

*Keeping You & Over 12,278 Other Readers
Connected to the Benton County Area*
Wednesday, February 18, 2026
www.vintonlivewire.com

PSRST STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
LIVEWIRE
PUBLISHING CO.

ECRWSEDDM
Void When Distributed
By Any Other Method
Postal Customer



NOW HIRING



We are looking for a full time diesel mechanic!
Needs to have a minimum of two years experience.
Tools Provided
Health Insurance • Paid Time Off • Retirement Plan
Must have valid driver's license, Class A CDL preferred
CALL US TODAY • 319-551-9501



A STRONG HEART Starts With Compassionate Care!



**BE SEEN SOONER.
APPOINTMENTS
AVAILABLE**
for imaging services,
physical therapy,
weight management,
our wound clinic,
colonoscopies and more!

Your heart health is one of the most important aspects of your overall wellbeing. At Virginia Gay Hospital, our cardiology services are provided on an outpatient basis, with experienced cardiology specialists serving our community as outreach providers. We offer comprehensive diagnostic services and treatment options for a wide range of heart-related concerns. We're committed to helping you understand your heart health and empowering you to take charge of your overall health.

Treating conditions such as:

- Chest pain
- Palpitations
- Abnormal heart rhythm
- Heart failure
- High blood pressure
- Enlargement of the heart
- Swelling of feet and ankles
- Dizziness when standing
- Abnormal EKG



Clinics, Home Health, VG Nursing & Rehab, LLC.

MyVGH.org/specialty/cardiology | 319-472-6300 | 504 N 9th Ave, Vinton, IA 52349

ALL GENERAL CONSTRUCTION



LET'S BUILD YOUR "DREAM" TOGETHER

DREAM BUILDINGS AND CONSTRUCTION LLC

Free Estimates

Jonathan Helmuth
319-238-5030
1319 DILLON AVE
FAIRBANK IA, 50629

Bonded - n- Insured

ROOFING
SIDING
DECKS
WINDOWS -n- DOORS

POST FRAME BUILDINGS
HOUSES
ADDITIONS
REMODELS

GINGERICH
Roofing Solutions

- Metal • Flat • Roof Coating • Outbuildings
- Siding • Pole Buildings

CALL FOR A FREE ESTIMATE

319.505.3938

1501 Fairbank Amish Blvd., Hazleton, IA 50641

Weber's
Plumbing, Heating & Air Conditioning



HEATING & COOLING PRODUCTS

Phone 476-2590

Call us for all of your plumbing, heating & cooling needs on new homes, remodeling, services & replacement needs.

DUTCHMEN'S POST AND FRAME, LLC

PROVIDING QUALITY
POST FRAME BUILDINGS AND METAL ROOFING CONSTRUCTION
FOR OUR CUSTOMERS



CONTACT ADAM FOR A FREE ESTIMATE
319-238-2575
LOCALLY OWNED AND OPERATED

VINTON COUNSELING SERVICES
Serving Couples, Families & Individuals

Nicholas S. Fisher
Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist
203 E. 4th St., Vinton
319-472-4499

FOR SALE:

SPENT LAYING HENS FOR SALE AT
\$2/EACH

Call Roy at
319-440-5700
or stop by
1623 120th Street.
Hazleton, IA 50641
for more information.



Specialty Care with The Mercy Touch®

AT VIRGINIA GAY HOSPITAL



CARDIOLOGY
ENT
MEDICAL ONCOLOGY
NEPHROLOGY
PULMONOLOGY

www.mercycare.org

It's a small world,
if you just live in your own.



Here's what you've been missing from the latest Vinton Newspapers:

See Tuesday's Vinton Eagle for:

- ☆ Fundraiser Established for Hunter Iverson.
- ☆ Iowa Supreme Court Reverses "Grossly Negligent" Ruling.
- ☆ Stormin' Off to State — CPU Sends 3 to the Show.

See last Friday's Cedar Valley Times for:

- ☆ VSMS Viking Leadership Council Still Growing Strong.
- ☆ VSHS Large Group Speech Heading to All State.
- ☆ Viking Bowlers Grab WaMaC Title at Turner Hall.

~ In Print and Online ~ **Subscribe today and stay in the know! Call 319-472-2311**

Papers for sale at these convenient locations:

VINTON - Casey's HWY 218, Fareway, Kwik Star
CENTER POINT - Casey's
Get your copy today!



Give us a try!
3 month subscription for \$28

Donate Your Car to Veterans Today! Help and Support our Veterans. Fast - FREE pick up. 100% tax deductible. Call 800-245-0398

TOP DOLLAR PAID for old vintage guitars! Gibson, Fender, Martin, Greesch, Rickenbacker, Epiphone, Etc. 1930's to 1980's. Call 866-433-8277

Need cash quickly? We buy houses in any condition. Get a fair cash offer within 24 hours! Call today. Liz Buys Houses: 833-359-4707

APARTMENTS For Rent

- 1 & 2 BR Apartments
- Water, Garbage, Sewer provided

On-site Laundry

Rent based on 30% of adjusted income.
62 years of age or older, handicap/disabled regardless of age

"This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer."

Belle Plaine Village Apartments
1-800-383-5204

AUCTIONS

Wapsie Valley Produce Auction LLC

Hay & Firewood Auction

Every 1st & 3rd Saturday
Starting at 1 PM

1500 120th St., Hazleton (Junct. of C-57 & W-13)
319-238-0149

Thank You's & Celebrations

Happy 90th Birthday to IOWA VAN HAMME

Monday, March 2nd
Help her celebrate by showering her with cards and well wishes.

Send cards to:
Iowa Van Hamme
c/o Vinton Lutheran Home
1301 2nd Avenue, Room 107
Vinton, Ia 52349

Ad Deadline

Friday at Noon

Vinton LiveWire

Keeping You Connected to the Benton County Area

108 E. 5th St., Vinton • 319-472-3303
ads@vintonnewspapers.com
Hours: Monday-Friday 8:30-4:30

Emmett Donnelly Auctioneering & Appraisal Service

1. Full service marketing of ag land, farm equipment, estates, household, firearms, sportsmen.
2. Certified General Real Estate Property Appraiser. Ag Land, Commercial & Residential.
3. An experienced professional who is willing to assist you with all your auction and appraisal needs.
4. Offering live, internet bidding and timed online.
5. If you're considering an auction or need an appraisal - Call today for your free personal consultation!

www.donnelyauction.com
514 13th Ave. NE, Independence, IA 50644
319-334-6122 | 319-404-5005

Thank You

A mere Thank You cannot express enough my appreciation to the citizens of Benton County who have supported Benton County Extension and Outreach and myself during my 16 years as County Program Director. I have enjoyed meeting many of you and working with you on committees, boards, the community gardens and outreach events, 4-H programs including the Benton County Fair, and educational learning events.

