Despite recent rainfall this past weekend, Johnson County, Iowa City, and University of Iowa officials have seen conditions improving at the Coralville Reservoir, and they are now assessing flood-protection costs.

As of Sunday, the water level of the Coralville Reservoir is expected to peak at 708.16 feet on Tuesday, and officials expect the level will continue to drop, according to a Johnson County Emergency Management press release.

Last week officials projected the water would peak at 708.3 feet on Tuesday.

July 4 was notable, as, in the spirit of Independence Day, the town was painted red (white and blue). Stars and stripes filled the space, beers filled hands, and music filled the air, mingled with shouts of “Merica!”

And there the entire time to keep it all running smoothly was Shane Schemmel, Summer of the Arts associate executive director. Schemmel kept volunteers coming in and out, fulfilling every need. This proved especially important on July 5, when volunteers squeegeed the Main Stage to keep water away from the artists and, more importantly, their valuable instruments and equipment.

“We’re lucky in Iowa City to have such a supportive community,” Schemmel said.

The crowds were small, though, in comparison with the previous two days. Barely able to squeeze past other festival-goers around the Main Stage, downtown was home to thousands last week. With food vendors lined up and down Iowa Avenue, the Beverage Garden resting on the corner, shop tables set up along Clinton, and jazz flowing in from all sides, it was hard to find a reason to leave. The smells and sights drew you in and the sounds kept you hooked.

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City gives up on meter donations

BY TING DIHAN
tingdihan@foxnews.com

The people parking meters around downtown will be taken down after four years of donations.

The Parking Meter Donation Program will be officially withdrawn after the Iowa City City Council voted to remove it, 5-0, and end it.

The program was put in place in 2010 in an attempt to explore giving to parkers. The donation system has been in place ever since.

In 2010, the council voted to resume the program, which was distributed to an additional agency that worked closely with the city.

"The amount of money that the donations benefited was starting at just under $1,600,000 and it had never increased," Road Services Director Dave Brown said.

According to the city website, the average donation is about $1 and is annually limited to a total of $15,000.

The city is now exploring the possibility of disbanding the program.

"We believe that the program is no longer viable," Brown said.

The city has proposed to give the remaining donations to the Salvation Army as a way to continue the donation process.

"We will always encourage people to continue making donations to any of the social service agencies in the community," he said.

The program will be officially withdrawn after the city council approved the proposal.

"The city has always been grateful for the donations," Brown said.

The City Council voted to remove the program, 5-0, and end it.

"We are looking forward to exploring the possibilities of disbursing the donations to the Salvation Army," Brown said.

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JAZZ FEST CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

community toward voluntarism,” he said. “It’s really nice to see people coming out to support the arts as their volunteer choice.”

The volunteering spirit seemed to strike some suddenly, as the volunteer booths experienced “walk-in volunteers,” individuals at the festival who simply came up, asked, “How can I help today?” and did what was needed.

Kim Schillig, an Iowa City native, was one of the 150 scheduled volunteers. “I supported Summer to the Arts for many, many years, and I’d love to see that it continues,” she said. “I think volunteers are one of the ways we can ensure the festival continues and keep the cost down; with a festival like this, we couldn’t afford to pay everybody.”

Since the festival’s inception, Schillig has noticed a big increase in its offerings and appeal. “I hear the crowds just keeping getting larger, and that’s based on their experience,” she said. “They enjoy it, as they keep coming and encourage others to come.”

That’s what happened with retired UI elementary education Professor Dick Shepardson and wife Marty. Having been absent from the festival for the past few years, they came back for Smith Studio Jazz’s performance on the Youth Stage on a friend’s recommendation. The band, they’d been told, was very danceable, perfect for the pair.

“The music was wonderful,” Marty Shepardson said. “It’s nice to see a group get together and just enjoy music.”

