

ADM

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looked for different buyers or decided to store their grain and sell it in the futures market when prices improve, said Don Roose, president of U.S. Commodities, an ag brokerage in West Des Moines. That means some elevators in the area may need to store more corn on the ground to make room for soybeans that aren't processed, he said.

Landus' Brock Seidl said ADM likely has captured the bulk of this year's harvest. The central Iowa cooperative believes that about 85% of its members' soybean harvest is complete, said Seidl, the business's vice president for grain.

"If this shutdown would have happened two or three weeks ago, we would be looking at a completely different scenario," Seidl said Monday. Elevators like Landus would have been selling train cars filled with soybeans to processors to make room for grain, he said.

"It's impactful, but it's not this huge ripple effect," said Seidl, adding that the large soybean crop also is filling Landus elevator space.

New large soybean crush operations also have opened in recent years in the state — Shell Rock Soy Processing in northeast Iowa's Shell Rock and Platinum Crush in northwest Iowa's Alta. Demand for soybean oil to make renewable diesel and biodiesel is helping drive new operations, with the soybean fed to chickens, hogs and other livestock.

Even with the added capacity, the monthly soybean crush fell to a near three-year low in August as numerous U.S. facilities were idled for seasonal maintenance and repairs ahead of the massive harvest, Reuters reported.

On the Chicago Board of Trade, October soybean futures surged to three-month highs.

Higher prices for soybean is bad news for Iowa pork production, the largest in the nation. Last year, hog farmers experienced the largest losses in nearly three decades. But they're beginning to see some improvements, Hart said. "The losses aren't as deep this year as they were last year ... but we're still in a hole," he said.

ADM did not comment on the reason for the closure. But the company had

agreed to upgrade the Des Moines plant this year to resolve alleged air quality violations under a 2023 consent decree with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources. And in August, firefighters were called to the site for a blaze that was extinguished in about an hour.

In addition to soybean records, both Iowa's and the U.S.'s corn harvest are expected to be the second largest ever, with the state coming in at 2.6 billion bushels, and the nation's total, 15.3 billion bushels. Iowa leads the nation in corn production and is second to Illinois for soybeans, USDA data shows.

Reuters contributed to this story.
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Attack

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their loved ones, of the entire community, of the world. And we gather together in outrage that they remain in captivity. ... We gather to demand their safe return to be the top priority and to say, 'Bring them home.'

Gathered days before Yom Kippur on Oct. 11-12, the holiest day of the Jewish year, Jarad Bernstein, executive director of the Jewish Federation of Greater Des Moines, led the crowd in lighting blue and white electric candles, representing the colors of Israel's flag.

"I don't think we could have imagined that a year after the sudden, horrendous attack by Hamas that so many of the hostages taken that day would still be in captivity, that the war between Israel and its many enemies, including Hamas, Iran and other Iran-controlled terrorist groups, would be ongoing despite the unbearable toll, nor could we have imagined the antisemitism," Bernstein said. "... The Israeli people have demonstrated an indomitable spirit, an extraordinary resilience and an incredible ability to persevere through the most

challenging and painful experiences that human-beings can face."

Fears loom of war in the Middle East

The Israel-Hamas war has persisted despite U.S.-led efforts to negotiate a cease-fire and release of hostages. Biden and other Western leaders fear the conflict could spark a broader war in the Middle East.

Those concerns have mounted after Iran launched a wave of missiles on Israel last week as revenge for Israel's assassination of Hassan Nasrallah, leader of the Iran-backed militant group Hezbollah, an ally of Hamas.

"We're here today, Jewish and non-Jewish alike, to stand in solidarity with Israel and its struggle against Hamas, Hezbollah and other Iranian proxies to remember the lives lost and hostages taken on Oct. 7, to pray for your families and loved ones and to redouble our commitment to condemning antisemitism wherever it's found," Reynolds said.

Republican U.S. Reps. Zach Nunn and Mariannette Miller-Meecks, as well as numerous GOP state lawmakers and officials, also were in attendance Mon-

day.

Iowa's Republican U.S. Sens. Chuck Grassley and Joni Ernst joined all Senate Republicans Monday to make statements condemning Hamas and call for the safe return of American hostages, as well as to affirm U.S. support for "an enduring, prosperous Israel."

Ernst in a statement turned focus to Iran as she called for the White House to "cut off the source of terrorism in Tehran."

