



## Ballard rolls past Gilbert in 3A state quarterfinals

SPORTS, 1B

# The Des Moines Register

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## Vandalism tiff spirals into years of conflict



Robert and Susan Lankford stand for a portrait in the driveway of their Ankeny home on Friday, Feb. 13, in Ankeny.

LILY SMITH/THE REGISTER

## Feud with neighbor leaves Ankeny couple feeling powerless



**Reader's Watchdog**  
Lee Rood  
Des Moines Register  
USA TODAY NETWORK

Robert Lankford thought if he called the Polk County Sheriff's Office about the wads of chewing gum landing in his driveway near Ankeny, law enforcement would probably think he was

nuts. But over the last two years the 66-year-old retiree has painstakingly collected them – in all, more than 100 pieces scraped off the concrete, photographed piece by piece and stored as evidence.

Lankford and his wife Susan also say they've felt threatened by their neighbor. They said Travis Hodapp, a 51-year-old local businessman and father of two, has swerved toward them in his

pickup truck when driving in their woodsy neighborhood not far from Saylorsville Lake. They allege he's also given them the finger.

But the Lankfords told Watchdog they have had no reason to believe authorities would do anything to protect them, saying the Polk County Attorney's Office let them down after something even more serious.

See **ROOD**, Page 2A

## Reynolds logged 25 flights on state plane

Governor's trips were 15% of plane's total

**Tyler Jett and Phillip Sitter**  
Des Moines Register  
USA TODAY NETWORK

Gov. Kim Reynolds took trips in the state's newest plane about once every two weeks over the course of a year, according to records obtained by the Des Moines Register.

A flight log shows how state officials have used the plane in the 13 months since its purchase. The disclosure follows a Feb. 24 report in the Des Moines Register that revealed Reynolds had been using the plane in an apparent break with past practice.



Reynolds

From Jan. 21, 2025 through Feb. 22 of this year, the log shows 138 total flights on Iowa State Patrol's Cessna 208B Grand Caravan and about 322 hours of flight time.

Reynolds flew in the Grand Caravan for about 49 hours on 25 trips, the log shows. Her flights account for about 15% of total hours logged on the plane and 18% of total trips during that period.

In addition to transporting the governor, State Patrol pilots have used the plane for training flights, accounting for about 20% of all hours logged on the Grand Caravan.

State officials redacted 53 entries in the log, telling the Register that details of those flights were exempt from disclosure under Iowa's open records law. The entries represent "law enforcement sensitive information," an

See **REYNOLDS**, Page 4A

## Iran names a leader as war drives oil prices higher

### Pentagon identifies 7th service member killed

**Thao Nguyen, Christopher Cann, Kim Hjelmgard and Dan Morrison**  
USA TODAY

As the U.S.-Israel war with Iran entered its 10th day on March 9, oil prices soared over fears of a prolonged conflict, President Donald Trump demanded "unconditional surrender" and the Pentagon made public the name of the seventh U.S. service member to die in the

conflict. Oil prices jumped above \$110 a barrel, reaching its highest prices since 2022 as fears grow over prolonged shipping disruptions due to war throughout the Middle East.

Brent crude, the international benchmark, jumped to \$119.50 a barrel before retreating to around \$103. Trump called that "a small price to pay."

"Short term oil prices, which will drop rapidly when the destruction of the Iran nuclear threat is over, is a very

See **IRAN**, Page 3A



People gather to support Mojtaba Khamenei, Iran's new supreme leader, in Tehran, Iran, on March 9.

MAJID ASGARIPOUR/WEST ASIA NEWS AGENCY VIA REUTERS

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