

IOWA TODAY®

NEWS

JOURNAL

HOWARD COUNTY

2-car crash kills motorist

■ A Lawler man was killed in a two-car accident early Saturday near Cresco, according to the Iowa State Patrol.

Todd Borlaug, 29, the driver of one car, was pronounced dead at Howard County Hospital shortly after the 1:55 a.m. accident, the patrol said. The driver of the second car, Pam Christianson, 34, of Cresco, was listed in fair condition at Saint Marys Hospital in Rochester, Minn., where she was transferred from Howard County Hospital. She suffered back, ankle and hand injuries.

The accident happened on Howard County Road V-58, two miles south of Cresco. Christianson was northbound when her car crossed the center line and collided with Borlaug's southbound vehicle, the patrol said.

The patrol is continuing to investigate the accident.

DES MOINES

2nd body found near river

■ A man was found shot to death Saturday along the Des Moines River near the site where the badly burned body of a woman was found. Police do not believe the two deaths are connected.

Police identified the man as Ky Van Luong, 20, of Des Moines.

Des Moines Police Sgt. Bruce Elrod said Luong died of gunshot wounds and his body was dumped along a bike path, where it was found around 8 a.m.

The body of Susan Hagen, 44, of Des Moines, was found Thursday under a bridge along the river. Police are still searching for suspects in her death.

HILLS

Home fire 'not suspicious'

■ Fire investigators have not yet pinpointed the cause of a Friday night fire that destroyed a mobile home near Hills, but they have determined it is not suspicious in nature.

Hills Fire Department Chief Steve Emerson said Saturday his investigation will continue Monday. No assistance will be requested from the state fire marshal's office, he said.

No one was injured in the fire, which broke out at 7:40 p.m. in the 5000 block of Lackender Avenue SW. The residents, Ray Branden, Shelli Meyer and Branden's 5-year-old son, are in the process of moving to Kalona and had moved many of their personal belongings out of the mobile home, which is owned by Meyer's grandfather.

No one was in the mobile home at the time of the fire. Meyer was at the Kalona residence and Branden was working, Emerson said.

It appears Shelli Meyer's insurance was still in force, Emerson said. "The last we knew, she does still have coverage on the trailer," he said.

BETTENDORF

Wife charged in beer-lacing

■ A Bettendorf woman has been accused of trying to poison her husband by lacing his beer with antifreeze.

Karen Hartman, 54, was charged Friday with attempted murder. She was being held on \$32,500 bond.

Bettendorf Police Chief Phil Redington said Richard Hartman was rushed to a Davenport hospital on Tuesday. He remained in serious condition on Saturday.

Redington said police received a tip Wednesday alleging that Hartman's illness might have been caused by some kind of poison added to his beer. Investigation showed that on two occasions between Jan. 18 and Feb. 10, Karen Hartman had put antifreeze in her husband's beer, Redington said.

Dinosaur

'Jurassic Park's' lifelike T. rex amazed audiences,

hunter

but the real thrill is in chasing a dream



TALKS

■ On Thursday, John "Jack" Horner, paleontologist and author, will give two presentations at Cornell College in Mount Vernon during the school's 75th anniversary celebration of Phi Beta Kappa. Both lectures are free and open to the public.

■ 11 a.m. convocation, King Chapel: "Dinosaur Lives" concerns how dinosaur behavior is deduced from rocks and fossils and how the process of science works in biological sciences. Horner will discuss discovering dinosaur nests, eggs, embryos, babies and massive herds of dinosaur skeletons.

■ 7:30 p.m. lecture, King Chapel: "The Science and Fiction of 'Jurassic Park' and 'The Lost World.'"

Most people might not recognize his name, but it's probably a sure bet that most people have seen some of John "Jack" Horner's work.

As Steven Spielberg's dinosaur consultant on two of the all-time top-grossing films, "Jurassic Park" and "The Lost World," Horner's knowledge helped keep the movie dinosaurs within a somewhat realistic scale.

However, the majority of Horner's work is done in the sandy mountains of Montana and in the dark recesses of museums, work that most of the public does not see.

Horner, 51, is adjunct professor of geology and biology at Montana State University in Billings, Mont., and curator of paleontology at the Museum of the Rockies in Bozeman, Mont.

He will talk about his work during two lectures Thursday at Cornell College in Mount Vernon. To trace Horner's interest in paleontology, go back to the town of Shelby, Mont.

"I was very young, so young that I can't even remember for sure he said of when his interest was kindled. "But it was at least before I was 8 years old. By then I knew I wanted to be a paleontologist and was 100 percent focused on it."

At 8 years old, Horner found his first fossil. Although he did not know what it was at the time, he said he was excited nonetheless. So to learn more about fossils, he started reading books. By the time

he got to high school he was completely focused on paleontology. However, things didn't go so smoothly in college.

Although he didn't know it then, Horner was suffering from a severe case of dyslexia. He said he was often thought of as lazy and unmotivated because of his condition.

"I went to college for seven years and I flunked out seven times," he said. "However, I focused in on what I wanted to do. I don't think I really thought that I'd ever become a paleontologist, but I took the courses I thought I needed to be a paleontologist. But I didn't take the courses to earn a degree and I certainly didn't take the courses the university thought I should, those in the humanities."

After his seven years at Montana State University, Horner said, he applied to every English-speaking museum in the world. He got jobs from museums in Toronto and Los Angeles, and from Princeton University. He applied for all three, and eventually accepted a technical job at Princeton, a job that didn't require a degree.

From his first position at Princeton, Horner worked his way up to become the assistant curator of paleontology. He went on to his position at the Museum of the Rockies.