"For the past 12 months, the Israeli military has taken necessary actions to preserve its homeland and neutralize the threat of horrific Iran-backed, Hamas terrorism," Grassley said in a statement. "In the face of ongoing Iranian aggression and rising antisemitism, the United States remains unwavering in our resolve to stand with Israel — our strongest ally in the Middle East."

Iowa Republicans have pounced on Democrats for their position on the conflict, looking to drive a wedge with the Jewish voters who historically favor the Democratic Party. Democrats have struggled to thread the needle on the issue as they face pressure on both sides of the aisle, with some detractors urging the party to resoundingly support the Israeli offensive, while others demand a

stop to the killing of innocent Palestinian civilians.

A Des Moines Register/Mediacom Iowa Poll conducted in June found Iowans are divided almost evenly over their views of Israel's actions in its ongoing war with Hamas.

Among all Iowans, 42% say they think the way Israel is carrying out its response to Hamas' Oct. 7 attack is acceptable, while 40% view Israel's response as unacceptable. But the poll showed divisions along party lines over Israel's actions, with 65% of Democrats saying Israel's actions are unacceptable, and 60% of Republicans saying Israel's actions are acceptable.

State Auditor Rob Sand and Iowa Democratic Party Chair Rita Hart were among Democrats who attended the event Monday.

"Today is a day to simply recognize that we're a country that is very compassionate and recognizes that there is no place for the kind of violence that we are remembering today, and that we need to take every opportunity that we can to find a way to get to peace, recognize the incredible sacrifice that so many have made here and that we all look to find a way to get to a peaceful resolution," Hart told the Register.

District 14

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lic schools, safe communities, strong economic opportunities and exceptional quality of life.

Current residence: Waukee

Education: Cum laude from Minnesota State University at Mankato with a bachelor's degree and earned Certified Association Executive (CAE) certification from the American Society of Association Executives.

Occupation: For the



Hanson

past 19 years, I have represented citizens of Dallas County by serving as a county supervisor for the Board of Supervisors. I have also served as executive director for the Iowa Association of Area Agencies on Aging, vice president of membership for the Iowa Association of Business and Industry, and as an association executive with Smith Bucklin in Chicago and Los Angeles.

Political experience and civic activities: I have been a Dallas County supervisor since 2005 and have helped lead the county through extraordinary growth. Dallas County remains one of the fastest-growing, best-managed counties, and the county property tax levy remains among the lowest in the state. I serve on the boards of the Metropolitan Planning Organization, Greater Dallas County Development Alliance, Dallas County Historical Preservation Commission, New Opportunities, and North Raccoon River Watershed Management Coalition. I am a member of Lutheran Church of Hope, serving as a Hope Kids youth leader since 2004.

Who is Sarah Trone Garriott (incumbent)?

Age: 46

Party: Democratic

Where grew up: I grew up in Cloquet, a small papermill town in northern Minnesota.

Current residence: West Des Moines



Trone Garriott

Education: Bachelors of Arts in history from the College of St. Scholastica, a Master of Theological Studies from Harvard Divinity School, and a Master of Divinity from the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago. I completed a year-long clinical pastoral care residency as a hospital chaplain at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital in Philadelphia.

Occupation: I am state senator for

Senate District 14, coordinator of interfaith engagement for the Des Moines Area Religious Council Food Pantry Network, and an ordained minister in the Lutheran Church (ELCA).

Political experience and civic activities: As state senator since 2020, I have served on the following Senate committees: commerce, education, health and human services (ranking member), natural resources and environment, rules and administration. I am not a career politician, but stepped up as an active community member, nonprofit and faith community leader, and parent of two public school students.

What would be your top issue should you be elected?

Hanson: Iowans can count on me to work hard on issues that people care about. My top priority is helping Iowa families and ensuring the state continues to provide a promising future for the next generation. I will advocate for policies to strengthen Iowa's educational system, economy and way of life. We need to ensure our public schools are strong, teachers valued, tax burdens reduced, communities safe, improved access to health care, mental and behavioral health services and step up support for Iowa seniors. Most importantly, I will listen to all Iowans, deliver on their priorities and serve as their voice.

