



Burning questions for defense, special teams

SPORTS, 1B

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Residents gather during the Ames City Council's listening session about a possible data center on June 30, at City Auditorium in Ames. NIRMALENDU MAJUMDAR/AMES TRIBUNE

PRO DATA CENTER

Bipartisan business coalition backs development in Iowa

Celia Bocker

Ames Tribune
USA TODAY NETWORK

A statewide coalition of economic and political leaders is promoting the development of data centers.

The bipartisan group Growing Iowa's Economy launched Monday, Aug. 3, and is made up of more than 30 Iowa labor, economic development, business and issue advocacy leaders. The group believes "the development of new data centers is critical to Iowa's future," according to its website.

Initial members include several central Iowa organizations, such as the Ames Regional Economic Alliance, the Marshalltown Area Chamber of Commerce, and Alliant Energy.

Ames Alliance President and CEO Dan Culhane said the various organizations saw an opportunity to provide meaningful education about data centers and their economic benefits.

"I think locking arms with groups across the state is a way to better educate the public on projects like this and the opportunities that we think they do present," Culhane said.

The coalition pledges to hold data centers accountable, pushing policies that force companies to pay for energy use and upgrades to local energy grids.

Alliant Energy "shares the coalition's belief that growth should be accompanied by strong customer protections, regulatory oversight, community engagement and responsible investment," Alliant Energy Lead Communications Partner Melissa McCarville said.

"We look forward to working with stakeholders across the state to support thoughtful growth that benefits customers, communities and Iowa's economy," McCarville said.

What will the Growing Iowa's Economy coalition do?

The group will advocate for legislative policies that support "responsible development" of new data centers, according to a news release. Initial action includes sharing their message and expanding the coalition.

John Hall, president and CEO of Marshalltown Area Chamber of Commerce, said the coalition is not simply pro-data center, but rather pro-economic growth. He believes data centers have a place in the overall conversation.

"It's not to say every data center is the right fit in

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'Shucked,' 'Haddestown' lead big, bold season at Stephens Auditorium

Ronna Faaborg

Ames Tribune
USA TODAY NETWORK

Stephens Auditorium is ready for some a-maize-ing fun.

The Tony Award-winning musical "Shucked" is heading to Ames, one of three Broadway blockbusters anchoring a season packed with music icons, ballet, world-class jazz and family favorites.

"The Wiz" and "Haddestown" round out the Broadway shows coming to the Iowa State University campus.

Individual tickets for all 14 shows in the 2026-2027 season go on sale at 11 a.m., Friday, Aug. 7, at the Stephens Auditorium ticket office and at Ticketmaster.com.

"If you've been waiting to purchase tickets for one of our incredible shows in this upcoming season, they will all be on sale on Aug. 7," Stephens Auditorium Executive Director Tammy Koolbeck said in a news release.

The lineup marks the 56th season of the Stephens Performing Arts Series, opening with "The Temptations" on Oct. 4.

"This lineup brings Broadway productions making their Stephens stage debut, legendary music icons, breathtaking ballet, vibrant world music, comedy, jazz and spectacular acrobatics," Koolbeck said. "Every ticket purchased and every gift contributed helps bring world-class performances to our stage while ensuring the arts remain accessible and impactful for generations to come."

Take a look at the full Stephens schedule below:

The Temptations

7:30 p.m., Sunday, Oct. 4

The legendary group returns with classics including "My Girl," "Papa Was a Rollin' Stone" and "Just My Imagination."

World Ballet Company: Swan Lake

7 p.m., Wednesday, Oct. 7

Tchaikovsky's iconic ballet arrives with 50 dancers,

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Herbert Hoover Museum set to reopen after \$20M renovation

Jessica Rish

Iowa City Press-Citizen
USA TODAY NETWORK

The Herbert Hoover Presidential Library and Museum has a new look, but it is not rewriting history. For more than a year, Iowa's only presidential museum and library was closed to undergo a \$20 million renovation.

After celebrating Hoover's 150th birthday in 2024 and as the USA continues its 250th celebrations, the museum is unveiling its first renovation in more than 30 years.

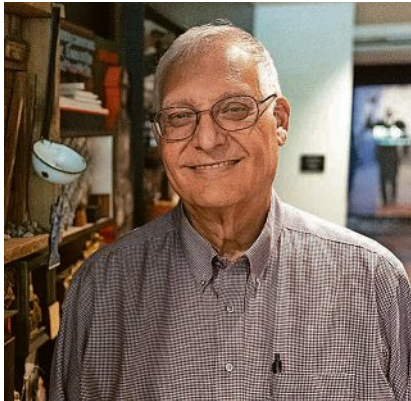
Midwest presidential legacies have experienced a

recent resurgence, with the Barack Obama Presidential Center in Chicago opening in June, and the Theodore Roosevelt Presidential Library welcoming its first guests in Medora, North Dakota, in July.

Next up is West Branch, where the museum dedicated to Iowa's only president reopens Thursday, Aug. 6, offering a fresh look at Hoover's one-term in office and his complicated place in American history.

"The reopening of the Herbert Hoover Presidential Library and Museum is about much more than a beautifully renovated building," said Allan Hoover III, Chairman of the Hoover Presidential Foundation

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Museum Director Tom Schwartz is pictured July 29 at the Herbert Hoover Presidential Library and Museum.

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