 Iowa Agricultural Outlook: The Pressure is Rising," also went over agriculture's impact on Iowa's economy. Iowa's average GDP is around \$272 billion, Crespi said, and the 60 industries involved with agriculture in the state make up about 20% of it.

For every dollar made in those industries, he said \$1.50 goes back to the state.

What goes up must also go down, however, Crespi said, and every dollar less earned in agricultural industries means \$1.50 not going to the state.

"It's in everybody's interest that this turns around, that those become profitable dollars and not losses each year," Crespi said.

One "silver lining" in Iowa's agricultural economy right now is livestock, Pudenz said, with the executive summary stating

that livestock sectors are "generally performing well despite ongoing issues" like the avian influenza, as well as smaller stocks of cattle and softer consumer demand for hogs. Livestock also provides avenues for young people to break into the industry.

Analyses of farm finances and lending are also included in the report, and Hart said there is strong demand for agricultural land, with the report stating average farmland values have decreased slightly since 2023. Farmers use their land as an asset in their borrowing and balance sheets, and further decreases in value could hurt farms with debt or relying on land equity for credit.

According to the report, the number of financially vulnerable farms has more than doubled since 2022, with 19% of mid- and large-size farms falling under the category in December 2025. Chapter 12 bankruptcy filings are also rising, as well as increased credit demand and less repayment of loans.

Likening it to bank accounts, Hart said the current issues in agriculture are like when someone has a lot of money in their retirement account but not much in their checking account: "I've got a lot of value, but I can't really access it to pay the bills."

Hart said the situation Iowa's agricultural sector currently finds itself in "tends to show up in agriculture about every decade," the last downturn having taken place in the mid-2010s.

And just like back then, he said people are asking the same question: is this going to be like the farm crisis in the 1980s?

Unlike the 1980s, where Iowa's agriculture sector had a "solvency problem" where land values departed from farm incomes, leading to greater bor-

rowing and more bankruptcies, Hart said today's debt-to-asset ratio is relatively low and land values are holding generally steady.

Farmers also have more tools in their pocket to deal with problems, set in place by government actions after the 1980s crisis.

With forecasts in the report showing that the economic downturn could last at least six years, Hart said the approaches farmers need to take to keep themselves above water haven't changed in the past decade, even if circumstances — and costs — have.

Crespi said one of his biggest fears is that people will begin pulling back too much out of uncertainty, leading them to not purchase things or not plant crops because they don't know what will be financially viable in the future.

Pudenz and Hart agreed that while injections of funding from the federal government, like the \$11 billion proposed by President Donald Trump, can make a difference in farm financials, it's not going to actually fix the problems causing these symptoms. Farmers need to work on controlling what they can control, Hart said.

"What farmers tend to do, and I would argue what most folks tend to do, is that when we get money, we tend to get a little loose with spending that money, and then when you take that money away, we have a hard time adjusting back down," Hart said.

"And that's what farming is having to do right now, is adjust back down and tighten on those crop budgets, as we're looking forward and making sure that we, like I say, maximize the return we get for the investment we put into those inputs."

Corn Growers Urge DOJ Investigation into 'Collusive' Fertilizer Industry Practices

Farmers say high cost of fertilizer continues to threaten ag economy

BY CAMI KOONS
IOWA CAPITAL DISPATCH

Farmers from across the country are urging the federal government to expedite an investigation of the fertilizer industry as they struggle with "impossibly high input costs."

A letter from grower associations follows a slew of recent federal actions taken to address the expense of fertilizers.

In the letter sent to leaders of the Senate Committee on the Judiciary, corn growers said recent events, like the closure of the Strait of Hormuz amid conflicts in the Middle East, have "exacerbated" the "fragility of our agricultural economy."

But, the letter said, the issue of high fertilizer prices has been "years in the making" due to a "failure" of the U.S. Justice Department and the Federal Trade Commission to enforce anti-trust laws.

"American farmers, and our nation's food supply chain, stand on the precipice of an irreversible collapse due to impossibly high input costs that are untethered from the reality of crop prices," the letter said.

FTC Chair Andrew Ferguson confirmed in May that the commission was investigating potential anticompetitive practices in the fairly consolidated fertilizer industry. In March, Bloomberg reported the DOJ was investigating potential collusion between fertilizer companies Nutrien and The Mosaic Company, who supply much of the potash and phosphate fertilizers to the country, as well as nitrogen fertilizer giants CF Industries, Koch Inc. and Yara International ASA.



Photo by Jared Strong/Iowa Capital Dispatch

signed the letter, which was addressed to Iowa Republican, Sen. Chuck Grassley as chair of the Committee on the Judiciary. The letter, sent July 13, asked Grassley and Ranking Member Dick Durbin, D-IL, to question Acting Attorney General Todd Blanche in his confirmation hearing about plans to enforce antitrust laws.

Grassley, during the confirmation hearing Wednesday, said he has "long been concerned" about anti-competitive conduct across industries, but "particularly in agriculture."

"Family farmers deserve fair prices," Grassley said.

Grassley noted a hearing he led in October 2025 on anti-competitive actions and consolidation in the fertilizer and seed industries and the subsequent investigation launched by the DOJ.

Responding to Grassley's question, Blanche said was committed to the issue and noted he has "worked closely" with Secretary of Agriculture Brooke Rollins to investigate anti-competitive actions and consolidation in agriculture.

Most recently, the two announced plans to look at the cattle industry, where beef prices have mounted in recent years.

In their letter corn growers also asked the judiciary committee leaders to urge the DOJ to investigate the "collusive practices in the fertilizer industry as fully and expeditiously as possible."

Iowa farmers welcome suspension of fertilizer duties

Corn growers in the letter said they "fully support" recent actions from President Donald Trump authorizing a temporary suspension on the countervailing duties on phosphate fertilizer imports from Morocco.

The suspension lasts for eight months, or until the end of the emergency declared by the president for threats to the "availability of sufficient supplies of fertilizers to meet expected agricultural demand."

Countervailing duties are a type of tariff applied to goods that receive assistance — like a tax break — from a foreign nation for exporting the product to the U.S. These tax breaks or assistance from the product's country of origin allow manufacturers to sell the goods cheaper than domestic manufacturers.

phorus of any U.S. state.

A news release from the U.S. Department of Agriculture estimated the suspension of countervailing duties on Moroccan phosphate could save U.S. farmers approximately \$1.82 billion annually as additional supplies enter the market and foreseeably lower fertilizer costs. USDA estimates the suspension of duties will lower phosphate fertilizer prices by 22%.

The recent letter from corn growers said the effects of the suspension have not been immediate and members "still experience elevated phosphate fertilizer prices at a time when plans are being made for purchases for the upcoming 2027 planting year."

Stu Swanson, chair of Iowa Corn Growers Association and a farmer in Wright County, said high input costs have been a "big factor" in the profitability of Iowa farmers for several years. He said he was appreciative of the president's move to suspend the phosphate duties, but was frustrated by countervailing duties put on agricultural chemicals.

"Fertilizer, chemical, seed, everything has increased during the last few years," Swanson said. "But those unnecessary taxes like countervailing duties on fertilizer are just kind of insulting to us as farmers when we're facing these financial issues that we have."

Similar to the case with Mosaic, Corteva Agriscience petitioned for countervailing duties on the herbicide 2,4-dichlorophenoxyacetic acid. The U.S. Department of Commerce sided with the company in 2024 and initiated the countervailing duties on imports of the chemical from China and India.

See FERTILIZER:
Page 7

Imagery Mapping Finds Iowa has 15,309 Animal Feeding Operations

Environmental Working Group report notes increase in large animal farming operations in Iowa

BY CAMI KOONS
IOWA CAPITAL DISPATCH

An analysis from Environmental Working Group mapped 15,309 animal feeding operations in Iowa, which is several thousand more than what is tracked and monitored by the state.

The group utilized satellite and aerial imagery to map animal feeding operations across Iowa and estimate the amount of manure they produce.

The report also notes a nearly 13% increase, from 2019 to 2025, in the number of animal feeding operations that have 1,000 or more animal units.

Environmental Working Group estimated that in 2025 animals at Iowa feeding operations with more than 50 animals produced over 107 million tons of manure. The group alleges this manure, which is often applied to nearby crop land, has contributed to nitrate pollution in Iowa's streams and rivers.

Mapping Iowa's animal feeding operations

Anne Schechinger, senior director of agriculture and climate research at EWG and co-author of the analysis, said the research started with Iowa Department of Natural Resources animal feeding operation data that included operations with 300 animal units or more.

From there, EWG researchers used aerial imagery from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agriculture Imagery Program and satellite imagery from Google Earth to verify each operation in the DNR data and note if it appeared to be an active operation.

Schechinger said the researchers then combed through the imagery across the entire state to identify active animal feeding operations large enough to house 50 or more animals. A

methodology using visual cues, like the type of barn structures, feeders and size, allowed EWG to determine the animals housed at the operation. Then, a geospatial software traced the size of the buildings to estimate the number of animals housed at the operation.

These points were then plotted on an interactive map to show the spread of animal feeding operations.

Based on the mapping, Sioux, Lyon, Plymouth, O'Brien and Washington Counties had the greatest concentrations of animal feeding operations. These five counties accounted for nearly one fifth of the facilities mapped across the state.

The analysis found that the vast majority, 66%, of animal feeding operations in the state raised hogs. It estimates the 10,172 facilities mapped had around 33.4 million hogs. The analysis found 4,801 cattle operations, with an estimated 2.7 million cattle and 336 poultry facilities housing 178.6 million turkeys and chickens.

Manure

The EWG analysis estimated animals at these facilities in 2025 produced the equivalent of 33 tons of manure for every person in the state, or a total of 107.6 million tons.

The largest livestock production facilities also produced the greatest share of manure, according to the report. While large feeding operations — those with 1,000 animal units or more — accounted for 29% of all facilities in the state, they generated 60% of the total estimated waste.

Facilities with 300 to 999 animal units — classified as medium facilities — comprised 51% of total facilities and 35% of manure. Small facilities, or

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OPINION

DO YOU HAVE AN
OPINION TO SHARE?
EMAIL US AT
NEWS@HAMPTONCHRONICLE.COM

Cleaning Up Iowa’s Water for Safe Summer Fun



ROB SAND
STATE AUDITOR

It’s another hot week in Iowa, and for many families that means heading to the lake or beach to cool off. Unfortunately, before taking a dip, too many Iowans have to check whether the water is even safe. Right now, the Iowa DNR has advised against swimming at eleven beaches across the state because of unsafe bacteria levels. Last summer, Iowa saw a record number of beach closures. That shouldn't be normal, and it’s certainly not acceptable. I grew up in Decorah fishing

with my dad and spending summers in Iowa’s rivers and lakes. As the father of two young boys, I’m passing on that tradition and want my kids — and every Iowa kid — to have safe water to drink, swim in, fish in, and enjoy. As governor, I’ll work to protect Iowa’s great outdoors so future generations can enjoy the same Iowa that I grew up loving. I believe Iowa can improve water quality while expanding outdoor recreation opportunities that benefit families,

communities, and future generations. As an avid outdoorsmen, I will prioritize expanding wetlands — one of the most effective natural tools for filtering pollutants from water — while also increasing access to public lands for hunting, fishing, and outdoor recreation. Cleaner water and stronger outdoor traditions can go hand in hand. And with Iowa ranked 49th in the country for public lands, we could use a few more spots for fun and recreation. The state can work with Wa-

ter Management Associations and Soil Conservation Districts to determine where and develop plans to finance projects. We should do a reverse-auction, inviting Iowa landowners who have a wet spot to offer it to the state to rebuild our wetlands. The state can then prioritize where to buy first to have the biggest immediate impacts on water quality. We also need to expand the Cattle and Conservation Working Lands Project, which helps farmers turn less desirable crop lands into pas-

tures for cattle grazing to keep the land productive and help with water quality by preventing pollutants from reaching our waterways from the start. These are just a couple of the ideas I propose in my “Healthier Iowa for All” plan to address Iowa’s water quality crisis. Our families shouldn’t have to worry about the safety of our state’s water when enjoying the summer sun, and I’ll work tirelessly as governor to clean up our water so you can have more summer fun.

The Fair Community



The Alternative
FRITZ GROSZKRUGER
COLUMNIST

Fair week is done. The Franklin County Fair is like a convention of real people whose only agenda is social interaction with people who matter because they are here, not Des Moines or Washington. The fair is designed to bring people together. There’s really no need to go to the State Fair unless it is to gawk at the Felliniesque clown-show flowing through like trash in a Bangladeshi flood. We’ve seen a couple of grandstand shows there and periphery would describe our relationship with the artists. YouTube or CDs are better (or probably some other new-fangled media I don’t understand).

Most of our time at the fair was spent helping make ice cream. As I visit with people who travel a bit to get here, the ice cream is one thing that seals the deal of coming to the fair. And standing in line is one place where we make new friends. I often criticize the hoop-jumping that poses as education. A visit to Grandpa’s Farm contrasts with that: A glimpse into what it took to provide food to the masses before industrialization. It helps us appreciate the bounty that new technology provides and spurs the imagination for further advances. The technology on display didn’t get here

because of campaign contributions from trade associations like the Corn Growers. It came from “laziness” looking for inventive solutions and efficiency, and a better life. Grandpa’s Farm lays it all out like a book in three dimensions. You can feel the timeline and large steps “we’ve” made toward the luxury we enjoy today because somebody saw self-interest as a benefit to other people willing to reward the market. Buying a horse-drawn corn picker beats picking ears by hand and throwing them into a wagon all day long.

Takeaways: There was hardly a speck of trash on the ground as people were proud of their fair. It’s theirs. Some sandwiches were way too big and could have sold for half price for a smaller one. Some people walked out on the Led Zeppelin tribute band in the grandstand. Some loved it. There’s free entertainment at the gazebo. Someone mentioned “This isn’t my kind of music.” Another said, “I love this music. Thanks.” There’s something for everyone. Local talent is on display all around. The only cop I saw was retired

and having a good time. The crew we worked with at the ice cream stand was diverse. The goal bound us together and it felt like a family reunion had ended when we were done. Don’t tell anyone about this community. We don’t need anyone bringing weird politics here from somewhere else. We owe a big thank you to the fair board members who took the time to make this happen. Please Comment on my column with a letter to the editor or directly to me at 4selfgovernment@gmail.com

Bayer goes to the Supreme Court

Brass Tacks from Rural Iowa
BY BARBARA KALBACH

Iowans are struggling through a mounting public health crisis, and the U.S. Supreme Court just took one of our tools to seek redress off the

table. Bayer, the manufacturer of Roundup, couldn’t get their way at the Iowa statehouse or in Congress, so they went to our nation’s highest court to protect

their profits at our expense. The U.S. Supreme Court on June 25 essentially gave legal immunity to Bayer in their 7-2 ruling preventing states from allowing failure-to-warn lawsuits. Glyphosate, the main active ingredient in Roundup, is classified as a probable carcinogen by independent researchers and the World Health Organization. But that didn’t matter to Bayer, the Trump administration, and the top brass at the EPA. Today, farmers and everyday people harmed by these chemicals can no longer seek legal recourse against the companies that are making them sick. Meanwhile, Iowa’s cancer rates are skyrocketing. We rank second in the nation and are the only state where cases are rising.

In recent years, Bayer paid out over \$11 billion to resolve approximately 100,000 claims from individuals who developed cancer after using Roundup. They were facing tens of thousands more in claims before they found an ally in the form of the Supreme Court. Roundup was used on and off for years in our family fields after it was first introduced in the 1970s. It’s hard not to use a product like Roundup, because it kills weeds and grass so quickly. And they don’t build up a resistance to it. But, as a nurse, my concerns grew over time. We eventually stopped using it as much. After farming now for 60 years, my husband is among those with cancer. I’m not saying it’s connected. But I know he’s far from alone.

Bayer began its efforts to shield itself from lawsuits with state legislatures. Here in Iowa, the company spent nearly \$124,000 on lobbyists in 2025 when it was pushing its “Cancer Gag Act.” That’s more than six times what it spent in the years prior to Bayer pushing for immunity from lawsuits. Iowans fought like hell. And we won. For four years we shut down proposed bills that would have shielded the company from litigation for causing cancer. Nearly 90% of us said, “No. Not here.” And we weren’t alone. We saw bills that almost read word for word introduced in states across the country. Only three states – North Dakota, Georgia and Kentucky – adopted the legislation, gagging their residents and loved ones who

are battling cancer after exposure to glyphosates. That’s how we arrived at last month’s U.S. Supreme Court decision. Agriculture is deeply rooted in and a vital part of Iowa’s heritage and future. So, too, is a reverence for the land and our natural resources. And each other. That’s why the Supreme Court decision isn’t the end all be all in this fight. We look out for each other, and we’ll continue to demand a government of, by, and for the people, that works for we the people. Barb Kalbach is a fourth generation family farmer, retired registered nurse, and longtime member of Iowa CCI. She can be reached at barbknealkalbach@gmail.com.

