Opinion

Week 4 marred by Graber death

By Iowa Rep. Dean Fisher

Week 4 of the session was marked with sorrow and reflection as we mourned the loss of one of our House colleagues, Rep. Martin Graber.

Graber was not only a beloved husband and



Dean Fisher

a 32-year veteran of the Iowa National Guard, retiring as a Brigadier

father,

but also

General. He was elected to the Iowa House in 2020.

The House canceled session Tuesday so that members could attend his funeral in Fort Madison. Graber was a strong Christian man. The church where the funeral was held started out in the Graber's home many years ago, and the Graber's were instrumental in building the beautiful church the congregation occupies

On Wednesday, the Iowa House's new Higher Education committee passed a bill, House Study Bill 53, to prohibit the Regent institutions in Iowa from requiring students to enroll in courses related to DEI

or critical race theory. The bill does not

eliminate the existence of some of these courses, and there are exemptions if the program is directly related to racial, ethnic or gender studies. However, it eliminates the requirement for these courses if the degree the student is in pursuit of is completely unrelated.

For example, right now all Iowa State University undergraduate students are required to take a course in "U.S. Cultures and Communities," a seemingly innocuous title. However, ISU's website states that the students in this course will be inculcated into discredited "Woke" concepts dealing with race, gender identity,

These concepts are dogmatic, liberal social beliefs that are contrary to the common sense and decency that most Iowans support. These concepts have nothing to do with preparing our college students for the real world.

The Regents were registered in favor of the bill, but that didn't stop the Democrats in committee from voting against this commonsense legislation.

For several sessions, Iowa House Republicans have been interested in taking action to protect our local pharmacies facing unfair practices from Pharmacy Benefit Managers, the middlemen known as PBMs.

House Study Bill 99 is aimed at further protecting our local pharmacies. We are seeing rural pharmacies close at an alarming rate; 29 Iowa pharmacies closed in 2024, and more than 150 Iowa pharmacies have closed over the past decade.

Without local pharmacies, Iowa families and older Iowans have a harder time accessing the care they deserve. This bill includes several regulations on PBMs in Iowa, including requiring the PBMs to reimburse pharmacies based on acquisition cost instead of an amount set by the PBM.

This bill passed subcommittee in the Iowa House this week. It is likely not in its final form, and we will continue to seek input as this bill makes its way through the legislative process.

As always, I look forward to seeing you at the Capitol, or in the district.

CLASSIFIEDS

LEGAL NOTICES

BROOKLYN, IOWA

BROOKLYN, IOWA
February 6, 2025
The Board of Trustees of Brooklyn
Municipal Utilities met in regular session
at the utility office. The roll called
showing Craig Kuntz, Pat Coleman and
Mary Jo Upah present. The minutes of
January 8, 2025 meeting were read and
upon motion by Upah and second by
Coleman were approved as read. The
manager's reports were reviewed and
upon motion by Upah and second by
Coleman were approved. Upon motion
by Upah and second by Coleman the
following bills were allowed and paid
from the General Fund.
Treasurer State of lowa sales, option,
use tax \$ 6,041.01
Employee Jan wages \$ 21,736.90
Treasurer State of lowa state w/h
\$ 762.66
IPERS w/h \$ 4,272.14
EFTPS federal w/h \$ 6,912.66
Clayton Energy Jan reservation
\$ 19,802.47
Clavton Energy December commodity
\$ 35,767.22
Simeca December Power bill \$ 57,393.86
IAMU training, energizers \$ 3,027.50
City of Brooklyn expenses pd by city
\$ 240.93
Audas Sanitation dumpster rent \$ 64.84
Brooklyn Telecommunications phone,

\$240.93
Audas Sanitation dumpster rent \$ 64.84
Brooklyn Telecommunications phone,
internet \$ 364.35
Yan Wert supplies \$ 409.46
Paradigm Alliance program \$ 975.00
Advantage Administrators fees \$ 50.00
Intercounty Cable cable \$ 104.50
One Call emails \$.90
Visa training, supplies \$ 1,091.57
USPS postage \$ 475.15
Fletcher-Reinhardt supplies \$ 4,932.37
DGR Engineering services \$ 1,897.00
Quill supplies \$ 90.27
Halls Feed & Seed supplies \$ 24.08
WMPF Group ad \$ 47.88
Brooklyn Utilities gas, water, sewer
\$ 932.83

\$ 932.83 Meeting adjourned.

