

# Metro & Iowa

Iowa teen honored in Washington doesn't let disability slow him down **PAGE 2B**

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## More Iowans like suburban life

Census estimates find most incorporated cities losing residents

By **JANE NORMAN**  
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**Washington, D.C.** — New census estimates released today show that for many Iowans, the suburban lifestyle apparently can't be beat.

Overall, Iowa continues to slowly increase in population as it nears 3 million residents.

But the gains are focused almost entirely in the suburbs around the two metro areas of Des Moines and Cedar Rapids/Iowa City, leaving behind many of the iconic small towns associated with Iowa's heritage.

Between 2000 and 2007, some 75 percent of the state's 947 incorporated cities lost population, the

estimates show. Most are either small and in the most rural parts of the state, or they are among Iowa's larger cities, such as Sioux City and Waterloo.

"That is just simply incredible, that three-quarters of the state's communities lost people," said Dave Swenson, an Iowa State

**CENSUS, PAGE 3B**

### Census numbers

- The U.S. Census Bureau released its population estimates for every incorporated community in the country. In Iowa, the cities growing the most tended to be suburbs of cities such as Des Moines and Cedar Rapids.
- Maharishi Vedic City saw the largest increase in population at 240 percent, while Jolley saw a 41 percent drop.
- See the 20 fastest growing communities, the top 20 declining communities and population estimates for the Des Moines metro area. **Page 3B**



See a searchable database of the census population data for all 947 of Iowa's incorporated cities at [DesMoinesRegister.com/census](http://DesMoinesRegister.com/census).



**MARC HANSEN**  
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Freshmen

Dowling Catholic, priest face challenge of being apart after 10 memorable years



Corps says cities must find own flood

**Dateline Iowa**

From Register staff and news services

■ POSTVILLE

**No bail for 2 accused in Postville case**

The two former Agriprocessors Inc. supervisors being held on federal charges will be detained without bail until their trial because the court fears both will flee the country if they're released.

Federal authorities arrested Juan Carlos Guerrero-Espinoza, 35, and Martin De La Rosa-Loera, 43, last week on allegations they helped illegal immigrant workers at the plant obtain false Social Security and resident alien cards.

Both men originally entered the United States illegally, although they have legal status now, court records said. Both men travel regularly to Mexico to visit family, authorities said.

If convicted, both men face mandatory two-year prison sentences. A preliminary hearing for both men is scheduled for July 17.

■ ALTON

**Elevator explosion weakens grain silos**

A grain elevator explosion at the Midwest Farmers Cooperative in Alton heavily damaged four of the complex's six silos and weakened the entire structure, authorities at the scene said.

A truck driver who was unloading grain at the elevator when the explosion happened was injured, Alton Fire Chief Frank Van-Ess said. He was taken to the hospital in Orange City, then flown to a burn center in Nebraska.

The incident was reported at 3:16 p.m. Wednesday, and the fires were out by early evening.

■ PEOSTA

**5 towns to welcome Iowa Guard members**

Five Iowa communities will welcome home Iowa Army National Guard troops who served in Kosovo as part of a peacekeeping mission.

The homecoming ceremonies will be held Friday in Algona, Estherville, Fort Dodge, Peosta and Storm Lake.

Returning home are about 60 soldiers from Algona Battery B, 1st Battalion, 194th Field Artillery; about 75 from Estherville Battery A, 1st Battalion, 194th Field Artillery; about 65 from Fort Dodge Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 1st Battalion, 194th Field Artillery; about 90 from Peosta Company A (Dubuque), 1st Battalion, 133rd Infantry; and about 30 from Storm Lake Company G, 334th Brigade Support Battalion.

■ CEDAR RAPIDS

**Acid leak at plant delays operations**

Operations at the Archer Daniels Midland plant in Cedar Rapids have been delayed after a rail car valve leaked hydrochloric acid.