As the festival headed into its coda, Barnes said she felt confident about what they had accomplished over the three days. “At this time, I can say that the festival has been very successful because of the caliber of talent featured on the four stages,” she said. “We were able to bring in some of the biggest names in the jazz community [Tom Harrell and Esperanza Spalding, for example], and the performances have been spectacular.”
Opinion

The Fourth of July is one of the days of the year we look forward to every year. Days aside, from the whole becoming a country it’s one of the few holidays adults have during the summer, and that makes it a perfect day to be out in the sunlight.

We hate chicken and steak, but we also sit outside and watch parades for the first time in a decade and find joy in learning the valuable lessons of educational and profoundly heroic. That said, there are a bunch of kids you can see on tricycles before you hit your mind wonders.

Of course I’m biased about the whole thing because I think holidays deverly overawed as a whole. From my 2nd birthday in May we met with nothing but joy and I’m a cynical. I mean we usually do celebrate everything. In the country’s eyes. Only special anniversaries about occurrence every decade or so. It’s possible we’ve never been able to celebrate our sacrifices and the blood of our ancestors.

This is a reason for the whole that holidays are so often muddled because people are actually personal on those days, but they’re just not there for the fun.

Large holidays such as the Fourth of July are bogged down by the marred scales because people are actually personal on those days, but they’re just not there for the fun.

I don’t think there would be any “celebration” once the holiday season is over for any year. And by “celebrating,” I mean using a set date or creating school or work. It’s really what the holiday is. The dates we celebrate all we conveniently enjoy being an American and whatever week usually stuck.

It would be the holiday that should actually serve a purpose if we were to remember and think about the holidays we celebrate. Instead, we take joy based on how much the kids have the freedom to choose.

Joel Momjian

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EDITORIAL POLICY

The Daily Iowan is a multimedia news organization that provides content for print, web and other platforms in Iowa City, Iowa. Let’s Letter to the Editor is the opinion and viewpoint of an individual or group. The opinions expressed are those of the writers and are not necessarily those of the editorial board. All columns from contributors to the Daily Iowan are subject to editing for fact checking and space considerations. The Daily Iowan reserves the right to reject any submissions. Letters to the Editor should be addressed to Joan R. Ponzini, The Daily Iowan, 170 S. Gilbert St., Iowa City, IA 52240. Letters shorter than 200 words will be subject to publication after a deadline of noon the day preceding a deadline for The Daily Iowan. Letters longer than 500 words will be subject to publication if they are edited for space considerations. All letters must be signed.

Opinions, Comments and Columns

The Daily Iowan welcomes the submission of columns, opinion and editorial essays, letters to the Editor and other content. Email submissions to the Iowan at editorial@dailyiowan.com. All opinions columns and essays must be 550 words or fewer. Essays should be addressed to the Editor and must be well-organized, well-supported and thoughtfully written. Submissions must be original and not previously published. The Daily Iowan reserves the right to edit for space and style.

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BRALEY CONTINUED FROM FRONT

press secretary for Bra- ley for Iowa. “This is how Democrats won. They were the ones on the ground, in the grass roots.”

Over the weekend, Bra ley had been on the road in
which Rep. Dave Loe bach, D-Iowa, recently opened up a new office, 620 S. Dubuque, the University
Locals packed into the room during the rain af ternoon to shake hands and speak to Braley, the Democratic candidate for Iowa's open Senate seat.

After the meet-and greet, the candidate tran sferred to Muscatine for another special meeting and then on to Fairfield to celebrate the town's 175th birthday celebration.

Dianne Butrum, the director of the Catt Cen ter for Women and Poli tics at Iowa State Uni versity, and she believes a lot of money and at tention is being put in to the Senate race. She said she also thinks both candidates will sign up to carry because of the small gap in the polls.

“The polls are really close,” she said. “Bra ley will need to rev up and get the Democratic base excited.”

Mike Curbchey, a can didate for the Johnson County supervisor, said he estimated up to 100 people attended the event throughout the afternoon.

