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The Hometown Newspaper since 1890

earlhamecho@gmail.com City of Earlham Official Newspaper

## **Iowa Farm** Report

**ORY BROTHERS** 

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CROP & CHEMICAL SALES

Another wet and humid week limited Iowa farmers to 3.6 days suitable for fieldwork during the week ending July 27, 2025, according to the USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service. Field activities included harvesting oats, cutting hay and applying

Topsoil moisture condition rated 1 percent very short, 4 percent short, 65 percent adequate and 30 percent surplus. Subsoil moisture condition rated 2 percent very short, 7 percent short, 67 percent adequate and 24 percent surplus.

Corn silking reached 84 percent, 1 day ahead of both last year and the five-year average. Thirty-four percent of Iowa's corn has reached the dough stage, 1 day ahead of last year's pace and 3 days ahead of normal. Corn condition rated 1 percent very poor, 2 percent poor, 10 percent fair, 59 percent good and 28 percent excellent. Soybeans blooming reached 81 percent, unchanged from last year, but 2 days behind normal. Fifty-two percent of soybeans were setting pods, 5 days ahead of last year and 2 days ahead of the five-year average. Soybean condition rated 1 percent very poor, 2 percent poor, 15 percent fair, 61 percent good and 21 percent excellent. Ninety-five percent of oats were turning color and 49 percent of the oat crop has been harvested. Oat condition rated 0 percent very poor, 3 percent poor, 14 percent fair, 67 percent good and 16 percent excellent.

The second cutting of alfalfa hay reached 87 percent complete while 28 percent of the third cutting has been completed. Hay condition rated 86 percent good to excellent. Pasture condition rated 82 percent good to excellent. Livestock stress from heat and

humidity was reported.



The First Presbyterian Church hosted a lunch for some first responders last week. They also donated \$1,000 to Earlham Fire & Rescue! More on Page 6. (Photo by Todd Weber.)

# Notice of Special Election

Notice is given to the eligible electors in Madison County, Iowa, that a Special Election for the position of County Auditor shall be held on Tuesday, August 26th, 2025, to elect a County Auditor. Candidate filing was open through August 1st, 2025, at 5 pm [§44.38]. Any candidates wishing to run with a political affiliation must be nominated by convention. [43.78]. Candidates wishing to appear on the ballot without affiliation must file an affidavit for candidacy and nomination petitions. [§45.1(5-6)].

Polls will be open from 7:00 A.M. until 8:00 P.M., with locations to be published in future legal notices. Absentee voting will be available in the Auditor's office and by mail. The earliest possible date to cast a ballot in person or have an absentee ballot be mailed will be August 6th, contingent on the fact that ballots have been delivered [§53.10]. The last day to request an absentee ballot by mail or to pre-register to vote will be August 11th, 2025 [§53.21], and any voters who are not pre-registered by the deadline will be required to submit proof of residency alongside existing voter identification requirements or may cast a provisional ballot. Any voter who is physically unable to enter a polling place has the right to vote in the voter's vehicle; a ballot shall be brought curbside for that voter's convenience.

Publication of election, including sample ballots, notice of public testing, and polling locations, will be published following the candidate filing deadline [§52.35] [§49.23] [§49.53]. In the meantime, the Auditor's office will continue to provide updates to the public on the county's website. Please get in touch with our office directly with any questions. Mikayla Simpson, Madison County Elections Deputy. MSimpson@madisoncounty.iowa.gov; 515-462-3914.

Matthew Schwarz and Michele Brant are the two candidates.

# Sports Short brought to you by



Grimes 515-986-4160



We love sports, especially the Earlham Cardinals, here at the Echo. So when there is no sports to write about, we get a little antsy.

We hope that all the athletes enjoyed Family Week, a time for them to enjoy just being a kid, away from the rigors and demands of high school sports. But fall practices officially start on August 11, so we trust everyone will be ready to get after it!

#### Schwarz



Madison County Republican Party announced that delegates nominated Auditor Matthew Schwarz as their candidate for Auditor for the special election to be held Tuesday, August 26.

Check out the July 15 issue of the Echo for two stories about Schwarz. Meanwhile, here are a few highlights from his resume.

President, Stake Pro. 2023 to present. Company develops technology-driven solutions that remove the risk of human error from road construction

and excavation projects. President/CEO, Schwarz Forensic Enterprises, Inc. 2010 to present. Company provides full service, high quality forensic consulting, training, assessment and laboratory support for law enforcement and

Last Wednesday, the corporate security communities using a customized, individualized process.

- Heavy equipment operator and foreman, Excavation, Wenthold 2022-2025
- Laboratory Manager/Senior Consultant, Ron Smith and Associates, laboratory at Ron Smith and performing work as a Certified Latent Print Examiner.
- the Identification Bureau and at one time supervised a table 20+ years of budgeting total of 23 staff.
- Police Officer/CPL/ Detective, Muscatine Police erty and asset management. Department. 1994 to 2006.

## **Brant**



Michele Brant, a local business professional whose most recent county role was Board Clerk in the County Auditor's office, announced her candidacy for Madison County Auditor by a special election that will be held on August 26.

"I am running No Party Inc. 2008 to 2012. Schwarz because I believe that Madimanaged incoming latent son County voters have had typrint case work done by the enough polarization from local politics, and that a true Associates, Inc, as well as moderate who is fair and honest needs to be running our Auditor's office. As I · Identification Bu- have said time and again, I have two adult children and reau Manager, Muscatine want to serve all Madison Police Department. 2006- County residents and protect 2009. Schwarz commanded our county from missteps."

Michele brings to the and operations management as well as decades of prop-Michele has extensive expe-

rience in HR management, and she has served under both the Madison County Board of Supervisors and the Auditor. She already has knowledge of the systems in that office, and she has specific experience navigating difficult situations. She looks forward to serving all residents of Madison Coun-

Michelle has lived in Madison County with her husband Bruce for 23 years. They raise cattle in rural Madison County. They also now enjoy spending time with four grandchildren. Iowa has always been their



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