Thank you for the cards, gifts and well wishes.

Greg Walston

Walker Sale Barn SPECIAL CATTLE SALE SATURDAY FEBRUARY 21ST

Market Cows/bulls at 1030am Bred cows at 11am Feeders at 1230pm

Early Listings:

20 Blk bred cows, 6-9yo calve Apr bred bwf	14 calves 500-600# P.C. LTW (REP)
5 P.B. Aberdeen agus bred cows	9 calves 700-800# 2rds LTW (REP)
7yo calve Spring Calve bred angus	9 calves 700-800# P.C. LTW (REP)
40 hrs 550-750# P.C. LTW (REP)	10 calves 400-600# 2rds LTW
20 calves 500-800# P.C. LTW (REP)	7 calves 550-600# P.C. LTW
15 calves 500-700# 2rds LTW	6 calves 650-700# 2rds LTW
15 calves 500-750# 2rds LTW	4 calves 700-800# 2rds LTW (REP)

More cattle by sale time!
Keep checking in for updates on social media under Walker Salebarn or the website on walkersalebarn.com!

Our upcoming cattle sales will be on the third Saturday
REGULAR SALES 1ST AND 3RD WEDNESDAYS at 6pm
SELLING ALL CLASSES OF SHEEP, GOATS, CATTLE AND HOGS

BARN: 319-448-4365 CELL 319-826-4863

dining & entertaining

Transform Your Bathroom and Change Your Life.

FREE TOILET + \$1,500 OFF*

For your FREE information kit and our Senior Discounts, Call Today Toll-Free
1-855-417-1306

safestep

*Free toilet with purchase and installation of a walk-in tub or walk-in shower only. Offer available while supplies last. No cash value. Must present offer at time of purchase. Cannot be combined with any other offer. Market restrictions may apply. Offer available in select markets only. CSLB 1082165 NSCB 0082999 0083445 13WH11096000

ATTENTION OXYGEN THERAPY USERS! Discover Oxygen Therapy That Moves with You with Inogen Portable Oxygen Concentrators. FREE information kit. Call 1-833-650-5916. (mcn)

WATER & FIRE DAMAGE RESTORATION. Our trusted professionals will restore your home to protect your family and your home's value! Call 24/7: 1-833-879-1480. Mold Remediation services are also available! (mcn)

JACUZZI BATH REMODEL can install a new, custom bath or shower in as little as one day. For a limited time, waiving ALL installation costs! (Additional terms apply. Subject to change and vary by dealer. (Offer ends 12/27/26.) Call 1-855-414-0768 (mcn)

Reach over 1.4 million homes for just \$249! Advertise your business or item with a classified ad in the Midwest Free Community Papers. Simple, cost-effective, and powerful. One call, and you're done! Boost your visibility now! 888-899-6327. (mcn)

Prepare for power outages today with a Generac Home Standby Generator. Act now to receive a FREE 5-Year warranty with qualifying purchase. Call 1-877-228-5789 today to schedule a free quote. It's not just a generator. It's a power move. (mcn)

DIRECTV- All your entertainment. Nothing on your roof! Sign up for Directv and get your first three months of Max, Paramount+, Showtime, Starz, MGM+ and Cinemax included. Choice package \$84.99/mo. Some restrictions apply. Call DIRECTV 1-866-296-1409. (mcn)

Support Our Fire & Ambulance Services

Friday, February 20th 5-7 pm
Elberon Community Building
Bake Sale by Elberon Women's Club

Adults \$15.00 • Under 12 \$5.00

The Dysart Lions Club Annual FISH FRY

February 27 & March 13, 2026

Dysart Community Building
5:00 PM to 7:00 PM

Carry-out Available by a call to 476-2288
Free Will Offering
Proceeds to Fund 5 - \$600 Union High School Scholarships

Menu: Deep Fried Fish, Sides, Dessert & Beverage

THE BATHROOM OF YOUR DREAMS in as little as 1 day. Limited Time Offer - \$1000 off or No Payments and No Interest for 18 months for customers who qualify. BCI Bath & Shower. Many options available. Quality materials & professional installation. Senior & Military Discounts Available. Call Today! 1-833-618-1178. (mcn)

NEED NEW FLOORING? Call today to schedule a FREE in-home estimate on Carpeting & Flooring. Call Today! 1-833-641-6323. (mcn)

Jacuzzi Bath Remodel

Safety. Style. Stress-Free Installation.

SPECIAL OFFER
FREE Fixtures and FREE Shower Door

CALL NOW
1.866.753.9521

Add'l terms apply. Offer subject to change and vary by dealer. Cannot be combined with other offers. Expires 3/31/26.

BEST

LOCAL BUSINESSES



URBANA
Inn and Suites

Jessica McCormick, GM
jessicam@urbanainn.com

Exit 43 off I-380
5369 Hutton Dr., Urbana, IA 52345
319.443.8888
www.UrbanaInn.com



T-J GAS Propane
Appliances
Service
Tanks

Your local propane supplier!
1209 W. D Street • Vinton, IA 52349
319-472-5216 • 800-678-5427
tjgas.com tsp@tjgas.com

Karr's Septic Service

Call Us
For Your Pumping
Needs!



Certified Installer of On-site Wastewater Treatment Systems
Portable Restroom Rentals
Inspections • Septic Tank Cleaning
319-472-2045 • Cell: 319-560-9320



STONEY ARCH
FINANCIAL

Jeff Peterson
FINANCIAL ADVISOR

P: 319 214 1473
F: 319 214 1474

jpeterson@stoneyarchfinancial.com
www.stoneyarchfinancial.com
215 N K Ave | Vinton, Iowa 52349

Registered Representative Securities offered through Cambridge Investment Research, Inc., a broker-dealer, member FINRA/SIPC. Investment Advisor Representative Cambridge Investment Research Advisors, Inc., a Registered Investment Advisor Cambridge and Stoney Arch Financial are not affiliated.

Tree Trimming,
Tree Removal and
Stump Grinding.
Local and Free quotes.
You won't be another
quote to me, I pride
myself in providing the
BEST services possible!



