

Opinion

What to watch
for at state hoops

This & That
Troy Hyde

I wrote a preview story for the upcoming boys' state basketball tournament featuring the Newton Cardinals.

But, to get fans ready for the week, here are a few more things to watch for in the Class 3A field.

- Newton is averaging 63 points per game in its wins and only 49 points per contest in the losses. The Cardinals have scored 70 or more points six times, including five of their past nine games.

- On the flip side, Newton's first-round opponent, North Polk, has scored 70 points just once and only reached 60 or more six times. The Comets are allowing 48 points per game, while the Cardinals are surrendering 49.6 points per contest.

- Newton ranks 11th in 3A with 176 made 3-pointers. That's the second most in school history, trailing only

the 2017 squad which also made the state tournament. That team buried 198 treys.

- Speaking of 3-pointers, expect the 3A quarterfinal game featuring second-seeded Cedar Rapids Xavier and seventh-seeded Des Moines Hoover to feature a bunch of shots from outside. The Saints rank seventh in 3A with 187 made 3s, while the Huskies are currently 10th with 179.

- Top-seeded Bondurant-Farrar is the only 3A team Newton has lost to. The Bluejays are first in the class with 273 made free throws and third-seeded Marion ranks third in 3A with 255 free throw makes.

- Bondurant-Farrar is one of the top scoring teams in 3A. The Bluejays, who could face Newton in the state semifinals if both teams win their quarterfinal games, rank fifth with

1,610 points. Their first-round opponent, No. 8 seed Algona, ranks fourth with 1,668 points.

- I have reported on Cole Plowman's school records for blocks in a season and blocks in a career this winter. What I haven't written about is the fact that his 3.0 blocks per game leads all of 3A.

Players to watch

- Bondurant-Farrar senior Colby Collison ranks eighth in 3A in scoring at 19.9 points per game. He's also averaging 6.6 rebounds and 2.9 assists per game.

- Marion senior Brayson Laube leads 3A in scoring at 22.5 points per contest. He's averaging 4.4 boards, 3.2 assists and 1.4 steals, too.

- Des Moines Hoover senior Chase Henderson is the son of Hoover head coach Courtney Henderson and the nephew of former Iowa Hawkeye Duez Henderson. He ranks third in 3A in scoring at 21.7 points per game and also averages 4.0 rebounds, 5.0 assists and 1.6 steals per tilt.

- Hoover's first-round opponent

will be Cedar Rapids Xavier and the Saints are led by senior Aidan Yamilkoski, who is averaging 18 points, 4.2 rebounds, 2.0 assists and 1.1 steals per game.

- Sixth-seeded Sioux City Bishop Heelan is led by junior Matt Noll, who is averaging 18 points, eight rebounds and 2.4 steals per game.

- Algona is the youngest team in the 3A field. Junior Landon Welp ranks eighth in the class in assists at 5.3 per game. Sophomore Alex Manske ranks sixth in rebounds at 9.8 per contest.

Predicting the winners of this year's state tournament is maybe as tough as it's ever been.

The 1A champion likely will be Grand View Christian, but North Linn should be in the final. They are the only two undefeated teams left in the class.

The rest of the three classes are tougher to predict.

Cedar Rapids Kennedy is the lone undefeated left in 4A and Bondurant-Farrar is still unbeaten in 3A.

Contact Troy Hyde at thyde@shawmedia.com

Work continues on
massive government
realignment bill

By Jon Dunwell

The Governor unveiled in her Condition of the State address a proposal to streamline and realign the structure of government to improve the function of state agencies. House Study Bill 126 was introduced in the State Government Committee, and last week, members held public meetings to discuss proposed changes and to hear from stake holders.

To better serve Iowans and ensure government efficiency, the legislation identifies similar operations and services spread across 37 agencies, realigning them into 16. These changes provide a straightforward process for interacting with government without unnecessarily going through multiple agencies.

The changes include, but are not limited to, the following:

Department of Health & Human Services

The Department of Health and Human Services will absorb several agencies and programs that serve related services. Early Childhood Iowa will move from the Department of Management and Volunteer Iowa will move from Iowa Economic Development Authority to DHHS. The Department on Aging and the Department of Human Rights will move their services into respective divisions in the DHHS.

