

Opinion & Politics

Letters

Special election is Aug. 26

Dear Editor:

There's a special election coming up to choose our new Madison County Auditor, and it will be held on Tuesday, Aug. 26, 2025. Madison County residents — your voice matters more than ever!

Here's what you need to know, in plain terms:

- **Candidate Filing:** If you want to run for County Auditor, you must file by Friday, Aug. 1 at 5 p.m. Those running with a political party must be nominated by convention, but you can also run without a party by filing an affidavit and nomination petitions.
- **Voting Options:** Polls are open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. on election day Tuesday, Aug. 26, 2025. Absentee voting (by mail or in person at the County Auditor's office) starts as early as Wednesday, Aug. 6, contingent on the fact that ballots have been delivered.
- **Registration Deadline:** The last day to request an absentee ballot or to pre-register to vote, is Monday, Aug. 11. If you miss the dead-

line, you can still vote, but you'll need proof of residency and photo ID, or you can cast a provisional ballot.

- **Accessibility:** Voters who can't physically enter a polling place can use curbside voting — a ballot will be brought out to your car. Contact the Madison County Auditor's office to schedule.
- **Further Details:** Polling locations and sample ballots will be announced following the Candidate filing deadline, and updates will be posted on the county's website.

Let's be clear: Voting is more than a right — it's our responsibility. Every vote shapes the future of our county. If you don't participate, you're letting others decide for you. Let's all step up and be part of the solution.

Don't let this opportunity pass by! If you have questions, contact the Auditor's office at 515-462-3914 or MSimpson@madisoncounty.iowa.gov.

Let's all make our voices heard on Aug. 26!

Sincerely,

—Madison County Civic Alliance

Cracking down on money laundering

Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Chuck Grassley (R-Iowa) and Sen. John Fetterman (D-Pa.) introduced the Art Market Integrity Act last Wednesday, July 23. The bipartisan legislation would require art dealers and auction houses to comply with existing anti-money laundering and counter-terrorism financing regulations.

"For decades, criminal enterprises have used America's multibillion-dollar art industry as a personal piggy bank for money laundering schemes, terrorist financing and other nefarious activities. By requiring our nation's art market to comply with existing anti-money laundering and counter-terrorism financing laws, this bipartisan legislation would keep art, and millions of dollars, out of the wrong hands," Grassley said.

"Art should be for art-lovers, not terrorists and criminals," Fetterman said. "For too long, loopholes have allowed Russian criminal kingpins to evade sanctions and terrorists like Hez-

bollah to funnel money through art deals. I'm grateful to Senators Grassley, Whitehouse, and McCormick for working across the aisle to require art dealers and auction houses to perform basic due diligence. This needs to stop now."

The Art Market Integrity Act would:

- Require art dealers and auction houses to maintain records and report on high-value art market transactions, exempting artists and businesses with under \$50,000 in annual art transactions;
- Align the United States with international standards adopted by the United Kingdom, European Union, Switzerland and China; and
- Protect the United States' national security, economic integrity and multibillion-dollar art market from criminals, terrorists, cartels and other bad actors.

Grassley and Fetterman are joined by Senators Dave McCormick (R-Pa.), Sheldon Whitehouse (D-R.I.), Bill Cassidy (R-La.) and Andy Kim (D-N.J.).

Zach Nunn

U.S. CONGRESS

As a dad, a neighbor, and your Representative in Congress, I hear firsthand how national issues — from cyberattacks to classroom safety — are impacting our communities here in Iowa. That's why this week, we focused on defending America's digital frontlines, protecting Iowa agriculture from government overreach, and making our schools and communities safer for students.

Whether it's fighting rising pork prices or pushing back on bad policy, every issue we tackle comes down to one thing: solving Washington's problems with Iowa common-sense.

We'll keep fighting every day to make life more affordable, secure, and safe for families across our communities. And with the end of July here, that means the State Fair is just around the corner. I look forward to seeing you there!

The House unanimously passed my bipartisan Financial Technology Protection Act this

week to stop terrorists and foreign governments from using digital assets to fund attacks. This is about defending American innovation and defending our national security.

California's Prop 12 is driving up pork prices and trying to dictate how Iowa farmers run their operations. Our bill pushes back — stopping states like California from imposing costly, one-size-fits-all mandates on producers in Iowa. That means more freedom for our farmers and lower prices at the grocery store for families.

Fentanyl, human trafficking, and gang violence aren't just big city problems anymore; they're showing up in Iowa classrooms. Our bipartisan Safe Schools and Communities Act gives teachers the tools to recognize the warning signs, intervene early, and get students the help they need. Every child deserves to feel safe at school, and prevention has to start before it's too late.

Catch the Winterset City Government Update with Mayor Tom Leners on the second week of each month!

Editorial Page Guidelines: We want to hear your perspective and views on local issues. We welcome letters with a unique viewpoint that are supported by facts and offer a solution if applicable. Send your letter to the editor to editor@wintersetmadisonian.com. Letters to the editor should be no more than 600 words. Submissions 200-300 words have the best chance of being published. You must include your name, address, and a daytime phone number for verification. All submissions of letters to the editor become the property of The Madisonian and may be edited for length, redundancy, clarity, civility, and accuracy and may be published or distributed in print, electronic, or other forms. Our intent in editing is not to change your opinions expressed, but to ensure your views are clear, concise, and easy to understand. We will try to contact you if we need to edit your letter, but cannot guarantee we will be able to do so because of time constraints. Not all letters submitted will be published. Typically, we will only publish one letter per writer every 30 days. We will not print letters that make false or damaging statements about another person or that are factually inaccurate.

Relatively Minor

Vicki Minor, Editor
editor@wintersetmadisonian.com

Laughter does not have to come from a major source. It could indeed be ... relatively minor.

...

The Grocery Thief

Sometimes we pick up our phones with the best of intentions. Maybe just to check the weather or reply to a quick message. But before we know it, an hour has vanished. We've been mindlessly scrolling through social media or websites, barely aware it's happening. It's that strange, almost hypnotic experience of swiping through endless content, like we're on a mission to find the bottom of the internet.

One moment, you're checking the forecast, and the next, you're watching a video of a bird robbing a grocery store, not for the first time.

As the video begins, a seagull waddles up to the entrance of a grocery store. The motion-activated doors slide open, and it strolls in casually, attracting no attention. Moments later, it re-emerges, proudly holding what looks like a bag of Cool Ranch Doritos in its beak. Fortunately for the bird, it's the lighter, more portable grab bag size.

The bird drops the bag to the ground like it's done this before, then tears it open with a few swift jabs of its beak. Within seconds, its beak-deep in chips, devouring them like an animal that hasn't eaten all day.

This isn't your average video. A quick scroll through the comments reveals that this isn't the feathered thief's first heist. He's known as Stephen Seagull, and if people knew how he snatched his midday snack, some might cry "fowl" and call him a criminal. He's even been banned from the market, with warning signs posted to alert shoppers. It's not precisely a WANTED poster, but the message is clear: beware of his thieving beak.

The moral of the story? You can't blame the seagull for its antics. It's just doing what any of us might do when hunger strikes. A little more scrolling revealed that birds like him have quite a reputation as snack bandits, especially when it comes to mimicking our food choices. They trust our taste; literally, they're not as "bird-brained" as people think, just smart enough to let us do the shopping.

Have something to say?
Send your letter to the editor to
editor@wintersetmadisonian.com

Letters must be signed by the author. Please see our editorial page guidelines below.

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Winterset

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