



Today's Daily Smile is brought to you by Carter Wiltzman!



LOCAL NEWS

Deceased female found in Shelby County

SHELBY COUNTY – Shelby County Sheriff’s Deputies found a deceased female at an Earling residence on July 31, according to a news release posted on the Shelby County Sheriff’s Office- Harlan, IA Facebook page.

The news release stated that deputies responded to 204 Second Avenue in Earling on July 31 for a welfare check, and found Theresa Kenkel, 32, deceased inside. Kenkel’s body was transported to the State Medical Examiner’s Office where an autopsy will be conducted.

Deputies were assisted at the scene by the Iowa Division of Criminal Investigation. Sheriff’s officials said, “We believe this is an isolated incident and there no reason there is a threat to the public. Anyone with any information related to this incident is encouraged to call the Shelby County Sheriff’s Office at 712-755-5026.”

Today’s Obituaries

- Norman Nelson, 93
- Charlene Martha McLaughlin, 97

Page 2

Weather Forecast



Saturday Partly sunny, with a high near 75. Southeast wind 3 to 8 mph.

Saturday Night Partly cloudy, with a low around 55. Southeast wind 5 to 7 mph.

Sunday A slight chance of showers and thunderstorms before 10 a.m., then a slight chance of showers between 10am and 1pm. Partly sunny, with a high near 76. South southeast wind 5 to 9 mph. Chance of precipitation is 20%.



Sunday Night Mostly cloudy, with a low around 58.



Monday Partly sunny, with a high near 77.

Monday Night Partly cloudy, with a low around 59.

Tuesday Sunny, with a high near 82.



Tuesday Night Partly cloudy, with a low around 64.



Wednesday Mostly sunny, with a high near 85.

Wednesday Night Partly cloudy, with a low around 68.

Thursday Mostly sunny, with a high near 88.



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LOCAL NEWS

City hires firm for flower bed maintenance

By Jennifer Nichols
NT Staff Writer

ATLANTIC – The City of Atlantic will work with Robinson Landscaping and Patio Design to do weeding and maintenance on downtown flower beds after city officials agreed they needed to take bids for the project during a beautification meeting last month.

Atlantic City Administrator John Lund said Thursday after receiving bids, city officials agreed to award the contract to Robinson Landscaping and Patio Design for the project.



“Robinson Landscaping and Patio Design — they were awarded the contract for the immediate pulling of weeds, which should be done before Atlantic Fest,” Lund said.

He also said city officials would take bids for the next season to take

care of the flower beds, and they would like to start that process after AtlanticFest.

“We’re going to seek a second set of bids for the rest of the

Landscapingpage A2

State Spotlight

Critics knock Iowa’s Sales Tax Holiday as inefficient

By Tom Foley
Iowa Capital Dispatch

The state of Iowa’s Annual Sales Tax Holiday is Friday and Saturday, during which some clothing items will be free of sales tax for 48 hours, but critics argue the narrow scope and minimal exemption time makes it an inefficient solution for tax relief and economic growth.

The annual tax holiday in Iowa is applicable to clothing items — specifically “any article of wearing apparel and typical footwear intended to be worn on or about the human body.”

Any individual clothing item under \$100 that fits this definition, with several exceptions, purchased after 12:01 a.m. on Aug. 1 until midnight on Aug. 2, will be free of Iowa’s 7% state sales tax.

All businesses open during that time are required to participate.

“It’s a very popular program because people can save money,” said John Fuller, public information officer for the Iowa Department of Revenue. “Several states do something similar to what Iowa does.”

The tax relief program began in 2000 and was spearheaded by former state Rep. Mike Cormack, a Republican legislator from Fort Dodge.

However, critics at Institution on Taxation and Economic Policy argue this method is an inefficient vehicle for providing tax relief or generating substantial economic activity while providing “significant downsides.”

“Sales tax holidays are ineffective and gimmicky,” said Miles Trinidad, ITEP state analyst, in a press release. “While policymakers often tout them as helping families save money for essential goods, these holidays fall far short of lessening the regressive nature of sales taxes on the low and moderate income households who feel these taxes the most while also



depriving states of revenue, being easily exploitable, and creating administrative headaches.”

ITEP estimates the amount of lost revenue for 2025 will be equal to \$1.3 billion across states and localities. They argue this will “ultimately have to be made up elsewhere either through painful spending cuts or increasing other taxes.”

Critics at The Tax Foundation argued in a press release that sales tax holidays:

- Do not “promote significant economic growth or increase consumer spending” but rather shifts the timing of regular purchases.
- Are not an efficient response to inflation that encourages spending during a limited timeframe

Tax Holiday..... page A2

LOCAL NEWS

National Night Out in Exira Aug. 5

EXIRA – City of Exira officials are hosting National Night Out on Aug. 5 from 5 to 7 p.m. at Legion Park. The event will include a community BBQ as well as booths from the Exira Public Library, Audubon County Memorial Hospital and Clinic, Audubon County Sheriff’s Department, Exira Fire and Rescue and Audubon County Conservation. There will also be games, activities and much more.

Elk Horn Fund-raiser set for Aug. 2

ELK HORN – Staff with the Elk Horn Pool and the Kids in the Village Daycare are hosting a fund-raiser on Aug. 2 at the SW Shelter House at Elk Horn Park from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Pool staff will be offering lunch for a free will donation, and the menu includes hamburgers, hot dogs, steak sandwiches, cheesy potatoes, baked beans, chips and bars. All donations will go towards the purchase of a new diving board. Daycare staff will be offering yard games and family fun — also for a free will donation.