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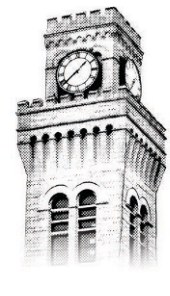
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DATA CENTERS

1-YEAR MORATORIUM REJECTED IN SALIX



CAITLIN YAMADA, SIOUX CITY JOURNAL

A Google representative speaking to the Salix City Council during a meeting Thursday. The Council voted 3-2 to reject a proposed one-year moratorium on data centers

City Council votes on measure after death threats postponed meeting

CAITLIN YAMADA
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SALIX, Iowa – In a 3-2 vote, the Salix City Council Thursday night nixed a proposed one-year moratorium on data centers in the small Woodbury County town.

The divided council rejected

proposed language that would have prevented any data center projects from moving forward while the city studied policy and ordinances. Councilmen Gene Monk and Tim Skidmore voted for the moratorium, while Brenda Smith-Hanson, Denise Burkhart and Emily Clayton

voted against.

Many of the more than 100 residents who packed the council chambers protested the decision. The vote comes after months of heated debate over the prospect of a

Please see **DATA CENTERS**, Page A3

Lawmakers to review Pillen's cuts next session

ERIN BAMER
Nebraska Examiner

LINCOLN — When a new Nebraska Legislature convenes for its 2027 session, lawmakers will have the authority to accept or reject Gov. Jim Pillen's plan to cut all state agencies' budgets by a minimum of 5%.

Pillen announced the spending cuts in a July memo. Though the memo announced the reductions would begin immediately, there have been some exceptions.

State officials confirmed the cuts will not apply to Nebraska's funding formula for K-12 public schools, while the funding formula for community colleges will be impacted later in 2027. State Budget Director Neil Sullivan said Nebraska Public Employees Retirement Systems won't be immediately impacted as the agency receives its state appropriations once per year.

Since the memo came out, there have been questions about whether Pillen has the authority to implement the cuts. Several lawmakers say it's blatantly unconstitutional, as it oversteps the Legislature's power to approve the state's two-year budget, colloquially referred to as "the power of the purse." Others say it's not a breach because Pillen isn't truly amending the budget.

Lee Will, director of the state Department of Administrative Services, said that when the Legislature considers budget adjustments next year to fix a projected deficit that currently stands at \$208 million, lawmakers can decide to apply whatever dollars have been saved as a result of the memo and use it to help fill the gap. Or, he said, lawmakers could reject the cuts and restore the funding to the affected agencies.

A straight 5% cut across state agencies would generate about \$276 million per year, according to Pillen spokesperson Laura Strimble.



Pillen

Please see **BUDGET CUTS**, Page A3

Sights and sounds from Iowa State Fair

ERIN MURPHY
Lee-Gazette Des Moines Bureau

DES MOINES — All that food to eat, be it on a stick or covered in butter.

All those pork chops to be flipped and hard-boiled eggs to be shared.

All those hands to shake and selfies to take.

And all those Soapbox speeches.

The Iowa State Fair is a rite of passage for political candidates running for state and federal office in Iowa.

Iowa candidates for Congress and state-wide office — and, every four years, the candidates for president — come to the Iowa State Fairgrounds in Des Moines to mingle with and speak in front of thousands of prospective voters — and the media attention that comes with it.

This year's Iowa State Fair has been no different. With the 2026 midterm elections set for November, candidates aplenty have been roaming the fairgrounds, doing all the traditional things that politicians at the fair do.

But even for the politicians, it's not

necessarily all politics all the time at the Iowa State Fair.

Soapbox speeches

The most purely political Iowa State Fair event is the Des Moines Register Political Soapbox, where candidates are given 20 minutes to address fairgoers.

The event is stationed right next to the Grand Concourse and just across from the Grandstand — which some candidates have found out the hard way when their speaking slot has coincided with music playing in the Grandstand.

Some candidates use their entire 20 minutes, others carve out some time to take questions from the audience. And most then field questions from reporters in a gaggle arranged by the Register.

Speaking of those crowds, unless the candidates organize their supporters, they are at the mercy of whoever decides to stop at the Soapbox and listen.

Crowd sizes for the candidates vary



IOWA CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION

Fair exhibitor Madeline Olson, from Vinton, and her celebrity partner, Republican gubernatorial candidate Zach Lahn, receive the People's Choice Award after gaining the loudest cheers Aug. 15 during the Governor's Charity Steer Show at the Iowa State Fair.

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The Mini
The Journal devoted a large spread on its Opinion page on Aug. 15, showing how much our Congressman Randy Feenstra cares for our military. I'd like to hear him call out Trump for saying the Abraham Lincoln's nine months at sea "hasn't been nearly long enough." - **GREG NOONEY, SIOUX CITY**

Weather
Abundant sunshine
High 84 • Low 56
Forecast • A12

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