Fallen Oaks Tree Services
Vinton
(319) 491-4714



ERIEHOME Trust the Nation's #1 Roofing Contractor
Award-Winning Roofing and Customer Service
Erie Roofing Since 1976

LIMITED TIME OFFER
50% OFF
Installation

FREE ESTIMATE
SCHEDULE TODAY!
Call 1.833.370.1234

CALL TODAY! 1.833.370.1234

New orders only. Does not include material costs. Cannot be combined with any other offer. Minimum purchase required. Other restrictions may apply. This is an advertisement placed on behalf of Erie Construction Mid-West, Inc ("Erie"). Offer terms and conditions may apply and the offer may not be available in your area. If you call the number provided, you consent to being contacted by telephone, SMS text message, email, pre-recorded messages by Erie or its affiliates and service providers using automated technologies notwithstanding if you are on a DO NOT CALL list or register. Please review our Privacy Policy and Terms of Use on homeshervicescompliance.com. All rights reserved. License numbers available at eriehome.com/erielicenses/

Cecil Gilbert **GILBERT'S** Blirstown, Iowa
SEPTIC SERVICE

319-454-6311
Cell 319-330-6203

- Septic Tank Pumping
- Certified Time of Transfer Septic Inspector
- Excavating •Inspections •Risers
- Drain Cleaning •Repairs •Troubleshooting

State Licensed - County Approved - Insured
Serving The Area For More Than 40 Years!

Start the new year clog-free!



LeafFilter
GUTTER PROTECTION

Claim by: 02/28/2026

15% OFF + 10% Discount For Seniors + Military

Get a FREE full gutter inspection and estimate: **1-855-595-2102**
Promo: 285

**Promotional offer includes 15% off plus an additional 10% off for qualified veterans and for seniors. One coupon per household. No obligation estimate valid for 1 year. See Representative for full warranty details.
AZ: 928248027, AR: 96929025, CA: 1035795, CT: 0671520, DC: 42022000087, FL: 08056678, HI: 808-51604, IL: 6127230, LA: 559544, MD: 488692, MI: 262300331, 262300330, 262300329, 262300328, 262300318, 262300317, MN: 88810524, MT: 266192, NE: 50145-24, NV: 86990, NJ: 131911328000, NM: 408692, ND: 47304, OR: 218294, PA: PA179643, RI: GC-41354, TN: 10981, UT: 10783038-5501, VT: 174.0000871, WA: 2705169445, WI: LEAFEL1763PG, WV: WV056912. *The leading consumer reporting agency conducted a 16 month outdoor test of gutter guards in 2010 and recognized LeafFilter as the #1 rated professionally installed gutter guard system in America.

If you would like your business card featured in the Local Business Directory, please call 319-472-2311

Vinton-Shellsburg FFA

V-S FFA Chapter Celebrates National FFA Week with Full Schedule of Activities

By V-S FFA

VINTON - Our FFA chapter is excited to celebrate National FFA Week from February 23-27 with a full lineup of activities designed to promote agricultural education, leadership, and school spirit. Throughout the week, members will participate in themed dress-up days, community events, chapter activities, and special celebrations that highlight the impact of FFA in our school and community.

FFA Week kicks off on Monday, February 23 with "Merica Monday," where students are encouraged to wear red, white, and blue to show their patriotic spirit. After school, the chapter will host an Alumni Fundraiser Night at Pizza Ranch from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Alumni members will assist with serving and bussing tables, and a portion of the evening's proceeds will support chapter activities. Community members are encouraged to attend and enjoy a meal while supporting local FFA. On Tuesday, February 24, students can show their agricultural style for "Carhartt vs. Camo" day. That evening at 6:00 p.m., the chapter will host a Sub-District Wide Talent Show in the high school



FIRST ROW (Left to Right): Cole Birker, Bri Dulin, Levi Lutz, Ciara Dods, Will McKenna, Sophia Newton, Abby McKenna, Zoey McClintock. **SECOND ROW:** Bridgette Castle, Ali Lutz, Kassidi Brunssen, Braedon Hepker, Andrew Allsup, Kylee Higdon, Raine Wheeler, Zane Helter, Kaden Nesler. **THIRD ROW:** Jameson Demuth, Dakota Lopata, Jenna Grovert, Nora Grovert, Katelyn Fleming, Raelynn Gladwin, Jackson Lloyd. **FOURTH ROW:** Jolie Seidel-Beltran, Madeline Pingnot, Presley Waters, June Bodeker, Wyatt Shaver, Will Kreutner.

auditorium. The event will bring together FFA members from across the district for an evening of entertainment and friendly competition. Wednesday, February 25 is "Western Wednesday,"

SEE Vinton: Page A9

SUBMITTED PHOTO



We are proud to support FFA chapters in Benton County & beyond as they help students develop leadership, personal growth and career success.

JOHN'S TIRE SERVICE
215 1st Ave., Vinton, IA
319-472-2111

From the Show Ring to the Clinic

Whether you're in the barn or the classroom, the lessons learned in FFA last a lifetime. Vinton Urbana Veterinary Clinic is proud to support the V-S FFA Chapter during National FFA Week.

Keep working hard, stay curious, and keep our heritage healthy!"



5574 24th Ave. Dr.,
Vinton, IA 52349
319-472-3300
Hours: Mon. 8am-7pm,
Tues.-Fri. 8am-5:30pm | Sat. 8am-12 Noon
www.v-uvethospital.com

Proud to Support the Hands That Feed Us.

We know that great food starts with hard work. This National FFA Week, we're proud to celebrate the Vinton-Shellsburg FFA members who are learning to sustain our community and our country."



105 Pearl Street, Shellsburg
319-436-2232
STORE HOURS:
Monday-Saturday • 7 AM to 8 PM
Sunday • 7 AM to 5 PM



Agriculture is the lifeblood of our nation and our FFA students are the future.

Congratulations on being a part of this great organization!



415 A Ave.,
Vinton, IA
319-472-5353
iowalandmgmt.com

Proud

to support our local FFA Chapters!



The Watkins Savings Bank

202 First Street • PO Box 140 • Watkins, Iowa 52354
Phone: 319-227-7773 • Toll Free: 877-676-7773
www.watkinsbank.com
Business Hours: Mon.-Thurs. 8 a.m.-3 p.m., Fri. 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

PROUD TO SUPPORT THE BLUE & GOLD

204 Main St,
Van Horn, IA 52346
Phone: (319) 228-8791

Benton FFA

Benton Community FFA Members Attend National FFA Convention

By: **Amanda Schnor,**
Chapter Reporter

From October 28th to November 1st, fourteen Benton FFA members attended the National FFA Convention and Expo in Indianapolis, participating in educational tours, leadership workshops, and hands-on experiences.

