

Tricky, but West Branch schools get EpiPens

By Gregory R. Norfleet
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After getting help to overcome a bit of red tape and supply shortages, West Branch Community Schools recently received EpiPens to use in case of allergic emergencies.

Tipton Ambulance facilitated the effort, with Tipton Director of Emergency Medical Services Brad Ratliff helping overcome a key barrier to their use.

"The biggest hurdle to schools participating is working with a physician to obtain an order for those medications ... You have to have a physician who will stand in as a medical professional. They need malpractice insurance, and we have that," Ratliff said. "Most schools don't have access to a physician regularly ... but we've done it at Tipton and our physician felt comfortable expanding out past ambulance care (to create) a safety net for children."

He said the medical malpractice insurance provider which Tipton uses "loved the idea."



Through a cooperative effort with Tipton Ambulance Service, West Branch Community School District on April 8 received both EpiPens and the authority to use them in emergencies. Pictured, from left, West Branch School Resource Officer Sgt. Cathy Steen, district nurse Traci Fryauf, and Tipton Director of Emergency Medical Services Brad Ratliff. Photo provided by Tipton Ambulance Service/Brad Ratliff

"It really worked out well," Ratliff said.

West Branch district nurse Traci Hierseman-Fryauf welcomed the assistance and extra devices.

"We as a district appreciate the support and coopera-

tion of all of our community partners," she said. "Cedar County Public Health, Tipton Ambulance and West Branch Fire and Rescue are greatly valued and provide critical care in our community."

Ratliff handled the paperwork and EpiPen's manufacturer, Pfizer, donates the devices to schools that request them through its EpiPen4Schools program.

The key ingredient, epinephrine, is administered

through an injection. Pfizer recommends having two on hand in case one does not deliver enough relief.

Hierseman-Fryauf said that second dose is key.

"We have students who are prescribed EpiPens

and they are kept at the school. Some self-carry their EpiPens as well. Research shows that a high percentage of time, a second dose of epinephrine is required with an anaphylactic reaction. We don't always have a second dose on hand," the nurse said. "The EpiPens provided through Cedar County could be used in the instance where a second dose is needed while waiting for emergency services to arrive. Should we need it, it is now available and would be replaced at no cost through this service."

In either case, the drug only lasts a short while, so the company encourages patients to seek medical care right away.

Ratliff, who has a child attending West Branch school, said he hopes to expand the effort to other Cedar County schools. Durant received EpiPens and a physician sign-off the same week as West Branch.

Pfizer started experiencing shortages of EpiPen and EpiPen Jr. late last year after a large summer demand, so the devices are on back order.



Gravel to cement

Workers with Hatfield Concrete patched a section of concrete April 16 in front of a duplex project at 216 West Main Street. The work blocked off that section of the road for a day to lay rebar, pour concrete, and let it dry before reopening it up to traffic. Filero Construction Inc. is building the duplex and had to dig up the street to install new utility hookups. The hole was temporarily filled with gravel. Gregory R. Norfleet/West Branch Times

Republican

From Page 3

ing, substance abuse treatment, and supervision.

Rehabilitation only works when it's paired with accountability and Republicans understand that.

Serious crimes like murder, human trafficking, assaults on law enforcement, and organized retail theft carry serious consequences.

Republicans have strengthened penalties for coordinated theft and looting, making clear that the lawlessness seen in other parts of the country has no

place here.

And let's be honest about that contrast.

Across the country, we've seen what happens when leaders experiment with soft-on-crime policies, weaken penalties, and undermine law enforcement. Crime rises, communities suffer, and more innocent lives are lost.

Iowa has chosen a different path. We back the blue.

Iowa has increased pay and benefits for law enforcement, improved training, and created incentives to recruit officers to serve our communities.

We've also strengthened protections for those who

wear the badge, including stricter standards for individuals charged with violent crimes against law enforcement.

That support matters. Especially now, as law enforcement officers across the country face growing hostility.

In some cases, they have been unfairly targeted by liberals simply for doing their jobs. In Iowa, we send a different message: we respect you, we support you, and we have your back.

Public safety also means staying ahead of emerging threats.

Iowa has taken aggressive steps to address orga-

nized retail crime and repeat offenders, giving law enforcement the tools they need to stop crime before it spreads.

And as the fentanyl crisis devastates communities nationwide, we have increased penalties for those who traffic this deadly drug into our state.

But a strong justice system is not just about enforcement. It requires a solid foundation.

That's why Iowa has invested in correctional officers, law enforcement training, victim services, and the courts themselves. A system that works depends on the people who carry it out every day, and Iowa has made

those investments a priority.

