

Iowa Specialty Doctor Passionate About Helping the Elderly

BY JENNIFER BURNHAM
 HAMPTON CHRONICLE

Dr. Rachael Etnier, who recently went full-time at the Iowa Specialty Clinic, said she loves seeing patients of all ages, especially the elderly.

Dr. Etnier, originally from northwest Iowa, told the Chronicle that she wanted to work in medicine to help people.

“I always had an interest in biology,” she said. “I was at my grandmother’s side when she passed and there is a genetic disease in my family, too, so I had a natural pulling towards medicine.”

Dr. Etnier said she most enjoys seeing her older patients, as it gives the patients a chance to get out for a bit and socialize.

“I have a special place in my heart for my older patients,” she said. “I like to sit and chat with them. This is a social event for many of them.”

But Dr. Etnier doesn’t do it all alone. She gets help from her assigned licensed practical nurse, Rylie Leerar, who joined her two years ago.

Leerar said there are many things that she appreciates about Etnier, including her fun personality and ability to actively listen to others. Leerar said she even had the chance to work at a different location, one that was closer to home, but decided against it, as she wanted to stay with Etnier.

“She makes working fun,” Leerar said. “She has the ability to not just look at one problem, but to look at someone as a whole person. Not just textbook.”

Dr. Etnier has degrees from Morningside University and Des Moines University, and she completed her three-year residency at Mercy Hospital in Mason City. Before joining Iowa Specialty in February of 2022, she worked as a family practice doctor at Franklin General Hospital.

When Dr. Etnier’s not busy with work, she can be



Iowa Specialty LPN Rylie Leerar and Dr. Rachael Etnier at their Hampton location on Friday, Jan. 2.



Dr. Rachael Etnier (with patient) and her assigned LPN Rylie Leerar demonstrating how they take care of patients on Friday, Jan. 2.

found helping on their family farm, right outside of Sheffield, where she lives with her husband, Lon, and their children: 15-year-old Charlee, 9-year-old Otto and 8-year-old Owen. The five of them enjoy being outdoors together and traveling down to Florida for a week or so during the wintertime.

Dr. Etnier welcomes anyone, of any age, who’s in

need of a primary care physician to contact their clinic in Hampton to schedule an appointment with her, as she’s currently taking new patients. She is available Monday through Friday, except for Tuesdays, from 7:40 a.m. to 2:20 p.m.

The clinic can be reached at 888-258-0078.



Sarah Ballard takes a break from looking through a box of merchandise. Photo provided by Halie Ballard.

Sisters-in-Law Turn Bargain Shopping into a Business

BY JENNIFER BURNHAM
 HAMPTON CHRONICLE

Sisters-in-law Sarah and Halie Ballard love a good deal. In fact, they love shopping deals so much that they have turned their passion into a growing business, which is headquartered out of Sarah’s basement in Hampton.

Since launching their online reselling store, Double Trouble Deals, in October, the two have sold more than two thousand items to customers all across the United States. They sell everything from everyday household necessities to clothing, toys, electronics, decor and office supplies.

“If you can name it, chances are we’ve carried it

or will be soon!” said Halie. “Originally we started shopping for ourselves. The deals are so good and some auctions are fast. We accumulated so much stuff we didn’t have room for we figured we would give it a shot to make a little extra money.”

The business partners get their inventory from Iowa Liquidation Deals out of Waterloo, as well as Central Iowa Discounts out of Boone and Wright County Iowa Discounts out of Eagle Grove.

“As for our main source of inventory, we would like to keep that to ourselves,” said Halie. “There’s lots of competition out there and getting inventory from places others don’t is a huge advantage to sell-

See **DOUBLE TROUBLE:**
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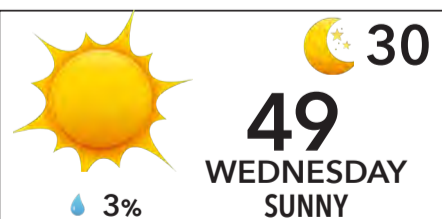
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Iowa Travel Blogger Makes Pit Stop in Hampton

BY JENNIFER BURNHAM
 HAMPTON CHRONICLE

Tyler Sullivan — the man behind the popular “Iowa Scenic Views by Foot” Facebook page, which has garnered more than 26,000 followers — made a pit stop in Hampton on Saturday afternoon, Jan. 3.

He was given a tour of the Franklin County Historical Society Museum, the REA Power Plant Museum and the Harriman-Nielsen Historic Farm.

His tour guides for the afternoon: Rick Whalen, who showed him around the REA Plant Museum; Carol Sensor, who showed him around the Harriman-Nielsen Historic Farm; and Jim Davies, who showed him around the Franklin County Historical Society Museum. Davies served as his main tour guide, coordinating the different visits and answering any questions he had while there.

Tyler’s visit to Franklin County is one of many. It’s his goal to visit (and run through) all 99 counties and all the cities on the Iowa road map around the state, which he documents and shares on his Facebook page called “Iowa Scenic Views by Foot.” And he’s almost there. So far, he’s visited 97 counties, making sure to see as many historical sites and museums as possible



From left to right, Jim Davies, Rick Whalen, Tyler Sullivan and Emma Boyer at the Franklin County Historical Museum at the fairgrounds on Saturday, Jan. 3.

along the way.

His interest in traveling around the state, and delving into the history of each

county, started in 2015, he said. He was

See **BLOGGER:**
 Page 2

Deadlines

Legals Monday, 12 p.m.

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Ads, Inserts Friday, 3 p.m.

Classifieds Friday 3 p.m.

Obituaries Monday, Noon

Coverage 24 Hours

Kim Hanson Retires From Daycare

BY JENNIFER BURNHAM
HAMPTON CHRONICLE

Kim Hanson recently celebrated her last day at Hampton Community Christian Daycare, where she's worked for the last 18 years. She had held many roles while there, including classroom teacher and As-

sistant Director. She retired on Wednesday, Dec. 31. "It's been wonderful working with Kim all these years!" said HCCD Director Robyn Hill-Kofoot. "She's been so much fun and was a great asset when I stepped into the Director position here. I can't thank her enough for the care she's provided to area families."



Photo provided by Hampton Community Christian Daycare.

Second Grave Marker Defendant Sentenced

BY MICHAEL HOHENBRINK
MID-AMERICA PUBLISHING

Two are down with two left to go as a second defendant has been sentenced for his role in stealing grave markers with the remaining two defendants set to go to trial shortly.

Joshua Daniel Sellers, has been sentenced to one year in jail with 120 days suspended, two years of probation and a suspended fine of \$855 after entering a plea to Class C felony theft - first degree.

A separate felony charge of criminal mischief - first degree was dismissed by the court.

Sellers must also pay \$19,165.49 in damages.

Sellers was one of four people charged after the Franklin County Sheriff's Office took a report about a historical plaque stolen out of a historical site close to the intersection of Mallard Avenue and 210th Street.

"Investigations led to identifying additional missing plaques that were affixed to boulders from historical and/or memorial sites, as well as veterans' headstones across at least six cemeteries in Franklin County," said Deputy Joshua Einspahr in a sworn statement. "Several other cemeteries in surrounding counties also had plaques stolen from headstones and/or historical/memorial sites. Further investigations led to reaching out to different salvage yards."

Bronze plaques had their etching and many distinctive features destroyed before thieves then sold the metal for salvage.

Brandon Scott Smith, 43, of Hampton, has already entered a guilty plea and has been sentenced to 20 years in prison with suspended fines of \$1,370 on both theft and criminal mischief charges. He has been ordered to pay damages of \$45,458.24.

Lauren Alexandria Johnson, 34 of Dumont, is facing a pair of Class C felony charges that could see her in prison for up to 20 years with theft - first degree and criminal mischief - first degree.

Rachel Card, 31 of Hampton, is likewise facing the same two Class C felony charges.

Both are set to go trial Jan. 13.

First Responders and Community Members Team up During Blizzard

BY JENNIFER BURNHAM
HAMPTON CHRONICLE

The blizzard over the weekend brought low visibility, strong winds, snow and icy roads, leaving many stranded and looking for help in Franklin County and throughout the region.

The Franklin County Sheriff's Office, the Hampton Police Department and the Franklin County Emergency Management team, along with many other first responders and community members, came to the rescue once again.

During the blizzard, the Franklin County Sheriff's Office responded to more than 100 calls for weather-related incidents, including many calls for stranded motorists. The Hampton Police Department had a handful of motorist assist calls, along with one power line issue they assisted with.

The Latimer Community Center and Alexander church also opened their doors for those in need of a place to stay. More than 60 people sheltered in place in Latimer and around 30 people stayed at the Alexander church, according to the sheriff's office.

Franklin County Sheriff Aaron Dodd told the Chronicle that the majority of people who were stuck were passing through and not from the area.

"Everyone from the area listened to the warnings so we thank them for that," he said.

Dodd mentioned that many travelers decided to pass through the Alexander area as an alternate route when I-35 was shut down, instead of finding shelter and waiting out the storm as advised. This is where things went



Rescuing a truck that was stuck in the snow during the blizzard.

wrong, he said.

"Everyone tried to come up with their own way and this is where the real problem started," he said. "We had people scattered all over the gravel roads because there was no visibility."

Dodd thanked the Alexander Fire Department for helping them shuttle stranded motorists to the Alexander church, as well as all of the community members who volunteered their time and efforts, bringing food and more. He also thanked Regina Blau for keeping Latimer Grocery open for those in need of supplies.

"It was just amazing to see how the community reached out to help," he said.

Now, Dodd and his team are looking at ways to improve situations like these in the future, including different and better signage. But at the end of the day, he asks that travelers listen to weather warnings when passing through.

Franklin County Emergency Management Director Eric Arenholz also thanked emergency responders for all of their hard work during the blizzard and shared the following advice for future storms.

"One thing I would strongly encourage is everyone to be weather aware when traveling. First and foremost if you do not have to travel, stay home or where ever you are at. With county deputies, state troopers, and first responders out there trying to get from call to call, it just adds problems and hazards to everyone out there. I can't stress the safety of all our first responders enough!" he said. "If you must travel, look ahead at weather and road conditions when traveling. With today's technology we have access to a variety of news sources to check on weather and road conditions. With that being said just make sure that it is a credible source like national weather service, Iowa511, and local broadcasting stations in that area."

More Photos on A6!

More Photos on B2!

BLOGGER: FROM COVER

living in Iowa City at the time and dating a woman in Mason City, so every other Friday (once he got off work), he would travel north to visit her. While doing so, he would pass through counties he was unfamiliar with and realized he wanted to learn more. So he began stopping at historical sites and museums, grabbing pamphlets and brochures from welcome centers, which he would then take home and study for hours.

He loved it. So he kept going. In 2024, he visited 156 museums around the state. And last year, he visited 366 museums. His goal for 2026? To visit more museums and attraction by allowing the passion to continue to grow. Why not try to add another 200 museums to the list?

"In my mind, these towns are magical," said Tyler. "It is where

people go to church. Where people go to school. Where people call home."

In recent years, Tyler has written and self-published a couple of books, as well — one dedicated to his grandparents and another for his late high school cross country and track coach, all of whom has since passed away due to cancer.

Tyler said he has found inspiration from his coach.

"I was very fortunate to have him throughout high school," he said. "He never cared about the winning. He never cared about the losing. It was about giving your best every single day and then the winning would take care of itself. So that's why I give it my best effort for all of these cities. People live there. Why should I leave them out?"

Tyler would also like to write a poem for each county, which he's

already begun working on. Davies, who serves as the President of the Franklin County Historical Society, said he was happy to hear from Tyler when he first reached out about a possible visit.

"It was great to make the connection with Tyler," said Davies after the visit. "I am really impressed with his interest in history and the amount of time, energy, and resources he has devoted to visiting all 99 counties, many more than once."

Tyler, 37, currently lives in North Liberty and works as a custodian for the University of Iowa in Iowa City, and at Wal-Mart on Sundays.

When he's not busy working, he travels with his girlfriend, Emma, who he calls "a goddess from Minnesota." Emma has been tasked with finding old

school yearbooks at each stop. For her, it's a fun way for them to connect, as they both enjoy traveling and learning about the history of different areas.

Tyler shared the following poem about Latimer, Iowa:

In the past seven years I have been making my stride up and down throughout hundreds of cities across the state Finding that hidden gem in words I cannot explain In reward, each city leaves a special impact on me Something I will always take with me I love seeing them grow as a community

The cheerful welcome sign as you enter from either direction The local businesses making a name for themselves and catching the eye from people outside

of town I love stepping inside and seeing what charm they may bring Finding the local historical society and knowing that's where I may find the true history about this city

It may not be the day to worship the man above, but I'd love to take a walk down the aisle in some of these churches The stain glass or the architectural design gets me every time

I may be a stranger and never be a number to add to the population of these communities However, I love seeing a progressive community grow like the ones I have ran through

(Latimer - A Progressive Community, Franklin County Oct. 6 2022)

First Security Announces Promotions of Employees

PRESS RELEASE

First Security President/CEO Brad Miller and the First Security Board of Directors are happy to recognize several employees who have recently been promoted in recognition of their outstanding contributions to the bank.

Those who have received promotions are:

- Amy Wilson – Vice President, Operations Manager
- Andria Hillegas – Assistant Vice President, Ag/Commercial Lender
- Cassidie Parks – Assistant Vice President, Human Resources Specialist
- Drew Mitchell – Assistant Vice President, Ag/Commercial Lender
- Katelyn Schwery – Vice President,

- Marketing Manager
 - Lyndsay Clark – Senior Vice President, Retail Banking Manager
 - Melissa Jones – Vice President, Controller and Cashier
 - Stacie Peterson – Assistant Vice President, Branch Manager
- "Each of these individuals consistently lives out our mission and core values through their dedication, leadership, and commitment to serving our customers, communities, and fellow employees," said Miller. "Their hard work and professionalism have made a meaningful impact, and these promotions are well deserved."

First Security Bank & Trust has locations across North Central Iowa and headquarters in Charles City. Member FDIC.

Family Welcomes Baby Girl

Charles & Alyssa Hamilton-Morris of Dows announce the birth of their daughter,

Annalien Lucille Hamilton-Morris

Annalien was born on January 2nd 2026 in Clarion. She weighed 4 lbs., 11 oz.

She joins big sister, Austin (12) and Ariella (2). Grandparents are Clint & Justina Hamilton of Coulter. Kris Quam of Northwood.

Great Grandparents are Kenny Quam of Northwood. Darwin & Laura Hamilton of Iowa Falls.



City Council Discusses FY27 Budget Considerations

BY JENNIFER BURNHAM
HAMPTON CHRONICLE

The Hampton City Council discussed FY27 budget considerations during their Jan. 5 meeting. Preparation of the budget will require numerous discussions by the city council before it is finalized and approved, often taking a month or two to complete.

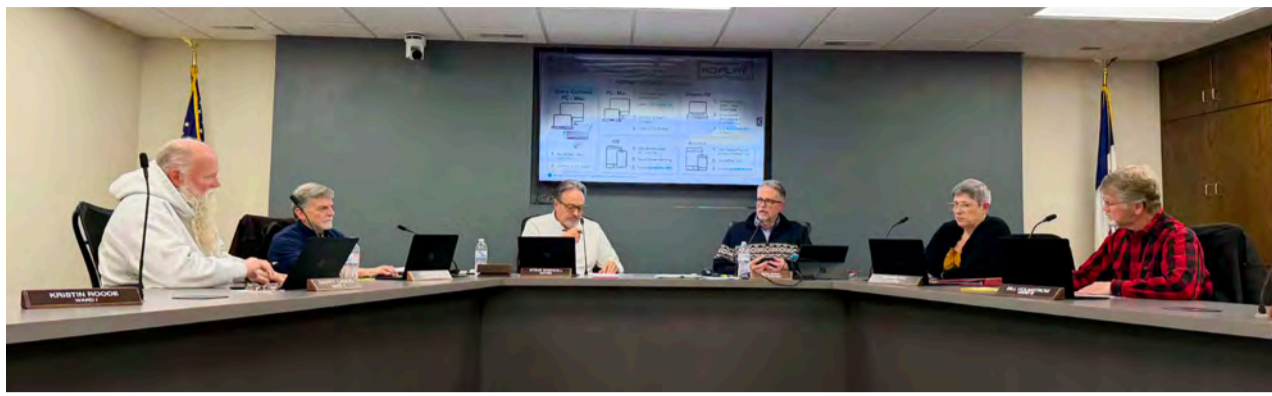
At the start of the discussion, City Manager Ron Dunt pointed out the Length of Service Award Program (LOSAP), which was established under Iowa Code to reward the service of volunteer firefighters, emergency medical services and reserve police officers. According to the Iowa Firefighters Association's website, these volunteers can earn points or credits for their time and service.

"These points accumulate over time based on the number of hours they spend on duty or participating in training activities," the website states. "Once a certain threshold or requirement is reached (like completing a certain number of hours), volunteers become eligible to receive a reward or benefit. This benefit can vary depending on the specific LOSAP program, but it often includes things like a cash payment, retirement savings account contributions, or other types of incentives."

Dunt mentioned that the program was made for small communities with budgets under \$100,000 for their fire department.

"It's a program where if the city commits to contributing, let's say \$167 per firefighter, the state then grants will match that two or three times," Dunt said. "It's a max up to \$500 per firefighter, per year. So we're proposing to put that in the budget. The fire department is excited about this and has requested the city participate in this. If we want to participate, we need to budget for it."