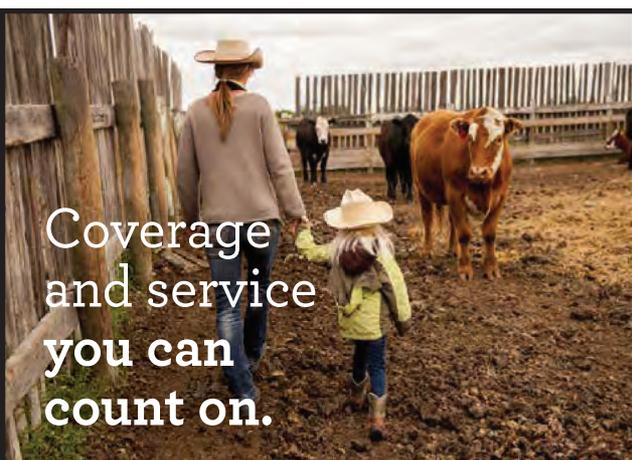
Members departed early Tuesday morning, making their first stop in Moline, Illinois at the John Deere Museum. As the group explored the museum, they were able to learn about historic and modern John Deere equipment and new innovations. The group then enjoyed lunch at the Route 66 restaurant before visiting Hardy's Reindeer Farm. "I learned many new things about reindeer, including the transportation of reindeer from Alaska to Illinois and how they are mostly domesticated," said FFA member Evan Patterson.

On Wednesday, members traveled from Browns-



Benton FFA members at the 98th National FFA Convention & Expo in Indianapolis. Front row: Payton Armstrong, Katelyn Covington, Jordan Voelkel, Rayna Wacha, Kaebry Dixon, and James Musack. Second row: Nova Selck, Kristen Covington, Evan Patterson, Amanda Schnor, Kait Ballard, Belle Werner, Kessley Osterkamp, Brianna Gahring, and Hunter Kupka.

SUBMITTED PHOTO



Coverage and service you can count on.

Our companies were founded more than 85 years ago to serve the needs of farmers and ranchers. Today we're the #1 ag insurer, delivering Smarter Insurance for Agriculture.®

Call me today to see how I can help protect your operation, family and future.



Teresa Meyer
421 1st Avenue
Vinton, IA
319.472.2001
agentteresameyer.com



burg to downtown Indianapolis for their first full day at the Expo. Students explored agricultural exhibits, met FFA members from across the country, and learned about potential career paths. "I enjoyed talking to other FFA mem-

bers from different places and learning about their different cultures," shared FFA member James Musek. That evening, after attending the opening general session, the group enjoyed an Ella Langley concert at the Fieldhouse Arena.

Thursday's schedule included another trip to the Expo and the FFA Shopping Mall, followed by a general session featuring remarks from the United States Secretary of Agriculture. In the evening, members attended a rodeo at the Indiana State Fairgrounds.

Friday's activities included a visit to the Indianapolis Zoo, where students viewed a variety of animals and some even fed and pet a kangaroo. After lunch, the group traveled to the Beasley's Apple Orchard, participating in fall activities and learning about the orchard's diversified crop production practices.

"It was awesome to hear about how they run their operation," said member Hunter Kupka. "I'm excited to take what I learned and share it with my boss back home."

On Saturday, the final day of the convention, members attended the American Degree session, where Benton FFA's own Kaitlyn Ballard received her American FFA Degree on the National Stage, one of the highest honors an FFA member can achieve. Following the ceremony, the group returned to Van Horne, concluding a memorable and educational week for Benton FFA.

**Ready for Spring...
Ready to
Serve Your Needs**
*We salute our local FFA Chapters.
Thank you, for Living to Serve!*



Newhall, IA
Ph. 319-531-7001 • 1-800-369-0612
www.linncoop.com

FFA Members use their time to educate others on the importance of agriculture, serve their communities and prepare for their futures. We're proud of all you do.



Hwy. 218 North, Vinton, IA
319-472-4734
800-273-4734



No. 1 ag insurer across our 8-state territory; 2023 SNL P&C Group - Farm Bureau Property & Casualty Insurance Company and Western Agricultural Insurance Company direct written premium. Registered Representative/Securities & services offered through FBL Marketing Services, LLC, 5400 University Ave., West Des Moines, IA 50266, 877/860-2904, Member SIPC. Advisory services offered through FBL Wealth Management, LLC - Farm Bureau Property & Casualty Insurance Company, *Western Agricultural Insurance Company, *Farm Bureau Life Insurance Company, *West Des Moines, IA. Affiliates. *Company providers of Farm Bureau Financial Services. PR-AGA(3-24)

Center Point Urbana FFA

CPU FFA Celebrates FFA Week

By CPU FFA

CENTER POINT - The Center Point-Urbana FFA chapter has had an astounding year. Beginning with many members participating in LDEs, state band, and state choir at state convention in April. In May, we celebrated our chapter's achievements at our annual FFA banquet.

Work began on our brand new greenhouse and we are already utilizing it for ag classes and SAE opportunities for students. It has been a great addition to our chapter and we are so excited to use it in the years to come.

Members participated in both the Benton and Linn county fairs. Kinze Manson and Caleigh Lewis also showcased their abilities and showed swine at the state fair with Caleigh earning Reserve Grand



SUBMITTED PHOTO

CPU FFA Members at awards banquet in May.

Champion FFA Market hog. In October, numerous members attended the National FFA Convention. We even had a member participate in the National FFA Chorus. Congratulations Hannah Walvatne and

what an honor! This year was our first year with our FFA test plot, students got to experience production agriculture with the test plot. Fruit sales this year brought in a record-breaking amount of money

raised for our chapter. We also had four members receive their Iowa Degree, making them the first four to receive this award in our chapter's history. Congratulations to Bella Edler, Hannah Walvatne, Em-

malee Kratz, and Emersyn Matthiesen for this award. Members are currently hard at work practicing their LDEs and preparing for subdistrict and district competitions. CPU FFA is grateful for

the support of the community and alumni that brought all of these great accomplishments to life. We are excited to continue to make this chapter the best it can be!

