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HD-CAL Wrestling Coach Named Central District 2A Wrestling Coach of the Year

BY JENNIFER BURNHAM
HAMPTON CHRONICLE

HD-CAL's Patrick Hansen was recently named the Central District 2A Wrestling Coach of the Year for the second time.

When asked how he felt about the honor, Hansen said he wanted the young wrestlers to get the recognition for the season — not him.

"I feel happy for our kids to get this recognition," Hansen said. "I didn't wrestle a single match or make weight for that matter. I don't deserve things like this. It has everything to do with our great kids, parents and assistant coaches that we have here."

This has been a long time coming for Hansen, who's been wrestling since he was five years old. The 33-year-old said he grew up in a "wrestling family," starting out with the Hampton-Dumont basement bunch crew, like so many others. His father, who was a big wrestler, signed him up for it, he said.

After starting his wrestling career with the basement bunch, Hansen wrestled in middle school and then high school, eventually securing seventh place at state during his senior year at HD-CAL. His dad was a two-time state qualifier in the '80s. He said his dad likes to joke that wrestling was "tough" back in the day, which is why his record wasn't better.

His favorite part about wrestling: the



Coach Patrick Hansen cheering on one his wrestlers earlier this season. Photo by Molly Bird.

friendships he's made along the way. Hansen started coaching in 2012, working his way up from volunteer coaching at the middle school and high school level (for various sports) to finally being named a head wrestling coach for the high schoolers. He's coached four different sports at the middle school and high school level for HD-CAL over the last thirteen years.

"I have enjoyed the kids in every season that I coach," he said. "What I enjoy most about coaching is watching the student athletes grow and progress throughout their athletic journey. Probably some of my favorite memories are kids achieving really high places in wrestling as well as the kids who won their first matches ever after years of trying."

The biggest lesson he's learned from wrestling: That nobody is going to come and save you during hard times, he said.

"I think wrestling is a great teaching tool for self discipline and self responsibility," he said. "You are the offense, defense and special teams. You have to manage your weight and nutrition while also doing well in school and competing at a high level. All these things will make a person successful in life after sports."

Hansen currently teaches physical education as a full-time teacher for grades k-12 for HD-CAL.

When asked to reflect on this season, as it nears an end, he said it's been one of highs and lows.

"This was probably the toughest schedule we have ever run through as a team," he said. "Having Algona win a state dual title and Team Valley getting third at state duals makes for a tough conference. Having tough competition has also made us better wrestlers, coaches and people. We have another week to train for districts and then state and I'm excited to do it with this bunch of kids."

Hansen, who was born and raised in the area, now shares a home in Hampton with his fiancée and their four dogs: two shih tzus, Tootsie and Stinky, and two labs, Cali and Kobe.

Hansen and his fiancée plan on getting married March 14.



Hampton resident Janette Flores Acolt speaking at the Feb. 10 Hampton city council workshop.

Hampton Residents Address Councilor Hodge at City Workshop After Controversy Over ICE Remark

BY JENNIFER BURNHAM
HAMPTON CHRONICLE

Last night, members of the public attended the Hampton City Council workshop to share thoughts on Councilor Bill Hodge's recent comment on undocumented immigrants in the area.

This came after Hodge asked Police Chief Mark Morrison for an update on recent ICE arrests in the area, saying "Have them [ICE] come and see me. I can give them a couple of names" during the Feb. 3

council workshop.

The Feb. 10 workshop started with statements from the public during public comment.

Dale Schirmer, who moved to the community six years ago, was the first to speak, saying that he's always appreciated the diversity in Hampton. He addressed Hodge directly, calling his remarks racist.

"Yes, those comments were racist and I don't use that term lightly," said Schirmer.

See CITY COUNCIL: Page 3

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American Legion Raises Money with Breakfast Fundraiser

BY JENNIFER BURNHAM
HAMPTON CHRONICLE

Members of the American Legion held another breakfast fundraiser Saturday morning, Feb. 8.

Legion members served up a delicious breakfast of biscuits and gravy and orange juice and coffee. Members of the public stopped by to eat, socialize and donate to

the American Legion's flag project at the Hampton cemetery.

The goal is to restore the storage hay rack that is used to transport the flags and to replace 118 flags, as the current flags are now ten years old and showing their age. They would also like to purchase new flag and pole holders.

Hampton's American Legion and Auxiliary Post is located at 420 5th St. SW.



American Legion members take a break from serving biscuits and gravy for a quick photo

More photos on page 2

Library and Extension Office Team up for Chili Cook-Off

BY JENNIFER BURNHAM
HAMPTON CHRONICLE

The Franklin County Extension and Outreach Office and the Hampton Public Library are teaming up for a chili cook-off on Thursday, Feb. 27 — National Chili Day.

The chili extravaganza will start at 11 a.m. and run until they're out.

Free-will donations are encouraged and all proceeds will

go to the Hampton Public Library. However, donations are not required.

Hampton Public Library Director Suzy Knipfel encourages local businesses to

participate.

Stop by to taste the different variations of homemade chili and vote for your favorite.

To sign up, stop by the Extension Office or the Hampton Public Library. Deadline to register is Feb. 24. For questions, contact Lili Velasco with the Extension and Outreach Office at 641-456-4811 or lvelasco@iastate.edu.

This is the first time the event will be held.



Photo by: Adobe Stock

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Legals Monday, 12 p.m.

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Hampton's American Legion and Auxiliary Post is located at 420 5th St. SW



Tim Beers and Franklin County VA Director Adam Akers



Tod and Dyanne Pralle



Luci, Barb Furman, Dale Schirmer and Mike Furman



Mayor Steve Birdsall and Lynn Collins



Jim Zacharias

Former HD-CAL Coach Has Trial Date

Lawyer: Don't Say 'Victim,' ICE Ordered to Hand Over

BY MICHAEL HOHENBRINK
MID-AMERICA PUBLISHING

A former Hampton-Dumont-CAL girls' soccer coach accused of a sexual relationship with a student has a trial date rapidly approaching as new developments emerge in the case.

Ismael Rodriguez Torres is set to have a new trial start of Feb. 13.

The trial follows a successful petition by the defendant's lawyer after Rodriguez Torres learned that his guilty plea in an earlier plea deal could see him deported given his immigration status and a guilty plea in a sex crime would move him to high status for ICE deportation efforts.

The Hampton Chronicle has learned that ICE already has Rodriguez Torres in its custody.

Judge Mark Milder issued a Writ of Habeas Corpus Tuesday to order ICE to release Rodriguez Torres to the Franklin County Sheriff's Office for the duration of his trial.

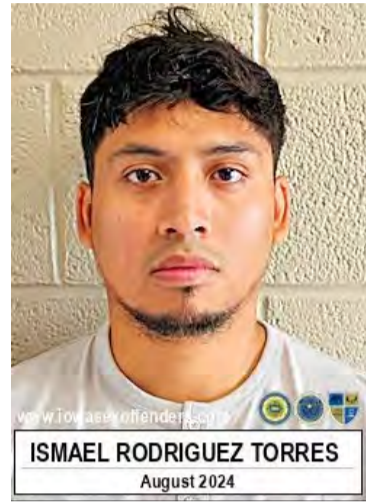
Milder has ordered that Rodriguez Torres then be returned directly to ICE without at anytime releasing Rodriguez Torres from custody in compliance with new federal legislation championed by Sen. Joni Ernst among others.

As the trial approaches, Benjamin Bergmann, attorney for Rodriguez Torres, has submitted proposed jury instructions including that the defendant should not be convicted solely on the weight of a confession alone on his part and that the jury not put any weight on the decision of Rodriguez Torres planning not to testify in his own defense.

Bergmann has also filed a motion that the prior criminal history of Rodriguez Torres be inadmissible and that the victim not actually be referred to as a "victim" as well as barring the youth from being called to testify.

Rodriguez Torres was originally arrested back in January 2023 after allegedly, while employed by the school as a coach and as a para educator, having a relationship with a student.

He had entered a guilty plea in April 2024 and was set to serve no prison time in a plea deal before it was discovered that a guilty plea in a felony sex case would put him at risk of deportation, which prompted a judge to authorize a new trial for Rodriguez Torres, days before he was set to be turned over to ICE.



ISMAEL RODRIGUEZ TORRES
August 2024

Franklin County Veterans Visit Camp Dodge for the Day

BY JENNIFER BURNHAM
HAMPTON CHRONICLE

Last Wednesday, veterans of Franklin County took a special field trip to Camp Dodge in Johnston, Iowa.

Franklin County VA Director Adam Akers said the funding for the bus trip was made possible by Clinton Poley, who left a monetary donation to Franklin County after his death in 2020. The Board of Supervisors had designated the money to be spent on veterans in the county to honor Clinton's

time in service.

The tour of Camp Dodge was led by Command Sergeant Major Strasser.

"The Gold Star Museum is a great display of not only Iowa Military history but a well-rounded display of the different conflicts and all the branches. The museum curator and individuals that work there do a good job of maintaining the displays and they are presented from different perspectives. There were several comments from veterans on how good of a museum this is and one veteran said he took 400 photos."

Akers said that some veterans

were surprised by how much was at the base.

"We were impressed with the tour of Camp Dodge not only because of the two CSMs that talked and gave the tour but with the number of facilities and ranges and continual growth of the base," Akers said. "Some Veterans on the tour had not been to Camp Dodge in 30 years and they hardly recognized the base because of all the expansion."

The group of veterans appreciated the tour guides as well.

"The CSMs (Command Sergeant Majors) were very

professional, approachable, and great to talk with," said Akers. "A true reflection of what makes the Iowa Army National Guard such a great organization."

Akers said that they even received positive feedback on the bus driver.

Patrick Sackville, who attended the trip with her husband, Dave Sackville, said they had a great time.

"I really enjoyed the bus tour around the property," she said. "I was amazed at all that happened on those 5,000 acres. Adam does a very good job of organizing these trips for veterans and guests."



Jim Warwick and Alen Larsen enjoying the day at the Gold Star Museum.



Bob Grant and Randy Debour discussing the different interior layouts of a "Huey" helicopter.

Latimer News

CAL Over 60's met in the Latimer Community Center on Tuesday, February 4th with a nice group in attendance. Pastor Petri of Zion Reformed Church gave devotions and table prayer. Linda and Janelle served the tables. Lacey Elphic with the help of her mother prepared the meal of tater tot casserole, homemade buns and for dessert chocolate cupcakes.

The birthdays of Kay Peter's, Fred Elling, Leona Meyer John Hamilton were recognized and the birthday song was sung to them.

CAL 5th and 6th graders provided entertainment. They had brought cookies and frosting and together they decorated the cookies.

The next dinner will be held on Tuesday, February 18th. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to bring a guest.

More photos on B8!



Franklin County Courthouse, Friday Feb 7, 2025. Photo by Matt Grohe.

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CITY COUNCIL: FROM COVER

er. “I believe those words were racist because I don’t believe for one second that any member of the community thought it was a great idea to go to Bill Hodge and tell him they were in this country illegally. That would lead me to believe that your criteria must be based on the color of their skin or their language barriers and accents, or any other number of things that makes them different from us.”

At the end of his public statement, Schirmer asked Hodge to step down.

“I know I’m not ever going to convince you to agree with me on this subject and I am not here to do that, and I know you have a First Amendment right just like I do, but I do believe when a person is elected to your position, you have the responsibility to everyone in our community, including those that disagree with you,” Schirmer said. “I believe our city deserves better than you representing it. Those comments should not be welcome here and we should all stand up and say so. I think you should do us all a favor and step down as a city council member. If you choose not to, I will personally make it my mission to find someone that will run against you in the next cycle.”

Next, 30-year resident Janette Flores Acolt spoke at the podium, starting by asking how Hodge would know if someone was undocumented or not.

“Immigrants are an integral part of our society, contributing to our economy, culture and social fabric. To single them out and subject them to fear and uncertainty is not only unjust but also counterproductive to the progress we strive to achieve as a united community,” Acolt said. “Such rhetoric can have serious consequences. It can lead to increased racial profiling, discrimination and even violence against immigrant communities. It undermines the trust that residents have in local authorities and can deter individuals from seeking help or reporting crimes.”

After Acolt spoke, Joslyn Stock gave a statement from the podium, starting with a quote: “If you are neutral in situations of injustice, you have chosen the side of the oppressor.” - Desmond Tutu

Stock spoke of the fact that Hodge was not challenged by any of the other city officials after making his comment during the Feb. 3 workshop.

“The rest of the council, including the Mayor and City Manager, said nothing to Hodge, nor did they comment on his overtly racist remark,” Stock said. “By remaining neutral at that moment, they all chose the side of the oppressor, the side of racism. Since then, I have only seen two members of the council condemn Hodge’s comment. The remaining council members have remained neutral, and continue to choose the side of the oppressor in this injustice of racism. Moving forward, I hope to see every member of the Hampton City Council adopt this quote from Bishop Tutu: ‘All of our humanity is dependent upon recognizing the humanity in others.’”

Two letters from residents were read aloud by Councilor Jerre Grefe, as the residents were unable to make it in person.

After the residents shared their statements during the public comment portion of the meeting, councilors gave statements, starting with Mayor Pro Tem Jim Davies, who explained why he didn’t respond to Hodge’s comment during the Feb. 3 workshop.

“While I might have been tempted to react with a comment of my own, I have learned not to for two reasons: 1. If something is said that elicits an emotional reaction from me, I know

that I need to wait and think about my response so I don’t say anything I will regret later, especially during a public meeting. I want to make sure I know all the facts and not base my response on assumptions. Assumptions can lead to misunderstandings. 2. Open meetings law requires an agenda to be published at least 24 hours in advance of a Hampton City Council workshop or regular meeting. The agenda includes items for discussion. No items can be discussed that are not on the agenda. In this case, responding to that statement would certainly lead, in my opinion, to a discussion of an item not on the agenda, which would be a no-no,” Davies said.

Davies then said that after the Feb. 3 workshop, City Manager Ron Dunt consulted with Ahlers & Cooney, a law firm in Des Moines, on the situation. The attorney told the city that while it may have been distasteful and inappropriate to some, it was protected under freedom of speech.

“My personal view on the immigration situation now impacting our country is that all people deserve to be treated with dignity and respect. Rights of migrants should be protected including those entering the country illegally. However, our country has the right to regulate immigration. We need to regulate immigration with justice and mercy. I support comprehensive immigration reform and enforcement should focus on those who present genuine risks and dangers to society,” Davies said. “City leaders need to set a positive example and be respectful of all. Was the statement made at the February 3 budget workshop disrespectful warranting removal from office? Some people think so. If this matter is to be further addressed, due process needs to be followed with individuals being treated fairly and given the chance to explain one’s opinion after having been criticized. Don’t be quick to judge. People can be misjudged if they are judged too quickly.”

City Councilor Kevin Blanford then spoke on the situation, saying something like this could divide the community, as seen on social media.

“I support a lot of the Hispanic restaurants in the area. I’ve been invited to [Hispanic] people’s events at the parks. They utilize those quite often in the summer. It’s unfortunate that it has come to this,” said Blanford. “And I’m sorry.”

During his report, City Councilor Barry Lamos spoke about moving on from the situation, citing a sign he’d recently seen at Kwik Star titled “Seven Rules of Life.”

“First one is ‘let it go,’” Lamos said. “Number two is ignore them. What other people think of you is none of your business. Three, give it time. Time heals almost everything. Number four, the only person you should try to beat is the person you were yesterday. Number five, it’s OK to not have everything figured out, knowing that in time you will get there. Number six, it’s on you. Only you are in charge of your happiness.”

Councilor Patrick Palmer spoke next. Before giving his statement, he said several people had messaged him about not being able to hear the city’s video on YouTube. (There were issues with the audio that were not able to be sorted out.)

Palmer started out by saying that he did not endorse the message that Councilor Hodge gave on Feb. 3.

“Right now, many in our community are scared about their futures and this just added to the fire,” Palmer said. “Howev-

er, I do support the First Amendment of the Constitution. But the First Amendment goes farther than what was said at the meeting. It’s not just about free speech. There are five points to the First Amendment. So it’s not all about just saying what you want and that’s it. It continues tonight to another part of the First Amendment, which are citizens questioning our government. While Councilor Hodge can say what he wants within his rights, the members of our community can use their freedom of speech to petition our government to stand at that podium and inform us of their opinion on the matter without fear of retaliation. If some of you felt the need, you would also be within your First Amendment rights to go on the sidewalk or go across the street and hold up signs to use your Freedom of Assembly to make your point — again, without fear of retaliation. I’ve learned that the speech that we hate the most is the speech we need to protect the most.”

Palmer then mentioned the agendas that must be followed during the meetings, saying Mayor Steve Birdsall needs to gain more control over what is being said during different parts of the meeting.

“As soon as Councilmen Hodge asked about ICE issues, the Mayor should have gavelled him down and said he was out of order and informed him that that discussion wasn’t under nuisances and we would have avoided this topic all together,” Palmer said.

Councilor Jerre Grefe then took to the podium to give her statement. She started by saying she’s lost a lot of sleep over the situation.

“We learned from the city attorney that your comment was protected by Freedom of Speech and it seems to me within our country, as of lately, that we have perverted the First Amendment to allow us to speak unthinkable things without accepting the responsibility that comes with that freedom,” Grefe said. “I don’t think you realize how much damage your words caused. One example, Chief Morrison. He has worked years to build a good and trusting relationship with the Latino community. How do you think that trust has been af-

ected when you requested Mark to send ICE agents to you so you could turn over some names? You talk like you have the inside scoop on who’s legal and who’s illegal. You don’t have any such knowledge. Thus your comment is based on prejudice. And you tell me you are not a racist.”

Grefe said that a “sh—t storm” was unleashed in the community as a result of Hodge’s words.

“You pitted neighbors against neighbors. And reactions to your statements have brought a lot of negative attention to Hampton,” Grefe said. “Your verbiage was extremely unprofessional and has put your fellow city councilors and your Mayor in an embarrassing situation.”

Grefe then said she takes her position on the City Council seriously, sharing how she believes his words have affected the local Latino community.

“I am here to serve my community to the best of ability for the greater good of all and that includes the Latino community,” she said. “Should a city official be allowed to make public comments during a city council meeting that instills fear in a segment of our population? Imagine being a part of that population and having to live in fear and accept the prejudices that they are subjected to, even though they have done nothing wrong.”

Grefe finished her statement by saying that she’s also been the target of inappropriate remarks from Bill Hodge.

“Because I’m a female, I’m subjected to inappropriate comments from you on a regular basis, even though I’ve not done anything to encourage such intentions,” Grefe said. “Comments that embarrass me and disgust me. You have been making such comments since I took the seat as a city councilor. I have asked you to stop and I’ve told you ‘enough was enough,’ but yet you persist. And I ask my fellow councilors, as he sits in that council seat, should he be allowed to unleash verbal abuse without considering the impact it has on his fellow elected officials and his community.”

Councilor Hodge thanked everyone for showing up to the meeting and then gave a couple examples of how he’s sup-

ported Latinos in the area.

“I’m always supportive of everything that the Latino community has tried to do,” Hodge said. “I did not intend for this thing to be racist. I said ‘immigrant.’ ‘Immigrant’ covers a lot of things — Canadian, Russian, whatever. I did not intend it at all to hurt anybody’s feelings.”

He said he would not be resigning from his role at this time.

Mayor Steve Birdsall then spoke, referring to the “city leadership statement” that he shares at the start of each city council meeting.

(The statement: The City of Hampton endeavors, at all times, to promote and model the principles of professionalism, trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring and citizenship. In conducting this evening’s meeting, we expect that all participants will act in a respectful manner consistent with these principles.)

“As elected officials of the City of Hampton, we are held to a higher standard of the principles mentioned above,” Birdsall said. “We should strive to promote and model these principles in all of our daily lives. This includes our conversations preceding the meetings, during the meetings, following the meetings, on the street corner, at the grocery store, in the bank. I don’t care where you’re at. You’re a part of the city. One of my favorite sayings: wherever you go, there you are. Well, wherever we are, we are representing the City of Hampton as a city council person, and that’s my expectation out of each and every one of them. In my opinion, we should always conduct ourselves as though the microphones are on.”

Birdsall then said the city values their diverse population and that while Hodge’s comments could be seen as inappropriate by some, he was exercising his right of free speech and that he would not be asking him to resign at this time.

