

Franklin General Hospital earns prestigious 5-Star Rating from the National Rural Rating System

Hampton, Iowa – Franklin General Hospital (FGH) is proud to announce that it has been awarded a prestigious 5-star rating by the National Rural Rating System (NRRS), a program recognizing dedication and excellence in rural healthcare, as well as being named to the National Rural Honor Roll.

This esteemed designation is a testament to FGH's dedication to delivering high-quality care and exceptional patient experiences. The NRRS evaluates hospitals based on rigorous standards, including patient satisfaction, quality of care, and overall hospital performance.

"Being recognized with this award is an honor for our team and underscores the vital role we play in promoting the health and well-being of our patients and community," said Kim Price, FGH CEO. "Every day, our dedicated team strives to meet the needs of the whole person, and we are grateful for this acknowledgement of our collective efforts."

The 5-star rating reflects FGH's ongoing commitment to meet the unique healthcare needs of the rural community it serves. This recognition highlights the hospital's success in providing outstanding medical services, despite the challenges often faced by rural healthcare facilities.

The 2025 National Rural Honor Roll honorees, announced each



November, include rural hospitals that have met the highest standards for patient experience, based on cumulative ratings submitted by October 31, 2024. This annual recognition reinforces NRHA's commitment to supporting and uplifting rural health care facilities as pillars of their communities.

"These awards really shine a spotlight on the heart and hard work that our rural hospitals bring to their communities," says Brock Slabach, COO of the National Rural Health Association. "Rural healthcare comes with unique challenges, and reaching this level of excellence shows not only the

clinical expertise but also the deep commitment these hospitals have to the people they serve. This recognition celebrates rural healthcare as a source of strength, compassion, and healing—right where it's needed most."

FGH extends its heartfelt thanks to its dedicated team of healthcare professionals, whose tireless efforts and unwavering commitment to patient care have made this achievement possible.

The 5-Star Rating System ranks rural and critical access hospitals – with five stars being the top ranking and one star being the lowest. The Star Ratings are like the

CMS Stars, which allow hospitals/clinics to promote their success and are used as high-quality recognitions. Most small and rural hospitals (60%) do not qualify because of low number of qualifying inpatients for the CMS Rankings but are held to the same high patient satisfaction criteria. This program recognizes the hard work, and dedication rural and critical access hospitals provide across the country. The rankings will include overnight hospital stays (HCAHPS) and are based on data collected by certified CMS patient satisfaction vendors.

The National Rural Honor Roll was created to honor rural and critical access hospitals and clinics that consistently deliver exceptional healthcare, showcasing them as leaders in patient-centered care within their communities. Facilities included on the Honor Roll receive recognition for their dedication and excellence that sets them apart, demonstrating their commitment to patient well-being.

For more information visit RuralRatings.US.

Franklin General Hospital is a non-profit critical access hospital serving Franklin County and the surrounding area. Named a 2024 Top 20 Critical Access Hospital for Best Practice in Patient Satisfaction, FGH's staff and specialists provide a full continuum of personalized care to patients.

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.

Friends of Beeds Lake Push for Improved Water Quality

BY JENNIFER BURNHAM HAMPTON CHRONICLE

One thing was clear by the end of the Dec. 2nd Friends of Beeds Lake meeting at Center One: there is a high interest in turning things around at Beeds Lake State Park.

Prior to the regular meeting, the board had invited members of the DNR staff to have a discussion with the public on the water quality of the lake. The Iowa DNR spoke about the current condition of the water quality as well as other ways they can boost the public space.

According to the DNR reps, the water is currently impaired with high levels of indicator bacteria (e. coli), turbidity (poor water transparency) and algal growth (chlorophyll a.). The TMDL, Total Maximum Daily Load, was last calculated at the lake in 2008, according to DNR reps, but locals at the meeting said a more recent study had been completed, which the reps said they would look into after the meeting. (A "TMDL" at a lake is a calculation that

determines the maximum amount of a specific pollutant a lake can receive without violating water quality standards.)

There's also excess algae and sediment suspended in the water column, which contributes to the poor water clarity. DNR reps stated that high indicator bacteria (e. coli) levels have continued at the beach, especially after large amounts of rainfall, and that the position of the beach was a part of the problem. The DNR said moving the current location of the beach may be a possibility to improve bacteria levels, if the public feels that might be a benefit to park users.

Another issue that was discussed was the fact that the lake has lost so much volume over the last few decades, especially in the area west of the causeway, which acts as a natural barrier to slow down water and allow sediments to settle out of the water column before reaching the eastern portion of the lake. A question-and-answer session followed with locals asking about the possibilities of draining or dredging the lake. The DNR responded



Locals and Iowa DNR representatives at the Dec. 2 Friends of Beeds Lake meeting at Center One

that dredging the area west of the causeway could cost in excess of \$3 million.

