



Four Ames area boys wrestlers medal at state

SPORTS, 1B

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Tracy Lehman, who is suing former employer Casey's General Stores for allegedly failing to protect her from a co-worker who was convicted of assaulting her, despite warnings about his behavior. LILY SMITH/THE REGISTER

Former Casey's employee sues company over assault by coworker

William Morris
Des Moines Register
USA TODAY NETWORK

A former Casey's General Stores employee who says she was sexually assaulted by a coworker at a store in Boone is suing the company, alleging it ignored repeated warnings the man was a danger to staff and customers.

Gabriel Wolf, 24, was charged in 2024 with assault through offensive

contact against Tracy Lehman. He was convicted and sentenced to 30 days in jail.

Lehman, whom the Des Moines Register is identifying with her permission, filed a complaint against the company with the Iowa Civil Rights Commission in October 2024. In January, she filed a lawsuit accusing the company of failing to intervene despite what she said were numerous complaints she made about Wolf's behavior prior to the assault.

"I feel like I have to stand up for myself, and stand up for other Casey's employees, because Casey's took away my sense of safety," Lehman said in a statement. "I'm still trying to get it back."

A Casey's spokesperson confirmed that Wolf was terminated in June 2024 and said, "We take the safety of our team members very seriously."

Andrew Heiting-Doane, Lehman's

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Iowa State University graduates celebrate after receiving their diplomas during the university Spring Commencement Ceremony at Hilton Coliseum, May 17, 2025, in Ames. NIRMALENDU MAJUMDAR/AMES TRIBUNE

All-you-can-eat tradition returns as Kiwanis marks 65th Pancake Days

Ronna Faaborg
Ames Tribune
USA TODAY NETWORK

For more than six decades, the Kiwanis clubs of Ames have proven there's no problem a stack of pancakes can't fix.

That tradition continues March 6-7, when Ames Kiwanis Pancake Days returns with its signature all-you-can-eat breakfast and the kind of community charm that has kept people lining up for the past 65 years.

The event is a three-club collaboration among Ames Noon, Town and Country, and Golden K Kiwanis. Members will serve three meals over two days inside the First United Methodist Church fellowship hall.

Tickets are available in advance from any Kiwanis member in Ames as well as at the door. Cost is \$12 for ages 11 and older; \$5 for ages 5-10, and free for children under 5.

The Friday, March 6 supper runs from 4:30 p.m. to 7 p.m., followed by the Saturday, March 7 meal from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. The breakfast includes fluffy pancakes, sausage, scrambled eggs, and juice, milk and coffee.

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Iowa students brace for another tuition hike

How much will they pay?

Celia Brocker
Ames Tribune
USA TODAY NETWORK

The Iowa Board of Regents is considering a tuition hike despite the Iowa Legislature's attempt to freeze similar decisions.

The board is considering a 3% tuition increase for fiscal year 2027 at Iowa State University, the University of Iowa and the University of Northern Iowa (UNI).

Meanwhile, a pair of bills that would freeze tuition for students while they attend state universities is making its way through the Iowa Legislature.

Senate File 2227 and House File 2362 would freeze tuition for resident students entering their first year at a public university, ensuring their payments won't go up in the following years. The freeze would go into effect for students starting their first year of college in 2027 or later.

Both bills were approved by the Senate Education Committee and House Education Committee and head to their respective full chambers for consideration.

The proposed increase will be a topic



A graduation cap is decorated in the theme of "The Very Hungry Caterpillar" at the University of Iowa College of Education commencement ceremony May 15, 2025 at Hancher Auditorium in Iowa City. JULIA HANSEN/IOWA CITY PRESS-CITIZEN

of discussion during the Regents' regular meeting on Thursday, Feb. 26, in Iowa City.

How much is tuition expected to rise in Iowa?

According to Board of Regents documents, the proposed 2026-27 tuition includes a 3% base undergraduate resident increase at each university,

amounting to an additional \$286 at Iowa State, \$287 at UNI, and \$262 at UNI, per year.

Non-residential students at Iowa State would see the largest tuition increase at \$1,286, or 4.5%. Non-residents at the University of Iowa would have the smallest increase at 1.5%, or an extra \$475.

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Kiwanis Club member Don Wishart prepares sausages during Ames Kiwanis Pancake Days in 2019. The Ames clubs celebrate the 65th anniversary of the event in 2026.

AMES TRIBUNE FILE PHOTO

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