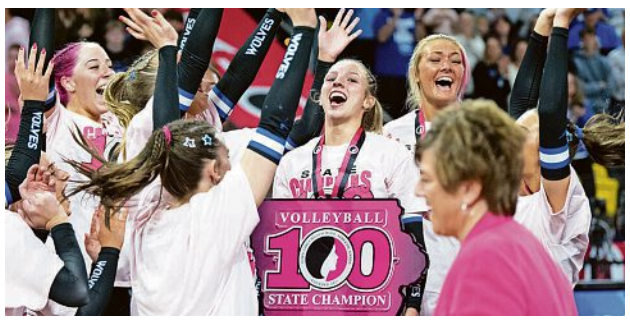


Waukee Northwest volleyball defeats DCG, wins 3rd state title

SPORTS, 1B

The Des Moines Register

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2026 | THE NEWS IOWA DEPENDS UPON | DESMOINESREGISTER.COM

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Police respond at the United States Postal Service facility at 1165 Second Ave. in Des Moines after reports of an active shooter on Nov. 5. All three injured people are in stable condition. PHOTOS BY ZACH BOYDEN-HOLMES/THE REGISTER

Police: Woman shot her USPS coworkers

Pledger, 39, is charged with attempted murder

Kyle Werner
Des Moines Register
USA TODAY NETWORK

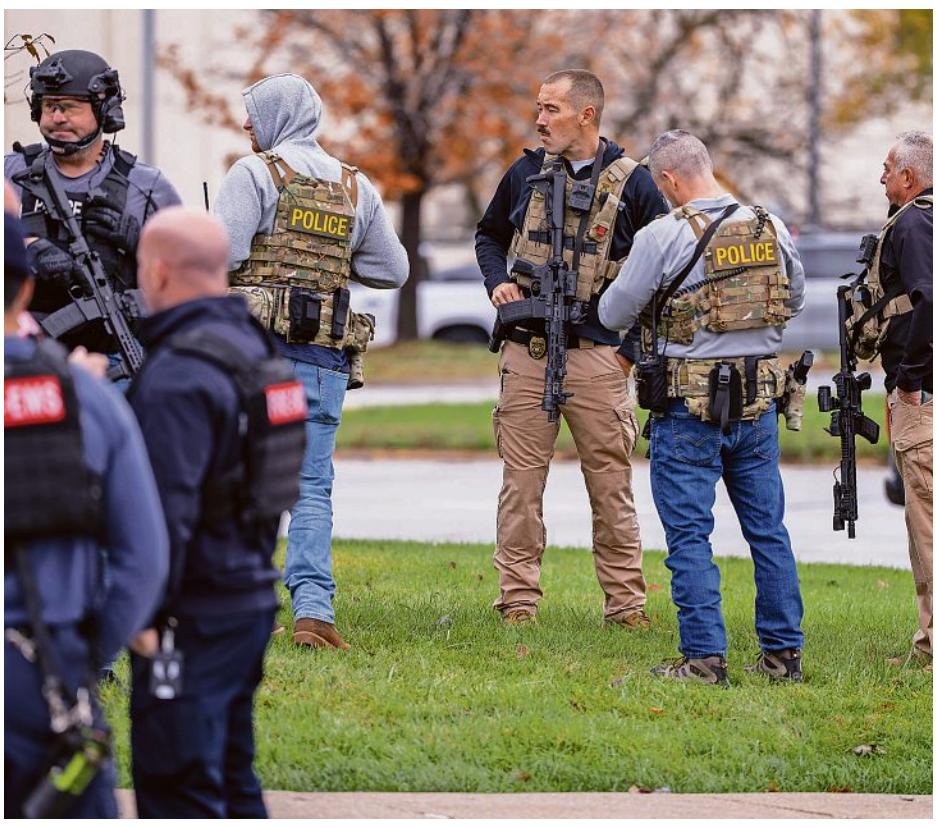
A U.S. Postal Service employee is in custody and facing multiple felony charges following a shooting at the main post office in Des Moines that injured three people.