Fire officials responded to the plant around 8 a.m. Wednesday and quickly stopped the leak. No injuries were reported, and

# DVD's star visits Washington

**The 18th anniversary of the enactment of the Americans with Disabilities Act is the occasion.**

By JANE NORMAN  
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Washington, D.C. — Tyler Greene, 18, of Waterloo is one busy guy.

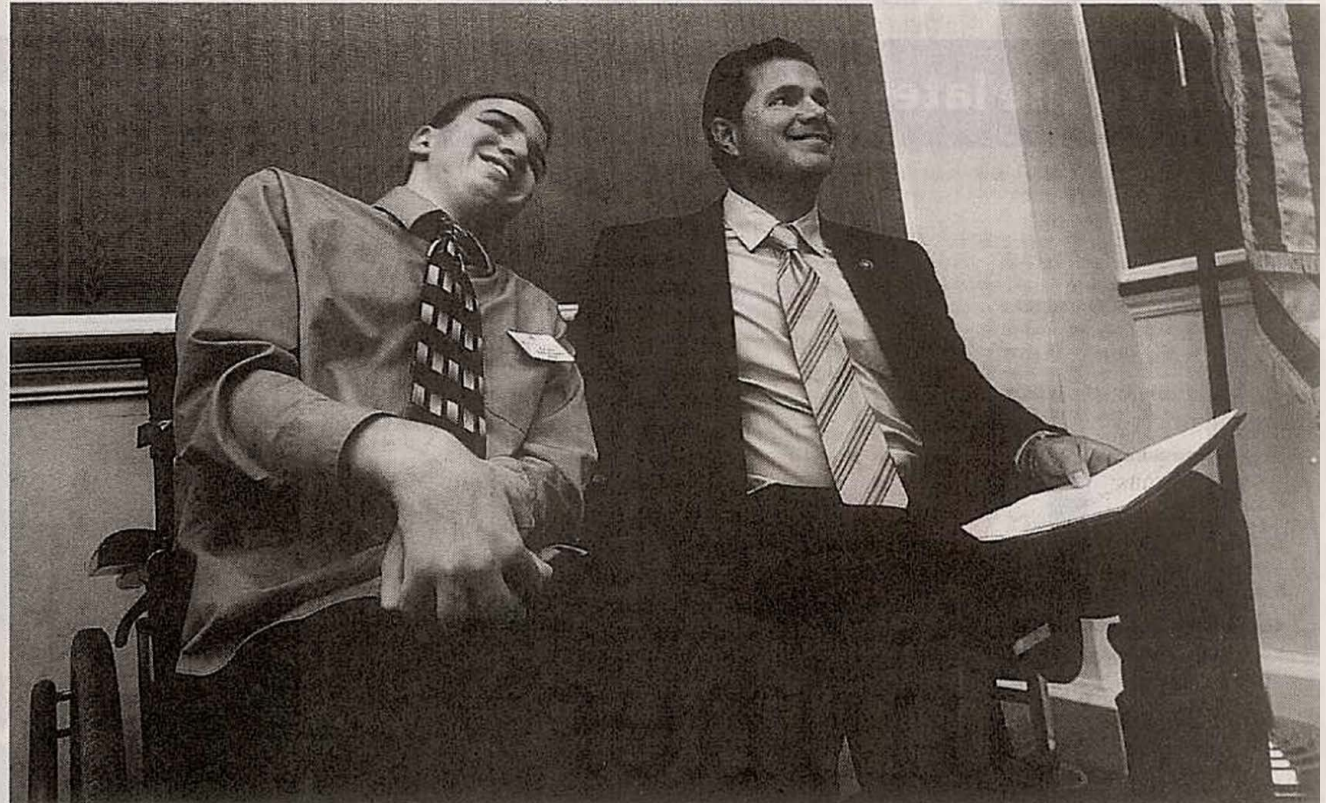
The recent West High School graduate played percussion in his school's award-winning marching band and appeared in a local theater production. An Eagle Scout and member of the National Honor Society, he enjoys karate, music, church activities, movies and surfing the Internet.

This fall he'll head to Hawkeye Community College to major in public administration.