Letter to the Editor Policy

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- Your Letter to the Editor must include:
- Your full name with signature
 - Your complete address
 - Your telephone number
- Your address and telephone number will not be printed in the newspaper, but will be used for verification by newspaper editorial staff.
- Unsigned letters and letters containing personal attacks the newspaper deems to be of a libelous nature will not be published. The Hampton Chronicle reserves the right to end debate on a topic after both sides have had ample chance to express their views. The Hampton Chronicle reserves the right to edit or refuse all letters. All columns and letters on the opinion page are the views of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of The Hampton Chronicle.

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QUEEN: FROM COVER

swer was both. “The crown wears me because through it, I’m connected to every single fair queen before me, and because it is something to represent that is more than myself,” Schoning said. “But I wear the crown because of my love for this fair and all of its people.” Lyon brings a strong background in leadership, agriculture and community involvement to the role. Throughout high school, she served as class president, FFA chapter president and 4-H club president. She was also named Franklin County Beef Princess and the 2024 Youth in Agriculture Award. Her FFA accomplishments

include competing at the district and state levels in soils judging, livestock judging, agricultural broadcasting and extemporaneous speaking. She also performed with the Iowa FFA State Choir and earned the chapter’s Star Greenhand Award. Outside of FFA, Lyon participated in National Honor Society, dance team, golf, tennis, speech, school plays, Battle of the Books, honor band, choir and FCCLA, where she served as a district officer. She is also active in St. John’s United Church of Christ, teaching Sunday school and volunteering during Vacation Bible School. When she is not volunteering or participating in school

activities, Lyon enjoys cooking, baking, sewing and quilting. She has earned numerous awards for her projects and said her favorite part of the Franklin County Fair is exhibiting her livestock and 4-H projects. She plans to attend Iowa State University this fall to study animal science. Seven contestants competed for this year’s title. Maren Subbert of Hampton, daughter of Nathan and Kari Subbert, was named first runner-up, while Madison Heilskov of Hampton, daughter of Brandon and Patricia Heilskov, was named second runner-up. Eva Dohlman of Hampton, daughter of Nathan and Liliana Dohlman, received the Miss

Congeniality award. Graciella Urbina of Hampton, daughter of Luis Urbina Jr. and Candice Woltjer, was named Miss Photogenic. Other contestants included Payton Hinders of Hampton, daughter of Tristan and Stephanie Hinders, and Adason Jean Hovey of Ackley, daughter of Christina Smith. As the 2026 Franklin County Fair Queen, Lyon will represent Franklin County at the Iowa State Fair Queen contest, parades, community celebrations and agricultural events throughout the coming year, continuing the tradition of promoting the county and its annual fair.

FREEDOM RIDE: FROM COVER

"In conversation with a veteran and his wife, we came up with the idea of having a motorcycle ride during the Franklin County Fair," Akers said. "We were trying to come up with something different to do. I have a lot of friends who have motorcycles, and we enjoy riding together, so that's what really started it." Akers, who has served as Franklin County Veterans Affairs director for a little more than five years, said planning for the event began last spring. Before announcing the ride, organizers worked through insurance requirements and legal considerations before approaching the Franklin County Fair Board. "The first thing you've got to do is reach out to the insurance side and the legal side," Akers said. "Once that was cleared, we reached out to the fair board." He credited the Franklin County Fair Board for embracing the new event. "I want to thank the Franklin County Fair Board for work-

ing with us," Akers said. "It was something new for them as well, but they were great to work with." County commissioners Tom Teggatz, Alan Larson and Mike Stock also provided input throughout the planning process, helping organizers think through details before the event. The ride departed the Franklin County Fairgrounds at approximately 9:15 a.m. Saturday. Riders traveled north to Sheffield before continuing through Alexander, Latimer, Coulter, Dows and Popejoy. The group stopped for 20 to 30 minutes at JJ's Bar & Grill in Bradford before continuing east toward Geneva and Hansell. Riders then returned to Highway 65 and made their way back to Hampton. Akers said the Franklin County Sheriff's Office played an important role in making the ride safe. "The sheriff and the sheriff's deputies were great," he said. "They covered us at every Highway 3 crossing and a few

other places as well. It made everything a lot smoother, and we really appreciate that." Despite concerns about the weather Saturday morning, 20 motorcycles participated in the event. "We ended up with 20 bikes, which I'm very happy with," Akers said. "It's the first year of doing this and the first year of getting the word out." He believes the weather likely kept some riders at home but was encouraged by the turnout nonetheless. "There was a little bit of a weather scare Saturday morning," he said. "I know it held a few bikers back at home. But everybody who came enjoyed the ride. It was a great ride, a little over 100 miles, and a good time was had by all." Akers also recognized the American Legion and the American Legion Auxiliary for helping with registration and other event logistics. The ride carried additional meaning as part of the nation's 250th anniversary celebration.

"As a veteran and someone who supports veterans and wants to work with veterans, 250 years of independence for this country is very significant," Akers said. "To celebrate that and have the first-ever motorcycle ride during the Franklin County Fair is something special." Growing up attending the Franklin County Fair, Akers said it was rewarding to introduce a new event while supporting one of the county's longtime traditions. "I grew up going to the fair," he said. "I like supporting the fair and love coming to the fair. It's been a great fair week." With the inaugural ride complete, Akers is already looking toward next year. "We had 20 bikes this year," he said. "We're hoping for 50 next year, and we'll go from there." With a successful first ride complete, organizers hope the 250 Freedom Ride will continue to grow as an annual Franklin County Fair tradition.

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What's At The Windsor

BY JIM DAVIES
WINDSOR THEATRE
MANAGER

Moana is now showing at the Windsor Theatre through Thursday, July 30.

Moana is the live-action remake of the 2016 animated Disney movie, now starring Catherine Laga'aia as the chief's daughter who sets out across the ocean to save her island community, with Dwayne Johnson returning as her demigod companion, Maui.

Like the original, the movie has strong messages about courage, leadership, perseverance, and teamwork. Moana is an excellent role model who takes her responsibilities as a leader seriously while also having the curiosity and courage to challenge traditions and follow her instincts.

The movie celebrates Polynesian cultures and mythology and features a predominantly Indigenous Pacific Islander cast, as well as original music composed by Lin-Manuel Miranda, Mark Mancina, and Tokelauan singer-songwriter Opetia Foa'i.

The film is rated PG for action/peril, some scary images, rude humor, and brief thematic elements including intense situations like an island experiencing famine, a character being swept out to sea, and brief moments of grief. Running time is 115 minutes. The movie is distributed by Walt Disney Studios Motion Pictures.

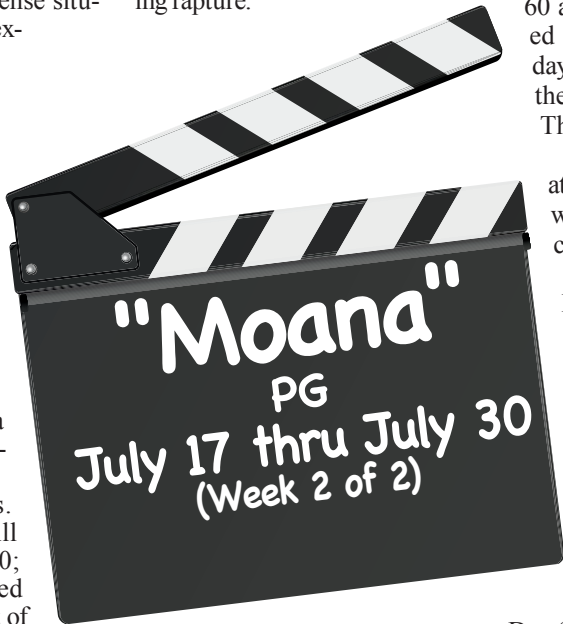
Box Office Performance

Moana had a mixed-to-underwhelming box office debut:

- Rottentomatoes.com: Tomatometer: All Critics: 31% 4.70/10; Popcornmeter: Verified Audience: 89% 4.5 out of 5 rating

- Internet Movie Data Base (imdb.com) 5.7/10
- Owen Gleiberman, Chief Film Critic of Variety (variety.com) Moana Review: The first Disney live-action remake that works 100%. It helps that half the film is animated, that

Dwayne Johnson goes full Maui, and that newcomer Catherine Laga'aia plays Moana with a beam-ing rapture.



Showtimes and Ticket Prices

Regular showtimes are Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays at 7:00 p.m. Matinees are offered on Sundays at 1:00 p.m. and Wednesdays at 2:00 p.m.

Regular movie admission is \$6 for adults and \$4 for youth ages 16 and under. Seniors aged 60 and older receive discounted admission of \$4 on Sundays. All tickets are just \$4 for the Wednesday matinee and Thursday evening show.

Tickets may be purchased at the door or online at www.windsortheatre.com. Credit cards are accepted.

Upcoming Event: Hampton Old Time Country Hoedown, Monday, August 3 from 6:00 to 9:00 PM at the Windsor Theatre

Upcoming Movies (Subject to Change)

- July 31 – The Odyssey (2 weeks)
- Aug. 14 – Spider-Man: Brand New Day (2 weeks)
- August 28 – Coyote vs. Acme (2 weeks)

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.



RIBBON CUTTING: FROM COVER

the grid. It also serves Franklin General Assisted Living and the Franklin Wellness Center.”

Because hospitals operate around the clock, Shupe said reducing energy costs is especially important during Iowa’s hottest months, when air conditioning systems run continuously.

“Hospitals have a very large energy demand,” he said. “This

project helps offset those seasonal peaks by generating electricity throughout the year.”

The solar array uses photovoltaic panels that convert sunlight into direct current electricity. Sixteen inverters then convert that electricity into alternating current, allowing it to power the hospital’s facilities. The single-axis tracking system enables

the panels to follow the sun from east to west, increasing energy production by an estimated 15% to 25% compared with fixed-tilt systems.

Hospital officials emphasized that the system is connected directly to the utility grid. During sunny periods, the hospital will use solar power first, with any excess electricity sent back to

the grid. When solar production drops, such as at night or on cloudy days, the hospital will automatically draw power back from the utility.

Officials also noted the solar array will not provide electricity during a utility outage. For safety reasons, the grid-tied system automatically shuts down if the electrical grid loses power. Emer-

gency electricity during outages will continue to come from the hospital’s existing backup generation systems.

The solar panels carry warranties of 25 years or more and require relatively little maintenance, with periodic inspections and routine service on the tracking equipment.

Hospital leaders said the

investment reflects Franklin General Hospital’s long-term commitment to providing exceptional care while being responsible stewards of their resources. By producing much of its own electricity, the organization expects to reduce energy expenses and reinvest those savings into patient care and the community.

WINDSOR
THEATRE

NOW SHOWING

"Moana"

PG

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7/17/26
thru 7/30/26
(Week 2 of 2)

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7:00 PM Friday, Saturday,
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Thursday
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2:00 PM Wednesday

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At door or online at
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Adults \$6, Youth \$4
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(60&over) \$4
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Credit and debit cards are now accepted.

UPCOMING MOVIES:

Visit www.windsortheatre.com
for details.

Tentative schedule for upcoming
movies, FYI. Schedule may change.

July 31 - The Odyssey (2 weeks)

Aug. 14 - Spider-Man: Brand New
Day (2 weeks)

Aug. 28 - Coyote vs. Acme

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Stories from Franklin County's Past: Franklin County Fair's Contests Through the Years

BY CAROL SENSOR
FRANKLIN COUNTY
HISTORICAL SOCIETY
VOLUNTEER

Since the first Franklin County Fair in 1859, contests have been part of the attractions offered to fairgoers. Some have continued over the years, and some are rather new.

A highlight of the 1928 fair was the Dr. Edd Scantlebury Awards. He gave \$5 in gold to the lady or girl whose hair most closely matched the champion Jersey Red rooster's feather color from the poultry show. The winner was Ruth Fredricks of Hampton. Another fun contest was a prize for the child who had the most freckles. The winner was Henry Shrimp.

In 1929, local actors staged plays in competition for \$350 worth of prizes. The winning play was 'Never Touched Me' presented by the Order of DeMolay (a character-building and leadership organization for young men aged 12 to 21) and directed by Mrs. K. Dreier.

In 1934, in addition to the triple wedding, a diaper derby for dads was held testing who could change their child's diaper the quickest. Another interesting contest that year was the milk maid contest. Each single entrant was allowed three min-



The 1948 Healthy Baby contestants with their moms.

utes to milk a cow; the one with the most milk was the winner. Horse racing was a significant part of the fair entertainment. There were even special colt and pony races. There were six races each day, except Sunday. All the races were started with a barrier, similar to the way many races are still started today.

Popular for many years at the Franklin County Fair were boxing and wrestling matches staged as grandstand events. In those days, towns had wrestling teams just like they had ball teams. There was a mat for wrestling and a ring for boxing built in front of the grandstand. Most of the wrestlers were local champions, like "Dynamite" Bobst of Hansell, "Tuffy" Ahrens of Dumont, and "Kid" Allen of Lee Township.

Another popular event for many years was the Baby Health Contest. A brick screened building complete with baby beds was set up for the contest. Parents brought their babies to be weighed, measured, examined, and scored by Dr. J. J. Johnston and his nurse. Mrs. W. F. Douglass and Mrs. Beulah Patton were chairpersons for the contest. It was reported that there were typically 50 babies entered each year. There were boy and girl age classes of 6 to 12 months and 12 to 24 months in both the town and

rural divisions. The babies with the highest scores were declared the Champion Healthy Baby Girl and Champion Healthy Baby Boy. The contest was discontinued in 1949 due to the polio epidemic.

In 1949, the Franklin County Dairy Queen Contest was held with all the creameries in the area sponsoring a candidate. Joyce Vestweber of Alexander won and went on the complete at the state level at the Dairy Cattle Congress in Waterloo.

In 1959, a society horse show was held at the fair that attracted entries from as far away as Des Moines. For the first time in several years there was a program of horse races.

The Iowa State Fair Queen Contest began in 1922; however, the first queen contest in Franklin County wasn't until 1965. That year, Barbara Dick was crowned by Mrs. Alice Van Wert as the first Franklin County Fair Queen from a group of nine contestants. Queen Barbara then represented Franklin County at the Iowa State Fair. Contestant qualifications included being a single woman between the ages of 16 and 21, a resident of Franklin County or have the majority of their activities occur in the county, and a member of a 'worthwhile' organization.

In 1966, there were 11 young women in the competition; again, the winner would represent Franklin County at the Iowa State Fair. The winner that year was Marilyn Brown. The 1995 Franklin County Fair Queen, Cindy Ahrens, was crowned the Iowa State Fair Queen as well.

1976 was the country's bicentennial. That year the fair

was part of the county's celebration. A bicentennial pageant was held at the fair under the supervision of Bill Bennett of Sheffield. There was a large display of antique machinery collected by Hampton High School's Tall Corn FFA Chapter. This was the first year of the sanctioned PRCA Rodeo.

The first Franklin County Fair Parade happened in 1981 when Dennis Strother was president of the fair board. The first year was quite a small parade and was created to encourage the town merchants to become involved with the fair and more aware of the offerings at the fair. The parade has grown over the years and has become a staple to kick-off the fair with many organizations, businesses, churches and local groups getting involved.

In more recent years, contests like the mother/daughter and father/son look-alike contests have been popular along with the 'just for fun' kids' bubble gum blowing contest and the hog calling contest for women. The 2026 Franklin County Fair continued the tradition and offered several entertaining and fun contests including pie eating, the cutest baby, and throwing a rubber chicken. I wonder what contests they will think of next?



1955 Franklin County Fair ad



Barbara Dick was crowned the first Franklin County Fair Queen in 1965 by Alice VanWert.

Main Street Hampton Committee Being Organized

BY JIM DAVIES
CHAMBER/MAIN STREET
VOLUNTEER

The Greater Franklin County Chamber of Commerce (GFCCC) Board of Directors is seeking volunteers to serve on the new Main Street Hampton Committee.

The committee will promote Hampton's historic downtown commercial district as a catalyst for economic development and an enhanced quality of life. The

local Main Street program will receive support and expertise from the Iowa Main Street coordinating program, along with leadership and guidance from Main Street America.

Comprised of 7-10 members, the Main Street Hampton Committee will oversee the implementation of the local Main Street program, allowing the GFCCC Board of Directors to focus on its countywide mission.

Committee members will work together to implement locally developed strategies centered on the Main Street Four Points® approach:

- Economic Vitality
- Organization
- Promotion
- Design

The committee will report directly to the GFCCC Board of Directors.

