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Tama-Toledo selected as overnight RAGBRAI stop



TIMES-REPUBLICAN

The Register's Annual Great Bike Ride Across Iowa, better known as RAGBRAI, announced its 2023 route and overnight stops on Saturday, and Tama-Toledo will serve as an overnight stop on Thursday, July 27.

The two adjacent communities with a combined population of around 5,000 are easily the smallest of the overnight towns — RAGBRAI will begin in Sioux City before overnight stops in Storm Lake, Carroll, Ames, Des Moines, Tama-Toledo, Coralville and finally wrapping up in Davenport on July 29.

2023 will mark the 50th iteration of the famous event, and the full route will be announced on March 13.

Authorities identify victims of fatal Highway 20 crash

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WELLSBURG — Authorities have identified the three children and one adult who died in a rollover crash in Grundy County that also injured the nine other passengers Friday morning.

The Iowa State Patrol said Marlin Bornrtreger, 1; Rebecca Bornrtreger, 2; Emma Bornrtreger, 4; and Ervin J. Bornrtreger, 22, all died. None of the occupants of the van were using seatbelts or child car seats.

Iowa State Patrol spokesman Alex Dinkla said the driver lost control of the van on a stretch of U.S. Highway 20 near Wellsburg that was covered with snow and ice. Four passengers were ejected when the van entered the median and rolled over.

Dinkla said he didn't have an update on the conditions of the nine people who were injured. They were taken to hospitals in Grundy County and Waterloo.

The injured people included six adults and three young children. Everyone in the van was from Delhi, Iowa, which is a small city in Delaware County about 50 miles northeast of Cedar Rapids.

Rita Hart elected to lead Iowa Democrats



PHOTO VIA IOWA CAPITAL DISPATCH

Rita Hart is was elected as chair of the Iowa Democratic Party Sunday. She shown here during her 2020 congressional campaign outside a school in Bennett, where she once taught.

By LUKE CLAUSEN

IOWA CAPITAL DISPATCH

Former state senator Rita Hart was elected Saturday as the next chair of the Iowa Democratic Party.

"As a teacher, a farmer, a state senator and lieutenant governor and congressional candidate, I've seen time and time again how the policies that our leaders implement affect everyday Iowans. My focus is squarely on helping our party begin winning elections again," Hart said in the election meeting. "The job of the chair is to make that happen."

Hart, a former teacher as well as a farmer from Wheatland, is currently chair of the Clinton County Democratic Party. She served in the Iowa Senate from 2013 to 2019 and she was Fred Hubbell's running mate in the 2018

HART | A3

Starting over



T-R PHOTO BY ROBERT MAHARRY

Roman, left, and Dasha, right, Sychova, pose for a photo at their new home in rural Marshall County along with their four kids: Bohdan, second from left, Danila, center, Diana, second from right, and Damira, second from right.

Sychova family embracing new life in Marshall County

By ROBERT MAHARRY

TIMES-REPUBLICAN

Although Roman and Dasha Sychova are happy to be living safe and sound in America with their four children, their thoughts are almost always with their friends back in Ukraine fighting in the ongoing war against Russia.

The Sychovas — who have four children between the ages of three and nine — are one of four Ukrainian families to settle in Marshall County over the last several months, arriving Nov. 1 and staying in a farmhouse owned by the Salasek family southeast of Marshalltown. Before the chaos that began last February, they lived a relatively normal life in Zaporizhzhia, a city of about 750,000 people in southeast Ukraine: Roman was a sales manager for a company that sells farm equipment, and Dasha stayed home raising the kids.

The couple, speaking in Ukrainian through translator Marina Gromov, recounted how they celebrated their nine-year wedding anniversary last February, and when they woke up the next day, the city was occupied

by Russian forces. Roman could no longer work, and about 80 percent of Zaporizhzhia would ultimately be destroyed.

Because of its close proximity to the frontline of the war — they can still recall hearing missiles, gunshots and bombs overhead — the Sychovas

of ending up in the U.S. was always their preferred outcome. Roman said their knowledge of English, although limited, was a key factor along with America's history of welcoming immigrants.

"Europe is mostly built on native people... America is basically built on immigrants," they said. "We thought it would be easier to build our life here."

The Sychovas have been grateful for the welcome they've received in Marshall County, especially through the informal network of supporters from the local faith community known as Marshalltown United for Ukraine and Jasmin Banderas at Child Abuse Prevention Services (CAPS) — Gromov called her a "life jacket" — who has assisted them in filling out paperwork for their humanitarian parole status.

They miss their old life in Ukraine, but the people they've met here have helped to fill the void. As Marshalltown City Councilor Mike Ladehoff, who has sponsored the Sychova family, put it, "We're family now."

FAMILY | A3



quickly decided their hometown was no longer a safe place for their children. Water, food and other basic necessities became scarce.

"We were constantly afraid. We became afraid for the life and mental health of our children," Roman said.

They first moved to another city 300 miles west within Ukraine, but even with the opportunity to move pretty much anywhere, the prospect

Union Grove Lake hosts ice fishing tournament



T-R PHOTOS BY ROBERT MAHARRY

Despite frigid temperatures and snowy road conditions Saturday morning, the first annual John Kjormoe Ice Fishing Tournament at Union Grove Lake, previously known as the Pump Ice Tournament, still went off without a hitch at Union Grove Lake and enjoyed a strong turnout. Some of the competitors like Evelyn Carrasco of Marshalltown, left, pictured with her father Christian, were all smiles after weighing their catches.

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