Oh, and by the way, Greene has cerebral palsy and uses a wheelchair. He also has obsessive-compulsive disorder, a nonverbal learning disorder, and anxieties.

But he refuses to let his disabilities define who he is or what he can do — a way of looking at life that brought him to the U.S. Capitol on Wednesday for the 18th anniversary of enactment of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

"Ability awareness" was the theme of a DVD called "I'm Tyler — Don't Be Surprised" that Greene, with the help of friends, made for his Eagle Scout project. It can be seen at the Web site [www.ImTyler.org](http://www.ImTyler.org).



HEATHER WINES/GANNETT NEWS SERVICE

**Tyler Greene, 18, of Waterloo laughs with Rep. Bruce Braley, D-Ia., while watching Greene's video titled "I'm Tyler — Don't Be Surprised" at a reception Wednesday in the U.S. Capitol in Washington.**

The DVD initially was distributed to all 365 school districts in Iowa. But it found fans beyond the state's borders, with organizations in all 50 states and 18 other countries asking for copies. Some 5,000 have been sent.

Greene has received the United Church of Christ National Disabilities Ministry Award and the National Council for Exceptional Children "Yes I Can" award.

Wednesday, the DVD was shown to members of Congress invited by Rep. Bruce

Braley, a Waterloo Democrat who has known Greene since he was a baby.

"Eighteen years ago, there was a vision kids like Tyler would grow up in a world where they could do whatever they wanted to do," Braley said. "The Americans with Disabilities Act is not just a piece of paper but something that has meaning for all of us."

Greene told a crowd packed into a meeting room that the "ability awareness" he talks about in the DVD really wasn't about him.

"It's about all these amazing people who practice ability awareness," he said. There was the band director who "won't let me off the hook," or the Scout leader who insisted he play softball with the rest of the boys, just with Greene's dad pushing his wheelchair around the bases.

They saw Tyler, and not a disability, he said.

Sen. Tom Harkin, D-Ia., an author of the Americans with Disabilities Act, arrived late to the event but still was in time to shake

Greene's hand.

The act "was a labor of love for a long time," Harkin told Greene and his parents, Paul and Gina Greene.

But to see Greene today and his accomplishments, "it was worth the long fight," Harkin said.

Greene said in the DVD his life would be "totally different" without those who have helped him.

"Is there someone you know who needs you to have an open mind?" he asks. "Please, make a difference."

## CENSUS

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University associate scientist who studies demographics and advises towns on development strategies.

A rundown on the new numbers prepared by Swenson and Liesl Eathington of the Regional Capacity Analysis Program at ISU found that among the people living in cities in Iowa, nearly 62 percent now live in a metropolitan county.

Another 19 percent of city residents live in a county adjacent to a metro area. The remaining 19 percent living in cities are in counties not adjacent to metro areas.

"If you simply accept the cluster of growing cities around Des Moines, and the cluster of relatively well-off cities in and around Cedar Rapids and Iowa City, and then you look at the rest of Iowa, it just doesn't look good at all," Swenson said.

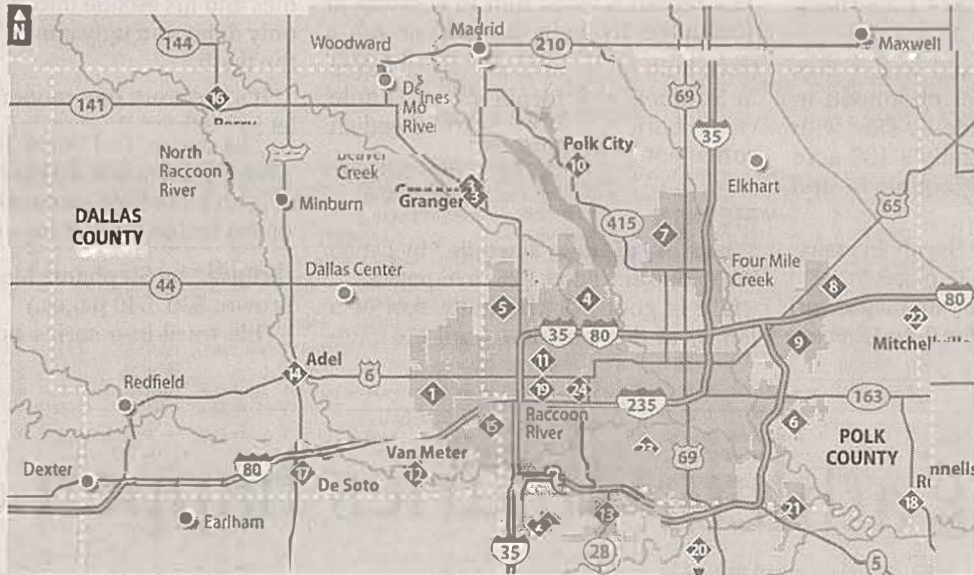
"We keep wanting this to moderate and level out, and it's not," he added.

