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Meghan Sloma speaks April 7 about eminent domain during a rally at the Capitol. ZACH BOYDEN-HOLMES/THE REGISTER

Nine vehicles vandalized with racist graffiti

Celia Brocker
Ames Tribune
USA TODAY NETWORK

The Ames Police Department is investigating a series of vehicle vandalism incidents involving racial slurs and hate symbols.

The local police department has fielded several reports of vandalism over the past few weeks, in which spray paint was used to draw swastikas and racial slurs, including the "n-word," typically on the passenger side of a car. The swastika is often associated with the Nazi Party in Germany.

Reports first started trickling in around March 18, with the most recent coming on Monday, April 6, Ames Police Sgt. Amber Christian said. Nine vehicles have been vandalized with racist and hateful graffiti.

Christian said the incidents appear to be random, and Ames Police don't believe any specific individual or race is being targeted.

Residents have reported vandalism in various neighborhoods across Ames, including the 100 block of Crystal Street near the Ames Municipal Airport, the 200 and 300 blocks of South 5th Street near a handful of apartment complexes, the 1600 block of S. Kellogg Avenue, a few hundred feet from the intersection with S. Duff Ave., and the 2800 block of Grand Avenue across from Walgreens.

Each incident involved vehicles that were parked in "poorly lit areas" and "do not appear to be targeted at the owners," the Ames Police Department noted in a press release.

The vandalism is being investigated as criminal mischief, which is defined by Iowa Code as "any damage, defacing, alteration, or destruction of property when done intentionally by one who has no right to so act."

Ames Police are asking anyone with

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Seeking a solution

Iowa landowners urge Senate eminent domain vote before session ends

Stephen Gruber-Miller
Des Moines Register
USA TODAY NETWORK

As Iowa's legislative session enters what could be its final weeks, landowners are putting pressure on Senate Republican leaders to hold a vote on legislation restricting eminent domain for carbon pipelines.

Several dozen Iowa landowners stood outside Senate Majority Leader Mike Klimesh's office on Tuesday, April 7, holding up dominoes printed with words such as "Constitution," "American Dream" and "democracy."

Those values, they said, all are at risk if Iowa allows eminent domain for a private company seeking to build a carbon-capture

pipeline across Iowa.

"Fundamental property rights must be protected," said Meghan Sloma, a landowner from Sioux County. "If eminent domain is allowed in the case of CO2 pipelines, which is a private company doing a private project for private gain, the dominoes will begin to fall."

At the center of the dispute is Summit Carbon Solutions' proposed multi-billion dollar carbon-capture pipeline that would cross Iowa and other states.

The subject has divided Senate Republicans. Last year, a group of GOP senators joined with Democrats to force the passage of a wide-ranging bill that reached Gov. Kim

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Pediatric cancer research may get up to \$3M boost

Marissa Payne
Des Moines Register
USA TODAY NETWORK

At 16 years old, Isabelle Ireland was diagnosed with a rare form of ovarian cancer and given a 10% chance of survival.

But Ireland defied those odds to graduate in the fall from the University of Iowa — finishing her college career at the same place where she was a patient.

She received treatment at the UI Stead Family Children's Hospital from September 2020 until May 2021 after being diagnosed with small-cell carcinoma of the ovary, hypercalcemic type.

"While I'm so incredibly grateful to live each and every day, one, my family had to sacrifice so much to just fight for the treatments that saved my life," Ireland said. "The treatment plans that were in place were only created a couple years before I was diagnosed. So if it

wasn't for research and just medical leaders in other states who were able to give that information to our state, I would not be standing here today."

Ireland was among the pediatric cancer survivors and other advocates

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