Troy Meldrem, Board Secretary

February 3, 2025
The Poweshiek County Board of Supervisors met in regular session at 8:30 a.m. Members present Jason Roudabush, Jacki Bolen, and Jeff Tindle.

Tindle.

Moved by Roudabush, 2nd by Bolen to approve agenda. 3 ayes. Motion carried.

Moved by Bolen, 2nd by Roudabush to approve January 30, 2025 board minutes. 3 ayes. Motion carried.

Moved by Roudabush, 2nd by Bolen to approve Resolution #2025-21 a transfer from Poweshiek County Urban Renewal #4 to Secondary Road Fund. 3 ayes.

Motion carried.

RESOLUTION #2025-21

WHEREAS certain debt was created by an internal loan advance for Poweshiek County Urban Renewal #4 — Road Improvements in the amount of \$1,329,702,
WHEREAS TIF tax dollars have been

WHEREAS TIF tax dollars have been collected within the Urban Renewal Area in an amount to pay back one-half the internal loan advance (5664,851), BE IT RESOLVED this 3 day of February 2025 to approve the following fund transfer for FY25 as follows:

• Poweshiek County Urban Renewal #4 to Secondary Road 5664,851 FURTHER, the Poweshiek County Board of Supervisors directs the Poweshiek County Auditor to transfer the amount above in the county financial system.

the amount above in the county financial system.
Dated this 3 day of February 2025.
POWESHIEK COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
Jeff Tindle, Chairman
Jason Roudabush, Vice-Chairman
Jacki Bolen, Member
Aftest: Melissa Eilander, Poweshiek
County Auditor
Moved by Bolen, 2nd by Roudabush to approve Resolution #2025-22 a transfer from General Basic — Other (ARPA Fund) to General Basic. 3 ayes. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION #2025-22

RESOLUTION #2025-22
FUND TRANSFER
WHEREAS, on March 11, 2021,
President Biden signed the 109 trilliondollar American Rescue Plan Act and,
WHEREAS, Poweshiek County applied
for and was awarded American Rescue
Plan Act funds totaling \$3,594,185.
WHEREAS, the Poweshiek County
Board of Supervisors classified
\$2,694,185 of American Rescue Plan Act
funds as lost revenue on April 25, 2022
pursuant to the final rule on State and
Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF)
issued by the U.S. Department of
Treasury.

Treasury.
WHEREAS, per guidance received by the National Association of Counties and US Treasury on December 18, 2024, projects not under signed contracts by December 31, 2024 need to be de-obligated and re-assigned.
WHEREAS, per guidance received by the National Association of Counties and

the National Association of Counties and US Treasury on December 18, 2024, an estimation of future wages to be paid to positions created on or before December 31, 2024 satisfies the requirement of obligating funding. WHEREAS, Resolution #2025-14 was passed and adopted on December 30, 2024 allowing for IT Director wages to be paid using ARPA funds in the amount of \$4,009.68.

WHEREAS, the wages have been paid to the IT Director as of January 31, 2025 and transfer from ARPA fund to General Basic fund should be

completed.

BE IT RESOLVED to approve the following fund transfer for FY25 as following: follows:
• Fund 0006 Other General – ARPA to

• Fund 0006 Other General – ARPA to Fund 0001 General Basic \$4,009.68 FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED, the Poweshiek County Board of Supervisors directs the Poweshiek County Auditor to transfer the amount above in the county financial system.

