

1965: TV personality came to Dubuque **2A**

AI images target Cascade students **2A**

Senior High School play preview **7A**

TELEGRAPH HERALD

THURSDAY

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Saints flip script on Madison **1B**

WEATHER: HIGH 74° LOW 53° MOSTLY CLOUDY, 8B

City Council debates water rate

Dubuque officials consider needed improvements as they eye 9% fee increases.

BY CHRIS GRAY
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The water tower atop Dubuque's Eagle Point Park, which has loomed over the Mississippi River for decades as a beacon for river traffic, will be coming down.

At a budget hearing Tuesday,

Director Chris Lester said his Water Department would shift almost \$100,000 from other projects to cover the deconstruction by the end of the year in response to citizens' complaints about the aging and obsolete tower.

"I think our citizens will be very pleased with that plan," Council Member Katy Wethal said.

The city Water Department has requested a nearly \$14.2 million budget



Katy Wethal

for fiscal year 2026, including a 9% spike in water fees, which would raise an estimated \$1.6 million.

The increase is driven in part by the city's attempt to mitigate the public health hazard of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, otherwise known as PFAS or forever chemicals, which might be linked to health problems for humans and animals.

Testing showed PFAS contamination above federal limits in the city's shallow alluvial wells along the Mississippi River, and the chosen partial solution is to dig



Brad Cavanagh

an additional deep-water well at an estimated cost of \$4.4 million.

"It drives me up the wall that we are in charge of mitigation of PFAS in our drinking water," Mayor Brad Cavanagh said. "We did not put PFAS in our drinking water."

The water system is also burdened with another public health hazard: lead service lines, which were installed in homes in Dubuque until 1945.

The city is embarking on a project with federal and state partners to replace 585 lead service lines over the next three years, focusing on the North End and Point neighborhoods. But the city has about 6,000 lead service lines — all of which must be removed in 10 years under a regulation enacted by former President Joe Biden last fall.

"This is going to be a future problem, and we're going to have to do

See **BUDGET, PAGE 3A**



DAVE KETTERING • Telegraph Herald

A farmstead west of Dubuque sits atop a hill Wednesday. Upcoming rain could impact area farmers' planting season.

Tariffs, rain influencing outlook for area crops

Farmers concerned but optimistic for season

BY KONRAD STRZALKA
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With planting season in full swing, area crop farmers said they have a mixed outlook on 2025.

Input costs remain high, and projected commodity prices continue to steadily decline, farmers said. Some, however, expressed optimism that President Donald Trump's tariffs, while causing temporary uncertainty, could be beneficial if they

bring countries that previously enacted tariffs on American agricultural products to the negotiating table.

CORN, SOYBEAN PRICES LOW

U.S. Department of Agriculture projections released earlier this year forecast a season-average corn price of \$4.20 per bushel and a season-average soybean price of \$10 per bushel. Both numbers are

See **CROPS, PAGE 3A**

Julien Dubuque international film festival

Oscar-winning Dubuque native's film documents impact of plastics

A special screening of 'Tainted Love' will be held on Sunday.

BY MEGAN GLOSS
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Louie Psihoyos is on a mission to change the world, one film at a time.

"Like everything I've worked on in the past, I like to take a different subject and try to approach it in a meaningful, but entertaining way," said the 68-year-old documentary filmmaker, photographer and environmentalist. "The goal is not only to shed light on an issue impacting

the Earth, but to hopefully change things."

Psihoyos will be present for a special screening of his latest documentary, "Tainted Love," to help close this year's Julien Dubuque International Film Festival.

The event will take place at 7:30 p.m. Sunday, April 27, at Five Flags Theater, 405 Main St.

A native of Dubuque, Psihoyos was a teenager when he got his start as a

See **PREVIEW, PAGE 3A**



Louie Psihoyos



Glimpse from Grand

The Dubuque County Courthouse is framed through the window of The Grand Opera House on Monday.

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Durbin won't seek reelection in 2026 **15A**



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CLEAN OUT YOUR MEDICINE CABINET

Saturday, April 26 | 10 AM to 2 PM

Dubuque Fire Training Facility
14928 Public Safety Way, Dubuque, IA

FOR YOUR SAFETY AND YOUR PRIVACY

- 1) Keep all substances in their original containers, if possible.
- 2) All liquid containers must be sealed in leak proof clear plastic bags.
- 3) Mark out any identifying information on prescription bottles.
- 4) Unidentified medications will be accepted—NO QUESTIONS ASKED

WE WILL ACCEPT:

- 1) Prescription and over the counter medications including vitamins, supplements, and herbals
- 2) Needles, sharps, syringes with needles in puncture proof containers
- 3) Medication samples
- 4) Hydrogen Peroxide
- 5) Vape Pens/E-Cigarettes with Batteries Removed

WE CANNOT ACCEPT:

- 1) Bloody or Infectious Waste
- 2) Inhalers and Thermometers
- 3) Cleaning Products or Glass

Project Planning Partners:

Dubuque Drug Task Force
DEA Diversion Program
DMASWA

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