HAMPTON CHRONICLE

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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 Cup Series Race: The Daytona 500	Top News Stories
<p>Race Details</p> <p>Location: Daytona Beach, Fla. Date: Feb. 16th, 2:30 p.m. Last Year’s Pole: Joey Logano Last Year’s Winner: William Byron</p> <p>Daytona International Speedway</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto;"> <p>Track Details</p> <p>Distance: 2.5 miles Shape: Tri-Oval Banking/Turns: 31 degrees</p> </div>	<p>Race Preview</p> <p>The Daytona 500 is the iconic 500-mile NASCAR Cup Series season-opener held annually at Daytona International Speedway in Daytona Beach, Florida. Considered the most prestigious and important race in NASCAR, the Daytona 500 has opened the NASCAR season every February since 1982. It is one of two Cup Series races held yearly at Daytona International Speedway. Single-car qualifying on Feb. 12th will now have two rounds, with the top 10 speeds in Round 1 moving on to the second round. The fastest two cars in Round 2 will lock in as the front-row starters for Sunday’s Great American Race. The results from the Duels will set the rest of the starting lineup for the Daytona 500.</p>
<p>Sunoco’s fuel deal with NASCAR ends this year</p> <p>Gasoline distributor Sunoco’s longtime sponsorship as the official fuel of NASCAR expires after 2025, according to people familiar with the matter, and the sides are heading into the start of the season with no extension having been reached. Dating back to 2004, Dallas-based Sunoco has been the official fuel of the auto racing property’s three national divisions after it replaced the ConocoPhillips 76 brand. Fuel and tires are the two exclusive competition-related categories in NASCAR that every team has to work with. The expiration of Sunoco’s deal comes as it’s undergone major changes to its overall business over the last decade. While the exact terms of Sunoco’s deal and any exclusive negotiating window were unclear, sources say NASCAR is expected to hold talks with other brands in the category in the coming weeks and months. NASCAR declined comment, while Sunoco Director of Marketing Fred McConnell told SBJ: “We can confirm that we are in talks with NASCAR about the 2026 season and beyond.”</p>	<p>NASCAR Hall of Fame welcomes Ricky Rudd, Carl Edwards and Ralph Moody to the class of 2025</p> <p>NASCAR royalty made its way to uptown Charlotte Friday night to welcome and honor the newest class of NASCAR royalty. The sport’s heroes and legends gathered at the NASCAR Hall of Fame to formally induct the Hall’s esteemed class of 2025, racing greats Ricky Rudd, Carl Edwards and the late Ralph Moody. In a 13-year NASCAR Cup Series career, Edwards won 28 races, including the Southern 500 and the Coca-Cola 600. He was a two-time NASCAR Cup Series champion runner-up losing out on the 2011 title in the closest title race in history, a tiebreaker with fellow NASCAR Hall of Famer Tony Stewart. In all, Edwards earned 72 victories in the three national series, including the 2007 NASCAR Xfinity Series championship. Ricky Rudd, known as one of the toughest competitors in the sport’s history. His first ever NASCAR start of any kind came in the NASCAR Cup Series and he finished 11th in that 1975 debut at Rockingham, N.C. as an 18-year old, earning his first of 374 career top-10s the following week at Bristol, Tenn. Ralph Moody, who passed away in 2004, served under General George Patton in World War II before becoming a fulltime driver and winning five times in NASCAR’s premier division in 1956-57. In 1957 he partnered with John Holman to form the iconic Holman-Moody Racing company, building cars and creating innovations that produced 96 Cup wins.</p>
<p>Christopher Bell beats Kyle Larson in World of Outlaws race</p> <p>Christopher Bell and Kyle Larson are the rivalry Sprint Car fans have missed for a long few years, but it came roaring back in a big way on Thursday night at Volusia Speedway Park. A heartbreak spin for Emerson Axson set up a three-lap duel to the finish for the dirt racers at heart that’ve become stars of the NASCAR Cup Series. Bell led the way, and Larson threw everything at him. Bell kept the Kreitz Racing No. 69K glued to the bottom in Turns 1 and 2 while Larson ripped the Silva Motorsports No. 57 around the top. Bell slid himself in Turns 3 and 4 leaving Larson to try crossovers. It came down to the final corner of the last lap as Bell again drifted up in front of Larson. The Elk Grove, CA native ducked under Bell as they exited Turn 4. The two drag raced to the checkered flag, and it was Bell holding off Larson by .05 seconds. The finish brought the entire crowd to their feet.</p>	<p>Racing Trivia</p> <p>What was the worst starting position to win the Daytona 500?</p> <p>a) 27 c) 35 b) 31 d) 39</p> <p><small>ANSWER: (d) Matt Kenseth won the Daytona 500 from the 39th starting position in 2009.</small></p>

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

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

Thanks for letting us know!

THE SENIOR SCENE

Where new friendships are made and old friendships are renewed



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

ACTIVITIES

Monday, Feb. 17
1:00 BINGO

Tuesday, Feb. 18
12:30 CRIBBAGE BOARD MEETING

Wednesday, Feb. 19
12:45 500 CARDS OR HAND & FOOT

Thursday, Feb. 20
1:00 BINGO

Friday, Feb. 21
STAY & PLAY

Saturday, Feb. 22
5:30 POTLUCK

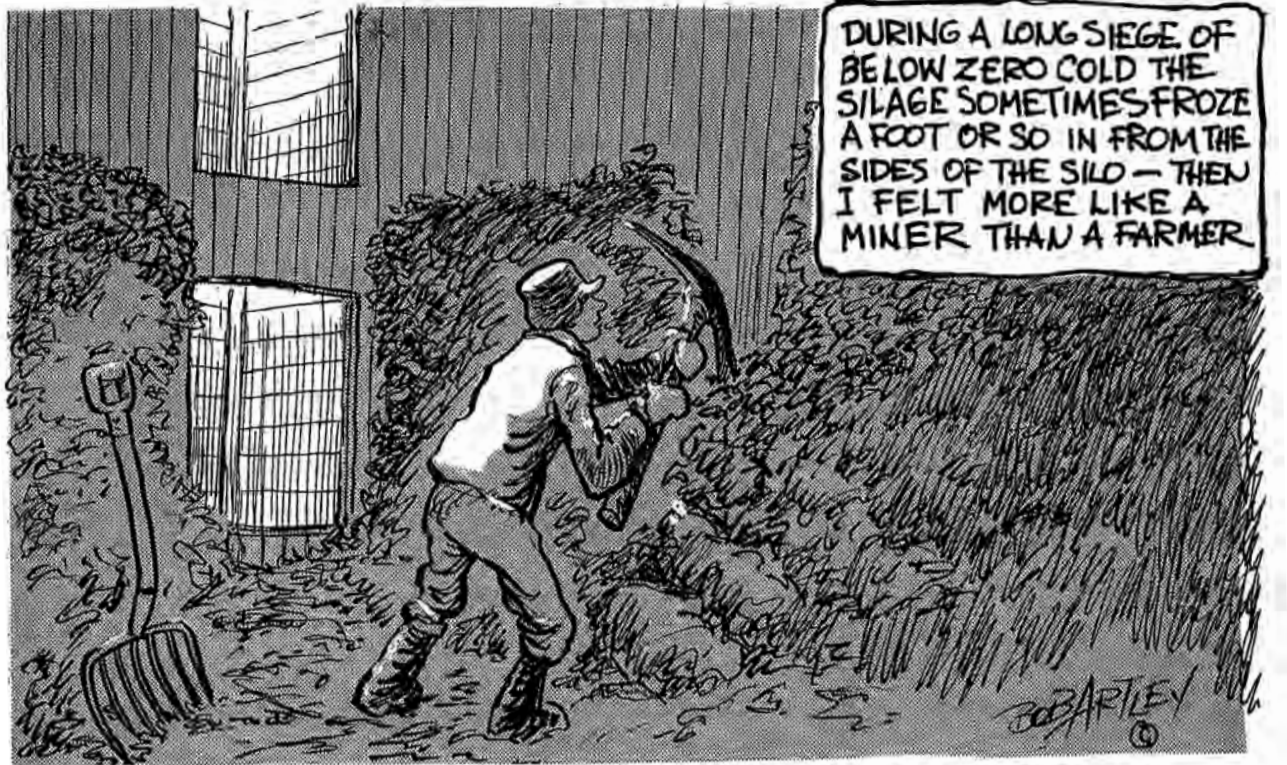
GREAT LUNCHEAS AT 11:30
60 & under \$7.75
Over 60 \$4.25 - \$6.75
Call 456-5191 For Reservations

Menu

- Monday, Feb. 17**
Vegetable Beef Soup - Breadsticks - Salad - Fruit
- Tuesday, Feb. 18**
Cheeseburger - Potato Salad - Vegetable - Fruit
- Wednesday, Feb. 19**
Tater Tot Casserole - Bread - Salad - Fruit
- Thursday, Feb. 20**
Baked Chicken - Mac & Cheese - Rolls - Vegetable - Fruit
- Friday, Feb. 21**
Liver & Onions OR Ham Patty - Potatoes - Rolls - Vegetable - Fruit

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Bolstering Our Border Security and Keeping Fentanyl Out of Our Communities



REP. RANDY FEENSTRA
COLUMNIST

There's no denying that the United States has an opioid crisis. Unregulated, deadly drugs have found their way into our urban centers, our suburbs, and even our rural main streets. Every year, these fatal substances indiscriminately kill hundreds of thousands of Americans regardless of age, race, or creed. There is no questioning what needs to be done. We must cut the flow of these drugs, often manufactured by foreign adversaries like China, and secure our borders.

In 2023, nearly 110,000 Americans died of drug overdoses. Almost 70% of these untimely deaths were due to synthetic opioids like fentanyl and other illicit, man-made drugs. Fentanyl-related deaths are now the number one cause of death among adults 18-49 and the drug is responsible for 77% of adolescent overdose deaths. These drugs destroy our most vulnerable and wreak havoc on our families.

That's why I voted for, and the U.S. House of Representatives passed,

the HALT Fentanyl Act, which intends to cut the flow of these illicit opioids into American communities. This legislation would permanently establish the class-wide scheduling order for fentanyl related substances (FRS) — which is currently temporary and soon to expire. The bill also ensures that law enforcement agencies have the tools and resources that they need to keep deadly drugs like fentanyl out of our communities. If the scheduling expires, many of these substances would become street-legal and U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) would no longer be able to seize these drugs as they cross our borders.

But protecting our communities from external threats isn't limited to drug trafficking. In 2016, 21-year-old Iowan, Sarah Root, was tragically murdered in a drunk driving accident caused by an illegal immigrant — who was driving three times over the legal limit and had prior arrests.

However, due to an egregious loophole in federal law, the illegal immigrant posted bail, was released from jail, fled our country, and was never seen or heard from again. Without a doubt, this tragedy — and many more like it occurring around the nation — demanded serious legislative action to keep our communities safe from violent illegal immigrants.

That's why Senator Ernst and I introduced Sarah's Law — in honor of

Sarah Root — to ensure that illegal immigrants who harm or kill American citizens are swiftly detained and brought to justice. Fortunately, our legislation was included in the Laken Riley Act, which President Trump signed into law on January 29th. We were glad to be joined by Sarah's father, Scott Root, for the signing ceremony at the White House and even had the opportunity to talk to Secretary of Homeland Security Kristi Noem and Vice President J.D. Vance about Sarah's story.

The passage of this law — the first law signed by President Trump — is symbolic of the new administration's commitment to the will of the people. Throughout his campaign, President

Trump made promises to secure our border and protect our communities from drug trafficking and criminals. Just a matter of weeks into his presidency, President Trump has kept these promises, and I'm thrilled that we could work with him to honor Sarah's memory and deliver real solutions to our border crisis.

But President Trump will not rest. After talks with Mexico's President Claudia Sheinbaum, President Trump negotiated Mexico's mobilization of 10,000 soldiers to the Mexican side of our southern border. He later spoke to Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau who pledged to send additional personnel to secure our northern border and ad-

dress drug trafficking. In conjunction with the service men and women on our side of the border, the members of the Mexican National Guard and border personnel from Canada will assist in cutting off the flow of human trafficking, drug trafficking, and violent criminals seeking to harm our citizens and profit from our suffering.

Since I've taken office — and with every subsequent oath that I have sworn to the American people — bolstering our border security has been a top priority for me. I've supported legislation ranging from the SAVE Act, which prevents illegal immigrants from voting in our elections, to the Preventing Violence Against Women by Illegal Aliens Act, which ensures that illegal sex criminals and domestic violence offenders are deported from our country, to supporting efforts to keep building the border wall on our southern border. We must do everything in our power to keep our families and communities safe.

For the last four years under the Biden administration, the effects of an unsecured, open border have seeped their way into every facet of the American way of life — it must be put to an end. I look forward to continuing to work with President Trump — and our new Secretaries of State and Homeland Security, Marco Rubio and Kristi Noem, respectively — to restore law and order in our country.

Budget Talks....Wages



By Katy Flint
Franklin County Auditor

If you follow the minutes of the Board of Supervisor meetings, you know that January was full of discussions about wage increases for employees and elected officials for FY2026. Before I go any further, let me remind you that our budget years run from July 1st — June 30th, so the Supervisors were discussing and deciding on wage increases that will not take affect until July 1st, 2025.

About a year or so ago, the Supervisors developed a compensation philosophy & policy for hired and appointed employees. They also underwent a compensation study in which all job descriptions were

evaluated by an outside firm (that specializes in this) and then wages were determined based on years of experience. They also established that each year the annual cost of living adjustment/increase would be based on the consumer price index for the Midwest for a 12-month period ending December 31st of the previous calendar year. They went even further to say that the COLA will be equal to 80% of that CPI number, but also max out at 5.5%. So, as of December 31st, 2024, the Midwest CPI was 3%.80% of that is 2.4%, so that was set at the annual COLA for all hired & appointed employees for FY2026.

Last year during the legislative season, the state voted to change the way wages of elected officials are determined. In the past, the Compensation Board determined the amount of increase each elected official would receive. They would make a recommendation to the Supervisors and then the Supervisors could either accept the recommendation or low-

er it. The Compensation Board was made up of one representative from each of the elected officials with the Supervisors have two representatives. However, the new law put into place dissolved all Compensation Boards as of July 1, 2024. The Supervisors then had the ability to either re-establish a Compensation Board for Franklin County or take on the determination of each elected official themselves. After many weeks of discussions, listening to the elected officials & former members of Compensation Boards, the Supervisors chose to take on this responsibility themselves instead of having a Compensation Board.

So, the Supervisors spent almost all of January doing research into the wages of other county's elected officials, wages of people in similar positions in the private sector, and examining each of the job duties and responsibilities of each elected official and then made their determination.

In the world of wages, someone is always going to

be happy, someone is going to be upset, and someone will just be happy to have a job. I believe this to be true of county government just as much private entities. But, after watching our Supervisors pour over information, charts, comparisons, budget estimates, etc, I truly believe they have acted in the best interest of the employees and the residents of Franklin County. Determining wages is just not about a paycheck to the employees and rewarding them for the work they are doing, but also about retaining employees to serve it's residents and the Supervisors are doing both of these things. They do it with the bottom dollar in mind, but also understand the importance of the employees to the county business.

So, in case you were ever curious how wage increase are determined here in Franklin County, you now know. Come back next week to find out the next steps in the budget process. I promise, we're getting close to the end, kind of. Until next time....

Timothy Gibbons M. D.



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Step by Step

Brass Tacks from Rural Iowa

BY BARBARA KALBACH

I heard from fellow Iowa Citizens for Community Improvement members up in Worth County their Board of Supervisors recently passed an ordinance that enacts common-sense protections from hazardous liquid pipelines. That's the eleventh county to pass an ordinance pushing back against Summit's proposed CO2 pipeline.

What exciting and encouraging news! Worth County's ordinance creates a 1/2 mile separation distance between a pipeline and residents of the county. When I spoke with CCI member Ann Bokelman from Hanlontown, she told me this gives folks a fighting chance to protect their homes and communities from Summit just bulldozing them over – and if the pipeline is built and a rupture occurs, a fighting chance to make it to safety.

And boy did folks up there put in the work to make this happen. Another CCI member from Hanlontown, Roxanne Jackson, shared with me how folks went door-to-door informing others about the issue, collected over 400 petition signatures in favor of the ordinance, and attended countless meetings to keep the pressure up. On the county taking action, she summed it up pretty clearly saying, "decisions about what our community looks like should be made by us, not multimillion-dollar corporations like Summit Carbon Solutions".

Sometimes people ask me why I care so much about this proposed pipeline when it's not even coming through Adair County. I tell them about its potential impact on our aquifers and how that could have statewide impacts

during a drought. Or I tell them about how it'll use taxpayer money – our money – merely to line Bruce Rastetter's pockets through state or federal incentives. But equally important, it's about what sort of precedent it would set if they're allowed to abuse eminent domain for private gain. Who would be the next corporate vulture to come into one of our communities, promise the moon, use eminent domain where needed to achieve their goal, then only to leave us in a cloud of dust?

I've seen the hollowing out of rural Iowa by corporate power running roughshod over our communities, values, and way of life. For me, it started when large-scale factory farms began popping up only to pollute our air and water and drive family farmers out of business. More recently I've seen it in our shuttered drug stores no thanks to the unbridled greed of Pharmacy Benefit Managers.

Enough is enough. Our towns, farmland, and natural resources aren't a playground for corporate

power. That's why I'm happy about the news coming out of Worth County and I hope more counties continue to follow suit. Especially if Bruce Rastetter and other agribusiness fat cats continue to pull the strings at the statehouse and Governor's mansion.

Everyday people deserve to be in the driver's seat when it comes to making decisions about what we want our communities to look like and what kind of development helps our towns and counties grow and thrive. And that's why Iowans across the state are taking action, step by step, county by county, because our homes, neighbors, livelihoods – the people and places we love – are worth it.

Kalbach is a 4th generation family farmer, retired registered nurse, and board member of Iowa Citizens for Community Improvement. Barb can be reached at barbeal-kalbach@gmail.com.

SUDOKU

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

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

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

THIS WEEK'S SUDOKU IS SPONSORED BY:



They can't leave. The door has a code. Some of the homes have the code for the keypad posted. One makes us find a worker to let us out. When a resident escapes they call it an elopement.

I don't want to escape. I already escaped a life alone and found myself here. I'm bursting with gratitude for finding this beautiful person and so honored that she accepts me as I am and fixed the bad parts.

That's enough of that. In keeping with my crusade

of picking up trash, I offer this:

Gaza had a population of 2.2 million people (people like Dawn and I, and you). Trump and Netanyahu want to remove 1.8 million people from their homeland, to make way for "world people." Do the math. A 400,000 person miscount or genocide?

Comments on my column are always appreciated through a letter to the editor or directly to me at 4selfgovernment@gmail.com

Happy Valentine's Day



THE ALTERNATIVE
FRITZ GROSZKRUGER
THE ALTERNATIVE

I must apologize for last week's column; a jumbled mess of true and disturbing information. Working under pressure is a curse and a blessing. Please forgive me. Valentine's Day is coming up. A day of love. There's candy, cards, and flowers, all to signify our love for that special person. In my case, it's Dawn.

But my mom didn't raise some dude that's gonna

spend money on a bunch of junk like that. For Dawn it was rubber boots, a hog sorting panel, and a box of livestock markers. That's true love. Working on this farm together has been the ultimate joyful experience. Maybe to people who were ordered around doing farm chores while growing up, it might have been drudgery. For us non-farm kids, it was challenges and extreme rewards. When her face is actually dirty, it is way prettier than with makeup.

So this Valentine's day we might eat out. We might not. We love our nightly popcorn. We'll see what the day brings. If I'm lucky she will have piano to practice. If she's playing piano, I can't do chores. I can't stand the thought of miss-

ing out on that fluid flow of melodic euphoria.

I didn't know Dawn was a musician when she rode by on her uncle's horse while I mowed my grandpa's lawn. So that's not what got me interested. Actually, I can't put a finger on it. Or maybe if the thought enters my mind, my subconscious mind decides to keep it there.

I've written about personal stories here before. But that can go too far. Ask my therapist. Letting personal stuff go public can devalue those wonderful details that specialize every day together. My relationship with God qualifies too. He guides me through conscience. If I see a piece of trash on the ground, I've learned that my conscience will hound me if I don't

pick it up.

I found a Coors Light can on the road at the end of our driveway this morning. I won't send a Valentine to the poor soul who imbibed that swill and then found the need to toss it out by our mailbox. Maybe he knew I'd pick it up and donate it to the Dumont Library. Seems practical and he avoided the Littering Encouragement Act (open container law).

I don't want to get too personal. But here I am. I'm in love and it's Valentine's Day. I could have never predicted that I would retire from farming and become a groupie and a roadie. I live with her and carry her stuff. We have regular gigs at nursing homes. Sometimes I think those people love her as much as I do.

A Week of Remembrance and Action

BY REP. SHANNON LATHAM

Week 4 of the 2025 legislative session began on a solemn note as Brigadier General (Retired) and Iowa Representative Martin L. Graber passed away suddenly on Jan. 31, 2025, at Fort Madison in southeast Iowa. He was laid to rest on Tuesday, so no Iowa House subcommittee or committee meetings were held on Feb. 4.

Several constituents in House District 55 have contacted me about Pharmacy Benefit Manager (PBM) Reform and State Supplemental Aid (SSA) for schools, so I will provide an update on each of these issues at the end of this article.

On Wednesday, Feb. 5, I chaired two subcommittees for bills making their way through the law-making process:

- HF 7, a bill for an act providing for the regulation of delivery network companies and drivers, making penalties applicable.
- HSB 100, a bill for an act relating to cost-sharing requirements for supplemental and diagnostic breast examinations.

House Study Bill 100 eliminates the cost-sharing burden on screening and diagnosis of breast cancer for

women who need an MRI in addition to an annual screening mammogram, including: breast cancer survivors, sister/daughter of a breast cancer survivor, chest radiation treatment, or someone with a lifetime risk greater than 20%. It also applies to patients with other imaging needs due to extremely dense breast tissue and heterogeneously dense breast tissue.

The earlier cancer is diagnosed, the better a patient's prognosis. Plus, prevention costs less than detection followed by treatment.

Consider these costs for treatment by stage:

- Stage I/II \$ 97,066
- Stage III \$159,442
- Stage IV \$182,655

The copay alone is staggering, so it's no wonder 27 states have laws in place for no copay and deductible for supplemental and diagnostic imaging. Hopefully, Iowa will join this list soon! After HSB 100 passed through subcommittee, the Commerce Committee passed it Thursday. Next, HSB 100 moves to the floor as a committee bill.

Also on Thursday, the Iowa House of Representatives passed four joint resolutions pertaining to basic procedures of the House and the Senate:



The Commerce Committee meeting.