Dunt also noted a city airport project involving a



City officials during their Jan. 5 council meeting. Photo by Wren Masters.

possible FAA grant, where they would remove the two underground fuel storage tanks and replace them with one that would be above the ground.

"This is a 95 percent federal cost share," Dunt said. "So the city would be responsible for a 5 percent local match."

Dunt said the removal of the old tanks would not be covered by the FAA grant but that the city does qualify for state DNR grants that could help cover the cost of the removals.

Dunt mentioned land expansion for the youth soccer league. A couple different locations are under consideration.

"As soon as I know more, I will let you guys know," he said. "I'm hoping that we can get something solidified before the end of this budget, so that we can budget a hard number for what we need to do for soccer land expansion."

There was also discussion of purchasing a point of sales system for the city aquatic center, which had been brought up by the city pool manager last fall.

Dunt said they had looked at different options, including tablets, most of which were "pricey."

City Councilor Jim Davies suggested the city secure wifi for the aquatic center, which would allow them to take credit cards.

"I don't think you need a fancy cash register," Davies said. "At the theatre, we have wifi and hand-held devices, and we can take credit cards. I think that would be a compromise."

Dunt said he would look into that.

Other budget items that

were discussed during the meeting: work at the water treatment plant, fire hydrant replacements, crosswalk signage/flashing lights and more.

City Councilor Bill Holmstrom added that he would like to see the police citizen's academy include more departments, like public works, as he feels the public would benefit from this.

Earlier in the meeting, Mark Crawford with Crawford Engineering shared street project options with Hampton's city council during their Jan. 5 meeting. He had mentioned that since 2020, they have worked on more than 30 blocks. According to him, this says a lot about the city and their dedication to improving the streets.

The council held a closed-door session to discuss an initial proposal from Teamsters Local #238 Police Department Union at 5:30 p.m. that evening, before their workshop began.

Reports

For his report, Police Chief Mark Morrison said that Officer Bo Brass, who recently graduated from

the police academy, is back now and working full-time and that he's been doing well. He also mentioned that Officer Gilberto Luna will be attending investigator school.

"We try to send the newer guys off to these specialty schools when they are first here," Morrison said. "He is looking forward to doing that."

Next, Public Works Director Doug Tarr reported that Christmas decorations were removed earlier that day.

"We're counting the decorations that didn't weather the storm so we'll work on getting some of those replaced through a warranty process," he said. "So we'll see what that looks like here in the near future."

Tarr also mentioned that city staff had been working on snow removal equipment maintenance.

"We had a few breakdowns so we had to get back to the shop to get some things fixed, after some of the recent snow removal events," he said.

His department has also been working on tree removals and out at the compost site, along with

their annual budget, which he said requires communication with different departments and points of contact. He said the budget will be ready for the council's consideration in the near future.

The city tree removal project is still well underway, Tarr reported.

"I think they've got half of that list completed," he said. "And they're still going to town. They were working hard on it today. For the cemetery tree removal project, the contractor called right before Christmas, and they hope to be here within the next week or two to get started, as well."

Tarr said he also spoke to the stump removal contractor earlier in the day and it sounds like they have plans of getting started soon, now that most of the snow has melted.

The County Conservation crew has been working on removing the dead ash trees along the trail at East Park.

Lastly, Tarr mentioned that he had met with a couple contractors to discuss proposals for new commercial buildings.

HAMPTON CHRONICLE

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Correction and Retraction Policy

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

Corrections will be printed on page two in the next issue published. The correction will denote the issue, article and incorrect information along with the correction. Digital corrections will also be made, and an editor's note will be added to the bottom of the article in question noting what was inaccurate and noting when the article was amended. If the article was posted on Facebook, Twitter, or any other online medium controlled by the Hampton Chronicle, a post will be made linking to the corrected article, noting the correction.

PRO RACING THIS WEEK

Racing News, Stats & Trivia

This Week's Racing News

The Road to Daytona
Before the Cup Series stars take the green flag for the Clash at Bowman Gray Stadium on February 1st, grassroots champions are getting their shot at the big time. The ARCA Menards Series recently named its participants for the "Road to Daytona" program. On January 9 - 10, young standouts like 16-year-old ARCA East champion Isaac Kitzmiller will make their first laps at Daytona International Speedway during the annual pre-race practice. Additionally, NASCAR announced a new partnership with the Florida Department of Transportation for the "America 250 Florida Duel at Daytona" on February 12th. This event will serve as a dual-purpose celebration of the nation's 250th anniversary and a high-stakes qualifying battle for the 68th running of the Daytona 500.

Bud Moore
Born: May 25th, 1925
Cup Wins: 63
Cup Top-Tens: 463
Cup Championships: 2

Walter "Bud" Moore Jr., born May 25, 1925, in Spartanburg, South Carolina, was a World War II hero who became a pillar of NASCAR. At 19, Moore waded ashore at Utah Beach on D-Day as an Army machine gunner. He fought through the Battle of the Bulge and the Siege of Bastogne, earning two Bronze Stars and five Purple Hearts before his discharge as a sergeant in 1945. Moore's transition to racing began as a "country mechanic" in Spartanburg. While he briefly dived in early NASCAR events, his greatest impact was in the garage. He served as the crew chief for Buck Baker's 1957 championship before founding Bud Moore Engineering in 1961. His team reached its peak immediately, securing back-to-back Grand National titles in 1962 and 1963 with driver Joe Weatherly. Over 37 seasons, Moore's cars earned 63 wins and 43 poles with legends like Dale Earnhardt and Bobby Allison. He also secured the 1970 SCCA Trans-Am title for Ford. Inducted into the NASCAR Hall of Fame in 2011, Moore remains one of the sport's most respected figures. Walter "Bud" Moore Jr. passed away in Spartanburg on November 27, 2017, at age 92.

January 5, 1965 - On this date in 1965, NASCAR driver Billy Wade was tragically killed during a tire test for Goodyear at the Daytona International Speedway. Just months before his accident, Wade became the first driver in NASCAR history to win four consecutive races.

Which driver holds the record for the most Cup Series championships with seven titles?
a) Richard Petty c) David Pearson
b) Jeff Gordon d) Kevin Harvick

ANSWERS: a) Earnhardt and Johnson

Cards of Thanks

We wish to express our heartfelt appreciation that was shown to us as a family at the time of Leland's passing, visitation, and funeral. Thank you to the Rehabilitation Center of Hampton and staff, the Franklin Country View Nursing Facility and staff, Dr. Toni Lauffer and staff, Franklin Medical Center and staff, Sietsema-Atkinson Funeral Home, Patrick Sietsema for the professional caring and concern to help the family feel at peace. Vicar Caitlin Tauro for her prayers, visits, and service the day of Leland's funeral, (10/23/25). St. Paul Lutheran Church, Hampton and the ladies of WELCA that served the lunch. God Bless,

- The family of Leland V. Dhondt

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IF SOMETHING INTERESTING IS HAPPENING.

IF A BUSINESS IS OPENING OR CLOSING.

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

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- If you move out of town.
- If someone moves into your neighborhood.
- If someone enters a hospital.
- If a business is opening or closing.
- If something interesting is happening.

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THE SENIOR SCENE

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Tuesday, Jan. 13

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Wednesday, Jan. 14

12:45 HAND & FOOT OR 500 CARDS

Thursday, Jan. 15

1:00 BINGO

Friday, Jan. 16

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Saturday, Jan. 17

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Menu

Monday, Jan. 12

Goulash - Whole Wheat Bread - Vegetable - Fruit

Tuesday, Jan. 13

Open faced Hot Beef Sandwich - Mashed Potatoes w/ Gravy - Vegetable - Fruit

Wednesday, Jan. 14

Pork Meatballs in Creamy Mushroom Sauce over Egg Noodles - Whole Wheat Roll - Vegetable - Fruit

Thursday, Jan. 15

Chicken Patty - Sweet Potato Fries - Vegetable - Fruit

Friday, Jan. 16

1/2 Cold Meat & Cheese Sandwich - Minestrone Soup - Cole Slaw - Fruit - Cake

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Submit any

"Letters to the Editor"

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Delivering high-quality, affordable healthcare for Iowans



REP. RANDY FEENSTRA
COLUMNIST

As a father of four and former volunteer EMT for 15 years in my hometown of Hull, I know the vital importance of affordable and accessible healthcare for Iowa families, particularly our neighbors in rural Iowa. Traveling across our district, I've had countless conversations with Iowans about the skyrocketing cost of healthcare and declining access to care in rural communities. Iowans are paying too much for routine checkups and prescription drugs and traveling long distances for doctor's ap-

pointments and emergency care. It's unsustainable and must change.

Fortunately, on Monday December 29th, we received great news from the Trump administration that the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) approved \$209 million for rural hospitals and rural healthcare in Iowa for 2026 as part of the Rural Health Transformation Program. This transformational investment in rural healthcare was made possible by the Working Families Tax Cuts, which I helped write and pass as a member of the House Ways and Means Committee. When we were assembling this historic package of tax cuts and pro-growth economic policies, I made clear that we had to support our rural hospitals and rural healthcare to improve patient outcomes and save lives. For me, strengthening rural healthcare was non-negotiable, and that's exactly what we did.

Working with President Trump and my Republican colleagues, we delivered

\$50 billion for rural hospitals and rural healthcare nationwide, and the recent announcement of \$209 million for Iowa in 2026 alone will greatly benefit our state and rural communities. This funding will spur long-term investments that support rapid emergency medical services in Iowa, keep our rural hospitals open and operational, and make high-quality healthcare more accessible and affordable for Iowans. It will also help our state recruit and retain doctors and nurses in rural areas while creating cancer care hubs and increasing cancer screenings so that we can catch cancers early when they are most treatable.

Additionally, in mid-December, I voted for, and the U.S. House of Representatives passed, the Lower Health Care Premiums for All Americans Act to lower healthcare premiums for Iowa families, seniors, veterans, and small businesses, expand access to high-quality care in rural areas, and ensure transparency in healthcare pricing.

In addition to the \$50 billion that we passed, and President Trump signed into law, for rural hospitals and healthcare, this legislation helps alleviate the root causes of costly health plans and brings prices down. More specifically, it expands access to Association Health Plans (AHPs) by allowing small employers and self-employed workers to band together and purchase more affordable plans and codifies and strengthens a 2019 final rule by President Trump that allows employees to use tax-free money from their employer to purchase the healthcare plan of their choice. These are commonsense reforms that put taxpayers first and actually reduce healthcare costs for Iowans.

My pledge to Iowa is that I'll keep working with President Trump to lower healthcare costs, protect our rural hospitals, and ensure all Iowans have access to high-quality, affordable care.

Property Tax Reform, What is the True Cost?



KATY FLINT
FRANKLIN COUNTY AUDITOR

A new year is upon us which means a new state legislative session and thanks to campaigns for governor along with Senate, House of Representatives, and even local elections you are going to hear a lot about property tax reform this session, so I wanted to bring a few items to light for you.

First, I GET the desire for property tax reform. Trust me, as a property taxpayer in this County, I get it firsthand, BUT...it's not as cut and dry as so many people would like it to be. Trust me, I wish it were as simple as they like it to sound. There are so many costs that are out of the County's control. These can be costs of services like our software company

or they can even be services that we are required to offer so we need people to offer them.

I often hear arguments that today's property owners are facing staggering inflation rates, but the reality is....so are local governments. We are faced with the same challenges that you are....do more with less. A few years ago (2023), we saw the first round of property tax reform, which limits the growth of our tax ask (how many property tax dollars we want to collect) to 2-3%. Using round & simple numbers (and very general, not specific to Franklin County), if we collected \$1,000,000 in property taxes last year, then we can only collect \$20,000 more this year. That 2% must be stretched across ALL departments within the county organization which means it doesn't go far.

So, what are some of the inflation numbers we have been faced with in the last 5 years?

- The cost of stamps has gone up 21%
- Health Insurance has gone up 6-9% almost every year, that's about 30% overall
- Property Insurance (Liability) has gone up 47%

- Software expenses have gone up 26%
- Roadstone has gone up an average of 8.2%
- Paint Striping has gone up 14.2%
- Equipment like road graders have gone up 8.3%
- Pipe for culverts on our roads have gone up 18.7%

This is obviously not an exhaustive list of expenses that have gone up, but if you figure we can increase property taxes 2% each year for five years, that is 10%. How many of the items above have gone up more than 10% in the last five years??

I mentioned a couple weeks ago, in my article, that the Supervisors REALLY push department heads to stay AT or BELOW the 2% increase and almost every single one can do that, but....it often means not improving or developing, but departments are merely surviving. In addition, our departments are constantly trying to find ways to reduce staffing, etc. At least 5 departments have reduced staffing since I took office in 2021. So, you can see that we REALLY are trying to do our part in the property tax battle, but unfortunately, further re-

strictions could result in the County not being able to offer certain services, having to outsource them, laying off employees, or more. I don't think any of us are willing to have fewer Sheriff deputies to protect the County or not have our roads plowed or snow or even maintained with gravel, etc. I think we all want to continue to have a full-time Veterans Affairs department, be able to apply for passports here in Franklin County, get our drivers license in Franklin County, etc.

I don't have clear answers as to how to solve this problem, but I do know that it isn't as simple as reducing the amount of property taxes that counties and cities collect. As you see conversations about property tax reform, I urge you to REALLY think how it could affect Franklin County and the services you enjoy. Please reach out to me, the Supervisors, or any other department heads within our organization to find out how more restrictions could affect us. We must work together, not the state working against local governments. Until next time...

Petro-Terrorism is Alive and Well



FRITZ GROSZKRUGER
THE ALTERNATIVE

A friend from childhood is a professional in Venezuela. He has participated in protests against the Nicolas Maduro regime. He's hiding now because kidnapping Nicolas Maduro in a country of 30 million people still leaves options for the oppressors. It's hard to judge the extent or efficiency of their police state.

We've recently heard from our friend and he is safe. His complaints with the socialist government were empty store shelves, very rare gasoline (he had to walk or ride a bike anywhere), and general lack of a bill of rights (dictatorship).

I hope a lot of serious dialogue results from the kidnapping because so many of these issues are very consequential for us.

Gas and diesel prices have plummeted here lately. Trump will probably claim to have ordered it, but supply and demand probably has something to do with it. Business is not good. Costs are high and almost everyone is living paycheck to paycheck. People are spending less and driving less.

Venezuela's socialist system doesn't exactly inspire a vigorous work ethic. Imagine sitting on the largest oil reserves on earth and having gas shortages. You could claim that capitalist monsters sabotaged Venezuela's refining business, but the market always wins in the end. A free market would have found a way to protect that business. A centrally planned market doesn't know what to do.

The Venezuelan oil industry simply relied on the government to protect them. But if everybody owns it, nobody owns it. The Chinese industrial espionage targeting plant genetics here and air travel security comes to mind. The owner always takes better care of their own property. Besides that, is it moral to burden someone else with costs that

bring no benefit to them?

Before the socialists gained power in Venezuela, it was the most prosperous country in Latin America. Once the idea of government coerced income took hold and Maduro's predecessor Hugo Chavez was elected, it was off to the races, to the poverty that always results from the denial of human nature dictated by socialist policies.

As long as we are discussing economic systems we shouldn't leave out fascism. As one of the Axis Powers in World War II, Italy's Benito Mussolini founded the National Fascist Party. It was characterized by private ownership of the means of production but government control of it. Whereas socialism has "the people" owning everything collectively.

Venezuela had not sold any oil for dollars for years. They used several other nations' currency in an attempt to deny US dollars as the world's reserve currency.

Much of the world's trade has shifted away from dollars because manipulation of the dollar to create an illusion of

US prosperity has made it unreliable. Rising prices (dollar debasement through increased supply) are evident all around us. But nowhere is the tanking dollar more evident than in precious metals. Gold (which is what the dollar should be pegged to) is up 68% in a year. Silver is up 150%.

In other words our dollars are worth 68 to 150 percent less and it is a tax, every bit as much as tariffs are a tax. These taxes and the taxes that are called taxes are still not enough to finance empire. So US businessmen are now touring oil facilities in Venezuela. I bet the security for those guys would make any Tom Cruise movie look like Garth and Wayne.

We've backed coup d'etats in 16 Latin American countries. Now these John Wayne types are all over puffing out their chests, "We got another two-bit dictator!" No Iowa lawmaker has condemned this obviously unconstitutional act. "Look at me. I can break the law! Ain't I cool?" These are grown-

See ALTERNATIVE: Page 8



Words can really hurt you.

Don't text and drive.

Home Away From Home

BY ISAAC VOSBURG

It's 2:00 AM, and there's a knock on my door. Another knock. I bolt upright in my bed, wondering who might be awake at this unholy hour of the night. My door swings open, seemingly of its own accord, revealing... no one? As my door creaks at its hinges, I am shocked to see that no person has been knocking on, nor opening, my door. It stands ajar nonetheless, and a chill goes down my spine as I am reminded of the fact that Southeast Asia is well known for its many spirits. In Malay they are known as hantu (like "Hahn-tu"), which I found easy to remember, as the hantu haunt you.



As fear instead of fascination is struck back into me, I can't help but shake the feeling that this scene was the work of some other being entirely. Luckily, my intuition was correct. "Meooooowwww." "Meow!"

I looked down to see that all this was the work of Goodgirl, one of my Amma's cats who had always found a way to sneak into my room so that she could climb out my window and explore. I breathed a huge sigh of relief, motioned for Goodgirl to come over, pet her for a while, and went back to sleep.

