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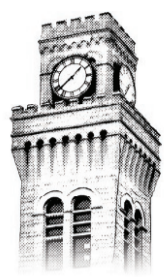
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THE BRIGHT SIDE

COMBAT VETERANS SHARE THEIR STORIES



TIM HYNDS, SIOUX CITY JOURNAL

Retired U.S. Army Col. John Mansfield holds a shadow box with his military ribbons and insignia at his Sioux City home. Mansfield received two Purple Heart medals for injuries received while serving in Vietnam and will be Iowa's honoree later this month at the national Purple Heart Patriot Project in New York, an event that honors Purple Heart veterans from all 50 states.

Sioux City Purple Heart recipient honored to meet other wounded vets

SIOUX CITY — When combat veterans share their experiences with one another, their individual stories might be different, but very similar at the same time.

It doesn't matter if they served in Vietnam, as Sioux City native John Mansfield did, or more recent military actions in Iraq or Afghanistan. They were all on that "tip of

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the spear," as Mansfield calls it, experiencing similar fears while trying to carry out their missions.

"It's still nasty, dirty, crappy — it's not a pretty job. War is just a miserable, terrible job when you're at that level," said Mansfield, an Army veteran who was wounded twice in about a week's time in Vietnam in 1968.

When he travels to New York later this month as Iowa's honoree at the 2026 Purple Heart Patriot Project, a multi-day event honoring veterans who were wounded in combat, he expects he'll hear stories from

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IOWA LEGISLATURE Lawmakers consider AI to analyze local budgets

Reynolds hesitant to give multimillion dollar contract to AI firm

MAYA MARCHEL HOFF
Lee-Gazette Des Moines Bureau

DES MOINES — Iowa House lawmakers are mulling a multi-million dollar contract with a technology company to use artificial intelligence for analyzing local government and school district budgets across the state as they look for ways to cut government spending while vowing to implement property tax reform this session.

The capabilities of the technology were laid out during a House Government Oversight Committee meeting on Tuesday, where lawmakers heard from Mark Welch of Tyler Technologies, which takes publicly accessible budget data and organizes it using AI through "priority-based" budgeting to allow spending comparisons between local governments and entities.

"We're able to go in and see, where's our process overlap? What are the services that we're providing? We have a lot of overlap, where are those opportunities to make improvements?" Welch told lawmakers.

House Speaker Pat Grassley, R-New Hartford, said he believes the company would provide lawmakers with



Reynolds



Grassley

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Pillen signs budget into law; no line-item vetoes

ANNA KLEIBER
Lincoln Journal Star

After numerous battles in the Legislature over how to tackle the state's \$646 million deficit, Gov. Jim Pillen signed the mid-biennium budget adjustment package into law Tuesday with no line-item vetoes.

While budget bills are the only type of legislation the governor has the power to line-item veto, Pillen opted not to file any on the main budget bill (LB1071) and the cash funds transfer bill (LB1072) this session. Tuesday was the deadline for Pillen to file line-item vetoes on the budget bills.

In a written statement, Pillen thanked Appropriations Chair Robert Clements of Elmwood and the



Pillen

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County waives permit fees for victims of grassfire

CAITLIN YAMADA
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SIOUX CITY — Property owners impacted by the massive grassfire last month will not have to pay the fees for obtaining a county building permit for repair, reconstruction or redevelopment.

The Woodbury County Board of Supervisors on Tuesday unanimously approved the

move to reduce the financial hardships of the victims.

"A lot of the people that lost out buildings were acreage owners and so these building permits and the fees absolutely apply to them," board chair Mark Nelson said.

On March 28, a grass and field fire scorched roughly

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TIM HYNDS, SIOUX CITY JOURNAL

A charred fence post along Emmet Avenue at 170th Street south of Lawton is shown March 30.

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The Mini

The time has come to bring back to Congress the "loyal opposition" used to describe the party not in control that was ready to help to fight for the right thing with respect and civility without the use of crude language going on today. - **DON MILLER, SIOUX CITY**

Weather

Cooler, p.m. rain
High 55 • Low 31
Forecast • A12

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