1. HCR 4 – Comprises joint rules governing lobbyists for the 91st General Assembly.
2. HCR 5 – Outlines joint rules for House and Senate for the 91st General Assembly.
3. HR 4 – House Code of Ethics for the 91st General Assembly.
4. HR 5 – Defines the permanent rules for the Iowa House of Representatives for the 91st General Assembly.

Pharmacy Benefit Manager (PBM) Reform

Independent pharmacies in rural areas are closing at an alarming rate due to unfair pricing practices by Pharmacy Benefit Managers (PBM). Twenty-nine Iowa pharmacies closed in 2024! More than 150 phar-

macies have closed during the past decade. Without local pharmacies, Iowa families and older Iowans have a hard time accessing the care they need and deserve.

House Study Bill (HSB 99) includes eight new additional regulations on PBM's in Iowa:

1. Prohibits a PBM or insurer from discriminating against a pharmacy if the pharmacy is acting within its license and all laws.
2. Prohibits the removal of pharmacy choice or imposing any monetary advantages or penalties that result in removing pharmacy choice, including unnecessary specialty drug designations and requiring use of mail order pharmacies.

3. Prohibits additional cost-sharing on the insured based on where they choose to have their prescription filled.

4. Requires all rebates to benefit the insured.

5. Requires any amount paid by the insured for the prescription drug to be applied to their deductible.

6. Requires PBMs to reimburse pharmacies based on acquisition cost.

7. Prohibits spread pricing unless all cost differential is provided to the insured.

8. Requires pharmacies have an appeals process if not reimbursed at acquisition cost.

This bill passed subcommittee in the House this week, however, it's not in its final form. I expect more work will be done to this bill before it's considered by the House Commerce Committee on which I serve.

House Republicans' SSA proposal

The Governor and the Iowa Senate have both proposed a 2% increase in State Supplemental Aid (SSA) funding for education for the upcoming fiscal year. However, Iowa House Republicans introduced our own proposal.

House Republicans' proposal for SSA entails:

- An increase of 2.25%

in SSA funding. This increase, plus the second phase of the teacher salary increase passed last session, results in \$114.5 million more for public schools.

- A one-time increase of 0.6% SSA payment which equates to \$22.6 million more for schools.

- A \$10 increase in per pupil equity equates to a \$5.8 million increase.

- An increase in the Operational Sharing Budget from 21 to 25, providing an additional \$1 million to schools.

- Increasing School Transportation to cap the cost of transportation for each school district at the statewide average of \$430, resulting in \$5.8 million in additional funds.

Altogether, these increases equate to a 3.93% increase in state funding to public schools. The new state cost per pupil under this proposal would be \$8,039 per pupil, which includes \$27 per student for the .6% increase.

These increases represent the many specific funding issues our school districts have brought to our attention. While each line item may not affect each individual school district equally, one line item may have a big impact to address a specific district's specific issue.

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

Code Counsel: Immigration Situation

BY JIM DAVIES
MEMBER AT LARGE,
HAMPTON CITY
COUNCIL

The new administration has expanded immigration enforcement actions. Recent raids have increased anxiety disrupting businesses and personal lives. The putting up of racist posters has caused significant worry and sadness. People are feeling very tense due to these occurrences and the uncertainty of the future.

At the Monday, February 3 Hampton City Council Budget Workshop, questions were asked by a member of the council after Police Chief Mark Morrison gave an update on recent ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement) arrests in the area. A statement made, after the questions were answered, was, "Have them come see me. I can give them some

names." The statement, regardless of the intent, soon caused a strong emotional response from many people in the community.

That statement caused me to raise my eyebrows. While I might have been tempted to react with a comment of my own, I have learned not to for two reasons:

1. If something is said that elicits an emotional reaction from me, I know that I need to wait and think about my response so I don't say anything I will regret later, especially during a public meeting. I want to make sure I know all the facts and not base my response on assumptions. Assumptions can lead to misunderstandings.

2. Open meetings law requires an agenda to be published at least 24 hours in advance of a Hampton City Council workshop or regular meeting. The

agenda includes items for discussion. No items can be discussed that are not on the agenda. In this case, responding to that statement would certainly lead, in my opinion, to a discussion of an item not on the agenda, which would be a no-no.

After the meeting, City Manager Ron Dunt spoke with Ahlers & Cooney, a law firm in Des Moines, to get their opinion on statements made at the council workshop meeting. After watching the video, the attorney's opinion was that although the comments may be distasteful and/or inappropriate to some, it is protected under freedom of speech.

My personal view on the immigration situation now impacting our country is that all people deserve to be treated with dignity and respect. Rights of migrants should be protected including those entering the country illegally. However,

our country has the right to regulate immigration.

We need to regulate immigration with justice and mercy. I support comprehensive immigration reform and enforcement should focus on those who present genuine risks and dangers to society.

City leaders need to set a positive example and be respectful of all. Was the statement made at the February 3 budget workshop disrespectful warranting removal from office? Some people think so.

If this matter is to be further addressed, due process needs to be followed with individuals being treated fairly and given the chance to explain one's opinion after having been criticized. Don't be quick to judge. People can be misjudged if they are judged too quickly.

WORDS OF WISDOM



Last week's trivia questions:

Which two pro football quarterbacks have won Super Bowls with two different teams? Answer: Peyton Manning and Tom Brady. Manning won a Super Bowl with the Indianapolis Colts and the Denver Broncos. Brady won Super Bowls with the New England Patriots and one with the Tampa Bay Buccaneers. (Kurt Warner won a Super Bowl with the St. Louis Rams and lost one with the Arizona Cardinals. Craig Morton led the Dallas Cowboys and the Denver Broncos to a Super Bowl, losing both times.) Which two pro football teams have been to the Super Bowl four times, and lost all four? Answer: The Minnesota Vikings and Buffalo Bills. (The Vikings lost the Super Bowl in 1970, 1974, 1975, and 1977. Buffalo is the only team to appear in four consecutive Super Bowls, but lost all four, from 1991 to 1994.)

This week's trivia questions:

What popular website made its debut on Valentine's Day in 2005? What state produces most of America's red roses? Feb. 12 is Abraham Lincoln's Birthday; Feb. 13 is Galentine's Day, and National Cheddar Day; Feb. 14 is Valentine's Day, Library Lover's Day, and Organ Donor Day; Feb. 15 is International Childhood Cancer Awareness Day; Feb. 16 is National Almond Day, and World Whale Day; Feb. 17 is Presidents' Day, and National Tennis Pro Day; Feb. 18 is Pluto Day, and Drink Wine Day.

"For the Lord does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart."

- 1 Samuel 16:7

"Do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Let the day's own troubles be sufficient for the day."

- Jesus

"We love because He first loved us."

- 1 John 4:19

My new girlfriend works at the zoo. She's a keeper.

Just went on a date with a welder. Man, were the sparks flying.

Did you hear about the banker who broke up with his girlfriend? He was losing interest.

You should never date a tennis player. Love means nothing to them.

I used to date a weather forecaster. We had a stormy relationship.

Two territories became U.S. states on Valentine's Day. Oregon became the 33rd state on Feb. 14, 1859, even if its residents didn't know it right away. (It took a full month for the news to travel across the country via a combination of telegraph, stagecoach, and steamship).

Exactly 53 years later on Feb. 14, 1912, Arizona became the 48th state.

In 1929, the Saint Valentine's Day Massacre happened in Chicago. Seven members of Chicago's North Side Gang were gathered at a garage on Feb. 14, 1929. They were shot by four unknown assailants, two of whom were disguised as police officers.

The murders resulted from the competition for control of organized crime in the city, during Prohibition. The largely Irish North Siders were headed by George "Bugs" Moran, and their largely Italian Chicago Outfit rivals were led by Al Capone.

The perpetrators have never been conclusively identified, but former members of a gang working for Capone are suspected of involvement.

Chamber-Main Street News and Knows

BY JIM DAVIES
INTERIM DIRECTOR

The Hampton Area Chamber of Commerce was founded as a non-profit in June of 1950 and is still the legal name. Doing business as the Greater Franklin County Chamber of Commerce (GFCCC) was added in 2011 with a focus on benefiting the entire Franklin County businesses and families.

GFCCC is also a Main Street Iowa Community. Hampton has been a Main Street Community since 1991. Chamber and Main Street merged in 2010.

The philosophy of the Main Street Iowa Program is to improve the social and economic well-being of Iowa's communities by assisting selected communities to capitalize on the unique identity, assets, and



character of their historic commercial district.

The mission of the Chamber and Main Street is to support economic growth by improving the quality of life and business climate in the Franklin County area. This is accomplished through the efforts of Franklin County Tourism and four committees:

Economic Vitality, Organization, Promotion, and Design.

A new sub-committee called Main Street Hampton Committee, made up of 7-10 people, is being organized to guide the implementation of the local Main Street program allowing the Chamber board to focus on the county-wide mission

of the GFCCC. New volunteers, current volunteers, and past volunteers please consider sharing your experience by joining this committee. Call or text me at 641-425-4707.

The Design Committee has been busy approving Building Improvement Grants. The Design Committee will be working with the Hampton Historic Preservation Commission on updating park benches and the placement of two or three additional permanent benches in Bandshell Park.

The GFCCC annual dinner has been scheduled for Saturday, March 22, at the Hampton Country Club.

The next Tourism Board meeting is Thursday, February 13 at 4:30 pm at Center 1. Several grant applications have been received for many upcoming events to be held.



Only 36 people attended Brave The Dark last weekend. There are two more opportunities to view this very good movie on Wednesday and Thursday nights at 7 PM.

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www.HamptonChronicle.com

What's At The Windsor

**BY JIM DAVIES
WINDSOR THEATRE
MANAGER**

The Windsor Theatre is offering two movies this week.

One movie, Valentine's Day, will be shown one night only on Friday, February 14. This romantic comedy is part of a "Date Night" teaming with La Chozita Mexican Restaurant encouraging couples to enjoy a delicious dinner followed by a movie on Valentine's Day evening.

La Chozita, one block west of the Windsor Theatre, is offering special pricing on some menu items. The 2010 film, Valentine's Day, will be shown starting at 7 pm. It is rated PG-13 and is just over two hours long.

Valentine's Day features an ensemble cast led by Jessica Alba, Kathy Bates, Jessica Biel, Bradley Cooper, Eric Dane, Patrick Dempsey, Héctor Elizondo, Jamie Foxx, Jennifer Garner, Topher Grace, Anne Hathaway, Ashton Kutcher, Queen Latifah, Taylor Lautner, George Lopez, Shirley MacLaine, Emma Roberts, Julia Roberts, and Taylor Swift in her film acting debut. It tells different love stories that occur on Valentine's Day.

The second movie at the Windsor Theatre, A Complete Unknown, starts Saturday, February 15, and will be shown through Thursday, February 20.

A Complete Unknown is a 2024 American bi-

ographical musical drama film about American singer-songwriter Bob Dylan. Based on the 2015 book Dylan Goes Electric! by Elijah Wald, the film portrays Dylan through his earliest folk music success until the momentous controversy over his use of electric instruments at the 1965 Newport Folk Festival.

Distributed by Searchlight Pictures, A Complete Unknown is rated R for strong language. The run time is 141 minutes.

Rotten tomatoes' verified audience (5,000+ ratings) gives A Complete Unknown 96% and a 4.6 out of 5-star rating. Internet Movie Database (IMDb) gives it 7.6/10 stars. 91% of Google users liked this movie.

Showtimes are Saturday, Sunday, Wednesday and Thursday at 7 pm with a Sunday matinee at 1 pm.

Regular ticket prices are \$5 for adults and \$4 for youth (16 & under). Age 50 and over price is \$3 on Sunday. Tickets are \$3 each for everyone on Wednesday and Thursday. Tickets are available at the door or can be purchased online at www.windsortheatre.com. A convenience fee of 50 cents per ticket is charged for online purchases.

Effective Friday Febru-

ary 28, ticket prices will be raised with adults to be charged \$6 and senior price increased to \$4. Senior definition will be raised to age 60 from age 50. Youth ticket price will stay at \$4. Senior Sundays and Thursday tickets will be \$4 each instead of \$3 each. Wednesday showings will now be at regular prices rather than the discounted price.

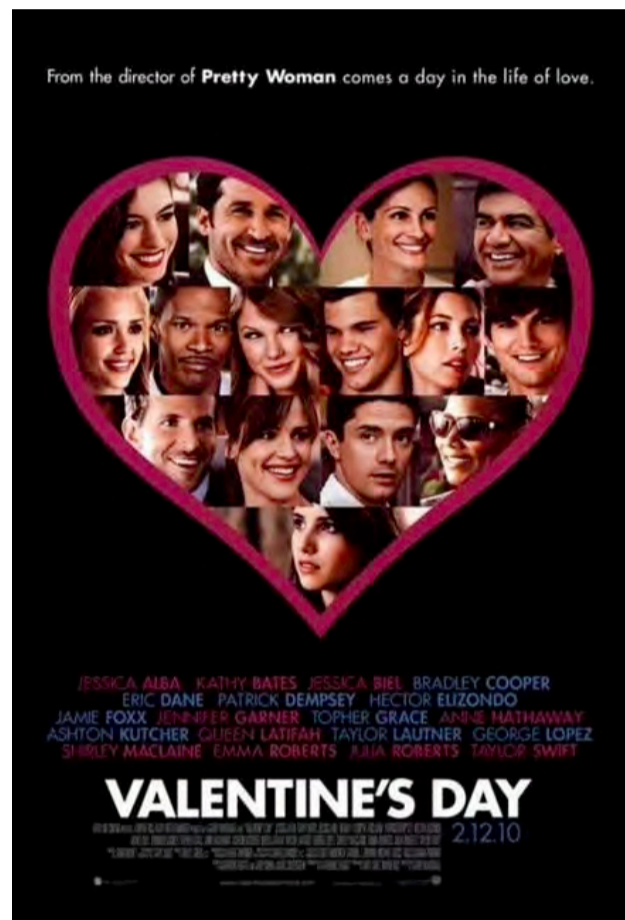
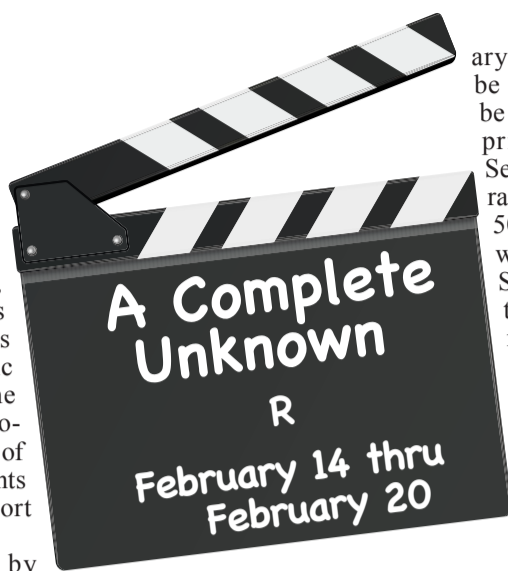
Prices are being raised because of the exorbitant increase

in the annual commercial and liability insurance premiums.

A popcorn special is now being offered. For \$100, a person will receive a laminated card entitling them to free popcorn for one year, ending March 1, 2026. If you are interested stop by the theatre during hours of operation or mail a check made out to the Windsor Theatre for \$100 and mail to PO Box 303, Hampton, IA 50441. Or call or text me, Jim Davies, at 641-425-4707.

The following credit cards are accepted: Mastercard, Visa, Discover, American Express, and Apple Pay. A four percent service charge is added to each credit card charge.

Upcoming movies at the Windsor Theatre include Dog Man (Feb. 21-27), Paddington in Peru (Feb. 28-Mar. 6), Night of the Zoopolacalyse (Mar. 7-13), and Captain America: Brave New World (March 14-20). Titles are subject to change.



WINDSOR THEATRE

NOW SHOWING

"A Complete Unknown"

R

SHOW DATES:
2/14/25 thru 2/20/25

Couples Date Night
Friday, Feb. 14

Take your sweetheart to dinner at La Chozita followed by the romantic comedy "Valentine's Day" at 7pm the Windsor. 1:00 PM Sunday

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Wednesday & Thursday
1:00 PM Sunday

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H-D-CAL Travels to State Speech Contest

BY LEE NELSON

Students and coaches from the 90 northeast Iowa school districts traveled to Decorah to compete in the Iowa High School Speech Association (IHSSA) state large group speech contest on Saturday, February 8, 2025.

It was a great day to be a bulldog as the Hampton-Dumont-CAL speech team came home with 10 division I and 4 division II ratings.

Events receiving an "I" rating:
Solo Mime - Marlee Maas-The Silent Victim
Solo Mime - A-eshah Khunchan- Allergic to Prom

Group Mime - Marlee Maas and Eva Dohlman - Just Survive My Mind
Group Mime - Alie Storr, Anna Robles, Yesnia Valenzuela, and Charlee Morton- Girls Just Wanna Have Sun

Group Improv - Jackson Opperman, Aniss Farhat, Noe Flores, and Arnold Guevara-Barrera
Ensemble Acting - Kodey Eilderts, Aly Martinez, Jaslene Tevalan, Jaliyah Ivey, Anna Robles, and Mary Jane Jensen - I Was There

Ensemble Acting - Jessica Simmons, Alie Storr, Shakira Vela, Lily Rosenberg, and Emma Dietz - Steel Magnolias
Ensemble Acting - America Dominguez, James Chambers, and Nick Quasdorf - The Coach
Musical Theater - Elian Trevino, Shakira Vela, and Jaliyah Ivey- I Love You from 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee

Readers Theater - Isaac Sauke, Jerry Flores, Kodey Eilderts, Charlee Morton, Elian



H-D-CAL high school speech students travelled to Decorah on Saturday, February 9 for the large group state contest.

Trevino, Meg Dunnwald, and Wael Alhabarie - Fire Exit

Choral Reading - Jessica Simmons, Noe Flores, Keaton Gunderson, Jaxson Rew, Meg Dunnwald, Milly Aquilar, Gabe Espejo, Nick Quasdorf, Eva Dohlman, Sariah Whalen-Flores, Aly Martinez, Jaslene Tevalan, Mady Schrock, Yesenia Valenzuela, and Felipe Velica - Fat Chance

Events receiving a "II" rating:
Group Improv - Chloe Craighton, Maren Subbert, Ruby Garcia, and Avalon Mulford

Group Improv - Jackson Opperman, Aniss Farhat, Noe Flores, and Arnold

Guevara-Barrera

One Act Play - Emma Dietz, Reed Masters, Lily Rosenberg, Rachel Wilkerson, America Dominguez, Jaxson Rew, Chloe Craighton, Felipe Velica, Aniss Farhart, Wael Alhabarie, A-eshah Khunchan, Esmeralda Castro, Mady Schrock, Avalon Mulford, Keaton Gunderson, and Andyn White - The A.I. Play

Musical Theater - Gabe Espejo, Isaac Sauke, Jerry Flores, James Chambers, Kooper Tranel, and Reed Masters - Newsies

Events nominated by a judge and selected to perform at the All-State Festival, to be held at Iowa State University on Mon-

day, February 22 are Readers Theatre (Fire Exit), Choral Reading (Fat Chance), and Ensemble Acting (I Was There).

The IHSSA believes "good communicators equal great citizens." The IHSSA provides a family to a diverse group of high school students, inspiring their voices and empowering their identities through large group, individual, and debate activities.

According to the National Speech & Debate Association, schools offer programming report: increased attendance, higher test scores, rise in college acceptance, unique benefits for at-risk students, and reduced drop-out rates.



Speech coaches Wendy Buseman and Emileigh Eilderts at the large group state contest in Decorah. Students travelled to Decorah on Saturday, February 9 for the large group state contest.

INA Awards

Last Thursday, the Hampton Chronicle took first place for "best use of social media" for class III at the Iowa Newspaper Association's annual convention. To our readers and followers: thank you for your continued support!



News Editor Jennifer Burnham at the newspaper award ceremony last week

Warrants Issued for Fourth Alleged Grave Marker Thief

BY JENNIFER BURNHAM
 HAMPTON CHRONICLE

The Franklin County Sheriff's Office is currently looking for Joshua Sellers — the fourth suspect in the missing grave markers case in the area.

Two warrants have been issued for Joshua Sellers, 41, of Manly on the charges of first degree theft and first degree criminal mischief, according to Franklin County Sheriff Aaron Dodd.

Others arrested in connection to the case: Lauren Johnson of Dumont, Brandon Smith of Hampton and Rachel Card of Hampton.

The first arrests were made after an extensive investigation by the

Franklin County Sheriff's Office. The markers were taken from multiple rural and city cemeteries across Franklin County, with additional reports of missing markers in Butler, Floyd and Cerro Gordo counties.

According to Dodd, the thieves scrapped over 700 pounds of metal stolen from memorials, and netted only about \$2,000. They targeted at least 15 cemeteries in Franklin County.

"If you see this person, call 911 or your local law enforcement immediately," Dodd said.

According to the Iowa Sex Offender Registry website, Sellers is around 5'8" and 190 pounds. He was convicted of a sex crime with a child under the age of 16 in 2007.



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Our new G20 Kodak Photo order station is up and running with 4 x 6 prints, 5x7 and 8 x 10, with collages and arrangements also available. The console is app supported and has an adapter for several different types.