Dated this 3 day of February 2025. POWESHIEK COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS Jeff Tindle, Chairman Jason Roudabush, Vice-Chairman Jacki Bolen, Member Attest: Melissa Eilander, Poweshiek

Melissa Eilander, Poweshiek County Audito

Board held FY26 budget workshop reviewing all departmental requests. 1:28 p.m. Moved by Roudabush, 2nd by Bolen to adjourn. 3 ayes. Motion carried. Melissa Eilander Poweshiek County Auditor

Jeff Tindle, Chairman

February 6, 2025
The Poweshiek County Board of
Supervisors met in regular session at
8:30 a.m. Members present Jason
Roudabush, Jacki Bolen, and Jeff

Moved by Bolen, 2nd by Roudabush to approve agenda. 3 ayes. Motion carried. Moved by Roudabush, 2nd by Bolen to approve February 3, 2025, board minutes. 3 ayes. Motion carried.

Matt Maschmann, Sheriff, and Steve Kivi, Chief Deputy, met with the board to discuss the sheriff department's FY26 to discuss the sherrif department's FY26 budget request in more detail. Sheriff Maschmann also provided the board with an updated 28E Agreement for law enforcement services with the City of Montezuma. Sheriff Maschmann stated Montezuma. Sneritt Mascnmann stated City of Montezuma had approved the 28E Agreement and it now needs board approval. Moved by Bolen, 2nd by Roudabush to approve 28E Agreement between Poweshiek County Sheriff's Office and City of Montezuma for law enforcement services. 3 ayes. Motion 8:54 a.m. Simone Bates, The Record

8:54 a.m. Simone Bates, The Record ioined the meeting Dan Nieland, Pow I-80 provided the board with information on Pow I-80 budget information, strategic business plan, and highlights of initiatives. Some initiatives Nieland is working on include:

• ISU Cy-Biz Labs Study of Entrepreneurship in Poweshiek County

• Downtown assessments

• IEDA grant for a local producer.

IEDA grant for a local producer
 Resource for Davis Elementary

 Resource for Davis Elementary adaptive reuse
 Work with small business on grant funds for business expansion
 Updating LOIS site (sites & buildings for sale/lease in Poweshiek County)
 Working with Poweshiek County resident on business plan for outstrainment years. entertainment venue

Responding to requests for information

information

• Working on branding/rebranding
Nieland stated the Pow I-80 annual
meeting is set for April 15, 2025. The
mission of Pow I-80 is to foster strategic
economic growth county-wide by
leveraging partnerships and programs
that will create a vibrant economy for
the benefit of regional businesses and
residents alike. residents alike. Brian Paul, EMA Director, discussed

Brian Paul, EMA Director, discussed the county-wide radio project and some items paid by E911 during the project that were mistakenly left off the original project cost. Paul stated E911 purchased 179 desktop pager chargers and 21 bank radio chargers, which are capable of charging multiple pagers at one time. These items were listed in the one time. These items were listed in the project but not included in the total project cost and noted as a possible separate purchase. Since these charges for pagers fall under the radio project, Paul is asking the county to reimburse E911 this cost from the radio project funds. The amount totals \$32,311.68. Board felt the chargers for the pagers did fall under the radio project and will place this on agenda at next board meeting to consider for approval the reimbursement from radio project fund to E911. Paul provided information to the board

to E911. Paul provided information to the board regarding installing an outdoor warning siren at Diamond Lake. This project would add a single siren at Diamond Lake to increase the warning of impending weather threats, specifically tornados and high winds, to visitors of the lake. Paul provided 2 different possible locations for the siren at the lake and advised which he felt would be the best location for the best coverage of the area at the lake/park. Paul estimated the cost of this project to be no more than \$42,000 and is requesting to utilize part of the remaining radio project funds. The board felt this project also was within the lines of the radio project as the project included a full system upgrade to 17 sirens across the county. The board stated this would be on the agenda at the next meeting to consider for approval.