Such has been my life for the last week, exploring what is the same and what is different about two of the places halfway around the world from Hampton that I have come to call home. In this example, Goodgirl breaking into my room? That's normal. Doing so at 2:00 AM? Yeah... maybe not so much.

This past week has been chock-full of adventure: A 16-hour flight from Chicago straight to Delhi seated next

to an elderly Sikh couple, attempting to communicate despite my Hindi being very poor and their English being nonexistent. Navigating immigration in India, where one of the trolley drivers in the airport insisted that I could not leave even though I had shown him my visa and trip details, whereafter he called a colleague and immediately dropped his charges. Staying at a coworker's house whom I had met during my internship this summer, enjoying a home cooked meal and some Indian sweets before nodding off to sleep, visiting the Foundation the next morning, and navigating the Delhi metro back to the airport in the span of about 14 hours. All of this is not even to mention anything I've done thus far in Malaysia. India was my layover that I happened to make an excursion of, whereas Malaysia has been my target all along.

I arrived delayed, immigration was a bit of a hassle, my bags weren't on the right conveyor belt, and yet, there is nowhere in the world I would

rather have been. I finally made my way out of the airport with less than two hours to spare 'til midnight on the 31st of December. I was immediately greeted by my host family, and after two years' worth of catching up, it felt as if everything had fallen back into place. We grabbed a small meal together, chatted, and by the time we got back to the hotel, it was already fifteen minutes past midnight. As it turns out, my segue to 2026 had been celebrated by a single firework off in the distance. It didn't matter much to me though, as I had something bigger than the New Year to celebrate: a long-awaited reunion with my Amma, Appa, and Akkas (elder sisters).

Since returning to Malaysia, I've been busy, to say the least, though I'll elaborate on that further in next week's column. What's been the most striking for me are the changes I've seen—how two years' time has altered or maintained the town of Segamat that I know.

There's a new shop near my house, and one of our fruit trees had to be cut down. There are two new houses on the block that, last I saw, were only concrete slabs. My school has been repainted, and the principal has changed. There are new curtains in my room, and two new cats my Amma has adopted.

All this is to say that I've still returned to the Malaysia I know and love. It might look a tad different, my Malay might be a bit more rusty, but all in all, I am where I want to be. I love this place, I love these people, and as I sit here listening to tropical birds call one another on this lovely equatorial morning, I couldn't feel more at home.

SUDOKU

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

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

LEVEL: INTERMEDIATE

SUDOKU ANSWERS:

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

THIS WEEK'S SUDOKU IS SPONSORED BY:

FIRST SECURITY

Office Space and Other Things



AMANDA RINK

Recent coverage in The Eagle Grove about the closure of the office in Eagle Grove has understandably raised questions for some of my readers. I want to reassure Wright County Monitor readers right away: this change does not affect the Monitor, or my coverage, or my commitment to my community.

I have been working from home for The Wright County Monitor since I began with Mid America Publishing in 2023. During my tenure, the Monitor has not had a public-facing office to invite readers into. Before I took over as editor, the Monitor's office was moved into the same building as our sister publication, The Eagle Grove Eagle. That move occurred during a period when the Monitor did not have a dedicated editor.

As a result, staffing responsibilities were shared between the Eagle and the Monitor, with me continuing to work from home, as I live in Clarion. I have said before, and continue to believe, that a reporter should live in the community they record history for. Presence, accountability, and accessibility matter far more than the location of a desk. I fully believe this.

Subscriptions are built through trust and content that readers want. When en-

gagement slows, it is the responsibility of the newsroom to listen, adjust, and meet readers where they are. The decision to close the Eagle Grove office has no connection to subscriptions or advertising for the Wright County Monitor. It does not reflect a change in how the Monitor operates. It doesn't affect our staffing or coverage. Instead, it reflects long-standing realities that have allowed me to continue doing my work effectively... from home.

Working from home supports me in doing both of my jobs, as a news writer and as a mother, to the best of my ability. It has not hurt my reporting, my responsiveness, or my connection to the community I serve. Sometimes I feel like it improves it, actually. I'm not only seen behind a desk. I'm seen in my community every day.

I am grateful to work for a publisher, Mid America Publishing, that values its employees and supports working conditions that allow them to succeed. That support has allowed the Monitor to remain consistent and focused on serving its readers. We don't have to close during a snowstorm; we're able to pick up and work if something comes up on a weekend (even if my husband isn't always a fan of that), and we function well like this. It isn't necessarily negative for any other publication to operate this way.

The Wright County Monitor will continue to operate as it has throughout my time as editor, regardless of how our sister publications operate.

And moving on to subscriptions, while it would be wonderful for every resident in the communities we serve to subscribe or advertise, I am well aware that this is not

always how things work. That is the reality of local journalism today, which is why we also ensure our content is available in other places, such as the local library.

But most of the work that goes into the publication you hold in your hands, or read on your screen, is done by four dedicated staff members: myself, our designer, Sarah, who is based in the eastern part of the county; Taylor, who covers sports and who would occasionally work out of the Eagle Grove office; and our sales team, which is based in southern Iowa, several hours away. This structure has been in place, and it works.

As always, I want to direct readers to where their questions can be answered. If you prefer an in-person experience, you are welcome to visit our mother publication, The Hampton Chronicle, located in Hampton. That building also houses our corporate staff, who are available to help and to hear feedback. It is also where I have consistently directed mail, ensuring I am included in conversations and reader feedback.

Ultimately, we write for our readers. Every newsroom must understand what its audience values, and for the most part, I believe the Monitor does that well. The decision to close the Eagle Grove office was not one I was involved in, as neither I or my staff operated out of that space.

While there may be discussions in the future about opening an office in Clarion, that is not something that will happen immediately. This has nothing to do with subscriptions or advertising for the Monitor. It has everything to do with logistics and ensuring I can continue to serve this com-

munity effectively while I still have small children at home.

Working from home has not limited my ability to do this job. I am thankful for the positive feedback I receive from readers, and I also try to take criticism seriously, using it as an opportunity to grow. My role, just like any other small town newspaper writer's, is to serve the town I write for.

Being the mostly sole writer for the Monitor can be hard sometimes, but it is also so, so rewarding. You, our readers, among a few other things, make it worth it.

So, to say this clearly and simply: the closure of the Eagle Grove office

1. Does not affect the Wright County Monitor, and
2. Is not a negative development for this newspaper.

If you've read this far, thank you. Please always feel free to reach out to me directly with questions or concerns (news@wrightcountymonitor.com is the best way). If I cannot help you, I will make sure to find someone who can.

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

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DOUBLE TROUBLE: FROM COVER

ing stuff that not everyone else has.” They do most of their selling while live streaming on their What-not page (double_trouble_deals). Their next shows are scheduled for Friday evening, Jan. 2, at 6 p.m. and Sunday, Jan. 4, at noon.

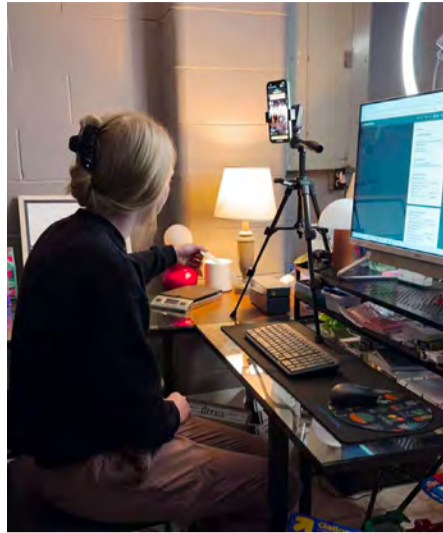
“Now that the new year has hit, we hope to get a consistent schedule of at least four shows a week spread out over different times of the day to catch more viewers,” said Halie.

When asked about deals, Halie said they have something for everyone in the family.

“Most of our auctions start at

three dollars per item. We do have some higher priced items such as Apple AirPods, beats headphones, owlet dream sock/camera, etc that we start at at least 50 percent off the retail price. We also have smaller items that we start off at one dollar. On our Facebook page, Double Trouble Deals, we have a link for a sign-up code to get 15 dollars off free to use on the app.”

Double Trouble Deals offers free local pickup in Hampton.



Halie Ballard working on receipts for orders. Photo provided by Halie Ballard.



Some of the toys that the Ballards have up for sale.



Sarah Ballard looking through some of their inventory.



The Ballards offer a little bit of everything, from skin care to clothing.

WORDS OF WISDOM



Last week's trivia questions:

What major world city, known for its spectacular fireworks display on New Year's Eve, is one of the first cities to ring in the New Year? Answer: Sydney, Australia.

What Pacific Ocean island, which is an American territory, is the last place to celebrate on New Year's Eve? Answer: American Samoa.

What U.S. city, inspired by the Times Square Ball Drop in New York, instead drops a giant chocolate kiss on New Year's Eve? Answer: Hershey, Pennsylvania.

This week's trivia questions:

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

Who holds the record for winning the most Golden Globe awards by a male movie actor?

Match the college football bowl game with its location -

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

January is Get Organized Month, International Creativity Month, Learn to Ski and Snowboard Month, National Blood Donor Month, National Candy Month, National Egg Month, National Hobby Month, National Meat Month, National Mentoring Month, National Polka Music Month, National Skating Month, National Slow Cooking Month, National Soup Month, Oatmeal Month, Eye Care Month, and Bath Safety Month.

Jan. 7 is Old Rock Day; Jan. 8 is National English Toffee Day, and Earth's Rotation Day; Jan. 9 is National Law Enforcement Appreciation Day; Jan. 10 is Save the Eagles Day; Jan. 11 is National Milk Day, and National Human Trafficking Awareness Day; Jan. 12 is National Pharmacists Day, and National Youth Day; Jan. 13 is National Sticker Day, and Public Radio Broadcasting Day.

"Therefore this is what the Lord says: 'If you repent, I will restore you that you may serve me; if you utter worthy, not worthless, words, you will be my spokesman.'" - Jeremiah 15:19

"Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord." - Acts 3:19

"The time has come...The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!" - Mark 1:15

Funny signs seen in public:

IN CASE OF FIRE: Please leave the building before posting it on social media.

Bread is like the sun - It rises in the yeast and sets in the waist.

Please neuter your pets (and any weird friends or relatives).

NOW ENTERING WISCONSIN - Ask yourself what poor decisions led to this.

If this was another country, we'd have to warn you that this coffee may be hot. Good thing this is Canada!

In light of recent events, hedgehogs will no longer be allowed in Room 146.

Unattended children will be given an energy drink and taught to swear.

FROG PARKING ONLY - ALL OTHERS WILL BE TOAD!

At the end of the 1975 college football season, there were 11 bowl games.

Following the 2025 college football season, there are 46 post-season games. This includes 35 bowl games, plus the 11 games of the expanded 12-team playoffs.

Wright County Freedom Rock Celebrates its 10th Year

PRESS RELEASE

It is hard to believe that in 2015 the Wright County Freedom Rock and the park were built. The Dows American Legion worked for a year to obtain the property, find a rock, build a park, and have Michael "Bubba" Sorensen paint the mural. Each year the Legion gathers new pavers to be installed, the funds raised each year helps maintain the park, replace worn flags and provides for updating the paved sidewalks. This year, the deadline to get a paver is 1May26. Pavers will be installed in July before Dows Corn Days.

Pavers honoring Veterans from Wright county stretch back all the way to the Spanish-American war, to include the American Civil War, WWI, WWII, Korea, Vietnam, and Desert Storm.

Anyone can have a paver installed. Veterans will have their pavers installed nearest the rock, all others on the sidewalks leading up to the rock.



Cost is \$100 for a 4x8 paver and \$250 for an 8x8 paver. Email wright@freedomrock@gmail.com for forms. You

can also submit a form from the Dows City Hall. Please support and help recognize our county veterans.

First Responders and Community Members Team up During Blizzard

First responders and community members teamed up to rescue stranded travelers during the recent blizzard that blew through Franklin County. Photos provided by the Franklin County Sheriff's Office.



The wind-swept drifts of snow after the weekend blizzard.



One of many vehicles that had been deserted during the storm.



The Iowa DOT was among those agencies that stepped up to help.



Moving snow out of the way during the aftermath.

What's At The Windsor

BY JIM DAVIES
WINDSOR THEATRE
MANAGER

Showing at the Windsor Theatre Friday, January 9 through Thursday, January 15 is the supernatural horror film *Five Nights at Freddy's 2*.

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

The movie, *Five Nights at Freddy's 2*, is based on the video game series *Five Nights at Freddy's* created by Scott Cawthon and the sequel to the 2023 film adaptation.

One year after the terrifying events at Freddy Fazbear's Pizza, former security guard Mike Schmidt (Josh Hutcherson) and police officer Vanessa Shelly (Elizabeth Lail) are trying to live normally while keeping the truth about the haunted animatronics from Mike's young sister, Abby (Piper Rubio).

When Abby secretly

tries to reconnect with the animatronics like Freddy, Bonnie, Chica, and Foxy, she unintentionally unleashes buried horrors and dark secrets about the origins of Freddy's. This sets off a frightening chain of events involving ghostly forces, deadly animatronics, and long-suppressed violence tied to past murders at the pizzeria, forcing Mike, Vanessa, and Abby to confront the supernatural threat once again.

Five Nights at Freddy's 2 is distributed by Universal Pictures and is rated PG-13 for its intense scares, violence (including child peril and violent deaths, though often implied or brief), unsettling themes, and some language, aiming to balance horror with accessibility for younger fans

of the game. The running time is 104 minutes.

Regular movie ticket prices are \$6 for adults and

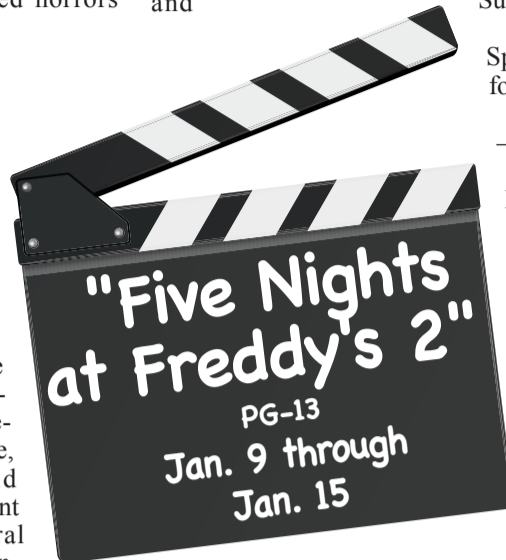
accepted.

- Upcoming movies:**
- Jan. 16-22 – Song Sung Blue
 - Jan. 23-29 – The Spongbob Movie: Search for Squarepants
 - Jan. 30-Feb. 5 – Anaconda
 - Feb. 6-12 – Avatar: Fire and Ash
 - Feb. 13-19 – Solo Mio
 - Feb. 20-26 – Goat

Gift Ideas for Movie Lovers

The Windsor Theatre has several great gift options for film fans. Windsor Bucks are available in \$1 and \$5 denominations and can be used for both admission and concessions. Movie passes also make a perfect gift and are priced at \$6 for adults and \$4 for youth ages 16 and under.

For regular moviegoers, the Windsor offers a punch card with 25 punches for \$20, a 20% savings. Each punch equals one dollar toward admission. Punch



cards, Windsor Bucks, and movie passes never expire. 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.

Print your favorite memories

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WINDSOR THEATRE

NOW SHOWING
"Five Nights at Freddy's 2"
PG-13

SHOW DATES:
1/9/26 thru 1/15/26

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

MOVIE TICKETS
At door or online at www.windsortheatre.com
Adults \$6, Youth \$4
Senior Sunday (60&over) \$4
Wednesday matinee \$4
Thursday \$4

Credit and debit cards are now accepted.

UPCOMING EVENT:
Old Time Country Hoedown, 6-9 PM, Monday, 1/5/26

UPCOMING MOVIES:
Jan. 16-22 – Song Sung Blue
Jan. 23-29 – The Spongbob Movie: Search for Squarepants
Jan. 30-Feb. 5 – Anaconda
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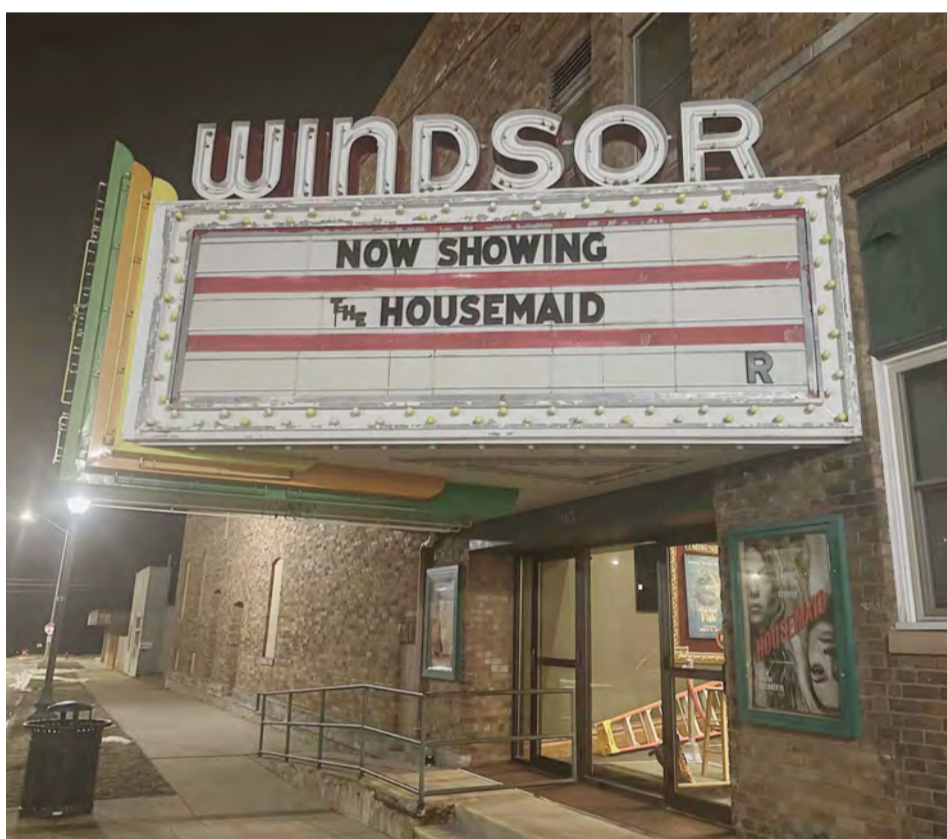
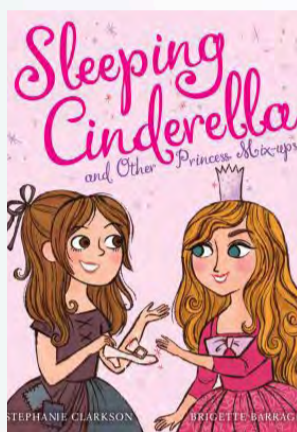
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Readers of the Week at the Hampton Public Library



BY BRENDA VAN WERT
CHILDREN'S LIBRARIAN

Reader of the Week at the Hampton Public Library is Vivian Beadle, age 3. Vivian is the daughter of Alexis and Brock Beadle. Her favorite book is Cinderella by Stephanie Clarkson.