For the majority of his career, Horner has walked the Montana landscape, searching for the

■ Turn to 24A: Dinosaur



Bruce Selyem, Museum of the Rockies, photos



Jack Horner stands near Egg Mountain in western Montana. Beginning in 1979, Horner and a research team found a trove of fossilized dinosaur eggs and evidence of nests.

BIO

■ John "Jack" Horner, 51, adjunct professor of geology and biology at Montana State University and curator of paleontology at the Museum of the Rockies in Bozeman, Mont.

■ Paleontological consultant on the movies "Jurassic Park" and "The Lost World."

■ Recipient of a MacArthur Prize fellowship and has earned numerous other honors: the American Geological Institute's 1995 Award for Outstanding Contribution to Public Understanding of

Geology; the 1994 American Association of Petroleum Geologists Journalism Award; the Montana State University Wiley Award for Research in 1994; and grants from the National Science Foundation and the National Geographic Society.

■ Co-author of five books: "Digging Dinosaurs"; "Meat: A Dinosaur Grows Up"; "The Complete T. Rex"; "Digging Up Tyrannosaurus"; and "Dinosaur Lives" 1997.

ABOVE: Jack Horner, adjunct professor of geology and biology at Montana State University in Billings, Mont., and curator of paleontology at the Museum of the Rockies in Bozeman, Mont., stops for a break at a dig site in eastern Montana. TOP: Horner and his staff excavated a complete Tyrannosaurus rex fossil skeleton in eastern Montana in 1990. The T. rex skull is about 6 feet long.

Story by Joshua Nichols Gazette news intern

Mark of presidents valuable

It is an autograph almost any journalist would cherish. It is that of John F. Kennedy, while in office, on an article you have written about his Jan. 20, 1961, inauguration, about the famous speech he gave that included the much-quoted line, "Ask not what your country can do for you — ask what you can do for your country."

RAMBLIN'



Dave Rasdal Gazette staff writer

zine, came a couple of years later, less than a year before the president was assassinated. It reads: "For Joanne — who puts in the kind words — with warmest regards. John Kennedy January 19th, 1963."

And it hangs in the second floor hallway of Richard Schrodermier's Cedar Rapids home along with autographs from every United States president, from the Father of Our Country, George Washington, to the man who occupies that office now, Bill Clinton.

"It makes you privy to history," Richard says about his relatively new-found hobby. "During that person's life, one minute was dedicated to writing that note, to signing it."

Most autograph collectors specialize in a certain era, such as the Civil War, or in certain types of people, like sports stars or U.S. presidents, whom we remember this Monday on Presidents Day. Richard chose presidents because information is readily available about them and their autographs.

Besides, while he only took up autograph collecting seriously a couple of years ago, he actually sought his first autograph as a Cedar Rapids teen.

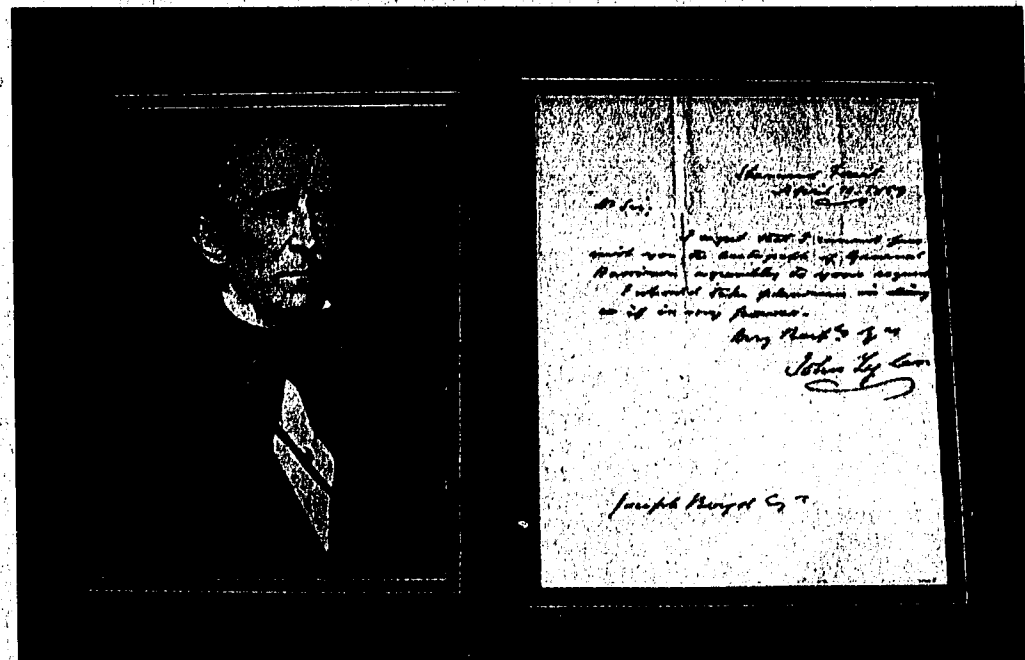
In 1964, Richard Nixon, former vice president and 1960 presidential candidate, stopped at the Roosevelt Hotel in Cedar Rapids for Barry Goldwater's campaign.

Since Nixon was not in office, he wasn't surrounded by security guards. Richard and a couple of friends went to the hotel, hoping to get Nixon's autograph. They caught him outside his room on his way to dinner.

Bu, does that count, since Nixon had yet to become president?

"Yeah, that counts," Richard says. "But I don't have that one any more. I sold it. I think I sold it for \$100."

Obviously, autographs when a president is in office are worth more, particularly if the signature is on an important document or a particularly



Gazette photo by Dave Rasdal

Autograph-seeking is not new as shown by this letter from John Tyler, our 10th president, in response to a constituent who asked for a William Henry Harrison autograph. Harrison died after just 30 days in office, making his presidential signature among the most valuable.

■ Turn to 24A: Ramblin'