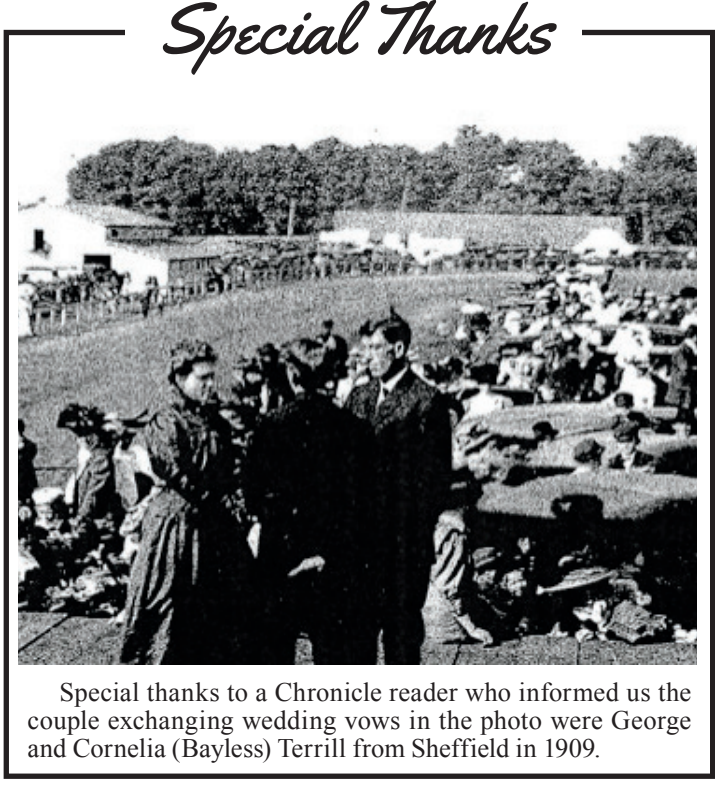
Anyone interested in serving is encouraged to attend an orga-

nizational meeting on Wednesday, July 22, at 4:00 p.m. The meeting will be held in the First Bank Hampton basement meeting room. Local businesses and organizations are also encouraged to send a representative.

Individuals who are interested but unable to attend the meeting are encouraged to contact the Greater Franklin County Chamber of Commerce at 641-456-5668 and leave their contact information.



Moana was upstaged by the Franklin County Fair last weekend with only 53 people enjoying this live action remake in air conditioned comfort. Moana shows for two weeks through Thursday July 30.



Special thanks to a Chronicle reader who informed us the couple exchanging wedding vows in the photo were George and Cornelia (Bayless) Terrill from Sheffield in 1909.



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

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

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Thursday, July 30
1:00 BINGO (\$3.25)

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Creamed Chicken over Biscuits, Vegetable, Fruit

Tuesday, July 28
Tater Tot Casserole, Whole Wheat Roll, Lettuce Salad, Fruit

Wednesday, July 29
Fajita Chicken Cornbread, Vegetable, Fruit

Thursday, July 30
Cheeseburger, Potato Wedges, Vegetable, Fruit

Friday, July 31
Beef Stroganoff over Egg Noodles, Vegetable, Fruit

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If you're celebrating a wedding anniversary.
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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!

OPERATIONS: FROM PAGE 5

those with fewer than 300 animal units, accounted for 20% of total facilities and 5% of manure.

Comparing the recent map to a 2020-released analysis of large animal feeding operations in the state, EWG found a 12.9% increase in large confined animal feeding operations.

“This expansion between 2019 and 2025 reflects the continued consolidation of livestock production into larger, more intensive facilities with greater waste management and drinking water challenges,” the report said.

Livestock producers must keep track of the amount of manure produced on their operations and how much was applied as fertilizer to nearby fields. This is all part of a manure management plan which is overseen by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources.

Animal feeding operations with fewer than 500 animal units, however, are not required to maintain manure management plans in Iowa.

Schechinger said while smaller operations are left out of state counts and of manure management requirements, those operations still produce manure and most likely apply it to nearby fields.

“Especially given the fact that Iowa has over 15,000 facil-

ities in the state, a small operation next to a large operation can really have an impact on water quality when they’re both applying manure,” Schechinger said.

Iowa’s manure management program is often criticized by environmental groups as having low enforcement, but livestock producers say the plans are precise and that the high cost of fertilizer keeps farmers from applying above the nutrient budgets of their fields.

Schechinger said that based on the concentration of animal feeding operations in some parts of the state, it is “very, very likely” that the fields in those areas are being over applied with manure, especially since it is expensive and difficult to transport manure to fields further away. She suggested county-level oversight of these plans, rather than state level enforcement could help monitor and manage how much manure is applied.

Nutrients in the water

The nutrients in manure, and any fertilizer, are either absorbed into the field by the plants and the soil, or washed off of the field into a watershed. The analysis pointed to manure runoff as a contributing factor to high concentrations of nitrate in Iowa streams and to algal

blooms in Iowa lakes.

The natural breakdown of organic matter, human waste and commercial fertilizers are additional causes of high nitrate levels that have made it difficult for Iowa water systems across the state to provide clean drinking water. These other factors, including the application of commercial fertilizer which do not have to be reported to the state, also contribute to excess nutrients in Iowa lakes.

EWG holds that nitrate concentrations in drinking water at levels far below the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency maximum of 10 milligrams per liter, are linked to increased risk of certain cancers, thyroid disease and birth defects.

“It doesn’t matter where it’s coming from if it’s getting in the drinking water,” Schechinger said. “It’s hazardous for our health, it’s expensive for water utilities to remove, so it’s really important to be reducing total nitrogen from fertilizer or from manure that’s being applied to fields in the state.”

The environmental group suggested consumers reduce their consumption of meats raised at “factory farms” by shopping for proteins with grass fed, pasture raised or certain types of humane labels, to reduce the “environmental and public health damages caused

by raising livestock” in animal feeding operations.

It also pushed for policy changes to conservation programs to prioritize practices like cover crops or stream-side buffers, rather than manure storage systems which the group has previously found make up a significant portion of USDA’s Environmental Quality Incentives Program awards.

As water quality continues to be a top concern for Iowans, the state launched a 12-year \$319 million water quality program to monitor, upgrade treatment plants and supply additional conservation incentives to farmers in certain regions of the state.

The package was approved by the legislature and signed by Gov. Kim Reynolds in the spring. Initial rounds of the conservation incentives have opened to farmers.

Schechinger said Environmental Working Group hopes to continue researching the spread of manure in Iowa, possibly with modeling that would gather more information about field application in the state.

Additionally, EWG plans to release a similar analysis of animal feeding operations in North Carolina, and has previously conducted the same analysis in Minnesota.

In loving memory of

Charles “Chuck” Johnson

1940-2026



Charles “Chuck” Johnson, 85 of Sheffield, passed away Sunday, July 12, 2026 at MercyOne North Iowa Medical Center. A graveside service and burial will be held at 1:00 PM on Monday, July 20, 2026 at the Clear Lake Cemetery. He will be laid to rest with full military honors. Woodley Funeral Home and Crematory of Hampton is caring for Chuck and his family.

Chuck was born on August 6, 1940 in Belmond, Iowa, to the late John “Gene” Johnson Jr. and Leona Barbara (Wenzel) Johnson. He grew up on farms in the communities of Alexander and Thornton, graduating with the Alexander High School Class of 1958.

In the early 1960’s, Chuck was drafted into the United States Army for two years of service. His duty stations included Fort Leonard Wood and Fort Hood before serving in Korea for the majority of his remaining enlistment. Utilizing his sharp mechanical aptitude, Chuck served as both a motor pool specialist and a technician skilled in wiring the Honest John rocket system, establishing a lifelong pride in his service to his country.

Upon returning home, Chuck channeled his mechanical talents and love for people into a long and successful career as a local business owner. As the owner and operator of local filling stations and an auto repair shop, Chuck became a staple of the Clear Lake community, where he and his wife, Cindy, spent the majority of their adult lives. He was the guy who could fix anything, but more importantly, he was the guy who always had time for people. Chuck loved nothing more than going out for coffee, trading stories, and socializing with friends and neighbors.

His passion for mechanics didn’t end when the shop was sold. Chuck was an avid classic car enthusiast, renowned for his meticulous skill. One pride was the stunning restoration and customization of a 1956 Ford Crown Victoria, which earned him awards at car shows across the area. When he wasn’t under the hood of a car, Chuck found peace and pride outdoors. Nearing his retirement, he and Cindy moved to an acreage outside of Clear Lake, and later to Sheffield, where he fully indulged his love for landscaping and immaculate lawn maintenance.

Throughout his later years, Chuck lived with leukemia, thriving almost a decade with a resilience that served as inspiration to everyone who knew him.

Chuck’s deepest loves were his family and faith in his Lord and Savior. He and his beloved wife, Cindy, recently celebrated an incredible 66 years of marriage. He was a devoted husband as well as a proud father and grandfather.

His legacy of hard work, craftsmanship and community warmth lives on through his surviving family: his wife, Lucinda “Cindy” Jean (Saylor) Johnson of Sheffield; his children, Todd (Molly) Johnson of Orefield, PA and Scott (April) Johnson of New Providence, IA; his cherished grandchildren: Dr. Meredith Johnson, Lt. Serena Johnson, Georgia Johnson, Louisa Johnson, Ella Johnson and Sophia Johnson and his brother, Gareld {Lois} Johnson, as well as his sister-in-law, Jennifer Saylor. He is also survived by many loving nieces and nephews, including those whose special care and support brought comfort during his final months, as well as many extended family members and dear friends including exchange student Per Christian (Tanja) Myklebost of Brerum, Norway. He was preceded in death by his parents; his parents-in-law, Gerald Blaine Saylor and Marjorie Lavonne (Whitney) Saylor; his siblings-in-law, Patricia and Dennis Mulford, James and Janice Saylor; and his beloved granddaughter, Vienna Christine Johnson.

In loving memory of

Kerri Deane Luhring

1962-2026



Kerri Deane Luhring, age 63, of Parkersburg, was born the daughter of Dean Carl and Ellen Lue (Catherall) Rodemeyer on August 1, 1962, in Hampton, Iowa. She graduated from Hampton High School in 1981. Kerri attended La James Cosmology in Mason City and Ellsworth Community College in Iowa Falls.

On August 17, 1984, Kerri Deane Rodemeyer was united in marriage with Rodney Lee Luhring at Trinity Lutheran Church in Hampton. They made their home in Latimer, Iowa where they owned and operated Latimer Grocery and Gift Store. She volunteered for the West Franklin EMS and Fire Department in Latimer. Through the years she also worked at Fareway and the Liquor Barn in Hampton.

In 2012 the couple made their home in Parkersburg. She was currently employed with Johnson’s Plumbing and Heating, where they treated her like family. On September 25, 2016, Kerri accepted Christ as her personal Savior and Lord. She became an active member of First Congregational Church in Parkersburg. She was involved in Prayer Group and Bible Study. Kerri began her mornings reading the Bible and writing scriptures. When she discovered her illness, she became angry with God, he spoke to her and said, “I’ve got this” where she found calmness, peace and clarity. She planted seeds of faith with everyone she was in contact with.

Kerri loved to fish and was very competitive with Rod when it came to fishing. She also enjoyed gardening and canning her produce, crocheting and reading her Bible. She will be remembered for her generosity, willingness to listen, and always focused on others’ well-being first. She loved her family immensely and loved to spoil her grandchildren.

Kerri passed away, Wednesday, July 15, 2026, at UnityPoint Health – St. Luke’s Hospital in Cedar Rapids. She was preceded in death by her parents, Dean and Ellen Rodemeyer; an infant sister, Julie; and her stepfather, Jim Olsen.

She is survived by her loving husband of 42 years, Rod Luhring; three children, Levi (fiancée, Andrea LeClere) Luhring of Center Point, Lindsay (Landon) Lewis of Parkersburg and Lijah (Mary) Luhring of Cedar Rapids; nine grandchildren, Cassidy, Odin, Kaylin, Chloe, Jacob, Lily, Kaiden, Timothy and Hudson; three brothers, Timothy (Pat) Rodemeyer of Hampton, Dan (Lu) Rodemeyer of Hampton and Eric (Michelle) Rodemeyer of Brainerd, MN; one sister, Nancy (Dan) Schmidt of Oskaloosa; a sister-in-law, Melanie (Duane) Groeneveld of Aplington; Rod’s siblings; many nieces and nephews and special family, Chris Luhring family, John Luhring family, Wes Johnson family and Tyler Johnson family and special mom, Judy Luhring.

Online condolences may be left at www.redmanfuneral.com

Death Notices

Herman Freese

Herman Freese, 85, of Hampton, passed away on Tuesday, July 14, 2026, at his home in Hampton. Funeral services will be 10 a.m. on Saturday, July 18, 2026, at Faith Baptist Church with burial in the Hampton Cemetery. Visitation will be from 4-7 p.m. on Friday at the Faith Baptist Church. Funeral arrangements are under the guidance of the Sietsema-Atkinson Funeral Home in Hampton.

Dean Dodd

Dean Dodd, 79, of Hampton, passed away Wednesday, July 15, 2026, at Oakwood Care Center in Clear Lake. Funeral services will be 10 a.m. on Tuesday, July 21, 2026, at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Hampton with burial in the Ingham Township Cemetery in Hansell, Iowa. Visitation will be from 5-7 p.m. on Monday at the Sietsema-Atkinson Funeral Home in Hampton. Funeral arrangements are under the guidance of the Sietsema-Atkinson Funeral Home in Hampton.

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- August 2 - James Koop
- August 8 - Jeff Janssen -

Saturday 5:00 PM service - No
service on Sunday, August 9

- August 16 - Sheryl Arends
- August 23 - Gary Hemphill
- August 30 - James Koop

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NEWS

COOKOUT: FROM PAGE 4

dish would be presented to the judges.

"A lot of time and effort goes into preparing for these events," Contreras said. "Even though this competition is not a huge event, it takes several hours, if not days to prepare."

When his name was announced as the winner, Contreras said the moment was both exciting and rewarding.

"I was proud," he said. "It made me happy to know that my food wowed the judges. I also knew that since I won, I would be able to go to the state fair again to represent Ringneck Barbecue Co. and Franklin County."

Contreras believes his willingness to use bold, unexpected flavors helped separate his entries from the competition.

"I feel that my food stood out from the other competitors because I used bold flavors that most people would not think to use with each of the meats," he said.

While winning was rewarding, Contreras said connecting with people throughout the fair is equally meaningful. He enjoys talking with visitors who stop by his tent, explaining how each dish is prepared and watching them sample his barbecue.

"I enjoy interacting with all of the people as they stop by my tent," he said. "It is nice to talk with them and see their reactions as I explain to them what I am making."

Ringneck Barbecue Co. will next compete at Hampton's Cruisin' and Barbecuein' competition later this month before traveling to the Iowa State Fair in August. Looking ahead, Contreras said his goal is to continue serving quality barbecue throughout Franklin County and across Iowa while growing Ringneck Barbecue Co. into a hometown smokehouse.

Contreras also thanked JJ's Bar and Grill in Bradford for sponsoring and supporting Ringneck Barbecue Co. He encouraged others to participate in local competitions and community events, adding that Ringneck Barbecue Co. plans to return to the Franklin County Farm Bureau Cookout Contest next year.

business accepts both cash and card payments as it continues bringing fresh flavors and friendly service to Hampton and surrounding communities.

BOBA: FROM PAGE 2

of Hampton to park near the Hampton Aquatic Center. Looking ahead, one of their biggest goals is to earn a spot at the Franklin County Fair next year after opening too late to participate this summer.

The Ballards said the support they have received from customers and fellow local business owners has been overwhelming.

"Everybody has been so supportive," Sarah Ballard said. "Other food truck owners have stopped by, encouraged us and even offered their phone numbers if we ever needed help. It really feels like a community."

Ballard's Boba recently introduced a punch card rewards program, allowing customers to earn a free drink after purchasing 10 beverages. The

business accepts both cash and card payments as it continues bringing fresh flavors and friendly service to Hampton and surrounding communities.

LUMBERJACK: FROM PAGE 4

to playful jokes with spectators and volunteers, creating a performance that blends competition with comedy and keeps audiences involved from beginning to end.

Since joining the company, Williams estimates he has participated in dozens of shows at fairs across the country. One of his favorite memories came from a fair located near the beach, where he spent evenings walking along the shorelines after performances.

Although he enjoys traveling, lumberjack shows are only part of his schedule. Williams works a full-time job back home and performs when his schedule allows.

Looking back on the Franklin County Fair, Williams said he hopes visitors left with a greater appreciation for a tradition many people rarely get the chance to experience.

"This is something people don't get to see very often," he said. "I just hope they feel like they didn't waste their time here. Hopefully they leave a little happier. I like to make people laugh."

For many fairgoers, the combination of skilled demonstrations, friendly competition and audience participation made the Paul Bunyan Lumberjack Show one of the week's most entertaining attractions.

For many fairgoers, the combination of skilled demonstrations, friendly competition and audience participation made the Paul Bunyan Lumberjack Show one of the week's most entertaining attractions.



Photo by Elian Trevino



Photo by Elian Trevino



Photo by Staci Niccum



Photo by Elian Trevino

July Events Program



TRAVELING CABARET AT WINDSOR THEATRE, 7PM at the Windsor Theatre. Doors open at 6:30. All are welcome.



LATIMER FUN DAY



BRISTOW FUN DAYS 2026, featuring the city's 150th-anniversary celebration

AUGUST



HAMPTON OLD TIME COUNTRY HOEDOWN, from 6:00 to 9:00 PM at the Windsor Theatre



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

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Registration forms available at City Hall, Center One, Post Office and Library.



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)



Each week, the Hampton Public Library will share a book recommendation in the Chronicle.

Dear reader,

We are excited to share a recommendation for a new novel that our patrons are sure to love: *Mad Mabel* by Sally Hepworth.