Trone Garriott: As state senator it's my number one priority to make sure Iowans have a voice in their state government. I am known for being present and accessible: I knock doors year-round, show up in the community, respond to emails, and answer my phone. Through social media, my legislative newsletter, and the local press I am transparent about the ins and outs of the legislative session and how Iowans can have an active role. When Iowans share their stories and concerns I take it to heart and bring them in to the legislative process. Legislation that comes from the people serves our state best.

What policies would you support to improve the education system?

Hanson: Education is the bedrock of our communities and the cornerstone of a thriving economy. As the son of public school educators, I care deeply about the quality of education in Iowa and believe supporting our public schools is paramount for the betterment of all students and communities. I will champion education through supporting policies to reduce class sizes, improve student achievement, reward teachers with competitive salaries and ensure students in Iowa have the best opportunity in the nation to learn and thrive.

Trone Garriott: As state senator I have demonstrated my commitment to public education in policy and action. I have advocated to fully fund our public schools, education policy that respects the expertise of our educators, investments in pre-K education and quality, affordable early childhood care/education, affordable post-secondary education, and job training. When another senator accused teachers as having a "sinister agenda," I moved districts so I could run against him and defeat him. When the governor pushed private school vouchers and dismantled the Area Education Agencies, I listened to the people of Iowa and stood up for their concerns at every opportunity.

What do you think Iowa's tax policy should be? Do you believe the state's priority should be on lowering rates or spending on services for Iowans?

Hanson: As a state, we must continue looking for ways to help Iowa's working families and give Iowans tax relief, while also advancing policies that create jobs, foster quality schools, create better access to mental health services and support public safety and law enforcement. I am committed to common sense leadership and policies that ensure Iowa is the best place to live, work and raise a family. We must make Iowa more competitive by enacting property tax reform to keep families in the state, as well as attract new businesses to either start or relocate here.

Trone Garriott: The state's priority should be focusing on tax policy that benefits the largest number of Iowans. While the wealthy and corporations have seen great benefits, working families like mine haven't seen any noticeable benefit of recent state tax policies. We see our local schools struggling, roads and bridges falling apart, public safety understaffed, rivers and lakes untouchable, and costs for everything from food to housing to health care increasing. Meanwhile the tax burden is getting shifted to property taxes: this spring residents of Dallas County were shocked when the supervisors significantly increased county property taxes for the coming year.

What policies would you support to improve school safety in Iowa?

Hanson: I will prioritize school safety and work toward additional measures to address security. This includes policies for greater mental health support, building upgrades, threat assessment, safety plans and incident command drills. I encourage continued taskforce collaboration between educators, lead-

ers, parents, law enforcement, Iowa Department of Public Safety, Department of Education and Homeland Security/Emergency Management to further improve safety and security standards. Nothing is more important than students and teachers having safe learning and work environments. One of our constitutional mandates is the safety and security of people, and I will work to enhance this however possible.

Trone Garriott: As state senator I have advocated for policies that bring mental health resources into schools, increase the number of caring, skilled adults in the building, and provide quality early childhood education that is demonstrated to improve social/behavioral/mental health outcomes long-term. We can prevent violence if we have the resources to identify and intervene before it's too late. With nearly \$3 billion in surplus, our state has the resources to lower class sizes, bring more mental health support into public school buildings, and provide kids the support they need in their early years.

Iowa's six-week "fetal heartbeat" abortion ban is now in effect. What next steps do you believe the Iowa Legislature should take when it comes to abortion?

Hanson: The Legislature will need to listen, learn and evaluate the impact of this new law on the lives of women, families and health care providers. This is a sensitive and deeply personal issue for many — one that requires compassion and a balanced approach that upholds the rights of women but also recognizes the value of human life. I believe the best approach encompasses exceptions for women who are faced with heartbreaking decisions, makes IVF treatments available, expands access to women's health care information, services and contraceptives and enhances the quality and availability of prenatal care services.

Trone Garriott: The Republican majority in the Iowa Legislature needs to do this year what they did not do before: listen to the public and health care providers, and respect our rights. These politicians forced themselves into deeply personal, private health care decisions, banning abortion before most even know they are pregnant. This abortion ban does not use accurate medical terms and leaves physicians without guidance as to when they are allowed to intervene to save lives and prevent harm. Iowa already has the fewest OB-GYNs per capita in the nation, and our infant and maternal mortality is increasing. Extreme abortion bans like this have been demonstrated to only make these problems worse.