



## CLASS OF '62 REUNITES

Former classmates share memories/Page 2



## LOOKING AHEAD

Iowa basketball media day coverage/Page 5

# The Daily Freeman-Journal

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Thursday, Oct. 6, 2022

Webster City, Iowa



## G'Day!

It's a great day to buy your Rotary Turkey Dinner tickets.



Teresa Rotshafer

## Teresa Rotshafer is Iowa League of Cities honoree

Teresa Rotshafer, former Webster City city manager, received the Iowa League of Cities Hall of Award at its annual conference in Waterloo in September.

Rotshafer is assistant vity administrator/finance for the City of Johnston.

The League Hall of Fame Award was created to recognize individuals who have provided extraordinary public service to the League and local government.

Selection for this award is made on the basis of service rendered to city government generally, including leadership in the League, League-affiliated Boards, or other municipal organizations, service on state or national boards or commissions, providing extraordinary service to cities in training, education and development of local leadership, advocating for cities and good local government, and providing exceptional professional assistance and support to cities.

## Downtown is hosting business trick-or-treat Oct. 31

The 400, 500, 600 and 700 blocks of Second Street will be closed on Halloween evening to create a safe, family-friendly trick or treat event.

Businesses and organizations can participate by passing out candy or promotional items to trick-or-treaters from 3:30-5 p.m. Patrons to downtown businesses owners may use the rear parking lots and rear entrances.

# Bassett challenges murder conviction in Appeals Court arguments

## WEBSTER CITY MAN KILLED HIS GIRLFRIEND, COURT FOUND

By KELBY WINGERT

DES MOINES — A panel of judges from the Iowa Court of Appeals heard arguments on Wednesday afternoon from a Webster City man who was convicted of second-degree murder for the 2018 death of his girlfriend.

During his February 2021 jury trial, Zackery N. Bassett, 35, argued that 50-year-old Andrea Sokolowski was not murdered, but rather died as a result of accidental positional asphyxiation during

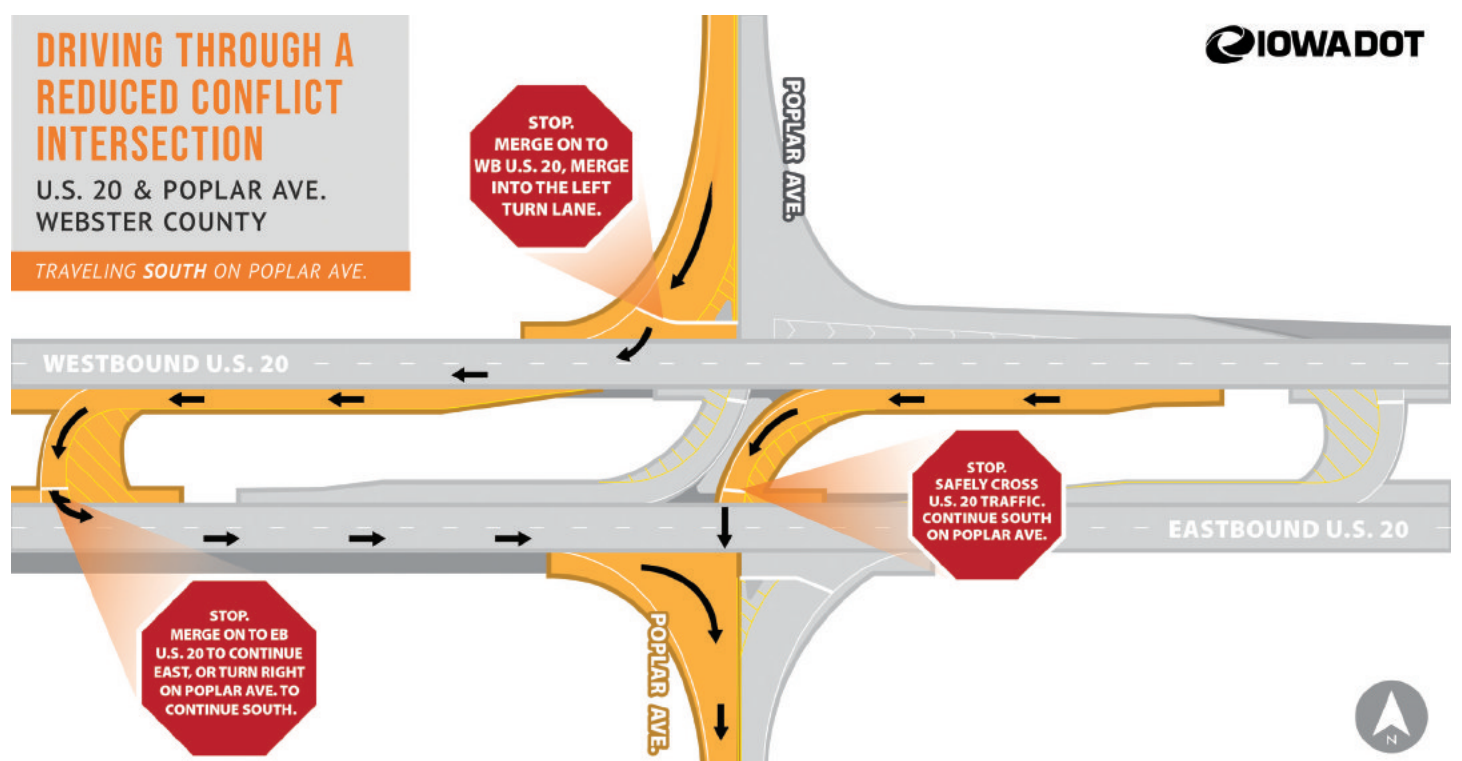
rough sex. Bassett was facing a charge of first-degree murder, a class A felony, when a Hamilton County jury convicted him of the lesser-included charge of second-degree murder, a class B felony. In June 2021, District Court Judge Amy Moore sentenced him to up to 50 years in prison.