This is a thriller that involves a 81 year old woman named Elsie Fitzpatrick. Her life unravels when a neighbor turns up dead and her hidden past is exposed. This gripping thriller switches from the 1950s and present day.

When Elsie's past resurfaces, she forms an unexpected friendship with a 7 year old neighbor, while local gossip threatens to destroy the life she has built. This book touches on exploring trauma, cruel rumors, and redemption.

– Misty Sosa

CIVIC CALENDAR

FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS: **DETAILS:**

Tuesday 8:30 AM
Franklin County Courthouse

ACKLEY CITY COUNCIL MEETING: **DETAILS:**

Second Tuesday

GENEVA CITY COUNCIL: **DETAILS:**

Second Tuesday of every month
6:30 PM

ALEXANDER LIBRARY BOARD: **DETAILS:**

Third Wednesday of every month

CAL SCHOOL BOARD: **DETAILS:**

2nd Thursday of the month
at 5:30 PM

FRANKLIN COUNTY TOURISM BOARD: **DETAILS:**

Second Thursday,
4:30 PM,
Center 1

ALEXANDER CITY COUNCIL: **DETAILS:**

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

HANSELL CITY COUNCIL: **DETAILS:**

Second Wednesday every month,
Community Center 7:00 PM

HAMPTON PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD: **DETAILS:**

Board meets every 3rd Wednesday of
the month, 5:30 PM
Library board meets to discuss library
business, budgeting, funding and
happenings.

ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT: **DETAILS:**

5:30 PM
City Council Chambers

FRANKLIN COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD: **DETAILS:**

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

COULTER CITY COUNCIL: **DETAILS:**

Second Wednesday of the month,
6:30 PM

LATIMER CITY COUNCIL: **DETAILS:**

Second Wednesday,
6:30 PM

DUMONT LIBRARY BOARD: **DETAILS:**

Dumont Public Library
Second Wednesday of every month

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 BOARD OF HEALTH **DETAILS:**

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

DOWS CITY COUNCIL: **DETAILS:**

First Monday of every month 6:00 PM

SHEFFIELD CITY COUNCIL: **DETAILS:**

Every second Monday
of the month at 6 PM

HAMPTON DUMONT SCHOOL BOARD: **DETAILS:**

Fourth Monday of the month
6:00 PM

FRANKLIN COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COMMISSION: **DETAILS:**

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

GREATER FRANKLIN COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE: **DETAILS:**

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

DUMONT CITY COUNCIL: **DETAILS:**

Second Thursday
7:00 PM
At EMS Center Dumont

FRANKLIN COUNTY VETERANS AFFAIRS: **DETAILS:**

First Tuesday of the Month
3:00 PM,
Franklin County Veterans Affairs Office

WEST FORK SCHOOL BOARD: **DETAILS:**

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

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.

POLICE & SHERIFF REPORT

Monday, July 13 Hampton Police Department • 7:49 AM: Ambulance call at 0 block of 6th Ave NW, in Hampton • 9:19 AM: Dog calls at 200 block of 2nd St SW, in Hampton • 10:27 AM: False pretense/swindle at 600 block of 1st St NW, in Hampton • 2:01 PM: Harassment at 0 block of 5th Ave NW, in Hampton • 9:44 PM: Traffic stop at Hwy 3/ Murphys, in Hampton • 9:49 PM: Ambulance call at 700 block of 2nd St SE, in Hampton	• 1:26 PM: Assist other agencies at 0 block of 2nd St NW, in Hampton • 2:19 PM: Juveniles at 400 block of 12th Ave NW, in Hampton • 2:35 PM: False 911 calls at 1100 block of Central Ave E, in Hampton • 3:39 PM: Disturbance at 700 block of 4th St NE, in Hampton • 6:42 PM: Phone call to return at 200 block of 5th Ave NE, in Hampton • 7:22 PM: Illegal burning at 400 block of 11th Ave NE, in Hampton • 7:50 PM: False 911 calls at 1000 block of Central Ave W, in Hampton • 8:10 PM: Telephone call at 1300 block of Olive Ave, in Hampton • 8:27 PM: Misc/ at Fairgrounds, in Hampton • 9:10 PM: Traffic stop at 10 block of 1st Ave NW, in Hampton • 9:16 PM: Traffic stop at 200 block of 1st Ave NW, in Hampton • 10:11 PM: Traffic stop at 400 block of 4th Ave NW, in Hampton • 11:45 PM: Suspicious activity at 700 block of 4th St NE, in Hampton	200 block of 5th St SE, in Hampton • 10:18 AM: Trespass of real property at 100 block of 1st Ave SW, in Hampton • 10:11 AM: Information at 0 block of 2nd St NW, in Hampton • 10:00 AM: Trespass of real property at 100 block of 1st Ave SW, in Hampton • 12:44 PM: Welfare check at 1300 block of N Federal St, in Hampton • 6:32 PM: Juveniles at 400 block of 12th Ave NW, in Hampton • 7:50 PM: 10-50 property damage at South side of fair parking around the second row, in Hampton • 8:08 PM: Lost articles at 1000 blk Central Ave W, in Hampton • 9:46 PM: Traffic stop at 100 blk of 4th St NE, in Hampton • 10:06 PM: Traffic stop at 0 block of 2nd St NW, in Hampton • 10:06 PM: Suspicious activity at 7th Ave SW/7 St SW, in Hampton • 10:54 PM: Traffic stop at S of FS/Olive Ave, in Hampton • 11:35 PM: NCO violation at 200 block of 5th Ave NE, in Hampton	• 8:35 PM: Traffic Stop, Coulter, Coulter • 8:53 PM: Traffic Stop, Gull/Hwy 3, Latimer • 9:02 PM: Traffic Stop, Gull, Latimer • 9:12 PM: Traffic Stop, Hwy 3/ Gull, Latimer • 9:26 PM: Traffic Stop, Heather/ Hwy 3, Latimer • 9:54 PM: Phone Call To Return, Grant St, Coulter • 11:06 PM: Warrants-Local, NE 51 Pl, Des Moines	Thursday, July 16 Hampton Police Department • 2:33 AM: Traffic Complaints, 400 block of 12th Ave NW, in Hampton • 6:18 AM: Found Articles, 200 block of 1st Ave NW, in Hampton • 6:51 AM: Property Exchange, 300 block of 2nd Ave NW, in Hampton • 7:49 AM: Disturbance, 300 block of Central Ave E, in Hampton • 8:29 AM: Theft From Building, 100 block of 1st Ave SW, in Hampton • 10:12 AM: Animals (Except Dogs), 1300 block of N Federal St, in Hampton • 12:24 PM: Parking Ord., 300 block of 1st St SW, in Hampton • 12:39 PM: Vandalism, 400 block of 1st St NE, in Hampton • 2:23 PM: Misc/, 10 block of Central Ave W, in Hampton • 2:59 PM: Ambulance Call, 600 block of 2nd St SE, in Hampton • 3:01 PM: Misc/, 300 block of 2nd Ave NW, in Hampton • 3:19 PM: False 911 Calls, 200 block of 12th Ave NW, in Hampton • 3:42 PM: Weapons, Seabees Parking Lot, in Hampton • 6:00 PM: Medical Assist, 1000 block of Central Ave W, in Hampton • 7:25 PM: False 911 Calls, 100 block of 2nd St NW, in Hampton • 8:02 PM: Misc/, 1000 block of Central Ave W, in Hampton • 8:18 PM: Phone Call To Return, Hampton, in Hampton • 8:28 PM: Fire/, 700 block of 8th St SW, in Hampton • 8:38 PM: Assist Other Agencies, 200 block of 5th St NE, in Hampton • 8:44 PM: Animals (Except Dogs), 200 block of 1st St SW, in Hampton • 10:12 PM: Traffic Stop, 200 block of Central Ave E, in Hampton	Friday, July 17 Hampton Police Department • 12:31 AM: Misc/ at 7th Ave NE, Hampton • 3:06 AM: Misc/ at Imperial Rd, Hampton • 3:31 AM: Parking ord. at 10 Block 2nd Ave NW, Hampton • 3:33 AM: Alarm - at Olive Ave, Hampton • 6:29 AM: Animals (except dogs) at 1st St SW, Hampton • 8:06 AM: Misc/ at Imperial Road, Hampton • 9:15 AM: Information at W Central Ave, Hampton • 9:15 AM: Suspicious person at Central Ave E, Hampton • 9:43 AM: Information at W Central Ave, Hampton • 9:59 AM: Dog calls at 1 Block over from La Luz, Hampton • 11:55 AM: Ambulance call at Central Ave E, Hampton • 1:07 PM: Misc/ at E Central Ave, Hampton • 12:32 PM: Found articles at Hwy 3 in front of Brents Repair, Hampton • 1:48 PM: Parking ord. at 1st Ave SW, Hampton • 3:16 PM: Information at 7th Ave NE, Hampton • 5:12 PM: Phone call to return at 2 St NW, Hampton • 5:18 PM: Telephone call at Central Ave East, Hampton • 9:58 PM: Traffic stop at 10 Block 1st St SE, Hampton • 10:06 PM: Traffic complaints at 3 St SW, Hampton • 11:02 PM: Misc/ at Franklin General Hospital, Hampton	• 2:08 AM: Welfare check at Grant St, Coulter • 2:24 AM: Ambulance call at Grant St, Coulter • 7:08 AM: Motorist assist at 2100 Block Grouse, Alexander • 7:12 AM: False 911 calls at 255th St, Sheffield • 7:43 AM: Misc/ at Grant St, Coulter • 7:58 AM: Misc/ at 2nd Ave NW, Hampton • 12:02 PM: False 911 calls at Central East, Hampton • 1:07 PM: Dispatch at I-35 North of MM 177 on SB Side, Thornton • 1:34 PM: Controlled burn at 1600 Block 190th St, Hampton • 4:04 PM: 10-96 transport at Allen Hospital, Waterloo • 4:16 PM: Misc/ at Grant St, Coulter • 5:56 PM: Traffic stop at W Central Ave, Hampton • 7:06 PM: Disabled vehicle at 100th St and Cardinal, Dows • 7:23 PM: Traffic stop at 1100 Block Hwy 3, Hampton • 7:35 PM: Debris on roadway/ right-of-way at 700 Block Hwy 3, Latimer • 8:17 PM: Misc/ at 5th St SW, Hampton • 9:24 PM: Disabled vehicle at Hwy 3 and Indigo, Latimer • 9:36 PM: Traffic stop at I-35 MM 157 SB, Dows • 9:54 PM: Traffic stop at I-35 MM 169 NB, Latimer • 10:33 PM: Misc/ at Grant St, Coulter • 10:34 PM: Traffic complaints at Cardinal Ave SB/45th St, Popejoy
Tuesday, July 14 Hampton Police Department • 12:05 AM: Alarm at Git&Go, in Hampton • 12:49 AM: Ambulance call at 300 block of 16th Ave NE, in Hampton • 7:02 AM: Welfare check at 700 block of Central Ave W, in Hampton • 8:41 AM: False 911 calls at 400 block of 1st St SW, in Hampton • 9:33 AM: False 911 calls at 100 block of 2nd Ave NW, in Hampton • 11:05 AM: Misc/ at 100 block of 1st Ave SW, in Hampton • 11:23 AM: Ambulance call at 700 block of 2nd St SE, in Hampton • 12:07 PM: Welfare check at 300 block of 2nd St SE, in Hampton • 12:05 PM: Suspicious activity at 0 block of S Federal St, in Hampton • 12:36 PM: Traffic complaints at Hwy 3 Blinking Light, in Hampton • 1:11 PM: Suspicious person at 0 block of S Federal St, in Hampton	Franklin County Sheriff's Office • 8:48 AM: Missing Property, Franklin Co • 11:05 AM: Traffic Complaints, Interstate 35 NB 159MM, Dows • 11:48 AM: Phone Call To Return, 1st St NW, Hampton • 12:27 PM: False 911 Calls, Hwy 65, Hampton • 1:49 PM: Motorist Assist, Interstate 35 SB MM Dows Exit, Dows • 2:31 PM: Vehicle Off Roadway, Hwy 3, Hampton • 7:44 PM: Controlled Burn, Ackley • 7:54 PM: Ambulance Call, Franklin Ave, Aredale • 8:17 PM: Traffic Stop, Hwy 3 and Quail, Hampton • 8:37 PM: Fire/, West Main, Latimer • 9:14 PM: Disabled Vehicle, South St Akir St, Latimer • 9:26 PM: Traffic Stop, I-35 MM 165 NB, Latimer • 10:39 PM: Medical Assist, Franklin Ave, Aredale • 10:42 PM: Assist ISP, I-35NB 169MM, Latimer	Franklin County Sheriff's Office • 1:36 AM: Stolen Property Offense, Grant St, Coulter • 4:52 AM: Misc/, Timber Ave, Hansell • 4:55 AM: Traffic Complaints, Grant St, Coulter • 8:00 AM: Information, 120th St/ Olive Ave RR Crossing, Hampton • 8:31 AM: Controlled Burn, Swallow Ave, Geneva • 12:33 PM: Controlled Burn, Warbler Ave, Dumont • 2:00 PM: Traffic Stop, Hwy 3, Hampton • 2:12 PM: Welfare Check, Highway 3, Latimer • 2:21 PM: Vehicle Off Roadway, Hwy 65, Chapin • 2:43 PM: Motorist Assist, Jonquail Ave, Latimer • 5:40 PM: Misc/, Park, Coulter • 7:01 PM: Warrants-Local, 14th Ave, Eldora • 9:21 PM: Disabled Vehicle, I-35 MM 162 NB, Latimer • 9:32 PM: 10-50 Property Damage, Hardin Road, Iowa Falls • 10:03 PM: Traffic Stop, Hwy 65, Bradford • 10:45 PM: Telephone Call, 85th St and Cardinal Ave, Dows	Franklin County Sheriff's Office • 2:03 AM: Assist ISP, I35 SB MM 165, Coulter • 7:43 AM: False 911 Calls, 30th St, Ackley • 9:11 AM: False 911 Calls, Gull Ave, Latimer • 10:34 AM: Traffic Complaints, Timber and Hwy 3, Hansell • 10:39 AM: Traffic Stop, Central Ave E, Hampton • 10:44 AM: Traffic Complaints, Hwy 65 SB from Sheffield, Hampton • 11:08 AM: Dog Calls, Alexander • 11:27 AM: Animals (Except Dogs), 165th St, Hampton • 11:40 AM: Traffic Complaints, I-35 MM 176, Sheffield • 12:51 PM: Alarm -, Gull Ave, Latimer • 1:24 PM: Dog Calls, Dogwood Ave, Alexander • 2:59 PM: False 911 Calls, I-35 S of 250th, Sheffield • 3:47 PM: Traffic Stop, 2nd Ave NW and 1st NW, Hampton • 4:35 PM: Disabled Vehicle, I35 MM 170 NB, Latimer • 5:31 PM: Misc/, Brown St, Alexander • 5:46 PM: False 911 Calls, N Franklin St, Ackley • 5:57 PM: Harassment, 200th St and Dogwood Ave, Alexander • 6:02 PM: Harassment, Cardinal Ave, Alexander • 7:40 PM: False 911 Calls, Finch Ave, Latimer • 7:53 PM: 10-50 Property Damage, Hampton • 8:17 PM: Misc/, Crossing Arms West of Olive/190th, Hampton	Franklin County Sheriff's Office • 12:02 AM: Traffic stop • 3:43 AM: Dispatch at I-35NB 165MM, Coulter • 6:06 AM: Misc/ at 5th St SW, Hampton • 7:24 AM: Controlled burn at Spruce Ave, Sheffield	Saturday, July 18 Hampton Police Department • 1:58 AM: Traffic complaints, 318 3rd Ave NW, in Hampton • 8:39 AM: Dog ca_ls, 103 2nd Ave SE, in Hampton • 9:11 AM: Traffic control, Fairgrounds East Gate, in Hampton • 10:05 AM: Traffic control, 1701 Central Ave E, in Hampton • 10:13 AM: False 911 calls, 800 2nd St SE, in Hampton • 4:17 PM: False 911 calls, 1008 Central Ave, in Hampton • 4:55 PM: Parking ord., Fairground Handicap South End, in Hampton • 4:56 PM: Misc/, Hardin, in Hampton • 5:56 PM: Juveniles, Fairgrounds, in Hampton • 9:50 PM: Lost articles, Carnival Rides, in Hampton • 11:09 PM: Neighborhood complaints, 500 Block Federal St, in Hampton	Franklin County Sheriff's Office • 12:02 AM: Traffic stop - Highway

