



Southeast Polk park-and-ride moved for 2026 Iowa State Fair

IOWA LIFE, 1D

The Des Moines Register

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Boys of summer are back



CODY SCANLAN/THE REGISTER

Iowa Cubs players enjoy a game of spike ball before practice on March 25 at Principal Park. The franchise begins its 45th season as the Chicago Cubs' Triple-A affiliate on March 27 with a 7:08 p.m. game against Columbus. The teams are also scheduled to play at 3:08 p.m. on March 28 and at 1:08 p.m. on March 29. The Cubs have a new general manager this year as Randy Wehofer has taken over for longtime GM Sam Bernabe. Fans attending games this weekend will see some new amenities at Principal Park. Read about the ballpark improvements on **Page 1C** and five storylines to follow this season on **Page 1B**.

Dallas County growth still rapid

Population is rising at highest rate in Midwest

Phillip Sitter
Des Moines Register
USA TODAY NETWORK

Dallas County held its spot as the fastest growing Midwestern county since 2020, while nearly cracking the top 50 of fastest growing counties in the United States.

The county added nearly 18,000 residents from July 1, 2020 to July 1, 2025, to reach a population of 118,457 people, according to estimates the U.S. Census Bureau released Thursday, March 26. That's a nearly 18% change.

Most of the top 50 fastest growing U.S. counties since July 2020 were in southern states including Texas, Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina and Florida. Iowa's Dallas County was close to joining them, coming in as the 53rd fastest growing county in the nation.

Dallas County was the fourth-fastest growing county in the U.S. from 2010 to 2020, when it grew 51% and added more than 33,000 residents.

Dallas County's rapid growth continues to reshape aspects of daily life, including local schools and county government. The county's Waukee

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Trump delays strikes on power plants

USA TODAY

President Donald Trump said in a social media post on March 26 that he was postponing strikes on Iran's power plants for a second time while talks continue with Tehran to end the war.

"As per Iranian Government request, please let this statement serve to represent that I am pausing the period of Energy Plant destruction by 10 Days to Monday, April 6, 2026, at 8 P.M., Eastern Time," Trump said in the post.

The president said "talks are ongoing," despite reports to the contrary, and "they are going very well."

The Trump administration on March 26 confirmed for the first time that it has passed a 15-point "action list" to Iran through Pakistani officials to end the war.

U.S. envoy Steve Witkoff confirmed the diplomatic efforts at a Cabinet meeting, saying the initiative has "resulted in strong and positive messaging and talks."

"We will see where things lead, and if we can convince Iran that this is the in-



First responders are seen at the site of an Israeli airstrike that targeted a southern Lebanese village on March 26. An Israeli soldier was killed in fighting in south Lebanon on March 26, the military said. ABBAS FAKIH/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

flexion point with no good alternatives for them other than more death and destruction," Witkoff said. "We have strong signs that this is a possibility,

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Reynolds signs law hiking tax on private insurers to fund Medicaid

Stephen Gruber-Miller
Des Moines Register
USA TODAY NETWORK

Gov. Kim Reynolds has signed into law a tax increase on some private health insurance providers that will unlock new federal funds to shore up Iowa's Medicaid budget.

Reynolds signed the law, House File 2739, on Thursday, March 26.

The law raises the tax rate on private health insurance providers, known as health maintenance organizations or HMOs, from 0.925% to 3.5% between Jan. 1 and Sept. 30 of this year.

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