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FOR SALE
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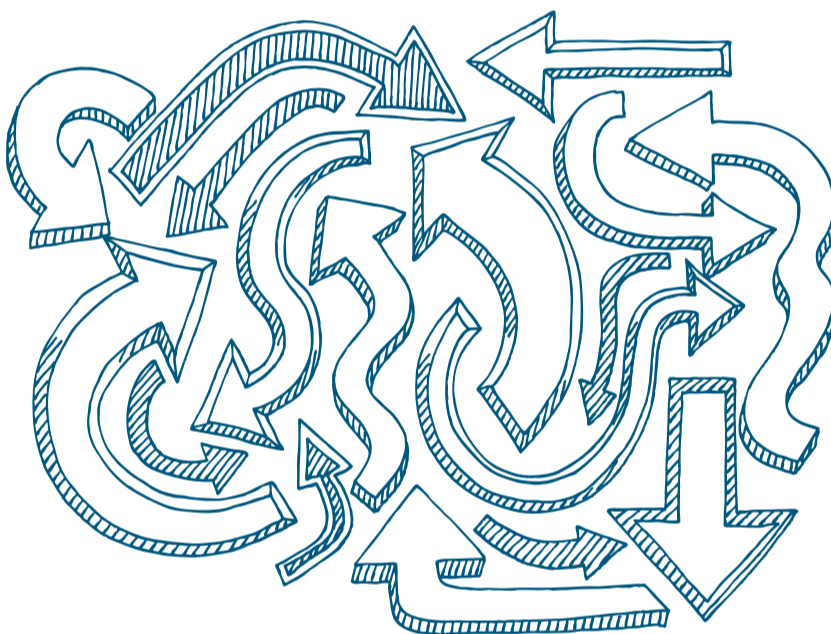
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February Events Program



VALENTINE'S COOKIE FUNDRAISER AT LA LUZ CENTRO CULTURAL, Eighteen bucks for a box of 18 cookies. Pick up Feb. 13 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Flavors: Heart frosted sugar cookies, thumbprint cookies, strawberry white chocolate chip and red velvet blossoms.



ALL-CHOCOLATE BAKE SALE AT HAMPTON SENIOR CENTER, 9 a.m. until gone.

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Classes are \$65 and beginning to fill
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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?

Email us at:
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CIVIC CALENDAR

<p>FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:</p> <p>DETAILS: Monday 8:30 AM Franklin County Courthouse</p>	<p>FRANKLIN COUNTY TOURISM BOARD:</p> <p>DETAILS: Second Thursday, 4:30 PM, Center 1</p>	<p>FRANKLIN COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD:</p> <p>DETAILS: Second Monday of month, 6:30 PM Maynes Grove Shelter</p>	<p>FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH</p> <p>DETAILS: Second Monday every other month (usually) February 13th 4:00 PM</p>	<p>FRANKLIN COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE:</p> <p>DETAILS: 2nd Tuesday of the month at 4:00 PM at Center 1</p>
<p>ACKLEY CITY COUNCIL MEETING:</p> <p>DETAILS: Second Tuesday</p>	<p>ALEXANDER CITY COUNCIL:</p> <p>DETAILS: Alexander Library, 409 Harriman St City Council meetings on the First Tuesday of every month</p>	<p>COULTER CITY COUNCIL:</p> <p>DETAILS: Second Wednesday of the month, 6:30 PM</p>	<p>DOWS CITY COUNCIL:</p> <p>DETAILS: First Monday of every month 6:00 PM</p>	<p>DUMONT CITY COUNCIL:</p> <p>DETAILS: Second Thursday 7:00 PM At EMS Center Dumont</p>
<p>GENEVA CITY COUNCIL:</p> <p>DETAILS: Second Tuesday of every month 6:30 PM</p>	<p>HANSELL CITY COUNCIL:</p> <p>DETAILS: Second Wednesday every month, Community Center 7:00 PM</p>	<p>LATIMER CITY COUNCIL:</p> <p>DETAILS: Second Wednesday, 6:30 PM</p>	<p>SHEFFIELD CITY COUNCIL:</p> <p>DETAILS: Every second Monday of the month at 7 PM</p>	<p>FRANKLIN COUNTY VETERANS AFFAIRS:</p> <p>DETAILS: First Tuesday of the Month 4:00 PM, Franklin County Veterans Affairs Office</p>
<p>ALEXANDER LIBRARY BOARD:</p> <p>DETAILS: Third Wednesday of every month</p>	<p>HAMPTON PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD:</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>DUMONT LIBRARY BOARD:</p> <p>DETAILS: Dumont Public Library Second Wednesday of every month</p>	<p>HAMPTON DUMONT SCHOOL BOARD:</p> <p>DETAILS: Fourth Monday of the month 6:00 PM</p>	<p>WEST FORK SCHOOL BOARD:</p> <p>DETAILS: Third Monday of the Month, 5:00 PM, West Fork High School Sheffield</p>
<p>CAL SCHOOL BOARD:</p> <p>DETAILS: 2nd Thursday of the month at 5:30 PM</p>	<p>ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT:</p> <p>DETAILS: 5:30 PM City Council Chambers</p>	<p>HAMPTON CITY COUNCIL:</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Workshops are held on the Mondays preceding the 2nd and 4th Thursday Regular Sessions at 6:00 PM, in the City Council Chambers.</p>	<p>FRANKLIN COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COMMISSION:</p> <p>DETAILS: First Wednesday of month, 7:00 PM Franklin County Law Enforcement Center</p>	<p>ISU EXTENSION COUNCIL:</p> <p>DETAILS: ISU Extension and Outreach Office 6 2nd St NW, Hampton, IA 50441 Regional Coordinators meeting every Third Monday of the month at 6:00 PM Appointed regional coordinators meet to discuss items of interest to the ag community locally</p>



Fernanda Ramirez wrestles during the Girls State Tournament. Photo by Molly Bird



Maren Subbert holds down her opponent during the Girls State Tournament. Photo by Molly Bird.

Local Wrestlers Compete At Girls State Tournament

BY KEVIN LABOTKA
HAMPTON CHRONICLE

Two local girls wrestlers competed at the Girls State Championships that went from Feb. 6- Feb. 7. For Hampton-Dumont-CAL, Maren Subbert went 1-2 in the Class 1A 190-lbs weight class. For West Fork, Fernanda Ramirez went 1-2 in the Class 1A 170-lbs weight class.

Bulldogs Girls Fall In Close Game To Algona

BY KEVIN LABOTKA
HAMPTON CHRONICLE

ALGONA— For only the second time this year it was the Hampton-Dumont-CAL Bulldogs girls basketball team that was on the losing side of a game. The No. 11. Hampton-Dumont-CAL Bulldogs lost to the No. 8. Algona Bulldogs 36-32 on Feb. 7. Hampton-Dumont-CAL is now 19-2 on the year and both losses have been to Algona.

Hampton-Dumont-CAL trailed 9-6 after the first quarter and both teams scored 10 points in the second quarter to make it 19-16 at halftime. The score stayed 19-16 until there was less than 5:00 left in the third quarter where it was 21-18. Kenzie Moorehead made a basket to make it 23-20 with less than 3:00 left in the quarter. Then Jordan Valley

made a three-pointer to tie the game at 23-23 with just around 1:00 left in the quarter. Later, Hampton-Dumont-CAL forced a turnover and Lily Hamby scored to give Hampton-Dumont-CAL a 25-23 lead with around 20 seconds left. Algona then tied the game at 25-25 which would be the score at the end of the quarter.

In the fourth quarter, Algona took a 28-25 lead and then made it a 31-25 lead. With 2:30 left in the game a score by Jordan Valley made it 33-29. Both teams played tough defense throughout the game and it stayed closed until the final seconds. Brooklyn Valley made a deep three-pointer to make it a 35-32 game with 12.3 seconds left but Hampton was unable to force another turnover and Algona made a free-throw to ice the game.

Head coach Miranda



MacKenzy Valley chucks a three-pointer during the final seconds of the Bulldogs loss to Algona on Feb. 7. Photo by Kevin Labotka

Stafford said that one thing the team can take away from the game is the importance of execution down the stretch.

“You have to make shots

down the stretch and Algona made a couple of big shots and we didn’t and that is what it came down to,” Stafford said. “We put ourselves in a good position

but we did just not make the shots when we needed to.”

Stafford said the team can also learn just how important every possession is in the game and that she is

proud of the girls’ effort in the game.

“We were there and we had a chance,” Stafford said.

A positive for Hampton in their two games against Algona is that Stafford said it shows the girls that they can compete with anyone.

“Algona is a top eight team and they are hosting and a No. 1 seed and we had a chance,” Stafford said. “Take the loss and learn. I know for these seniors they wanted a conference championship and it hurts. Those were goals that they had and we have to reflect and move on. There are other goals out there and we are going to have to compete every single night from here on out.”

The Bulldogs’ next game is at home against Clear Lake in the first round of the Class 3A Region 6 Tournament at home on Feb. 15. at 7 p.m.

Hampton-Dumont-CAL Boys Can’t Complete Comeback

BY KEVIN LABOTKA
HAMPTON CHRONICLE

ALGONA—The Hampton-Dumont-CAL Bulldogs boys basketball team fell short in a comeback attempt in a 70-58 loss to the Algona Bulldogs on the road on Feb. 7. Hampton-Dumont-CAL is now 4-15 on the year.

The two teams traded baskets during the early parts of the first quarter as Hampton-Dumont-CAL led 7-6 early, Algona then took a 8-7 lead before Hampton-Dumont-CAL retook the lead at 9-8 with less than 5:00 left in the quarter. Algona took a 11-9 lead and then went on a 10-5 run to make it 21-14 with less than 2:00 left in the quarter. Hampton-Dumont-CAL trailed 23-16 after the first quarter and trailed 42-27 at halftime.

Hampton-Dumont-CAL cut into the lead in the third quarter by outscoring Algona 16-15 in the third quarter to make it 57-43 at the end of the quarter. In

the fourth quarter, Hampton-Dumont-CAL got the deficit down to 10 points at 66-56 with around 2:30 left in the game, but Algona did just enough to stay in front and end the game with the win.

Hampton-Dumont-CAL shot 55.8 % from the field as a team, including 4-for-9 from the three-point line. Hampton-Dumont-CAL also went 6-for-12 from the free-throw line. Brady Harr led the team with 21 points and had a double-double with 11 rebounds, Tramaine Horton scored 15 points, Aaden Keehn scored eight points, Caden Woods and Hunter Rieken both added six points each, and Jacob Donnenwerth scored two points.

Head coach Brian Niesen said that a positive for Hampton-Dumont-CAL is that the offense has become more balanced than earlier in the season.

“I thought our guards made some good plays,” Niesen said. “Brady Harr did his things and scored and rebounded. We played

really good basketball at times. But we had a stretch in the second quarter where we didn’t guard up to our capabilities and they opened things up a little bit. But we played some good basketball at times.”

When it came to how the team cut into the deficit in the second half and made the game closer in the

fourth quarter, Niesen said that the team used a box and one against Algona’s best player.

“When he got the ball I thought we had good help defense,” Niesen said. “We know how hard it is to guard him one-on-one so I thought our help defense was really good at times. We made their other op-

tions have to make shots and make plays against us and at times that helped stick around in the game.”

Niesen said that the team has to figure out what to do to play like they did in the fourth quarter for a whole game in the future.

“Taht is the million dollar question, how do you do it for 32 minutes,” Niesen

said. “That is what we are trying to figure out. I feel like sometimes just knowing what works and going back to it. If something works do it again and again and keep going until they stop it.”

Hampton-Dumont-CAL’s next game is at home on Feb. 14. against Clear Lake at 7:45 p.m.



Brady Harr gets off a shot during the Bulldogs loss to Algona on Feb. 7. Photo by Kevin Labotka

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Bulldogs Boys Wrestling Wins Steve Deike Duals

BY KEVIN LABOTKA
HAMPTON CHRONICLE

HAMPTON— The Hampton-Dumont-CAL Bulldogs boys wrestling team went 4-0 and won the Steve Deike Duals title on Feb. 8. Head coach Patrick Hansen said that team wrestled loose and had more fun than they did at the regional meet.

“We were a little stressed out at regionals and we put a little bit too much pressure on ourselves,” Hansen said. “Saturday it was more like ‘let’s let it fly’ and the kids wrestled really well and we beat some good teams there, it was a good day.”

The Bulldogs defeated Marshalltown in the first match 42-33. In that matchup, Brody Robertson won in the 215-lbs weight class, Madox Strother won in the

106-lbs weight class, Luke Showalter won in the 120-lbs weight class, William Vosburg won in the 126-lbs weight class, Charlie Showalter won in the 132-lbs weight class, and Jaymes Stevens won in the 144-lbs weight class. Ryder Strother won in the 150-lbs weight class and Taylor Mahler won in the 157-lbs weight class.

The Bulldogs then defeated Forest City 65-9. In that matchup, Brody Robertson won in the 215-lbs weight class, Emmitt Elling won in the 285-lbs weight class, Madox Strother won in the 106-lbs weight class, and Luke Showalter won in the 120-lbs weight class. William Vosburg won in the 126-lbs weight class, Charlie Showalter won in the 132-lbs weight class, Brody Strother won in the 138-lbs weight class, Ry-

der Strother won in the 150-lbs weight class, Taylor Mahler won in the 157-lbs weight class, Colin Bird won in the 165-lbs weight class, Sean Heilskov won in the 175-lbs weight class, and Tristen Mulford won in the 190-lbs weight class.

In the third match, the Bulldogs defeated Armes 61-14. Emmitt Elling won in the 285-lbs weight class, Madox Strother won in the 106-lbs weight class, Carter Janssen won in the 113-lbs weight class, Luke Showalter won in the 120-lbs weight class, and William Vosburg won in the 126-lbs weight class. Charlie Showalter won in the 132-lbs weight class, Taylor Mahler won in the 157-lbs weight class, Colin Bird won in the 165-lbs weight class, Sean Heilskov won in the 175-lbs weight class, Tristen Mulford won in the 190-lbs weight class, and Brody Robertson won in the 215-lbs weight class.

In the final match, the Bulldogs won against Central Springs 44-27. Luke Showalter won in the 120-lbs weight class, Charlie Showalter won in the 132-lbs weight class, Brody Strother won in the 138-lbs weight class, Jaymes Stevens won in the 144-lbs weight class, Taylor Mahler won in the 157-lbs weight class, Colin Bird won in the 165-lbs weight class, Brody Robertson won in the 215-lbs weight class, and Emmitt Elling won in the 285-lbs weight class.

The team also competed in the Class 2A Regional 8 meet



Carter Janssen competes at the Steve Deike Duals on Feb. 8. Photo by Molly Bird



Sean Heilskov goes up against an opponent during the Steve Deike Duals on Feb. 8. Photo by Molly Bird

on Feb. 4. The team lost to Clarion-Goldfield-Dows 50.0-17.0. In that matchup, Ryder Strother won in the 150-lbs weight class, Taylor Mahler won in the 57-lbs weight class, and Madox Strother won in the 106-lbs weight class.

Hansen said that regionals did not go really well for the team.

“We got beat pretty bad,” Hansen said. “We just did not bring our A game and Clarion did.”

For the wrestlers who will be back next year, the regionals meet was a good experience for the younger kids.

“It is one of those things where being in the regional duals is a good thing,” Hansen said. “I know we did not get where we wanted to be but for the younger kids it is something we are start-

ing to get accustomed to. It is like making the state playoffs in football. It is you expect to do all the time and when you get there you really want to win. But you handle it and know the sun comes up the next day.”

After the regional meet, one area that Hansen said the team can work on to take the next step next year is hand fighting and Hansen said he thinks the team can step up to the challenge of going against tough opponents.

“You have to step up to the challenge or not and I believe in our kids and I think they will always step up to it.”

The team’s next meet is the District meet at Clear Lake on Feb. 15. At 10 a.m.

West Fork Girls Wrestling Had Many Positives This Year

BY KEVIN LABOTKA
HAMPTON CHRONICLE

The West Fork Warhawks girls wrestling team took 11th place out of 18 teams with a score of 54.0 points at the Class 1A Regional 4 meet at Osage on Jan. 31. Head coach Onni Prestidge said that the team faced tough opposition at the meet.

“This was the hardest region in the state and there is no doubt about that,” Prestidge said. “Each girl had to wrestle the best they have all year to advance to the state tournament and every single one of them did exactly as we asked and left it all out on the mat.”

Prestidge said one positive he noticed from the team during the meet was how they stayed true to their technique.

“Sometimes during stressful matches, you can see any athlete reach too far and try to force something that they have never tried before or put them-

selves in a bad position,” Prestidge said. “Every one of our wrestlers remained true to their style and their technique. This is so important when in high-level competition because you need to know what you are capable of.”

One thing that Prestidge said he noticed that at the meet that the team will have to work on and build for next year is getting stronger.

The obvious difference was the look of the girls competing at the state tournament,” Prestidge said. “Physically, each qualifier looked the part. Our girls need to find the weight room throughout the year, not only in the summer. In the technique part of wrestling our girls have and are able to improve their skills. However we need to be able to add strength to it. If you are strong enough you can put yourself in a bad position and strengthen yourself out of it. If you are not strong enough when you get put in a bad position



Fernanda Ramirez wrestles a opponent during the regional meet on Jan. 31. Photo by Molly Bird

you get put on your back.”

When it comes to the season as a whole, the team went beyond the coaches expectations.

“Coming into this season we had some high expectations with our returning wrestlers,” Dick-

man said. “Three captains on our team consisted of one three year and two four year wrestlers. Knowing the kids they are, we knew they were going to be great mentors to our core group of freshmen. The entire group wres-

tled beyond our expectations and met many of the goals they had made.”

Dickman said that there were many positives for the team to come out of this season.

“Many positives came out of our season. We had freshmen fulfilling their goals and some surpassing their goals,” Dickman said. “We had a senior that reached her goals and beyond and will finish her career in front of many spectators at the state tournament. We had two sisters getting to wrestle together while showing the other girls that family is most important. And we had another senior go through hardship which pulled her off the mat and although getting to only wrestle a third of the season, she found out that in life, health and family take a second seat to nothing else. Us as coaches were very fortunate to get a front row seat to watch these kids grow in life and not just sports.”

Weekly Recap

Hampton-Dumont-CAL:

Feb. 4. Boys basketball won vs Iowa Falls-Alden 79-76. The team is now 4-13 on the year. The Bulldogs trailed 25-15 after the first quarter and 39-34 at halftime. The Bulldogs were outscored 15-13 in the third quarter but tied the game at 70-70 after outscoring Iowa Falls-Alden 23-16 in the fourth quarter. The Bulldogs then outscored Iowa Falls-Alden 9-6 in overtime. Caden Woods and Brady Harr led the team with 28 points each, Tramaine Horton added 10 points, and Aaden

Keehn and Hunter Rieken both scored two points each.

Feb. 4. Girls basketball won vs Iowa Falls-Alden 40-28. The team is now 18-1 on the year. The Bulldogs led 11-4 after the first quarter and 23-11 at halftime. Both teams scored seven points in the third quarter to make it 30-18 and both teams scored 10 points in the fourth quarter. Lily Hamby led the team with 11 points, Charlee Morton and MacKenzy Valley both scored eight points each, Brooklyn Valley scored six points, Jordan Valley added

four points, and Addison Aalbers scored three points.

West Fork:

Feb. 1. Boys wrestling took 12th place out of 12 teams with a score of 23.0 points at the Doug Trees Bearcat Invitational at North Butler. Gage Arndt went 2-2 in the 120-lbs weight class, Brooks Jones went 2-2 in the 138-lbs weight class, Preston Starr went 1-2 in the 144-lbs weight class, and Jasper Jones went 2-3 and took fourth place in the 150-lbs weight class. Andrew Baker

went 1-4 and took fifth place in the 165-lbs weight class and Jensen Robbins went 3-3 and took sixth place in the 215-lbs weight class.

Feb. 4. Girls basketball won vs North Butler 58-22. The team is now 15-3 on the year. The Warhawks led 25-2 after the first quarter and 42-11 at halftime. Both teams scored eight points each in the third quarter and the Warhawks outscored the Bearcats 8-3 in the fourth quarter.

Feb. 4. Boys basketball won vs North Butler 41-34. The team

is now 8-9 on the year. The game was tied 12-12 after the first quarter and West Fork trailed 25-18 at halftime after being outscored 13-6 in the second quarter. The Warhawks outscored the Bearcats 12-5 in the third quarter to tie the game at 30-30 and the Warhawks outscored the Bearcats 11-4 in the fourth quarter. Xavier Baptiste and Ashyr Wiseman led the team with 10 points each, Nolan Shreckengost added nine points, Zander Hansen scored seven points, and Trevor Despenas scored five points.

Upcoming Sports Events

Hampton-Dumont-CAL

Feb. 14. Boys basketball vs Clear Lake, 7:45 p.m.
Feb. 15. Girls basketball vs Clear Lake, 7 p.m.
Feb. 15. Boys wrestling at District at Clear Lake, 10 a.m.

West Fork

Feb. 13. Boys basketball vs Forest City, 7:15 p.m.
Feb. 15. Boys wrestling at Class 1A District 6 State Qualifying Tournament at Osage, 10 a.m.
Feb. 18. Girls basketball vs Central Springs or Belmond-Klemme, 7 p.m.

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PATIENCE, My SON



BY RICK JANSSEN

When I was young, my father would take our family fishing once a year. We would go to a local lake with a can of nightcrawlers and our fishing poles. We were there to catch bullheads. We would all bait up these big hooks and use big sinkers and cast out into the lake. Then we would just sit and wait. I am guessing that anyone who has fished has heard that fishing takes patience. We were also told to be quiet or else we would scare the fish away. Now as I look back, I realize this might have been more about

keeping ME quiet and sitting still than actually catching fish. I am sure the fish in the lake can't hear me making noise on shore.

