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Leaves are in their peak season in the Loess Hills area on Wednesday, Oct. 19, 2016. BRIAN POWERS/THE REGISTER FILE

Iowa’s fall canvas



Against the backdrop of brilliant fall colors, Melissa Fair of West Des Moines applauds her son, Jace, 4, while he practices his basketball dribbling on Oct. 14, 2009, at Wilson Park in West Des Moines. CHRISTOPHER GANNON/THE REGISTER FILE



The last bit of fall color hangs on in northeast Iowa on the morning of Oct. 25, 2014, at Camp Tahigwa in Dorchester. KELSEY KREMER/THE REGISTER FILE



The sun sets east of Dallas Center on Sept. 29, 2012. RODNEY WHITE/THE REGISTER FILE

Cournoyer, Wettach offer competing approaches for Iowa auditor’s office

Race centers on fraud, waste and abuse probes

Maya Marchel Hoff
Des Moines Register
USA TODAY NETWORK

This fall, Iowans will select the state’s next auditor from a matchup between a Republican lieutenant governor and a Democratic political newcomer. Current state Auditor Rob Sand, a Democrat, opted to run for governor, rather than run for reelection.



Cournoyer



Wettach

Republicans view it as a chance to reclaim the only statewide seat held by Democrats. Democrats hope the political headwinds Republicans face heading will help them hold onto the posi-

tion and build on Sand’s legacy. Republican nominee Lt. Gov. Chris Cournoyer, 55, is running after a stint serving as Gov. Kim Reynolds’ second in command. Cournoyer, of LeClaire, was appointed to the lieutenant governor role in 2024 after representing Clinton, Jackson and Scott counties in the Iowa Senate. She said as auditor, she can find more efficient ways to root out “waste, fraud and abuse” in state spending. “We can’t lower taxes and sustain tax cuts if we don’t figure out more

See AUDITOR’S RACE, Page 3A



2 Iowa House contests lean blue

Analyst moves 2 races out of toss-up status

Marissa Payne
Des Moines Register
USA TODAY NETWORK

The battle for Iowa’s three top-targeted U.S. House seats has shifted in favor of Democrats, according to nonpartisan election analysts at the Cook Political Report. The election handicapper moved Iowa’s 1st and 3rd Congressional District races from its most competitive “toss-up” category to “leans Democratic” and shifted the 2nd Congressional District to “toss-up” as part of 18 House race rating changes released Friday, Oct. 9. Overall, Cook Political Report projects Democrats will pick up nine to 19 seats in the November midterms, giving them anywhere from 224 to 234 seats – surpassing the 218 threshold needed to secure the majority. Cook Political Report House Editor Erin Covey wrote in her analysis that Republicans’ sizable ad campaign has done little to strengthen some of their

See HOUSE RATINGS, Page 2A

Clock fight pits science vs. politics

Disagreement persists on which time to adopt

Doyle Rice and Jeanine Santucci
USA TODAY

Daylight is already fading, and soon Americans will set back the clocks, too. But this year, political support is building for doing away with seasonal time changes by switching to permanent daylight saving time. That would be a mistake, scientists say. A new report echoes a chorus of scientific research saying that permanent standard time is the best solution for eliminating the dreaded twice-yearly clock change. People might enjoy daylight saving time for its later sunsets throughout the year. But standard time’s earlier sunrises are more in line with our body clocks, leading to better sleep and mood, authors of the report said.

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