

Examples of Tim Webber's work (also linked from entry)

- [COVID-19 in Iowa: These maps and graphics show how coronavirus pandemic is currently affecting Iowa](#)

Aug. 5, 2021: Webber has been our statistical analyst throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, prepared this nine-item interactive visualization.

- [How did we get here? A look at the pandemic events that led Iowa to where it is today](#)

This page, which Webber originated on March 10, 2020, has been a continually updated constant of the Des Moines Register's COVID-19 coverage.

- <https://www.desmoinesregister.com/story/news/2020/03/10/coronavirus-iowa-map-how-many-cases-there-and-where-they/5009556002/>

Jan. 25, 2021: Webber assembled this thoroughly detailed account of the progress of COVID-19 in Iowa, with interactive visualizations.

- [These 5 Iowa redistricting maps and graphics show how legislative, congressional districts could change](#)

Sept. 17, 2021: Webber provided readers all the pertinent points of information on the legislative redistricting proposal, with interactive visualizations.

- [COVID-19, 'baby bust,' demographic changes: Iowa may soon see fewer births than deaths](#)

Working with the Register's health reporter, Tony Leys, Webber illustrated how demographic changes could soon propel Iowa's death rate past its birth rate.

- [A year after derecho's record-setting damage, Iowa farmers are still dealing with the aftermath](#)

Aug. 4, 2021: Working with the Register's agriculture reporter, Donnelle Eller, on a piece about the anniversary of the Aug. 20, 2020, derecho, Webber provided interactive and other graphics that showed where the storm had gone, the damage it did and who was affected.

Attestation from Bill Steiden, Des Moines Register investigative and business editor:

Tim Webber, 26, has been a remarkable asset for the Register since his arrival three years ago. He has the depth not only to report and write stories, but to illustrate them with deeply researched graphics. He's especially skilled at creating interactive presentations that allow Iowans to drill down to the information that matters most to them: the tract-level changes in their neighborhood from one census to the next; the specifics and location of the Iowa nursing homes with the worst COVID-19 rates; the county-by-county data on infection rates and how they compare; the course the Aug. 10, 2020, derecho followed across the state, where it did the worst damage and how much farmers lost in crops to the storm.

There are many other examples – Tim's facility with data presentation and his mastery of graphic programs allow him to be extremely prolific. In addition, he's a great team player, able to work easily with other reporters and quickly understand and translate into visualizations the key points from stories they're seeking to tell.

Effectively, he embodies for the Register what, at a larger organization, would be an entire department's work, and is unflappable in fielding the many demands made on his time and in completing assignments with accuracy and precision. It's only when we get to look at the body of his work, as we did for this contest entry, that we truly appreciate just how much he brings to the Register's report, and its readers, on a daily basis.

In an online world where reporting resources are ever scarcer, his ability to work in multiple dimensions with calm competency, always focused on enhancing our journalism, is a model for the future of reporting.

Statement of goals from Tim Webber:

If there's one joke I heard more than any other in college, it's that students didn't go into journalism to do math.

Well, not in my case.

As a data visualization specialist at the *Des Moines Register*, I spend most of my days doing exactly that. Data is becoming more and more integral to all of the stories, across all sections of our newsroom. From breaking news to business to politics to sports, we use data to complement our coverage and tell more nuanced stories.

I feel fortunate that the *Register* allows me to have a role where I can take complex datasets and break them down into easy-to-understand charts and

simple terms for our readers. Data can be easy to spin into misinformation, so I take care to present data for controversial topics, like COVID-19 or election results, in a way that's straightforward and no-nonsense.

My goals as a journalist are simple: Continue to improve the skills and techniques in my toolbox so I can make complex data as easy to parse as possible for the communities I serve. I hope that, for as long as my journalism career continues, I can be a valuable asset in helping our readers understand the stories that most affect them.