

# dubuque & tri-state

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## news in brief

### 5 alumni to be honored at Loras College homecoming

Five Loras College alumni will be recognized during the school's homecoming festivities in October.

The graduates have been picked for Distinguished Alumni Awards, according to a Loras College press release. They will receive their awards Oct. 13.

The winners are:

- Pat Lillis, class of 1971: Lillis will receive the Amicus Award, which recognizes people who have been a friend to the college. Lillis, who eventually became a dermatologist, has supported every campaign and special project at Loras over the past 30 years. Notably, he pledged \$2.5 million for a project at the Loras College Athletic and Wellness Center.

- Mike McCrea, class of 1988: McCrea will receive the Professional Achievement Award. McCrea is a professor and eminent scholar of neurosurgery at the Medical College of Wisconsin. He also is the neuropsychology consultant for the Green Bay Packers.

- Lauren Ready, class of 2008: Ready will receive the Young Alumni Award. After graduation, she worked as a reporter at several television stations, including KWWL-TV. In 2016, she launched Forever Ready Productions, which provides video production services to nonprofit clients.

- Roger Schiltz, class of 1964: Schiltz will receive the Humanitarian Award. His charitable work has spanned 50 years and has taken him across the globe.

- Karen Sturm, class of 1980: Sturm will receive the Campus Contributions Award. She started teaching at Loras two years after her graduation and continued working at the school until her retirement in May.

### Chicago man arrested after shooting himself in leg

Dubuque police said a Chicago man was arrested Saturday after he accidentally shot himself in the leg.

Officers responded to a report of gunfire at 11:54 a.m. in the area of East 21st and White streets, according to a press release. They located Romell D. Enoch, 19, of Chicago, but he fled from police.

Enoch eventually was caught after a foot chase and was taken to UnityPoint Health-Finley Hospital for treatment of a gunshot wound to his leg, according to the release.

An investigation revealed Enoch was carrying a gun in his waistband and accidentally fired it into his leg, police said.

Officers recovered what they believe to be Enoch's gun at 22nd and White streets.

After he was released from the hospital, Enoch was charged with interference with official acts, providing false information, carrying weapons, reckless use of a firearm and being a felon in possession of a firearm.

He also was wanted on an Illinois warrant alleging a parole violation.

### Dubuque's river museum eliminates use of straws

A Dubuque museum has eliminated the use of plastic straws.

National Mississippi River Museum & Aquarium officials last week announced plans to do away with single-use plastic straws. According to a press release, museum officials hope to "further educate guests about the impact of plastics pollution on global waterways and aquatic life."

Discarded plastic is creating a huge hazard in the world's waterways, according to the United Nations. There are an estimated 5 trillion plastic particles spread out across the oceans.

Wildlife can mistake plastic items like straws as food. Ingestion of the plastics can cause injury or death, according to the release.

"We recognize straws are just one piece of the problem," Shaina Stewart, the museum's education manager, said in the release. "However, with Americans using more than 500 million straws daily, they add up."

Museum officials also have launched the #StandWithSippi campaign, through which other organizations that eliminate single-use plastic straws will be recognized by Sippi the Otter, the museum's mascot.

## Medicaid in doubt for disabled boy?

After weeks of questioning if it would continue, the state-run aid program agrees to pay for Pediasure through January.

BY BEN JACOBSON

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At 8 months old, Kyle Seay was diagnosed.

The Dubuque boy suffers from Canavan disease, a progressive disorder caused by a genetic abnormality that leads to the deterioration of white matter in the brain. There is no cure, and the prognosis is bleak — many of those afflicted do not live past 10 years old.

"It's a neurological disorder," said Brandie Seay, Kyle's mom. "So developmentally, he's like an infant. He can't eat regular food or any of that sort of stuff."

Kyle, now 12, gets "98, 99 percent of his nutrition" through a gastro-

omy tube, according to Brandie. A potent cocktail of calories and vitamins called Pediasure is given to Kyle through a catheter in his abdomen.

Kyle has subsisted on Medicaid-subsidized Pediasure for about 10 years without a single bureaucratic hiccup, Brandie said. But a few months ago, everything changed.

"All of a sudden now, (Medicaid was) questioning it," said Brandie, adding that Kyle's "doctors were really surprised."

Though Kyle's life depends on Pediasure, his family was told that the state-run aid program for needy and disabled Iowans might cease paying for it. At one point, Brandie was even told Medicaid outright refused to continue funding the dietary supplements, though she later was told that was a mistake.



Brandie Seay



Contributed

Kyle Seay, 12, has Canavan disease, a progressive neurological disorder.