See REPORT: Page 17

PROPERTY TRANSFERS

PROPERTY TRANSFERS

CT OFFICER DEED Grantor(s): Douglas D. Ellingson Estate, Jason M. Ellingson (Executor) Grantee(s): Jason M. Ellingson, Christopher C. Ellingson, Jennie M. Rush, Loise Klein Legal Description / Tract Location: 36-90-22 N2 NW PART Financials / Fees: Revenue Exempt Recording Fees: \$17.00 Additional Details and Comments: IMGED WARRANTY DEED Grantor(s): Janaan Harding (Trustee), Douglas D. Ellingson Trust, Douglas D. Ellingson Estate, Jason M. Ellingson (Executor) Grantee(s): Jason M. Ellingson, Christopher C. Ellingson, Jennie M. Rush Legal Description / Tract Location: 36-90-22 N2 NW PART Financials / Fees: Revenue Stamp Exempt Recording Fees: \$17.00 Additional Details and Comments: Trustees WD & Section 614.14 Affidavit; IMGED AFFIDAVIT OF TRANSFER Grantor(s): Lena May Winters (Life Estate) Grantee(s): Steven L. Win-	ters, Ryan M. Winters, Dee Ann Keninger, Connie L. Sparks Legal Description: Tract Location: 13-92-20 S2 NW PART UNDIV 1/2 INT, 14-92-20 S2 SE PART UNDIV 1/2 INT, 14-92-20 SW PART UNDIV 1/2 INT, 24-92-20 S2 NW PART UNDIV 1/2 INT, 13-92-20 SW PART UNDIV 1/2 INT, 24-92-20 N2 NW UNDIV 1/2 INT Financials / Fees: Revenue: \$0.00 Recording Fees: \$52.00 Additional Details and Comments: Affidavit of Death Terminating Life Estate; IMGED QUIT CLAIM DEED Grantor(s): Sergio Solis Grantee(s): Martha A. Moya Zeballos Legal Description / Tract Location: 5-92-22 W2 SW BLK 5 LOTS 1 & 2 Financials / Fees: Revenue Stamp Exempt Recording Fees: \$12.00 Additional Details and Comments: IMGED CT OFFICER DEED Grantor(s): Eunice May Brandt Estate, Benson Clouse (Executor) Grantee(s): Kathy Benson Clouse Legal Description / Tract Location: 33-92-20 SE SW PART Financials / Fees: Revenue Stamp	Exempt Recording Fees: \$17.00 Additional Details and Comments: IMGED WARRANTY DEED Grantor(s): Latimer Development Corporation Grantee(s): Kenneth Schuler, Karen Schuler Legal Description / Tract Location: LATI Latimer Harriman's 1st BLK 1 LOT 1 Financials / Fees: Revenue: \$8.80 Recording Fees: \$17.00 Consideration: \$6,000.00 Additional Details and Comments: GWH Exempt; IMGED WARRANTY DEED Grantor(s): Christensen Farms Midwest LLC Grantee(s): Summit Pork- III LLP Legal Description / Tract Location: 30-90-19 NE SW PART Financials / Fees: Revenue: \$1,760.80 Recording Fees: \$17.00 Consideration: \$1,100,517.00 Additional Details and Comments: IMGED WARRANTY DEED Grantor(s): Christensen Farms Midwest LLC Grantee(s): Summit Pork III LLP	Legal Description / Tract Location: 13-91-21 NE NW PART, 13-91-21 NW PARCEL A, 13-91-21 NW PARCEL B Financials / Fees: Revenue: \$1,320.00 Recording Fees: \$32.00 Consideration: \$825,388.00 Additional Details and Comments: IMGED WARRANTY DEED Grantor(s): Compro Casas LLC Grantee(s): Daniel P. Massoth, Melody A. Massoth Legal Description / Tract Location: LATI Latimer Miller's BLK 3 LOT 3 Financials / Fees: Revenue: \$191.20 Recording Fees: \$17.00 Consideration: \$120,000.00 Additional Details and Comments: GWH Exempt; IMGED WARRANTY DEED Grantor(s): Ruth Berghoefer (Trustee), Clifford Berghoefer (Trustee), Clifford Berghoefer Trust Grantee(s): Gladys Betten 2006 Irrevocable Trust (c/o Marlene Bauman) Legal Description / Tract Location: HAMP PKRDG LOT 22 UNDIV 1/2 INT, HAMP PKRDG LOT 23 UNDIV 1/2 INT, HAMP PKRDG LOT 24 UNDIV 1/2 INT Financials / Fees: Revenue: \$0.00 Recording Fees: \$17.00 Consideration: \$245,000.00 Additional Details and Comments: GWH Exempt; Included on DOV #20261128; IMGED CHANGE OF TITLE Grantor(s): Ronald F. Paine Estate Grantee(s): Diana L. Paine Legal Description / Tract Location: HAMP BEED2 BLK 27 LOT 3, HAMP BEED2 BLK 27 LOT 2 PART Financials / Fees: Revenue: \$0.00 Recording Fees: \$17.00	Financials / Fees: Revenue: \$391.20 Recording Fees: \$17.00 Consideration: \$245,000.00 Additional Details and Comments: GWH Exempt; Declaration of Value (DOV) includes #20261129; IMGED WARRANTY DEED Grantor(s): Diana L. Paine Grantee(s): Susana Calles Sosa Legal Description / Tract Location: HAMP BEED2 BLK 27 LOT 3, HAMP BEED2 BLK 27 LOT 2 PART Financials / Fees: Revenue: \$207.20 Recording Fees: \$17.00 Consideration: \$130,000.00 Additional Details and Comments: GWH Exempt; IMGED QUIT CLAIM DEED Grantor(s): Michael Uhlenhopp, Christine Uhlenhopp Grantee(s): Jeffrey Uhlenhopp, Amanda Uhlenhopp Legal Description / Tract Location: 5-92-22 W2 SW SUBDIV BLK 2 LOT 5 PART Financials / Fees: Revenue Stamp Exempt Recording Fees: \$17.00 Additional Details and Comments: IMGED Additional Details and Comments: Affidavit of Surviving Joint Tenant for Change of Title to Real Estate; IMGED
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FRANKLIN COUNTY COURTHOUSE NEWS

OWI Padilla, Edwing Moises, Hampton, operating while under the influence 1st Offense. Serious Misdemeanor, Deferred Christiansen, John Lee, Coulter, Operating while under the influence Cook, James Thomas, Bradford, Operating while under the influence, Serious Misdemeanor Portillo Rivera, Geoffrey Addison, Mason City, operating while under the influence 1st Offense. Serious Misdemeanor, Possession of a controlled substance Marijuana 1st offense Stack, Reece Raymond, Boxholm, operating while under the influence 1st Offense. Serious Misdemeanor, Unlawful possession of prescription drug, serious misdemeanor	Olmstead, Anntoinette, Geneva, IA, versus Capital One, NA, Golden Valley, MN, Filed: 06-JUL-26, Dismissed w/o Prejudice Martinez, Crystal Victoria, Hampton, IA, versus First Bank Hampton, Hampton, IA, Filed: 02-JUL-26, Judgment Default Dixon, Jerry Eugene, Thornton, IA, versus Portfolio Recovery Associates, LLC, Des Moines, IA, Filed: 01-JUL-26, Dismissed w/o Prejudice Rodriguez, Arlene, Hampton, IA, versus Jefferson Capital Systems LLC, Omaha, NE, Filed: 02-JUL-26, Judgment Default Pickering, Lisa, Iowa Falls, IA, versus Ziesman, Travis V, Iowa Falls, IA, Filed: 02-JUL-26, Order for Judgment Wilson, Brittney, Hampton, IA, versus Franklin Holdings, LLC, Mason	City, IA, Filed: 30-JUN-26, Small Claims Original Notice Garcia Martinez, Virginia, Hampton, IA, versus Franklin Holdings, LLC, Mason City, IA, Filed: 30-JUN-26, Small Claims Original Notice Myers, Jessica, Hampton, IA, versus Franklin Holdings, LLC, Mason City, IA, Filed: 30-JUN-26, Small Claims Original Notice Wood, Carol, Alden, IA, versus Roll, Dawn, Iowa Falls, IA, Filed: 30-JUN-26, Small Claims Original Notice Simmons, Melissa Sue, Latimer, IA, versus LNVN Funding LLC, Plymouth, MN, Filed: 01-JUL-26, Small Claims Original Notice TallinaO, Sherwin, Geneva, IA, versus LNVN Funding LLC, Plymouth, MN, Filed: 01-JUL-26, Small Claims Original Notice Jones, Dan, Hampton, IA, ver-	sus Agvantage FS, A Division of Growmark, Inc, Waverly, IA, Filed: 01-JUL-26, Small Claims Original Notice Wood, Daniel Joseph, Sheffield, IA, versus Hauge Associates Inc, Sioux Falls, SD, Filed: 02-JUL-26, Small Claims Original Notice Wood, Kimberly R, Sheffield, IA, versus Hauge Associates Inc, Sioux Falls, SD, Filed: 02-JUL-26, Small Claims Original Notice Baker, Nickie Sue, Chapin, IA, versus LNVN Funding LLC, Grand Rapids, MI, Filed: 02-JUL-26, Small Claims Original Notice Scheduled Traffic Savannah Rose Schumacher (Sparta, WI) — Speeding Ovr 55 Zone (16 thru 20 Over) Elbin Perez Perez (Latimer, IA) — No Valid Drivers License	Joel Alejandro Cazares Aceves (Inver Grove Heights, MN) — Speeding Ovr 55 Zone (6 thru 10 Over) Trevor Lee Gross (Iowa Falls, IA) — Speeding 55 or Und Zone (6 thru 10 Over) Emily Lynne Elizabeth Blake (Aurora, MN) — Speeding Ovr 55 Zone (6 thru 10 Over) Justin Lloyd Bagley (Ducan, OK) — Hours of Service Violaton Jason Thomas Patterson (Newark, AR) — Speeding Ovr 55 Zone (1 thru 5 Over) Eveline Cristal Mota (Hampton, IA) — No Valid Drivers License Kyle John Vanhove (Ackley, IA) — Failure to Use Child Restraint Device Abby Rose Mayo (Ankeny, IA) — Speeding Ovr 55 Zone (11 thru 15 Over)	Victor Larue Shaw (Brooklyn Park, MN) — Speeding Ovr 55 Zone (11 thru 15 Over) Syed A Asad (Richmond, TX) — Speeding Ovr 55 Zone (11 thru 15 Over) Engao Qin (San Jose, CA) — Speeding Ovr 55 Zone (11 thru 15 Over) Ryan Wesley Snow (Mason City, IA) — Speeding Ovr 55 Zone (6 thru 10 Over) Lauren Alyse Adsmond (Fremont, MI) — Speeding Ovr 55 Zone (11 thru 15 Over) Danaye Rashell Bergantzelt (Mendota, MN) — Excessive Speeding (Except Work Zones) Speeding Non-Scheduled Traffic Mario Alberto Quintanilla (Latimer, IA) — See COURTHOUSE: Page 17
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Notice: Proposal Solicitation (NIRHA)

The North Iowa Regional Housing Authority (NIRHA) is soliciting proposals from qualified contractors to provide general maintenance, unit turnover, rehabilitation, repair, and exterior improvement services for public housing properties owned and operated by NIRHA.

NIRHA owns and manages 121 public housing units across 10 properties located throughout its service area. This includes the cities of Algona, Britt, Forest City, Clear Lake, Northwood, Manly, Osage, Rockford, Sheffield and Hampton and seeks to establish relationships with one or more qualified contractors capable of performing a variety of projects on an as-needed basis. Services will be utilized to prepare vacant units for occupancy, maintain existing housing stock, and improve exterior property conditions.

NIRHA reserves the right to award contracts to multiple contractors based upon qualifications, pricing, responsiveness, and availability.

For mor information please contact Rick Toney at rtoney@NIRHA.com or www.nirha.com/rfq

Published in the Hampton Chronicle on July 1, 8, 15, and 22, 2026

Director Job Accouncement

Job Announcement: Franklin County Conservation Board is accepting applications for the position of Conservation Director. Salary: \$73,486-76,460/yr. Visit www.franklincounty-ia.gov. to view opening and application. Deadline: July 27th, 2026 at 4PM.

Published in the Hampton Chronicle on July 15, and 22, 2026

Hampton June 2026 Receipts

CITY OF HAMPTON	
SUMMARY OF RECEIPTS JUNE 2026	
General.....	\$103,058.07
General - LOST/Pool	\$53,166.71
Library.....	\$38,032.27
Road Use.....	\$60,540.10
Employee Benefits.....	\$6,765.84
Forfeiture	\$53.05
Band Shell Fund	\$54.84
Local Option Sales Tax	\$39,859.30
T I F	\$428.55
Police Reserve	\$4,362.24
Fire Reserve	\$17,448.94
Pool & Parks	\$17,448.94
55% LOST	\$64,651.25
Cemetery Trust.....	\$97.24
General Obligation.....	\$3,198.24
Capital Project - FAA	\$15,000.00
Capital Project - Streets.....	\$100,000.00
Water	\$79,090.06
Sinking Fund - Water	\$116,491.25
Meter Deposits	\$600.00
Sewer	\$84,022.98
Sinking Fund – Sewer	\$32,746.25
Solid Waste	\$3,870.60
Total Receipts/Deposits	\$840,986.72

Published in the Hampton Chronicle on July 22, 2026

Coulter Council Minutes 7.8.26

City of Coulter Unapproved Minutes of July 8, 2026 Council Meeting

City of Coulter Council Meeting at Coulter City Hall called to order at 6:30pm on July 8, 2026 by Mayor Myron Lawler. Council members present: Cheryl Engels, Alan Larsen, Dennis Sandin. Nicole Martinson entered meeting at 6:31pm. Public present: Lon and Linda Allen and Scott Schulz. Sandin motioned to approve the Agenda, Larsen second. All ayes, motion carried. Mayor Lawler invited Lon Allan to share. Allan addressed issue of City shed key and generator. Discussion followed and Lon and Linda exited meeting at 6:40pm. Linda reentered to inform Council she had left information regarding water softener and exited at 6:43pm. Scott Schulz was invited to share interest in filling vacancy on Council. Was asked to share his background. Schulz was thanked for coming in. Exited meeting at 7:05pm.

New Business: No action taken on Beautification Grant. Martinson will look into logistics to present at later meeting. Will address at meeting in September. Mayor Lawler has documents for 117 2nd Street property, has contacted City attorney on paperwork. Will be contacting Cody Turner on name for deed. Discussion on cleaning curbs. Mayor Lawler has someone may be willing to do it. Motion made by Larsen to set Special Council meeting to appoint someone to fill vacant Council seat. Meeting set for Wednesday, July 22 at 6:30pm. Second Engels. All ayes, motion carried. Lohrbach lot was discussed. Nothing new on it. Library has obtained water heater. Motion by Larsen to check water heater out, as long as all looks good will proceed to install in Library. Second Sandin. All ayes, motion carried. Discussion on junk cars and other nuisances was made. Will have reminders placed in newsletter. Sandin motioned to approve Resolution 2026-06; Transfer of Funds to Library, second Larsen. All ayes, motion carried. Martinson motioned to approve City Clerk as Administrator on Resolution for Visa Administrator. Second Engels. All ayes, motion carried. Larsen motioned to raise limit temporarily for Library Visa, unless card company will not allow temporary limit. Then will increase limit for card. Second Sandin. All ayes, motion carried.

Park Shelter curtains need installed. Will check to see if there is still grant money to pay for installation. Larsen motioned to have flagpole at Fire station removed. Second Martinson. All ayes, motion carried. Discussed trimming trees by new City sign, will contact homeowner before work is done. Discussed pop can trailer placement and signs. Mayor Lawler has talked to County Engineer about fixing small potholes. Will be taken care of. Lon Allan was removed as Coulter representative for Landfill of North Iowa effective immediately. Motion Larsen to appoint Dennis Sandin as new representative for Coulter. Second Martinson. All ayes, Sandin abstained. Motion carried. Motion by Larsen to advertise sale of old City snow plow for \$5000. Second Engels. All ayes, motion carried. Discussion on City building access and keys, who should have access. Martinson motioned to approve June 10, 2026 Minutes with exclusion of Ann Schulz name. Engels second. All ayes, motion carried. Larsen motioned to approve Claims in amount of \$24477.73 with notation from Clerk that \$60 of Fire Department Visa bill had been paid by Erickson to reimburse City for Sam's Club membership fee inadvertently paid for. Second Sandin. All ayes, motion carried. Motion to adjourn by Martinson, second Sandin. Meeting adjourned at 9:33pm

Myron Lawler, Mayor
ATTEST:
Jory Rapp, City Clerk

Published in the Hampton Chronicle on July 22, 2026

Coulter Council Claims 7.8.26

City of Coulter Claims Approved for Payment 07/8/2026

General Fund.....	Description.....	Amount
4Gs Pyro.....	Fireworks.....	2,500.00
AgSource Coop Services.....	Water testing	15.25
Alliant.....	Utilities.....	2,396.94
Auto Parts, Inc.....	Truck valve	10.95
Better Homes and Gardens	Magazine subscription	28.97
City of Coulter.....	WBM UB.....	112.76
City of Latimer	Lagoon	95.78
D & L Sanitation.....	Sanitation/Recycling, dumpster rental	2,173.50
DeBour Electric.....	Hookup for stove	231.96
Employees - City	Wages	1,786.99
Employees - Library	Wages	1,615.31
Erickson, Kevin.....	Supplies for CFD	683.72
Erickson, Nole	Mowing	733.34
Hamilton's, Inc.....	Labor on pop can trailer	500.00
Hampton Hardware	Plumbing & misc supplies.....	24.94
Hawkins	Azone	565.68
IA Dept of Natural Resources	FY27 Annual Water Supply Fee	25.00
IA Dept of Rev.....	Quarterly Tax Withholding	345.66
IA Dept of Rev.....	Water Service Excise Tax.....	194.83
Iowa One Call	Location Emails.....	18.90
Larsen's Lawn Care.....	Nuisance Mowing.....	380.00
Menards.....	Main Street flags clamps	30.24
Midwest Living.....	Magazine subscription	22.00
Mort's Water Company.....	Pump service repair	37.80
Nelson Septic Services LLC	Porta potty - Park; 2 porta potties for CFD.....	675.00
Niacog	Codification update.....	615.10
Pro Edge Building Solutions.....	Building supplies.....	743.50
Rapp, Mike.....	Mowing.....	833.34
Resident	Deposit Refund	150.00
Steenblock, Shelli	Cleaning	143.75
Turner, Cody	Repair on Bobcat	165.00
UBTC	ACH Fees	10.00
VISA.....	Intuit fee, legals, office supplies, postage, books, food-CFD	1,788.72
WTEL	Fuel.....	335.60
Wmtl.....	Phone, Fax.....	82.02
Wornden Repair LLC.....	Truck tires for fire trucks	2,864.80
IPERS.....	Retirement.....	679.48
ZZ IRS	Federal Payroll Tax	860.90
Total City of Coulter Expenses.....		24,477.73

Published in the Hampton Chronicle on July 22, 2026

Ordinance No. 201

ORDINANCE NO. 201

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF SHEFFIELD, IOWA, BY AMENDING PROVISIONS PERTAINING TO STOP REQUIRED

Be It Enacted by the City Council of the City of Sheffield, Iowa:

SECTION 1. SUBSECTION ADDED. Section 65.02 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Sheffield, Iowa, is amended by adding a new Subsection 28 and 29s to Section 65.02, adopted to read as follows:

65.02 STOP REQUIRED.

31. Gilman St. Vehicles traveling on Gilman St shall stop at 5 th Street.

32. Borst St. Vehicles traveling on Borst St. shall stop at 5 th Street.

SECTION 2. 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 3. WHEN EFFECTIVE. This ordinance shall be in effect from and after its final passage, approval and publication as provided by law.

