



AN EARLY EXIT

Richmond gets best of Hawkeyes in first round of NCAA Tourney. **Sports, 1B**

A long recovery

Teen shot in Des Moines improving. **2A**

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'Startling parallels' to Czech and Slovak past



Cecilia Rokusek, president and chief executive officer of the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library in Cedar Rapids, on Thursday holds a gift from a Ukrainian artist that was given to her on a visit from a Ukrainian friend. (Jim Slosiarek/The Gazette)

C.R. community recalls how Soviets invaded former Czechoslovakia in '68

By Michaela Ramm, The Gazette

CEDAR RAPIDS — The events unfolding in Ukraine potentially hold dire implications for the future, but the war also brings back memories of other historical conflicts in the region.

That includes some residents in the Czech Village in Cedar Rapids.

In a statement last week, officials at the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library, the Cedar Rapids-based cultural center, said there are "startling parallels" between the Russian invasion of Ukraine and the past Soviet Union invasion of the former Czechoslovakia.

"I think (Vladimir) Putin overstepped when he went into what we would call a democratic Ukraine, and that's why we're seeing the fierce loyalty of Ukrainians to fight the Russians because they want to preserve their freedom and democracy," said NCSML President and

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A Ukrainian serviceman carries containers while a blaze at a warehouse burns in the background Thursday after a bombing on the outskirts of Kyiv, Ukraine. (Associated Press)

MORE ON WAR IN UKRAINE

- Rescuers look for survivors in theater blown apart by airstrike, **4A**
- Nations debate whether to sanction Russian-made fertilizers, **6B**

Big issues unsettled as session deadline passes

Private tuition, jobless benefits, vaccine rules unresolved in Des Moines

By Erin Murphy, Gazette Des Moines Bureau

DES MOINES — Much has been accomplished or, depending on one's political perspective, much damage has been done.

But what's true regardless of political stripes is that many significant legislative proposals in front of state lawmakers remain unresolved as the 2022 session of the Iowa Legislature begins its turn into the home stretch. Thursday marked the end of the Legislature's second "funnel," a deadline by which most bills must have passed a certain level in the lawmaking approval process to keep being considered.

With just 23 calendar days — which means closer to 18 actual legislative work days, since lawmakers rarely work on Fridays — remaining until lawmakers' expense reimbursements run out, the push to adjournment begins in earnest next week.

In that time, legislators — particularly Republicans in the majorities in both chambers — must reach agreements on a number of high-interest legislative proposals, including:

- A shift of taxpayer funding for K-12 public schools into scholarships for private school tuition
- Stronger requirements for transparency with the public in school curriculum materials and library books
- A requirement that most gas stations offer the E15 blend of ethanol, a higher blend than the E10 more typically at the pump
- A reduction in the duration of unemployment benefits,

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INSIDE

- Teacher misconduct bill moves forward, **3A**

Study of fixes to rising silt at Coralville Lake proceeds

Johnson County OKs aid to Friends of Coralville Lake

By Izabela Zaluska, The Gazette

The nonprofit Friends of Coralville Lake is moving forward with its action plan to raise awareness and explore solutions to increasing

sedimentation that eventually could close off the lake to recreation.

The group is taking the first step — a preliminary action plan — that's part of a "bigger picture of what we could start doing to attack this problem," Jon Kounkel, Friends of Coralville Lake president, told The Gazette.

The preliminary plan will look at what solutions are available to address the sedimentation, followed by a feasibility study to see if there's community interest in pursuing it.

The action plan and feasibility study will be funded though the federal American Rescue Plan Act pandemic

aid. The Johnson County Board of Supervisors on Thursday unanimously approved the grant agreement.

The project category is to "contribute to the development of the Iowa River Watershed Management Authority, plan and partnerships to

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