

Sand

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Virginia, and Iowa’s neighbor to the north, Minnesota, have limited cooperation with Immigration and Customs Enforcement as it tries to arrest illegal immigrants for deportation.

Sand said his administration would work with ICE “the same as I would work with any state agency or federal agency, no matter who the president is.”

“The question is: What do they want to do? What does the Constitution say about that? What does Iowa law say about that? And what’s good for public safety in Iowa?” he said. “We had the (Democratic National Committee) make two public records requests to the auditor’s office. The DNC wanted all the allegations of wrongdoing against Kim Reynolds. We gave them nothing because we believe that was our obligation under Iowa law. They then made the same records’ request a second time – like we didn’t notice who it came from the first time – we gave them the same answer. I’m not here to serve a political party. I’m not here to oppose somebody because of what party they’re in. The question is just: ‘Is this a good thing to do? Is this in accordance with the law? Is it good for Iowans?’”

In the same vein, he would oppose tariffs, new small refinery exemptions, and federal policies “bailing out Argentinian beef and crop growers.”

“All of these elected officials who are leading the state party in Iowa on the Republican side want to go out there and convince Iowans that all this stuff is great, when we know it’s not,” he said. “They should show backbone against party leadership the same way I do.”

Sand said he expects Republicans to retain a majority in the House and Senate, so he will need to



Democratic gubernatorial candidate Rob Sand shakes hands with West Branch resident McKenzie McIlrath on Sept. 3 at the West Branch Town Hall. Sand brought a moderate message to a mostly Democratic audience.

Gregory R. Norfleet/*West Branch Times*

compromise to get anything done, like improving education.

“Everything is going to need to be a negotiation, but if they start talking the way (Republican gubernatorial candidate Zach Lahn) did, and claiming that Marxists are somehow in control of Iowa’s curriculum, I would remind them that they’ve had 10 years of one-party control and I don’t think any of them are Marxists. ... I’m just not going to talk that way about people. I don’t think that’s helpful or productive. ... We need to have good morale in Iowa’s public schools.”

Asked if he could name an issue with which he disagrees with the Democratic National Committee, Sand referred to the trans athletes issue, and two others.

“Joe Biden screwed up the management of the border. That was atrocious,” he said. “If we’re helping you pay for food, I think it’s OK to say we don’t want you to buy sugary drinks because we don’t want to complicate your health and that leads to additional sub-

sidies later on.”

Data centers

Asked his position on data centers wanting to build in Iowa, he wants them contributing to the state.

“I want to see a law on my desk that makes it so that you’re not building in Iowa unless you’re contributing to the state,” he said. “If you don’t want to contribute here, then you can build somewhere else. That means no more transparency end-runs; you can’t have local elected officials signing non-disclosure agreements.”

He also wants setbacks – minimum distances from properties to reduce construction or equipment noise – and paying utilities companies to build the infrastructure necessary to handle additional electric and water usage.

“No more tax breaks. You can pay full freight,” he said.

Last week, New York Mayor Zorhan Mamdani announced a one-year moratorium on generative AI in

public school classrooms up to eighth grade.

Sand said he disagrees with that restriction.

“I think that one of the things we can do to make sure kids are in their ‘Goldilocks reading level’ – not too hard, not too easy – is having AI listen to them read out loud. It’s the same with them learning math problems. We can have a great teacher. No teacher on planet earth can keep 30 kids in a classroom at their Goldilocks level for math or reading every day,” he said. “But AI can help them do that.”

Answering questions from the public, Sand took issue with Education Savings Accounts, referring to them as “vouchers,” though the funding goes through the family rather than directly to a private school.

“I know you completely oppose this, correct?” one woman asked.

Sand deferred.

“I’m happy to talk to you about the program,” he said.

The questioner opposed tax dollars supporting chil-

dren who attend private schools. “If you can’t afford it, then send them to public schools,” she said. “Maybe it’s time to give our public educators this \$8,100-plus, so they can live a better life and stay in Iowa.”

This brought applause from the Democratic audience.

Sand said called it a “fact” that, if elected, he would have to work with a Republican legislature.

“Those majorities are large and they’re not going away,” he said. “When I pitch proposals, I want to talk about stuff where there’s a decent chance we can deliver on. I’m not a pie-in-the-sky guy ... the reality is this-and-that are not doable, because it undermines trust in our system of self-governance,” he said. “One of my north stars is: What would a politician do? And I do the opposite.”

He said the “vast majority” of Iowans want private schools audited.