147 people attended The Housemaid last weekend. If you have read the book and have a coupon from the Hampton Library, they will be honored at the remaining showings on Wednesday at 2pm and 7pm and Thursday at 7pm.

ALTERNATIVE: FROM PAGE 4

ups, educated, probably church-goers. I grant that these dictators were probably power hungry and relentless. My friend in Venezuela is justly rejoicing in Maduro's "capture". I wish we could count on the government going around making everything fair. But remember those guys touring the oilfields. That's not free market capitalism. That's fascism. Long term disasters have followed

every regime we've installed down there. We are blessed to live in a country where we are free to travel and promote change. But those businessmen who do should bear their own costs.

Please join the discussion through a letter to the editor or directly to me at 4selfgovernment@gmail.com

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Festival returns to Hampton

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January Events Program

SAT
10

AMERICAN LEGION BREAKFAST FUNDRAISER, from 7 to 10 a.m. at 420 5th St. SW in Hampton. Serving biscuits and gravy, along with coffee and a cold drink. Proceeds going towards the new sound system in Band Shell Park.

SAT
17

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

TUE
20

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



WEEKLY

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HOSTS:
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UPCOMING

WELCOME BACK TO STORYTIME!

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

Please do not bring your own toys.

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

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

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CIVIC CALENDAR

FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

DETAILS:
Monday 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, 5:15 PM-6:15 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
4:00 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.

West Fork Boys Sports Year in Review

BY EVAN PHARR
HAMPTON CHRONICLE

Here is a year in review of the 2025 West Fork boys sports year. Basketball and wrestling reviews are based on the 2024-25 seasons and do not take into account the current basketball and wrestling seasons.

Basketball: Boys basketball finished the season with a record of 11-12 and 7-7 in conference play. The Warhawks defeated Riceville 79-69 on Feb. 17 in the first round of the Class 1A Region 2 tournament. The Warhawks season came to an end after losing 70-61 to Bishop Garrigan in the second round of the region tournament. Ashyr Wiseman led the Warhawks with 16.4 points per game, while Xavier Haller led the team with 7.6 rebounds per game and three assists per game. Haller was selected to the Top of Iowa-East All-Conference first team, while Wiseman was selected to the second team all-conference and Nolan Shreckengost was selected to the all-conference honorable mentions team.

Wrestling: Jasper Jones had the best record out of anyone on the boys wrestling team at 21-17. Andre Baker went 18-20 in his matches, Preston star went 17-19 in his matches, Jensen Robbins went 13-23 in his



West Fork football team poses for a photo after clinching berth in state playoffs with win over Belmond-Klemme on Oct. 3, 2025. Photo by Evan Pharr.

matches, Brooks Jones went 11-23 in his matches and Gage Arndt went 4-12 in his matches. No one for the Warhawks qualified for state.

Track and Field: The highest the Warhawks finished in any meet of the season was 4th, which they did three times; the Osage Coed Relays on April 8th, the Clarion-Goldfield-Dows Cowboy Relays on April 10 and the 2025 Top of Iowa-East Coed Conference Track Meet on May 8th. The most team points they scored in any meet was 115 in the Clarion-Goldfield-Dows Cowboy Relays. Xavier Haller qualified for state in the high jump, placing third overall in the state with a jump of six feet, three inches.

Golf: The boys golf team went 36-8 overall and 12-2 in conference play. The Warhawks finished first in seven different matches and the lowest they Warhawks shot in any match during the season was 159 in the Saint Ansgar Saints Boys Golf Quad on May, 5. Nolan Shreckengost had the lowest nine-whole average on the Warhawks with 40.11 strokes.

Baseball: The baseball team finishes with an overall record of 12-11 and record

of 7-7 in conference play. The Warhawks defeated West Honcock 8-3 on Jul. 7 in the first round of the IHSAA Class 1A Substate 2 tournament. The Warhawks then defeated St. Edmond 11-8 in the second round on Jul. 8 before their season came to an end with a 8-0 loss to Wapsie Valley in the semifinals. Nolan Shreckengost led the Warhawks with a .380 batting average, 27 hits and nine doubles. Zander Hansen led the Warhawks with 22 runs batted in and 47 strikeouts on the mound. Trevor Despenas had the lowest era on the Warhawks at 1.31. Shreckengost was selected to the Top of Iowa-East All-Conference first team. Trevor Despenas, Zander Hansen and Ashr Wiseman were selected to the all-conference second team and Braylon Shreckengost was selected to the all-conference honorable mentions team.

Football: West Fork football had their most successful season in school history as they finished 7-3, which is the most wins in program history. The Warhawks won their first state playoff game since 2020 with a 25-23 overtime victory over Nashua-Plainfield on Oct. 24. The Warhawks season came to an end with a 53-20 loss to Saint Ansgar on Oct. 31 in the second round of the state playoffs. Zander Hansen com-

pleted 53-of-86 passes on the season with eight touchdowns and three interceptions. Hansen also ran for three touchdowns. Dax Suntken led the Warhawks with 1179 rushing yards on 185 carries and 13 rushing touchdowns. Suntken also led the Warhawks with 13 receptions and 257 receiving yards, while Rlan Dorenkamp led the team with four receiving touchdowns. Suntken also tied for the team lead in sack with Owen Schmidt with three sacks each. Jack Watters led the Warhawks with 58 total tackles, while Braylon Shreckengost led the team with 9.5 tackles for loss. Schmidt, Watters, Suntken, Parker Sherif, Braydin Smit, Braylon Shreckengost and Hayden Freyholtz were selected to the Class A District 2 All-District first team. Hansen, Blaine Schultz, Tyler Fessler, Wyatt Bonnema and Keston Lambertson were selected to the all-district second team.

Cross County: The boys cross country team had a solid season, finishing in the top two in two separate meets, including finishing first in the Warhawk invitational on Sep. 15. The Warhawks lowest team score on the season was 23 in the Warhawk invitational. No warhawks qualified for the state meet.



Trevor Despenas up to bat during a West Fork baseball game in the 2025 season. Photo by Evan Pharr.

West Fork Girls Sports Year in Review

BY EVAN PHARR
HAMPTON CHRONICLE

Here is a year in review of the 2025 West Fork girls sports season. Basketball and wrestling reviews are based on the 2024-25 seasons and do not take into account the current basketball and wrestling seasons.

Basketball: West Fork girls basketball had a strong season, as they finished with an overall record of 20-4 and a 13-1 record in conference play. The Warhawks defeated Belmond-Klemme 64-57 in the first round of the Class 2A Region 6 tournament on Feb. 18 and defeated Sioux Central 67-50 in the second round on Feb. 21. The Warhawks season came to an end after losing 69-53 to Central Lyon in the third round of the tournament on Feb. 26. Leah Weaver led the Warhawks with 17.6 points per game and four assists per game. Brylie Hubka led the Warhawks with 5.4 rebounds per game. Rodney Huber won Top of Iowa-East Coach of the Year and Weaver was selected to the all-conference first team. Nehir Kanat and Karma McMorris were selected to the all-conference second team and Hubka was selected to

the honorable mentions team.

Wrestling: Fernanda Ramirez had the best record of anyone on the Warhawks as she went 34-7 in her matches. Josi Janssen went 31-7 in her matches, Jenny Ramirez went 26-13 in her matches, Kaitlyn Burgin went 16-9 in her matches, Autumn Wood went 15-17 in her matches, Lily Baker went 14-22 in her matches, Preslee Dickman went 13-4 in her matches, Remingtyn Petersen went 12-12 in her matches, Kaylee Lafrankie went 6-14 in her matches and Isabella Ezarski went 2-1 in her matches. Fernanda Rameriez qualified for the state tournament.

Track and Field: The girls track and field team finished inside the top three in seven different meets, including three second place finishes. The highest team score for the Warhawks was in the GHV Cardinal Relays on April 22, where the Warhawks placed second and scored 134 team points. Evelyn Hitzhusen qualified for the state meet in the 400m and 400m hurdles. She placed 10th in the 400m and 12th in the 400m hurdles. Libby Trewin and Brylee Dickman qualified for the state meet in the shot put



West Fork softball team photo after defeating Central Springs to clinch a birth in the state playoffs on July 14, 2025. Photo by Evan Pharr.

throw, where Trewin placed 8th and Dickman placed 20th. The girls 800m sprint medley relay team, 4x200m relay team and 4x400m relay team also qualified for the state meet. The 800m sprint medley relay team placed 16th, the 4x200m relay team placed 22nd and the 4x400m relay team placed 22nd.

Softball: West Fork softball qualified for the state tournament in Fort Dodge and made it to the state semifinal. The Warhawks went 23-8 overall and 10-3 in conference play. The Warhawks beat Central Springs 3-2 on a walk-off home run from Brooke Rother on July 14 to win the Class 2A Region 8 tournament and qualify for the state playoffs. The Warhawks defeated Durant 7-1 in the state quarterfinal on July 22 before losing 5-4 to Van Meeter in the semifinal on July 23. JoAnna Wallace led the War-

hawks with 46 hits and 10 doubles and a .500 batting average. Brooke Rother led the Warhawks with nine home runs and 38 runs batted in. Libby Trewin led the Warhawks with 22 wins, 179.2 innings pitched and 267 strikeouts while having a team-low 0.97 earned run average. Rother, Rewin and Wallace were selected to the Top of Iowa-East All-Conference first team. Abby Schoning was selected to the all-conference second team and Preslee Dickman was selected to the honorable mentions team.

Volleyball: The volleyball team had an overall record of 10-10 and 2-6 in conference play. The Warhawks defeated Belmond-Klemme 3-2 on Oct. 20 in the first round of the Class 2A Region 1 tournament before their season came to an end with a 3-0 loss to Denver in the quarterfinal on Oct. 22. Abby Schoning

led the Warhawks with 22 kills, Brylie Dickman led the team with 383 attacks, Zada Huff led the team with 191 assists and 42 aces, Madysyn Johnon led the team with 162 digs and Jennifer Ramirex led the team with 21 blocks. Schoning was selected to the Top of Iowa-East All-Conference second team while Huff was selected to the honorable mention's team.

Cross Country: The highest the girls cross country team placed in a meet was fourth, which they did in the Belmond-Klemme Invitational on Sep. 9 and the Warhawks Invitational on Sep. 15. The lowest team score the Warhawks had all year was when they scored 31 in the Warhawk Invitational. Makenna Dick qualified for the state meet, where she placed 66th with a time of 21 minutes, 13.4 seconds.



West Fork volleyball team huddle during match in the 2025 season. Photo by Evan Oharr.

Bulldogs Girls Wrestling Defeats Eagles in Quad at Independence

BY EVAN PHARR
HAMPTON
CHRONICLE

INDEPENDENCE - The Hampton-Dumont-CAL girls wrestling team defeated the Saydel Eagles 42-29, and lost to the Independence Mustangs 40-36 and to the Sumner-Fredericksburg Cougars 54-18 in quad at Independence High School on Saturday, Jan. 3.

In the win in the dual over the Eagles, junior Adriana Gomez, junior Marlee Maas, freshman Skylar Borcharding, sophomore Juliet Koch, junior Elsie Kuper and junior Avalon Mulford all won their matches via forfeit. Senior Maren Subbert won her match via fall at 1:29.

In the loss in the dual versus the Mustangs, Kuper, Subbert and Mulford won their matches via forfeit. sophomore Megan Severs won her match via fall at 7:54 and Koch won



HDCAL girls wrestling team pose for photo after quad at Independence on Saturday, Jan. 3. Photo submitted by Colt Powers.

her match via fall at 1:27.

In the loss in the dual versus the Cougars, Kuper, Subbert and Mulford

all won their matches via forfeit. The girls wrestled in the NCC quad at home on Monday, Jan. 5 and their

next meet is the NCC girls and boys double duals at home on Thursday, Jan. 8 at 6 p.m.

Bulldogs Boys Wrestling Wins Two of Three Duals in Independence Quad

BY EVAN PHARR
HAMPTON CHRONICLE

INDEPENDENCE - The Hampton-Dumont-CAL boys wrestling team won two of their three duals in a quad at Independence High School on Saturday, Jan. 3. The Bulldogs defeated the Mid-Prairie Golden Hawks 76-6 and the Saydel Eagles 72-12 while losing 69-11 to the Independence Eagles.

In the win in the dual versus the Golden Hawks, freshman Joe Guevara, freshman Conyr Cook, freshman Hector Gutierrez, freshman Kinnick Perez, senior Arnold Guevara, senior Brody Strother and senior Maddon Evans all won their matches via forfeit. Sophomore Luke Sowalter won his match by fall at 1:35, senior Jacob Mahler won his match by technical fall at 1:35, junior Jory Angstman won his match by technical fall at 2:00, senior Ryder Strother won his match by fall at 0:51, junior Josph Cruz won his match by fall at 2:31 and senior Tristen Mulford won his match by fall at 2:43.

In the win in the dual versus the Eagles, Gutierrez, Perez, Showalter, Mahler, Cruz, Ryder Strother and Arnold Guevara all won their matches via forfeit. Brody Strother won his match via fall at 1:22, Angstman won his match by fall at 1:10, Mulford won his match via fall at 1:31 and Evans won his match via fall at 1:00.

In the loss in the dual versus the Mustangs, Angstman won his match via fall at 1:09 and Evans won his match via technical fall at 4:22. The Bulldogs wrestled in a triangular at St. Edmond on Monday, Jan. 5 and their next meet is the NCC triangular meet at home on Thursday, Jan. 8 at 6 p.m.



2026 Bulldog New Year's Throwdown

Hampton-Dumont-CAL High School hosted the 2026 Bulldog New Year's Throwdown youth wrestling tournament on Sunday, Jan. 4. The tournament included brackets for grades K-8th grade for boys and girls. Members of the H-D-CAL wrestling team helped referee and keep score of the tournament. Pictured is H-D-CAL senior Marren Subert referring one of the K-2nd grade matches. Photo by Evan Pharr.

Upcoming Sports Events

Hampton-Dumont-CAL:

- January 8: Boys and girls wrestling NCC double dual at home 6 p.m.
- January 9: Girls basketball vs Algona 6 p.m.
- January 9: Boys basketball vs Algona 7:30 p.m.
- January 10: Girls wrestling Trojan Tangle @ West Marshall High School 10 a.m.
- January 10: Boys wrestling Glen Brand Duals @ Clarion-Goldfield-Dows 10 a.m.
- January 12: Girls wrestling NCC Quad @ West Fork 6 p.m.
- January 13: Girls basketball @ Charles City 6 p.m.
- January 13: Boys basketball @ Charles City 7:45 p.m.

West Fork

- January 8: Girls wrestling Rockford Quad @ Rockford 6 p.m.
- January 8: Boys wrestling TIC Quad @ Lake Mills 6 p.m.
- January 9: Girls basketball @ Nashua-Plainfield 6:15 p.m.
- January 9: Boys basketball @ Nashua-Plainfield 7:45 p.m.
- January 10: Girls wrestling Allie Morrison Girls Duals @ Marshalltown 10 a.m.
- January 10: Boys wrestling Titan Wrestling Invitational @ Graettinger/Terril 10 a.m.
- January 12: Girls wrestling NCC Quad at home 6 p.m.
- January 13: Boys basketball vs Madrid 7:30 p.m.



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MEXICO PART 1



Over Christmas I got to check another item off my bucket list. I was able to travel to a resort in the Mayan Rivera section of Mexico with my entire family. This is something I have been dreaming and planning for many years, and this year we made it all happen.

My wife and I have traveled to this area three times previously with various friends and family members. I talked to my family about this area and told them that SOME YEAR we were all going to go together. The only time that I could get them all free from

their schedules was at Christmas. We knew it would be a busy time at the resort, but we took what we could get.

My Iowa family flew very early on Christmas Eve out of Des Moines. We had a short lay over in Dallas and then on to Cancun Mexico. My son and his wife flew out of Greenville SC and were about an hour behind us. Once we cleared customs we boarded our bus for the hour ride south to our resort.