VS FFA Hosts Spaghetti Dinner

By CO-REPORTER, BRI DULIN

VINTON - On Friday, January 16th, the Vinton-Shellsburg FFA Chapter hosted its annual Spaghetti Dinner from 5:00-8:00 p.m. during the Williamsburg Boys and Girls basketball game. Sixteen members worked together to prepare spaghetti, garlic bread, cookies, and lemonade for the event. Members also served food to just over 100 patrons and assisted with cleanup after the dinner, helping ensure the event ran smoothly and successfully.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Above: Nora and Jenna Grovert helped make garlic bread. At right: Carly Kreutner, Candice Kreutner, Will Kreutner, Andrew Allsup, Ciara Dods, Nora Grovert and Jenna Grovert helping serve food to the guests.



National FFA WEEK

FEBRUARY 21-28, 2026



Here is our FFA 2025 Scholarship \$750 award winner! Congratulations to **Andrew Pingnot** Farmers Savings Bank & Trust 2025 FFA Scholarship recipient.

FSB Farmers Savings Bank & Trust
401 B AVE Vinton, IA 52349
319-472-2373 • www.fsb-vinton.com

MEMBER FDIC

CARQUEST
Jon Miller, Owner
1102 West 4th Street,
Vinton, IA | 319-472-2361

CARQUEST AUTO PARTS TRUCK & HEAVY DUTY

Proudly serving our community for 73 years!



New generation farmers are the future of agriculture. We're proud to support local FFA Chapters.

Faces You Know. Experience You Trust.

Cedar Valley Bank & Trust

**405 W 3rd St., Vinton, IA, 52349
319-472-2930**

**321 Main St., La Porte City, IA 50651
319-342-2850**



David Coulter



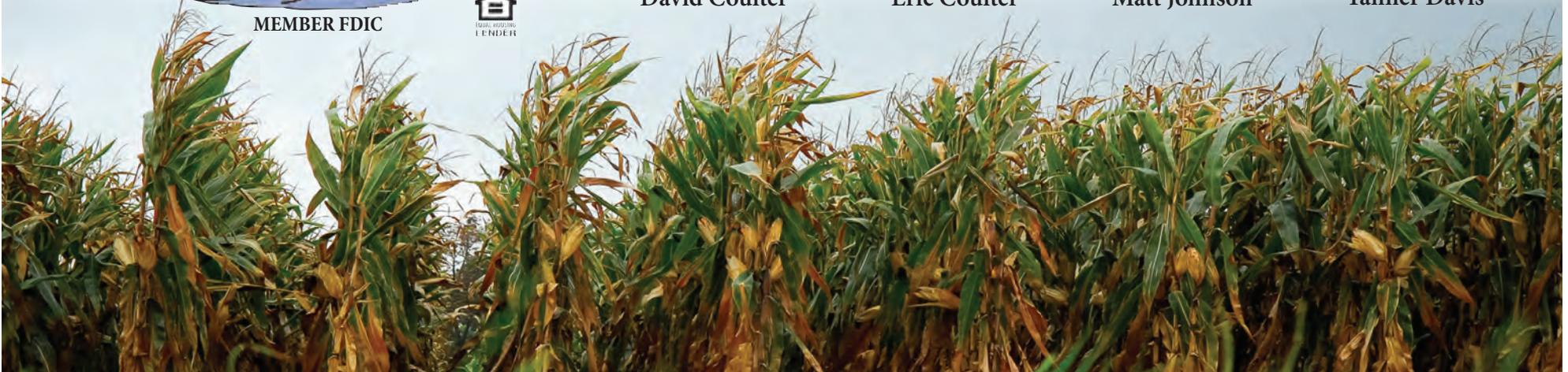
Eric Coulter



Matt Johnson



Tanner Davis



Benton FFA Members Grow as Leaders at IAT Conferences

By **AMANDA SCHNOR,**
CHAPTER REPORTER

VAN HORNE - Benton Community FFA members recently attended the Ignite, Amplify, and Transform (IAT) Leadership Conferences held on November 8th and December 6th. IAT, hosted by the Iowa FFA Association, brings together members from across the state to build skills in communication, teamwork, and personal growth through hands-on workshops and activities.

Junior **Nekoda Coleman** reflected on her experience, sharing, "I learned not to be scared to interact with people you don't know and don't be afraid to ask for



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Alexis Wiley, Lauren Vavroch, Lili Eastin, Chase Miller, and Asa Frese attended the IAT Conference on November 8th at DMACC in Ankeny.

help." Sophomore **Ben Langerman** added, "I had a good time meeting new people from other

schools. It was a positive experience."

The Benton Community FFA chapter covers

the cost of the conference as an investment in its members, ensuring students can grow their

leadership skills and bring new ideas and energy back to the chapter.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Ben Langerman, Nekoda Coleman, and Brianna Gahring attended the December 6th IAT Conference at DMACC in Ankeny.

VINTON: Continued from Page A5

giving students the opportunity to wear their western attire. During the school day, FFA members are invited to stop by the Ag Room for a special member snack as a thank-you for their involvement and dedication to the chapter. Thursday, February 26 will be celebrated as "Blue and Gold Day," encouraging everyone to wear official

FFA colors. After school at 6:30 p.m., members will gather in the library for the All-Member FFA Meeting followed by a fun BINGO Night. This event will provide important chapter updates along with prizes and fellowship. FFA Week concludes on Friday, February 27 with "Future Friday," where students dress to

represent their future career goals. In the spirit of recognizing our future, we will be attending High Five Friday at Tilford Elementary before school. During Middle School RTI time, the chapter will host Ag Olympics in the middle school shop, providing hands-on, interactive agricultural activities for younger students. That

evening, high school FFA members will participate in a lock-in at the high school from 9:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m., wrapping up the week with games, activities, and team bonding.

In addition to daily events, several activities will take place throughout the week. Brickside will feature special FFA drinks, Golden Acre and

Farmers Fuel. Brickside is donating a dollar back to our chapter for each drink sold. FFA jackets will be displayed in teachers' classrooms to promote chapter pride, and officer cutouts will be hidden around the school for a fun hide-and-seek challenge. Clothespins will be used to promote events, officers will host an "I Lead Because"

photo challenge, and the best dressed winners will be announced daily.

National FFA Week is a time to recognize the importance of agricultural education and the leadership, personal growth, and career success opportunities FFA provides. Our chapter looks forward to a fun and meaningful week celebrating all that FFA represents.

