



# NewsBreak

Iowa Radio Reading Information Service for the Blind

September 2024

## *What We Read Aloud:*

- Des Moines Register
- Quad City Times
- Cedar Rapids Gazette
- Cedar Falls-Waterloo Courier
- Sioux City Journal
- Mason City Globe Gazette
- Dubuque Telegraph Herald
- Council Bluffs Daily Non-Parcil
- Fort Dodge Messenger
- Storm Lake Times
- Webster City Freeman Journal
- MidWeek Shopping Cart
- Polk County Senior
- Cityview
- Business Record
- Successful Farming

*IowaRadioReading.org*  
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515-243-6833  
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*IRIS@IowaRadioReading.org*



Meet us at Big Grove Brewery Thursday, September 19 for a sensational and immersive experience in the art of making (and drinking) beer!

The event will feature blindfolded beer tastings, amazing silent auction items and beereducation - all to support IRIS service to our listeners.

Get your tickets! <https://iowaradioreading.org/accessibeer/>



## Listeners Want to Hear From You!

If you are holding or seeking office, IRIS invites you to our studios for a 20-minute one-on-one conversation. Disabled listeners are the largest minority voting bloc in the country. Nearly 62% of people with disabilities voted in 2020, up from 56% in 2016.

Our 11,000 print-disabled listeners can have difficulty attending events or accessing print information, so we are bringing you to them. Tell us about what is happening in your city or district. If you are running for office, simply tell us about YOU! If you would like to connect with IRIS listeners, send an email expressing your interest to [Maryfrances@IowaRadioReading.org](mailto:Maryfrances@IowaRadioReading.org).

## Pet Pals Coming October 3

Introducing Pet Pals! A weekly IRIS Original featuring the latest articles from Catster and Dogster magazines (formerly Cat Fancy and Dog Fancy) every Thursday at 8:00AM.



## Stretching Your Impact

83¢ of every dollar you donate to IRIS goes directly to programming. That's the electricity, subscriptions, transmission fees and staff to coordinate volunteers, edit programs, send radios and get it all on the air.

THANK YOU for your gift to support our mission.  
<https://iowaradioreading.org/donate/>





## Welcome Zoey Borkowski

This smiling sophomore is our new IRIS Coordinator at Drake University. Drake journalism students record the Council Bluffs Daily Non Pareil for IRIS each weekday during the school year.

Originally from Puerto Rico, Zoey is pursuing degrees in Public Policy and Psychology and is a resident assistant.

Some fun facts about Zoey: she used to have a pet tortoise named Barry, her favorite recording artist is Elton John, favorite movie is Champions (2023), favorite pie is rhubarb and Zoey has read forty-two books already this year.

## Fully-Accessible SQUONK Brouhaha!

In August, DM Performing Arts gave a gang of IRIS listeners an all-access experience of SQUONK.



## Reader Spotlight: Craig Shives

Every Wednesday, we can count on Craig Shives to record the Mason City Globe Gazette/Fort Dodge Messenger hour. While it is only once a week, it means a great deal to us!

Craig: "I grew up in Newton, where speech and debate were my primary high school activities. I attended Cornell College in Mount Vernon, Iowa where I met my wife, Kathy. We have two daughters who both live in Minneapolis. After Cornell, I attended Law School at the University of Iowa and spent my career as an employee benefits attorney practicing in Des Moines.



A few years ago, I took a class at the Des Moines Playhouse in voice acting. I decided to use that training by volunteering at IRIS. I enjoy being part of this organization of dedicated volunteers. My favorite movie is Doctor Zhivago and my favorite ice cream is chocolate with marshmallow sauce.



## Be Like Craig!

IRIS requires a minimum of TEN volunteers A DAY to keep our readings of newspapers and other timely publications going. You can read live or record programs from our Des Moines studios or record from your own home! The frequency of your IRIS shifts can be as much or as little as you like (though we prefer a commitment of at least two shifts per month).

Reading for IRIS is easy and fun! Learn more about how you can become one of the volunteer Voices of IRIS at <https://iowaradioreading.org/become-a-volunteer/>



## A Sweet Afternoon thanks to BLACK CAT ICE CREAM

Our sweetest THANK YOU to Black Cat Ice Cream and all the listeners and volunteers who attended our Annual Ice Cream Social. What a lovely gathering of wonderful people!

# Friends of IRIS Monthly Giving

A small monthly gift can have a mighty impact on the work we do. It is easy to "set it and forget it" using your credit or debit card. For as little as \$5 per month, Friends of IRIS sustaining donors keep IRIS strong!

Your gift continues month after month - you can change or cancel at any time. Become a Friend of IRIS at [IowaRadioReading.org/Donate](http://IowaRadioReading.org/Donate). THANK YOU!



## IRIS at the Des Moines Arts Festival



We were thrilled to participate as one of the nonprofits featured at the Des Moines Arts Festival in June. Our activity: help children create their name in Braille on a card they could take home. It was an amazing opportunity for visibility for IRIS. Over the course of the 3-day event, we welcomed over 300 visitors to our tent! Some of those folks have since joined our volunteer team!

## Upcoming Audio Description

View the Full Schedule through August 2025 at <https://iowaradioreading.org/audio-description/>



**Jersey Boys**  
Sunday, Sept. 22, 2024  
DM Comm. Playhouse



**Back to the Future**  
Sunday, Oct. 20, 2024  
DM Performing Arts



**Shrek the Musical**  
Sunday, Oct. 20, 2024  
Stephens Auditorium



**The Music Man**  
Saturday, Oct. 26, 2024  
Gallagher Bluedorn



**Dracula**  
Sunday, Oct. 27, 2024  
DM Comm. Playhouse



**Artrageous**  
Saturday, Nov. 9, 2024  
Stephens Auditorium



**Tina: The Musical**  
Sunday, Nov. 10, 2024  
DM Performing Arts



**Tina: The Musical**  
Monday, Nov. 11, 2024  
Stephens Auditorium



**Chicago**  
Sunday, Dec. 8, 2024  
DM Performing Arts



**Dear Evan Hansen**  
Thursday, Dec. 12, 2024  
Stephens Auditorium

**IRIS Listeners:** 11,000+

### Signal:

- Custom IRIS Radios
- Smart Speakers
- Live Audio Stream
- Podcasts

### Equipment Cost Per Listener:

- IRIS Pays \$40 - \$350
- Listener Pays \$0

### Personnel:

- 1 FT, 3 PT Employees
- 402 Volunteers

### Annual Budget:

- \$180,000

### Government Funding:

- \$32,000

### 501(c)(3) Tax ID:

- 42-1298155

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