The resort was very beautiful, and all decked out for Christmas. It is a little funny to see the Christmas lights on palm trees instead of the traditional trees we use here, but there was still a huge “pine tree” all decorated in the lobby. The entire resort is set in a jungle area, and we were able to see many types of wildlife that are not common in Iowa. Monkeys were very abundant along with the Mexican version of a racoon.

Once my entire family was checked into their rooms, we wandered the resort trying to find food. Every time I visit a resort like this it takes me a day or two to find my way around to all the restaurants and beach areas. After a quick snack we wandered down to

the beach area for our first view of the ocean. The colors of the water never cease to amaze me. The wind was blowing in some large waves as we walked along the coast. We finally made it to the sheltered beach area where some of our family went in for a quick dip.

We then made our way back to our rooms to clean up and head to the giant buffet area for supper. Since it was Christmas Eve, the buffet went all out with all kinds of food and more desserts than I had ever seen. My granddaughter tried to eat an entire lobster by herself but couldn't get it done. Everyone was very tired from the long travel day, so we turned in early.

The next day was Christmas, and we knew we just wanted to relax around the beach, so after breakfast we headed in that direction. The beach is in a secluded area, so the waves are never a problem. The sand on the beach was perfect for building sandcastles and most of the family helped with the buildings. I wanted to check out the area for snorkeling, but the wind blowing in made the ocean too rough, so I went back to the beach.

There was a snack bar at the beach so we could just walk up and enjoy a quick snack and get some ice cream. We basically just chilled the entire day at the beach and then went to a Mexican restaurant back in the lobby area. The resort had 5 sit down restaurants that we needed to make reservations for, along with

the buffet and other a la carte restaurants. Way too much food.

Our resort was next to a huge park called Xcaret. I have visited this park three times in the past and knew that my family would enjoy the park. It has so many interesting things to see and do that we decided to purchase unlimited passes that would allow us to go back and forth from our resort which was only a short walk or boat ride away. This turned out to be a great idea.

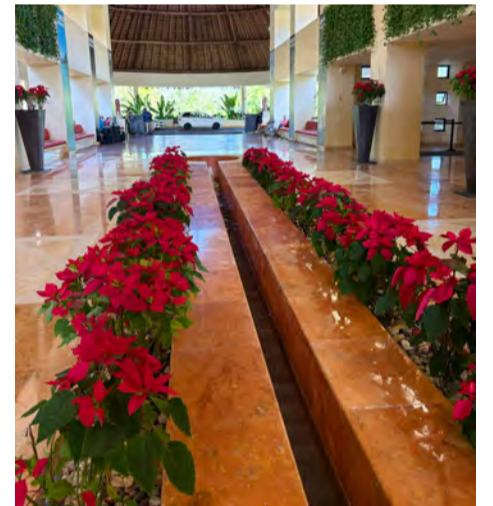
For our first morning in the park, we wanted to do a float down a river that flows through underground caverns and cenotes. We all got our life jackets on and started down the river. It was very crowded and took a bit of work. Some of our group stopped part way through the trip and others made it the entire route. After the float it was back to our resort for lunch and a nap. We ate supper at the buffet and then headed back to the park for an evening show.

The evening show is a huge production that tells the entire



story of Mexico from the Mayan culture to the coming of the Spaniards up to the current times. The show is remarkable, and I knew my family would enjoy it. My son said that there were over 100 participants in the show that included all kinds of Mayan games, dancing and singing. After the show it was back to the resort for the night.

I will continue with the rest of our trip next week.



Four Iowans Honored for Agricultural Impact

The 2025 honorees are Tamara Deal, Darcy Maulsby, Natalie Paino and Loretta Reimers

BY LISA SCARBROUGH AND MADELINE SCHULTZ
ISU EXTENSION AND OUTREACH OFFICE

AMES — The Iowa State University Extension and Outreach Women in Ag program recognized four Iowa agricultural leaders during the ninth annual Women in Ag Leadership Conference, which was open to all and held in Ames on Dec. 3-4.

The “Women Impacting Agriculture” recognition honors and celebrates those who drive positive change in Iowa by enhancing economic resiliency and stability, conserving natural resources and serving as influential agricultural leaders, family members and community volunteers. Nominated by coworkers, neighbors, friends and family members, honorees are selected from a highly competitive pool of submissions. This year’s recipients were chosen for their exceptional impact, leadership and unwavering commitment to Iowa agriculture.

“These honorees represent the strength and vision that drive Iowa agriculture forward,” said Madeline Schultz, Women in Ag program manager with ISU Extension and Outreach. “Their leadership and commitment inspire others to innovate, collaborate and build resilient rural communities.”

The 2025 honorees are Tamara Deal, Darcy Maulsby, Natalie Paino and Loretta Reimers.

Tamara Deal – Guthrie County

A forward-thinking Iowa farmer and conservation leader, Tamara Deal blends her family’s 135-year agricultural legacy with a vision for long-term sustainability. As president of Deal



Tamara Deal

Family Farms LLC, Deal Inc. and Fair Deal Hog Farm, she manages more than 1,100 acres, oversees grain marketing and leasing and mentors emerging farm leaders.

Deal champions soil health and stewardship through no-till, cover crops and diverse crop rotations. She partners with Practical Farmers of Iowa and the Soil and Water Outcomes Fund to enhance both environmental quality and farm profitability. She also hosts conservation luncheons to bring women landowners together across the Raccoon River Watershed.

An Iowa State graduate in psychology and management information systems, Deal collaborates with ISU researchers on sustainability and water quality efforts and serves as a sustainability ambassador with the Women, Food, and Agriculture Network. Beyond the farm, she is an active community volunteer, providing leadership to Guthrie County’s Imagination Library and the Guthrie County Community Foundation.

Darcy Maulsby – Calhoun County

A fifth-generation Iowa farm-



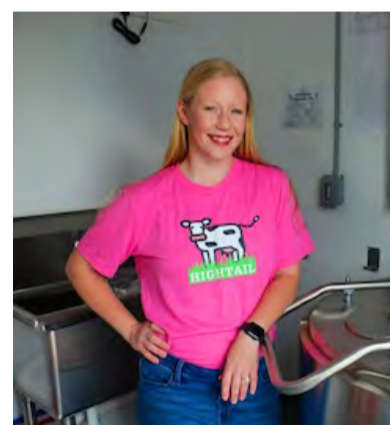
Darcy Maulsby

er, writer and agricultural advocate, Darcy Maulsby has devoted her career to telling the story of Iowa agriculture. Since 2002, she has led Darcy Maulsby & Co., providing strategic marketing and communications services to cooperatives, agribusinesses and farm media. She is an award-winning journalist and the author of eight nonfiction books that highlight Iowa’s history and food culture. She shares these stories statewide through the Humanities Iowa Speakers Bureau.

Following her father’s passing in 2019, Maulsby stepped into a leadership role on her family’s Century Farm, navigating its generational transition and advancing conservation efforts in partnership with NRCS and Iowa Learning Farms — a commitment that earned her the 2023 Conservation Woman of the Year Award. An Iowa State alumna with degrees in journalism, history and marketing, she remains deeply involved in community leadership and serves on several local boards.

Natalie Paino – Bremer County

Entrepreneur, dairy farmer



Natalie Paino

and mother of two, Natalie Paino brings innovation and passion to both her family’s White Gold Dairy and her value-added business, Hightail Delivery. With a bold vision for diversification, she built a “micro-dairy” that repurposes shipping containers into ice cream and cheese production facilities — an effort supported by grants and a commitment to sustainable, local food systems.

Paino leads on-farm conservation through rotational grazing, no-till practices and intensive manure management, ensuring both environmental and economic resilience. She is also dedicated to mentoring young employees, sharing her story widely and empowering other women in agriculture.

An Iowa State agricultural business graduate, Paino remains actively involved in ISU’s Cultivate U and entrepreneurship programs. When she’s not in the barn or creamery, Paino participates in her church and supports her local Lutheran school.

Loretta Reimers – Crawford County

Loretta Reimers of Schleswig is a skilled farm manager, com-



Loretta Reimers

munity leader and lifelong learner whose practical insight has made her a trusted voice in Crawford County agriculture. Working closely with her son and farm tenants, she conducts annual reviews of farm performance, identifies opportunities for improvement and strengthens both profitability and long-term stewardship.

Reimers is widely respected for her financial expertise and negotiation skills, helping landowners secure fair contracts with green-energy developers and encouraging women in agriculture to understand the true value of their land. As a dedicated participant in ISU Extension and Outreach programs, she is known for her thoughtful questions and generous mentorship.

Beyond farm management, Reimers enriches her community through music by playing in her church’s German band and through years of service rooted in curiosity, commitment and hands-on experience.

For more information about the Women in Ag program, contact Madeline Schultz at schultz@iastate.edu or Lisa Scarbrough at lscarb@iastate.edu.

Registration Open for 2026-2027 SowBridge Educational Series

BY SHERRY HOYER
ISU EXTENSION AND
OUTREACH OFFICE

AMES — SowBridge, the distance educational series for those who work with sows, boars, and piglets and with genetic and reproductive issues, begins its next program year in early February 2026, and registration is now underway. The series is provided online through Zoom, and each session is recorded for later viewing.

Suggestions from participants guide the selection of future topics and speakers, and the opportunity for interaction with session speakers remains unchanged. SowBridge provides all participants with the opportunity to hear directly from experts and to contact those experts following the individual sessions.

Sessions generally are held on the first Wednesday of the month and run from 11:15 a.m. to about 12:15 p.m. Central time. The fifth session is moved up one week to May 27 to



Photo courtesy: ISU Extension and Outreach Office

avoid conflicts with the World Pork Expo.

During each session, participants can ask questions to industry expert presenter from the comfort of their home, office or swine unit. Each registration provides access to one Zoom connection per session and all program materials provided by presenters.

The cost is \$200 for the first registration and half that amount for each subsequent registration from the same entity.

Registration is due Jan. 15, 2026, to ensure partic-

ipants have access to materials for the first session on Feb. 4. A flyer with information and registration form is available on the Iowa Pork Industry Center website.

The 2026-2027 program session dates and topics are as follows.

- Feb. 4 – The role of specialized people in reducing sow mortality
- March 4 – New World Screwworm – What to look for
- April 1 – Managing large litters
- May 6 – When to pro-

cess piglets in relation to survival

- May 27 – Gilt feeding strategies to enhance longevity and productivity
- July 1 – Water quality, biofilms and water line management
- Aug. 5 – What are cull sow buyers looking for?
- Sept 2 – On-farm semen management – tips and tricks
- Oct. 7 – What’s the latest porcine reproductive and respiratory syndrome research?
- Nov. 4 – Fixed-time artificial insemination in gilts
- Dec. 2 – Satisfaction and stress factors on barn employees
- Jan. 6, 2027 – Anemia: impact on sow removal

For more information on the sessions or registration, contact Sherry Hoyer by phone at 515-294-4496 or email shoyer@iastate.edu.

SowBridge is provided through a cooperative effort of 13 colleges and universities from the nation’s major swine-producing states.

2026 Confinement Site Manure Applicator Training Scheduled in Franklin County

PRESS RELEASE

Confinement site manure applicators should plan to attend a two-hour workshop offered by Iowa State University Extension and Outreach and the Iowa Department of Natural Resources to maintain or renew their confinement site manure applicator certification. The Franklin County workshop will be offered on Tuesday, February 3, 2026, at 1:30 p.m. at the Franklin County Fairgrounds in the 4-H Foodstand, 1008 Central Ave W, Hampton, IA. Pre-registration is required. Please email Traci Kloetzer at tkloetze@iastate.edu or call 641-456-4811, Ext. 1, to register for this training.

“Iowa law requires confinement site manure applicators to attend two hours of continuing education each year of their three-year certification period or take and pass the exam once every three years,” said Dan Andersen, associate professor of agricultural and biosystems engineering, extension agriculture engineering specialist at ISU and coordinator of the manure applicator certification program. “If applicators fail to attend the two hours of continuing education each year, they will be required to pass a written exam to be eligible to recertify.”

Each year, nearly 300 confinement site applicators fail to attend training and must pass the remedial exam prior to being eligible to renew their certification for the following year.

The workshop serves as initial certification for those applicators not currently certified, recertification for those renewing licenses, and as continuing education for those applicators in the second or third year of their license.

The 2026 confinement site program will include rules for applicators, as well as land-application and setback distance requirements, a nitrogen guessing game in manure, the power of manure timing and cover crop cost share.

Operators must be certified to handle, transport and apply manure if the confinement livestock operation has more than a 500-animal unit capacity, unless the manure is applied by a commercial manure applicator. The certification fee is \$100 for a three-year certificate. This fee is paid when applicators initially get certified and then every three years thereafter when they recertify to apply manure.

Confinement site applicators are also required to pay an annual education fee of \$25. All fees and application forms must be sent to the Iowa Department of Natural Resources to complete certification requirements.

ISU Extension and Outreach will charge a \$10 fee to applicators choosing to view the certification materials on a non-scheduled reshew day at the county office. For this reason, all applicators are encouraged to attend the workshops or to plan to view training materials on the scheduled reshew date at their local county extension office. This fee will not apply to workshops or scheduled reshew dates. Contact the county extension office to determine which days are scheduled for the manure applicator certification programs.

Another option for commercial manure applicators is to take their training online at the Iowa DNR MAC Workday site at www.IowaDNR.gov/MAC, (see “Manure Applicators Certification” > “Certification” > “Online”). Applicators will need to sign in to <https://wd5.myworkday.com/wday/vps/wday/calypso/bootstrap/eex/requestuserbootstrap/stateofIowa/63ce1bdbl691001741f0548ab3c0000> to register for a Workday account.

Applicators are encouraged to complete their certification requirements annually prior to March 1 to meet certification deadlines and avoid being assessed a \$12.50 late fee for re-certification.

For more information about meeting dates and locations, or to schedule an appointment to attend training, contact Traci Kloetzer, Office Manager at the ISU Extension and Outreach – Franklin County Office at 641-456-4811, Ext. 1, or visit the Confinement Site Applicators web page at <https://www.extension.iastate.edu/immag/confinement-site-applicators> to see the 2026 workshop schedule.

Virtual Field Day to Compare Greenhouse Gas Emissions of Feedstocks for Bioenergy Production

BY ELIZABETH RIPLEY
ISU EXTENSION AND
OUTREACH OFFICE

AMES – Iowa Learning Farms, in partnership with C-CHANGE: Grass2Gas, will host a virtual field day on Thursday, Jan. 22, at 1 p.m. Central time. The event, which is available at no cost, will feature a live discussion with Hyonji Song, postdoctoral research associate in the Department of Agronomy at Iowa State University.

Grass2Gas is examining the production of renewable natural gas and related bioproducts through the anaerobic digestion of plant biomass and manure. To help determine the environmental impact of the system, the team is comparing greenhouse gas emissions produced by different plant biomass feedstocks that are being considered and utilized in bioenergy production.

“Nitrous oxide is one of the major greenhouse gases, and agriculture ac-



Photo courtesy: ISU Extension and Outreach Office

counts for 50% of nitrous oxide emissions, mainly through fertilizer applications,” said Song. “Cropping system emissions of nitrous oxide is an important factor in calculating the carbon intensity of biofuels. Our core hypothesis is that adding nitrogen fertilizer to prairie to increase its biomass production as a bioenergy feedstock will not increase nitrous oxide emissions.”

Any person interested in bioenergy production systems is welcome to attend the virtual field day. Partic-

ipants are also encouraged to bring any questions they would like to ask.

To participate in the live virtual field day, visit Iowa Learning Farms Field Days - Grass2Gas - Comparing Greenhouse Gas Emissions of Feedstocks for Bioenergy Production or join from a dial-in phone line (dial 646-876-9923 or 646-931-3860, with meeting ID 914 1198 4892). The field day will be recorded and archived on the ILF Virtual Field Day Archive for future viewing.

Participants may be el-

igible for a Certified Crop Adviser board-approved continuing education unit. Information about how to apply for and receive the CEU will be provided at the end of the event.

About Iowa Learning Farms

Established in 2004, Iowa Learning Farms is building a Culture of Conservation by encouraging adoption of conservation practices. Farmers, researchers and ILF team members are working together to identify and implement the best management practices that improve water quality and soil health while remaining profitable. Partners of Iowa Learning Farms include the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, Iowa State University Extension and Outreach, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, and Iowa Department of Natural Resources, EPA Section 319 Grant Program, Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture and GROW-MARK Inc.

NEWS

Library and Theatre Host Book-Movie Challenge

The Friends of the Hampton Public Library and the Windsor Theatre teamed up for a special book-movie challenge this winter. Community members were encouraged to read “The Housemaid,” before watching it at the theatre on Sunday, Jan. 4. Check out some photos from that day.



From left to right, Becky Palmer, Joslyn Stock, Jim Davies, Dick Paulsen, Carol Sensor, Suzy Knipfel and Liz Carr after the Jan. 4 showing of “The Housemaid” at the Windsor Theatre.



Seventy one people attended the movie on Jan. 4.



A total of 147 people stopped by to see the movie last weekend.



Sharon Paulsen, Dick Paulsen and Jim Davies selling tickets on Jan. 4.