Thanks to our area FFA Chapters from these local businesses

BARNES
REAL ESTATE
418 1st Ave., Vinton
Mike Barnes, Broker, 319-560-1810
Connie Barnes, Realtor, 319-981-6221
Tessa Barnes, Realtor, 515-537-3183

CARQUEST
1102 West 4th St., Vinton
319-472-2361

Cedar Valley Bank & Trust
MEMBER FDIC
319-472-2930
Vinton
319-342-2850
La Porte City

compressed air & equipment co.
707 Hwy. 218 N., La Porte City
319-342-2440
www.compress-air.com

COUNTRY FLOORS & INTERIORS
23 Main St., Newhall
319-223-5744

EDWARDS
SINCE 1929
PLUMBING • HEATING • AIR CONDITIONING
407 North K Ave., Vinton
319-472-2087

ELWICK ELECTRIC
VINTON, IOWA
711 S. 8th Ave., Vinton
319-472-3253

LAGRANGE PHARMACY
lagrangepharmacy.com
HealthMart
General Merchandise 319.472.2100
Pharmacy — 319.472.4274
111 W. 4th St., Vinton
1002 W. Main St., Urbana
319-443-6337

LINN CO-OP OIL COMPANY
2851 71st St., Newhall
319-223-5191
www.linncoop.com

Do it Best
McDowell's Building Materials & Rental Center
420 2nd Ave., Vinton
319-472-2363
www.mcdowellbuildingmaterials.com

PHILLIPS FUNERAL HOMES
Vinton 319-472-2388
Keystone 319-442-3315
Blairstown 319-454-6521

Roy's Hometown GROCERY
105 Pearl St., Shellsburg
319-436-2232

T-J GAS
Propane Appliances Service Tanks
704 C Avenue • Vinton
319-472-5216
800-678-5427
www.tjgas.com
tsp@tjgas.com

THREE RIVERS INSURANCE, LLC
120 E. 4th St., Vinton, IA
319-472-4797
GRINNELL MUTUAL
www.threeriversins.net

VINTON FAMILY DENTAL
319-472-3515
410 W. 4th St., Vinton

WRAGE REALTY
315 Main St., Dysart
319-476-7070

LiveWire
108 East 5th St., Vinton
319-472-3303
www.VintonLivewire.com

VINTON NEWSPAPERS
108 East 5th St., Vinton
319-472-2311
www.VintonNewspapers.com

WHEELS

REAL ESTATE

WE BUY HOUSES for Cash AS-IS! No repairs. No fuss. Any condition. Easy process: Call, get cash offer and get paid. Call today for your fair cash offer: 1-888-715-0513. (mcn)

Reach millions of homes nationwide with one easy, affordable buy in the ADS Network! For more information www.communitypublishers.com/category/all-products

Peace of mind & early detection - Now more than ever, it's important to get screened for Stroke & Cardiovascular Disease risk. Life Line Screening is simple & painless. 833-970-4172

Portable oxygen concentrator may be covered by Medicare! Reclaim independence & mobility w/ the compact design & long-lasting battery. Inogen One free info kit! 877-305-1535

a gift they'll love



BUCHANAN COUNTY'S ONLY CHEVROLET • GM CERTIFIED DEALER

2013 NISSAN ROGUE AWD #121148  \$5,995	2006 HARLEY DAVIDSON #11810F  \$4,995	2017 CHEVY TRAVERSE LT #2343B  \$13,495 \$12,995 \$11,995		
2024 CHEVY BLAZER RS AWD #2418  \$42,995 \$41,995	2023 BUICK ENCORE GX #2453A only 36K miles  \$23,495	2023 GMC ACADIA SLT AWD #239D  \$35,995 \$32,995	2023 CHEVY 1500 HIGH COUNTRY Crew Diesel #119270A  \$47,995 \$46,995 \$45,995	2023 GMC TERRAIN SLT AWD #2427  \$30,995 \$28,995 \$27,995
2022 CHEVY 3500 LTZ Diesel Crew Cab #11839A  \$54,995 \$52,995	2021 CHEVY 1500 LTZ #12125B  \$33,995	2021 CHEVY EQUINOX LT AWD #11951B  \$17,995 \$16,995 \$16,495	2020 BUICK ENCLAVE Essence #11933A  \$16,995 \$15,995	2019 CHEVY EQUINOX Premier #11739A  \$18,995 \$16,995 \$16,495
2019 CHEVY TRAVERSE LT Leather #11980A  \$24,495 \$22,995 \$21,995	2019 CHEVY 3500 LTZ Diesel Crew Cab #11959B High Miles  \$20,995 \$19,995	2017 BUICK ENCLAVE Premium #11842B  \$17,995 \$16,995	2015 FORD E350 #11551A Low Miles  \$14,995 \$14,495 \$13,995	2014 CHEVY SILVERADO 1500 LTZ #2237B  \$15,495 \$14,995

*Rebates subject to Trade In or other Qualifications

REMEMBER! IF YOU DON'T SEE IT ON OUR LOT, ASK! AND WE WILL FIND IT!

Jeff Hickey 319-327-2242 Rusty Reck 319-961-1260 Fred Smock 319-327-0007 Dave Dunlap 319-327-0133 Scott Henderson 712-490-0402

520 1ST ST. E, INDEPENDENCE • WWW.DUNLAPMOTORSINDY.COM 319-334-7103

FARMLAND AUCTION
137 ACRES M/L IN BUCHANAN COUNTY
FRIDAY, MARCH 6, 2026 | 10:00 AM
 Jesup City Hall Community Room | 791 6th Street | Jesup, Iowa 50681

Peoples Company is pleased to present 137 acres m/l located just east of Jesup, Iowa, in Buchanan County. This property will be offered as a single tract via public auction at 10:00 AM on March 6th, 2026, at the Jesup City Hall Community Room.

The farm consists of 125.74 tillable acres carrying a CSR2 of 71.5. This productive row crop land is situated in a prime location just outside Jesup, Iowa, along Old Highway 20 (220th Street). The entire farm is determined to be NHEL (Non-Highly Erodable Land) and does not contain a wetland. A majority of the farm has been tiled with mains added and updated as needed. The cropland is leased for 2026, and 100% of the rent payments will be paid to the new owner.

Located in Section 33 of Perry Township.

Travis Smock | 319.361.8089 | IA LIC S62642000

PEOPLES COMPANY
 INTEGRATED LAND SOLUTIONS
PeoplesCompany.com
 Listing #19166

DAN KAESTNER
lowaRealty
 Iowa's Largest
Homes • Land • Auction

dkaestner@iowarealty.com • www.DanKaestner.iowarealty.com

Congratulations to Dan Kaestner for being awarded #1 agent in the Cedar Rapids & surrounding areas by Iowa Realty in 2025.

