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# Sioux City Journal

Founded in 1864

Monday, July 21, 2025

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RAGBRAI LII

## ORANGE DAWN IN ORANGE CITY



ERIC KIEKEBEN PHOTOS, SIOUX CITY JOURNAL

Luke Glassman, left, and Jackie Cale, right, prepare their bikes and other gear at their campground in Orange City on Sunday. “We got about five or six hours of sleep...not too bad,” Cale said while standing near her tent.

### Thousands of RAGBRAI cyclists head east from the land of tulips

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ORANGE CITY, Iowa — As the light of dawn peeked through the clouds on Sunday morning, over 20,000 bikers began pedaling down Central Avenue in Orange City for the first day of RAGBRAI LII.

Cyclists passed by as spectators occupied the curbs, waving goodbye to riders as they glided down the road lined with cardboard tulips decorated by local elementary schoolers.

Bikers would make their way to Milford, Iowa, on day one, which makes up 71.8 of the 406.7 total miles for the week-long journey. Passing through towns like Granville, Primghar, Hartley and May City on Sunday, the weather grew cloudier but remained in the high 60s and low 70s to kick off the annual biking event.

“It’s not hot — so far, so good,” Kate Herold, an eight-time RAGBRAI participant, said.

The mood seemed to be high — instead of complaining after a night spent sleeping outside on the ground, dealing with thunderstorms in the middle of the night and getting up early to bike all day, riders were chatty, playing music from speakers and interacting positively with the crowd cheering them on.

“Other than the car alarms, it’s been good,” Luke Glassman said after waking up in a tent near RAGBRAI’s Main Campground.

The Orange City RAGBRAI committee worked through the night to open shelters during the thunderstorms, but some chose to rough it outside.

The first town that cyclists spun through on Sunday’s 71-mile route after departing Orange City was Granville, Iowa. With a population of just over 300, Granville handled the mass influx of people well.

Bikers were welcomed into Granville with

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Bikers stop at an intersection in front of the Orange City Chamber of Commerce windmill on Sunday. Another icon of Orange City, a town with strong Dutch heritage, is its windmills.

SIOUX CITY COUNCIL

### United Methodists plan new church

Iowa Annual Conference  
asks city to rezone  
north side property

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SIOUX CITY — The Sioux City Council will be asked Monday to rezone property on the city’s north side so that the Iowa Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church can build a worship space.

The Iowa Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church wants a 2.37-acre tract of land at 2290 41st St., which is currently zoned Neighborhood Conservation, changed to Public and Institutional. The property is currently a vacant, mowed grassy lot.

During a July 8 Planning and Zoning Commission meeting, Dick Salem, who was representing the petitioner, stated the site has been up for sale for quite some time and a church seems like the best use for the site, according to city documents.

The documents stated that places of assembly are a limited use in Neighborhood Conservation zones, which allow for single-family detached, single-family attached, multiple-family dwellings, plus additional uses, including a variety of housing types. There are also access concerns that can be resolved by rezoning to Public and Institutional and having access off of 41st Street.

Public and Institutional allows for public service, institutional, utility and assembly uses, such as government and school buildings and facilities, utility

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### Ex-prosecutor: Don’t expect much from Epstein files

LARRY NEUMEISTER  
Associated Press

NEW YORK — A Justice Department request to unseal grand jury transcripts in the prosecution of chronic sexual abuser Jeffrey Epstein and his former girlfriend is unlikely to produce much, if anything, to satisfy the public’s appetite for new revelations about the financier’s crimes, former federal prosecutors say.

Attorney Sarah Krissoff, an assistant U.S. attorney in Manhattan from 2008 to 2021, called the request in the prosecutions of Epstein and imprisoned British socialite Ghislaine Maxwell “a distraction.”

“The president is trying to present himself as if he’s doing something here and it really is nothing,” Krissoff told The Associated Press in a weekend interview.

Deputy Attorney General Todd Blanche made the request Friday, asking judges to unseal transcripts from grand jury proceedings that resulted in indictments against Epstein and Maxwell, saying “transparency to the American public is of the utmost importance to this Administration.”

The request came as the administration sought to contain the firestorm that followed its announcement that it would not release more files from the Epstein probe despite previously promising that it would.

Epstein killed himself at age 66 in his federal jail cell in August 2019, a month after his arrest on sex trafficking charges, while Maxwell, 63, is serving a 20-year prison sentence imposed after her December 2021 sex trafficking conviction for luring girls to be sexually abused by Epstein.

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