

Reynolds proposes phone ban

By Garrett Pearlman

Students at Durant High School hung up on Governor Kim Reynolds after she proposed a cell phone ban in her recent condition of the state address.

Durant currently uses a flexible phone plan that allows each specific teacher to choose how students' phones are dealt with in the classroom.

It is basically a daily occurrence for me to hear teachers telling students to put their phones away while they are trying to teach.

This would be a major relief to teachers if this bill were to pass, and Gov. Reynolds addressed that in her speech.

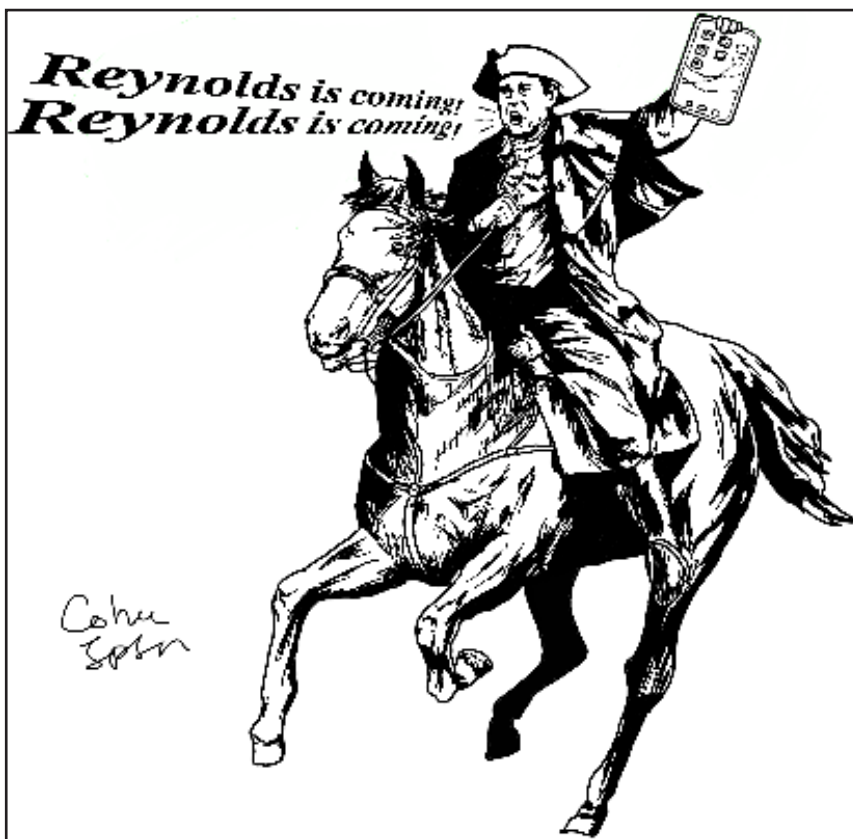
"When you ask educators about the obstacles they're facing in the classroom, smartphone distraction is consistently near the top of the list," said Gov. Reynolds.

She wants legislation that would keep "instructional time free from digital distractions," but she also added, "Of course, there will be common-sense exceptions, like during an emergency."

Principal Joel Diederichs is ready to make the switch over to a phone ban but has to wait on what will actually become law.

He saw a similar proposal fail to make headway last year but is excited to see what this new proposed bill has to offer.

"I think it would help the education environment as it would be a universal rule across the school, and it would then take pressure off of the teacher and the student if



they knew it was across the board and law," said Mr. Diederichs.

As expected, most students don't want to see this bill taking place.

Sophomore Corbin McCoy has heard a lot about this proposal recently and expected it to come, but he doesn't think that Durant needs a phone ban during instructional time.

"I feel like in a small school like Durant it isn't really a problem," he said. "If a student gets caught on their phone, and the teacher asks them to get off it, they get off it, but I do believe in a big school this might be the only solution for students to get off their phones."

McCoy said he understands why the governor made her pitch because students sometimes are distracted by entertain-

ment-focused apps such as TikTok or Snapchat.

"Many kids are nonstop on their phones, and Iowa normally scores relatively well in education rankings among the states, but in recent years, there have been declining test scores, and on-time high school graduation rates have been decreasing."

Junior Clay Dierickx dislikes the proposed ban because he mainly uses his phone as a way of communication.

"I always hear phones being called distractions, and sometimes they are, but the way I use mine, it is mostly a form of communication," said Dierickx.

"I've heard some teachers at Durant say, 'If someone needs to get a hold of you, that they can go through the office,' but some things are too urgent and private."

He also said he would be bored in study hall if he couldn't use his phone.

Similarly, freshman Hailey Bacorn doesn't like the bill due to the loss of communication.

"I would like it not to happen just because I like to have my phone on me just in case anything happens during school hours," said Bacorn.

Bacorn is concerned about her rights if it comes to her losing her phone.

"I'm only really on it when I don't have anything to do in a class," said Bacorn.

She notes that some students, including herself, use their phones to help them focus by using their phones to listen to music.

