



**Sheriff**

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***NEWS RELEASE***

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

JASPER COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

June 30, 2026

Case# 26-021019

\*\*\*\*Investigation of Car vs Locomotive Personal Injury Accident\*\*\*\*

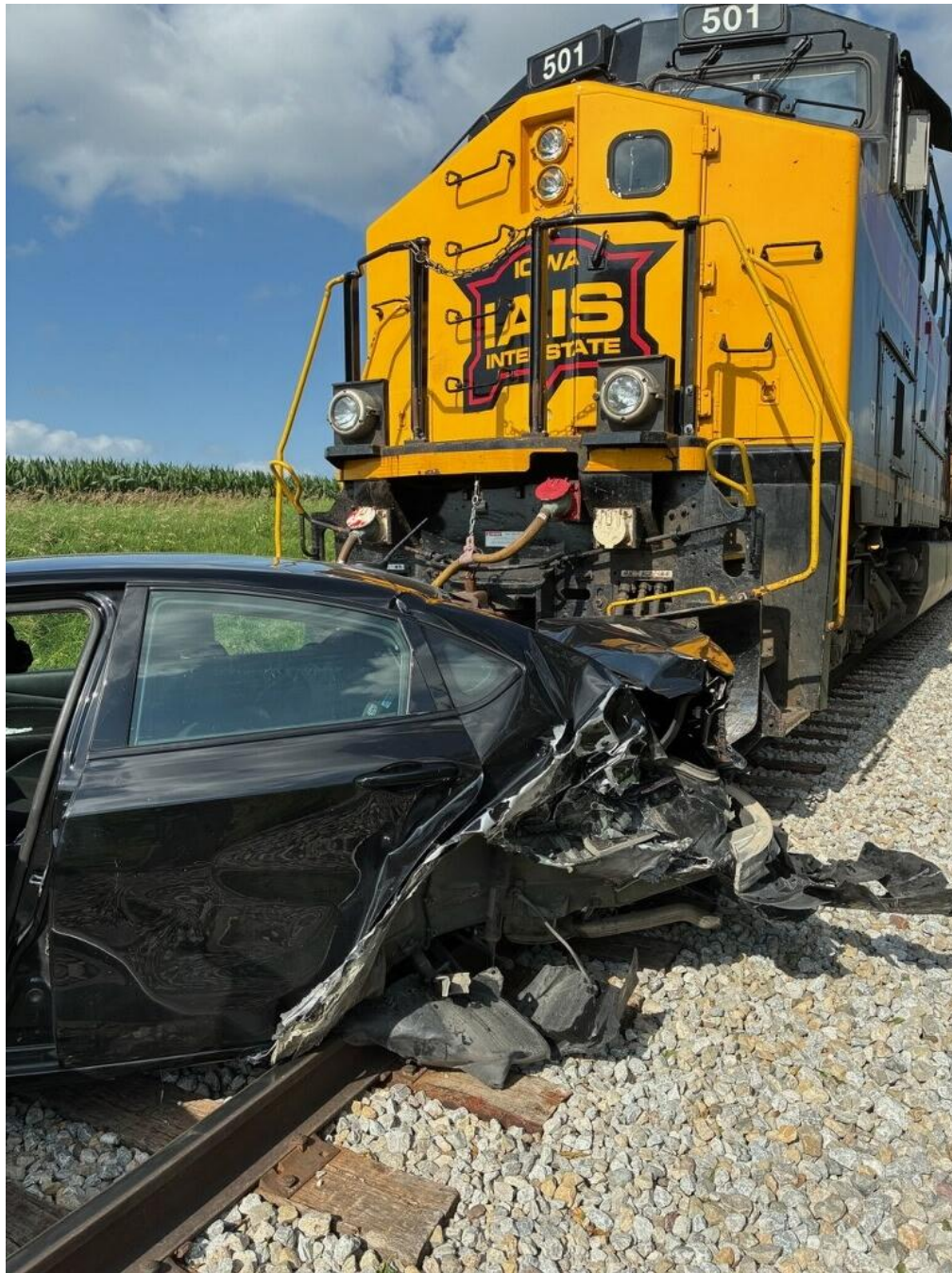
The Jasper County Sheriff's Office is investigating a car vs locomotive personal injury accident that occurred on county road Hwy T12 N near N 39<sup>th</sup> Ave E.

On June 29th, 2026, at approximately 4:44 p.m., Jasper County Communications took a 911 call of a car vs locomotive personal injury accident at the Hwy T12 N railroad crossing near N 39<sup>th</sup> Ave E northeast of Newton. Due to the locomotive being 6800 feet, the crossings at Hwy T12 N, Iris Ave, and Iowa St, were all impacted for a significant amount of time.

During the course of the investigation, it was determined that a 2016 Dodge Dart driven by George Makulu, age 29, of Marshalltown was stopped at the flashing light crossing headed southbound when his vehicle was struck from the rear by a 2007 GMC Sierra driven by Eric Ramos-Lucas, age 24, of Marshalltown moments before the locomotive entered the Hwy T12 N crossing. The 2016 Dodge Dart spun 180 degrees and came to rest crossways on the railroad tracks moments prior to being struck by the westbound locomotive. The 2007 GMC Sierra cleared the crossing, coming to rest on the west shoulder south of the crossing. Upon impact of the westbound locomotive, the driver of the 2016 Dodge Dart jumped from the vehicle while it was being pushed westbound down the tracks, sustaining non-life-threatening injuries. The 2016 Dodge Dart came to final rest against the locomotive approximately 8 train car lengths west of Hwy T12 N crossing.

During the removal of the 2016 Dodge Dart from the locomotive and railroad tracks, a first responder vehicle attempting to transport extrication tools to the scene became stuck and disabled on the tracks, delaying the opening of the 3 affected crossings. At approximately 7:10 p.m. the locomotive was able to move, and the 3 crossings were opened for crossing traffic.

The driver of the 2016 Dodge Dart was transported to Mercy One Newton Medical Center, and the driver of the 2007 GMC Sierra was uninjured and declined medical attention. The driver of the 2007 GMC Sierra has been charged with failing to stop in assured clear distance. The Newton Fire Department, Newton Police Department, Iowa State Patrol, Jasper County Emergency Management, Iowa Interstate Railroad, and Barney's Wrecker and Crane assisted the Jasper County Sheriff's Office during the course of events.



For immediate release:

Brad M. Shutts, Sheriff