BAPTIST
Faith Baptist
Lead Pastor: Robert Anderstrom
 Address: 1701 Central Ave E., PO Box 515, Hampton, IA 50441
 Telephone: 641-456-4887
 Website: faith-hampton.com
 Facebook: FBC-Hampton
 • Wednesday, January 7th, 8:30 a.m. Men's Prayer
 • Sunday, January 11, 9:30 a.m. Worship Service; 10:45 a.m. Youth Sunday School; 11 a.m. Sunday School Class
 • Tuesday, January 13, 9:30 a.m. Women's Prayer
 • Wednesday, January 14, 8:30 a.m. Men's Prayer

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

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

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

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

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

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

Zion St. John Lutheran Sheffield
 422 Sherman St, Sheffield, IA 50475
 • Wednesday, January 7, 8:30 a.m. ZSJ Quilters; 2:45 p.m. **JAM**
 • Thursday, January 8, 2 p.m. West Fork Food Pantry
 • Sunday, January 11, 9 a.m. Worship Service; 10:15 a.m. Fellowship & Sunday School; 10:30 a.m. WELCA; 2 p.m. **Youth Bowling Party**
 • Wednesday, January 14, 8:30 a.m. ZSJ Quilters; 5:15 p.m. 7-8th Confirmation Class; 6:15 p.m. ZSJ Handbell Rehearsal; 7:15 p.m. ZSJ Chancel Choir Rehearsal

St. Paul's Lutheran
 304 W Main, Latimer
Reverend Joel Peter Wagner
 • Sunday, January 11, 9 a.m. Divine Service

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

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

Trinity Lutheran Church
 16 12th Ave. NE, Hampton
 www.trinityhampton.com
Vicar - Tyler Linneman, Rev. Karl C. Bollhagen, Pastor
 • Sunday, January 11, 8:30 a.m. Worship Service with Holy Communion; 9:45 a.m. Sunday School & Adult Bible Study
 • Sunday Radio Broadcasts: 7:30 a.m. Lutheran Hour on KLMJ, 104.9 FM; 10:15 a.m. Radio Worship Broadcast on KLMJ, 104.9 FM

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

First Lutheran Church - Dows
 206 W Ellsworth St, Dows
 • Sunday, January 11, 10 a.m. Worship Service

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

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

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

Hampton United Methodist
 100 Central Ave. E, Hampton
Pastor Dennis Burns
 • Wednesday, January 7, 5:30 p.m. Wacky Wednesday & Confirmation Class
 • Thursday, January 8, 9:30 a.m. BeFriends; 10:30 a.m. **Chapel at Franklin General**
 • Saturday, January 10, 9 a.m. - 10 a.m. **Cans/Bottles Redemption**; 9 a.m. **Men's Fellowship Breakfast**; 5 p.m. Worship Service
 • Sunday, January 11, 9:30 a.m. Adults Bible Study; 11 a.m. Worship Service; 11:30 a.m. Radio Broadcast on KLMJ, 104.9 FM; 12 p.m. Fellowship; 12:30 p.m. Facebook Broadcast
 • Monday, January 12, 1:30 p.m. God's FLOCK
 • Tuesday, January 13, 1:30 p.m. Faithful Stitches

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

REFORMED
Dumont Reformed
 912 Third St., Dumont
Pastor Chris Meester
 •Sundays, 9 a.m. Sunday School; 10 a.m. Worship (nursery care provided each week)
 • First Monday of the month, 1 p.m. Reformed Church Women (RCW)
 • Wednesdays, 7 p.m. RCYF

(High School youth group from 8-12 grade)
 • All times and schedules are subject to change due to pandemic. You can join us online Youtube and Facebook: **Dumont Reformed Church**, website: dumontreformed.com, and Dumont Cable 1000

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

Zion Reformed Church
 2029 Jonquil Ave., Sheffield
Rev. Petri van Rooyen, Pastor
 Office Hours: M,W, Th: 8-Noon * Bad Weather KLMJ*
 • Wednesday, December 24, 6 p.m. **Candlelight Service**
 • Wednesday, January 7, 7 p.m. RCYF
 • Sunday, January 11, 9:15 a.m. Worship Service; 10:30 a.m. Sunday School; 7 p.m. **JOY Circle**
 • Monday, January 12, 1:30 p.m. **Vesper Circle**
 • Wednesday, January 14, 7 p.m. RCYF

Hampton Seventh Day Adventist Church
 605 4th St. NE, Hampton
Pastor Steven Shafer
 Phone: 641-424-3055
 Email: SDAHampton1A@gmail.com
 • Sunday, 9:15 a.m. Sunday School; 10:30 a.m. Worship Service with Communion

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

First Congregational U.C.C.
 22 First Ave. SW, Hampton
 (641) 456-2192
Pastor Karen Koenig and Pastor Peggy Allison
 • Wednesday, January 7, **Pastor Peggy will provide worship at Leahy Grove Assisted Living**
 • Sunday, January 11, 9:15 a.m. Sunday School; 10:30 a.m. Sunday Worship Service; 11:30 a.m. **Coffee Fellowship**

Immanuel U.C.C.
 204 E. South St., Latimer
Pastor Joe Dunnwald
 • Sunday, January 11, 9:30 a.m. Sunday School; 10:30 a.m. Worship Service

St. Peter's United Church Of Christ - Geneva
 496 Raven Ave # B, Geneva, IA 50633
 • Sunday, January 11, 9:30 a.m. Worship Service & Baptism with Reverend John Hanna

In loving memory of Anita Mason 1933-2025



Anita Mason, 92, formerly of Aredale/Dumont, passed away on Wednesday, December 31, 2025, at Franklin Country View in Hampton. A graveside service will be held at 11:30 a.m. on Saturday, January 24, 2026, at the Harlan Cemetery in rural Dumont, Iowa. Funeral arrangements are under the guidance of the Sietsema-Atkinson Funeral Home in Hampton.

Anita was born on March 5, 1933 to Richard and Edna (Parker) Arends. She attended school in Hampton. Anita married Dwayne Mason, January 25, 1951. They were married nearly 74 years! You would never see them without each other.

Anita and Dwayne lived in the country outside of Aredale. She was a farm wife busy raising her five children. After Dwayne retired they moved into Aredale. Anita was on the town council for many years. You would see them making the loop around the big town. They enjoyed fishing and going to surrounding farm and flower auctions. They enjoyed anyone stopping over for a visit. The grandkids always knew the cookie jar was full. Forty years later they moved to Dumont until moving into Country View in the fall of 2024. Anita enjoyed dancing and would grab anyone nearby to dance along with her.

Anita is survived by her 5 children. Tim (Cora) Mason, Patty Havig, Greg (Kay) Mason, Kevin Mason, Kirk Mason. Sisters Loretta Morgan, Janice Krull, brothers Richard Arends, Terry (Linda) Arends, Roger (Steffi) Arends. Anita had 12 grandchildren, 21 great-grandchildren, 8 great-great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her loving husband Dwayne Mason, parents Richard and Edna Arends and step-father Chris Muhlenhaupt, sister Nadine Gram, sister-in-law Sharon Arends and brothers-in-law Neale Freese, Raymond Gram, Arthur Morgan, Eugene Evland, Roger Krull, son-in-law Kenny Havig, grandsons Bryan Walsh and Chad Mason.

Death Notices

Anna Boylan

Anna Boylan, 83, of Hampton, passed away on Monday, January 5, 2026, at Franklin Country View in Hampton. Funeral services will be 11 a.m. on Thursday, January 8, 2026, at St. Patrick Catholic Church in Hampton with burial in the Hampton Cemetery. Visitation will be from 9:30 a.m. until 10:30 a.m. before the service. Funeral arrangements are under the guidance of the Sietsema-Atkinson Funeral Home in Hampton.

Janet Siems

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

Viola Harken

Viola Jane (Williams) Harken, age 95, of Ackley, Iowa, celebrated New Year's Eve fireworks in Heaven. Funeral services will be 10:30 a.m. on Monday, March 23, 2026, at the First Presbyterian Church in Ackley with burial in the West Friesland Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, memorials can be directed to the First Presbyterian Church or the Village of Ackley Foundation. Funeral arrangements are under the guidance of the Sietsema Funeral Home in Ackley.

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Offering Warmth in the Wintertime

“But how can one keep warm alone?”
 Ecclesiastes 4:11 (NIV)

As we endure the cold months of winter, it can be helpful to reflect on the individuals who may be lacking, or seeking out warmth. We are called upon to guide those in our lives to warmth, both physically and spiritually, when we can. Recent statistics display that roughly 5 million Americans did not have functional heating equipment in their homes (U.S. EIA). Further, “winter pattern” Seasonal Affective Disorder is the most common type of the disorder, affecting 5% of American adults (American Psychiatric Association). Considering this, we can offer our help to this issue in a variety of ways this winter. Specifically, we can find fulfillment in charitable acts, especially when we notice someone may be struggling. If we know someone who is encountering personal issues, even a brief discussion about these matters can assist them on the path to spiritual enrichment. While these months may be particularly frigid, we can help in bringing about warmth through attention to those lacking it, or our own acts of charity.
 -James Stone

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FROM THE LOG

Franklin County

Traffic: Anthony Paul, of Rockwell, person under 21 using tobacco/vapor product 1;

Luis Alberto Ramirez Mendez, of Des Moines, speeding and failure to maintain or use safety belts;

Ashley Jean Schroeder, of Popejoy, failure to reduce speed; Keith Rifeek Moore, of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, no valid driver's license, failure to provide proof of financial liability, and failure to maintain control;

Cody Lee Craighton, of State Center, ATV – registration and numbering required;

Caleb Isaac Hoyle, of Sheffield, speeding;

Jordan Patrick Day, of Edina, Minnesota, speeding;

Alex Lloyd Schleuger, of Britt, failure to maintain or use safety belts;

Civil: Onemain Financial Group LLC versus Rhonda Njus Travers, Michael John Travers, order for judgment, \$14,830.56 fine;

OWI: Tomas Cavazos, of Hampton, order for arraignment; arraignment, January 26, 2026, 9:30 a.m.;

Kirk E Gunderson, of Hampton, criminal complaint and hearing for initial appearance; Lehthoo Samuelaye, of Saint Paul, Minnesota, criminal complaint;

Small Claims: Midland Credit Management INC, of West Des Moines, versus Maureen Burmester, of Hampton, original notice;

Quad Corporation INC, of Davenport, versus Drew Edwin Norem, of Hampton, original notice;

Criminal: Nicholas Franklin Passehl, of Fort Dodge, order of arraignment; order setting trial, March 12, 2026, 9 a.m.;

Angela Jill Knight, of Hampton, order for arraignment; arraignment, January 12, 2026, 8:45 a.m.;

Ashton Ray Piersol, of Eldora, order for arraignment; arraignment, January 5, 2026, 9 a.m.;

Shane Eugene Muller, of Hampton, order for arraignment; arraignment, January 26, 2026, 8:45 a.m.;

Emley Lou Jordan, of Ogilvie, Minnesota, order of arraignment; order setting trial, March 12, 2026, 9 a.m.;

Abigail Suzanne Strickler, of Hampton, criminal complaint, hearing for initial appearance, and no contact order;

Ashton Ray Piersol, of Eldora, search warrant;

Madison Rodgers, of Hampton, search warrant;

Madison Rogers, of Hampton, search warrant

Police &

Sheriff report
12-29 to 1-4

Hampton Police Reports

Monday, December 29:

• Officers assisted one motorist.

• 3:24 a.m.: Report of a parking ordinance violation in the 200

block of 18th Ave NE, Hampton.

• 3:25 a.m.: Report of a parking ordinance violation in the 100 block of 3rd St. NW, Hampton.

• 3:27 a.m.: Report of a parking ordinance violation in the 600 block of 1st Ave NW, Hampton.

• 3:27 a.m.: Report of a parking ordinance violation in the 1100 block of N Federal St. , Hampton.

• 3:28 a.m.: Report of a parking ordinance violation in the 300 block of 10th PL NW, Hampton.

• 3:30 a.m.: Report of a parking ordinance violation in the 300 block of 10th PL NW, Hampton.

• 3:31 a.m.: Report of a parking ordinance violation in the 1000 block of 3rd St. NW, Hampton.

• 3:32 a.m.: Report of a parking ordinance violation in the 400 block of 2nd St. NE, Hampton.

• 3:33 a.m.: Report of a parking ordinance violation in the 600 block of 3rd St. NE, Hampton.

• 3:35 a.m.: Report of a parking ordinance violation in the 700 block of 3rd St. NE, Hampton.

• 3:36 a.m.: Report of a parking ordinance violation in the 700 block of 1st Ave NE, Hampton.

• 3:38 a.m.: Report of a parking ordinance violation in the 100 block of 3rd St. NW, Hampton.

• 3:39 a.m.: Report of a parking ordinance violation in the 300 block of 2nd St. NW, Hampton.

• 3:41 a.m.: Report of a parking ordinance violation in the 800 block of 3rd Ave SE, Hampton.

• 3:42 a.m.: Report of a parking ordinance violation in the 500 block of 10th St. SE, Hampton.

• 3:44 a.m.: Report of a parking ordinance violation in the 100 block of 6th St. SE, Hampton.

• 3:45 a.m.: Report of a parking ordinance violation in the 100 block of 6th St. SE, Hampton.

• 3:46 a.m.: Report of a parking ordinance violation in the 500 block of 1st Ave SE, Hampton.

• 3:47 a.m.: Report of a parking ordinance violation in the 10 block of 5th St. SE, Hampton.

• 3:48 a.m.: Report of a parking ordinance violation in the 100 block of 5th St. SE, Hampton.

• 3:49 a.m.: Report of a parking ordinance violation in the 100 block of 5th St. SE, Hampton.

• 3:50 a.m.: Report of a parking ordinance violation in the 300 block of 5th St. SE, Hampton.

• 3:59 a.m.: Report of a parking ordinance violation in the 300 block of 5th St. SE, Hampton.

• 4:01 a.m.: Report of a parking ordinance violation in the 200 block of 2nd Ave SE, Hampton.

• 4:03 a.m.: Report of a parking ordinance violation in the 200 block of 2nd Ave SE, Hampton.

• 4:06 a.m.: Report of a parking ordinance violation in the 100 block of 2nd St. SE, Hampton.

• 4:11 a.m.: Report of a parking ordinance violation in the 10 block of 1st Ave SE, Hampton.

• 4:18 a.m.: Report of a parking ordinance violation in the 300 block of S Federal St. , Hampton.

• 4:19 a.m.: Report of a parking ordinance violation in the 400 block of S Federal St. , Hampton.

• 4:20 a.m.: Report of a parking ordinance violation in the 100 block of 1st St. SW, Hampton.

• 4:22 a.m.: Report of a parking ordinance violation in the 600 block of 1st Ave SW, Hampton.

• 4:27 a.m.: Report of a parking ordinance violation in the 700 block of 7th St. SW, Hampton.

• 4:29 a.m.: Report of a parking ordinance violation in the 100 block of 1st St. NE, Hampton.

• 11:33 a.m.: Report of located property in the area of the Senior Center, Hampton.

• 4:12 p.m.: Report of animals (except dogs) in the 800 block of 1st Ave NW, Hampton.

• 7:58 p.m.: Report of a domestic matter in the 100 block of 6th St. NW, Hampton.

• 9:48 p.m.: Report of a family dispute in the 100 block of 4th St. SE, Hampton.

Tuesday, December 30:

• Officers executed one traffic stop, assisted with two medical calls, and received three general calls.

• 8:52 a.m.: Officers conducted a welfare check in the 500 block of Central Ave W, Hampton.

• 9:40 a.m.: Report of found articles in the 10 block of 3rd St. SW, Hampton.

• 10:32 a.m.: Officers conducted a welfare check in the 100 block of 1st Ave SW, Hampton.

• 11:16 a.m.: Report of fraud in the area of the Hampton Post Office, Hampton.

• 5:56 p.m.: Report of property exchange in the 10 block of 2nd St. NW, Hampton.

• 9:53 p.m.: Report of a suspicious person in the 20 block of 18th Ave NE, Hampton.

• 10:17 p.m.: Officers responded to an alarm in the 1700 block of Central Ave E, Hampton.

Wednesday, December 31:

• Officers assisted with one medical call and received six general calls.

• 9:20 a.m.: Report of harassment in the 10 block of 2nd St. NW, Hampton.

• 12:45 p.m.: Report of fraud in the 100 block of 3rd St. NW, Hampton.

• 2:16 p.m.: Report of burglary in the 1300 block of N Federal St. , Hampton.

• 5:26 p.m.: Report of an accident with property damage in the 400 block of Central Ave E, Hampton.

• 5:44 p.m.: Report of suspicious noise/fireworks in the 200 block of 1st St. SW, Hampton.

• 9:56 p.m.: Report of traffic complaints in the area of Hwy 57 northbound and Hwy 65, Hampton.

• 10:30 p.m.: Officers assisted with booking information in the 100 block of 5th St. SW, Hampton.

Thursday, January 1:

• Officers executed one traffic stop and received one general call.

• 1:22 a.m.: Report of neighborhood complaints in the area of the Coonley building, Hampton.

• 3:35 a.m.: Report of disturbance in the area of the Lantern Park Apartments, Hampton.

• 5:02 a.m.: Report of a suspicious person in the 00 block of 2nd Ave NE, Hampton.

• 5:30 a.m.: Officers assisted with booking information in the 100 block of 5th St. SW, Hampton.

• 5:55 a.m.: Report of false 911 calls in the 00 block of 6th St. NW, Hampton.

• 12:03 p.m.: Report of fraud in the 600 block of 3rd St. NE, Hampton.

• 12:33 p.m.: Report of found articles in the 10 block of 2nd St. NW, Hampton.

• 8:25 p.m.: Report of neighborhood complaints in the 200 block of 4th Ave Dr NE, Hampton.