Medicaid officials eventually agreed to pay for Kyle's Pediasure through January. But the family still suffered through weeks of doubt and worry as a longtime service suddenly

was called into question.

"All that has usually been taken care of behind the scenes," Brandie said. "We've never been aware of this process (before)."

Unlike the vast majority of Iowa's 600,000 Medicaid recipients, Kyle's case was not handed off to a private managed-care organization in 2016.

Under then-Gov. Terry Branstad, a trio of companies — one of which has dropped from the program since — were brought in to oversee Medicaid, which previously was handled by the Iowa Department of Human Services.

But Kyle is in the Health Insurance Premium Payment Program, which is still administered by the state. When HIPPP participants go to a provider, their primary insurance is billed first, while Medicaid picks up the rest of the costs.

"The HIPPP program helps people get insurance or keep insurance

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## "It feels old and rich and happy. Irish culture is just fun to be a part of"

NICK REEKIE, A NATIVE OF DUBUQUE



Kathy Kleist (left), of Mineral Point, Wis., and Barb Norin, of Platteville, Wis., dance Saturday during the Irish Hooley at the

Alliant Amphitheater in Dubuque. The annual event attracted hundreds of people. **Related video: TelegraphHerald.com**

EILEEN MESLAR • Telegraph Herald

## Hooley brings out Irish in everyone

The annual event outside Dubuque Star Brewery features music, food, beer and dancing.

BY JOHN KRUSE

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Clad in a checkered kilt and leather boots, Nick Reekie ascended the Dubuque Riverwalk hillside Saturday night, a glass of Guinness

in his hand.

A native of Dubuque, Reekie also considers himself a son of Ireland, and he is passionate about Irish culture. He loves the clothes, he loves the music and he definitely loves the beer.

On Saturday night, the Irish Hooley Music Festival gave him all of that.

"It feels old and rich and happy," Reekie said. "Irish culture is just fun to be a part of."

Hundreds of people — both

those with Irish ancestors and those without — gathered outside the Dubuque Star Brewery. Most wore clover-green clothes and some even sported leprechaun hats.

Celtic music piped through the air as Irish bands merrily played on the main stage. Corned beef and cabbage cooked on a steaming grill before being scooped onto slices of rye bread.

For Benay Brys, who wore green clover earrings, it was all she could

have hoped for.

"It's a heritage thing," Brys said. "We love coming out and celebrating the culture and just having a lot of fun."

The Irish Hooley started as a way to celebrate Irish culture and music. Attendees sang and danced to thumping Irish tunes as Celtic bands like The Lads and JigJam offered the soundtrack.

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## Angler helped hook kids on fishing

Mississippi Walleye Club member is remembered for dedication to Kids Day.

BY BEN JACOBSON

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In his years on the river, avid angler Ken Ginter reeled in plenty of accolades.

The longtime Mississippi Walleye Club member was named the group's Rookie of the Year in 1997 and Fisherman of the Year in 2001. He took home Sportsman of the Year honors on two separate occasions, in 2008 and 2011.

But it was another aspect of the Dubuque-based fishing club that really hooked Ginter.

"Kids Day really was his baby," said Dave Adams, Ginter's fellow

club member. "It was hard for him to pass the duties on for Kids Day. He was always checking up on me."

A battle with cancer kept Ginter, 68, on dry land during the most recent iteration of the event, held Aug. 18 along Dubuque's riverfront and on the Mississippi River. But the event still was at the front of his mind until nearly the last minute, Adams said.

"Even in the hospital when I was checking on him, he was asking how we were doing on Kids Day," Adams said. "And fittingly, he passed away on Kids Day that evening."

Ginter died Aug. 18, leaving behind a wife, two children, three grandchildren and a family dog. But to his fam-

### services for Ken Ginter

A burial Mass for Ken Ginter is set for 7 p.m. Monday, Aug. 27, at the Church of the Resurrection, 4300 Asbury Road. Friends can greet the family beginning at 3 p.m.

ily and members of the Walleye Club, memories of Ginter will live on in countless fish tales to come.

"He put his heart and soul into making sure this event ran smooth and it was a fun and learning experience," said Cindy Berns, who helped Ginter organize Kids Day for five of the 10 years that he was at the helm.

Ginter's wife, Debbie, said the retired maintenance technician "never met a stranger in his life."

"He always had a smile, and he always talked to people," she said. "We could be anywhere in the country, and he'd always be talking to somebody."

Helping children was Ginter's passion, Debbie said. He had always dreamed of being a teacher, and he worked in retirement as a substitute paraprofessional at Dubuque schools.

When he stepped in as chairman of Kids Day, an annual daylong fishing excursion that connects local children with experienced fishermen and -women, he was determined to do it right, Debbie said.