“I think you can be a person who likes the idea of school choice in the state of Iowa and understand that

the current law, as written, is an invitation to waste, fraud, and abuse,” he said, drawing applause. “All the money is required to be paid as tuition, and the vast majority of private schools have increased their tuition, ... and there’s only one thing a private school can’t do with our money: They can’t pay a rebate ... How about a for-profit school has a rule that 50 percent of what they get from the states stays in their pocket because they’re working to gosh-darn hard. That’s all legal. Every one of those things is legal ... and we’re not allowed to audit them. So even if they’re breaking the one rule that we have, we can’t even necessarily find out. ... That lack of oversight is appalling, so let’s have rules for how to spend (like having) the same financial rules as public schools, and you get an annual audit.”

He also wants to require that private schools must take everyone who applies, “you can’t pick and choose,” and limit their ability to increase tuition.

Asked about attracting independent voters in a state that supported Trump, Sand noted that he was the auditor’s seat each time Iowans voted for Trump.

“I think they’re going to do that again, because they know me pretty well. I’m here. I live here. And having a governor who’s a full-time Iowan is a big difference-maker in the ability to do the job,” he said. “So is having someone who is willing to disagree with their party and stuff and actually get things done. I’ve been willing to do that and go after it. We’ve had 10 years of one-party control ...

Sand asserts that one-party control led Iowa to become the “bottom for economic growth,” which is a reference to a WalletHub study.

The Democrats also hosted candidates on Sunday afternoon. The *Times* will report on that in next week’s paper.



Barren of bumpers

Browns West Branch car dealership shuttled employees to its lot at 346 West Main Street on Aug. 31 to empty it. The remaining item left in the lot was an old horse trailer used to store old tires for recycling. That was removed the morning of Sept. 4.

Gregory R. Norfleet/*West Branch Times*

Flock

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that the company is “making misuse detection mandatory for every customer, and inviting the rest of the industry to meet the same standard.”

In addition to the seven-day limit, the company

suggested:

New offense filtering, required Audit Assistance, proactive lockouts, and required case codes will give agencies more control while strengthening oversight of system use.

Flock is strengthening data security through mandatory multi-factor authentication, an inde-

pendent security review by Bishop Fox, and a new Coordinated Vulnerability Disclosure program.

Customers retain ownership and control of their data, while Flock is expanding transparency and reinforcing safeguards around ALPR accuracy, access, sharing, and review.

West Branch’s freshman-sophomore football team falls to Regina, 20-3

West Branch freshman-sophomore football team struggled to reach the end zone against the Regina Regals on Monday, falling to their opponent, 20-3.

The Bears put the first points on the board in the second half after a 16-play drive covering 64 yards before Liam Hosier kicked a 37-yard field goal on fourth and 14.

West Branch kept Regina out of the end zone for the first half interceptions on two of their three drives, the first by Ryker Rood and the second by Clayton Shultz.

Regina’s three touchdowns all came in the second half, with two from passing plays.

The Regals collected 140 rushing yards and 75 passing yards; the Bears moved the ball 133 yards in the air but lost a yard on the ground.

The Iowa City team found itself in hot water with the referees, collecting eight penalties for 74 yards, compared to West Branch’s one penalty for five yards.

Passing: Teddy Bucknell 2-55; Michael Miles 7-83.

Rushing: Teddy Bucknell 4-21; Michael Miles 8-(-17); Clayton Shultz 1-(-1); Carter Nelson 8-(-2); Evan Farmer 2 (-2)

Receiving: Peter Koenig 1-53; Clayton Shultz 3-24; Carter Nelson 3-(-3); Evan Farmer 1-4; Jasper Alvarez

1-55

Tackling: Peter Koenig 3.5; Michael Miles 1; Clayton Shultz 3.5, 1 INT; Casen Regennitter 2; Carter Nelson 4, 1 pass deflection; Evan Farmer 7.5; Rilan Miller 1.5; Easton Coates 1; Kellen Chaffee 4; Kason Hanna 1; Colton Davidson 2.5; Landon Shimon 1.5; Ryker Rood 0.5, 1 INT.

Kick return: Clayton Shultz 1-2; Casen Regennitter 2-23

Punt return: Teddy Bucknell 1-18

Punting: Michael Miles 3-98

Kicking: Liam Hosier 1-57; Landon Shimon 1-51

Field goals: Liam Hosier 1-1

ALL PUBLIC NOTICES CAN BE FOUND AT IOWAPUBLICNOTICES.COM

Cedar county payroll

PAY DATE	VENDOR
8/21/2026	
TOTAL	
Benefits Inc.	945.82
Washington National Ins Co.	167.26
Fidelity Investments	1,200.00
Phelps the Uniform Specialists	34.10
Cincinnati Life Insurance Co	382.68
IPERS	
122,329.83	
Cedar County Health Fund	177,835.06
Cedar County Treasurer	254.00
Nationwide Retirement Solution	140.00
Cedar County Treasurer	76,488.53
Cedar County Treasurer	10,381.34
Cedar County Treasurer	8,756.05
Cedar County Treasurer	361.82
Cedar County Treasurer	445.84
COUNTY TOTAL	
399,722.33	

Board viewed correspondence from various agencies. It noted following Handwritten Disbursement issued on 8/21/2026 to Cedar County Treasurer for Midwest Group Benefits, Inc. for an electronic deposit: #446679 for \$10,895.39-self funded medical claims. Moved by Bixler seconded by Barnhart to approve agenda.