Friday, January 2:

• Officers assisted with one medical call and received two general calls.

• 3:09 a.m.: Report of a parking ordinance violation in the 200 block of 1st St. NW, Hampton.

• 9:10 a.m.: Officers responded to an alarm in the 100 block of 2nd Ave SW, Hampton.

• 10:26 a.m.: Officers conducted a welfare check in the 200 block of 3rd Ave NW, Hampton.

• 12:11 p.m.: Report of animals (except dogs) in the 900 block of 2nd Ave SE, Hampton.

• 1:34 p.m.: Report of fraud in the 1200 block of 3rd St. NW, Hampton.

• 3:24 p.m.: Officers assisted with traffic control services in the 10 block of 2nd St. NW, Hampton.

• 10:57 p.m.: Report of a family dispute in the 200 block of 5th St. NW, Hampton.

• Saturday, January 3:
• Officers assisted with one medical call.

• 11:02 a.m.: Report of animals (except dogs) in the 800 block of 1st Ave NW, Hampton.

• 9:35 p.m.: Report of an attempted breaking and entering issue in the 1300 block of N Federal St. , Hampton.

Sunday, January 4:

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

• 3:49 p.m.: Report of false 911 calls in the 700 block of 2nd St. SE, Hampton.

• 6:31 p.m.: Report of a no contact order violation in the 100 block of 4th St. SE, Hampton.

• 7:48 p.m.: Officers assisted with traffic control in the 1700 block of Central Ave E, Hampton.

Franklin County Sheriff Reports

Monday, December 29:

• No information received for this day.

Tuesday, December 30:

• Officers executed two traffic stops, assisted with one medical call, received a report for one controlled burn, and received two general calls.

• 10:02 a.m.: Officers assisted other agencies with an issue in the 200 block of State St. , Thornton.

• 11:29 a.m.: Report of juveniles in the 700 block of Front St. , Geneva.

• 12:46 p.m.: Report of debris on roadway/right of way in the 2100 block of Mallard Ave, Sheffield.

• 1:53 p.m.: Report of fraud in the 100 block of 5th St. SW, Hampton.

• 3:47 p.m.: Report of a dispatch call in an unlisted area, Cerro Gordo.

• 3:56 p.m.: Report of missing property in the 200 block of North St. , Latimer.

• 5:30 p.m.: Report of debris on roadway/right of way in the area of Hwy 65 and 95th St. northbound, Hampton.

• 6:52 p.m.: Report of false 911 calls in the 400 block of Hardin Road, Alden.

Wednesday, December 31:

• Officers executed five traffic stops, assisted one motorist, and received one general call.

• 12:21 a.m.: Report of traffic complaints in the area of I-35 and mile mark 156 northbound, Dows.

• 4:39 a.m.: Report of traffic complaints in the area of I-35 and mile mark 155 southbound, Dows.

• 7:23 a.m.: Report of civil disputes in the area of N Donovan St. , Latimer.

• 8:45 a.m.: Report of a disabled vehicle in the area of Quail Ave and 105th St. , Geneva.

• 10:48 a.m.: Report of debris on roadway/right of way in the area of 1st St. NW, Hampton.

• 1:13 p.m.: Report of an accident with personal injury in the

area of I-35 south and mile mark 172, Alexander.

• 1:29 p.m.: Report of a domestic matter in the area of Faulkner Lane, Faulkner.

• 4:01 p.m.: Officers executed other warrants in the area of Walnut St. , Bradford.

• 5:10 p.m.: Report of traffic complaints in the area of I-35 and mile mark 165 southbound, Latimer.

• 6:09 p.m.: Report of false 911 calls in the area of Indigo Ave, Latimer.

• 8:01 p.m.: Officers conducted a welfare check in the area of I-35 and mile mark 165 southbound, Latimer.

• 9:53 p.m.: Report of traffic complaints in the area of Hwy 65 and Hwy 57, Iowa Falls.

Thursday, January 1:

• Officers executed 12 traffic stops, assisted one motorist, received a report for one controlled burn, and received two general calls.

• 1:14 a.m.: Report of an operating while intoxicated issue in the area of Hwy 3 and Raven Ave, Hampton.

• 3:41 a.m.: Officers assisted the Hampton Police Department with an issue in an unlisted area, Hampton.

• 9:42 a.m.: Officers assisted other agencies with an issue in the area of Wright County, Dows.

• 1:09 p.m.: Officers assisted with prisoner transport in the area of 14th Ave, Eldora.

• 2:50 p.m.: Report of property exchange in the area of 110th St. , Dows.

• 5:37 p.m.: Report of dog calls in the area of 175th St. and Thrush Ave, Hansell.

• 7:22 p.m.: Officers conducted a welfare check in the area of Lark Ave, Iowa Falls.

Friday, January 2:

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

• 10:10 a.m.: Report of fraud in the 300 block of S Akir St. , Latimer.

• 2:52 p.m.: Report of dog calls in the 2200 block of Mallard Ave, Sheffield.

• 3:33 p.m.: Report of traffic complaints in the area of I-35 southbound and mile mark 156, Dows.

• 5:48 p.m.: Report of false 911 calls in the area of the tower location, Franklin.

• 9:01 p.m.: Report of a disabled vehicle in the area of Quail Ave and S 140th St. , Hampton.

Saturday, January 3:

• No information received for this day.

Sunday, January 4:

• No information received for this day.

PROPERTY TRANSFERS

CT Officer Deed: Brenda K Mann Estate, Dawn D Bowles Executor to J T Farm Corporation; 10-91-21 S2 NW, 15-91-21 NW NW Part, 15-91-21 SE NW Part, 15-91-21 SW NW

Warranty Deed: Murrel Edward Symens, Rosalyn J Symens, Brent Symens, Mary Jane Symens to Kirby Koch, Carolyn Koch; Hamp Pkrdg Lot 10

Quit Claim Deed: Daniela Zavala to Raquel Garcia Hernandez, Raquel Hernandez Garcia; Hamp Kingm Blk 21 Lot 7 Part

Warranty Deed: Steven J Diemer, Rhonda Diemer to Steven J Diemer Revocable Trust; 30-91-19 NW Part, 30-91-19 W2 NE Part, 5-90-19 NW Parts, Gene Geneva South Side Addition Blk 2 Lot 3-5, Gene Geneva South Side Addition Outlot 4 Part

Warranty Deed: Marcia A Zimmer to Denise R Green, Steven J Diemer, Mark A Diemer; Gene Geneva South Side Addition Blk 2 Lot 3-5 Part, Gene Geneva South Side Addition Outlot 4 Part

Warranty Deed: Crowe Farms LLC to 64 Venice Circle LLC; 22-92-22 W2 SW

Warranty Deed: Jane Dohrmann, Donald Anderson to Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation; 23-93-20 N2 SW Parcel 2025 49

Warranty Deed: Thomas W Dohrmann, Nayantara Mukerji to Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation; 23-93-20 N2 SW Parcel 2025 49

Warranty Deed: Ann L Dohrmann, Matthew Maruggi to Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation; 23-93-20 N2 SW Parcel 2025 49

Warranty Deed: IAT 41 LLC

to Old Grove Investments LLC; 28-92-21 NE SE Tract Part

Warranty Deed: Christine Blome Trustee, Julie Marie Grundberg Trust to Joshua Douglas Schreck, Jennifer Lucille Schreck; 8-91-21 SW NW, 8-91-21 N2 NW Part

Warranty Deed: Haverkamp Farms LC to Paul Wilken Trustee, Wayne L Wilken Living Trust; 6-90-22 NE Part, 5-90-22 NW NW, 31-91-22 S2 NW SE, 31-91-22 SW SE Part, 31-91-22 NE NW SE Part, 6-90-22 NE SE Parcel, 6-90-22 NE SE Part, 5-90-22 S2 NW Parcel

Warranty Deed: Terrasanta LLC to Latimer Development Corporation; Lati Latimer Clock's 1st Blk 3 Lot 7 Part

Warranty Deed: Jane Dohrmann Trustee, William B Dohrmann Revocable Trust to Bradley K Vanhorn, Brenda D Vanhorn, Vanhorn Farms LLC;

23-93-20 SW Parcel 2025 51

Warranty Deed: Guido Gutierrez Vidal, Guido Vidal Gutierrez, Guido Gutierrez Vidal, Guido Vidal Gutierrez, Felicitas Arriaga Torres, Felicitas Torres Arriaga to Hampton Dumont Community School District; 34-92-20 NW SW NW Corner Tract

Warranty Deed: Dean Humke, Lisa Humke to Brenda Barnett, Blake Barnett; 34-90-19 NE NE Tract

Quit Claim Deed: Brian Wade to Caitlin Bakker; 35-90-19 N2 SE Part, 35-90-19 N2 SW SE Part

Quit Claim Deed: Francisco Abel Hernandez Hernandez, Francisco Abel Hernandez Jimenez to Zoraida Villa Magana, Zoraida Magana Villa, Villa Zoraida; Coul Coulter Original Town Blk 13 Lot 3-4

Quit Claim Deed: Zoraida

Villa Magana, Zoraida Magana Villa, Villa Zoraida to Francisco Abel Jimenez Hernandez, Francisco Abel Hernandez Jimenez; Hamp Kingm Blk 19 Lot 5-6 Part

Quit Claim Deed: Robert Anderstrom, Elaine Anderstrom to Robert D Anderstrom Revocable Trust, Elaine G Anderstrom Revocable Trust; Hamp Bella Lot 24, Hamp Bella Lot 25

Quit Claim Deed: Michael Steenson, Krista L Steenson to Krista L Steenson Revocable Trust, Michael L Steenson Revocable Trust; 18-91-22 E2 NW Part Undiv ¼ Int, 18-91-22 NE Part undiv ¼ Int, 18-91-22 SE Part Undiv ¼ Int, 18-91-22 E2 E2 SW Part Undiv ¼ Int

Warranty Deed: Maquoketa State Bank as Trustee, Kay L Meyer Revocable Trust to Melissa S Meyer, Jared E Meyer, Melissa S Moskowitz; 19-90-

22 S2 Part

Quit Claim Deed: Bryan Lewey to Rachel Lewey; 26-90-21 NE Parcel A & B

CT Officer Deed: Carolyn S Sandberg Estate, Howard B Sandberg Executor to Howard B Sandberg Trustee; 24-91-21 NE

Warranty Deed: Matthew Eberline, Michelle Eberline to Ryan Daniel Eklund, Kathryn Anne Eklund; 34-93-19 N2 SW Parcel A

Warranty Deed: Neuberger Brothers Farm LLC to Ronald D Neuberger; 25-90-19 NW NE

Warranty Deed: Neuberger Brothers Farm LLC to Ronald D Neuberger; 25-90-19 E2 SE NE

Completion Report DD 30 Lateral 30

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
DRAINAGE DISTRICT 30 LATERAL 30 FRANKLIN COUNTY, IOWA
COMPLETION REPORT ON TILE REPLACEMENT TO LATERAL 30
MONDAY, JANUARY 26, 2026 AT 10:00 AM**

TO: All landowners, lien holders or encumbrancers of any land within said Drainage District 30 Lateral 30, and to all other person who it may concern, including actual occupants of lands in said Drainage District 30 Lateral 30.

YOU AND EACH OF YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that a public hearing on the Completion Report on Tile Replacement to Lateral 30 for Drainage District 30 in Franklin County shall be held on **Monday January 26, 2026, at 10:00 A.M. at the Franklin County Law Enforcement Center, 105 5 th St SW, Hampton, IA 50441 .**

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that the Trustees of said drainage district acknowledged receipt of the Completion Report for Drainage District 30 Lateral 30 from Clapsaddle-Garber Associates on December 15, 2025.

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that the Trustees for said drainage district shall at the public hearing set for January 26, 2026, hear comments and objections to the Completion Report for Drainage District 30 Lateral 30, as may be presented by or for any landowner in the district.

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that a copy of the Completion Report on Repairs to Lateral 30, as listed below, are available in full at the Franklin County Auditor's Office, and the Drainage Engineer's Office, Clapsaddle-Garber Associates in Ackley, IA and all objections hereto must be filed in writing with the Auditor at or before the time set for said hearing. Failure to file written objections will result in a waiver of any objections you may have.

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that at the time of hearing, the Trustees of said drainage district shall determine all objections filed to said report and shall fully consider said report.

AND, Any interested party having a claim for damages arising out of the construction of the repairs shall file a claim with the Board or the Auditor's Office of their county at or before the time set for the hearing on the completion of the contract, which claim shall not include any claim for land taken for right-of-way or for severance of the land. You may obtain a Drainage Claim Form from the Franklin County Auditor's Office.

THIS NOTICE IS PUBLISHED AND MAILED AS PROVIDED BY LAW BY ORDER OF THE TRUSTEES FOR DRAINAGE DISTRICT 30 LATERAL 30 FRANKLIN COUNTY.

**COLETTE BRUNS
FRANKLIN COUNTY DRAINAGE ADMINISTRATOR**

Published in the Hampton Chronicle on January 7, 2026

Doris M. Wearda Estate

**THE IOWA DISTRICT COURT
FOR FRANKLIN COUNTY
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE
OF
Doris M. Wearda, Deceased
CASE NO. ESPR502081
NOTICE OF PROBATE OF WILL,
OF
APPOINTMENT OF EXECUTOR,
AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS**

hereafter 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 December 23, 2025.

Douglas Foell
1860 255th Street
Sheffield, IA 50475
Executor of Estate

G. A. Cady III, ICIS#: AT0001386
Attorney for Executor
Cady & Rosenberg Law Firm, P.L.C.
9 First Street SW
PO Box 456
Hampton, IA 50441

Published in the Hampton Chronicle on December 31, 2025, January 7, 2026

Election Notice: Drainage District #69

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

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

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

Election Notice: Drainage District #25

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

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

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

Election Notice: Drainage District #3-47

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

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

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

Election Notice: Drainage District #35 & 56

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

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

Mitch Meyer
Bruce Balvanz
Don Swieter
Trustees

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

Election Notice: Drainage District #24

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

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

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

Dumont Council Minutes/Claims 12.10.25

December 10, 2025

The Dumont City Council met on Wednesday, December 10, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. at the Dumont EMS Building with Mayor Mouw presiding. Those present were Council Members Marty Evens, Valerie Menken, Wayne Pecha, David Shear and Mary Tyrrell. Public Works Director Juan Montalvo was absent. Visitors present were Roy Alden, John Bierbrodt, Sydney Brosnahan, Mike and Lanette Day, Angie Freese, Carson Freese, Ryan Freese, Levi Schriber and Lukas Smith.

In time for public comment, Councilman Shear addressed the issues with our November election. The cemetery cameras were discussed. The City will establish a plan to install electricity this spring so the cameras can be utilized.

Tyrrell/Evens moved to approve the November 13, 2025 Council minutes as published. Roll call: Ayes-Evens, Menken, Pecha, Shear, Tyrrell; Nays-none; Motion carried.

A matter arose recently that requires attention regarding the alley approach between 712 Third St. and 720 Third St. The County Engineer has been contacted and will inspect this approach in the immediate future. The Council would like to invite our County Engineer to our January 8, 2026 meeting to discuss this alley and a few other details pertaining to our Main Street Project.

Shear/Pecha moved to continue with our current insurance plan at a 10.45% increase to our monthly premium making our cost \$1823.89/month, to leave the employee contribution at 5% and to eliminate the annual \$1750.00 HSA contribution which was instated at the time our deductibles were raised. Roll call: Ayes-Evens, Menken, Pecha, Shear, Nays-Tyrrell; Motion carried.

Shear/Tyrrell moved to approve Liquor License LG0000265 ownership update. Roll call: Ayes-Evens, Menken, Pecha, Shear, Tyrrell; Nays-none; Motion carried.

Shear/Pecha moved to approve Liquor License LC0049226 pending dram shop approval. Roll call: Ayes-Evens, Menken, Pecha, Shear, Tyrrell; Nays-none; Motion carried.

The Barkema Charitable Trust has graciously awarded Dumont the following:

- Fire Dept. - \$18,000 towards the purchase of grass fire and vehicle extraction bunker gear
 - Library-\$3500 towards two movie licenses, Wonderbooks and security cameras
 - Sewer Dept.-\$5000 towards a sewer flow meter.
- The Council would like to extend their deep gratitude for their generosity to the City of Dumont.

The Butler Co. Comm. Foundation has awarded Dumont the following:

- Fire Dept.-\$5000 towards portable collapsing tanks
- The Council would also like to thank the Butler Co. Comm. Foundation for their generosity. We truly appreciate it.

At this time, the Oath of Office was taken by newly elected Mayor Carson Freese, Councilman Michael Day and Councilman Lukas Smith.