The result is a model that works.

Unlike states led by Democrats that have lurched from one extreme to another, Iowa has stayed grounded.

We haven't defunded our police or turned a blind eye to crime.

Instead, we've built a system that is firm but fair. Tough where it needs to be, and compassionate where it should be.

Public safety isn't achieved through slogans or political experiments. It comes from steady leadership, clear priorities, and the willingness to stand

behind the people who keep our communities safe.

Iowa's approach didn't happen by chance. It reflects years of leadership focused on supporting law enforcement and enforcing consequences.

That kind of progress isn't guaranteed. It depends on who is making the decisions.

If Iowa elects Democrats this fall, make no mistake, we will move toward the same policies we've seen in other states, where penalties are weakened and law enforcement is sidelined, and the results will follow.

Iowans should be clear-eyed about that choice.

Democratic

From Page 3

be certain enough to stop the crime before it happens. Right now, it often isn't.

That's why I've pushed for a clear, common-sense standard: if you steal more than \$10,000 in taxpayer dollars, you should face mandatory prison time.

No exceptions.
No loopholes.
And if you steal from tax-

payers, you shouldn't continue to benefit from them — meaning we should ban anyone convicted of fraud from doing business with the state, and strip them of taxpayer-funded benefits like retirement and health care.

Why should you reap taxpayer funded benefits after breaking the trust of taxpayers? It isn't complicated. It's basic accountability.

I've proposed this policy every year since becoming

State Auditor. And every year, insiders in the legislature have shut it down. I think Iowans deserve to know why.

This is about fairness — and about preventing crime in the first place.

When consequences are clear and certain, fewer people will take the risk. That's not theory; it's what I saw firsthand.

Before serving as State Auditor, I spent seven years as Iowa's chief public cor-

ruption prosecutor, where I locked up scammers, taxpayer abusers, thieves, and violent criminals to protect Iowa's communities.

I've spent my tenure as State Auditor uncovering record amounts of misspent money and protecting Iowa taxpayers from waste, fraud, and abuse.

I've seen up close how this works, and I know the justice system only does its job when the punishment fits the crime and people

know the law will actually be enforced.

The cases I saw weren't accidents or misunderstandings. They were choices. People betting they could take public money without facing serious consequences. And too often, they were right.

We can change that.

A justice system works best when the rules are clear, the penalties are real, and everyone is held to the same standard — no matter

Cedar county payroll

VENDOR	VENDOR TOTAL
Benefits Inc.	960.82
Phelps the Uniform Specialists	34.10
Cedar County Treasurer	76,604.64
Cedar County Treasurer	10,146.31
Cedar County Treasurer	361.82
Cedar County Treasurer	1,016.42
COUNTY TOTAL	89,124.11
	WBT 16

Cedar county board

(FOLLOWING IS A SYNOPSIS OF MINUTES.FULL TEXT OF DAY'S MINUTES ARE AVAILABLE FOR INSPECTION AT AUDITOR'S OFFICE OR ON OUR WEBSITE—WWW.CEDARCOUNTY.IOWA.GOV) TIPTON, IOWA April 7, 2026 Cedar County Board of Supervisors met in regular session at 8:30 a.m. April 7, 2026 with following members present: Bixler, Barnhart, Gaul, Kaufmann, and Chairperson Bell. Minutes reported by Deputy Auditor Hamdorf. Members of public were also present. Board viewed correspondence from various agencies. Manure Management Annual Updates submitted. It noted following Handwritten Disbursement issued on 4/3/2026 to Cedar County Treasurer for Benefits, Inc. for an electronic deposit: #445399 for \$6,137.38-self funded medical claims. Moved by Gaul seconded by Bixler to approve agenda. Ayes: All Chairperson Bell addressed public for comments. Devin Schroeder said he pays most of his taxes to one township/school district which isn't his voting address and asked how that can be

changed. Board said he needed to contact his legislators.

Moved by Barnhart seconded by Kaufmann to approve Board Minutes of March 31, 2026. Ayes: All

Moved by Bixler seconded by Kaufmann to approve Payroll Disbursements 204810-204952 for period ending 3/28/26 and to be paid on 4/3/26. Ayes: All Rob Metzger, Director - 7th District Probation introduced himself to Board. Board reported on Outreach/Committee Meetings they attended.

Consensus to table discussion on benefits for under 30 hours until HR Attorney Galloway is available.

