



The Leon Journal-Reporter

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43rd Annual Grand River Rodeo August 15-16

The 43rd annual Grand River Lion's Club Championship Rodeo will ride into town Friday and Saturday, Aug. 15-16, bringing two nights of sanctioned rodeo action and family fun to the rodeo grounds just a half-mile west and a half-mile south of Grand River.

Sanctioned by the IRA, IRCA and URA, the event will feature 10 championship events including Bareback Riding, Calf Roping, Saddle Bronc Riding, Barrel Racing, Steer Wrestling, Team Roping, Brahma Bull Riding, Over-40 Calf Roping, Break-Away Roping and Ranch Bronc Riding. The Grand River Rodeo Company is the official stock contractor. Rodeo festivities begin at 7 p.m. each

night with Muttin Bustin' for children age 7 and under, and Steer Riding, followed by the main rodeo events.

A Chicken Chase for children age 10 and under will also be held during the rodeo on both nights. DJ Mike Sweerin will provide live entertainment on the rodeo grounds Friday and Saturday.

Admission is \$10 for adults age 12 and up, while children enter free. Advance tickets are available for \$8 at First Interstate Bank in Leon, Farmers Bank of Northern Missouri in Leon, American State Bank in Lamoni, BTC Bank in Lamoni, City State Bank in Mount Ayr, and The Outpost in Ellston.

(Photos by Mary Lindsey)



The Grand River Rodeo Committee has started getting the rodeo grounds ready for the annual rodeo that bucks out August 15 and 16.



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Subscription Prices
Decatur and Surrounding Counties -- \$48.00
Outside area -- \$58.00
Alaska/Hawaii -- Higher

Waugh to Compete for ISF Queen

The 2025 Iowa State Fair Queen will be crowned Saturday, August 9, on the Bill and Ann Riley Stage. Decatur County Queen Mildred "Mili" Waugh will be participating.

Wilson to Compete in Bill Riley Talent Show

During the 2025 Iowa State Fair, scheduled for August 7 - 17, Iris Wilson will be performing in the Bill Riley Talent Show on Friday, August 8.

J-R Office Closed

The Leon Journal-Reporter Office will be closed Thursday, August 7, all day. Sorry for the inconvenience.

Leon City Council Meeting

The regular monthly meeting of the Leon City Council will be held Monday, August 11 at 6:00 p.m. in the council chambers at the city hall.

See Photos of Fair Winners on page 6 and 7.

Know Before You Go to the Iowa State Fair Aug. 7-17

The Iowa State Fair begins next week. Here are a few things you should know before you go to the Fair this year.

BUY TICKETS NOW
Grandstand tickets are still available for most shows and can be purchased at www.iowastatefair.org. Beware of third-party ticket sellers and only purchase your Grandstand tickets from the Iowa State Fair. Select VIP Experience tickets for Fair After Dark are also on sale while supplies last.

SAVE MONEY
Purchase discounted Thrill Park passes before August 7 and SAVE! Advance Thrill Passes are good every day of the Fair on rides and games for \$30. Advance One-Day Ride Wristbands are also on sale for \$40, but are limited to use on Monday-Thursday and do not include game credits. Both these deals disappear when the Fair starts.

During the Fair, you're in luck, save a buck. Monday-Thursday, EVERY ride and game in Thrill Town

(10 a.m. to 4 p.m.) and Thrill Ville (11 a.m. to 4 p.m.) is \$1 off.

WHAT'S NEW
Find out What's New on the Iowa State Fair website, <https://www.iowastatefair.org/participate/whats-new>.

GETTING TO THE FAIR
On-site parking is available off University Ave in Lots A, B and C for \$10. Cash and credit/debit cards are accepted. These lots contain both paved and hard-packed ADA/Accessible Parking spaces. Bicycle parking is free inside Gate 11 on Grand Ave.

PARK & RIDE
Fairgoers can park their car for free at one of three convenient locations around the metro and catch a ride to the Fair. Services available from 8 a.m. to midnight (service to the Fair will end at 9 p.m. on Sunday, August 17).

• 7th & Center St. Park & Ride (830 6th Ave., Des Moines, IA 50309)

• Iowa State Capitol (Located on E 12th

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CD School Board Approves Infrastructure Upgrades, Personnel Changes During July Meeting

The Central Decatur Community School District Board of Education met in regular session Wednesday, July 23 in the High School TAP Room, where members approved key facility upgrades, personnel changes, policy updates and legislative priorities.

In district project updates, the board approved a quote from Trane for the replacement of a rooftop unit compressor and entered into a three-year preventative maintenance agreement.

Board members also approved a quote from Midwest Bus Repair to replace non-functional bus cameras.

The board discussed long-term financial planning following a June work session with Denovo Construction Solutions.

In legislative matters, the board reviewed the Rural School Advocates of

Iowa (RSAI) 2026 Legislative Issue Survey and selected four top priorities to submit to the Iowa Association of School Boards (IASB): student and staff mental health and wellness, using public dollars for public schools, adequate and timely school funding policy, and ensuring a safe learning environment.

Handbooks for the 2025-26 school year were approved, including those for elementary and secondary students, athletics/activities, employees, and emergency operations. The board also approved the district's milk bid from Anderson Erickson—the only bid received. Bread and meal prices will be reviewed in August.

The board reviewed the proposed 2025-26 district fee schedule, covering activity admissions, Driver's Education, book and laptop rentals, band rental, class dues and meal prices. Final

approval is expected at the August meeting.

In personnel actions, the board accepted the resignation of Ethan Thomas as assistant high school baseball coach. The board also approved several new hires: Jesse English as 7-12 art teacher; Laci Erke and Micheala Lane as instructional coaches; and Zach Mendenhall as head junior high girl's basketball coach.

Additionally, Nate Tharp was approved as assistant high school football coach.

The board renewed an agreement to share Nutrition Services Director Kathy McClain with another district for the 2025-26 year. The district will also continue sharing several athletic programs with Lamoni Community School District, including girls and boys wrestling and baseball (hosted by Central Decatur), and bowling and girl's soccer (host-

August Yard of the Month Recipients

The Leon Chamber of Commerce, partnering with the City of Leon, has been recognizing residential yards of the month over the past few years. This month, Jerry and Tracey Parsons and Beau and Bre Leymaster in Leon were the 2 outstanding yards/houses chosen by the committee for August.

The congratulatory sign is to be displayed in the winners' yard for the entire month. Check these winners out: Jerry and Tracey Parsons at 400 SW Church Street and Beau and Bre Leymaster at 1201 SE Poplar Street, both in Leon. Both recipients will be displaying their signs during the month of August and the signs will be collected towards the end of August or beginning of September.

This program is a way to congratulate the locals who just naturally take self-pride in helping to beautify the community and their neighborhood. Thank you Leymasters and Parsons for doing your small part to keep Leon a great place to live, work and play as well as full of community pride.

Chamber and the city know there are many others in the community who work to help beautify their own neighborhoods which are an important piece of the Small Town Big Heart community motto. The committee will be working to keep their eyes out and catch up with you. If you have someone you would like to nominate, contact The Leon Journal-Reporter at JRNEWS@GRM.NET or call 641-446-4151.



(Photos by Macson Lindsey)



Beau and Bre Leymaster's yard was selected as one of the two Yards of the Month recipients, located at 1201 SE Poplar St., in Leon.

Jerry and Tracey Parsons' yard was selected as one of the two Yards of the Month recipients, located at 400 SW Church St., in Leon.