Evens/Menken moved to approve the bills presented for this month. Roll call: Ayes-Evens, Menken, Pecha, Shear, Tyrrell; Nays-none. Motion carried. The bills are as follows:

GENERAL

Public Safety-Ambulance/Fire/Law Enforcement

Dumont Telephone Company	..... phone/internet	98.10
Kwik Trip, Inc.	..... fuel	110.61
Mid American Energy	..... utilities	106.07
Midwest Breathing Air, LLC	.....breathing air compressor test	620.56
U.S. Cellular unlimited data plan	43.79

Legal

Roberts, Stevens & Prendergastlegal fees-October	481.25
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Cemetery

Diane Gronewoldcontract mowing cemetery	1000.00
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Library

Access Systemsmaintenance contract	202.45
Debra J. Eisentragermileage to Greene	32.20
Demco, Inc.	..... book displays/date due slips	117.45
Dumont Telephone Company	..... phone/fax	36.50
IPERS	..... IPERS	438.89
Internal Revenue Service	.....Fed/FICA taxes	497.78
Mid American Energy	..... utilities	222.74
Farmhouse Style	..... one year magazine sponsorship	22.00
Reader's Digest	..... one year magazine sponsorship	32.10
Visa-Dumont Community Library	..... books	376.30
Wix Water Works	..... five-40 lb. bags of salt	49.50

City Hall/General

Butler-Grundy Dev. Alliance	..... FY'26 partner contribution	634.00
Column Software PBCEgals-minutes	11-13-25 and AFR Fy'25	369.20
gWorks	..... 2025 payroll forms	50.92
Dumont Telephone Company	..... phone/fax/internet	174.11
EMC Insurance Companies	.....adding 2007 International	475.00
IPERS	..... IPERS	302.52
Internal Revenue Service	.....Fed/FICA taxes	413.24
Mid American Energy	..... utilities	164.42
Wellmark insurance-payroll	478.38

Street Lights

MidAmerican Energyutilities	1125.33
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Recreation

Mid American Energy utilities	47.56
GENERAL FUND	8722.97
GENERAL FUND PAYROLL/11-2025	3804.28

TOTAL GENERAL	12527.25
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ROAD USE TAX

Airgas USA LLC cylinder rental	69.75
Auto Parts, Inc. quart of oil for snow plow	13.14
Bruening Rock	..... 15.09 ton 1" road rock	217.30
Butler Co. Engineer's Office	..... diesel fuel-Nov/Dec	414.65
gWorks	..... 2025 payroll forms	50.92
Dumont Harken Lumber, Inc.	..... plow truck repair	15.86
Hampton Hardware	..... safety hasp/quick link/anchor	26.59
Iowa Dept. of Transportation	2007 International dump truck	9000.00
Iowa Prison Industries	..... speed limit sign 20 mph	74.00
IPERS	..... IPERS	316.15
Internal Revenue Service	..... Fed/FICA taxes	438.25
Juan Montalvo	..... four welded plow pins	100.00
Kwik Trip Inc.	..... fuel	378.49
Mid American Energy	..... utilities	135.69
Napa Auto Parts Div of MPEC	..... chain links	11.98
Ott's Repair LLC	..... estimate to repair Ford plow truck	86.41
Wellmark	..... insurance-payroll	215.32
RUT FUND	.....	11564.50
RUT FUND PAYROLL/11-2025	.....	1541.49
.....	TOTAL RUT ...	13105.99

DEBT SERVICE

First Security Bank & Trust interest	2334.15
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WATER

Core & Main Main Street water box risers	929.82
gWorks 2025 payroll forms	50.92
Dumont Harken Lumber, Inc.	..... battery for back door	12.82
Gordon Flesch	..... Company, Inc.maintenance contract-printer	25.00
Hawkins, Inc.	..... chlorine/phosphate	823.07
Iowa One Call	..... locates 9-30-25	23.70
IPERS	..... IPERS	396.79
Internal Revenue Service	..... Fed/FICA taxes	569.73
Mid American Energy	..... utilities	79.11
PeopleService, Inc.	..... monthly service-December 2025	1030.37
Treasurer-State of Iowa	wet tax-October & November 2025	891.84
Wellmark	..... insurance-payroll	413.61

WATER FUND	.....	5246.78
WATER FUND PAYROLL/11-2025	.....	1904.61
TOTAL WATER FUND	.....	7151.39

SEWER

A & M Electric, Inc.	..... wire new motor for blower at lagoon	280.73
Auto Parts, Inc.	..... hose for lagoon	2.12
gWorks	..... 2025 payroll forms	50.92
Dumont Post Office	..... billing postage 11-30-25	170.19
Dumont Telephone Company	..... phone	38.35
IPERS	..... IPERS	364.76
Internal Revenue Service	..... Fed/FICA taxes	526.42
Microbac Laboratories, Inc.	..... wastewater analysis	609.50
Mid American Energy	..... utilities	856.55
MN-Iowa Electric Motors/Equip	backup motor for blowers at lagoon	1882.80
PeopleService, Inc.	..... monthly service-December 2025	1030.37
Wellmark	..... insurance-payroll	413.61
SEWER FUND	.....	6226.32
SEWER FUND PAYROLL/11-2025	.....	1745.45
TOTAL SEWER FUND	.....	7971.77

LANDFILL/GARBAGE

Butler Co. Solid Waste Comm	disposal fee-December 2025	2694.50
gWorks	..... 2025 payroll forms	50.91
IPERS	..... IPERS	110.34
Internal Revenue Service	..... Fed/FICA taxes	144.58
Jendro Sanitation Services	..... November 2025 collection	2330.54
Wellmark	..... insurance-payroll	130.42
LANDFILL/GARBAGE FUND	.....	5461.29
LANDFILL/GARBAGE PAYROLL/11-2025	.....	548.32
TOTAL LANDFILL/GARBAGE	.....	6009.61
TOTAL ACCOUNTS PAYABLE	.....	39556.01
PAYROLL-NOVEMBER 2025	.....	9544.15
TOTAL	.....	49100.16

DUMONT VOLUNTEER AMBULANCE-NOVEMBER 2025

Butler Co. Food Bank	..... donation from Halloween event	215.00
EXPENSES GRAND TOTAL	.....	49,315.16

October 2025 Revenue

General Fund	.....	80,841.46
Road Use Tax	.....	7,082.53
Local Option	.....	5,190.50
Employee Benefits	.....	10,066.34
Debt Service	.....	35,422.16
Water	.....	10,015.55
Sewer	.....	9,873.74
Landfill/Garbage	.....	6,337.01
Total	.....	164,829.29

Shear/Evens moved to adjourn. Motion carried, ayes all
Edwin L. Mouw, Mayor
Rhonda L. Schmidt, Attest
Jodi L. Angstman, Attest

Published in the Hampton Chronicle on January 7, 2026

Franklin Co BOS Minutes, 1/2/2026

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
January 2nd, 2026**

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

The Board of Supervisors met at 8:30AM on Friday, January 2nd, 2026, at the Franklin County Courthouse for a special session with Board members Lukensmeyer, McVicker, and Vanness present.

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

Motion by Lukensmeyer, seconded by McVicker to appoint Chris Vanness as Chairman of the Board for 2026. Ayes: Lukensmeyer & McVicker; Nays: Vanness. Motion carried.

Board Committee Updates & Public Comment: None
The Supervisors opened one bid for Ditch & Roadway Spraying. After the opening, motion by McVicker, seconded by Lukensmeyer to tentatively award the 2026 Ditch & Roadway Spraying contract to B&L Seeding, pending receipt of signed contract, proof of liability insurance, and applicator license. All ayes. Motion carried.

Motion by Vanness, seconded by Lukensmeyer to appoint Gary McVicker as Board Vice-Chair for 2026. All ayes. Motion carried.

Motion by Lukensmeyer, seconded by McVicker to set Tuesday's at 8:30AM for regular meetings in 2026. Ayes: Lukensmeyer & McVicker; Nays: Vanness. Motion carried.

Motion by McVicker, seconded by Lukensmeyer to approve the regular minutes from 12/22/2025. All ayes. Motion carried.

Motion by McVicker, seconded by Lukensmeyer to approve Pay Application #2 from All Iowa Roofing for County Courthouse Roof Construction as recommended by the Engineer. All ayes. Motion carried.

Motion by McVicker, seconded by Lukensmeyer to approve the 2026 Food Pantry Lease. All ayes. Motion carried.

Motion by Lukensmeyer, seconded by McVicker to approve Resolution Ordering Construction of the County Courthouse Electrical Services Upgrade and Fixing a Date for Hearing Thereon and Taking Bids Therefor. The resolution reads in full:

**RESOLUTION 2026-4
RESOLUTION ORDERING CONSTRUCTION OF THE COUNTY COURTHOUSE ELECTRICAL SERVICES UPGRADE, AND FIXING A DATE FOR HEARING THEREON AND TAKING OF BIDS THEREFOR**

WHEREAS it is deemed advisable and necessary to construct certain public improvements described in general as the County Courthouse Electrical Services Upgrade; and WHEREAS, the County has caused to be prepared plans, specifications and form of contract, together with estimate of cost, which includes a provision for consideration of enhancement payments for early completion as provided by Iowa Code section 26.9, together with the estimate of cost, which are now on file in the office of the County Auditor for public inspection, for the construction of public improvements; and WHEREAS the plans, specifications and form of contract are deemed suitable for the making of the public improvements; and Whereas, before the plans, specifications, form of contract and estimate of cost may be adopted, and a contract for the construction of the public improvements is entered into, it is necessary, pursuant to Chapter 26, Code of Iowa, to hold a public hearing and to advertise for bids: NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF FRANKLIN COUNTY, STATE OF IOWA: Section 1: That it is hereby determined that it is necessary and advisable to construct certain public improvements described in general as the County Courthouse Repointing, in the manner set forth in the plans and specifications and form

Published in the Hampton Chronicle on January 7, 2026

Election Notice: Drainage District #70

**NOTICE OF ELECTION IN
DRAINAGE**

Notice Public Hearing Phase II Sheffield

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED PLANS SPECIFICATIONS, AND FORM OF CONTRACTS, AND ESTIMATED TOTAL COST OF THE PUBLIC IMPROVEMENT FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF SHEFFIELD MS/HS 2026 FACILITY IMPROVEMENTS

Notice is hereby given that the Board of Directors of the West Fork School District, of Sheffield, Iowa, will meet at the Rockwell Campus Superintendent's Office on the 19th day of January 2026 at 5:00 p.m., at which time and place a hearing will be held on the proposed plans, specifications, form of contract, and estimated of cost for the construction of the Sheffield MS/HS 2026 Facility Improvements.

Any interested person may appear at said hearing and file objections to the proposed plans, specifications, form of contract, and estimated costs for said improvements. It is anticipated that bids will be received for aforesaid improvements on the 29th Day of January 2026 at 12:30 p.m. If the plans, specifications, form of contract and estimated costs for said improvements are adopted following the public hearing, consideration of the bids for the construction of the aforesaid project may be made following said hearing and adoption.

Project Scope: The project consists of General Trades, Mechanical, Electrical, and Controls. Project location is at the West Fork Middle & High School. A more detailed description of the kinds and approximate quantities of materials and types of construction for which bids will be received are set forth in the Bidding Documents prepared by SiteLogIQ, Inc. which together with the proposed form of contract, have heretofore been approved by the Board of Directors and are now on file for public examination in the West Fork Elementary School, 210 S. 2nd Street, Rockwell, IA and are by this reference made part hereof as though fully set out and incorporated herein.

The Architect/Engineer has prepared plans and specifications governing the construction of the proposed improvements. These plans and specifications, and the proceedings of the Board of Directors referring to and defining said improvements, are hereby made a part of this Notice and the proposed contract by reference, and the proposed contract shall be executed to comply therewith.

Published upon order of the West Fork School District.

WEST FORK SCHOOL DISTRICT
 ATTEST:
 BY /s/Holly Henricks, Board President
 BY /s/Lacey Pueggel, Board Secretary

Published in the Hampton Chronicle on January 7, 2026

Notice of Public Hearing Phase II Rockwell

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED PLANS, SPECIFICATIONS, AND FORM OF CONTRACTS, AND ESTIMATED TOTAL COST OF THE PUBLIC IMPROVEMENT FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF ROCKWELL ELEMENTARY 2026 FACILITY IMPROVEMENTS

Notice is hereby given that the Board of Directors of the West Fork School District, of Sheffield, Iowa, will meet on the 19th day of January 2026 at 5:00 p.m. at the Rockwell Campus in the Supt's Office, at which time and place a hearing will be held on the proposed plans, specifications, form of contract, and estimated of cost for the construction of the Rockwell Elementary 2026 Facility Improvements.

Any interested person may appear at said hearing and file objections to the proposed plans, specifications, form of contract, and estimated costs for said improvements. It is anticipated that bids will be received for the aforesaid improvements on the 27th Day of January 2026 at 12:30 p.m. If the plans, specifications, form of contract, and estimated costs for said improvements are adopted following the public hearing, consideration of the bids for the construction of the aforesaid project may be made following said hearing and adoption.

Project Scope: The project consists of General Trades, Mechanical, Elec-

trical, and Controls. The project location is at the West Fork Elementary School.

A more detailed description of the kinds and approximate quantities of materials and types of construction for which bids will be received are set forth in the Bidding Documents prepared by SiteLogIQ, Inc. which together with the proposed form of contract, have heretofore been approved by the Board of Directors and are now on file for public examination in the West Fork Elementary School, 210 S. 2nd Street, Rockwell, IA and are by this reference made part hereof as though fully set out and incorporated herein.

The Architect/Engineer has prepared plans and specifications governing the construction of the proposed improvements. These plans and specifications, and the proceedings of the Board of Directors referring to and defining said improvements, are hereby made a part of this Notice and the proposed contract by reference, and the proposed contract shall be executed to comply therewith.

Published upon order of the West Fork School District.

WEST FORK SCHOOL DISTRICT
 ATTEST:
 BY /s/Holly Henricks, Board President
 BY /s/Lacey Pueggel, Board Secretary

Published in the Hampton Chronicle on January 7, 2026

Completion Report DD 30 Lateral 10

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

**DRAINAGE DISTRICT 30 LATERAL 10 FRANKLIN COUNTY, IOWA
 COMPLETION REPORT ON UPPER LATERAL 10 TILE REPLACEMENT
 MONDAY, JANUARY 26, 2026 AT 9:30 AM**

TO: All landowners, lien holders or encumbrancers of any land within said Drainage District 30 Lateral 10, and to all other persons who it may concern, including actual occupants of lands in said Drainage District 30 Lateral 10.

YOU AND EACH OF YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that a public hearing on the Completion Report on Upper Lateral 10 Tile Replacement for Drainage District 30 in Franklin County shall be held on **Monday January 26, 2026, at 9:30 A.M. at the Franklin County Law Enforcement Center, 105 5 th St SW, Hampton, IA 50441 .**

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that the Trustees of said drainage district acknowledged receipt of the Completion Report for Drainage District 30 Lateral 10 from Clapsaddle-Garber Associates on December 15, 2025.

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that the Trustees for said drainage district shall at the public hearing set for January 26, 2026, hear comments and objections to the Completion Report for Drainage District 30 Lateral 10, as may be presented by or for any landowner in the district.

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that a copy of the Completion Report on Upper Lateral 10 Tile Replacement Drainage District 30, as listed below, are available in full at the Franklin County Auditor's Office, and the Drainage Engineer's Office, Clapsaddle-Garber Associates in Ackley, IA and all objections hereto must be filed in writing with the Auditor at or before the time set for said hearing. Failure to file written objections will result in a waiver of any objections you may have.

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that at the time of hearing, the Trustees of said drainage district shall determine all objections filed to said report and shall fully consider said reports.

AND, Any interested party having a claim for damages arising out of the construction of the replacement shall file a claim with the Board or the Auditor's Office at or before the time set for the hearing on the completion of the contract, which claim shall not include any claim for land taken for right-of-way or for severance of the land. You may obtain a Drainage Claim Form from the Franklin County Auditor's Office.

THIS NOTICE IS PUBLISHED AND MAILED AS PROVIDED BY LAW BY ORDER OF THE TRUSTEES FOR DRAINAGE DISTRICT 30 LATERAL 10 FRANKLIN COUNTY.

COLETTE BRUNS
 FRANKLIN COUNTY DRAINAGE ADMINISTRATOR

Published in the Hampton Chronicle on January 7, 2026

YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU DON'T KNOW...

WITHOUT PUBLIC NOTICE, YOU ARE LEFT GUESSING.

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'Iowa Scenic Views by Foot' Visits Franklin County

Check out some photos of Tyler Sullivan and Emma Boyer's time in Franklin County.



Carol Sensor (middle) sharing background on the Nielsen family in the kitchen of their historic farm house in Hampton.



Tyler Sullivan and Emma Boyer in front of the Harriman-Nielsen Historic House in Hampton, after their tour.



Rick Whalen explaining the history of the old power plant to Tyler Sullivan.



Franklin County Historical Society President Jim Davies looking at materials at the REA Power Plant Museum on Saturday.



The stained-glass window on the first floor of the historic farm house.



Emma Boyer, Tyler Sullivan and Jim Davies looking through old school yearbooks and booklets at the Franklin County Historical Museum.



Rick Whalen explaining the machinery in the old power plant to Tyler Sullivan.



Tyler Sullivan (left) and Emma Boyer getting an overview on the power plant museum from Rick Whalen.



Carol Sensor (right) sharing background on the Nielsen family in the dining room of their historic farm house in Hampton.



Emma Boyer checking out an old stove at the power plant.



Emma Boyer going through old yearbooks at the Franklin County Historical Museum.



In the music room of the historic home.



The family piano at the historic farm house.



Carol Sensor, Tyler Sullivan and Emma Boyer in the main bedroom of the historic home.



One of the smaller bedrooms on the second floor of the historic home.



Carol Sensor (right) sharing background on the Nielsen family in the living room of their historic farm house in Hampton.

Print your favorite memories



The Hampton Chronicle

9 2nd St NW,
Hampton, IA 50441
641-456-2585
M-F 8:30 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Walking in a WINTER Wonderland

Mid America Publishing CEO Matt Grohe took a stroll around Hampton after the blizzard, on Tuesday, Dec. 30. Check out some of his photos below.