Cities near Des Moines, Cedar Rapids or Iowa City with populations between 10,000 and 50,000 tended to fare the best in terms of adding numbers of new residents, though smaller towns near metro areas also have proved attractive.

For example, Waukee, west of Des Moines, continued to expand, growing 119 percent since 2000 and adding more than 1,100

### Iowa suburbs lead city growth

The U.S. Census Bureau on Wednesday released its population estimates for every incorporated community in the United States. In Iowa, the cities growing the most tended to be suburbs of cities such as Des Moines and Cedar Rapids. Small towns suffered the biggest declines. In terms of numbers, the city estimated to have lost the most population since 2000 is Des Moines, with a loss of 2,610 residents, though that trend appears to have reversed in the past couple of years.



**The top 20 fastest-growing communities in Iowa from July 2000 to July 2007**

1	Maharishi Vedic City	240%
2	Waukee	119%
3	Panorama Park	102%
4	North Liberty	100%
5	Fairfax	83%
6	Cumming	80%
7	Granger	76%
8	Johnston	73%
9	St. Anthony	71%
10	Peosta	70%

**The top 20 communities losing population in Iowa from July 2000 to July 2007**

1	Jolley	-41%
2	Le Roy	-38%
3	Garber	-30%
4	Swan	-30%
5	Hepburn	-28%
6	Vining	-28%
7	Ollie	-27%
8	Knierim	-27%
9	North Buena Vista	-25%
10	Ottoman	-25%

**Metro area communities' population estimates for 2007 and growth/decline since 2000**

1	Waukee	12,029	▲ 119%
2	Cumming	299	▲ 80%
3	Granger	1,058	▲ 76%
4	Johnston	15,261	▲ 73%
5	Grimes	7,822	▲ 53%
6	Pleasant Hill	7,876	▲ 50%
7	Ankeny	40,582	▲ 48%
8	Bondurant	2,598	▲ 39%
9	Altoona	13,851	▲ 33%
10	Polk City	2,007	▲ 27%

### Vedic City is fastest-growing

**Washington, D.C.**

— The honors for being the fastest-growing city in Iowa go to Maharishi Vedic City, a southeast Iowa town incorporated in 2001.

The city was founded by followers of Maharishi Mahesh Yogi, amid the farm fields of Jefferson County, and has grown rapidly.

It started out with a population of 90 in July 2000 and now has 306 residents, according to census estimates released today. That means it has grown by 240 percent in a seven-year period, outstripping even the booming suburbs of Des Moines and Cedar Rapids on a percentage basis.

Maharishi Mahesh Yogi introduced transcendental meditation to the United States and Maharishi Vedic City is a "model of ideal city life," according to its Web site at [www.maharishivediccity.net/index.html](http://www.maharishivediccity.net/index.html).

and Johnston.

Ankeny added an estimated 13,152 people in that brief time, bringing its current population to more than 40,000.

The top population losses, again in numbers over the seven-year period, came in industrial and regional trade centers such as Sioux City, Waterloo, Des Moines, Mason City and Burlington.

However, three of the five — Sioux City, Des Moines and Burlington — saw slight gains between 2000