As a regular fisherman, patience is not my strong suit. When I fish, whether it's summer or winter, if I can't catch a fish in one spot after 20 minutes or so, I move on. Very seldom will I just sit and wait for the fish. That is just not my style of fishing. In the summer I move my boat around until I can find fish. In the winter I drill a lot of holes in the ice until I can find fish. That seems to work well for me.

Well, last Friday I had one of those days that tested my limits on patience. One of the reasons I like to fish is that I like to try and solve the puzzle of where the fish are, and what will make them bite. It is that challenge that keeps me coming back another day.

I drove to Siver Lake up by the border of Iowa and Minnesota to fish a lake that I fish in the spring-

time. This lake has some very big bluegills and bass in it, so I thought I would give it a try. Since the lake is fairly large, I was hoping I would be able to drive my vehicle on ice to help me cover the lake faster than walking. That was my first disappointment for the day. There were people on the lake, but I did not see any trucks out there, so I decided that I should not drive out. I loaded all my stuff in my sled/shelter and started walking. This lake happens to be very shallow and flat. The deep spot is about 7 feet. I just started drilling holes and looking for fish. Every hole I put my depth finder in to look for fish was exactly the same, 5 feet deep with some weeds on the bottom. I did try fishing a few holes just to see if I could attract some fish and the fish I caught were all very small. This was disappointment number two.

I had drilled and searched about 30 holes when it was time for lunch. I sat in my shelter and ate while I fished my hole. Again, I only caught very small fish. I was getting frustrated that I was not able to find fish of any size. My patience was being tested. I decided it was time to leave. As I was walking back across the ice I stopped and talked to a few other fisherman that have fished this lake. They all told me that it is better to just pick and spot to sit and wait for the fish to come to you. I know this can work sometimes, but as I stated, that is not my style of fishing. I decided to leave and come back and fish Beeds Lake.

When I got to Beeds Lake I walked out on the south shore and started drilling holes. The ice



right now is about 18-20" thick so just drilling the holes takes some effort. I was sure glad that I had my auger back that I had lost last week. I drilled ten more holes and searched for some active fish. Disappointment number 3. I could not find any fish even here at Beeds Lake. By this time, I had fished for 6 hours and had not caught a fish of any size. I was discouraged and thought about going home. I could not figure out the puzzle today. My stubbornness told me to drill 5 more holes and if I could not find fish in those last holes I would go home.

I was searching the last hole of the day when I saw some fish moving on my depth finder. Now, could I get them to bite? I dropped down my jig and the fish swam up to my jig but did not bite. Time to try another type of lure. Again, when I dropped down the fish would swim up to my lure but not bite. ONE

MORE TRY!! I put on another type of jig for my last effort.

It was now almost four o'clock, and I had drilled 45 holes for the day. My patience had been stretched to my limits, and I could not figure out the puzzle. Suddenly I saw a fish swim up to my lure and take my bait. Fish on!! For the next 45 minutes I sat on that hole and ended up catching 16 fish. I guess patience does pay off. I am not sure if I figured out the puzzle or if it was just the time of day. At that point I really did not care, I was just ready to catch fish.

When I got home, I told my wife that it might have been one of the hardest days of fishing that I have had for a long time. It was a lot of effort to catch fish. Not many people would have stuck it out for that long, but I was determined to figure it out. Hopefully the next time out will be better, and figuring out the puzzle will come quicker.



Plan Now for How to Use Your Tax Refund

PRESS RELEASE
ISU EXTENSION AND
OUTREACH OFFICE

AMES, Iowa – Iowans who are expecting a sizable income tax refund have choices about how to use that money, says Barb Wollan, a human sciences specialist with Iowa State University Extension and Outreach.

“Keep in mind that how you use your refund will affect your household’s financial wellbeing all year long. However, before you receive your refund, consider how much money to pay for tax preparation,” said Wollan, who specializes in family wellbeing.

Wollan offers these suggestions.

Maximize your refund by not overpaying for tax return preparation

If your income is below about \$67,000 per year, you may be eligible for free tax preparation through the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program. Some ISU Extension and Outreach county offices are also VITA sites and a list of these VITA sites is available online. If your income is below \$84,000, you can

use VITA’s free do-it-yourself software. Learn more by sending an email to [Central Iowa VITA, centraliowavita@gmail.com](mailto:centraliowavita@gmail.com); an auto reply will provide you with the link and instructions.

Plan for use of your refund

As with any type of income, you have three main choices for how to use your tax refund: spend, save or pay off debt.

“Careful thought can help you ensure that your family benefits all year long from the refund,” Wollan said.

Save your refund

Saving substantially from the tax refund may be overlooked when immediate needs and wants are always present. However, for many families, saving a large portion of the refund may be the best possible option.

“There are good reasons to save your income tax refund,” Wollan explained.

- Think back to the financial challenges you faced in the past year and think ahead to special needs you anticipate in the year ahead. In many cases,

having money in savings prevents an unusual or unexpected expense from becoming a major crisis.

- Without savings, any major repair, medical bill or large seasonal expense could disrupt your financial stability. For example, paying a car repair bill might leave you short on funds to pay your regular monthly bills on time, leading to late fees or additional interest charges.

- Having savings reduces costs, prevents stress and helps you maintain positive relationships with your landlord and other regular vendors.

- What seasonal expenses might you want to save for? What emergency expenses might arise? Consider setting saving goals for your tax refund to help prevent a financial crisis in the coming year.

Pay off debt

Your first priority for your refund may be to pay off any problem debt. If you’re behind on a bill, getting caught up is important. If you have high-interest credit card debt, paying it off will save a lot of interest expense, Wollan said.

Make a special

purchase

After paying off problem debt, though, it becomes a balancing act: saving for anticipated needs in the coming year versus making special purchases now.

“Keep in mind that spending the money is irreversible. However, if you save a large portion of your refund and no emergencies arise, you can always make purchases later, or next year,” Wollan said.

Most families will make some purchases with their tax refund. Consider purchases that will pay benefits for a long time, so that even six to eight months from now your family will still enjoy what you purchased and feel like it has made your life better.

As you look ahead to tax season, Wollan suggests planning for how you will use your tax refund. Without a carefully thought out plan, it can be easy to spend your refund on the first few good ideas that you encounter, rather than in the ways that will benefit your family the most. Paying debt may be inevitable, but prioritizing substantial savings can set the stage for a year without financial ups and downs.

Stories Under the Stars

BY LAELA RAGSDALE
FRANKLIN COUNTY ISU EXTENSION AND
OUTREACH OFFICE

Franklin County, Iowa – Youth and adults are invited to join Franklin County Extension and the Hampton Public Library for an exploration of the planets! We will have a telescope set up at the Hampton Public Library to see the planets and explore the constellations.

Stop by between 5:30 – 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, February 19 at the Hampton Public Library! Contact Laela Ragsdale at laela@iastate.edu with questions!

Hampton-Dumont Middle School Science Club

BY LAELA RAGSDALE
FRANKLIN COUNTY ISU EXTENSION AND
OUTREACH OFFICE

Franklin County, Iowa – An exciting new program is starting at Hampton-Dumont Middle School called HDMS Science Club! All students in grades 5 th -8 th grade are encouraged to sign up for a hands-on exploration of STEM.

This program is FREE and open for ANY 5 th -8 th grade students. We will meet three times, March 26, April 23 and May 21 from 2:30 – 4:00 p.m. Register through 4-HOnline. Contact Laela Ragsdale at 641-373-3874 or laela@iastate.edu with questions.

4-H Day at the Museum

BY LAELA RAGSDALE
FRANKLIN COUNTY ISU EXTENSION AND
OUTREACH OFFICE

Franklin County, Iowa – Join us for a fun filled day at the Bluedorn Science Imaginarium and John Deere Museum in Waterloo. All youth in grades 4 th -8 th are encouraged to sign up for this event, you don’t have to be in 4-H to go!

The Franklin County 4-H Foundation is covering the \$15 admission for all 4-H members, otherwise this program is \$15 for non 4-H members! Register through 4-HOnline. Contact Laela Ragsdale at 641-373-3874 or laela@iastate.edu with questions.

Franklin County Beef Conference

BY LAELA RAGSDALE
FRANKLIN COUNTY ISU EXTENSION AND
OUTREACH OFFICE

Franklin County, Iowa – Youth who are interested in learning more about the Beef Project area are invited to sign up for Franklin County Beef Conference! Franklin County Extension is hosting this in partnership with the

Franklin County Cattleman.

This is open to any 3 rd -12 th grade student and is only \$10 with scholarships available! Join us on April 5 from 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. at the Franklin County Convention Center. Register through 4-HOnline, lunch is provided for all students and volunteers. Contact Laela Ragsdale at 641-373-3874 or at laela@iastate.edu.

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Thank you, Hampton

This week's appreciation post is a little more personal than most.

For the last year, my son and I have been living in an apartment that's been less than ideal. I won't go into detail, and it may end up being a news story at some point, but one thing was clear: we needed to move out and we needed to get rid of most of our stuff. So I posted about it on my personal Facebook, and before we knew it, people in Hampton started messaging me, saying they had furniture and other items we could have.

Fast forward to today: We just moved into our new place at the Windsor Theatre (fun!), and most everything in our new apartment has been gifted to us by friends in Hamp-

ton — two couches, two beds, kitchenware, a microwave, artwork, lamps and more. Everything we could possibly need.

When I went to the newspaper convention last week, several people asked me what Hampton was like. I couldn't help but smile as I described this community to them. The people here have rallied around my son and I when we needed it most. The people of Hampton have become our good friends — some I would call family. So for that, I am thankful.

To everyone who has helped us: thank you! From the bottom of my heart, thank you.

—News Editor Jennifer Burnham



In loving memory of Roger E. Dohlman 1952-2025



Roger E. Dohlman, 72, of Hampton, passed away Tuesday, February 4, 2025, at the Rehabilitation Center of Hampton. Memorial services will be 11:00 AM on Friday, February 7, 2025 at St. Peter's United Church of Christ in rural Geneva. He will be laid to rest at a later date at the church cemetery. Visitation will be one hour prior to the service at the church on Friday. Woodley Funeral Home and Crematory of Hampton is caring for Roger and his family.

Roger Eugene Dohlman was born on October 21, 1952 to Eime and Dorothy (Mutschler) Dohlman in Hampton, Iowa.

Roger grew up on the family farm where his love and passion for farming grew. He, along with his brother had a farrow to finish hog operation for many years along with row crop farming.

On February 13, 1982 Roger was united in marriage to Jackie Fain at the St. Peter's United Church of Christ in Geneva, Iowa.

Roger was very involved in Franklin County Pork Producers, Franklin County Farm Bureau and St. Peter's UCC in Geneva. He enjoyed watching his kids grow up, helping with various 4H and FFA projects and wood working.

Roger had a long battle with cancer starting in 2004. He was a big supporter of the American Cancer Society, Relay for Life as a survivor. In his later years he enjoyed his grandkids and watching them grow. He always enjoyed having visitors when he was at the nursing home, and was loved by all the staff, especially when he would wear his cap that Jackie made for him one Christmas.

Roger is survived by his wife, Jackie Dohlman of Hampton, Iowa; children, Becky (Casey Staley) Dohlman of Hampton, Iowa, Nathan (Lili) Dohlman of Hampton, Iowa, Dani (Chandler) Good of Urbandale, Iowa; sisters, Thelma Donaldson and Kathleen Fonken; grandchildren: Madison Dohlman, Gabby Vietor, Natalie Dohlman, Eva Dohlman, and Matthew Dohlman. He was preceded in death by his parents, Eime and Dorothy Dohlman; brother, Keith Dohlman and nephew, Shannon Donaldson.

In lieu of flowers, please make a donation to the American Cancer Society in memory of Roger.

In loving memory of Elaine Wilcox 1947-2025



Elaine Wilcox, 77, of Hampton, passed away Tuesday, February 4, 2025, at Bartels Lutheran Retirement Community in Waverly. Funeral services will be held at 11:30 a.m., Saturday, February 8, 2025, at First Congregational United Church of Christ in Hampton with visitation one hour prior to the service. She will be laid to rest at Olena Mound Cemetery in Buffalo Center at a later date. Woodley Funeral Home and Crematory of Hampton is caring for Elaine and her family.

Elaine Faye Wilcox was born on September 23, 1947, to Marvin and Margaret (Van Hoorn) Hassebrook in Buffalo Center, Iowa. She was the youngest of six children.

In 1968, Roger and Elaine were married in the Congregational Church in Buffalo Center. They were blessed with three children: Christine, Brian and Duane.

Elaine became a home health aide, received her business degree from NIACC, then took employment with the Hampton State Bank where she was employed for 21 years.

Elaine will be missed by her children: Christine (Dave) Hallmann, Brian (Tanya) Wilcox and Duane (Brandy) Wilcox; grandchildren: LaKeisha Hoyle, Jaina Olson, Ronald Wilcox, Treasa Wilcox, Hannah Wilcox and Brooke Rohwedder; great-grandchildren: Carter Duhn, Oliver Hoyle, Easton Messman, Madelyn Messman, Emberlyn Olson and Maisyn Olson; and many other relatives.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be directed to the Hampton Senior Center.

Death Notices

Chad Burmester

Chad Burmester, 53, of Newton and formerly of Hampton, passed away on Tuesday, February 4, 2025 at the MercyOne Newton Medical Center. Funeral arrangements are pending with the Sietsema-Atkinson Funeral Home in Hampton.

Neil Ditch

Neil Ditch, 65, of Hampton, passed away on Wednesday, February 5, 2025 at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota. Funeral services are pending with the Sietsema-Atkinson Funeral Home in Hampton.

Cecil Radcliffe

Cecil Radcliffe, 90, of Clear Lake and formerly of Bristow, passed away on Saturday, February 8, 2025 at his home in Clear Lake. Funeral services will be 11 a.m. on Tuesday, February 11, 2025 at St. James Lutheran Church in Allison. Visitation will be an hour before the service. Funeral arrangements are under the guidance of the Sietsema-Atkinson Funeral Home in Hampton.

First 'Wonders of the World' A Success, More to Come

BY JENNIFER BURNHAM
HAMPTON CHRONICLE

For the first time, Laela Ragsdale with the Franklin County ISU Extension and Outreach Office held a class called "Wonders of the World" at the Hampton Public Library last Wednesday afternoon.

The program was a hit, she said, adding that she and the students focused on exploring different wonders of the world through STEM activities, such as building arches out of paper and a virtual tour of the Roman Colosseum.

The program will be held once a month. The next one will be held March 6.



Laela Ragsdale with youth participating in the first session of "Wonders of the World" at the Hampton Public Library



Paper arches made by the students at the library



Paper arches made by the students at the library



Paper arches made by the students at the library

Final Call: Apply for Franklin REC's 2025 Youth Tour to Washington, D.C.!

High school sophomores and juniors have until Feb. 24, 2025, to apply for Franklin REC's all-expense-paid Youth Tour to Washington, D.C. This unique opportunity allows students to explore the nation's capital, visit historical sites, meet elected officials, and learn about cooperatives' impact at the federal level.

The June 2025 trip includes stops at the U.S. Capitol, World War II Memorial, Iwo Jima Sunset Parade, and more. Participants will engage with



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LUNCH SERVED 11 A.M.-1 P.M.

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BAPTIST

Faith Baptist
Lead Pastor: Robert Anderstrom
Associate Pastor of Family Life: Dustin Byrnes
 Address: 1701 Central Ave E., PO Box 515, Hampton, IA 50441
 Telephone: 641-456-4887
 Website: faith-hampton.com
 Facebook: FBC-Hampton
 • Wednesday, February 12, 8:30 a.m. Men's Prayer; 4:30 p.m. Pathfinders K-6; 6:30 p.m. SWAG 7-12
 • Sunday, February 16, 9:30 a.m. Worship Service; 11 a.m. Sunday School Classes
 • Tuesday, February 18, 9:30 a.m. Women's Prayer
 • Wednesday, February 19, 8:30 a.m. Men's Prayer; 4:30 p.m. Pathfinders K-6; 6:30 p.m. SWAG 7-12

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
 Tuesday and Thursday at 8:30 AM
 Sunday 10:30 AM English
 5:30 PM Spanish

CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)

First Christian Church
 605 Fourth St. NE, Hampton
 • Sunday, February 16, 10:30 a.m. Worship Service

LATTER DAY SAINTS

The Church of Jesus Christ Of Latter Day Saints
 Hampton / Miguel Sosa Garcia, Branch President
 • Sundays, 10 a.m. Worship Service; Spanish Activities

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, February 12, 8:30 a.m. ZSJ Piecemakers; 5:15 p.m. 7-8 Confirmation Class; 6:15 p.m. Bell Choir Rehearsal; 7:15 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal
 • Thursday, February 13, 2 p.m. West Fork Food Pantry
 • Friday, February 14, **Valentines Day**
 • Sunday, February 16, 9 a.m.

Worship Service with Holy Communion; 10 a.m. **WELCA Pie Sale**; 10:15 a.m. Fellowship & Sunday School
 • Monday, February 17, **Presidents Day**
 • Wednesday, February 19, 8:30 a.m. ZSJ Piecemakers; 5:15 p.m. 7-8 Confirmation Class; 6:15 p.m. Bell Choir Rehearsal; 7:15 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal

St. Paul Lutheran Church
 17 Second St. NE, Hampton
Caitlyn Taurio
 Sunday Worship: 9:00 am.
 Sunday School 10:15 am
 Adult Sunday School 10:15 am

St. Paul's Lutheran
 304 W Main, Latimer
Reverend Joel Peter Wagner
 • Sunday, February 16, 9 a.m. Divine Service; 10:30 a.m. Family Bible Study & Sunday School

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 - Jacob Stefane,
Rev. Karl C. Bollhagen, Pastor
 • Sunday, February 16, 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, February 16, 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, February 16, 9 a.m. Sunday School, Confirmation, & Coffee; 10:30 a.m. Worship Service
 • Wednesday, February 19, 5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. **FREE Community Meal**

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
Pastor Jon Montgomery
 641-903-3214
 • Sundays, 9:30 a.m. Sunday School; 10:30 a.m. Worship

Hampton United Methodist
 100 Central Ave. E, Hampton
Pastor Dennis Burns
 • Wednesday, February 12, 5:30 p.m. Wacky Wednesday
 • Thursday, February 13, 9:30 a.m. BeFriendsers
 • Saturday, February 15, 5 p.m.

Worship Service
 • Sunday, February 16, 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, February 17, 1:30 p.m. God's FLOCK
 • Tuesday, February 18, 1:30 p.m. Faithful Stitchers
 • Wednesday, February 19, 5:30 p.m. Wacky Wednesday & Choir Rehearsal

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

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

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

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

NON-DENOMINATIONAL

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

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

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

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

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

Study

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

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

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

Zion Reformed Church
 2029 Jonquil Ave., Sheffield
Rev. Petri van Rooyen, Pastor
 Office Hours: M,W, Th: 8-Noon * Bad Weather KLMJ*
 • Wednesday, February 12, 7 p.m. RCYF
 • Friday, February 14, **Happy Valentines Day!**
 • Sunday, February 16, 9:15 a.m. Worship Service; 10:30 a.m. Sunday School
 • Monday, February 17, **Presidents Day**
 • Wednesday, February 19, 6:30 p.m. **Family Ministry**

Hampton Seventh Day Adventist Church
 605 4th St. NE, Hampton
Pastor Steven Shafer
 Phone: 641-424-3055
 Email: SDAHamptonIA@gmail.com
 • Sabbath School Saturday 9:30
 •Worship 11:00

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

First Congregational U.C.C.
 22 First Ave. SW, Hampton
 (641) 456-2192
Pastor Karen Koenig and Pastor Peggy Allison
 • Sunday, February 16, 9:15 a.m. Sunday School; 10:30 a.m. Sunday Worship Service
 • Tuesday, February 18, 9:30 a.m. **First Congregational UCC will host the Franklin County Ministerial Meeting**

Immanuel U.C.C.
 204 E. South St., Latimer
Pastor Joe Dunnwald
 • Sunday, February 16, 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, February 16, 9:15 a.m. Sunday School; 10:30 a.m. Worship Service

In loving memory of
Sue E. McGuire
 1953-2025



Sue E. McGuire, 71, of Hampton, passed away Monday, February 3, 2025, at MercyOne North Iowa Medical Center in Mason City. Visitation will be held from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., Thursday, February 6, 2025, at Faith Baptist Church in Hampton. Memorial services will be held at noon on Friday, February 7, 2025, at Faith Baptist Church in Hampton. Woodley Funeral Home and Crematory of Hampton is caring for Sue and her family.

Sue Ellen McGuire was born August 30, 1953, in Edgerton, Wisconsin, daughter of Harold and Doris (Flattem) Kersten. One of five children, Sue grew up on a dairy farm in Janesville, Wisconsin. She graduated in 1971 from George S. Parker Senior High School.

Sue was united in marriage to Timothy L. McGuire on February 17, 1973, at Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church in Janesville, Wisconsin. To this union, three children were born: Bethany, Benjamin, and Jonathan.

Sue and Tim were dairy farmers in southern Wisconsin for a number of years, selling the farm and going into the ministry in 1983. Sue worked alongside her husband in the various churches he pastored. She also worked a variety of jobs, her favorite being a bakery. For the last twenty years, Sue worked at Sukup Manufacturing in Sheffield, Iowa. In her spare time, she loved to cook, bake, garden, sew, and read.