Dan 319-560-2330
 Kathy 319-560-2210

201 Grove St NW Shellsburg
 Numerous updates: Windows, siding, roof, floor coverings, etc. 3 season room, garage.
\$199,900

405 D Ave Atkins
 Spacious 3 br, 3 bath ranch with 2 non-conforming br in LL. Gas fireplace, 3 season room, 2 car garage. **\$349,900**

NEW LISTING:
2356 Hwy 21, Dysart
 5.8 acres with 3 br 2 bath 1.5 story home. 30x50 steel machine shed, 24x26 heated business, 30x32 heated shop and 15x20 livestock shed. Rural water.
\$305,000

NEW LISTING Farmland, 31st Ave Shellsburg, 240 acres M/L, Call for details

SALE PENDING!
3127 61st St Ln Shellsburg
 Acreage including 28 acres M/L
 1800 sq. ft 3 br brick ranch home with 2 car attached. **\$539,000**

SALE PENDING!
1598 Hwy 21 N, Belle Plaine
 Retail, office building on 3.9 acres with 48x90, 40x81 and 40x72 storage buildings with room to expand. Hard surface and close to town.
370,000

LOT LISTINGS

235 Randolph, Marengo	SOLD
615 27th, Cedar Rapids	SOLD
5555 Troy Mills Rd., Walker	SOLD
405 10th St., Belle Plaine	SOLD

DENTAL INSURANCE from Physicians Mutual Insurance Company. Coverage for 400 plus procedures. Real dental insurance - NOT just a discount plan. Do not wait! Call now! Get your FREE Dental Information Kit with all the details! 1-855-973-9175 www.dental50plus.com/midwest #6258 (mcn)

OPENING FEBRUARY 13!

GUYS & DOLLS
 A MUSICAL FABLE OF BROADWAY

Chanhassen DINNER THEATRES
 952.934.1525
 ChanhassenDT.com

Hale Mini Honeybells
 The once a year citrus sensation!

ONLY \$34.99*
 Reg. Price \$44.99
 Special Limited Time Offer!
 27% SAVINGS INCLUDING SHIPPING

Call 1-888-270-0163 to order item 2692X or Visit HaleGroves.com/H6YU46

* Only \$34.99 (reg. \$44.99) plus \$7.99 shipping and handling per pack to 48 contiguous states. Some restrictions may apply. Limit 5 boxes per customer. IC: H6YU46

March Shooter & Gun Collector Auction
Online Only Closes: Thursday March 5th 9am
Preview: Mon. March 2nd - Weds March 4th 10-4 daily
203 E. Blackhawk Ave. Prairie du Chien, WI 53821

Online Catalog @ www.KramerSales.com
 800+ Great Estate Firearms, Modern & Collectible! Rare Confederate LeMAT Rev; Rare Stevens Rifles, Winchester 21's & Levers, Colt Single Actions, Huge Military Collection, Civil War. Ruger, Browning, Marlin, Benelli, Remington, Savage, Beretta, Weatherby, Smith & Wesson & Parker, Gold & Silver Coins.

Kramer Auction Service
 Prairie du Chien, WI
www.kramersales.com
 608-326-8108

608-326-8108 • www.kramersales.com • curt@kramersales.com

Donate Your Vehicle

Call (888) 429-2331 to donate your car, truck, boat, RV, and more today!

- Support Veteran Nonprofits.
- Free Pickup & Towing.
- Top Tax Deduction.

Donate Your Vehicle Today
888-429-2331
www.veterancardonations.org/dnt4

While we appreciate every donation, in some cases, we find that we are unable to accept certain vehicles, watercraft, and/or recreational vehicles due to the prohibitive costs of acquisition. If you have any questions, please give us a call at (888) 429-2331.

No more cleaning gutters. Guaranteed! LeafFilter backed by no-clog guarantee & lifetime warranty. Call 1-833-610-1936 to schedule FREE inspection/estimate. Get 15% off your entire order. Military & Seniors get additional 10% off. Limited time. Restrictions apply, see rep for details.

Consumer Cellular - same reliable, nationwide coverage as large carriers. No long-term contract or hidden fees, free activation. All plans unlimited talk & text starting at just \$20/mo. 877-751-0866

Replace your roof w/the best looking & longest lasting material steel from Erie Metal Roofs! 3 styles/multiple colors available. Guaranteed to last a lifetime! Limited time offer up to 50% off install + additional 10% off install military, health & 1st responders. 833-370-1234

Inflation is at 40 year highs. Interest rates are way up. Credit Cards. Medical Bills. Car Loans. Do you have \$10k or more in debt? Call NATIONAL DEBT RELIEF and find out how to pay off your debt for significantly less than what you owe! FREE quote: Call 1-866-552-0649. (mcn)

LIVEWIRE CLASSIFIEDS

CITY OF VINTON STREET DEPARTMENT

Applications will be accepted until February 27th, 2026 for a position of Equipment Operator in the Street Department. Duties include, but not limited to, construction and maintenance of streets and storm water facilities. Qualifications: Class B CDL license with air brakes. Pesticide Applicators License Category 7D, or able to achieve them within one year of hire. Experience in public works construction and maintenance, high school graduation or equivalent. Full time with benefits. Pay starts at \$25.98 - \$28.26 DOQ with advancement opportunities.

Drug testing is required with CDL license.

Applications and job description at City Hall, 110 W 3rd Street.

Call Street Superintendent Scott Meyer at 319-472-2768

or City Hall at 319-472-4707 for more information.

EOE

020 NOTICE

URBANA AL-ANON MEETING - Held Sundays 7:00 p.m. at Urbana Christian Church Use side door into basement. 108 E Jefferson Ave S

VINTON AA MEETING - OPEN MONDAYS, Food & Fellowship 6:00 p.m., Meeting at 6:30 p.m. Wesley United Methodist Church, 516 2nd Ave., Vinton, IA. For more info call Barb C. 319-560-9153.

VINTON NA MEETING Open each Friday from 7:00 to 8:30pm. Located at Harvest 365, 1201 C Avenue. Come for coffee, keep coming. It works.

040 SERVICES OFFERED

TREE SERVICE SPECIALIST-50+ years tree trimming experience. Removal of Ash trees and others. Free estimates, insured. 319-350-0932.