Ayes: All
Chairperson Bell addressed public for comments. There were none. Moved by Barnhart seconded by Kaufmann to approve Board Minutes of August 18, 2026.

Ayes: All
Moved by Gaul seconded by Bixler to approve Payroll Disbursements #206455-206468 for period ending 8/15/26 and to be paid on 8/21/26.

Ayes: All
Board reported on Outreach/Committee Meetings they attended. Moved by Kaufmann seconded by Bixler to approve and authorize Chairperson Bell to sign Proclamation for September being Recovery Month.

Ayes: All
Moved by Barnhart seconded by Bixler to approve job descriptions for Community Services Director, Community Services Assistant, Chief Privacy Officer and Chief Security Officer.

Ayes: All
Marc Hines, CEO Crossroads, Inc. met with Board to discuss Supported Community Living (SCL) homes in Tipton. Hines is asking for approval for a fifth person to move into one of homes, 609

East 2nd Street, and begin receiving services. Iowa Health and Human Services requires providers to seek approval from department for any SCL home serving five people. If able to obtain approval from applicable county board, need to pursue this approval annually will be waived. This approval would allow us to serve another Tipton resident in need and help us avoid administrative exercises that take time and energy away from caring for people.

Moved by Bixler seconded by Kaufmann to approve a fifth person to move into a SCL home at 609 East 2nd Street, Tipton.

Ayes: All
At 9:30 a.m. EMS Director Dinsch met with Board to discuss possibility of joining City/County Management Services with Tipton Ambulance. current Director of Tipton Ambulance is leaving September 21, 2026. Discussion held on a MOU and a 28E Agreement to operate Tipton Ambulance funded by City of Tipton during a transitioning period for County to take over. Dinsch thought that city could hire a paramedic to replace director's position for transitioning period. Barnhart had a press release Board reviewed that will be published in paper.

Moved by Kaufmann seconded by Gaul to appoint and authorize Bixler, Barnhart, EMS Director Dinsch and County Attorney Blank to negotiate with City of Tipton for 28E Agreement and MOU for joining City/County Management Services with Tipton Ambulance.

Ayes: All
Moved by Gaul seconded by Barnhart to approve Iowa DOT detour agreement for a bridge replacement on Highway 30

between Clarence and Lowden scheduled for 2030.

Ayes: All
Moved by Kaufmann seconded by Bixler to approve a utility permit for Interstate Light & Power in and near Stanwood and \$100 fee applies.

Ayes: All
Moved by Barnhart seconded by Kaufmann to approve a utility permit for Liberty Communications and waive \$100 fee.

Ayes: All
Moved by Kaufmann seconded by Bixler to authorize Power of Attorney to EMS Director Dinsch to sign DEA registration requirements.

Ayes: All
Absent: Gaul
Moved by Bixler seconded by Kaufmann to approve blood supplier contract subject to County Attorney Blank's approval.

Ayes: All
Absent: Gaul
Moved by Kaufmann seconded by Barnhart to respectfully adjourn at 10:27 a.m., to September 1, 2026.

Ayes: All
Absent: Gaul

Jon Bell, Chairperson
Nicki Welch, Auditor
WBT 36

Classifieds Get Results

FARMLAND FOR SALE

CEDAR CO. – NEW LISTING! 59.49 acres located 4½ miles west of Tipton. 39.80 Acres CRP. An attractive recreational farm w/potential as building site! **\$8,500/acre.**

CEDAR CO. – PRICE REDUCED! 100 acres located 3 miles SE of Tipton. 77.67 crop acres with 90.00 CSR2. **SALE PENDING!** ~~\$16,750~~ **\$15,950/acre.**

CEDAR CO. – 77.16 acres located on the Cedar River, 10 miles E of West Branch. 64.40 crop acres with a 64.40 CSR2. An additional 37.22 acres forest reserve & 2.90 acres CRP. **SALE PENDING!** **\$7,750/acre.**

DUBUQUE CO. – NEW LISTING! 100 acres located 2 miles south of Weldon. Attractive, timbered property with pond. **SALE PENDING!** **\$135,000.00**

SCOTT CO. – NEW LISTING! 119.64 acres located east of Eldridge. 117.06 crop acres with a 90.60 CSR2. **SALE PENDING!** **\$17,950/acre.**

SCOTT CO. – PRICE REDUCED! 55.18 acres in Davenport along I-280. 45.09 crop acres with an 80.20 CSR2. **SALE PENDING!** ~~\$15,000~~ **\$12,500/acre.**

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