"They bring kids that haven't fished, or haven't had a chance to fish so much, to take them out on

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politics

# U of I student's death becomes political talking point

BY BEN JACOBSON  
Telegraph Herald assistant local content editor



It wasn't long before the homicide of a University of Iowa student devolved into a political talking point. About 20 minutes after authorities officially announced Tuesday that the body of 20-year-old **Mollie Tibbetts** was believed to have been found in a cornfield and that an undocumented immigrant had been charged in her death, Iowa Gov. **Kim Reynolds** released a statement referencing the Mexico native's suspected illegal status. "As Iowans, we are heartbroken, and we are angry," said in part the statement from the Republican. "We are angry that a broken immigration system allowed a predator like this to live in our community, and we will do all we can (to) bring justice to Mollie's killer."

In the days since he was charged with first-degree murder, 24-year-old **Christhian B. Rivera's** work history and legal status have been explored and debated by journalists and pundits the world over.

Even President **Donald Trump**, a Republican whose campaign largely was built on the promise to stamp out illegal immigration, released a video statement in which Tibbetts was mentioned by name.

He said Tibbetts, "an incredible young woman," is "now permanently separated from her family." The word choice likely is a nod to his administration's widely panned policy of separating the children of suspected undocumented immigrants from their parents at the border.

While many of the statements issued by Republican lawmakers suggested the need for immigration reform without referencing the looming November elections, Trump made no attempt to soften the incident's political implications.

"We need the wall. We need our immigration laws changed," Trump said in the video, posted to his Twitter feed. "We need our border laws

changed. We need Republicans to do it because Democrats aren't going to do it."

In a conference call with reporters Thursday, U.S. Sen. **Joni Ernst**, R-Iowa, fielded multiple questions about the incident.

"It is clear that the man who has confessed to this crime would not have been in this country were it not for our broken immigration system," she said.

Ernst renewed a push for Sarah's Law, legislation that would allow U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement personnel to take custody of undocumented immigrants charged with violent crimes.

However, Ernst acknowledged that Rivera likely wouldn't have been detained even if Sarah's Law had been adopted.

"Unfortunately, it wouldn't (have made a difference), and that's why we have to have the greater debate about immigration," Ernst said.

When asked whether the immigration debate was drowning out other potential societal concerns, such as stalking and violence against women, Ernst said, "I don't think we should discount that at all. We need to look at so many different issues here, and again, we need to focus on finding solutions, not only on immigration, but on bad behaviors like stalking."

She added, "Bottom line is we have a 20-year-old woman who was left on a pile of cornstalks in Iowa and will not experience a lifetime of joy."

## KAVANAUGH NOD CONTENTIOUS

U.S. Sen. **Chuck Grassley**, R-Iowa, continues to release statements lauding the "historic transparency" regarding Trump's latest U.S. Supreme Court nominee. The long-time lawmaker has issued at least nine press releases since Monday about Judge **Brett Kavanaugh**.

But at least one Democrat is offering a different assessment of the process. U.S. Sen. **Dick Durbin**, of Illinois, said plenty of questions remain about Trump's pick to replace former Justice **Anthony Kennedy**.

## How your U.S. lawmakers voted

Rep. Rod Blum, R-IA	Rep. Mark Pocan, D-WI	Rep. Ron Kind, D-WI	Rep. Chris Bustos, D-IL	Sen. Charles Grassley, R-IA	Sen. Joni Ernst, R-IA	Sen. Tammy Baldwin, D-WI	Sen. Ron Johnson, R-WI	Sen. Richard Durbin, D-IL	Sen. Tammy Duckworth, D-IL
Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O

### DUBUQUE AREA Tally

For the week ending Aug. 24

By Thomas Voting Reports, Inc.

**Defunding Planned Parenthood:** Voting 45-48, the Senate failed to advance an amendment that sought to delete \$400 million in funding for Planned Parenthood from a 2019 budget bill (HR 6157, below). A yes vote was to strip the bill of its funding for the nationwide healthcare organization.

**\$854 Billion Appropriations Bill:** The Senate approved, 85-7, \$854 billion in fiscal 2019 appropriations for the departments of Defense, Labor, Education and Health and Human Services. A yes vote was to pass a bill (HR 6157) that includes \$3.7 billion for combatting opioid addiction.

**Suicide Prevention:** The Senate voted, 95-0, to increase federal support for the National Suicide Prevention Hotline by \$2.8 million or about 4 percent. The nationwide crisis network provides 24/7 confidential support to those in emotional distress. A yes vote backed the spending hike.

KEY VOTES AHEAD  
 ■ The Senate will vote on executive branch nominations in the week of Aug. 27, while the House will be in recess.