Bart Klaver was scheduled to meet with the board but had to reschedule for the pext board meeting.

the board but had to reschedule for the next board meeting. The board joined a Zoom meeting with a

representative of TextMyGov.
TextMyGov is a 2-way smart texting tool. Bolen liked the idea of this tool but didn't feel it would be a fit for the county. Roudabush and Tindle agreed. Moved by Roudabush, 2nd by Bolen to approve the following claim:
Visa Goods \$1,086.67

3 ayes. Motion carried. Roudabush stated he has an Iowa

Bolen stated she attended the Food Bolen stated she attended the Food Coalition meeting in Grinnell this week. The board stated they will attend the Farm Bureau legislative forum, which will be held on Saturday, February 8, at 9:00 a.m. at the Brooklyn Ruritan bubbleties. building.
Bolen shared a couple of complaints she

Bolen shared a couple of complaints she has received from residents of Poweshiek County regarding the driver's license office. One complaint was that the office is closed frequently, and the resident felt it should be open as it is considered a full-time office. Another was an individual who was told everyone needed an appointment so the individual tried to make an appointment for their child to get permit for a date in April but was told she would need to call back closer to April as they don't schedule out that far. Another complaint screaule out that far. Another complaint was from an individual that was fold over the phone they did not need an appointment for a renewal so she came for a renewal but was told she needed an appointment so had to travel back to an appointment so had to travel back to Grinnell and come another day for scheduled appointment. According to lowa Code, the Board of Supervisors does not have control over the hours of the driver's license office and that is the recognitibility of the closted official. responsibility of the elected official, Treasurer. Individuals with comments

on this office should direct them to the elected official, Treasurer, in charge. Board mentioned in a meeting with Treasurer in January to please keep the driver's license office open during courthouse hours.

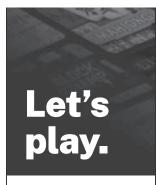
12:08 p.m. Moved by Bolen, 2nd by Roudabush to adjourn. 3 ayes. Motion Melissa Eilander,

Poweshiek County Auditor Jeff Tindle, Chairman

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use your tax refund Your first priority spending the money is for your refund may be irreversible. However, AMES — Iowans who to pay off any problem if you save a large por-

Plan now how to

Iowa State University Extension

are expecting a sizable income tax refund have choices about how to use up is important. If you that money, says Barb Wollan, a human sciences specialist with Iowa State University Extension and Outreach.

'Keep in mind that how you use your refund will affect your household's financial well-being all year long. However, before you receive vour refund, consider how much money to pay for tax prepara-

tion," said Wollan. If your income is below about \$67,000 per year, you may be eligible for free tax preparation through the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program. Some ISU Extension and Outreach county offices are also VITA sites and a list of these VITA sites is available online.

If your income is below \$84,000, you can use VITA's free doit-yourself software. Learn more by emailing centraliowavita@gmail. com; an auto reply will provide you with the link and instructions.

As with any type of income, you have three main choices for how to use your tax refund: spend, save or pay off debt.

Saving substantially from the tax refund may be overlooked when immediate needs and wants are always present. However, for many families, saving a large portion of the refund may be the best possible option.

Without savings, any major repair, medical bill or large seasonal expense could disrupt your financial stability.

debt. If you're behind on a bill, getting caught have high-interest credit card debt, paying it off will save a lot of interest expense, Wollan said.

After paying off problem debt, though, it becomes a balancing act: saving for anticipated needs in the coming year versus making spe-

cial purchases now. "Keep in mind that

tion of your refund and no emergencies arise, you can always make purchases later, or next year," Wollan said.

Most families will make some purchases with their tax refund. Consider purchases that will pay benefits for a long time, so that even six to eight months from now your family will still enjoy what you purchased and feel like it has

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Health and

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Source: cdc.gov