Department of Inspections, Appeals, and Licenses

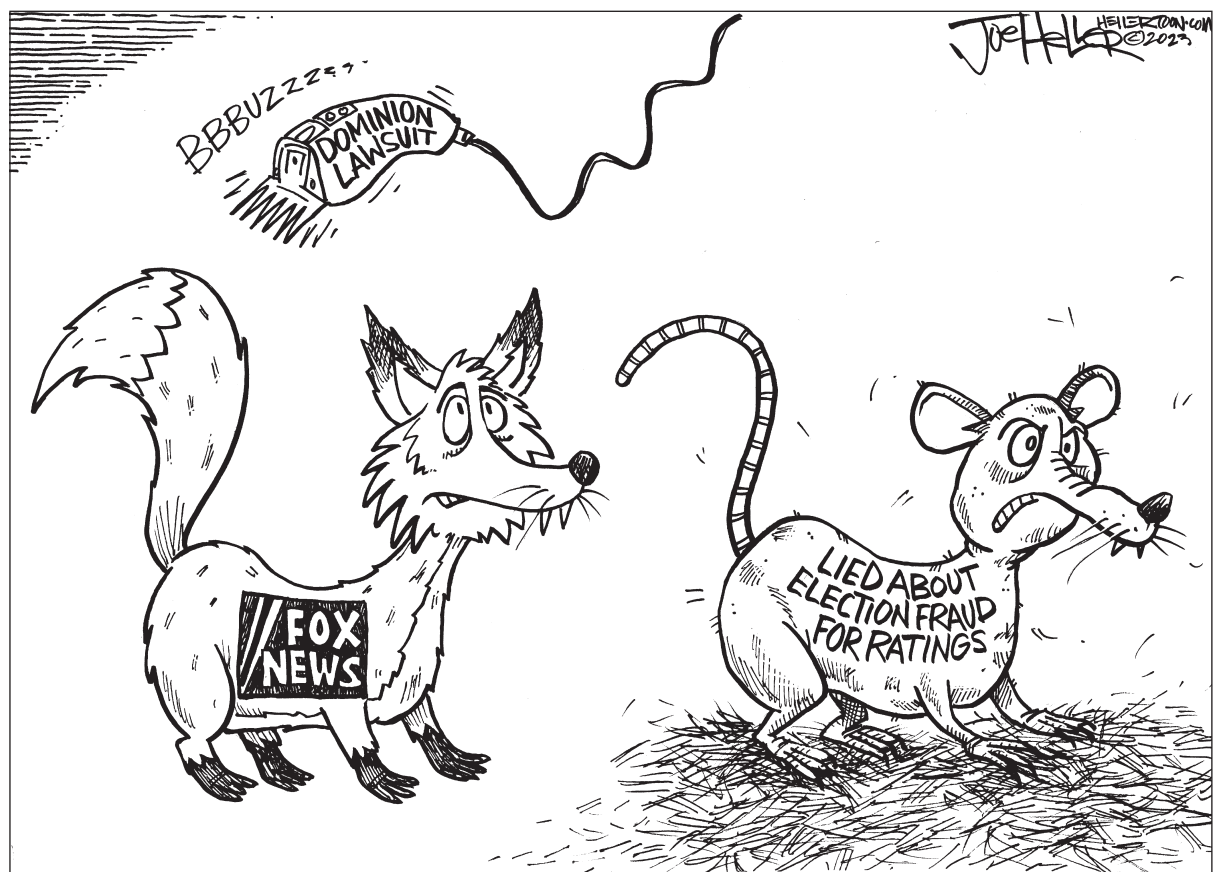
The Department of Inspections and Appeals will be renamed the Department of Inspections, Appeals, and Licensing (DIAL). Currently, the Department protects the health and safety of Iowans through regulatory and licensing functions. This bill will move more licensing and regulatory services under one Department, providing a more efficient service. The licensing and management of 136 professional licenses are currently overseen by 11 state agencies. Under DIAL the majority of those licenses will consolidate under DIAL.

Additionally, Division of Labor and the Division of Workers Compensation will move from Iowa Workforce Development and operate as divisions within DIAL. Administrative Law Judges will also move under DIAL, providing a centralized location for hearing administrative appeals.

Department of Administrative Services

The Department of Administrative Services is responsible for the management and maintenance of buildings and properties owned by the state of Iowa. Under that responsibility, the Historical Division within the Department of Cultural Affairs and the State Library will be moved to DAS in order to streamline the maintenance and upkeep of these properties.