At 9:00 a.m. Board held their monthly department head meeting. Deputy Auditor Driscoll met with Board to discuss lawn use policy and application. Discussion held. Board needs to decide on what number they want to use for a gathering for policy. Driscoll explained application has a box an applicant can check to request to waive liability insurance which will then be reviewed by Board. question asked why this is being reviewed which Barnhart said it is suggested by Heartland not required. No decisions were made further discussions will be held after public hearings.

At 10:00 a.m. a public hearing for review/consideration/action on following petition: James and Judy Petersen, 401 240th St., West Branch IA, (Owners) - Requesting a change in zoning from A-1 Agricultural District to R-1 Suburban Residential for purpose of allowing construction of a single-family dwelling on property located in NW ¼, SW ¼, SW ¼, except Parcel "G" Section 5, T-80N, R-4W, in Gower Township. Said petition is to rezone 1.73 acres of a proposed 7.29 acres tract.

Written and verbal objection regarding fencing and erosion control are on file. Board explained these objections will be further discussed when subdivision is brought to Board.

Moved by Kaufmann seconded by Gaul to approve and waive second hearing for 401 240th St., West Branch, IA for a change in zoning from A-1 Agricultural District to R-1 Suburban Residential for purpose of allowing construction of a single-family. Ayes: All

At 10:15 a.m. a public hearing for review/consideration/action on following petition: Jeffery and Joanna Reichert, 876 247th St., Tipton, IA (Owners) and Matthew and Justine Wagaman, 1159 330th St., Moscow, IA (Buyers) - Requesting a change in zoning from A-1 Agricultural District to R-1 Suburban Residential for purpose of constructing a single family dwelling on property described as Parcel G, located in SW ¼, SW ¼, Section 16, T-80N, R-3W, in Center West Township. Said petition is to rezone 3.3 acres of a 23.12 acre tract. There are no written or verbal objections on file.

Moved by Kaufmann seconded by Bixler to approve and waive second hearing for 876 247th St, Tipton for Requesting a change in zoning from A-1 Agricultural District to R-1 Suburban Residential for purpose of constructing a single family. Ayes: All

Moved by Barnhart seconded by Bixler to award and authorize Engineer Fangmann to sign contracts to Wendling Quarries districts 1, 4, 7 & 9 Weber Stone districts 2 & 3. RiverStone Group districts 5, 6 & 10. District 8 will be done internally. Ayes: All Moved by Gaul seconded by Barnhart to approve a utility permit to Mechanicsville Telephone at 42 175th Street and \$100

fee applies.

Ayes: All Moved by Gaul seconded by Bixler to use 25 people for a gathering on lawn use policy and application and approve resolution. Ayes: All

Nay: Bell Moved by Kaufmann seconded by Barnhart to adjourn at 11:06 a.m., to April 14, 2026. Ayes: All

Jon Bell, Chairperson
Nicki Welch, Auditor
WBT 16

Garage Sales

LONE TREE Citywide Garage Sales. April 25, from 8am to 2pm. #16p

Wanted

WANTED - JUNK appliances - will pick up. Farm steel, batteries and cars. 319-331-8122. #17tf

BUYING ALL Antiques: Fair Cash Prices for Antiques: Furniture, Signs, Toys, Crocks, Paintings, Documents, Oddities and Weird Stuff. 319.270.1251. #9tf

Storage For Rent

WEST BRANCH Mini Storage,

1264 East South Street, Tipton. 10 x 24 ft. stalls. Reasonable rates. 1-319-643-7150. #10tf

ALL PUBLIC NOTICES

CAN BE FOUND AT

IOWAPUBLICNOTICES.COM

FARMLAND FOR SALE

JOHNSON CO. - NEW LISTING! Located 7 miles SW of Iowa City. Includes 41.25 Crop Ac., 3-BR home & outbuildings. \$1,300,000.00

MUSCATINE CO. - NEW LISTING! 62.94 Acres located 3 miles south of Blue Grass. Includes a mixture of productive farmland, mature timber and beautiful pasture. \$9,500/acre.

SCOTT CO. - 55.18 Acres in Davenport along I-280. 45.09 crop acres with an 80.20 CSR2. \$16,500/acre.

DEVELOPMENT LAND

CEDAR CO. - 5.44 Acres in city limits on hard-surfaced roads, SE side of Lowden. A timbered lot near access to utilities with existing garage. \$239,000.00

LINN CO. - 43.93 Acres on the east side of Center Point. Well-timbered lot with direct access to nature trail. \$27,500/acre.

RESIDENTIAL LOT FOR SALE

CEDAR CO. - PRICE REDUCED! A 1.49-acre lot located 3 miles south of West Branch, close to the Village of Downey. 71 330th St., West Branch \$449,500.00 \$109,500.00

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