Sue is survived by her children: Bethany Bell of Ypsilanti, Michigan, Benjamin (Stephanie) McGuire of Hampton, Iowa, and Jonathan (Sonja) McGuire of Mason City, Iowa; Grandchildren: Oliver Krumm and Thaddeus Bell of Ypsilanti, Michigan, Anya McGuire, Landyn McGuire, Mattelyn McGuire, Jace McGuire, Delilah McGuire, Calvyn McGuire, Violet McGuire and Christopher McGuire of Hampton, Iowa, Curtis McGuire of Barnes City, Iowa, and Faye Tuttle (Justin) of Charles City; Great granddaughter Iris Tuttle of Charles City; Sister Donna (Noel) Jones of Why, Arizona; Brothers: David (Linda) Kersten of Pueblo, Colorado, Dennis (Barb) Kersten of Janesville, Wisconsin and Ronald Kersten of Evansville, Wisconsin; along with many nieces and nephews and extended relatives.

Sue was preceded in death by her parents and husband Timothy McGuire in 2018.

Memorials may be directed to: World Gospel Mission, PO Box 948, Marion, IN 46952 or Turning Point Ministries, PO Box 3838, San Diego, CA 92163.

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A Valentine for Everyone

When I was in grammar school it was common practice for the kids to give a valentine to everyone in their class. Our parents would buy packages of Valentine cards that had a bunch of small Valentines with preprinted messages such as "Be My Valentine" or "Won't you be my Valentine?" on them and then the kids would fill in the names in the spaces for "To:" and "From:" and hand them out to their classmates on Valentines Day. And what a beautiful way to teach kids that they should be kind and loving to everyone. No one was left out and everyone went home with a pile of Valentines. And of course, if there was someone special in your class who you had a crush on you could write an extra note to him or her. Maybe we should do something similar this year on Valentine's Day. There are a million ways you can show others that you love them, from a nice personal note to something you baked or made yourself. The only limit is your imagination and the love you have for those around you.
 -Christopher Simon

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FROM THE LOG

Franklin County

Traffic: Jacob Alvah Sorenson, of Renwick, failure to maintain or use safety belts; Jonatan Isai Bellocalles, of Ankeny, failure to provide proof of financial liability; Aaron Michael Green, of Ankeny, speeding; Amy Marie Herrod, of Mason City, trespass 1st offense; Hunter Ray Williams, of Granby, Missouri, speeding; Olivier Nanfah, of Houston, Texas, speeding; Andrew John Eekhoff, of Belmont, speeding; Eric J Hughes, of Farmer City, Illinois, speeding; Sabian Malulani Ott, of Vinton, speeding; Yerlin Nahomy Castellanos Nieto, of Hampton, speeding; Scott Richard Erickson, of Farley, maximum width of vehicle; Alejandro Atlahua Coyohua, of Hampton, speeding; Howard M Sheehan, of Bloomfield, New York, speeding;

Terrance Patrick Fagely, of Lake Elmo, Minnesota, speeding;

Civil: Charles Timothy Morris, of Hampton, versus Samantha Jean Zipse, of Oelwein, petition filed and order for mediation; American Express National Bank versus Gina Angela Jorgensen, non jury order setting trial;

Sukup Manufacturing Co versus Buttry Construction Co, Alan Buttry, Larry D Buttry, petition filed; Ronald Lee Rand, of Hampton, versus State of Iowa, of Des Moines, notice of appeal;

OWI: Marcos Martinez Carrillo, of Dows, order of disposition; pled guilty for operating while intoxicated – first offense, serving 2 days jail time and \$1,250 fine;

Jerson Daniel Ortega Reyes, of Hampton, order of disposition; pled guilty for operating while intoxicated – first offense, serving one year probation time and \$1,250 fine;

Maicol Vinicio Lopez Barrios, of Clarion, order of arraignment; order setting trial, April 10, 9 a.m.;

Small Claims: Credit Bureau Services of IA INC, of Oskaloosa, versus Travis John DeGroote, of Ackley, Josalyn Renae Sanders, of Eagle Grove, judgment default, \$688.51 fine;

Quad Corporation INC, of Davenport, versus Wendy Stanford, of Hampton, dismissed without prejudice;

Midland Credit Management INC, of West Des Moines, versus Stephanie Lynn Reyna, of Sheffield, original notice;

Criminal: Ismael Rodriguez Torres, of Hampton, order setting trial; order setting trial, February 13, 9 a.m.;

Cody Randall Schroeder, of Cedar Rapids, hearing for initial appearance;

Vanessa Lillian King, of Iowa Falls, order of disposition; pled guilty for operating a motor vehicle without owners consent, serving 60 days jail time with credit for time previously served, \$855 fine, \$855 fine suspended;

Jeremie Lee Bobst, of Latimer, order setting trial; order setting trial, March 13, 9 a.m.;

Mason Eugene Oberender, of Galt, order of arraignment; order setting trial, April 10, 9 a.m.;

Rachel Diane Card, of Hampton, criminal complaint and hearing for initial appearance;

Lauren Alexandria Johnson, of Dumont, criminal complaint, arrest warrant, and hearing for initial appearance;

Amy Marie Herrod, of Mason City, order of disposition; pled guilty for criminal mischief 5th degree, serving 2 days jail time;

Blake Michael Walrod, of Hutchinson, Minnesota, criminal complaint, hearing for initial appearance, and no contact order;

Luke Dale Bourne, of Minneapolis, Minnesota, order of dismissal;

Mitchell Ashley Bourne, of Minneapolis, Minnesota, order of dismissal;

Derek Johnathan Kohl, of Cedar Rapids, order of arraignment; order setting trial, April 10, 9 a.m.;

Juan Vazquez Aldaba, of Hampton, hearing for initial appearance and order for arraignment; February 24,

8:45 a.m.; Cody Linn Montag, of Hampton, non jury order setting trial

Police & Sheriff Reports 2/3-2/9 Hampton Police Reports

Monday, February 3: Officers executed one traffic stop and assisted with one medical call.

8:58 a.m.: Officers responded to an alarm in the 10 block of 1st St. NW, Hampton.

12:15 p.m.: Report of a domestic matter in the 500 block of 1st Ave NW, Hampton.

2:52 p.m.: Report of a nuisance/junk ordinance violation in the 400 block of 10th Ave NE, Hampton.

3:07 p.m.: Report of false 911 calls in the 300 block of 5th Ave SE, Hampton.

5:39 p.m.: Report of civil disputes in the 200 block of 2nd Ave NE, Hampton.

10:42 p.m.: Report of suspicious activity in the 100 block of N Federal St. , Hampton.

11:49 p.m.: Report of a suspicious vehicle in the area of Seabee, Hampton.

Tuesday, February 4:

2:13 a.m.: Report of neighborhood complaints in the 100 block of 10th St. NW, Hampton.

8:07 a.m.: Report of false 911 calls in the 100 block of 12th Ave NW, Hampton.

3:15 p.m.: Report of a nuisance/junk ordinance violation in the 10 block of 6th St. NW, Hampton.

3:58 p.m.: Report of a nuisance/junk ordinance violation in the 00 block of 4th Ave NW, Hampton.

3:58 p.m.: Report of false 911 calls in the 1700 block of Central Ave E, Hampton.

4:18 p.m.: Report of missing property in the 300 block of Central Ave W, Hampton.

Wednesday, February 5:

Officers assisted two motorists and received one general call.

10:32 a.m.: Officers assisted with a funeral in the 100 block of Central Ave E, Hampton.

3:46 p.m.: Report of an accident with property damage in the area of 12th Ave and Olive Ave, Hampton.

4:50 p.m.: Report of harassment in the 1300 block of N Federal St. , Hampton.

Thursday, February 6:

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

9:32 a.m.: Report of an accident with property damage in the 600 block of 12th Ave NE, Hampton.

9:51 a.m.: Report of false 911 calls in the 1700 block of Central Ave E, Hampton.

9:53 p.m.: Officers executed other warrants in the 1300 block of N Federal St. , Hampton.

10:36 p.m.: Officers assisted with booking information in the 100 block of 5th St. SW, Hampton.

Friday, February 7:

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

7:35 a.m.: Report of a school bus violation in the 20 block of 6th St. NW, Hampton.

11:09 a.m.: Report of false 911 calls in the 100 block of 12th Ave NW, Hampton.

12:15 p.m.: Report of dog calls in the area of 1st St. SW,

Hampton.

2:11 p.m.: Report of dog calls in the 100 block of 5th St. SW, Hampton.

4:13 p.m.: Report of traffic complaints in the 700 block of 4th St. NE, Hampton.

Saturday, February 8:

Officers executed one traffic stop and received one general call.

Officers executed an arrest in the 10 block of 2nd Ave NW, Hampton.

1:01 p.m.: Report of a suspicious vehicle in the area of the Hampton Cemetery, Hampton.

3:28 p.m.: Report of neighborhood complaints in the 300 block of 5th St. SE, Hampton.

Sunday, February 9:

2:11 a.m.: Report of theft from vehicle in the area of Project X, Hampton.

3:13 a.m.: Report of a parking ordinance violation in the 10 block of 1st St. NW, Hampton.

8:27 a.m.: Report of suspicious material in the 300 block of 3rd Ave NW, Hampton.

9:28 a.m.: Report of dog calls in the 900 block of 2nd St. NE, Hampton.

11:19 a.m.: Report of a domestic matter in the 00 block of 4th Ave NW, Hampton.

11:39 a.m.: Officers responded to an alarm in the 1200 block of Olive Ave, Hampton.

9:48 p.m.: Report of suspicious activity in the area of Dollar Fresh, Hampton.

Franklin County Sheriff Reports

Monday, February 3:

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

6:50 a.m.: Officers assisted with prisoner transport in the area of 14th Ave, Eldora.

6:51 a.m.: Officers assisted with prisoner transport in the area of 14th Ave, Eldora.

4:07 p.m.: Report of an animal on roadway in the area of Vine Ave and 75th St. , Geneva.

4:18 p.m.: Report of theft/larceny in the area of Cardinal Ave, Dows.

5:57 p.m.: Report of dog calls in the area of Lark Ave, Sheffield.

7:55 p.m.: Officers conducted a welfare check in the area of Balsam Ave, Dows.

9:09 p.m.: Report of civil disputes in the area of Brown St. , Alexander.

Tuesday, February 4: Officers executed three traffic stops, assisted with one medical call, and received two general calls.

8:30 a.m.: Report of a dispatch call in the area of I-35 and mile mark 173 southbound, Latimer.

10:26 p.m.: Report of a dispatch call in the area of Hardin Rd, Ackley.

Wednesday, February 5: Officers executed three traffic stops, assisted with one medical call, and received seven general calls.

7:36 a.m.: Report of traffic complaints in the area of I-35 and mile mark 175, Meservey.

9:05 a.m.: Report of a vehicle off roadway in the 1500 block of Hwy 65, Hampton.

2:59 p.m.: Report of a disabled vehicle in the area of I-35 and mile mark 163 southbound, Latimer.

4:50 p.m.: Report of civil disputes in an unlisted area, Iowa Falls.

7:30 p.m.: Officers assisted other agencies with an issue in the 100 block of 5th St. SW, Hampton.

Thursday, February 6: Officers assisted two motorists.

7:46 a.m.: Report of animals (except dogs) in the area of Olive Ave and 170th St. , Hampton.

4:02 p.m.: Report of fraud in the area of Hwy 3, Hampton.

4:07 p.m.: Report of a disabled vehicle in the area of Hwy 3 and Olive Ave, Hampton.

6:22 p.m.: Officers conducted a welfare check in the area of Nuthatch Ave, Dows.

7:37 p.m.: Officers conducted a welfare check in the area of 95th St. , Bradford.

8:02 p.m.: Officers assisted with booking information in the area of 5th St. SW, Hampton.

10:21 p.m.: Officers assisted the Hampton Police Department with an issue in the area of N Federal St. , Hampton.

Friday, February 7:

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

8:12 a.m.: Officers assisted the Hampton Police Department with an issue in the area of the Hampton Cemetery, Hampton.

1:17 p.m.: Report of a vehicle off roadway in the area of 160th St. , Thrush Ave, and Timber Ave, Hansell.

3:12 p.m.: Report of false 911 calls in the area of I-35, Dows.

4:49 p.m.: Report of a dispatch call in the area of 105th St. , Sheffield.

5:03 p.m.: Officers executed local warrants in the area of the Winnebago County Jail, Forest City.

7:14 p.m.: Report of a drug/narcotic violation in the 300 block of 1st Ave NE, Hampton.

7:30 p.m.: Officers assisted with booking information in the 100 block of 5th St. SW, Hampton.

Saturday, February 8: Officers executed two traffic stops and received one general call.

10:58 a.m.: Report of an animal on roadway in the area of Heather Ave and 130th St. , Thornton.

5:31 p.m.: Report of suspicious activity in the area of Hwy 3 and Jonquil Ave, Hampton.

6:00 p.m.: Report of an accident with property damage in the 600 block of Hwy 3, Latimer.

6:44 p.m.: Report of an accident with property damage in the 600 block of Hwy 3, Latimer.

8:41 p.m.: Report of traffic complaints in the 1400 block of Nettle Ave, Hampton.

11:48 p.m.: Report of an operating while intoxicated issue in the area of West St. and South St. , Latimer.

Sunday, February 9: Officers executed four traffic stops, assisted one motorist, and received one general call.

8:35 a.m.: Report of a vehicle off roadway in the area of Beeds Lake, Hampton.

11:24 a.m.: Officers assisted the Hampton Police Department with an issue in the 00 block of 4th Ave, Hampton.

11:41 a.m.: Officers assisted the Hampton Police Department with an issue in the 1200 block of Olive Ave, Hampton.

11:59 a.m.: Report of animals (except dogs) in the area of Beeds Lake, Hampton.

5:55 p.m.: Report of false 911 calls in the 800 block of 2nd St. SE, Hampton.

Butler County Sheriff Reports

Monday, Feb. 3:

Officers executed one traffic stop, assisted with two medical calls, and assisted three motorists.

9:59 a.m.: Report of theft in the 600 block of Hwy 57.

10:13 a.m.: Report of a property exchange in the 1000 block of Parriott St.

10:46 a.m.: Report of a suspicious vehicle/person/activity in the 1200 block of Florence St.

3:15 p.m.: Officers conducted fingerprints for the public in the 400 block of 6th St.

3:41 p.m.: Report of lost/located property in the 400 block of Parriott St.

4:22 p.m.: Report of return calls/follow-ups in the 31400 block of Keystone Ave.

5:49 p.m.: Report of a 911 call in the 100 block of E Ridge Ct.

7:01 p.m.: Report of property damage in the 400 block of 6th St.

7:14 p.m.: Report of return calls/follow-up in the 500 block of Maple St.

Tuesday, Feb. 4:

Officers executed three traffic stops, assisted with four medical calls, assisted two motorists, and received five general calls.

1:29 a.m.: Officers conducted a business door check in the 600 block of N Johnson St.

1:42 a.m.: Officers conducted a business door check in the 600 block of Lincoln St.

3:30 a.m.: Report of maintenance in the 400 block of 6th St.

5:27 a.m.: Report of jail inquiries in the 400 block of 6th St.

8:51 a.m.: Report of return calls/follow-ups in the 500 block of W Prospect St.

9:46 a.m.: Report civil department requests in the 100 block of S Ely St.

10:14 a.m.: Report of a sex offender registry issue in the 20200 block of Hickory Ave.

10:21 a.m.: Report of return calls/follow-ups in the area of S 4th St and Courtland St.

11:33 a.m.: Report of jail inquiries in the 400 block of 6th St.

1:33 p.m.: Report of civil department requests in the 500 block of Main St.

2:06 p.m.: Officers conducted a welfare check in the 13400 block of 110th St.

2:18 p.m.: Report of probation calls in the 200 block of 19th St SW, Mason City.

3:07 p.m.: Report of civil department requests in the 23600 block of 250th St.

3:41 p.m.: Report of theft in the 11300 block of Lodge Ave.

4:27 p.m.: Report of a 911 call in the 200 block of Main St.

5:38 p.m.: Report of a 911 call in the 32900 block of GRand Ave.

7:28 p.m.: Report of a domestic/family matter in the 300 block of W Washington St.

7:51 p.m.: Report of jail inquiries in the 400 block of 6th St.

11:48 p.m.: Report of jail inquiries in the 400 block of 6th St.

Wednesday, Feb. 5:

Officers executed one traffic stop, assisted with one medical call, assisted two motorists, and received four general calls.

7:00 a.m.: Report of transport in the 700 block of 8th St, Grundy Center.

8:45 a.m.: Report of transport in the 300 block of Packwaukee St.

9:01 a.m.: Report of theft in the 11300 block of Lodge Ave.

9:35 a.m.: Officers conducted a welfare check in the 600 block of Parriott St.

10:24 a.m.: Report of a sex offender registry issue in the 400 block of 6th St.

10:50 a.m.: Report of a weapon permit issue in the 400 block of 6th St.

11:09 a.m.: Report of a weapon permit issue in the 400 block of 6th St.

11:37 a.m.: Report of dog/deer/livestock in the 800 block of 3rd St.

1:02 p.m.: Report of a suspicious vehicle/person/activity in the area of Hickory Ave and Hwy 3.

1:33 p.m.: Report of civil department requests in the 700 block of Pinne St.

1:47 p.m.: Report of noise complaints in the 400 block of W Traer St.

2:13 p.m.: Report of civil department requests in the 23600 block of 250th St.

2:46 p.m.: Report of dog/deer/livestock in the 200 block of S 4th St.

2:52 p.m.: Report of dog/deer/livestock in the 600 block of 6th St.

6:04 p.m.: Report of property damage in the area of Hwy 3 and Ridge Ave.

7:30 p.m.: Report of road debris in the area of 120th St and Hwy 14.

7:34 p.m.: Report of civil department requests in the 300 block of Main St.

Thursday, Feb. 6:

Officers executed nine traffic stops, assisted with four medical calls, assisted three motorists, received a report for one controlled burn and received one general call.

1:19 a.m.: Report of a driving complaint in the area of 310th St and Hwy 14.

6:50 a.m.: Report of dog/deer/livestock in the 23500 block of 160th St.

7:48 a.m.: Report of a sex offender registry issue in the 400 block of 6th St.

5:38 a.m.: Lake Anthony Powell, 26 of Cedar Falls, arrested for driving while barred, jailed.

5:54 a.m.: Report of jail inquiries in the 100 block of E Traer St.

9:09 a.m.: Report of a sex offender registry issue in the 600 block of Pine St.

9:14 a.m.: Report of a road closed in the area of Hwy 14 and Hwy 3.

9:18 a.m.: Report of dog/deer/livestock in the area of 110th St and Forest Ave.

10:22 a.m.: Report of civil department requests in the 17500 block of 220th St.

11:52 a.m.: Report of dog/deer/livestock in the 200 block of 9th St.

12:17 p.m.: Report of a driving complaint in the 700 block of 8th St, Grundy Center.

2:01 p.m.: Report of civil department requests in the 400 block of 6th St.

2:15 p.m.: Report of a domestic/family matter in the 300 block of W Washington St.

2:25 p.m.: Report of

2:31 p.m.: Report of a suspicious vehicle/person/activity in the 21600 block of Logistics Park Dr.

2:57 p.m.: Report of return calls/follow-ups in the 400 block of 6th St.

3:09 p.m.: Report of property damage in the 600 block of N Johnson St.

7:56 p.m.: Officers conducted an arrest warrant in the 1300 block of Main St.

9:12 p.m.: Report of an unknown problem in the 100 block of N Hilton St.

10:26 p.m.: Report of a suspicious vehicle/person/issue in the 40 block of Pewaukee St.

10:52 p.m.: Officers conducted a business door check in the 900 block of Parriott St.

Friday, Feb. 7:

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

3:58 a.m.: Report of a 911 call in the 33800 block of Grand Ave.

PROPERTY TRANSFERS

Warranty Deed: Rick L Degroot Trustee, Harm Degroot Revocable Trust, Junice Degroot Revocable Trust to Rick L Degroot Trustee, Junice Degroot Survivors Trust
Warranty Deed: Rick L Degroot Trustee, Harm Degroot Revocable Trust, Junice Degroot Revocable Trust to Rick L Degroot Trustee, Harm Deg-

root Decedents Trust
Warranty Deed: Joel Lohrbach, Donna Lohrbach to Judith Nicole Martinson; Coul Coulter Original Town Blk 19 Lot 2 S 1/2, Coul Coulter Original Town Blk 19 Lot 3, Coul Coulter Original Town Blk 19 Lot 4 N 1/2
 Warranty Deed: Claydigger Farms LLC to Gary L Schae-

fer, Renee A Schaefer; 12-93-21 E2 SW
Warranty Deed: Jordan D Haller, Nelly Haller to MMM Investments LLC; Shef Sheffield Johnston's Addition Blk 2 Lot 7
Warranty Deed: Dean L Peterson Trustee, Brenda L Peterson Trustee, Dean Peterson Family Trust, Brenda Peterson Family Trust to Marlene Har-

mon Trustee, Marlene Harmon Revocable Trust; 15-92-20 SW Terrace Hill Subdiv Lot 19
Warranty Deed: Vernon D Miller to Keith Benning, Darlene Benning; 13-91-19 NE Parcel A, 13-91-19 NE Parcel C
CT Officer Deed: Roger C Obrecht Estate, Jeffrey T Obrecht Executor to Schlicht-

ing Farms LLC; 6-93-21 SW Part, 6-93-21 SE Part
Quit Claim Deed: Brandi Wikert to Jerrod D Wikert; Hamp Harri Blk 3 Lot 3-4
Warranty Deed: Randall L Debour Trustee, Susan K Debour Trustee, Susan K Debour Family Trust, Randall L Debour Family Trust to Evan Lawson Peil; 19-92-21 SW SE Part,

Lati Latimer Clock's 1st Blk 2 Lot 5, Lati Latimer Clock's 1st Blk 2 Lot 5 Part, Lati Latimer Clock's 1st Blk 2 Lot 5 Part
CT Officer Deed: Terry Lee Murphy Estate, Nancy Mast Co Administrator, Robert Murphy Co Administrator to Robert Murphy; 32-92-20 SE Parcel A, 32-92-20 SW Part

FROM THE LOG

5:12 a.m.: Report of a 911 call in the 600 block of N Johnson St.
 5:38 a.m.: Lake Anthony Powell, 26, of Cedar Falls, arrested for driving while barred, driving while license denied/revoked - OWI, and interference with official acts, jailed.
 6:01 a.m.: Report of jail inquiries in the 400 block of 6th St.
 7:53 a.m.: Report of a sex offender registry issue in the 400 block of 6th St.
 9:48 a.m.: Report of civil department requests in the 300 block of N Mather St.
 10:06 a.m.: Chad Michael Parton, 38, arrested on a court ordered hold, jailed.
 10:12 a.m.: Report of a dog/deer/livestock issue in the 16000 block of Marsh Ave.