Jennifer Pledger, 39, of West Des Moines, was charged Thursday, Nov. 5, with two counts of attempted murder, two counts of willful injury causing serious injury and one count of intimidation with a dangerous weapon, all felonies.

Police were called to the post office at 1165 Second Ave. in Des Moines around 9:10 a.m. Thursday, said Sgt. Paul Parizek, a Des Moines Police Department spokesperson. Employees who called 911 reported what Parizek called an "active killer" on the second floor of the building.

Witness and victim statements indicate Pledger, the Postal Service employee, opened fire on a group of her colleagues, including a woman who fell to

See USPS SHOOTING, Page 3A



Police were called to the post office around 9:10 a.m. Thursday, said Sgt. Paul Parizek, a Des Moines Police Department spokesperson. Employees who called 911 reported what Parizek called an "active killer" on the second floor.

Inside: A look at the recent history of post office shootings in the U.S. **6A**

ELECTION 2026

Dems flip key seats in marquee matchups

How blue wave swept up Iowa Republicans

Brianne Pfannenstiel, Maya Marchel Hoff and Stephen Gruber-Miller
Des Moines Register
USA TODAY NETWORK

It took a blue wave, but Iowans once again have divided government.

Democrats flipped key seats in marquee races, while Republicans appear poised to hold onto some statewide offices and keep control of the state Legislature.

It was part of a national rebuke of Republican control that swept its way across the country and into Iowa — a state that has, at times, defied national trends.

For some, the results delivered a return to balance they said was sorely needed.

"When I grew up here, and all the time I was in office, too, Iowa was sort of in balance: Sometimes Democrats would win more, sometimes Republicans, but there was always a good mix," former U.S. Sen. Tom Harkin, a Democrat, said. "It was only lately that Iowa went all for a supermajority of one party, and I think Iowans have recognized that's not helpful, not good for the state."

Republicans were more dour at the result. The party had hoped its 175,000-person voter registration advantage would blunt Democrat gains.

See BLUE WAVE, Page 4A

More inside

An old feeling returns to Iowa Democrats on jubilant night. **4C**

A night of fading hope, heartbreak at the Iowa GOP watch party. **5C**

Voters thin GOP's Iowa legislative majorities

Stephen Gruber-Miller and Marissa Payne
Des Moines Register
USA TODAY NETWORK

Iowa Republicans saw their legislative majorities shrink in Tuesday's midterm elections as Democrats made gains in the Iowa House and Senate to claw back from recent lows.

The legislative gains, coupled with Democrat Rob Sand's victory in the governor's race, will give Democrats renewed influence in the Iowa Legislature, breaking the GOP's decade-long control of state government.

Republicans entered Tuesday night

See LEGISLATURE, Page 5A

Deere to close Ottumwa, Clarion plants

Donnelle Eller
Des Moines Register
USA TODAY NETWORK

Deere & Co. says it will close Iowa manufacturing plants in Clarion and Ottumwa as the company realigns its production operations.

Citing changing customer demand and manufacturing capacity, Deere said Wednesday, Nov. 4, that it's moving its hay- and grain-cutting windrower production from its Ottumwa plant to its Des Moines Works plant in Ankeny by the end of the 2027 fiscal year, which ends Oct. 31, 2027.

Ottumwa's production of round balers for silage will move to Ankeny by the end of fiscal year 2028, after which the company plans to close the southeast Iowa plant. Deere, based in Moline on the Illinois side of the Quad Cities, has operated in Ottumwa for more than a century.

Deere must work with United Auto Workers, the union representing Ottumwa employees, to determine "the timeline and the approach for the closure," Deanna Kovar, president of Deere's agriculture and turf division, said in an interview Wednesday.

Deere also said it will move production of its self-propelled Hagie sprayers from Clarion, where they have been

See DEERE PLANTS, Page 6A

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