

First Amendment to the Constitution

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

STATE of IOWA MOTTO

Our liberties we prize and our rights we will maintain.

A NATION of LAWS

Where the will of men exceeds the rule of law, there, tyranny prospers.

It's NEWS To US!

- If you're having a party.
- If you have out-of-town guests.
- If you take a trip.
- If a son or daughter leaves for college, or comes back for a visit.
- If a son or daughter enlists in the Armed Forces.
- If a son or daughter receives scholastic honors.
- If someone in your family or business receives a promotion, job change or retires.
- If a former resident passes away.
- If you entertain at a dinner or a party.
- If your club meets.
- If your class holds or plans a reunion.
- If you're celebrating a wedding anniversary.
- If you move out of town.
- If someone moves into your neighborhood.
- If someone enters a hospital.
- If a business is opening or closing.
- If something interesting is happening.

The Hampton Chronicle attempts to cover the news in Franklin county and adjoining areas as thoroughly as possible, and we appreciate it when you let us help you get the word out! We hope you'll let us know if you have news by emailing news@hampton-chronicle.com, or by calling or texting 515-988-3726.

Thanks for letting us know!

THE SENIOR SCENE

Where new friendships are made and old friendships are renewed



MONDAY-FRIDAY from 8 a.m.-4 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

- Monday, April 6**
1:00 BINGO (\$3.25)
- Tuesday, April 7**
12:30 CRIBBAGE (NO COST)
- Wednesday, April 8**
12:45 HAND & FOOT OR
500 CARDS, 1:00 BINGO (\$3.25)
- Thursday, April 9**
1:00 BINGO (\$3.25),
- Friday, April 10**
STAY & PLAY

**GREAT LUNCHES AT 11:30
60 & under \$10.00**

Over 60 \$7.00
Call 456-5191 For Reservations

- Menu*
- Monday, April 6**
Meatloaf, Mashed Potatoes, with Gravy, Vegetable, Chocolate Chip Bars
 - Tuesday, April 7**
Ground Beef Stroganoff, over Egg Noodles, Whole Wheat Bread, Vegetable, Fruit
 - Wednesday, April 8**
Pulled Pork Sandwich on Whole Wheat Bun, Coleslaw, Cinnamon, Apples with Crunchy Topping
 - Thursday, April 9**
Chicken Patty, Potato Wedges, Vegetable, Fruit
 - Friday, April 10**
Lasagna, Lettuce Salad, Garlic Bread, Fruit Salad

HAMPTON SENIOR CENTER
23 First St. SW, Hampton • 641-456-5191

Submit any "Letters to the Editor" at news@hamptonchronicle.com

Correction and Retraction Policy

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.

All corrections will be printed on page 2A 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.

Protecting American Farmland for the Next Generation



REP. RANDY FEENSTRA
COLUMNIST

In Iowa, we recognize that our rich soil is one of our most precious resources, making our farmland the envy of the world. In drafting the Farm Bill in the House Agriculture Committee, it was critical to make protecting our food supply, rural communities, and national security one of its central pillars. We have seen how a previous lack of oversight of foreign ownership of agricultural land has created vulnerabilities that we simply cannot ignore.

That's why I introduced

the *Foreign Agricultural Restrictions to Maintain Local Agriculture and National Defense (FARMLAND) Act* and am pleased that this legislation is now included in the Farm Bill, which passed out of the House Agriculture Committee. This commonsense proposal takes meaningful steps to ensure that American farmland stays in the hands of American farmers for the next generation.

The *FARMLAND Act* strengthens oversight by authorizing the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States (CFIUS) to review and monitor foreign purchases or leases that exceed \$5 million or 320 acres. It also requires the Secretaries of Agriculture and Homeland Security to issue an annual report identifying any national security risks tied to foreign investment in U.S. farmland. Just as importantly, it directs the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to create a public database, so Americans know exactly who owns

our agricultural land.

This transparency will ensure we have the confidence to know exactly who owns our agricultural land and where foreign investments are being concentrated, such as around U.S. military facilities. This improves accountability while ensuring that potential risks are identified and addressed early.

President Trump has already taken action to implement some of the needed reforms that the *FARMLAND Act* champions, and we are beginning to see results. The USDA has started to streamline and modernize reporting through a new online portal under the Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act. Passing the *FARMLAND Act* into law is essential, as it will codify and strengthen these efforts to permanently ensure accountability.

These reforms come at an essential time. Nearly half of all U.S. farmland is expected to change hands in the next two decades.

Without these proper safeguards, foreign adversaries like China could gain a foothold in our agricultural sector, putting unnecessary pressure on Iowa farmers who are already struggling with rising input costs, regulations, and inflation.