As the legislative process moves forward the State Government Committee will continue to diligently review the legislation and speak to stakeholders to ensure that government realignment is used as a method to improve the responsiveness and effectiveness of the Government without sacrificing services and accountability.

The proposed TikTok ban goes too far.
The current TikTok ban doesn't go far enough

By Thomas L. Knapp

On Feb. 27, Reuters reports, the White House gave federal agencies a 30-day deadline to ensure that all government-owned devices are TikTok-free.

The supposed, but seemingly evidenceless, reason: Because a Chinese company owns TikTok — a smart phone app for creating and sharing short videos — the Chinese government may be using it to spy on Americans.

Well, OK. Ban TikTok from government devices.

But does that really go far enough?

Is TikTok the only app that gathers personal information and might be used by a government, any government, to spy on its users? Not even close.

If you don't think the U.S. government has been spying on you, using data generated by your phone, you haven't been paying attention for at least the last decade. In May 2013, now-exiled American hero Edward Snowden blew the whistle on the frightful extent of Washington's domestic espionage operations.

If the goal is to protect the government, and the government alone, it's appropriate to not just ban TikTok from government devices, but to ban government use of devices that could conceivably run TikTok or similar apps (including apps that install and run without the users' knowledge).

No smart phones.

No Internet-connected computers.

No flash drives or cloud-data storage must be restricted to tightly-controlled media. Perhaps a version of the old 5 1/4 inch floppy disk, with a security device embedded that goes off if someone attempts to leave a secure area with it.

Perhaps government should be limited to pen and paper, with everything encrypted using one-time pads generated by an army of monkeys rolling dice.

Hey, sounds good to me. Government does far too much, and all this modern technology facilitates its reach into areas of our lives where it has no business. So in addition to thwarting espionage, such a ban would benefit

the rest of us, too.

But, regarding the rest of us:

U.S. House Resolution 1153, according to the American Civil Liberties Union, would ban TikTok entirely. Not just for the U.S. government, but for all Americans.

If you passed junior high school civics, you almost certainly know that the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution forbids Congress to make any law "abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press."

TikTok is indisputably analogous to the printing press: It's just a tool that lets you publish video. HR 1153 is, therefore, indisputably unconstitutional, not to mention stupid, insane, and evil.

If you fear the possibility of the Chinese Communist Party spying on you via TikTok, and don't like that idea, remove TikTok from your phone (or don't install it in the first place). "Problem" solved.

Or, one problem solved anyway. There's still the problem of a technologically over-equipped U.S. government trying to run all our lives.

YOUR VIEW

Let's fix it

The Newton Daily News covered the meeting with Senator Rozenboom and Representative Dunwell where they met with the public thanks to The League of Women Voters of Jasper County.

Our representatives in the current legislature certainly know their stuff about guns — that's for sure. Guns are good; guns are freedom! Guns are necessary for Iowans to own and possess. It certainly is possible that the report in the Newton Daily News left out what our representatives may have said about the necessity of having guns, and if so I apologize in ad-

vance.

However, to the best of my knowledge, schizophrenia and bipolar disorder do not shoot people. These are mental dysfunctions that exist in our society, usually with those sitting in jail because they have nowhere else to go. A mental disorder doesn't shoot someone — a gun does. One can't make a mental disorder disappear — it just doesn't go poof and it's no longer. On the other hand, one can make a gun disappear; and in fact, one's life in this State is not changed one bit if it does. All of a sudden your job doesn't disappear because you don't have a gun; you're not discharged from your fraternal organization if you don't have a gun; although you

probably will be discharged or asked to leave if you're schizophrenic or suffering from some other mental dysfunction.

The same can be said for video games. I've never heard of a video game killing someone. Maybe I'm incorrect, but it doesn't seem feasible to me that you will kill someone sitting in front of a computer screen or on your cell phone playing a game. Won't happen. Video games simply don't kill people, guns do. Video games are not going away either. In order for video games to go away, it would seem to me the legislature would have to ban computers and cell phones altogether. Doesn't seem likely. What does one need most in

today's society — a cell phone or a gun?

So what we have here, according to our elected representatives, are mental disorders, video games, and guns. However, only one of these three items can possibly be got rid of and can you guess which one? It is not mental illness and it is not video games.

That only leaves one possibility. So these statements by our representatives to the effect that guns don't kill people, mental illness or video games kill people, should go in the trash bin with all the other nonsense that comes out of their mouths.

Richard E. H. Phelps II
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