



ADM breaks multiple records at Drake Relays

SPORTS, 1B

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Des Moines schools lean 'no' on arming teachers

Samantha Hernandez
Des Moines Register
USA TODAY NETWORK

Iowa's largest and most diverse school district has no plans to arm its staff despite passage of a new state law allowing that.

Neither do most of the suburban school districts surrounding it.

Des Moines Public Schools' decision not to utilize the weeks-old state law is partially because the district already employs a public safety team, officials said.

"Des Moines Public Schools does not have an interest in allowing teachers and staff to be armed in our school buildings and has no plans to opt into a

"I think our teachers are our caregivers in the classroom. And I think that is the role that they want to play and have signed up to play. And quite honestly, I haven't heard from a single teacher or community member that has asked us to equip our teachers with guns at this time."

Jackie Norris
Des Moines School Board Chair

new program that allows for guns to be present in schools," said Phil Roeder, the district's spokesperson.

The renewed conversation around whether school district staff should be armed came to the forefront during the

2024 legislative session following a deadly shooting at Perry High School in early January. The gunman, a 17-year-old student, killed an 11-year-old student and the high school principal before killing himself.

Iowa school officials already could arm staff under Iowa Code 724.4B, but districts hit barriers in the process. Spirit Lake and Cherokee school district officials attempted to arm staff under the previous code but reversed course after insurance carrier EMC refused to cover the districts for the 2023-24 school year if they proceeded.

The Iowa Department of Education does not collect data on which school districts approve staff to carry firearms, said Heather Doe, the department's spokesperson.

During the 2024 legislative session, Republican lawmakers introduced House File 2586, which allows school

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Waukee council approves budget

Lower tax levy, parks projects included in plan

Phillip Sitter
Des Moines Register
USA TODAY NETWORK

Waukee has lowered its property tax levy in its new budget and included two new neighborhood parks in its capital improvement plan.

The Waukee City Council on Monday unanimously approved the city's \$148.1 million budget for the 2025 fiscal year, which starts July 1.

The council also approved the city's five-year capital improvement plan.

What is the new property tax levy in Waukee?

The city will reduce its tax levy 10 cents to \$12.95 per \$1,000 of taxable valuation.

What new staff, projects are included in the budget?

Waukee currently has about 160 full-time staff positions, according to a news release. The new budget includes adding two police sergeants, three fire lieutenants and five fire-fighters, a traffic signal technician, a traffic engineer and an IT technician.

The city's approved capital improvement plan includes a new public safety facility and a new fire engine, as well as the following:

- New neighborhood parks in Spring Crest and Painted Woods
- Updates to the Centennial Park playground
- The first phase of a project to extend University Avenue
- Improvements to T Avenue
- The Prairie Rose Greenway trail
- A new water tower
- Central Iowa Water Works capacity expansion at Saylorville
- An asphalt overlay on the Sugar Creek Municipal Golf Course parking lot
- Construction of a new West Area Trunk sewer

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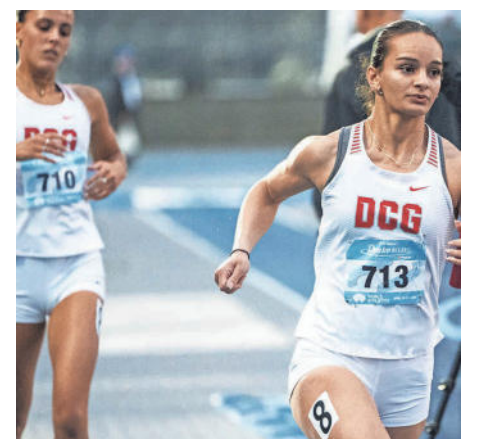
Area athletes take center stage at Drake Relays



ADM's Brevin Doll runs the boys 4x200 meter relay during the Drake Relays at Drake Stadium on Friday, April 26, 2024, in Des Moines. See story, more photos, 1B. PHOTOS BY LILY SMITH/THE REGISTER



Waukee Northwest's Avery Winter celebrates after her team wins the girls 4x200 meter relay during the Drake Relays at Drake Stadium on Friday, April 26.



DCG's Asia Jahangir runs the 4x400 meter relay during the Drake Relays at Drake Stadium on Saturday, April 27, in Des Moines.



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