



Ames football hopes to make great strides on defense in 2025

SPORTS, 1B

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Park may get pedestrian bridge to aid expansion

Celia Brocker
Ames Tribune
USA TODAY NETWORK

A pedestrian bridge may be headed for a popular Ames park, if the city can secure grant funding. Moore Memorial Park, at 3050 Northridge Parkway, is a 90-acre park in north Ames. Though the park is more 40-years-old, there isn't direct access to the 40 acres west of Ioway Creek. The main 50 acres of land is home to a walking trail, a small pond, a shelter and a



Moore Memorial Park is located at 3050 Northridge Parkway. CELIA BROCKER/AMES TRIBUNE

large lookout tower. The City of Ames wants to build a pedestrian bridge over Ioway Creek, that will be roughly 110 feet long and 10 feet wide. Having access to the entire 90 acres of Moore Memorial Park has "long been a goal of the city," City Manager Steve Schainker said in the Ames City Council document. "Constructing a bridge is a critical step in making that goal a reality,"

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Traditional marriage celebration stirs debate

Ottumwa Council set to decide proclamation

Nick El Hajj
Des Moines Register | USA TODAY NETWORK

The poster is simple: a bride and groom at the altar, red roses in the background and two words at the top – FIDELITY and PURITY. It invites residents to decorate their cars and attend a "traditional marriage parade" presented by the "citizens of Ottumwa." The Aug. 23 parade is billed as a public show of support for the "foundational values" of traditional marriage, according to Pastor Travis Decker, the organizer behind the event and a leader at Ottumwa Baptist Temple. "It's not against someone," Decker said. "It's about one good thing." That one thing spiraled into weeks of local controversy, a fight over proclamations and a crowd-packed City Council meeting where applause, boos and shouting turned a routine agenda into a fight over what, and whom, Ottumwa recognizes. "I think it is a dog whistle event," said Olson Miller, a board member of LGBTQ advocacy group Ottumwa Pride. "I think they do not like pride getting recognition, and they feel like this is their way to push back and get back to what they consider the status quo."

Traditional marriage now constitutes a minority group, supporters say

Parade supporters say traditional marriage is increasingly on the decline, including in Ottumwa, and deserves explicit recognition as those in traditional marriages become a minority group. Decker described traditional marriage as one that excludes divorces, infidelity, split living arrangements and anything that doesn't fit the definition of a union that "recognizes that a loving, caring father and mother in the home are married and committed to one another." He said the parade he is helping organize is not affiliated with the church and is not a faith event, but rather a celebration and recognition of "the best way of leading to a strong outcome for good mental health and upbringing for children."

Supporters elaborated on the minority argument during public comment at Ottumwa's last City Council meeting on Aug. 5, where Becker requested a traditional marriage proclamation that the council rejected. Supporter Jo Ellen Pray said at the meeting she believes only 37% of marriages in Ottumwa constitute traditional marriage. Pray further accused the council of not respecting traditional marriage advocates. "I didn't feel treated equal," Pray said. The group knew in advance of the meeting that the city would deny the proclamation but said they were told they could request one after the city recognized Pride Month in June. A city proclamation is a ceremonial statement, typically drafted with the

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MOVING DAY



Iowa State University student volunteers, junior Justin Hunt and freshman Joseph Payton, help move students into Friley Residence Hall. PHOTOS BY NIRMALENDU MAJUMDAR/AMES TRIBUNE

Iowa State University students moved into their various residence halls on Tuesday, Aug. 19 in Ames. Classes for the 2025-2026 academic year begin on Monday, Aug. 25. Head online to www.amestrib.com for more photos.



Iowa State University freshmen, from right, Caroline Cooper and Tasha Sphepanski, get help from Piper Swailes at Helser Residence Hall.



Iowa State University students Motel Leguizamo, left, gets help his brother, junior Pablo Leguizam.

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