Passed by the Council on the 13 th day of July, 2026 and approved this 13 th day of July, 2026.

First Reading: 7/13/26, Second Reading: 7/13/26, Third Reading: waived

I certify that the foregoing was published as Ordinance No. 201 on the 22 nd day of July, 2026.

Published in the Hampton Chronicle on July 22, 2026

Sheffield Council Minutes 7.13.26

Sheffield Council Proceedings
Regular Session Minutes-Unapproved
Monday, July 13th; 6:00pm

The Sheffield City Council Regular Session was called to order at Sheffield City Hall by Mayor Brad Mulford, at 6:00PM on Monday, July 13th, 2026. Council Members in attendance were Julia Showalter, James Robbins, and Scott Sanders; absent Becky Moellers, Sherri McGuire; also, in attendance was Patrick Nuehring, Public Works Director, and Eric Meyer, Public Works Assistant.

Mayor Mulford led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Robbins made a motion to approve the agenda. Sanders seconded it; it was approved with Moellers and McGuire absent. Mayor Mulford announced that it was the time and place for the public comment. A resident stated he was at the stop sign at 2nd Gilman and car drove straight through the stop signs. He wondered if a 4-way stop should be added to 1st/Gilman to slow traffic down coming in off of Hwy 65; maybe a speed feedback sign added. Right now he is expressing concern not to be discussed as agenda item.

Robbins motioned to approve the consent agenda, Sanders seconded the motion, and it was approved with Moellers and McGuire absent. Those items approved in the consent agenda were: 6/8/26 Regular Session Minutes, July 2026 Bills, June 2026 Finance Report, and West Fork Wharf ABD License.

Mayor Mulford asked for any department updates. There were no department updates.

Old Business

• Chase with WHKS spoke to the city council on completing plans for the FY27 TIF road project. Plans would be prepared by getting the designs done, placing priority to each road and some roads being delegated as alternative options. In September/October the plans would be finalized with early December/late January putting the project out for bids. This project should be able to completed in the 2027 construction season. • This contract with WHKS will allow for the roads in the TIF project to be designed, placed out for bids, and constructed. The constructed roads are not required to be done in the project but can be held onto for future use also. If the full fee amount with this contract isn't fully used the remainder will be rolled over in the construction fee uses. Showalter motioned to approve WHKS contract. Robbins seconded it; and it was approved with Moellers and McGuire absent. • Rescheduling the September 14th city council meeting will come back to August's meeting.

Published in the Hampton Chronicle on July 22, 2026

Franklin Co.: Adoption of Ordinance 2026C

ORDINANCE NO. 2026C
AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE ZONING CODE OF
FRANKLIN COUNTY, IOWA BY AMENDING SECTION
70.05(10)(D)(9) OF CHAPTER 70, ZONING REGULATIONS, FOR
THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING ADDITIONAL REGULATIONS
REGARDING CONDITIONAL USE PERMITS

WHEREAS, Section 70.05(10)(D)(9) of the Franklin County Zoning Code sets forth the Board of Adjustment's authority to consider applications for conditional use permits in Franklin County, Iowa and regulates the submission and consideration of such applications; and

WHEREAS, the Franklin County, Iowa Planning and Zoning Commission has considered and recommended the adoption of amendments to regulate the reapplication of conditional use permits after denial and the revocation of permitted conditional uses; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors of Franklin County, Iowa, in reviewing and considering the recommended amendments, hereby determines those amendments to the Code of Ordinances of Franklin County, Iowa, as set forth herein, are necessary and appropriate and in the best interests of Franklin County, Iowa; and

WHEREAS, the amendments have been revised to incorporate minor formatting changes without affecting the substance of the amendments, thereby ensuring accuracy and consistency throughout the Ordinance.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF FRANKLIN COUNTY, IOWA, THAT:

SECTION ONE. Chapter 70, Section 70.05(10)(D)(9) of the Code of Ordinances of Franklin County, Iowa is hereby amended by repealing and replacing it as follows: (9) Conditional Use Permits.

a. The Board of Adjustment shall hold a hearing and consider any application for a Conditional Use Permit. The Board may approve Conditional Use Permits for any use that is in keeping with and appropriate to the uses authorized in that district. The Board of Adjustment shall give due consideration to the following requirements in the approval or denial of any Conditional Use Permit application:

1. The conditional use approval would meet the general purpose of this chapter of promoting public health, safety, comfort, order, and general welfare.
2. The conditional use approval would be in keeping with the general character of the surrounding area, the purpose as stated for that zoning district, and the land use plan of the County.
3. The conditional use approval would not result in any appreciable depreciation of

Published in the Hampton Chronicle on July 22, 2026

Sheffield Bills to be Paid for July 2026

Sheffield Bills to be Paid for July 2026		
Vendor	Description.....	Amount
AgSource Laboratories	Testing - Water & Sewer.....	\$889.50
Auto Parts Wholesale.....	Fire Dept Parts.....	\$4.83
Banyon Data Systems.....	City Hall Software.....	\$4,860.00
Card Services.....	Supplies.....	\$1,111.84
Clarke Mosquito Control.....	Mosquito sprayer/chemicals.....	\$5,995.00
Column Software, PBC	Publications	\$250.79
Consolidated	Fuel.....	\$1,022.48
Core & Main.....	water repair supplies.....	\$436.87
Creative Solutions Unlimited, Inc.....	Web Site Subscription.....	\$609.90
D&L Sanitation	May & June Service.....	\$573.50
Deano's Road Dust Control.....	dust control.....	\$6,945.00
Emma McKee	Reimbursement pool concessions.....	\$143.26
First Net	May & June PD Phone/Computer.....	\$237.80
Franklin REC	Cemetery Utilities.....	\$118.45
Franklin REC	Cemetery Utilities.....	\$38.27
Frontier Communications.....	June FD & PW Utilities.....	\$870.43
Frontier Communications.....	July FD & PW Utilities.....	\$874.12
Hawkins	water supplies.....	\$5,909.58
Heartland Asphalt, Inc.....	cold patch.....	\$629.06
Hefty Seed Company	Chemicals.....	\$208.48
Hewett Wholesale Inc.....	Pool Concessions.....	\$857.58
IMWCA	Workmans Comp (Installment #1).....	\$832.00
IA Dept of Natural Resources	Annual Water Supply Fee.....	\$121.64
Iowa League of Cities	Member Dues.....	\$1,095.00
Iowa One Call	One Calls.....	\$19.80
Marlene Eisentrager.....	Pool Concessions.....	\$33.60
Martin Marietta.....	Gravel.....	\$2,808.46
Mediacom	Utilities - May, June.....	\$701.51
Med Compass	Fire Dept Exams.....	\$260.00
Menards.....	Supplies.....	\$479.78
MidAmerican Energy.....	Utilities - June.....	\$7,078.23
MidAmerican Energy.....	Utilities - July.....	\$9,627.33
Municipal Supply Inc.....	supplies.....	\$395.00
National Sign Company, LLC	New stop sign.....	\$2,560.37
Newcom Technologies.....	Cemetery software.....	\$350.00
NIACOG.....	Membership dues.....	\$1,186.50
NCINTF	Membership dues.....	\$441.20

Published in the Hampton Chronicle on July 22, 2026

Terrace Hill San. Dist. ORDINANCE NO 1.

TERRACE HILL SANITARY DISTRICT
ORDINANCE NO. 1

It was moved by Board Member Toni Dean and seconded by Board Member Kathy Plendl that the statutory rule requiring an ordinance to be considered and voted on for passage at two Board meetings prior to the meeting at which it is to be finally passed be suspended. The Board President put the question on the motion and the roll being called, the following named Board Members voted:

Ayes: 3

Nays: 0

Whereupon, the Board President declared the motion duly carried.

It was moved by Board Member Toni Dean and seconded by Board Member Kathy Plendl that the ordinance entitled "Ordinance No. 1. An Ordinance Establishing Rates for the Terrace Hill Sanitary District Sewer System," now be put upon

its final consideration and adoption. The Board President put the question on the motion, and the roll being called, the following named Board Members voted:

Ayes: 3

Nays: 0

Whereupon, the Board President declared the motion duly carried and the ordinance attached hereto as Exhibit A duly adopted, as follows:

ORDINANCE NO. 1

An Ordinance Establishing Rates for the Terrace Hill Sanitary District Sewer System

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors of Franklin County, Iowa did heretofore establish the Terrace Hill Sanitary District (the "District") pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 358 of the Code of Iowa, which has supplied sanitary sewer treatment facilities and services in and to the residents

New Business

• Rockwell Telephone Company would like to expand into Sheffield. The cost to the city would be zero. Bringing in Rockwell Telephone Company will give another fiber optic option and land lines; with Frontier being sold to Verizon this will give an additional option. Robbins motioned to approve the repairs. Showalter seconded it; and it was approved with Moellers and McGuire absent.

• Showalter motioned to approve the resolution for the funds transfer of FY26 Local Option Sales Tax. Sanders seconded it and roll call was as follows, Ayes: Showalter, Robbins, Sanders; Absent: Moellers, McGuire. Mayor Mulford declared the resolution approved, adopted and numbered 27-4.

• Robbins motioned to approve the first reading of ordinance #201 amending the code of ordinances of the City of Sheffield, Iowa, by amending provisions pertaining to Stop Required. Sanders seconded it and roll call was as follows, Ayes: Showalter, Robbins, Sanders; Absent: Moellers, McGuire. Robbins motioned to approve the second reading and waive the third reading of ordinance #201 amending the code of ordinances of the City of Sheffield, Iowa, by amending provisions pertaining to Stop Required. Showalter seconded it and roll call was as follows, Ayes: Showalter, Robbins, Sanders; Absent: Moellers, McGuire.

• Sanders motioned to approve the first reading of ordinance #202 amending the code of ordinances of the City of Sheffield, Iowa, by amending provisions pertaining to Accessory Buildings. Robbins seconded it and roll call was as follows, Ayes: Showalter, Robbins, Sanders; Absent: Moellers, McGuire. Robbins motioned to approve the second reading and waive the third reading of ordinance #202 amending the code of ordinances of the City of Sheffield, Iowa, by amending provisions pertaining to Accessory Buildings. Showalter seconded it and roll call was as follows, Ayes: Showalter, Robbins, Sanders; Absent: Moellers, McGuire.

Discussion on pursuing freedom rock will come back to the August meeting.

Council Comments - Mayor Mulford stated he has had a few complaints of the paved portion of the walking trail being overgrown and the gravel portion could use a weed spraying or scraped?

Robbins motioned to adjourn. Showalter seconded the motion, and it passed. Adjournment at 6:42 p.m.

Ashley L. Francis, City Clerk
Brad Mulford, Mayor

Published in the Hampton Chronicle on July 22, 2026

adjacent property values or detract from the enjoyment and use of those adjacent properties.

4. The conditional use approval would not create any amounts or types of traffic that may be detrimental to others.

5. The conditional use approval would not create objectionable noise, dust, smoke, or odor for nearby properties.

6. The conditional use approval would provide adequate parking area so as not to create congestion of public streets and roadways.

The Board of Adjustment may require any appropriate conditions and stipulations as they deem necessary to assure that the preceding requirements will be fully complied with. Such conditions and stipulations attached to the approval shall be complied with, and a violation of those conditions shall be considered the same as any violation of other provisions of this chapter.

b. Reapplication for Conditional Use After Denial. No application for a conditional use that has been denied in part by the Board of Adjustment shall be resubmitted for a period of one (1) year from the date of denial, except on the grounds of new evidence or proof of change of conditions found to be valid by the Board of Adjustment.

c. Expiration of a Conditional Use Permit. A conditional use permit, if granted, shall automatically expire if within three (3) years after issuance action has not been taken to accomplish the purpose of the permit. The permit holder may request an extension of the expiration date by submitting a request for amendment to the Board no less than sixty (60) days before the permit expiration date.

Nothing contained in this section shall prevent the Board, after notice and hearing, from at any time revoking a permit because of violations of its terms.

SECTION TWO. Effective Date. This ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after the date of passage, approval, and publication as required by law.

SECTION THREE. Severability. If any section, subsection, sentence, clause, phrase, or portion of this ordinance be held invalid or unconstitutional by any court of competent jurisdiction, such portion shall be deemed a separate, distinct, and independent provision, and such holding shall not affect the validity of the remaining portion hereof.

SECTION FOUR. Repealer. All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict with the provisions of this ordinance are hereby repealed.

The Franklin County, Iowa Board of Supervisors took the following actions:

First Reading Passed: waived

Second Reading Passed: waived

Third Reading Passed: waived

Passed and adopted this 14th day of July 2026.

Published in the Hampton Chronicle on July 22, 2026

Office of Auditor of State		Annual Examination Filing Fee.....	\$175.00
Payroll.....	June Payroll		\$36,476.43
Payroll.....	June Payroll Taxes.....		\$16,327.74
Payroll.....	June Payroll Insurances.....		\$8,009.25
Payroll.....	June Payroll IPERS.....		\$5,844.80
Payton Plagge	June Mowing		\$7,500.00
Rachelle Thompson, CPA PLLC.....	FY25 Audit.....		\$5,730.00
Riteway	Waterbill paper.....		\$223.08
Sharon Sanders	Rental Deposit Refund.....		\$120.00
Sue Collins	Reimburse City Clean up dumpsters		\$423.73
T-Mobile.....	Burn Site Camera.....		\$15.00
Trugreen processing center	weed spraying.....		\$1,585.00
UBTC	July IB Fees.....		\$20.00
US Cellular	PW & Arlo Phones.....		\$161.18
UMB.....	EMMA filing.....		\$500.00
VanWall Equipment	supplies.....		\$93.41
Visual Edge IT	Copier Lease/Set-up		\$249.29
West Fork Little League	Concessions.....		\$723.76
Total.....			\$144,754.83

Revenue June 2026	
General Fund.....	\$61,460.64
Road Use Fund.....	\$15,860.12
Employee Benefits Fund	\$1,940.17
Local Option Sales Tax Fund	\$9,871.70
TIF	\$143.69
Debt Service Fund.....	\$469.18
Capital Projects	\$10.68
Water Fund	\$12,503.35
Sewer Fund	\$21,772.48
Storm Water Fund	\$1,000.44
Total.....	\$125,032.42

Expense June 2026	
General Fund.....	\$61,284.75
Road Use Fund.....	\$9,822.22
Employee Benefits Fund	\$10,473.61
Water Fund	\$16,794.12
Sewer Fund	\$14,508.79
Storm Water Fund	\$7.28
Total.....	\$112,890.77

Notice to Bidders: Drainage Water Recycling

NOTICE TO BIDDERS
IDALS NO. FRA912222D
DRAINAGE WATER RECYCLING
FRANKLIN COUNTY, IOWA

Time and Place for Filing Sealed Proposals. Sealed bids for the work as stated below must be filed before 10:00 A.M., Wednesday, August 5th, 2026, in the office of Bolton & Menk, Inc., 1519 Baltimore Drive, Ames, Iowa 50010.

