

Views & Opinions

Letters to the Editor

Letters to the Editor acceptance deadline is 5:00 p.m. on Monday for that week's issue. Writers are limited to 500 words, going over the limit will incur a charge of \$5.00 per inch. Letters to the Editor should not include any defamatory or libelous material, follow copywrite laws, and be of the authors own work. Submission by proxy will be considered on a case by case basis. As time permits, newspaper staff will provide writers an opportunity to edit their submissions.

Dangers Loom as Federal Land Sale Proposals Resurface

by Mark Hensley

In Washington this year, the Trump administration's renewed push to sell or transfer vast swaths of federal public land has alarmed conservationists, local communities, and outdoor recreation advocates alike.

Although a controversial plan to dispose of millions of acres of Bureau of Land Management and U.S. Forest Service land was temporarily dropped from a major budget bill after bipartisan backlash, expert analysts warn that the threat remains.

Proposals in previous legislation would have opened more than 2 million acres in Western states — including areas near Yosemite, Lake Tahoe, and other cherished natural landscapes — to private buyers and developers.

Critics say selling off public lands — some of which are remote and not suited to housing development — poses serious environmental, cultural, and economic risks. Federal lands provide essential habitat for wildlife, protect watersheds and forests, and offer recreation that supports hundreds of thousands of jobs and billions in economic activity annually.

Environmental groups also highlight threats to endangered species and wilderness areas if protections are weakened or removed to facilitate sales or resource extraction. A recent analysis warns that auctions or leases could endanger critical habitats from Utah canyons to Alaska's Arctic.

Opponents argue that selling public lands to private interests — including extractive industries — undermines long-standing conservation policies and could restrict public access to areas once cherished for hunting, fishing, hiking, and solitude.

With strong public opposition and lawmakers from both parties voicing concern, the debate

over America's public lands is far from over.

Please regardless of your party affiliation, let our representative Zac Nunn know how you feel about selling off the lands that secure a better life for God's planet and your children and grandchildren. He has been an advocate for animal rights and perhaps he needs to know you back him on this issue.

Candidate Sarah Trone Garriott Visits Lamoni

(Continued from pg. 1)

After redistricting, she elected to move with her husband and two children in 2022 to face the sitting Republican Senate President and defeated him as well.

She described her focus in office as an advocate for working families, especially for accessible and affordable healthcare, mental health programs, support for public schools, paid family leave, quality childcare, and reproductive rights. She stated her pride in her pursuit of genuine community engagement and willingness to show up and listen.

Sarah took several questions over the hour. In response to a question about her opponent Zach Nunn's approach to her campaign, she stated that he was using customary right-wing zingers like school bathrooms instead of focusing on Iowans' day-to-day needs. She added that, unlike her opponent, she would hold public town meetings to listen to constituents' concerns.

Afterward, sharing scotcheroos, brownies, and carrot cake, she lingered to listen to attendees' individual concerns.

Further information about Sarah may be found at <https://sarahforiowa.com>

Paul Davis Announces Candidacy for State Representative



Paul Davis of Lamoni has announced his candidacy for State Representative in Iowa's 24th District. A Democrat, Paul will be facing Sonya Hicks in the June primary, the winner facing incumbent Republican Sam Wengryn in the November general election. Paul is a graduate of Graceland College (now

Graceland University), the father of five adult children, and with 19 years of experience as a TV sportscaster. His 26 years in Iowa include 19 years as a development officer for Graceland. He is a pastor at the Lamoni Community of Christ Church. Now in retirement for four years, Paul describes feeling such dis-

taste for the MAGA movement that he decided to respond personally. He expresses a passion for public service and professes that he has the skills to do so effectively. His favorite hobbies include drone photography, jet skis, and motorcycling.

"I want to be the 70-year-old voice of reason and compromise," Paul proclaimed at the February 17 meet-and-greet for Sarah Trone Garriott in Lamoni, adding, "I will bank on my personality to embody love, understanding, and empathy."

He stated that his political priorities include responsible gun control, mental health services, fair voting ID laws, improved rural health care, environmental protection, and a change in tariffs to protect the Iowa farmer.

Paul is presently collecting signatures to get on the ballot and welcomes interested parties to contact him through his Paul J. Davis Facebook page.

Coliseum Clips Faith Tested on The Road



I Can Only Imagine 2, returning for a second weekend at the Coliseum Theatre, follows a young singer-songwriter who finds himself at a spiritual and professional crossroads while attempting to pen a follow-up to a legendary anthem. He grapples with the weight of expectation and a fractured relationship with his estranged mentor. As he travels back to his roots, he discovers that true inspiration stems

from vulnerability rather than perfection. The story delves into the complexities of the human heart, illustrating how pain can be repurposed into a message of hope. Through various trials, the characters learn that grace is not earned but freely given to those willing to let go of past hurts. This journey culminates in a powerful realization that one's identity is defined by faith rather than worldly accolades.