Michelle Balmer, who oversees lake restoration and water quality improvement for Iowa DNR, said if the Friends of Beeds Lake group would be interested in working on projects like moving the beach or adding a kayak lift, the DNR could give them ideas for how to do that, as they'd seen other Friends groups do the same for other lakes in Iowa. By the end of the meeting, locals made it clear that they wanted the DNR to work on improving the water quality, as many of them felt that the DNR

wasn't doing enough.

When Balmer pointed out the DNR projects in the pipeline (dam repair in 2027/2028 and wastewater connection in 2025/2026), one local said this was not enough, as these projects are general maintenance.

Friends of Beeds Lake President Robyn Kofoot said she felt the information they left with was useful.

"I think the information they gave us was helpful because we really didn't know what the numbers were in terms of improvement of water quality recently. We learned that the efforts in the watershed are making a difference, so we

appreciate those farmers and residents," she said. "Of course, we'd love to have the state remove silt from the west side of the causeway and have the lake depth returned to a deeper level. But we also know that the costs associated with this are just not realistic for our friends group to raise, and we don't fit the criteria for current state programs because of the size of our watershed. So we need to look at ways that the community could benefit most from improvements that we can work on."

See **BEEDS LAKE:** Page 6



The family of Don Springer would like to express its deepest gratitude for the many flowers and plants, cards, memorials, and kind words of sympathy and encouragement given at the time of Don's passing.

Thank you to Pastor Burns for a very meaningful service, Glenda for playing the organ, women of the church for serving a delicious lunch of Don's favorite foods, and Woodley Funeral Home for conducting the service.

We are especially thankful for the excellent care and kindness Don received at Franklin General Hospital and Franklin General Clinic, the Rehabilitation Center of Hampton, and Hospice of North Iowa.

There are no words that can express our appreciation for the many ways we received support from so many people at this difficult time.

-Betty and family

Celebrating Toni Wilkinson's Retirement 40 years of working in the Recorder's office

Tuesday, December 17, 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. at Courthouse in the Rotunda Public is Welcome

PRO RACING THIS WEEK
 Racing News, Stats & Trivia

This Week's Racing News
Christopher Bell interested in running Indianapolis 500
 If Toyota ever returns to the IndyCar Series as an engine supplier, Christopher Bell would be one of the first to raise a hand if they wanted to take an existing driver under its umbrella to a one-off or the Indianapolis 500. "Yeah, for sure," Bell said. "If Toyota was interested in that, I would be raising my hand to do it." Toyota is believed to have explored IndyCar's next generation engine platform but nothing is imminent on that front. The natural comparison is to Kyle Larson, a driver that Bell has been linked to over a decade with their legendary battles at the Chili Bowl Midget Nationals and their shared dirt-to-Daytona career paths. Larson made his Indianapolis debut this past May and contended for at least a top-10 before a late pit road speeding penalty derailed his race. Toyota raced in the IRL IndyCar Series from 2003 to 2005 and was in CART prior to that.

All-Time Top Driver's Bio
Jimmie Johnson
 Born: Sept. 17, 1975
 Cup wins: 83
 Cup top-tens: 364
 Cup championships: 7

Jimmie Johnson was born in El Cajon, California, and began racing motorcycles at the age of four. After graduating from Granite Hills High School he competed in off-road series. In 2000, he began racing in the NASCAR Nationwide Series. He moved to Hendrick Motorsports in the Sprint Cup Series in 2002. After finishing fifth in the points in his first full season, he was second in 2003 and 2004 and fifth in 2005. Johnson won his first Cup series championship in 2006. He went on to win the Cup series championship the next four years and became the only driver in NASCAR history to win five consecutive championships. During the 2011 season, Johnson finished sixth in points, while he finished third in 2012. In 2013, Johnson won his sixth championship. In 2016, Johnson won his seventh championship to tie Richard Petty and Dale Earnhardt for the most championships.

Racing History
Dec. 21, 1971 - Clyde Minter, who finished in the top five in each of his first four Cup starts, died on this day at age 50. Minter was 27 in 1949 when he started the sixth and eighth races in NASCAR's first Strictly Stock season and finished fourth at both Martinsville and North Wilkesboro. He made eight starts in 1950, finishing third at Charlotte and fifth at Martinsville. Minter started his 42nd and final Cup race in 1955.

Racing Trivia
 Who is the youngest driver to win a Cup Series race?
 a) Joey Logano c) Kyle Larson
 b) Kyle Busch d) Austin Dillon

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