

Speller aces 2 words but falls from competition **3A**

Local Honor Flight mission 'completed' **3A**

Cascade, Senior split doubleheader **1B**

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High 79° Low 53° Sunny, 8B

THURSDAY

May 29, 2014 • Dubuque, Iowa • 75 cents

Early voting popular

Experts say that several competitive Iowa primary races for open seats are drawing interest.

BY ERIN MURPHY
TH staff writer • emurphy@wcinet.com

Interest in Iowa's primary elections is strong, if the brisk pace of early voting is an indication.

Early voting for Iowa's primaries is on pace to surpass recent years, with interest likely being driven by several competitive races for open seats, said experts and officials.

Iowa's primary Election Day is Tuesday, June 3. Through Tuesday, 20,922 Iowans had cast early ballots. In Dubuque County, 1,357 had voted as of Wednesday morning.



Chris Larimer

The retirement of U.S. Sen. Tom Harkin had a domino effect on Iowa's 2014 elections, creating open seats down the ballot as incumbents opted to run for higher office. That sparked a campaign season that has been more active than a typical non-presidential primary election.

Five Republicans are running for the open U.S. Senate seat, and five Democrats and three Republicans are running for northeast Iowa's open U.S. House seat.

"One of the unique things about this election is there are a couple of open races that we usually don't have (in a primary)," said Chris Larimer, a political science professor at University of Northern Iowa.

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Iowa primary election

Absentee voting: Absentee ballots can be requested by mail until 5 p.m. Friday, May 30. Completed absentee ballots must be mailed and postmarked by Monday, June 2, or returned to the county auditor's office by 9 p.m. Tuesday, June 3.

Early voting: Residents can vote in person at the county auditor's office through 5 p.m. Monday, June 2.

Election Day: Tuesday, June 3

Polls open: 7 a.m. to 9 p.m.



NICKI KOHL • Telegraph Herald

That's what they mean by isolated showers

Storm clouds move in over downtown Dubuque on Tuesday.

Social media a communications tool for tri-state communities

Facebook and Twitter are used to provide information on meetings and events.

BY BEN JACOBSON
TH staff writer • ben.jacobson@wcinet.com

With social networking websites becoming the communication medium du jour for many local residents, several municipalities have turned to Facebook and Twitter to disseminate important information.

Such websites provide free virtual tools through which meeting notices and event invitations can be spread and community officials can connect with constituents.

"We (city officials) wanted to be transparent, we wanted to be accountable and we wanted to be responsive," said Aaron Kramer, city administrator of Prairie du Chien, Wis. "We use the social media to help hit all three of those goals."

reaching out

Many local municipalities are using social media to share information and interact with residents. Municipalities in the TH Media coverage area on social media include:

- Asbury, Iowa: Facebook, Twitter
- Dubuque: Facebook, Twitter
- Elizabeth, Ill.: Facebook
- Lancaster, Wis.: Facebook, Twitter
- Platteville, Wis.: Facebook, Twitter
- Prairie Du Chien, Wis.: Facebook

However, leaders in some local municipalities question the usefulness of social media and remain wary of potential open-records hiccups.

"From that point as an active tool, I really don't see the need for (social media) as of right now," said Dyersville City Administrator Mick Michel.

Kramer launched Prairie du Chien's Facebook page in 2012, and it has nearly

TH more online

Video of an official explaining the city of Dubuque's social media policy and links to area municipalities' Facebook and Twitter accounts, [THonline.com](#)

1,900 followers. In addition to posting meeting notices and minutes, Kramer also provides links to news articles that mention Prairie du Chien and responds to user questions and comments.

The Facebook page has even proven to be a "key component" of the city's public safety procedure, Kramer said.

"We got a real boost last year as far as 'likes' and hits when we had some really serious flooding," he said, noting that he posted information about street closures and other flood-related issues as he worked to address them. "We were actually doing live updates on Facebook from out in the field, if you will."

Facebook and Twitter are used in

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JESSICA REILLY • Telegraph Herald

Merry mower

Irene McDermott mows her lawn along South Grandview Avenue in Dubuque on Wednesday. At 87, McDermott says she likes to stay active.

Angelou a Renaissance woman

The poet, author, activist and dancer dies at age 86.

BY HILLEL ITALIE
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Maya Angelou, a modern Renaissance woman who survived the harshest of childhoods to become a force on stage, screen, the printed page and the inaugural dais, died Wednesday, her son said. She was 86.

Angelou's son, Guy B. Johnson, said the writer died at her home in Winston-Salem, N.C., where she had been a professor of American studies at Wake For-



AP file

Maya Angelou, seen here in 2002, died on Wednesday.

est University since 1982.

"She lived a life as a teacher, activist, artist and human being. She was a warrior for equality, tolerance and peace," Johnson said.

Added former President Bill Clinton: "With Maya Angelou's passing, America has lost a national treasure; and Hillary and I, a beloved friend. The poems and stories she wrote and read to us in her commanding voice were gifts of wisdom and wit, courage and grace."

Tall and regal, with a deep, majestic voice, Angelou defied all probability and category, becoming one of the first black women to enjoy mainstream success as an author and thriving in virtually every artistic medium. The young single mother

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today's TH



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Obama straddles intervention, isolation on foreign policy **8A**

Analysis: 30% of world now fat **7C**

corrections

• Several incorrect details of a Tuesday crash on the Northwest Arterial were reported in an article on Page 3C Wednesday. Incorrect information was supplied by the Dubuque Police Department. A corrected article

appears on Page 3A today.

• The number of video gambling terminals in Illinois was under-reported in an article on Page 1A Tuesday. There are more than 16,000 terminals in the state. The TH regrets the errors.



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