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Celebrating freedom



TIM HYNDS, SIOUX CITY JOURNAL

Monique Scarlett, President of the Sioux City Chapter of the NAACP, displays a Juneteenth banner during an interview at the Sanford Center. The annual celebration will be held from 5 – 7 p.m. June 19 at the center, 1700 Geneva St. The celebration, open to all community members, will feature food, music, a kids zone, poetry reading and a history exhibit.

Sioux City's Juneteenth event is start of weekend of activities

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SIOUX CITY – Sioux City NAACP President Monique Scarlett carefully unfolds a colorful flag with the creases of the flag. “Celebrate Freedom” in big red letters.

“On July Fourth, America will celebrate freedom on its 250th birthday,” she said, straightening out the creases of the flag. “My ancestors weren’t free in 1776. That didn’t happen until nearly 100 years later.”

Scarlett was talking about an event that occurred on June 19, 1865. This was when enslaved African Americans in Galveston, Texas were finally informed of their freedom – more than two years after the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation.

Juneteenth – a combination of *June* and *nineteenth* – is a federal holiday that celebrates the end of slavery in the United States.

Sioux City’s Juneteenth celebration is taking place from 5 – 7 p.m. Friday at the Sanford Community Center, 1700 Geneva St., with free meals for the first 150 attendees, as a way to commemorate the 150 years anniversary of slavery’s end.

Scarlett said there will also be plenty of strawberry soda for everyone to drink.

“Strawberry soda has come to symbolize the blood, pain, and resilience of enslaved people,” she explained. “We drink it as a way to pay tribute to our ancestors.”

In addition to food and refreshments, the Juneteenth celebration includes live entertainment, musical performances, poetry readings, kid activities, a history exhibit as well as a tour of the Sanford Center, which is celebrating its 75th anniversary of offering affordable school-age afterschool and summer programs, ACT Prep and outreach prevention, this weekend.

“Actually, Juneteenth in Sioux City is just the start of an entire weekend of events,” Scarlett explained. “A Sioux City Black

If you go

WHAT: Sioux City NAACP hosting a Juneteenth community event of freedom and unity

WHEN: 5 – 7 p.m. Friday

WHERE: Sanford Community Center, 1700 Geneva St.

THINGS TO EXPECT: Food and refreshments, musical entertainment, kid events, poetry reading and a tour of the Sanford Center on its 75th anniversary

WHAT ELSE IS GOING ON: Sioux City Black Homecoming activities at various locations all weekend long

Homecoming Weekend meet-and-greet will begin at 7 p.m. Friday at the Warrior Hotel, 525 Sixth St.”

Started decades ago, the Sioux City Black Homecoming Weekend welcomes former Sioux Cityans back home for fellowship and celebration.

Sioux City Black Homecoming events will continue with picnics on Saturday at Riverside Park. A more formal program will take place Saturday night at the Warrior.

Scarlett is quick to point out that Juneteenth is not a Black holiday nor is civil rights a Black issue.

“Civil rights is a human issue,” she stressed. “It doesn’t matter what your race, gender, religion, sexual orientation or the color of your skin. This impacts everybody.”

Scarlett takes another glance at the Juneteenth flag.

“The Juneteenth flag is meant to commemorate people who had been enslaved and to celebrate freedom and liberty from

Please see **JUNETEENTH**, Page A2

SIOUX CITY COUNCIL

City to vote on ‘forever chemicals’ settlement

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SIOUX CITY – The Sioux City Council will be asked Monday to approve another settlement statement from 3M totaling \$329,414.82 in connection with a “forever chemicals” class action lawsuit.

The council approved the initial settlement statement from 3M totaling \$378,637.74 on May 12, 2025. The second payment from 3M, which totaled \$863,294.08, was approved by the council on Sept. 8.

“This is the third settlement statement from 3M. The City will receive \$247,040.64 after the Common Benefit Assessment, attorney fees, and litigation expenses are deducted,” council meeting agenda information stated.

The remaining 3M settlement value is expected to be paid annually from 2026 through 2033, with amounts ranging from 2.8% to 6.4%, according to the information.

The city has been working with Cary McDougal, an attorney with Baron & Budd, P.C. to represent the city against manufacturers of PFAS, per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances.

Class action lawsuits were filed nationally against known manufacturers of Aqueous Film-Forming Foam (AFFF) products.

The source of Sioux City’s contamination is the use of firefighting foams at the 185th Air National Guard’s base. PFAS are very difficult to get rid of and experts don’t know the concentration at which these “forever chemicals” are harmful to the human body.

The public water provider claims against 3M and Dupont settled in late 2023 and settlement agreements were eventually approved by the court in

Please see **CHEMICALS**, Page A2

U.S., Iran reach peace deal

PARISA HAFEZI AND PHIL STEWART
Reuters

WASHINGTON – The United States and Iran reached a deal to end their war and will hold an official signing ceremony Friday in Switzerland, Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said on social media early Monday.

The agreement was struck despite an Israeli strike on Lebanon on Sunday that drew criticism from both Iran and President Donald Trump.

The precise terms of the deal were not immediately known. Sharif said the pact called for “the immediate and permanent termination of military operations on all fronts, including in Lebanon.”



Trump

Multiple sources previously told Reuters that the draft deal would reopen the Strait of Hormuz, end the U.S. blockade of Iranian ports and extend a ceasefire, while leaving Iran’s nuclear program to be addressed during a 60-day period of additional talks.

Earlier Sunday, Iranian negotiator Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf said Israel’s latest attack on the southern suburbs of Beirut, which Israel said targeted Iranian-backed Hezbollah militants, showed the United States lacks “the will and ability to fulfill your commitments” in a post on X.

Iran’s foreign ministry said it held the United States responsible for the attack. Iran warned of a “strong response,” and its top joint military command said the “finger (is) on the trigger” ready to fire at the “enemy’s heart.”

In a social media post Sunday, Trump said: “This morning’s attack on Beirut

Please see **IRAN**, Page A3

Lahn, Turek debut at Iowa party conventions

ERIN MURPHY
Gazette Des Moines Bureau

CLIVE, Iowa – Zach Lahn delivered his first major address as Iowa Republicans’ candidate for governor Saturday at the state party convention, calling for party supporters to unify around his campaign.

Shortly after Lahn spoke, his newly selected running mate, Derek Wulf, took the convention floor at Horizon Events Center to deliver his first public remarks since his selection the day prior – and went full attack dog on Democratic candidate Rob Sand.

During his five minutes of remarks, Wulf, a farmer and

state legislator from Hudson, continued and amplified Iowa Republicans’ pushback against Sand’s self-description as a moderate candidate who eschews partisan ideology and political labels. Wulf called Sand “a European underwear model who married a billionaire’s daughter who is now wearing a costume of what he thinks a regular Iowan looks like.”

Those comments refer to a job Sand had during college and his wife, Christine, who is from the Lauridsen family,

Please see **CONVENTIONS**, Page A3



ERIN MURPHY, THE GAZETTE

Iowa Gov. Kim Reynolds, Republican gubernatorial candidate Zach Lahn, and Eastern Iowa U.S. Rep. Ashley Hinson acknowledge state party delegates during the Republican Party of Iowa’s state convention Saturday at Horizon Events Center in Clive.