Time and Place Sealed Proposals Will be Opened and Considered. Sealed proposals will be opened and bids tabulated at 10:00 A.M., Wednesday, August 5th, 2026, in the Conference Room of Bolton & Menk, Inc., 1519 Baltimore Drive, Ames, Iowa 50010, for consideration by the ISU Committee for Agricultural Development at their next meeting. The ISU Committee for Agricultural Development reserves their right to reject any and all bids. Bids will be considered and awarded based on the low Base Bid.

Time for Commencement and Completion of Work. Work on the improvement

shall commence upon approval of the contract by the ISU Committee for Agricultural Development, and as stated in the Notice to Proceed. All work under the Contract must be completed, per Iowa Code Section 468.101, no later than November 30, 2026. Damages in the amount of \$200.00 per day will be assessed for each day the work remains incomplete.

Bid Security. Each bidder shall accompany its bid with bid security, as defined in Section 468.35a of the Iowa Code in the amount equal to ten percent (10%) of the total amount of the bid.

Contract Documents. Copies of the project documents are available for a price of \$0.00 per set. Please make your request for a project manual to Bolton & Menk, Inc., 116 North Wilson Avenue, PO Box 68, Jefferson, Iowa 50129, phone 515-766-4423. You may view the digital plan documents for free by entering **Quest Project No. 10286433** on the website's Project Search page. Documents may be downloaded for \$0.00. Please contact QuestCDN.com at 952-233-1632 or

info@questcdn.com for assistance in free membership registration, viewing, downloading, and working with this digital project information.

Preference of Products and Labor. Preference shall be given to domestic construction materials by the contractor, subcontractors, material, men, and suppliers in performance of the contract and further, by virtue of statutory authority, preference will be given to products and provisions grown and coal produced within the State of Iowa, and to Iowa domestic labor, to the extent lawfully required under Iowa statutes. Failure to submit a fully completed Bidder Status Form with the bid may result in the bid being deemed nonresponsive and rejected.

Sales Tax Exemption Certificates. The bidder shall include sales tax in the bid. Tax exemption certificates and authorization letters **WILL NOT** be distributed to the Contractor and all subcontractors who are identified.

Payment. Payment for work done will be in accordance with estimates approved

monthly by the Engineer will be paid by the ISU Committee for Agricultural Development through IDALS.

Progress payments will be made in an amount equal to ninety-seven (97%) of the work completed. Final payment will be made not less than thirty (30) days after completion of the work and acceptance by the ISU Committee for Agricultural Development, subject to the conditions and in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 468 of the Code of Iowa, as amended.

Project Description. Work shall generally consist of 49,500 CY of excavation, drainage pump station and controls, 1,400 LF of 10" diameter fusible HDPE force main, 1,500 LF of single wall HDPE ranging in size between 8" to 15", fabrication of a manifold flow control system, related work items, and all incidentals required to complete the project.

This Notice is given by authority of the ISU Committee for Agricultural Development
Kendall R. Lamkey, Associate Dean

Ginger Swaney Estate

THE IOWA DISTRICT COURT FOR Franklin COUNTY
IN THE MATTER OF
THE ESTATE OF
Ginger Rae Swaney, Deceased
CASE NO. ESPR502120
NOTICE OF PROBATE OF WILL, OF APPOINTMENT OF EXECUTOR, AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS

To All Persons Interested in the Estate of Ginger Rae Swaney, Deceased, who died on or about May 17, 2026:

You are hereby notified that on June 16, 2026, the Last Will and Testament of Ginger Rae Swaney, deceased, bearing date of October 12, 2007, was admitted to probate in the above-named court and that Timmothy Allan Swaney was appointed Executor of the estate. Any action to set aside the will must be brought in the district court of said county within the later to occur of four months from the date of the second publication of this notice or one month from the date of mailing of this notice to all heirs of the decedent and devisees under the will 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 date of 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 July 16, 2026.
Timmothy Allan Swaney, Executor of Estate
1021 3rd St. NW
Hampton, IA 50441

Taylor Nederhoff, ICIS#: AT0012340
Attorney for Executor
Stockdale Law, PLC
412 Washington Avenue
P.O. Box 786
Iowa Falls, IA 50126

Published in the Hampton Chronicle on July 22, and 29, 2026

Franklin Co. Claims 7.14.26

Publication List by Vendor/Description		
Access Funding	18603.00	1
Ackley Public Library Funding	4961.25	1
Ackley Vet Ctr Svcs	315.10	1
Ahlers & Cooney PC Svcs	2744.36	1
Alexander Public Library Funding	9922.50	1
City of Alexander Frm to Mkt	284.09	1
Alliant Energy Util	28.50	1
Amazon Capital Services Sup	1098.76	4
Auto Parts Rep/Parts	451.09	1
Auxiant PSF TPA	85389.15	2
Bergland & Cram Architects Svcs	2760.00	1
Blue Sky Towers IV, LLC Equip	5505.30	1
Tanner Brass Svcs	500.00	1
Brents Ag & Auto Repair Rep/Parts	267.28	2
Bruening Rock Rock/Sand	228.35	1
Cal Over 60's Funding	400.00	1
Calhoun Burns & Assoc Svcs	1715.00	1
Canine Development Group Sub	140.00	1
Carl A. Nelson & Company Svcs	19154.82	1
CenturyLink Svcs	891.48	6
Cintas Corporation Srv/Sup	102.09	1
Column Software PBC Svcs	952.91	2
Connect/Wise Svcs	527.32	1
Consolidated Energy Fuel	35070.13	1
Construction Materials, Inc Sup	2245.21	1
Cooley Pumping LLC Svcs	150.00	1
Midwest Pipe Pipe	160.00	1
Coulter Public Library Funding	9922.50	1
City of Coulter Frm to Mkt	447.32	1
CTI Ready Mix Svcs	7380.00	1
Culligan Svcs	55.00	1
Dale Howard Auto Rep/Parts	468.74	1
Rick DeGroot BOA Mtgs	65.95	1
Deike Implement Co. Equip	2370.97	1
Dexter Distribution Group Equip	1496.97	1
Dows Community Library Funding	4961.25	1
Dumont Harken Lumber Sup	8575.18	1
Dumont Telephone Svcs	300.37	2
Sheldon Eddy Reimb	225.00	1
Elderbridge Support	9369.00	1
Evergreen Engineers Services	2977.50	1
Gladys Fanny Svcs	37.00	1
Fareway Sup	71.69	1
Katy Flint Reimb	254.51	1
Franklin Co Development Funding	22500.00	1
Franklin Co Dispatch Funding	189588.50	1
Franklin Co Emerg Mgmt Comm Funding	78683.50	1
Franklin Co Fair Assn Funding	25000.00	1
Franklin Co Historical Society Funding	5000.00	1
Franklin Co Sheriff's Office Svcs	1056.20	10
Franklin General Hospital Rent/Svcs	1918.00	4
Franklin Grassland Seeds Inc Seed	95.00	1
Michael C Freie Reimb	32.41	1
Geneva Cemetery Society Grave Care	328.00	1
City of Geneva Frm to Mkt	364.31	1
Global Hydraulics Parts	348.70	1

Robert Grant BOA Mtgs	59.57	1
Greater Franklin Co Chamber Funding/Hotel-Motel	1178.34	2
Gordon Greimann BOA	52.90	1
Tessa Haller Well	345.25	1
Hampton Hardware Sup	716.14	5
Hampton Public Library Funding	21168.00	1
Hampton Senior Citizen Center Funding	2000.00	1
City of Hampton Water	695.87	6
City of Hansell Frm to Mkt	337.21	1
Hardin County Tire & Srv, Inc Svcs	375.59	1
Alex M Hass Wk Appl	238.36	2
Hawkeye West Pest Cntrl Svcs	248.13	3
Healthy Harvest Funding	2000.00	1
Heartland Asphalt Svcs	798.34	1
Hotsy Equipment Shop Sup	1020.06	1
Huber Supply Co Shop Tools	566.63	1
Mac Tools Distributer Equip	66.59	1
IMWCA Work Comp	4926.00	1
ICAA Trng	90.00	1
Iowa DNR Permit	150.00	2
Iowa DOT Sup/Safety	11322.19	2
ILEA Trng	125.00	1
ISAC Trng	7500.00	3
ISACS Dues	400.00	1
ISCTA Dues/Trng	250.00	1
J-T Machine & Tool Rep/Parts	152.00	1
JCL Solutions Sup	89.04	1
John Deere Financial Rep/Parts	52.98	1
Deon Juhl Wk Appl	225.00	1
Travis Kloetzer Wk Appl	225.00	1
Koenen Lawn Care Svcs	742.13	1
Aaron Koenigsfeld Wk Appl	164.29	1
Koerner-Whipple Svcs/Sup	162.99	2
Krogh-Oppold Feed Rep/Parts	276.00	1
Kathy Kroll-Oldenburger BOA Mtgs	63.05	1
Language Line Services Srv	101.40	2
City of Latimer Util	2354.08	1
Lawson Products Parts/Sup	17.60	1
LumenServe, Inc. Svcs	259.00	1
M & K Truck Centers Svcs	420.33	1
Zach Malcolm Wk Appl	106.96	1
Manure Movers LLC Svcs	840.00	1
Martin Marietta Road Stone	2262.66	1
Mason City Tire Rep/Parts	572.68	1
McDowell & Sons Svcs	220.00	1
Gary McVicker Reimb	50.00	1
Mebulbs Sup	762.68	1
Virginia Meinberg Reimb	50.00	1
Menards Sup	99.35	1
Mid-America Publishing Pub/Notices/Ad	336.80	2
Mid American Energy Util	10087.31	2
Midland Concrete Products Acco Supplies	13790.00	1
Midland Power Util	15.05	1
Linda Miller Well	700.00	1
Tanner J Miller Reimb	183.28	1
Millers Alignment Rep/Parts	217.00	2
Chad Murray Reimb	107.54	1

Published in the Hampton Chronicle on July 22, 2026

Franklin Co BOS Minutes, 7/15/2026

PROCEEDINGS OF THE FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS July 14th, 2026

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

The Board of Supervisors met at 8:30AM on Tuesday, July 14th, 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 with the removal of Resolution Authorizing the Auditor's Office to Stop Payment on Checks Paid Out in Prior Fiscal Year. All ayes. Motion carried.

Motion by McVicker, seconded by Lukensmeyer to approve the minutes from the 7/7/2026 Regular Session. All ayes. Motion carried.

Board Committee Updates & Public Comment: McVicker attended Central Iowa Juvenile Detention Center & NIACOG. Vanness attended Veterans Affairs Commission.

Motion by McVicker, seconded by Lukensmeyer to open the public hearing pertaining to proposed Ordinance 2026B "An Ordinance Amending Various Sections of Chapter 70, Zoning Regulations, of the Code of Ordinances of Franklin County, Iowa, Regarding the Qualification of Conditional Uses in Certain Zoning Districts" at 9AM. All ayes. Motion carried. There was no public present, and no comment had been received prior. Chairman Vanness closed the public hearing at 9:02AM.

Motion by Lukensmeyer, seconded by McVicker to approve waiving the 1st reading of proposed Ordinance 2026B "An Ordinance Amending Various Sections of Chapter 70, Zoning Regulations, of the Code of Ordinances of Franklin County, Iowa, Regarding the Qualification of Conditional Uses in Certain Zoning Districts". All ayes. Motion carried.

Motion by Lukensmeyer, seconded by McVicker to approve waiving the 2nd reading of proposed Ordinance 2026B "An Ordinance Amending Various Sections of Chapter 70, Zoning Regulations, of the Code of Ordinances of Franklin County, Iowa, Regarding the Qualification of Conditional Uses in Certain Zoning Districts". All ayes. Motion carried.

Motion by Lukensmeyer, seconded by McVicker to approve the 3rd and final reading of proposed Ordinance 2026B "An Ordinance Amending Various Sections of Chapter 70, Zoning Regulations, of the Code of Ordinances of Franklin County, Iowa, Regarding the Qualification of Conditional Uses in Certain Zoning Districts". All ayes. Motion carried.

Motion by Lukensmeyer, seconded by McVicker to approve Ordinance 2026B "An Ordinance Amending Various Sections of Chapter 70, Zoning Regulations, of the Code of Ordinances of Franklin County, Iowa, Regarding the Qualification of Conditional Uses in Certain Zoning Districts". All ayes. Motion carried. Roll call vote was as follows, Ayes:

Lukensmeyer, McVicker, Vanness; Nays: None. Motion carried and the ordinance declared duly adopted upon publication.

Motion by Lukensmeyer, seconded by McVicker to open the public hearing pertaining to proposed Ordinance 2026C "An Ordinance Amending the Zoning Code of Franklin County, Iowa by Amending Section 70.05(10)(D)(9) of Chapter 70, Zoning Regulations for the Purpose of Providing Additional Regulations Regarding Conditional Use Permits at 9:15AM. All ayes. Motion carried. There was no public present, and no comment had been received prior. Chairman Vanness closed the public hearing at 9:17AM.

Motion by McVicker, seconded by Lukensmeyer to approve waiving the 1st Reading of proposed Ordinance 2026C "An Ordinance Amending the Zoning Code of Franklin County, Iowa by Amending Section 70.05(10)(D)(9) of Chapter 70, Zoning Regulations for the Purpose of Providing Additional Regulations Regarding Conditional Use Permits. All ayes. Motion carried.

Motion by McVicker, seconded by Lukensmeyer to approve waiving the 2nd Reading of proposed Ordinance 2026C "An Ordinance Amending the Zoning Code of Franklin County, Iowa by Amending Section 70.05(10)(D)(9) of Chapter 70, Zoning Regulations for the Purpose of Providing Additional Regulations Regarding Conditional Use Permits. All ayes. Motion carried.

Motion by McVicker, seconded by Lukensmeyer to approve the 3rd and final Reading of proposed Ordinance 2026C "An Ordinance Amending the Zoning Code of Franklin County, Iowa by Amending Section 70.05(10)(D)(9) of Chapter 70, Zoning Regulations for the Purpose of Providing Additional Regulations Regarding Conditional Use Permits. All ayes. Motion carried.

Motion by McVicker, seconded by Lukensmeyer to approve Ordinance 2026C "An Ordinance Amending the Zoning Code of Franklin County, Iowa by Amending Section 70.05(10)(D)(9) of Chapter 70, Zoning Regulations for the Purpose of Providing Additional Regulations Regarding Conditional Use Permits. All ayes. Motion carried.

Gabe Johanns, IT Director, provided the Supervisors with an update on his department.

Katy Flint, Auditor, provided the Supervisors with an update on her department.

The Supervisors recessed at 10:00AM for a drainage meeting and reconvened at 10:28AM. Drainage minutes may be obtained from the Auditor's office or on the County website.

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

Published in the Hampton Chronicle on July 22, 2026

Notice of Adoption of Ordinance 2026B

SUMMARY OF FRANKLIN COUNTY ORDINANCE NO. 2026B, AN ORDINANCE AMENDING VARIOUS SECTIONS OF CHAPTER 70, ZONING REGULATIONS, OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF FRANKLIN COUNTY, IOWA REGARDING THE QUALIFICATIONS OF CONDITIONAL USES IN CERTAIN ZONING DISTRICTS

The Board of Supervisors of Franklin County, Iowa passed and adopted Franklin County Ordinance No. 2026B ("Ordinance") on July 14th, 2026. A public hearing on the Ordinance was held and it was approved on July 14th, 2026. Prior readings of the ordinance were waived by a majority vote of the Board of Supervisors.

Pursuant to Iowa Code section 331.302(8), a summary of Franklin County Ordinance No. 2026B is hereby published for its effectiveness. Ordinance No.

2026B becomes effective upon this publication. This publication is a summary only. A complete copy of Ordinance No. 2026B is available for inspection at the Franklin County Auditor's office, located at the Franklin County Courthouse, 12 1st Ave NW, Hampton, IA 50441, and keeping the business hours of: Monday through Friday, 8:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. The complete Ordinance is also available online at: https://www.franklincountyia.gov/how_to_read_view/county_code_of_ordinances.php

The title of Ordinance No. 2026B is: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING VARIOUS SECTIONS OF CHAPTER 70, ZONING REGULATIONS, OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF FRANKLIN COUNTY, IOWA REGARDING THE QUALIFICATIONS OF CONDITIONAL USES IN CERTAIN ZONING DISTRICTS

A synopsis of the elements of Ordinance No. 2026B is as follows:

The Franklin County Zoning Code, Chapter 70, in part, provides for conditional uses that may be considered by the Franklin County Board of Adjustment within the County's various zoning districts. A "conditional use" means a use of property that will be permitted by the Board of Adjustment subject to the applicant meeting certain conditions and safeguards which will assure that the use will be in harmony with the general intent and purpose of the Zoning Code.

This Ordinance amends the qualifying requirements for obtaining a conditional use permit within an agriculture, commercial, light industry, or heavy industry zoning district within the County for the following uses: commercial bitcoin installations, cold fusion and nuclear installations, commercial batteries, and commercial solar fields. Specifically, the Ordinance adds that, for each of the aforementioned uses, a road use agreement is required for a conditional use permit to qualify for consideration by the Board of Adjustment.

