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The Des Moines Register

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LOSING THE RACE

IndyCar skipping Iowa in 2026, future years in doubt

Philip Joens Des Moines Register | USA TODAY NETWORK

The NTT IndyCar Series announced it will not include Iowa Speedway on its 2026 schedule weeks after the series saw a sharp attendance drop in 2025 at the Newton track. The announcement Tuesday, Sept. 16, marks the second time since 2020 that Iowa Speedway fell off the IndyCar schedule after the series first raced at the ¾ mile track in 2007. In 2021, IndyCar also took the NASCAR-owned track off the schedule. Instead of Iowa, IndyCar added a short-oval race Phoenix Raceway and a second race at the Milwaukee Mile to its 2026 schedule. After a nine-year absence, IndyCar also returned to the Milwaukee Mile in 2024 to strong attendance and rave reviews in two years back at the track. In a statement, IndyCar at Iowa organizers thanked fans.

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TOP: Alex Palou takes the checkered flag during the NTT IndyCar Series Farm to Finish 275 on July 13 at Iowa Speedway in Newton.

BOTTOM: Palou sprays champagne after the Farm to Finish 275. PHOTOS BY AYRTON BRECKENRIDGE/ THE REGISTER



Suspect
in Kirk
shooting
charged

Congress questions FBI head about investigation

Thao Nguyen, Jeanine Santucci, Christopher Cann and N’dea Yancey-Bragg USA TODAY

Utah officials on Sept. 16 formally charged the man accused of killing conservative activist Charlie Kirk with murder and other crimes ahead of his first court appearance. Tyler Robinson, 22, was charged with aggravated murder, felony discharge of a firearm, obstruction of justice, witness tampering, and the commission of a violent offense in the presence of a child, Utah County Attorney Jeff Gray announced at a news conference. Gray also announced his intention to seek the death penalty, calling Kirk’s killing “an American tragedy.”

“I do not take this decision lightly and it is a decision I have made independently as county attorney based solely on the available evidence and circumstances and nature of the crime,” Gray said. Robinson is accused of firing a single bullet that lanced Kirk’s neck during a public appearance on Sept. 10 at Utah Valley University in Orem, Utah, about 40 miles south of Salt Lake City. Gray said DNA consistent with

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DOGE member
apologizes for
comments on
IPERS and pay

Marissa Payne Des Moines Register USA TODAY NETWORK

Public sector unions remain skeptical of ideas from Iowa’s DOGE task force that could change pension benefits and introduce merit pay for teachers, though a panel leader sought to clarify some of the more controversial recommendations. Terry Lutz, chair of McClure Engineering and leader of DOGE’s return-on-investment subgroup, spoke at the panel’s final meeting on Monday, Sept. 15, about two recommendations he said have been “totally misrepresented and misunderstood.” “I’d like to apologize to our work group and all the members of this committee, as it seems some of my comments from the last time we met were not clear and have led to misinterpretation and undue concern from our valued educators and other public sector employees,” Lutz said.

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