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## write the caption



DEANNA TOMKINS • Contributed

## Wet and wild

A red-winged blackbird female enjoys her bath in a Dubuque backyard. Twenty-five caption suggestions for this photo were posted to the Telegraph Herald Facebook page. New photos are posted each Wednesday and will appear in print the following Sunday. Here are some of our favorites: "Don't look, I'm taking a bath!" — Mary Cole "Just shake it off." — Matthew Thomas

# MEDICAID: DHS spokesman says some services require annual OK

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they already have by reimbursing the cost of premiums," said DHS spokesman Matt Highland in an email to the Telegraph Herald. "The HIPP program is a way for the State of Iowa to save money."

Highland did not respond to a request for a phone interview.

About 40,000 recipients are enrolled in the Medicaid Fee-for-Service program, a blanket term to cover all patients not overseen by a managed-care organization.

The program is sometimes referred to as FFS.

"While the number of members served through FFS has dramatically reduced with managed care, generally there have been no changes to the processes or structure of the Iowa Medicaid Enterprise as it relates to the operation of the programs that remain FFS," Highland wrote.

The privatization to managed-care organizations has been widely criticized by Dem-

ocratic lawmakers, patients and providers, many of whom have cited issues with delayed reimbursements or challenges getting services covered.

But FFS procedures largely have remained the same, according to Highland.

"I can't comment on specific cases due to confidentiality provisions in the law," he wrote. "However, some services do require annual prior authorizations, which is not new for FFS members."

Still, the Seay family now worries about what will happen in January. The amount of Pediture Kyle needs is significantly more expensive than traditional meals, and pureed food — an option floated by Medicaid officials, according to Brandie — is an inadequate alternative.

"There's no way he'd get enough nutritional value out of that," she said.

Plus, Kyle receives some nursing services through Medicaid.

"That's a worry we have, as well," Brandie said.

# GINTER: Despite cancer, he still was active with friends, family

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the river and introduce them to what he was so passionate about, so they can enjoy it," she said. "They got treated like they were professional fishermen."

Adams said Ginter was "tireless in his efforts."

"He ran Kids Day for 10 years, putting time and effort into it," Adams said. "He always had his heart in the right place."

When Adams and subsequent club members stepped into the event's leadership role, Ginter was a valuable resource.

"When (Ginter) inherited it, there were no guidelines," said Debbie Ginter. "He had to figure it out all himself. He didn't want other

guys to do that, too."

As he battled cancer, Ginter refused to slow down, Debbie said. Though his immune system was compromised, he was determined to stay out in the world with his friends and his loved ones.

Unfortunately, that meant regular hospitalizations due to bouts with pneumonia. But Ginter never once complained, Debbie said.

"He didn't want to sit in the house," she said. "That was his decision. He wanted to spend time with his family and his grand-kids."

He even managed to take them on one last fishing trip a month before he died.

"He loved the idea that he could share his passion," Debbie Ginter said.

# HOOLEY: 'Sad but happy music' tells tales of Ireland's history

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Deb and Tim Rudd, of Manchester, Iowa, are big fans of Celtic music. To them, it's hard to beat the contagious rhythms of the music that also weaves tales of Ireland's history and its people.

"It's sad but happy music in the stories it tells about boys going off to war and stuff like that," Tim Rudd said. "It's just fun more than anything. If you don't tap your foot when you hear this music, something is wrong with you."

For others, the Hooley is a way of devoutly celebrating Irish heritage.

Nancy Voss traveled from her home in Freeport, Ill., to enjoy the event. Her great-grand-

mother immigrated to the United States from Ireland when she was 16 years old.

For Voss, having fun at the Hooley is just a way to celebrate her family's past.

"It's a friendly and proud heritage that I love being a part of," Voss said. "This is really celebrating her legacy for me."

For Reekie, the celebration is just a way to have fun like a good Irish lad. He's never been to Ireland before, but he plans to go someday.

Until he reaches the island, though, he'll settle for Dubuque's Irish Hooley.

"It's just a really good time overall," Reekie said. "Everyone is just here to have a great night."

## news in brief

### Dubuque American Legion to host 1-mile Walk with a Veteran

The Dubuque post of the American Legion is inviting area residents to walk with a veteran later this week.

American Legion Post 6 will host the Walk with a Veteran event at noon Saturday, Sept. 1, at the post headquarters at 1306 Delhi

St. Participants will be led on a one-mile trek along Grandview Avenue.

Free hot dogs, chips and cookies will be available. Participants are invited to stay for the University of Iowa football game that will begin at 2:30 p.m.

Donations from the event will be contributed to the University of Iowa Children's Hospital.

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