As a son of Durant High School English teacher Cathy Pearlman, I can understand both sides of the argument. I feel bad for my mom for what she has to deal with, but classes still have free time, and students might get rowdier without their phones.

I know that a cell phone ban during instructional time might have benefited me and made me more productive.

But as a senior, I'm so glad I'll be long gone before a cell phone ban is put into place.

Cohen Jepsen

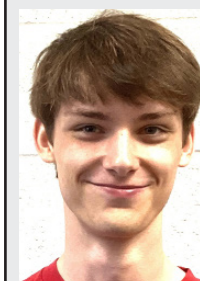
Rom-coms not his box of chocolates

For the upcoming Valentine's Day holiday, I was assigned the unfortunate task of watching three rom-com movies by the numbers: *13 Going on 30*, *10 Things I Hate About You*, and *How to Lose a Guy in 10 Days*.

Rom-coms are an acquired taste and focus on presenting a love story with comedic undertones.

Uncovering the mysteries of rom-coms over the recent holiday break didn't seem appealing, as I planned to partake in some winter activities.

But, seeing as snow fell solely on the last day of break, I reluctantly turned



on the first rom-com assigned: *13 Going on 30*, and the experience was nothing short of a horrendous cheese-fest.

The plot behind the film was hard to follow, as I couldn't comprehend why a girl could be turned into a 30-year-old because of magic dust. It was so bad that I only watched half of it. I must admit, however, there were some parts I liked.

Turning it off was definitely the best part, closely followed by seeing Mark Ruffalo. He's the guy who plays Hulk in the *Avengers* movies. In fact, I started to watch *Avengers* in order to recover my testosterone that was blatantly attacked.

The next film I watched was *10 Things I Hate About You*.

This is the one and only rom-com I had watched beforehand, and I gotta admit it was pretty good.

Unlike *13 Going on 30*, there is no magic. The plot is sensible, and the characters are realistic. Basically, a younger sister can't date anybody unless her older sister dates someone first.

The guy who likes the younger sister hires another student to date the older sister. Heath Ledger stole the screen; he's the guy who played the Joker in *The Dark Knight*.

In fact, once the movie ended, I watched *The Dark Knight*. After all, rom-coms are still rom-coms, and I absolutely prefer explosions and action over romance.

The final rom-com that tainted my television was *How to Lose a Guy in 10 Days*.

This one, similar to those last two films, starred another famous fella, Matthew McConaughey, most notably seen in Christopher Nolan's sci-fi action masterpiece *Interstellar*.

The plot follows a woman who thinks she can get a guy to leave her in 10 days.

She finds a man who coincidentally thinks he can make a woman fall in love with him in 10 days. There also aren't any superheroes or car chases.

This film, like *10 Things I Hate About You*, was alright.

But after I turned it off, I watched *Interstellar*, and I came to truly comprehend the great chasm that separates movie genres in the industry.

After all, action movies are more realistic because they teach more valuable lessons like honor, courage, and sacrifice.

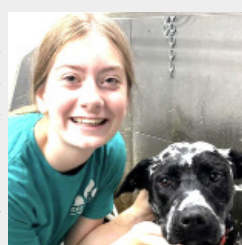
Never again will my eyes find themselves upon a romantic comedy movie.

Green Acres employee of the month



2051 Highway 927
Wilton, IA 52778

Ellasyn Clark, a Durant junior, has been working at Green Acres for a year and a half. She works three times a week and enjoys the flexible work hours. Clark wants to be a dog groomer.



Clark



1001 6th St.
Durant, IA
563-785-6152

The Wildcat Chronicles

Durant High School
408 7th Street
Durant, Iowa 52747
(563) 785-4431

wildcat.chronicles@durant.k12.ia.us

Editor: Garrett Pearlman
News editor: Royce Richman
Features editor: Katelynn Toft
Sports editor: Lauren Callison
Business Manager: Mayson Eddy
Reporters: Colby Gast, Kylee Hahn, Paige Happ, Cohen Jepsen, Josh Peel, Allison Toft, and Kila Wink
Website Manager: Kylee Hahn
Photographers: Kylee Hahn, Paige Happ, and Gus Thoma

The Wildcat Chronicles staff believes a school newspaper is uniquely qualified to inform, entertain, and represent our peers. We strive to present accurate stories and thought-provoking commentary, and we are responsible for the content of each issue.



502 9th Ave.
Durant, IA 52747
(563) 785-4541

Today's Dentistry coach of the month

Anna Richardson is in her first year of coaching the junior high girls' wrestling team. Coach Richardson enjoys her role as mentor and said the team "becomes a second family, creating lasting bonds and friendships beyond the sport." Her goals this season for her athletes are for every individual wrestler to have academic success, to set up a future in the sport of wrestling, and to achieve personal growth.



Richardson



PAPER'S LUMBER & SUPPLY

901 5th St., Durant, IA 52747
563-785-4482

Liberty Trust & Savings Bank's club member of the month



Member FDIC

Senior Gavin Broussard has been part of the Durant robotics team, the Mechanicats, for two years. Broussard joined the team because he is interested in technology, computer science, and programming. He helps with the design process and programming the robot this year.



Broussard