Passed by the Board of Supervisors of Franklin County, Iowa on the 14th day of July 2026.

FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
Chris Vanness, Chairperson

ATTEST:
Katy Flint, County Auditor

Specific requirements for these summarized provisions are included within the Ordinance's complete text.
(End of Summary)

Informed citizens build stronger communities



Got a Legal Notice to Submit?
Deadline for legal notice submissions is Sunday at 7:00 AM

Keep up with the latest events, stories and news by following the Hampton Chronicle on Facebook!

REPORT: FROM PAGE 14

3/Lark, Hampton
• 2:29 AM: Traffic stop - 1st Street Northwest/Central Avenue West, Hampton
• 4:24 AM: Booking information - 5th Street Southwest, Hampton
• 6:16 AM: Misc/ - Grant Street, Coulter
• 9:08 AM: Traffic control - Fairgrounds, Hampton
• 9:14 AM: Debris on roadway/ right-of-way - Interstate 35 Northbound 173MM, Latimer
• 10:06 AM: Traffic stop - 800 Block Highway 3, Latimer
• 11:12 AM: Suspicious vehicle - 210th Street, Hampton
• 11:30 AM: Vehicle off roadway - 900 Block Highway 65, Hampton
• 11:46 AM: False 911 calls - In-

terstate 35 Northbound 174, Alexander
• 11:46 AM: Phone call to return - Grant Street, Coulter
• 2:00 PM: Misc/ - 5th Street Southwest, Hampton
• 3:46 PM: False 911 calls - Central Avenue West, Hampton
• 5:23 PM: Traffic stop - Gull/ Highway 3, Coulter
• 5:28 PM: Traffic stop - 1400 Block Gull, Latimer
• 5:33 PM: Phone call to return - 10th Street Northwest, Hampton
• 5:44 PM: Traffic stop - 900 Highway 3, Latimer
• 7:19 PM: False 911 calls - Highway 65/70th Street, Bradford
• 7:33 PM: False 911 calls - Beeds Lake, Hampton

• 8:51 PM: Controlled burn - Prairie Bridges against Warbler, Ackley
• 9:11 PM: OWI - Highway 3/Gull, Coulter
• 10:06 PM: Booking information - 5th Street Southwest, Hampton
• 11:16 PM: Animal on roadway - Mallory Drive North of Mallory Park, Hampton

Sunday, July 19
Hampton Police Department
• 1:01 AM: Simple assault at the Progress Park block, in Hampton.
• 6:55 AM: Ambulance call at the 200 block of 5th St SE, in Hampton.
• 9:52 AM: Ambulance call at the 800 block of 2nd Ave SE, in Hampton.

• 10:48 AM: Civil disputes at the 300 block of 4th St SE, in Hampton.
• 11:17 AM: Phone call to return at the Lantern Park block, in Hampton.
• 12:13 PM: Nuisance/junk ord. at the 200 block of 1st St NE, in Hampton.
• 12:13 PM: Nuisance/junk ord. at the 100 block of 2nd Ave NE, in Hampton.
• 12:14 PM: Nuisance/junk ord. at the 200 block of 3rd St NE, in Hampton.
• 12:14 PM: Nuisance/junk ord. at the 200 block of N Federal St, in Hampton.
• 12:16 PM: False 911 calls at the 1000 block of Central Ave W, in

Hampton.
• 1:46 PM: Assist county department at the Fairgrounds by Grandpas Farm block, in Hampton.
• 6:08 PM: Nuisance/junk ord. at the 400 block of 8th Ave SW, in Hampton.
• 6:29 PM: Nuisance/junk ord. at the 100 block of 2nd Ave SW, in Hampton.

Franklin County Sheriff's Office
• 3:57 AM: Assist Other Agencies, West Fork St, Dows
• 8:16 AM: Vehicle Off Roadway, Interstate 35 NB 161, Dows
• 8:40 AM: Controlled Burn, 190th St, Latimer

• 9:13 AM: Theft/Larceny >\$200, 250th St, Sheffield
• 1:45 PM: Dog Calls, Fairgrounds By Grandpas Farm, Hampton
• 2:26 PM: Traffic Stop, 2400 Hwy 3, Dumont
• 6:11 PM: Disabled Vehicle, 190th/Lark, Hampton
• 7:24 PM: Stolen Property Offense, Mallard And 30th St, Iowa Falls
• 9:28 PM: Misc/, 50th/Mallard, Bradford
• 10:53 PM: False 911 Calls, Hampton Tower, Hampton
• 11:21 PM: Fire/, I35 178mm St, Thornton
• 11:53 PM: Traffic Complaints, I35 Sb 169mm, Coulter

COURTHOUSE: FROM PAGE 14

IA) – Leave Scene of Accident - Fail to Provide Aid

Criminal
Guevara, Vicente Duane (Ackley, IA) — Order of Arraignment
Mulford, Simon Jacob (Hampton, IA) — Order of Arraignment, Theft 3rd Degree, Operate vehicle without owners consent, assault - intend to cause pain/injury
Sterling, Tina Marie (Alexander, IA) — Motion for Continuance, Possession of controlled substance - 2nd offense, possession of controlled substance- marijuana 2nd offense
Zander, Colin James (Coulter, IA) — Hearing for Initial Appearance,

Driving while barred, Aggravated misdemeanor
Rawls, Cory Allen (Backus, MN) — Criminal Complaint / Hearing for Initial Appearance, Child endangerment, operating while under the influence 1st offense, possession of controlled substance - marijuana 1st offense
Johnson, Lauren Alexandria (Sheffield, IA) — Order Setting Trial, Possession of controlled substance - 3rd or Subseq offense
Wood, Joshua D (Sheffield, IA) — Order of Disposition, assault causing serious injury. Guilty - negotiated/voluntary plea
Koenigs, Matthew Joseph (Eldora, IA) — Order of Arraignment

Buttshaw, Andrew Craig (Hampton, IA) — Criminal Complaint / Hearing for Initial Appearance, controlled substance violation, unlawful possession of prescription drug (three charges)
Guevara, Vicente Duane (Akley, IA) – Criminal complaint, Controlled substance violation
Favela, Ernesto Josaphat (Des Moines, IA) — Order of Disposition / Written Plea of Guilty, operate without interlock, guilty - negotiated/voluntary plea
White, Jerry Raynard (Waterloo, IA) — Order of Disposition, Violation of no contact/protective order, guilty - negotiated voluntary plea
Valles, Jesus Alberto (Hampton,

IA) — Order of Disposition, Assault — contact insulting or offensive
Tijerina, Antonio (Hampton, IA) — Order of Disposition, Theft 5th degree, guilty - negotiated/voluntary plea
Hernandez, Christopher Jo (Hampton, IA) — Order of Disposition, possession of drug paraphernalia, guilty - negotiated/voluntary plea
Smith, William Christie (Goodell, IA) — Hearing for Initial Appearance, possession of drug paraphernalia
Buttshaw, Andrew Craig (Hampton, IA) — Criminal Complaint, possession of drug paraphernalia
Guevara, Vincente Duane (Ackley,

IA), possession of drug paraphernalia
Buttshaw, Emily Elizabeth, (Hampton, IA) criminal complaint, possession of drug paraphernalia
Rawls, Cory Allen, (Backus, MN), criminal complaint, hearing for initial appeal, possession of drug paraphernalia
Workman, Demita Jo (Bloomington, MN) — Order Setting Trial, possession of controlled substance - marijuana 1st offense
Ramirez, Angel Gustavo (Hampton, IA) — Order of Disposition, Assault causing bodily injury or mental illness, contempt - resist order or process of district court, guilty - negotiated/voluntary plea

Smith, William Christie (Goodell, IA) - Hearing for initial appeal, possession of controlled substance - methamphetamine 1st offense
Schriber, Curtis Aaron (Eldora, IA) — Order for Arraignment / Trial Information, dissemination and exhibition of obscene material to minors
Oehlert, Ricky Lee (Hampton, IA) — Criminal Complaint, possession of controlled substance - marijuana 1st offense
Sosa, Jose (Hampton, IA) — Motion to Dismiss

SPORTS

Bulldog Softball Navigated Season with Underclassman-heavy Roster

BY JON MOHWINKLE
RadioOnTheGo Sports

The Hampton-Dumont-CAL softball team recently completed its season with a roster dominated by underclassmen, with only three juniors in the regular starting lineup. Head Coach Kelsey Enslin-Vogel describes some of the development seen, even in a lopsided loss to Pella Christian in the first round of the playoffs.
“You look even from last year to this year, last year we had two eighth grade pitchers and an eighth grade catcher,” Enslin-Vogel says. “And I think Aliyah has done a great job of just commanding the field behind the plate, talking to other young kids. Now we have an eighth grader on first base and an eighth grader on third base. And Bridget was new at short-stop and our second base was new. So really we didn’t have much returning besides the pitcher and catcher for positions from last year. So I think her leadership really took strides. Also something we worked a lot on was hands above the ball and hitting line drives, and they had some great hits, just some real rockets off the bat, so I think

that was a lot of growth.”
The freshman pitching staff of Kendall Eilderts and Maddie Pralle completed their second year of starting, and reduced the number of walks issued from 73 last season to 38 this season. Leading offensively, freshman Aliyah Swieter hit .381 and eighth grader Aubree McWilliams recorded a team-best 25 RBIs.
With no seniors, Enslin-Vogel hopes each member of the team can take strides in the offseason and be ready to start strong next season.
“Just having that same group, I hope that they take, like our eighth graders, have a year under their belt, like now that drive and want to get better, continuing to come into the weight room, speed and agility, going to those offseason, hitting things, maybe playing for travel teams around the area, but just that drive of competitiveness and wanting to win really bad. So I hope that they can build on that. We have nobody leaving the team from varsity. So just that camaraderie of a team and just starting where we left off this year.”
They went 8-15 and 3-11 in the North Central Conference.

Wolfpack Advances at USSSA State BB Tournament

BY ELIAN TREVINO
HAMPTON CHRONICLE

HAMPTON — The Wolfpack 12U baseball team is making the most of its first season competing in United States Specialty Sports Association (USSSA) tournaments, advancing in bracket play at the AA State Tournament in West Des Moines.
After spending previous seasons competing in local tournaments, the Wolfpack took on a new challenge this summer by joining the USSSA circuit. The team's strong play has earned it a spot in the later rounds of the state tournament, where it will continue its postseason run on Sunday.
The Wolfpack is scheduled to play at 8 a.m. at Racoon River Park in West Des Moines. A victory would move the team one step closer to the championship game, with one additional win needed to earn a spot in the title contest.
The roster is made up entirely of Hampton-Dumont students entering fifth through seventh grades this fall. For many of the players, the tournament provides an opportunity to compete against teams from across Iowa while gaining experience in a more competitive environment.
Making the jump to USS-



Wolfpack 12U baseball team poses with Payton McNealy, who has umpired many of the players previously. Photo provided by Stephanie Swieter.

SA competition this season has allowed the Wolfpack to test its skills beyond the local tournament circuit. Advancing in the state tournament marks a milestone for the team in its first year of league play and reflects the progress the players have made throughout the season.
The tournament has also brought together familiar faces from the local baseball community. During Saturday's games, the team was visited by

Payton McNealy, who stopped by to cheer on the players.
McNealy has been a familiar figure to many members of the Wolfpack, having umpired the boys during Hampton city league games and also officiated the team's home tournament last year. His visit gave players the chance to reconnect with someone who has watched their development over the years.
As the tournament continues, the Wolfpack will look to

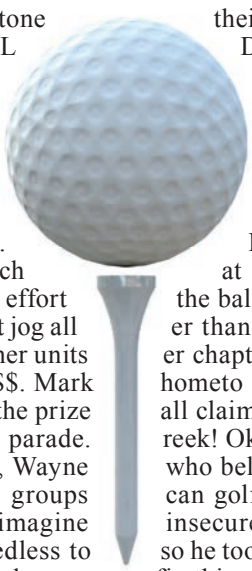
build on its success and extend its season. With a berth in the championship game within reach, the team enters action hoping to continue its first USSSA state tournament experience on a winning note.
Regardless of the outcome, the tournament has provided the Hampton-Dumont players with valuable experience competing at the state level while representing their community against teams from around Iowa.

Ridgestone Senior Golf

BY NED BOHACH

Hot you say? Well folks, it was so hot the fish were jumping out of the ponds trying to escape the boiling water. Some of the boys were trying to catch them bare handed, but were too old to react that quickly. Okay, back to golf. There were twenty-five of the finest ancient golfers around—well around Ridgestone that is. Frank the fearless leader was AWOL so retired General Severe was in command. Frank was in Alaska looking for a ball he hit and couldn’t find. Severe told the boys to ignore the heat and pretend they were in a walk-in cooler. Ya, sure, and rain goes up, not down. Dave O’Connor, DelRay McKee and Doug (urbs)Erbe shot a torrid 66. It was a ho-ho-hum round for them: drive, pitch and putt and pick the ball out of the cup. That effort won them a free trip to Aredale but they must jog all the way!! The second unit along with two other units shot 69’s with the second one in the \$\$\$\$\$\$. Mark Kramer, Al Menning and Randy Peter won the prize of riding on a float in the Franklin County parade. Oh shucks, that was last week. Darryl Peter, Wayne Maiers and Nick Mulford were one of the groups that shot 69, and yes, they cried. Can you imagine old men crying? Well, it wasn’t pretty. Needless to say, Les Hurd, Doug Hahn and Paul Ricke also was

a group crying, offering excuses after excuses but nobody cared. The group firing a 70 was Don Greimann, Kim Wills, Jerry Nelson and Dick Brown. Wouldn’t you think four guys would be winners? Nope, that tells you something! Brad Mulford, Paul Ricke and Steve Birdsall fired a 71. Not bad for hackers. Oh, I shouldn’t be so rough on them, after all they gave it their BEST shot! Denny Foss, Tom Severe and Denny Campbell fired a 73. A pair of Denny’s and a Tom-Tom could only fire that. My goodness theystruggled. I guess..... ah, no kidding. They all were in unison, “WE TRIED.” There is always a group that cards a score that is likely “BAD” and that was Larry Fanny, Jim Dorenkamp and Mike Paine. They said their drivers were left at home. Their fairway woods kept topping the ball, and their putters were sound asleep. Other than that their game was spot on! Thus another chapter goes to rest and the boys all had to rush hometo shower due to sweating so profusely. They all claimed they lost five pounds, and did they ever reek! Okay, Darryl told the boys not to laugh at kids who believe in Santa as some of them believe they can golf! Fossy said he spent every penny to feel insecure and inadequate and humiliated each day, so he took up golf. I be outta here like the ducks they fix things with Duct tape!



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Franklin County Fair

GRANDSTAND ENTERTAINMENT

From live music to motorsports, the Franklin County Fair grandstand featured memorable nights of entertainment. Browse photos from this year's grandstand events below. Photos by Elian Trevino.



The rodeo entertainer interacts with the crowd between events during Rogue Rodeo at the Franklin County Fair.



A member of Anne Wilson's band rocks the concert during her show.



The lead singer of LED It Out brings classic rock hits to the grandstand crowd



Anne Wilson invites the grandstand crowd to sing along during her performance.



Craig Morgan honors the nation's veterans while performing at the Franklin County Fair.



Craig Morgan signs memorabilia for fans during his performance



Craig Morgan performs his hit "International Harvester" during his grandstand concert



LED It Out delivers a heartfelt performance at the Franklin County Fair.



The Mollenbeck family and Mike Merseth take in the Muddy Mayhem Races



Dillon Jensen, Asher Dean and Ozziel Trevino make their way to the grandstands before the Muddy Mayhem Races start.



Chase Johnson, driver of the No. 8 car, waves to the crowd.



A cowboy hangs on during the saddle bronc riding competition.



Hudson Hansen, driver of the No. 199 car, gives high-fives to young fans.



Anne Wilson performs on guitar during her grandstand concert at the Franklin County Fair.



Bridget Brocka, left, and Kendall Eilderts take in the action during the Rogue Rodeo.



Sara Buseman and Blake Peeples enjoy the thrills and laughs during Rogue Rodeo at the Franklin County Fair.



Xavier Zak joins the Folkers family for an evening of rodeo fun at the Franklin County Fair.



Kurt and Tammy Knudson, Betty Ellis, Aiden and Joslin Johnson enjoy the sights, sounds and excitement of Rogue Rodeo.



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RETIREMENT OPEN HOUSE

Bruce Harris Executive Vice President

Thursday, July 30, 2026
1:00 PM to 3:30 PM

Please join us in Hampton for cookies, coffee, lemonade, and iced tea as we celebrate Bruce's dedicated banking career at First Bank Hampton.

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Race cars line up before the start of the race.



Mari Petersen enjoys Rogue Rodeo with her grandchildren, Millers, Donahue and Stowe, during the Franklin County Fair.



Police Chief Mark Morrison and the Rojas family enjoy an evening at the Muddy Mayhem Races.



Mayor Steve Birdsall and his wife, Tammy, enjoy the Muddy Mayhem Races with Alyssa Collins and Arlo Barnes.