Bassett is appealing his conviction, making a myriad of arguments, citing juror misconduct and errors of the District Court during trial.

Bassett argues that the District Court

erred in denying his motion to suppress statements he made to an Iowa Division of Criminal Investigation agent, that the District Court erroneously admitted Sokolowski's statements into evidence in violation of the confrontation clause, that evidence of the defendant's previous bad acts should have been inadmissible, that the medical examiner's conclusions were based in part on reports of a history of do-

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# DIRECTIONAL CHANGES

## Crossing U.S. 20 near FD just got interesting

By KELBY WINGERT

U.S. HIGHWAY 20 — Drivers looking to cross U.S. Highway 20 at Poplar Avenue will have to navigate a newer, safer crossing recently constructed by the Iowa Department of Transportation.

The planned construction for the now-open Marker 126 travel center required a traffic study to be conducted because the development was expected to generate significant traffic, according to Benjamin Hucker, an engineer with the Iowa DOT District 1.

"When the traffic impact study was completed for the travel center, it was identified that the amount of traffic going in and out of the travel center just was going to be too much for that traditional grade intersection there," he said.

Over the summer, the U.S. Highway 20 and Poplar Avenue intersection was reconstructed to become a "reduced-conflict intersection." Reduced-conflict intersections are designed to reduce the number of conflict points where vehicles can crash into each other.

"There's 42 possible places where cars could collide in a traditional intersection on a four-lane divided highway like we have there on U.S. 20," Hucker said. "With a reduced-conflict intersection, by restricting certain movements and not allowing the most dangerous movements, we reduce those conflict points down to 24."

In a reduced-conflict intersection, drivers on the side road (Poplar Avenue) wanting to turn left or cross the four-lane

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— Iowa DOT graphic

A graphic overhead view shows how the new intersection works when traveling south on Poplar Avenue, above.

-Photo courtesy of the Iowa DOT

A photo shows a vehicle driving westbound and the signs of the new reduced-conflict intersection at U.S. Highway 20 and Poplar Avenue that instructs the driver to make a U-turn to head east and be able to turn south on Poplar Avenue.



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