Following Braley’s ar rival at the event, Mar rin Tully, a spokeswoman for the Johnson County Democrats, addressed the crowd with a short speech on the values of Braley’s platform.

Braley said he also high lighted such issues as fed eral minimum wage and preserving Social Security.

“Braley gets it—he grew up here, he worked hard on a farm,” Tully said. “He has an appreciation for the struggle that all of us are facing every day.”

Sen. Tom Harkin, D-Io wa, has held the Senate seat for nearly 30 years, and he spent 10 years before that in the House of Representa tives. He announced his plan to retire last year.

“This is a very impor tant seat for the Democrats to hold on to,” Carberry said. “The Republicans see it as a possible pickup.”

Hamel declined to re lease any information about Ernst’s forthcoming campaign. “I think he needs to work hard to recover from major gaffes he made ear ly,” she said. “He’s trying to play empha sis that he’s not a silver spoon in the mouth. He’s trying to rebound from early mistakes.”
A partial list of things I should probably tell every prospective girlfriend:

• The longest I’ve ever been a vegetarian is 36 hours. If you don’t include sleep, it’s closer to three. I expect you to love me for who I am, not what I consume. Normally, that emotion is apathy.

• I start each and every day out by checking my horoscope. Offer your time, not your cash. Someone you are close to will compromise your relationship by asking you to do something you don’t feel comfortable giving. Avoid joint money ventures. Offer your time, not your cash.

• I don’t expect you to agree with my plans. Take a stance; let others know what you have to offer and what you expect in return. Walk away from any situation that compromises your integrity. Don’t let anyone pressure you into doing something you don’t care to do. You can be diplomatic, but make it perfectly clear what you expect from others.

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The way to see by faith is to shut the eye of reason.

— Benjamin Franklin, Poor Richard’s Almanack (1758)
Buses shrug off price hikes

By GENE JOHNSON

Washington goes to pot

By GENE JOHNSON

Washington marijuana shops prepare for historic sales.

Pepet found to renting a helicopter.

Cary Grant was a great actor.

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Newspaper text
PRIME TIME LEAGUE

Gesell expands his game

By WILL MCWIRDON

WATERLOO — Mike Gesell had a rough — but to put it lightly — end to the 2013-14 campaign. After shooting a combined 29- and 2-for-14 in Iowa’s last two losses, the point guard had gained his share of doubters but also a source of motivation.

Since his team’s season-ending loss to Tennessee, Gesell has been hard at work, putting in the long hours that hone skills and drive a willingness to improve.

“I’ve been working really hard in the off-season, trying to expand my game, finding different things I can work on,” Gesell said. “I think the key is for me to make sure to make a point of working on different things I can work on.”

After a rough end to Iowa’s season, Gesell is determined to silence critics — a process that begins in Prime Time League.

GAME TIME LEAGUE

Disterhoft & Co. roll on

By CHARLES GREENE

Anyone with basketball knowledge knows it takes more than scoring to win games and Gesell has true game experience to back his case.

With a deadly scorer in Ally Disterhoft and a stifling defense, Brendan Unkrich’s team looks unbeatable.

Northern exposure aids hoops

Northern Iowa is a part of the Prime Time League after a two-year break.

By KOLE MANN

WATERLOO — The Hawkeyes hit the road last week to take the Prime Time League to Waterloo for the first time in the looper’s history. While the Hawkeyes are rarely the “stars” of the league, beauty is in the eye of the beholder, and the fans from Waterloo were keen on another group of players.

After a two-year hiatus from Prime Time, Northern Iowa has returned this summer, and the Panthers are said to have a few games held close to the heart. Often regarded as the “little brother” in the state, make no mistake — Northern Iowa’s presence is felt.

The Panthers lay claim to the league’s leading scorer in guard Matt Johnson, who averaged 20.3 points per game. As big men Nathan House and Seth Tuttle, who are second and fourth, respectively, guard