Further, the impact of foreign ownership of farmland does not stop at the farmgate, it threatens the integrity of our federal farm programs. This legislation further ensures that foreign-owned land cannot benefit from federal farm programs, closing another loophole in the system that wastes taxpayer dollars.

Passing the *FARMLAND Act* in the Farm Bill is an important step toward protecting American farmers. By increasing transparency, strengthening enforcement, and putting American farmers first, we protect our farmland, strengthen our economy, and our national security for the next generation.

Q&A About the Primary Election



KATY FLINT
FRANKLIN COUNTY AUDITOR

As the Primary Election is just 2 months from tomorrow, I thought I would share some commonly asked questions and their answers.

Q: What is the Primary Election?

A: The Primary Election is an election by the political parties to nominate their candidates for the General Election ballot. No one is elected in a Primary election; candidates are nominated. To win a political party nomination,

the candidate must receive more votes than anyone else in his/her party for that race AND receive at least 35% of the votes cast for that office by members of their political party.

Q: Why is the Primary Election different from other types of elections?

A: The difference between Primary Elections and other elections is that a voter's party affiliation must be declared and it must be included on election registers, eligibility slips, absentee ballot requests and absentee ballot affidavits.

Q: If I am registered as No Party can I still vote in the Primary Election?

A: Yes. However, you will have to re-register with one of the two parties to cast a ballot. Only voters with one of the two parties (Democrat or Republican) may vote in the Primary

Election.

Q: Can I change my party affiliation at the time that I vote?

A: Yes

Q: If I declare one party to vote for in the Primary Election, can I change back to my previous registration?

A: Yes. However, you may not do so on the same day as voting. You will need to complete a new voter registration application. The change will be processed after the Primary Election has been certified and vote credit has been posted for every voter.

Q: If I vote a Democrat ballot, can I write in a Republican for an office and vice versa?

A: Primary election votes are making nominations for their own political party. A write-in vote for a Republican candidate on

a Democrat ballot will be tallied as a Democrat vote, not a Republican vote.

Q: How do nonpartisan candidates get on a ballot?

A: Nonpartisan candidates file nominations papers for the General Election. The filing period for nonpartisan candidates is from now until June 2nd, 2026, at 5PM. The Primary Election is held to nominate political party candidates to the General Election ballot; therefore, candidates not affiliated with one of the two recognized political parties cannot participate in the Primary Election.

If you have any questions about the Primary Election that I haven't answered, don't hesitate to give our office a call or stop by! We're always happy to answer them! Until next time...

Iowa House Passes 16 Bills during Week 11



REP. SHANNON LATHAM
COLUMNIST

During week 11 of the 2026 legislative session, the Iowa House passed 16 bills of which 10 passed unanimously. We debated four bills on Monday and 12 bills on Tuesday. On Wednesday, I attended the Pioneer Lawmaker Ceremony.

A few bills that passed this week include:

- Junior Firefighter Program. On Tuesday, the House unanimously passed a bill allowing juniors and seniors in high school to participate in a junior firefighter program. School districts will work with their local fire department to set a curriculum. Approved trainers will teach the students. Upon completion of the class, the students will be allowed to sit for the Firefighter 1 certification test. This bill makes sure the students are safe while learning invaluable



It was my honor to give the morning prayer on National Agriculture Day.

skills. SF 2086 encourages students to try something new while giving back to their community and helps their communities expand their fire departments.

- Teacher Prep Program. House File 2230 requires students' clinical experiences to include 15 practicum hours focused on special populations including English learner language (ELL), special education, instructional implementation, and individualized education plan (IEP) progress monitoring.

- TAG Programs. Senate File 2220 allows for automatic enrollment in advanced coursework, and creates an advanced middle

school math pathway.

Iowa is #1 in Affordability

Iowa is ranked as the #1 state for affordability, according to the nonpartisan Common Sense Institute report that examines how states have been affected by post-pandemic inflation.

Iowa households spent \$9,000 more on basic expenses such as housing, utilities, groceries, health and car insurance, gas, and childcare in 2025 than in 2019. While this is a sizable increase, it is significantly less than the \$15,400 average increase seen across the United States.

Digital Agriculture Innovation Lab

During a tour March 26 of Iowa State University's Digital Agriculture Innovation Lab, members of the Economic Development Budget Subcommittee saw how cutting-edge research meets real-world farming—and drives innovation, supports startups, and boosts productivity across Iowa's agricultural economy.

The economic impact of the digital ag lab shows up through research commercialization, industry partnerships, workforce development, and farm productivity gains.