200 APARTMENTS FOR RENT

Planning a move soon? Contact Welcome Home Properties to see what's available. Some units utilities included. Applications available at 408 B Avenue Vinton 319-472-3083

210 HOMES FOR RENT

HOUSE FOR RENT: 2-3 bedroom house, all appliances included, plus deposit. No pets. No smoking. Application Required. 319-560-9839

040 STATE WIDES

Prepare for power outages today with a Generac Home Standby Generator. Act now to receive a FREE 5-Year warranty with qualifying purchase. Call 1-855-954-5087 today to schedule a free quote. It's not just a generator. It's a power move.

Jacuzzi Bath Remodel can install a new, custom bath or shower in as little as one day. For a limited time, waiving ALL installation costs! (Additional terms apply. Subject to change and vary by dealer. Offer ends 12/27/26.) Call 1-866-456-3917

YMT Vacations. Over 50 guided tours available. Affordable, social and stress-free travel designed for mature travelers. Our tours include accommodations, transportation, baggage handling, sightseeing, entrance fees, a professional Tour Director and select meals. For a limited time SAVE \$250 on all tours. Call YMT today, 1-888-519-0174

Does your basement or crawl space need some attention? Call Thrasher Foundation Repair! A permanent solution for waterproofing, failing foundations, sinking concrete and nasty crawl spaces. FREE Inspection & Same Day Estimate. \$250 off ANY project with code GET250. Call 1-866-554-1730

Safe Step. North America's #1 Walk-In Tub. Comprehensive lifetime warranty. Top-of-the-line installation and service. Now featuring our FREE shower package and \$1600 Off for a limited time! Call today! Financing available. Call Safe Step 1-844-376-4154

GUN SHOW: February 27 & March 1, Hippodrome, Waterloo IA Fri 4-9pm, Sat. 9am-5pm, Sun. 9am-3pm. \$10 (under 14 FREE) . More info: 563-608-4401 www.marvkrauspromotions.net

Reuse. Repurpose. Really Save!

Take a fresh look at the Classifieds, the original way to shop green!



The Vinton Newspapers Classifieds

In Print, Online & Now Mobile!
www.vintonnewspapers.com

Call today

319-472-2311.

NOW HIRING

Position: Deputy Sheriff / Reserve Deputy
Location: Benton County Sheriff's Office
- Vinton, Iowa

The Benton County Sheriff's Office is committed to high standards of professionalism, service, and community partnership. We are currently accepting applications for full-time Deputy Sheriff and Reserve Deputy positions from motivated individuals committed to public service.

Key Responsibilities:

- Patrol assigned areas and respond to calls for service to ensure public safety.
- Conduct traffic stops, issue citations, and investigate traffic crashes.
- Investigate criminal and civil incidents, gather evidence, and prepare cases for prosecution.
- Complete accurate, objective reports and documentation in a timely manner.
- Testify in court regarding investigations as required.
- Communicate clearly and professionally under pressure while exercising sound judgment.
- Build positive relationships with community members through engagement and outreach.
- Work collaboratively with local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies.
- Provide a visible and reassuring presence to promote safety and public trust.

Qualifications:

- Must be at least 18 years of age.
- High school diploma or equivalent required; college education preferred.
- Valid driver's license with a satisfactory driving record.
- Effective communication, decision-making, and critical thinking skills.
- Ability to meet the physical and mental demands of the position.
- Commitment to integrity, professionalism, and public service.

Reserve Deputy applicants must meet applicable training and certification requirements and be willing to serve in a part-time capacity as needed.

Compensation & Benefits:

- Full-Time Deputy Sheriff: \$31.64 - \$37.59 per hour (\$65,811.20 - \$78,187.20 annually), based on experience and qualifications. Benefits apply to full-time deputies only.
- Reserve Deputy: \$29.17 per hour (part-time; benefits not included).
- Lateral transfers encouraged. Iowa ILEA-certified applicants may receive up to seven (7) years of credit toward pay and vacation accrual.
- ILEA-certified applicants are not required to complete physical agility or written POST testing for consideration.

Why Join the Benton County Sheriff's Office?

- Immediate opportunity to serve your community — working the road, not the jail, from day one.
- Competitive pay and comprehensive benefits for full-time deputies.
- Ongoing training and professional development.
- Supportive, collaborative work environment under progressive leadership.
- Opportunities for advancement, including Patrol Sergeant, Detective, School Resource Officer, and Special Response Team.
- Take-home patrol vehicle for full-time deputies.

How to Apply:

Complete your application and submit all required documents online at: Benton County Sheriff Deputy Application

Posting opens: February 3rd, 2026 Application deadline: March 6, 2026

Veterans' preference will be applied in accordance with Iowa Code Chapter 35C.

Step up. Stand out. Join the Benton County Sheriff's Office and be a force for positive change!

Benton County is an equal opportunity employer and does not discriminate on the basis of race, creed, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, color, national origin, religion, age, or disability in employment or the provision of services.

If you have questions regarding the application or hiring process, please contact Chief Deputy Josh Karsten at 319-472-2337, or e-mail: j.karsten@bentonsheriff.com.

Join a Team That Shares Your Commitment to Excellent Care

We Are HIRING

SIGN-ON BONUSES AVAILABLE

HOSPITAL:

- **Business Office Specialist FT**, M-F, no weekends, no holidays. Primary duty is Accounts Payable with shared Financial Navigator tasks. Must be detail oriented with ability to work in a fast paced environment.
- **LPN/RN 12N, Med-Surg/ER** requires 1 weekend every 12 weeks.
- **LPN 12D** requires 1 weekend every 12 weeks.
- **RN/LPN PRN** as needed.
- **CNA, PT and FT**, evenings/nights and every other weekend.

An Equal Opportunity Employer



319-472-6200
www.myvgh.org

NURSING AND REHAB:

- **CNA, FT**, 1st and 2nd shift, full and part time shifts available with rotating holidays, no weekends.
- **CNA, FT**, 3rd shift Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 6p-6:30a

CLINIC:

RN/LPN/CMA, M-F 8 to 5 with rotating Sat., 8 to noon.

Please apply online at myvgh.org as instructed or send resume to:

Brooke Salger, Human Resources Director

Virginia Gay Hospital • 502 N. 9th Ave., Vinton, IA 52349 or email: bsalger@vghinc.com

REFLECTING YOUR COMMUNITY VALUES

Covering your local high school sports & community events that

BIND US TOGETHER

Many rural newspapers have closed or merged in the past 15 years, but we are dedicated and will continue to support our community by bringing your local news right to your dining room table.

VINTON NEWSPAPERS

PO BOX 468, 108 E 5TH, VINTON, IOWA 52349 | 319-472-2311

WWW.VINTONNEWSPAPERS.COM