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**17-YEAR-OLD SETS RECORD FOR SOLO FLIGHT**

# Times-Republican

YOUR LOCAL CONNECTION MARSHALLTOWN, IOWA

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T-R PHOTOS BY ROBERT MAHARRY

MCC esports athlete Jesus Silva practices on one of the brand new gaming computers during tryouts on Tuesday afternoon.

## MCC assembles first ever competitive esports team

By ROBERT MAHARRY  
TIMES-REPUBLICAN

Inside a brand new, state-of-the-art facility on the Marshalltown Community College campus full of high tech equipment and competitive spirit, a group of about 15 athletes convened for the first time hoping to find a spot on the roster of the school's newest athletic program. But they weren't lifting weights, running sprints or throwing deep balls — they were playing video games.

After the launch of the program was announced last year, MCC esports coaches Andrew Goforth and Nate Rodemeyer officially got it off the ground Monday and Tuesday with tryouts at the aforementioned esports lab — which, as recently as a few months ago, still sat almost completely empty.

It's been a lot of hard work for Rodemeyer and Goforth — who, along with IT Special Projects Coordinator Nate Bloomquist and two student athletes, installed the gaming computers themselves — but it has most certainly been worth it to see it through to a point where what was once a dream has finally become reality.

"You'd be amazed at how much trash 25 desktops produces, but yeah, we put them all together," Goforth said.

The inaugural team will spend the fall semester training (with the exception of Conrad native Lane Schnathorst, who plans to compete in Super Smash Bros. in the coming months) before competing in Overwatch and Rainbow Six Siege with teams of five in the spring. Although the coaches predict more students will want to get involved with the team once classes actually start next week, they were excited to see the level of interest they did over the past few days.

There is no set limit on the number of players allowed, but the goal from the beginning was to have a team of around 15. According to Rodemeyer, about 17 showed up on Monday, and a few decided to drop out before joining.

ESPORTS | A3

## Biden to wipe out \$10,000 in student loan debt for many borrowers

By ARIANA FIGUEROA  
IOWA CAPITAL DISPATCH

WASHINGTON — President Joe Biden announced Wednesday that he will cancel up to \$20,000 in federal student loan debt for Pell Grant borrowers and up to \$10,000 for all other borrowers with an income of less than \$125,000 for an individual and \$250,000 for a household.

Biden also announced his administration is extending a pause on student loan repayments until Dec. 31. The decision comes one week before the expiration of a pause of student loan repayments put in place at the beginning of the coronavirus pandemic.

"Here's the deal, the cost of education beyond high school has gone up exponentially," Biden said at the White House.

Biden stressed that the people who would benefit the most are low-income and middle class families and individuals.

"No high income household, will benefit from this action, period," Biden said.

Biden said that many Americans with student loan debt have put off starting families because of the cost and have been unable to qualify for mortgages to buy a home because of the student loan debt they carry.

"All this means is an entire generation is now saddled with unsustainable debt," Biden said.

Despite numerous reports in recent weeks that Biden would take action on student loans, the White House had remained silent, but on Wednesday the president tweeted out his decision, prior to remarks scheduled for Wednesday afternoon.

DEBT | A7

# Soaring over Marshalltown



T-R PHOTOS BY SUSANNA MEYER

World War II Navy Veteran Richard Warden and Dream Flights Pilot James Sims get to know each other before Warden is taken up for a ride in the open-cockpit Stearman biplane on the right.

## Dream Flights take veterans on a trip to remember on Wednesday



It's all smiles for Korean War Veteran Lloyd Brown, left, as Pilot James Sims prepares to take off for a flight over Marshalltown



As a World War II veteran, Richard Warden was asked to sign the tail of the Dream Flights biplane. The reverse side of the tail is filled with the signatures of many other WWII veterans.

By SUSANNA MEYER  
TIMES-REPUBLICAN

The excitement was thick at the Marshalltown Municipal Airport on Wednesday morning as a group of senior veterans prepared to be taken up in a restored, open-cockpit Boeing Stearman biplane for a special flight over Marshalltown.

The veterans were residents of the Accura HealthCare facilities in Marshalltown, Ames and Knoxville, and all they had to do was arrive at the airport on Wednesday morning. The Dream Flights team, consisting of Pilot James Sims and Crew Chief Hannah McLaughlin, took care of the rest.

Dream Flights is a nonprofit organization based out of Nevada which is dedicated to giving back to veterans all over the country by offering them free flights in one of their six biplanes — which just so happen to be the same type of aircraft used to train aviators in World War II — and Marshalltown is one of the numerous cities they have visited since April of this year.

Sims, who is a corporate pilot by trade, uses his time off of work to fly



Veteran James Ramsey gives a thumbs up to the camera after his ride in the open-cockpit Stearman biplane as Crew Chief Hannah McLaughlin and Pilot James Sims get ready to take a photo of Ramsey with the plane.

for Dream Flights, and he said he has yet to find a better way to thank the many veterans across the country for their service.

"It's the best way I've ever seen to say thank you to vets, where you just

get to isolate them, and they know it's just for them," Sims said. "You get them in a classic World War II training airplane, and you just see a smile

FLIGHT | A3

## Expansion of crisis pregnancy services may be a year away

By ROBIN OPSAHL  
IOWA CAPITAL DISPATCH

Iowa organizations encouraging alternatives to abortion may see increased demand for their services if abortion laws change. But the \$500,000 in state funding the Legislature allocated to expand these services is not yet available and new abortion restrictions may come first.

The Legislature passed

the "More Options for Maternal Support" (MOMS) program into law earlier this year, appropriating \$500,000 toward funding nonprofit organizations that encourage alternatives to abortion. These organizations, often called pregnancy centers, provide services like pregnancy and adoption counseling for expecting and new parents.

Program funds have not been distributed yet. Alex

Carfrae, a public information officer with the Iowa Department of Health and Human Services, said the goal was to have services in place before the start of the next fiscal year. The next fiscal year starts July 1, 2023.

The department is currently working to hire a program manager to develop a request for proposals, which will seek a program administrator to build out a

"statewide network of pregnancy support providers," Carfrae said.

### Pregnancy center needs may increase

But Iowa pregnancy center workers could use the support sooner, Jeanne Wonio, a board member at Women's Choice Center, said. The Bettendorf center staff includes nurses and a

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