



# FREE Sample Fridays

10:30 am – 2:30 pm

STORE HOURS: Monday - Friday 9AM - 5:30PM & Saturday 9AM - 5PM • 405 Wesley Parkway • Sioux City • (712) 258-7790



The voice of Siouxland. Print, online and mobile.

# Sioux City Journal

Founded in 1864

Thursday, September 18, 2025

WHERE YOUR STORY LIVES

siouxcityjournal.com

IOWA BOARD OF REGENTS

## Universities ordered to investigate Kirk comments

VANESSA MILLER  
The Gazette

CEDAR FALLS, Iowa — Shy of firing university employees who made inflammatory comments following the fatal shooting of conservative influencer Charlie Kirk last week, Iowa’s Board of Regents on Wednesday

directed its three public campuses to launch immediate investigations into any employee accused of violating their social media policy. The directive — which received unanimous support from the nine regents — set a two-week deadline for the campus

investigations, also mandating the universities place on administrative leave or remove from the classroom any employees under investigation. The universities did not immediately provide a number of employees under investigation on each of the campuses.

But the regent directive authorized the institutions to “take immediate action up to and including termination” against any employee found to have committed a violation. The board also authorized the

Please see **KIRK**, Page A3

## GET-UPS FOR A GOOD CAUSE



CAITLIN YAMADA, SIOUX CITY JOURNAL

Sydney Brown, 27, displays an angel costume while working a shift at the Love’s Travel Stop in Le Mars, Iowa on Sept. 12. Brown wears the costumes as a way to raise money for the Children’s Miracle Network.

## Why a Le Mars woman has been wearing a costume to work

JARED MCNETT  
jmcnett@siouxcityjournal.com

LE MARS, Iowa — Sydney Brown wears costumes so often to work in September that it’s become something of a shock for Love’s Travel Stop customers and employees when she isn’t sporting custom attire while on the clock. “The one day I didn’t wear my costume I literally had truckers and my employees be like: What? And so now if I miss a day, I get crap for it,” she joked. Just this month, Brown, 27, has been Mike Wazowski from “Monster’s Inc.,” Kansas Chief quarterback Patrick Mahomes, Cindy Lou Who from “How the Grinch Stole Christmas,” and Patrick Star from “Spongebob SquarePants.” Last year, when she started the tradition, it was the Grinch himself. She also had a costume made entirely out of duct tape. On the surface, Brown’s efforts are a part of a fundraising push that Love’s Travel Stop does each September for the Children’s Mir-

acle Network, a charity that raises money for children’s hospitals in the United States and Canada. But it goes deeper than that for her. “I wanted to bring awareness for the Children’s Miracle Network because I have a cousin who passed away three years ago and he had Duchenne muscular dystrophy. And he’s my huge reason for why I do what I do. Huge reason,” Brown said. Brown’s cousin, Chance Pick, passed away from the neuromuscular disorder when he was 20. There are more than 30 types of muscular dystrophy, according to the Cleveland Clinic, and all of the different types combined affect about 16 to 25 per 100,000 people in the United States. Duchenne is the most common and affects the heart and lungs as it progresses. Since his death, Brown has worn a bracelet with his name spelled out in beads and gotten a tattoo that’s in his handwriting. As a kid, Brown would watch the Jerry Lewis

Please see **COSTUME**, Page A3

### WOODBURY COUNTY LAW ENFORCEMENT CENTER

## Ung suggests Nelson for county jail mediation

CAITLIN YAMADA  
cyamada@siouxcityjournal.com

SIOUX CITY — Woodbury County Supervisor Matthew Ung has proposed a way for fellow supervisor Mark Nelson to attend mediation for the Woodbury County Law Enforcement Center project. Ung suggests Nelson, supervisor and LEC Authority member, step down from the LEC Authority temporarily, so he can serve as the supervisor’s representative in mediation. Nelson said he was supportive of the idea. “He is currently the best positioned supervisor to represent at mediation,” Ung wrote in a letter to the board.



Ung



Nelson

Please see **MEDIATION**, Page A4

## IOWA'S POLITICAL SHIFT

A series looking at how Iowa’s political landscape has changed since 2012.

## ‘A microcosm of the whole state’

Meet one of the only Iowa counties that shifted toward Democrats in the last 12 years

MAYA MARCHEL HOFF  
Lee-Gazette Des Moines Bureau

Madonna Johnson remembers driving through mostly farmland from West Des Moines to Waukee to drop her daughter off at dance class. That was 20 years ago. Today, the former two-lane Hickman

Please see **SHIFT**, Page A4

### The Mini

“We’ve got a friend here, she’s had a little trouble recently. You’ve probably heard about it .... she needs our love.” Quote Bing Crosby on his radio show after Judy Garland’s second suicide attempt. The radio audience went crazy. Today we have a grieving widow of a political figure who was assassinated. Where is Bing Crosby?

- DONALD C. PARSONS, SIOUX CITY

### GET THE FULL BENEFITS OF YOUR SUBSCRIPTION!

**Weather**  
Thunderstorms  
**High 74 • Low 57**  
FORECAST • A12

Activate your digital account to get updated stories, videos, and hundreds of additional puzzles and comics. Visit [siouxcityjournal.com/activate](https://siouxcityjournal.com/activate) and download our app for the E-edition and breaking news on the go!

Inside	
Weather	A12
Sports	C1
Comics	D3, D5
Obituaries	C10
Nation	B1
Stocks	A8