Magistrate Report

DISSOLUTION OF MARRIAGE

Chad A. Stripe, petitioner, vs. Rebecca Michele Stripe, respondent. Decree Granted.

COURT CASES

Idaho Housing and Finance Association, plaintiff, vs. Deborah Ann Poland, DeWayne Poland, State of Iowa, Child Support Services, United States of America, Secretary of Ag. and Parties in Possession, defendants. Petition Filed.

MAGISTRATE

Cruz Molina, Austin, MN, speeding over 55 zone (16 thru 20 over). Total \$193.00.

Troyce Lee White, Winterset, IA, new title/registration transfer violation. Total \$210.25.

Sammi Jo Newton, Davis City, IA, operation without registration card or plate. Total \$135.50.

Dakota Lee Putney, Leon, IA, defective or unauthorized muffler system. Total \$89.50.

Brittney Nicole Hunt, Lamoni, IA, speeding 55 or under zone (6 thru 10 over). Total \$118.25.

Christopher Adam Ross, Smithville, MO, speeding over 55 zone (11 thru 15 over). Total \$175.75.

Mikell Shane Morris, West Des Moines, IA, windshield and window requirements. Total \$135.50.

Eugene Conner Edgington, Blythedale, MO, speeding over 55 zone (21 or over). Total \$273.50.

Wade Aaron Hill, Leon, IA, dark window or windshield. Total \$135.50.

Nolan Daniel Pierson, Leon, IA, possession of alcohol by person 18/19/20 1st offense. Total \$354.00.

Zachary Michael Bauer, Spencer, WI, speeding over 55 zone (6 thru 10 over). Total \$118.25.

Douglas Keith Albright, Moulton, IA, speeding 55 or under zone (6 thru 10 over). Total \$118.25.

Grace Elizabeth Poush, Humeston, IA, speeding 55 or under zone (6 thru 10 over). Total \$118.25.

Jessica Ann Vandewater, Winterset, IA, speeding over 55 zone (1 thru 5 over). Total \$89.50.

Douglas Alan Covert, Bondurant, IA, speeding over 55 zone (1 thru 5 over). Total \$89.50.

Aries Marie McGuire, Lucas, IA, operating non-registered vehicle. Total \$135.50.

Jassimen Nicole Dobbins, Des Moines, IA, speeding over 55. (16 thru 20 over). Total \$297.25.

Shannon M. Harris, Lamoni, IA, operation without registration card or plate. Total \$175.75.

Cheyene Dakota James, Lamoni, IA, operating non-registered vehicle. Total \$199.75.

Cheyene Dakota James, Lamoni, IA, speeding 55 or under zone (6 thru 10 over). Total \$170.50.

Bryson Clay Pierce, Lamoni, IA, speeding. Total \$212.50.

Jubal Joy Pullen, Joplin, MO, speeding over 55 zone (6 thru 10 over). Total \$170.50.

Steven Lee Staggs, Osceola, IA, speeding 55 or under zone (21 or over). Total \$354.00.

The Lamon Chronicle
Since 1889

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ADAM STEEN
FOR GOVERNOR 2026

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 27TH | 6:30 PM

Graceland University
Carol Hall, Inside Shaw Center
1 University Place, Lamoni, IA 50140

KEEP IOWA FREE.

www.AdamSteen.com

99 STRONG TOUR

City of Davis City
CEMETERY MOWING BIDS

The City of Davis City is now accepting sealed bids formowing the city's cemetery properties ("Old" DavisCity Cemetery and "New" Davis City Cemetery).

Mandatory site walk-through is required for all bidders.
Proof of insurance/tax ID required.
Bids must be in to the city no later than 5 p.m. on April 8, 2026.

Send bids to: Mayor, PO Box 109, Davis City, IA 50065

The City reserves the right to refuse any or all bids.

For more information about the specifics of the areas to be mowed, contact City Hall at 641-442-8156.

EOE

HANK SMITH INC
ABSOLUTE PUBLIC LAND AUCTION

2607.67 Acres
19 Tracts

Decatur & Ringgold County - Iowa
Row Crop | Pasture | Recreation/Hunting

Thurs, March 5
10:30 a.m.
Homestead Hall - Mount Ayr, IA

RiceAuctionCompany.com

Jake Rice - 641-202-3315
Al Hughes - 402-672-3621

JIM HUGHES REAL ESTATE 712-527-3114

RICE AUCTION COMPANY

Lamoni Hi! To Jerry Ashburn of Clarinda, IA