11:19 a.m.: Report of weapon permit issued in the 11700 block of Butler Ave.
 11:28 a.m.: Report of a grass/field/ditch fire in the 27600 block of 270th St.
 11:54 a.m.: Report of a weapon permit issue in the 15900 block of Main St.
 12:00 p.m.: Report of jail inquiries in the 400 block of 6th St.
 12:40 p.m.: Report of a 911 call in the 500 block of S 2nd St.
 1:35 p.m.: Report of a driving complaint in the 500 block of Birch St.
 1:39 p.m.: Report of jail inquiries in the 400 block of 6th St.
 1:47 p.m.: Report of jail inquiries in the 400 block of 6th St.

1:59 p.m.: Report of a grass/field/ditch fire in the 20200 block of Hwy 57.
 2:24 p.m.: Report of a grass/field/ditch fire in the 30100 block of Hwy 57.
 4:27 p.m.: Report of jail inquiries in the 400 block of 6th St.
 4:44 p.m.: Report of jail inquiries in the 400 block of 6th St.
 4:55 p.m.: Report of a driving complaint in the area of Hwy 3 and Keystone Ave.
 11:08 p.m.: Report of return calls/follow-ups in the 19100 block of 300th St.
Saturday, Feb. 8:
 Officers executed four traffic stops, assisted with four medical calls, assisted ... motorists,

received a report for one controlled burn and received two general calls.
 8:05 a.m.: Report of a suspicious vehicle/person/activity in the 10000 block of Lodge Ave.
 11:52 a.m.: Report of fraud/identity theft in the 00 block of High School Blvd.
 12:19 p.m.: Report of dog/deer/livestock in the 900 block of N Cherry St.
 1:12 p.m.: Report of a property exchange in the 1000 block of Parriott St.
 1:34 p.m.: Report of return calls/follow-ups in the 400 block of 6th St.
 1:48 p.m.: Report of return calls/follow-ups in the 200 block of Bickford St.
 2:02 p.m.: Report of a grass/field/ditch fire in the 1000 block

of Commerce St.
 3:33 p.m.: Report of a grass/field/ditch fire in the 15500 block of Willow Ave.
 4:00 p.m.: Report of a suspicious vehicle/person/activity in the 200 block of S Main St.
 5:30 p.m.: Report of a Sunday night test page in the 400 block of 6th St.
 6:34 p.m.: Report of dog/deer/livestock in the area of Hwy 57 and Liberty Ave.
 7:55 p.m.: Report of a 911 call in the area of 6th St and Oak Park Cir.
 11:10 p.m.: Christian Joseph Trzaskos, 23 of Aplington, arrested for possession - marijuana 1st and possession of drug paraphernalia, jailed.

Officers executed one traffic stop, assisted with two medical calls, and received one general call.
 5:02 a.m. Report of maintenance in the 500 block of Hwy 57.
 5:39 a.m.: Report of a 911 call in the 33800 block of Grand Ave.
 9:17 a.m.: Report of dog/deer/livestock in the 22400 block of Hickory Ave.
 3:34 p.m.: Report of theft in the 200 block of Bickford St.
 4:34 p.m.: Ray Anthony Robertson JR, 34 of Minneapolis, MN, arrested for possession of a controlled substance 1,2,3rd, jailed.
 8:31 p.m.: Officers conducted a welfare check in the 1100 block of Gray St.

NEWS

County Treasurer, Facing a Felony Charge, is Relieved of Her Duties

BY CLARK KAUFFMAN
 IOWA CAPITAL DISPATCH

The Madison County treasurer, now facing criminal charges of theft, fraud and felony misconduct in office, was formally relieved of her duties.
 The Madison County Board of Supervisors met in special session and unanimously approved a resolution appointing First Deputy County Treasurer Kaylee Barber as the acting county treasurer until County Treasurer Amanda DeVos' status is resolved. The board also approved a separate resolution that withdrew DeVos' access to Madison County's bank accounts.
 Prior to the two votes, six residents addressed the

board, questioning County Auditor Teri Kaczinski's competence and criticizing the county for a perceived lack of transparency in handling public business.
 DeVos, 37, is a Republican who has served as the county treasurer since January 2023. She is facing charges of felonious misconduct on office, tampering with records, third-degree fraudulent practices and third-degree theft. She has yet to enter a plea in the case.
 According to the county sheriff's office, deputies received an anonymous report last November that DeVos had obtained her vehicle registration without paying the required fees and that she then altered county records so it would appear she had paid the fee.

On Jan. 30, after learning that the Auditor of State's office was also looking into the matter but wouldn't be completing its work for several more weeks, sheriff's office personnel met with DeVos. She allegedly admitted creating false government records to show she had paid her vehicle registration fees. An employee of the treasurer's office then provided the sheriff's office with the relevant records, according to the sheriff's office.
 Prior to the criminal charges being filed, DeVos' office was the subject of several complaints alleging citizens' payments to the county weren't being processed in a timely manner and that payments from the treasurer to various taxing entities in Madison County,

such as the Winterset public schools, were not being distributed in a timely manner.
 Earlier this year, KCCI and WHO reported that city officials in Winterset and Patterson had complained the treasurer's office misallocated \$250,000 by mistakenly routing the money to Winterset rather than Patterson.
 After her arrest, DeVos filed with the court a sworn financial affidavit and application seeking a court-appointed attorney. In her affidavit, she reported she was employed by the county, but did not report any income or assets. District Court Judge Charles C. Sinnard subsequently denied the request, citing the lack of financial information provided by DeVos.



Photo by Adobe Stock.

DeVos and her privately retained attorney, Timothy McCarthy II, declined to comment on the case Wednesday.
 In 2023, DeVos was sued by First National Bank of Omaha for failing to pay \$7,569 in credit card bills. The case was later

dismissed.
 Read more from Clark Kauffman online at IowaCapitalDispatch.com
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Senate Panel Votes to Require School Cellphone Policies

BY ROBIN OPSAHL
 IOWA CAPITAL DISPATCH

A Senate subcommittee gave initial approval Wednesday to Gov. Kim Reynolds' proposal to set a statewide minimum policy restricting students' cellphone use in schools.
 The bill, Senate Study Bill 1065, would require school boards to adopt policies that, at minimum, ban use of personal electronic devices during instructional periods. Schools could add further restrictions on the use of cellphones through the school day.
 The measure would require school districts specify disciplinary action if a student uses their cellphone during class or tests, and requires schools set protocols to securely store personal electronic devices. The policies would begin in the 2025-2026 school year.
 The legislation includes caveats for students with Individualized Education Program (IEP) or 504 plans that require accommodations involving the use of cellphones or other electronic devices. It also requires school districts to allow parents to petition to let their child keep their

cellphone with them during class if they can establish "a legitimate reason related to the student's physical or mental health."
 The Department of Education would be required to develop and distribute model policies to Iowa school districts. It would also require the education department to work with the Department of Public Safety to develop and reform emergency plans in line with the cellphone use restrictions, so parents and guardians would be able to contact their child during the school day in the case of an emergency.
 Molly Severn, legislative liaison for the governor's office, cited a survey from the Pew Research Center that showed 72% of high school teachers said students being distracted by cellphones was a major problem in their classrooms.
 "With digital distractions at an all time high, Gov. Reynolds wants ensure that Iowa's classrooms maintain environments for focus, learning and productivity," Severn said.
 Several Iowa school districts have already implemented cellphone use policies. In a news release



Photo by Adobe Stock.

on the governor's proposal, Ottumwa Community Schools Superintendent Michael McGrory said the bill would "undoubtedly benefit students across Iowa" and that his district has already seen positive impacts from implementing a cellphone policy.
 Education advocates were largely in support of the measure, though several organizations were registered as "undecided" because of questions about the timeline for im-

plementation and certain professional development provisions.
 Sen. Herman Quirmbach, D-Ames, who voted against the measure, asked if school districts are already implementing school cellphone use policies across the state, "why does the governor need to get involved?" He said cellphone use in schools was a problem, but that legislative action was not necessarily required as school districts already had the authority to

set policies on the issue.
 Quirmbach also said he did not support the measure's limit requiring parents to obtain permission for their child have a cellphone with them in class if having the device is related to the student's health.
 "You can imagine situations where a student who has problems with diabetes, epilepsy, food allergy and food poisoning, asthma — there are lots of situations where students may need to have immediate access,

first of all, to their parents to let them know something's going on, but also direct access to medical resources to help them avoid a catastrophe," Quirmbach said.
 In addition to cellphone use, the legislation would require 6th- through 8th-grade students to take "effects of social media" training. Sen. Jeff Taylor, R-Sioux Center, said he was appreciative of the measure as a way to help students navigate these online spaces. Several studies have found links between high social media use and negative mental health outcomes among teens.
 "Social media, although in some ways, is wonderful, in other ways it can be quite harmful and upsetting, especially to kids of certain age," Taylor said.
 The measure is available for consideration by the Senate Education Committee.
 Read more from Robin Opsahl online at IowaCapitalDispatch.com
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Franklin Co BOS Minutes, 2/3/2025

PROCEEDINGS OF THE FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

February 3rd, 2025
A recording of the Board meeting may be found on YouTube at: @FranklinCountyBoardofSupervisors

The Board of Supervisors met at 8:30AM on Monday, February 3rd, 2025, at the Franklin County Courthouse with Board members McVicker and Vanness present. Lukensmeyer was absent.

Motion by McVicker, seconded by Vanness to approve the Agenda as presented. All ayes. Motion carried.

Motion by McVicker, seconded by Vanness to approve the regular minutes from 1/27/2025. All ayes. Motion carried.

Public Comment & Board Committee Updates: All three Supervisors attended the ISAC Supervisors Conference.

IT Director, Gabe Johanns, updated the Supervisors on software programs. Jay Waddingham, Secondary Roads Engineer, met with the Supervisors to provide them an update on his department.

The Supervisors recessed at 9:15AM for a drainage meeting and reconvened at 9:37AM. Drainage minutes are available on the County website or by contacting the Auditor's office.

Representatives from the Hampton Senior Center met with the Supervisors to provide them an update on their organization and discuss their request for funding in FY2026.

Andrea Evelsizer from Healthy Harvest of North Iowa met with the Supervisors to provide them an update the organization and discuss their request for funding in FY2026.

Representatives from the Franklin County Fair Association met with the Supervisors to provide them an update on their organization and discuss their FY2026 funding request.

Representatives from Access, Inc. met with the Supervisors to provide them an update on their organization and discuss their request for funding in FY2026.

Laurie DeGroot from Franklin County Board of Health and Kim Price from Franklin General Hospital met with the Supervisors to present them with a proposed Community Health Agreement in regards to Public Health & Home Care. After brief discussion, the Supervisor directed the Auditor to place it on the agenda for discussion next week.

Deb Jones, Home Care Director, met with the Supervisors to request an exemption to the county's auto insurance requirements for Kya Watson, a Home Care employee. After brief discussion, motion by Vanness, seconded by McVicker to approve an exemption to the county's auto insurance requirements for Kya Watson for CY2025. All ayes. Motion carried.

Audrey Emery, Human Resource Director, met with the Supervisors to discuss an amendment to the county's "Drug and Alcohol Use in the Workplace" policy. After discussion, motion by Vanness, seconded by McVicker approve a resolution amending the Franklin County Employee Handbook. The resolution reads in full:

RESOLUTION #2025-11
AMENDING FRANKLIN COUNTY HANDBOOK SECTION 6.7 "Drug And Alcohol Use in the Workplace"

WHEREAS, the updated Franklin County Employee Handbook final copy was presented and approved by the Board of Supervisors on May 17th, 2019; WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors are amending Section 6.7 "Drug and Alcohol Use in the Workplace;

WHEREAS, as it was approved May 17th, 2019 it read as follows: DRUG AND ALCOHOL USE IN THE WORKPLACE 6.7 Drug and Alcohol Use in the Workplace

The County requires all employees to report to work on time and in the appropriate mental and physical condition for work. Employees using alcohol or drugs without medical authorization in the workplace or in the course of their employment are subject to discipline up to and including termination. Drug Free Workplace

It is the policy of the County to create a drug-free workplace in keeping with the spirit and intent of the Drug-Free Workplace Act of 1988. The use of controlled substances is inconsistent with the behavior expected of employees, subjects all employees and visitors to our facilities to unacceptable safety risks, and threatens the County's ability to function effectively and efficiently, and undermines the public's trust in the County's operations. In this connection, the unlawful manufacture, distribution, dispensation, possession, sale or use of a controlled substance in the work-

place or while engaged in County business off the County's premises is strictly prohibited. Such conduct is also prohibited during nonworking time to the extent that in the opinion of the County, it impairs an employee's ability to perform on the job or threatens the reputation and integrity of the County.

Employees directly engaged in work performed pursuant to a federal grant or contract are required to report any conviction under a criminal drug statute for violations occurring on the employer's premises or off the employer's premises while conducting employer business to the employee's supervisor or other appropriate County official within five (5) days of such conviction. Employees who violate any aspect of this policy may be subject to disciplinary action up to and including termination. At its discretion, the County may require employees who violate this policy to successfully complete a drug abuse assistance or rehabilitation program as a condition of continued employment.

Drug Testing of Employees Required to Maintain a Commercial Driver's License Federal law requires drug testing of certain employees required to have a commercial driver's license (CDL).

Employees covered by those federal regulations will receive a supplement to this substance abuse policy.

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors has chosen to amend Section 6.7 "Drug And Alcohol Use in the Workplace"

DRUG AND ALCOHOL USE IN THE WORKPLACE 6.7 Revision Date: 2/3/2025

Drug and Alcohol Use in the Workplace The County requires all employees to report to work on time and in the appropriate mental and physical condition for work. Employees using alcohol or drugs without medical authorization in the workplace or in the course of their employment are subject to discipline up to and including termination. In respect to Franklin County's policy on conducting drug tests as a condition of employment, the County treats marijuana as an illegal drug in accordance with federal law.

Drug Free Workplace It is the policy of the County to create a drug-free workplace in keeping with the spirit and intent of the Drug-Free Workplace Act of 1988. The use of controlled substances is inconsistent with the behavior expected of employees, subjects all employees and visitors to our facilities to unacceptable safety risks, and threatens the County's ability to function effectively and efficiently, and undermines the public's trust in the County's operations. In this connection, the unlawful manufacture, distribution, dispensation, possession, sale or use of a controlled substance in the workplace or while engaged in County business off the County's premises is strictly prohibited. Such conduct is also prohibited during nonworking time to the extent that in the opinion of the County, it impairs an employee's ability to perform on the job or threatens the reputation and integrity of the County.

Employees directly engaged in work performed pursuant to a federal grant or contract are required to report any conviction under a criminal drug statute for violations occurring on the employer's premises or off the employer's premises while conducting employer business to the employee's supervisor or other appropriate County official within five (5) days of such conviction. Employees who violate any aspect of this policy may be subject to disciplinary action up to and including termination. At its discretion, the County may require employees who violate this policy to successfully complete a drug abuse assistance or rehabilitation program as a condition of continued employment.

Drug Testing of Employees Required to Maintain a Commercial Driver's License Federal law requires drug testing of certain employees required to have a commercial driver's license (CDL). Employees covered by those federal regulations will receive a supplement to this substance abuse policy. THEREFORE, the amended section is effective upon the passing of this resolution.

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

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

Motion by McVicker, seconded by Vanness to approve a Greater Franklin Chamber of Commerce Membership for Franklin County for 2025. All ayes. Motion Carried.

Motion by McVicker, seconded by Vanness to approve a resolution authorizing residual equity transfers. The resolution reads as follows:

RESOLUTION 2025-09

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING RESIDUAL EQUITY TRANSFERS FOR VARIOUS FRANKLIN COUNTY DEPARTMENTS

WHEREAS, Franklin County, Iowa (the "County"), pursuant to and in strict compliance with all laws applicable to the County, desires to transfer cash from one fund to another for the purposes of supporting several county entities. WHEREAS, presently the County has budgeted monies for the following transfer:

Table with 4 columns: CURRENT FUND, AMOUNT OF TRANSFER, Transfer To, REASON FOR TRANSFER. Rows include DARE Fund 60103-10300-900-5 and General Basic Fund 01000-10300-810-99.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Board of Supervisors of Franklin County, Iowa, directing the County Auditor to proceed with the residual equity transfers, the amount of transfer to the appropriate fund, mentioned above, due to the reason mentioned; said transfer is between budgetary funds.

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

Motion by McVicker, seconded by Vanness to approve a resolution authorizing the destruction of election records. The resolution reads in full:

RESOLUTION 2025-10
RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE DESTRUCTION OF ELECTION RECORDS IN THE COUNTY AUDITOR'S OFFICE

WHEREAS, Section 331.323(2)(d) of the Code of Iowa states the Board of Supervisors may authorize a county officer to destroy records that are not required to be kept as permanent records, and:

WHEREAS, the County Auditor's Office has identified records appropriately for destruction and has inventoried said records as follows:

- Unvoted Ballots - Primary Election - 6/4/2024
Unvoted Ballots - General Election - 11/5/2024

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Franklin County Board of Supervisors that the County Auditor be authorized to destroy said records in an appropriate and secure manner.

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

The Supervisors discussed all the requests for funding from outside entities for FY2026. After discussion, motion by McVicker, seconded by Vanness to approve FY2026 funding as follows & direct the Auditor to place them in the budget:

- Franklin County Fair - \$50,000
Franklin County Historical Society - \$10,000
Hampton Senior Center - \$2,000
CAL Over 60s - \$300
NIACOG Housing Trust - \$2,000
Healthy Harvest of North Iowa - \$2,000
Greater Franklin County Chamber of Commerce - \$1,000
Franklin County Libraries - \$124,940.78
Access, Inc - \$18,603
Franklin County Development Association - \$45,000

All ayes. Motion carried. The Supervisors discussed proposed levy rates for the FY2026 budget based on several scenarios presented to them by the Auditor. After discussion, the Supervisors asked the Auditor to prepare two more sets of numbers and put it on the agenda for further discussion next week.

Chairman Vanness adjourned the meeting at 11:30AM until Monday, February 10th, 2025 at 8:30AM at the Franklin County Courthouse for a regular session.

ATTEST:
Chris Vanness, Chairman
Katy A. Flint, Auditor & Clerk to the Board

Published in the Hampton Chronicle on February 12, 2025

Hampton January 2025 Receipts

Table with 2 columns: Description and Amount. Includes items like Police Reserve, Fire Reserve, Pool & Parks Reserve, etc.

Published in the Hampton Chronicle on February 12, 2025

Mowing Contract Notice

The Franklin County Conservation Board is seeking bids for mowing at several county parks. Bids due February 28th. To view the RFP/contract, visit https://www.franklincountyia.gov/departments/conservation_parks.php

Published in the Hampton Chronicle on February 12, and 19, 2025

Franklin BOS Minutes 02/10/2025

PROCEEDINGS OF THE FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

February 10th, 2025
A recording of the Board meeting may be found on YouTube at: @FranklinCountyBoardofSupervisor

The Board of Supervisors met at 8:30AM on Monday, February 10th 2025, at the Franklin County Courthouse with Board members Lukensmeyer, McVicker, and Vanness present.

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

Motion by McVicker, seconded by Vanness, with date correction, to approve the regular minutes from 2/3/2025. All ayes. Motion carried.

Public Comment & Board Committee Updates: McVicker attended Workforce Development. Lukensmeyer attended Board of Health, Vanness attended Veterans Affairs.

Jay Waddingham, Secondary Roads Engineer, met with the Supervisors to provide them an update on his department.

Motion by Lukensmeyer, seconded by McVicker to approve a resolution for a road vacation public hearing. The resolution reads in full:

RESOLUTION 2025-12
RESOLUTION FOR ROAD VACATION PUBLIC HEARING

WHEREAS, a request from the County Engineer has been filed with the Franklin County Engineer asking that action be taken to vacate and clear the record for a section of Franklin County Secondary Road, described as follows:

That portion of Road No 12 recorded in Road Record Book A, Page 569 and located in Section 24, T92N, R21W and Section 19, T92N, R20W, commencing at the North right of way line of Mallard Avenue as presently established approximately 1833 feet north of the SE corner of said Section 24 thence north about 1432 feet

along the section line between said Sections 24 and 19 to a point 1940.14 feet south of the NE Corner of said Section 24

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that a hearing on the proposed vacation will be held in the Board Room, Franklin County Courthouse, Hampton, Iowa, 50441 at 9:15AM on Monday March 3rd, 2025 in accordance with Iowa Code Chapter 306.

