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IOWA CITY Press-Citizen

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Brynn Gelhaye fills up with gas on April 2 at a Maverik station in Des Moines.

‘THEY JUST KEEP RISING’

Shoppers react to gas prices since Iran war

Cooper Worth and Kyle Werner Des Moines Register | USA TODAY NETWORK

Gas prices have continued to surge in Iowa and across the United States as the war in Iran enters its second month.

The average cost of a gallon of gasoline topped \$4.08 nationwide on April 1, up from \$2.92 on Feb. 1, according to GasBuddy.

Oil prices currently sit at \$111 a barrel on Thursday, April 2, their highest since 2022, as energy prices have increased in almost all major sectors since the near-total shutdown of the Strait of Hormuz in early March.

The waterway, located between Iran and Oman, carries 20% of the world’s oil shipments and about 20% of its seaborne liquefied natural gas.

Donald Trump says high gas prices are a ‘short-term’ situation

President Donald Trump addressed the war during

See **GAS PRICES, Page 4A**



Gas prices are seen on April 2 at QuikTrip in Des Moines. PHOTOS BY CODY SCANLAN/DES MOINES REGISTER

Iowa could see a rise in speed limit under a bill passed by the House

Stephen Gruber-Miller

Des Moines Register | USA TODAY NETWORK

Iowa’s default speed limit could rise to 60 miles an hour under a bill passed by the Iowa House.

Senate File 378 would raise the speed limit on most two-lane highways and rural roads by 5 miles per hour from the current speed limit of 55 miles per hour.

House lawmakers voted 76-16 on April 1 to pass the bill. The Iowa Senate previously passed the bill 36-12 in 2025, but because the House amended the measure it will need to pass the Senate again before it can go to Gov. Kim Reynolds for her signature.

The bill does not attempt to raise Iowa’s interstate

See **SPEED LIMIT, Page 4A**



A biker rides beside a semi during Day 2 of RAGBRAI 52 on July 21, 2025, on Iowa Highway 86 outside of Wahpeton. AYRTON BRECKENRIDGE/DES MOINES REGISTER

IPERS CEO placed on administrative leave during investigation

Stephen Gruber-Miller

Des Moines Register | USA TODAY NETWORK

Greg Samorajski, the CEO of Iowa’s largest public pension system, has been placed on administrative leave while the state investigates allegations of misconduct.

Samorajski oversees the Iowa Public Employees’ Retirement System (IPERS), which manages more than \$45 billion worth of assets for more than 400,000 current and former Iowa public employees.

Gov. Kim Reynolds appointed Samorajski to his current position in 2020, and he was confirmed by the Iowa Senate.

Mason Mauro, a spokesperson for Reynolds, and Rachel Simon, a spokesperson for IPERS, each confirmed on Wednesday, April 1, that Samorajski has been placed on leave, effective March 31.

“IPERS CEO Greg Samorajski has been placed on administrative leave pending the completion of an investigation concerning allegations of misconduct,” Mauro said in a statement. “This situation does not

See **LEAVE, Page 4A**



Iowa Public Employees’ Retirement System CEO Greg Samorajski speaks to state lawmakers at a meeting of the joint legislative Public Retirement Systems Committee at the Iowa Capitol on Dec. 9, 2025. MARISSA PAYNE/DES MOINES REGISTER

Ethics panel deadlocks on doxing claim against lawmaker

Stephen Gruber-Miller

Des Moines Register | USA TODAY NETWORK

An Iowa Senate committee deadlocked on an ethics complaint against Sen. Scott Webster, meaning it will take no action.

The six-member Senate Ethics Committee, evenly split between Democrats and Republicans, lacked majority support for motions to dismiss the complaint or reprimand Webster for sharing a screenshot of a constituent’s email, including her contact information, in a Facebook post.



Webster

The complaint stems from an email Jennifer Olson, a Davenport attorney, sent to Webster, a Republican from Bettendorf who serves as Olson’s state senator, on Jan. 8.

Olson’s email criticized U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement and called President Donald

See **ETHICS PANEL, Page 3A**

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