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

Motion by McVicker, seconded by Lukensmeyer to approve Final Acceptance & Voucher for C13 (250th Street) HMA Milling & Resurfacing from Grouse Avenue (S25) to Lincoln (S43) (STP-S-C035(121)-5E-35) and C25 (190 th Street) HMA Milling & Resurfacing from Wright Avenue to Grouse Avenue (S25) (FM-C035(120)-55-35 with Final Construction Cost of \$3,325,787.39. All ayes. Motion carried.

The Supervisors recessed at 9:15AM for a drainage meeting and reconvened at 9:45AM. Drainage minutes may be found on the county website or by contacting the Auditor's office.

The Supervisors discussed the Proposed Community Health Agreement between the Supervisors, Board of Health, & Franklin General Hospital in regard to Public Health & Home Care services and whether they wanted to move forward with the exploration & determine feasibility, etc. After discussion, Motion by Lukensmeyer, seconded by McVicker to move forward with the next steps pertaining to the Proposed Community Health Agreement. All ayes. Motion carried.

The Supervisors were reminded that next week's meeting will be held on Tuesday February 18th due to the President's Day holiday.

Chairman Vanness adjourned the meeting at 9:58AM until Tuesday, February 18th, 2025 at 8:30AM at the Franklin County Courthouse for a regular session.

Chris Vanness, Chairman
ATTEST:
Tanya Demro, Finance Assistant

Published in the Hampton Chronicle on February 12, 2025

Allyn Hagensick Estate

THE IOWA DISTRICT COURT FOR FRANKLIN COUNTY
In the Matter of the Estate of
ALLYN L. HAGENSICK, Deceased. CASE NO. ESPR502005

NOTICE OF PROBATE OF WILL, OF APPOINTMENT OF EXECUTOR, AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS:

To All Persons Interested in the Estate of Allyn L. Hagensick, Deceased, who died on or about January 13, 2025:

You are hereby notified that on January 30, 2025, the Last Will and Testament of Allyn L. Hagensick, deceased, bearing date of December 18, 1997, was admitted to probate in the above-named court and that Dawn H. Stewart was appointed Executor of the estate. Any action to set aside the will must be brought in the district court of said county within the later to occur of four months from the date of the second publication of this notice or one month from the date of mailing of this notice to all heirs of the decedent and devisees under the will whose identities are reasonably ascertainable, or thereafter be forever barred.

Notice is further given that all persons indebted to the estate are requested to make immediate payment to the undersigned, and creditors having claims against the estate shall file them with the clerk of the above named district court, as provided by law, duly authenticated, for allowance, and unless so filed by the later to occur of four months from the date of the second publication of this notice or one month from the date of mailing of this notice (unless otherwise allowed or paid) a claim is thereafter forever barred.

Dated January 31, 2025.

Dawn H. Stewart
605 Pine Drive
Ainsworth, IA 52201

Megan R. Rosenberg, ICIS#: AT0009951 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 February 5, and 12, 2025

H-D Special Meeting Minutes 2/5/25

HAMPTON-DUMONT BOARD OF EDUCATION SPECIAL MEETING 2/5/2025

1. The Hampton-Dumont Board of Education met in a Special Meeting on February 5, 2025, in the District Boardroom. President Erran Miller called the meeting to order at 9:00 am. Board members Erran Miller, Brent Hansen, Stephanie Powers, Matt Showalter, Steve Severs and Elisa Van Wert were present. Board member Mark Morrison arrived late. Also present were Superintendent Aaron Becker, Curriculum Director Jen Koenen, Principals Tony Spradlin, Beth Frenchick and Matt Trosky and Secretary Amanda Heiden. Visitors included Trent Grundmeyer of Grundmeyer Leader Services.

2. Motion made by Van Wert, seconded by Severs, to approve the agenda as presented. All ayes, Morrison was not present at time of vote.

3. Trent Grundmeyer gave a quick overview of the candidate pool and reviewed the schedule for interviews.

4. Motion was made by Hansen, seconded by Van Wert to go into closed session as provided in section 21.5(1)(i) of the open meetings law to evaluate the professional competency of an individual whose hiring being considered to prevent needless and irreparable injury to that individual's reputation, as that individual has requested a closed session. Roll was called: Severs aye; Van Wert aye; Powers aye; Showalter aye; Hansen aye and Miller aye. Board member Morrison was not present at time of vote. By a vote of six to zero, the board entered closed session at 9:12 am.

Also present in closed session were: Superintendent Aaron Becker; Curriculum Director Jen Koenen; Principals Beth Frenchick, Matt Trosky and Tony Spradlin; Trent Grundmeyer and Secretary Amanda Heiden. Board member Morrison arrived at 9:44 am during closed session.

5. Motion was made by Hansen, seconded by Showalter, to return to open session. Roll was called: Hansen aye; Showalter aye; Powers aye; Morrison aye; Van Wert aye; Severs aye and Miller aye. By a vote of seven to zero, the board returned to open session at 10:21 am.

6. Motion made by Van Wert, seconded by Hansen, to adjourn. All ayes. The meeting was adjourned at 10:21 am.

Published in the Hampton Chronicle on February 12, 2025

Franklin Co Claims, 2/3/2025

Publication List by Vendor/Description

Table with 2 columns: Vendor/Description and Amount. Lists various vendors and their respective claim amounts.

Approved 2/3/25 to be paid 2/5/25.

Published in the Hampton Chronicle on February 12, 2025

Advertisement for IPN Public Notices. Text: 'Got a Legal Notice to Submit? Deadline for legal notice submissions is Monday at noon'.

Advertisement for IPN Public Notices. Text: 'Informed citizens build stronger communities'. Includes IPN logo and website URL iowapublicnotices.com.

Bill Would Require Iowa K-12 Materials Follow Trump Order on ‘Gulf of America,’ ‘Mount McKinley’

BY ROBIN OPSAHL
IOWA CAPITAL DISPATCH

Iowa lawmakers have advanced a bill that would require Iowa schools to replace in educational materials any references to the Gulf of Mexico with “Gulf of America” and “Denali” with “Mount McKinley.”

House Study Bill 97 comes weeks after President Donald Trump announced the U.S. Department of the Interior would work with the U.S. Board on Geographic Names to rename these two geographic formations. Mount McKinley, the highest peak in North America, was renamed Denali in 2015 after 40-years of advocacy from Alaska leaders. Alaska state lawmakers have called for



Photo via the U.S. National Centers for Environmental Information

Trump to reverse his executive order on renaming the mountain.

The Gulf of Mexico is in international waters.

Though part of its shore is in the U.S., it is shared with Mexico and Cuba. While the directive could influence how the U.S. federal

government refers to the body of water, it would not necessarily change the name used by the international community or pri-

vate organizations, such as mapping platforms and media organizations.

Educational companies that provide materials to U.S. schools would not necessarily be required to refer to the body of water as “the Gulf of America” under Trump’s directive. But the change could be required in Iowa school textbooks and handouts under the legislation brought forward by GOP House lawmakers.

Michelle Johnson with the Iowa Association of School Boards said her organization was registered undecided on the bill as they’re still waiting to learn more about the impact and implementation of Trump’s executive order.

“How does an executive order impact what local schools do?” Johnson

said. “We don’t deal with that super often, so we’re just kind of waiting to see what happens. There probably would be a cost associated with this — it would be new handouts, new information, that would be given to students. So there would be something to consider with cost when it comes to giving materials to students.”

The legislation advanced 2-1 and will be available for consideration by the House Education Committee.

Read more from Robin Opsahl online at [IowaCapitalDispatch.com](https://www.iowacapitaldispatch.com)

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Iowa House Higher Education Committee Focuses on Civics Education in Meeting, Legislation

BY BROOKLYN DRAISEY
IOWA CAPITAL DISPATCH

Iowa’s public universities are “derelict in their duty” of teaching students about the United States, its history and ideals, a presenter told Iowa lawmakers.

The Iowa House Higher Education Committee passed four bills, most with amendments, during its meeting after hearing a presentation from the National Association of Scholars.

House Study Bill 55 would require state university faculty to publish syllabus information online for public view, including the educator’s name, course requirements, reading materials and class subject descriptions.

Amendments added to the bill struck language requiring the subject matter of each lecture and discussion to be published online as well, and added a section saying these rules don’t apply to courses that don’t regularly meet in a classroom setting.

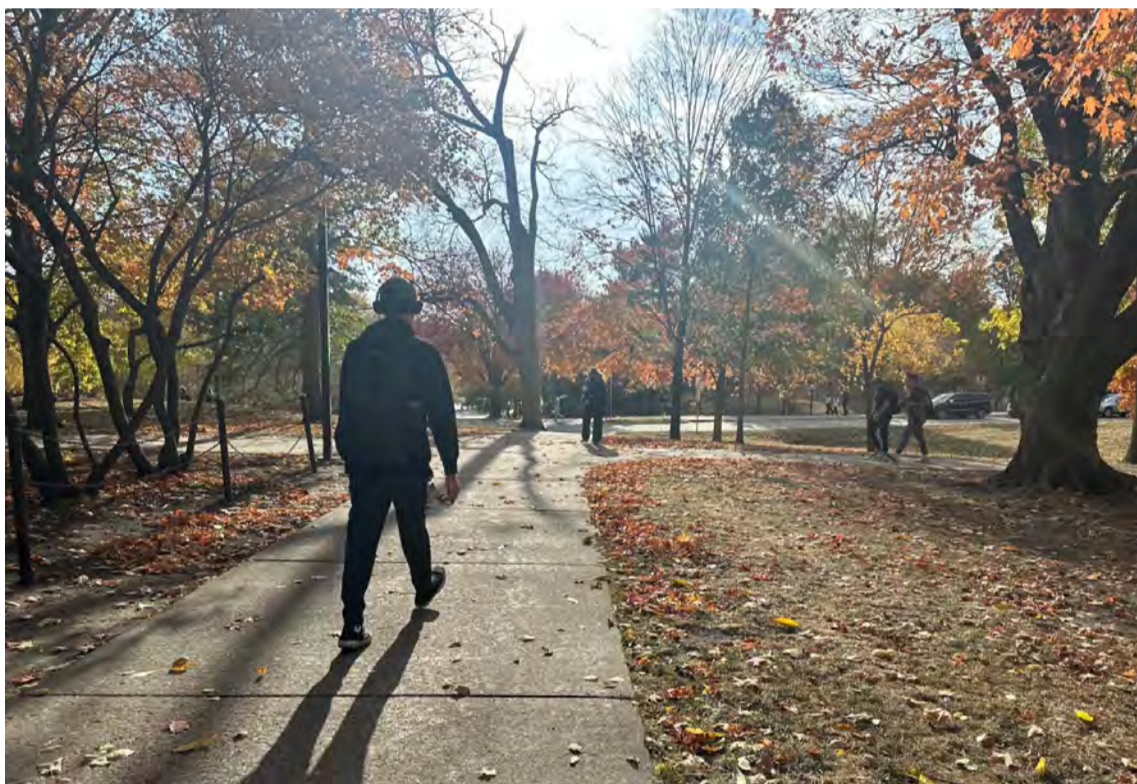
Rep. Monica Kurth, D-Davenport said despite the amendments, which were recommended by the Iowa Board of Regents, she was still concerned about the potential cost of complying with the law.

“I think that it represents an overreach that is undesirable,” Kurth said. “I’m also concerned that it takes away the flexibility that might be needed within a course to address certain types of issues or problems as they come up.”

Under House Study Bill 59, universities would also have to post online certain financial information. As amended, budget lines totaling \$50,000 or more would need to be published online, as well as expenditures and vendor services that meet that same threshold. Each university administrative unit would also be required to share its budget, and expenditures for diversity, equity and inclusion would be made public as well.

Kurth also voiced concerns about HSB 59, citing an email from the Board of Regents that suggests much of the information is already available online. Rep. Jeff Shipley, R-Birmingham, said the bill would make that information more organized and accessible to the public.

House Study Bill 57 would bar accrediting agencies from taking negative action, such as removing accreditation, from public universities for following or refusing to violate state law. If authorized by the attorney general, universities would be able to bring a civil suit against accreditors who take action against them for that reason.



The Iowa House Higher Education Committee passed several bills to the House floor Wednesday after a presentation from the National Association of Scholars. Photo by Brooklyn Draisey/Iowa Capital Dispatch

The bill will head to the floor, but Rep. Ross Wilburn, D-Ames, said he has “several concerns” about the Legislature’s ability to block a nongovernmental organization such as an accrediting body from taking action against universities that fail to comply with their policies.

Under House Study Bill 53, public universities would be prohibited from requiring students to take a course relating to DEI or critical race theory to fulfill general education or any academic program standards, with exceptions for programs with titles directly showing the main focus of the course to be on race, gender or sexuality.

The bill also provides that universities cannot require or incentivize employees, appointees and committees to participate in DEI or critical race theory activities. Wilburn brought forward an amendment to remove this section, as he said it could have unintended consequences of not getting faculty the continuing education they need, especially in various medical fields.

Rep. Steven Holt, R-Denison, urged the committee to resist the amendment, but said he’d like to speak with Wilburn more about potentially adding language relating to medical issues. The amendment failed to pass, but the legislation itself will move to the House floor.

David Randall, director of research at the National Association of Scholars, told lawmakers students across the U.S., including

those in Iowa, are not learning the necessary knowledge of the U.S., its government and history, in K-12 or higher education. According to a 2024 survey of 3,000 college students by the American Council of Trustees and Alumni, a minority of students were able to say when the Constitution was written and that the legislative branch can declare war, among other things.

“If you look at the general education requirements of the University of Iowa, Iowa State University and the University of Northern Iowa, you will see that Iowa’s public universities are derelict in their duty,” Randall said.

Randall said none of the state universities have general education requirements for American history and government, and civics courses are generally more focused on civic engagement rather than education. He added that the UI has a general education requirement in the category of “Diversity and Inclusion,” which the university said will be changed to “Understanding Cultural Perspectives” starting in the 2025-26 school year.

Priorities Randall cited in improving civics education in higher education can be found in legislation already being discussed by lawmakers, including changing general education requirements and stopping accreditors from taking negative action against universities for following state laws.

Another solution he proposed was to have universities establish

“administratively autonomous” schools that focus on U.S. history and government that would report to the Legislature itself rather than the university it is housed in, in order to “ensure that civic education in Iowa’s public universities is not entrusted to the radical university establishment.”

Civic education requirement bill passes out of subcommittee Holt referenced the presentation during a subcommittee meeting on House Study Bill 56, which would require college students to take a course on American history and civics in order to earn a bachelor’s degree.

The course would need to include, but not be limited to, instruction on “the study of and devotion to American institutions and ideals,” according to the bill, as well as the history and principles of U.S. government, founding documents like the Constitution, the Articles of Confederation and the Emancipation Proclamation, and landmark court cases.

Iowa Board of Regents State Relations Officer Jillian Carlson said the board is registered “undecided” on the legislation but could support the bill if the board was able to work with the Legislature on amendments.

Members of the public questioned how certain topics, people and documents were selected as topics for the course and what the process was for choosing what and who would be included or excluded from the bill language.

Brian Schurz, a resident of

Norwalk who graduated from the University of Northern Iowa with a degree in history, asked why people like Ida B. Wells and Susan B. Anthony, among others, were not listed in the legislation, as well as topics like efforts to combat the Ku Klux Klan.

“Our process of America, of where we came today, is kind of ugly, and there were people that were taken advantage of, and it’s important to have those conversations in an open and honest forum,” Schurz said. “By using this prism as we’re trying to pass laws in the state of Iowa, I don’t want to call it McCarthyism in the 1950s but if it’s something that you don’t like and somebody gets upset about it, then we’re trying to shout each other down or legislate someone to be quiet. So I think we have to be very cautious with this.”

After reading a quote from former President Ronald Reagan about how “freedom is never more than one generation from extinction,” Holt said the presentation cited data from a recent study that showed half of respondents would flee the U.S. if it was invaded.

This is why it is so important to teach young people about the topics outlined in the bill, he said, and added that despite what was suggested in the meeting, this legislation does not prevent any topics from being taught in the classroom.

Subcommittee chair Rep. Skyler Wheeler, R-Hull, said he looks forward to working with the Board of Regents to come to an agreement on language in the bill, but the fact of the matter is that students need to be required to learn what is touched on in the legislation. If people don’t unite to tell one story about the U.S. and its history, Wheeler said, multiple versions of the country will continue to be taught in schools.

“Why in the world ... do we have an education system if we’re not going to be able to utilize it to make sure that kids know basic things about our country, things that they should know?” Wheeler said.

The bill will head to the full higher education committee for consideration.

Read more from Brooklyn Draisey online at [IowaCapitalDispatch.com](https://www.iowacapitaldispatch.com)

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Iowa City Family Physician’s License Placed on Probation

BY CLARK KAUFFMAN
IOWA CAPITAL DISPATCH

Six years after an Iowa City physician allegedly failed to properly prescribe medications to patients, the state Board of Medicine has placed her license on probation.

Board records indicate Dr. Minyon Ritt-

gers-Easton was employed by Mercy-Iowa City in family medicine beginning in December 2016.

Dr. Minyon Rittgers-Easton. (Photo courtesy University of Iowa Hospitals)

While working there, she allegedly provided medical services to the Amish community for several years but failed to

properly chart the prescriptions given to the patients she saw, either in an electronic medical record system or on paper.

According to the board, she also provided “a large number of free samples of an anti-depressant drug” to a Mercy-Iowa City patient without ever charting the medications.

The board initiated an

investigation in 2019. Last month, the board charged Rittgers-Easton with improperly prescribing medications by failing to keep a record of she dispensed.

At the same time, the board agreed to dispose of the matter by issuing a citation and warning and placing Rittgers-Easton’s license on probation for one

year. As part of her probation, she is required to take an unspecified number of hours of educational training in documentation and record keeping.

She will also be required to provide a Board of Medicine case manager with quarterly reports that include all patient prescription records.

Rittgers-Easton de-

clined to comment on the case when contacted Monday at the MRE Family Care Clinic in Iowa City.

Read more from Clark Kauffman online at [IowaCapitalDispatch.com](https://www.iowacapitaldispatch.com)

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A DAY AT CAMP DODGE

Last Wednesday, Franklin County veterans visited Camp Dodge in Johnston, Iowa. The funding was made possible by Clinton Poley, who left a monetary donation to Franklin County after his death in 2020. The Board of Supervisors had designated the money to be spent on veterans in the county to honor Clinton's time in service.



Nathaniel Dirksen and Maynard Koenen (through the window)



Bob Riebkes



Command Sergeant Major Strasser speaking before giving the veterans a tour at Camp Dodge



Dave Sackville



Mike Arndorfer



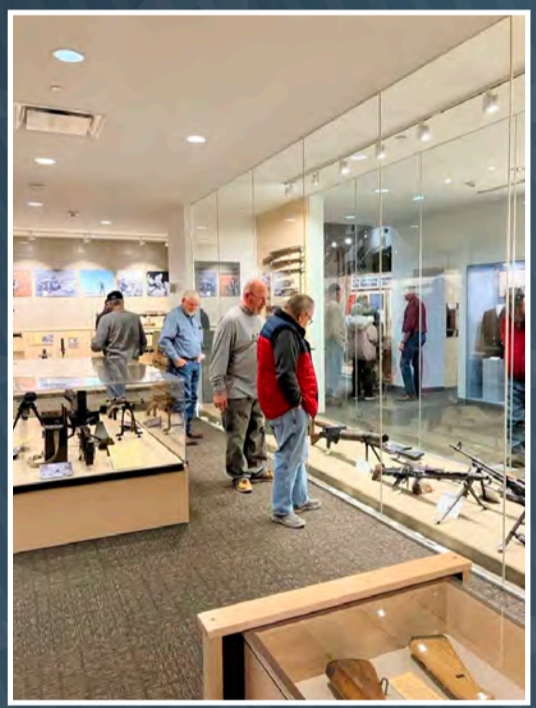
Patricia Sackville at the WW1 exhibit



Tom Teggatz



Troy Wood



Veterans looking at gun exhibits



Veterans enjoying lunch last Wednesday



Wayne Foreman

IOWA LAND COMPANY FARMLAND AUCTION
 HARDIN COUNTY, IA 1,350.45 +/- ACRES
Wednesday, February 19th, 2025 at 1:00PM

FARMLAND DETAILS

Tract 1 -61.44 +/- Acres -63.71 +/- Cropland -86.8 CSR2	Tract 2 -301.63 +/- Acres -306.74 +/- Cropland -61.6 CSR2	Tract 3 -159.01 +/- Acres -166.04 +/- Cropland -79.4 CSR2	Tract 4 -77.73 +/- Acres -76.66 +/- Cropland -74.5 CSR2	Tract 5 -306.95 +/- Acres -318.29 +/- Cropland -80.9 CSR2	Tract 6 -160 +/- Acres -160.72 +/- Cropland -82.5 CSR2	Tract 7 -147.72 +/- Acres -147.40 +/- Cropland -79.4 CSR2	Tract 8 -135.94 +/- Acres -135.19 +/- Cropland -75.9 CSR2
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VIEW DETAILS AND LAND FOR SALE AT IOWALANDCOMPANY.COM

SELLER: Abigail Farms LLC
 FARM LOCATION: Near Alden, Iowa
 AUCTION LOCATION: Ellsworth Community College Agriculture Center, Iowa Falls, IA 50126

Cody Skinner 515-443-6343

Nick Skinner 515-650-0974

2020-2024 BEST BROKERAGES