

IN THE KNOW

A briefing on what's news

WAR IN IRAQ

Iraqis topple Saddam's statue, cheer end of rule

A Marine tank, along with cheering Baghdad residents, toppled the towering statue of Saddam Hussein in the middle of Firdos Square.

Despite scattered sniper fire directed at the U.S. troops, fear of the regime began to melt. **Details, 1A, 3A, 4A, 5A**

NATION/WORLD

U.S. plane bombs house, kills 11 Afghan civilians

A U.S. warplane called in to support allied Afghans under fire mistakenly bombed a house Wednesday, killing 11 civilians. It was the worst friendly-fire incident in Afghanistan in nine months.

The U.S. military said it was not clear why the bomb missed its target. **Details, 11A**

Senate OK's compromise religious charities bill

The Senate passed scaled-back legislation Wednesday granting new tax breaks for charitable donations.

President Bush's "faith-based initiative" began as an effort to open government programs to churches, synagogues and other religious organizations.

The bill passed, 95-5, simply provides a variety of tax breaks for donations to charities. It also provides \$1.3 billion more over two years for the Social Services Block Grant. **Details, 7A**

SCIENCE/MEDICINE

Study links blood clots to hardened arteries

Italian researchers found that patients hospitalized with unexplained deep-vein clots were nearly 2½ times more likely to also have hardening of the arteries, or atherosclerosis, than patients with deep-vein clots attributed to other health problems.

The finding could trigger new research in the effort to prevent the blockages that kill thousands of people each year. **Details, 7A**

MONEY

2 industrial giants settle pollution charges

Archer Daniels Midland Co., the nation's biggest ethanol producer, and Alcoa Inc., the world's largest aluminum producer, agreed to a settlement in response to federal pollution charges.

The two will spend nearly \$680 million to reduce industrial air pollution in 16 states and retrofit school buses with cleaner-burning engines. **Details, 6B**

CORRECTIONS

WRONG NAME: Nicholas Derring, 18, of 4353 First Ave. SE, was identified by his middle name in a story Tuesday. He was killed in a traffic accident on Interstate 380 over the weekend.

The Gazette welcomes comments about the accuracy,

LOCAL/STATE

C.R. family loses second member to Saturday fire

Jay Grahlman, 38, of Cedar Rapids, died Wednesday at University Hospitals in Iowa City from injuries suffered in a Saturday night fire.

Also injured in the fire, his daughter Jaymie Grahlman, 6, was taken off life-support equipment Sunday night.

His wife, Vickie Reed-Grahlman, 32, and his other three daughters, Kylie Reed, 9, Nicole Reed, 7, and Ida Mae Grahlman, 3, survived the fire. **Details, 1B**

Jail Task Force lists recommendations

The Johnson County Jail Task Force wrapped up nearly a year of deliberations Wednesday with a list of recommendations acknowledging the need for more jail space but also advocating "alternatives" to incarceration. **Details, 1B**

SPORTS

Tiger Woods hopes to make more golf history

Tiger Woods goes into the Masters golf tournament with an eye on his third straight Masters championship.

If he wins, Woods will make more golf history: The Masters is the only one of golf's major tournaments that never has seen anyone keep the title for three years. **Details, 1C**

ISU McCarney: Rookies will start if best players

Iowa State University football coach Dan McCarney says he'll start three red-shirt freshmen in offensive backfield this season if they prove to be the best players.

The three freshmen rookies he has in mind are Austin Flynn from Deer Park, Texas; Stevie Hicks from Omaha, and Ryan Kock, from Lohrville, Iowa.

McCarney says he might have trouble sleeping before games, but the best man plays, regardless of age or experience. **Details, 1C**

ONLINE

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Gazette and wire reports

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Fear, hope for those in harm's way

Nobody, except maybe teenagers in puppy love and expectant grandparents, enjoys a phone call in the middle of the night. Doctors and emergency workers may be accustomed to it, but the rest of us get nervous when the night quiet is split by an alarm, which is what we presume the middle-of-the-night ringing to be. Most good news seems to wait until daylight.

Lately, with several relatives and family friends under fire in Iraq, I have been especially antsy about off-hour

phone calls. Mental health professionals would probably say it doesn't help my state of mind to keep the television tuned to war coverage round the clock. But to me, I'm staying on top of things; so, should that dreaded phone call come, I will have been at least a little prepared.

That theory proved impractical at about 4 o'clock on Sunday morning, when the phone rang at my daughter's house, where I was visiting. My heart raced. I was tempted to pick up an extension, but settled for pressing my ear against Allison's bedroom door — just like the old days when she was growing up and I was part-spy. This time, however, I couldn't make out a

word. Returning to my bedroom, I waited. For telltale whimpering. For a telltale scream. For her to come running to her mama for comfort. But, nothing.

It was not until Allison arose for the day that I learned the call was, in fact, the welcomed kind. It had come from Anthony, a Marine who was scheduled to be discharged in May but was held over and deployed to the Persian Gulf last month.

"He sounded good," Allison reported. "Where is he?" I asked. "He's in Iraq. He couldn't say exactly where he was, but they're definitely fighting wherever he is."

"What did he say about it?" "He said this is really a war. His group gets shot at all the time."

"But he's all right." "Yeah, I guess. He's worried about two of his friends, though. They were with another group and he heard they were shot. He doesn't know where they are or if they're dead or alive."

With that, Allison fell silent and stared, blankly, into the distance. I knew her imagination was running full-speed to awful places. Tears began welling in her eyes.

"Honey," I said, "Just keep the faith. Remember, these guys are really tough and trained. And don't forget that God's there, so no matter what happens."

"I know," she said. "But I'm just so scared for him."

"I understand; I am, too. But you said

he sounds pretty good, right?"

"Yeah." She paused, then seemed to shift into a lighter mood. "He asked who was going to NCAA championship," she said, chuckling. "He said, 'Syracuse and Kansas? Are you serious?' He thought Texas was going to be in it."

"Oh, yeah, being from Dallas." "And he asked me what new music is out, and he talked about the food he has a craving for."

We were smiling now, grateful for signs that Anthony was still the nice, easy-going guy we knew. A young man of simple pleasures; the one with the dry but cutting wit; the gentle spirit who kept us laughing.

Allison's smile went limp. "He said it's going to be over soon," she said with a sigh. "Over soon."

The middle-of-the-night phone call had been a blessing after all. How good it had been to hear from Anthony and to learn that, all things considered, he is well.

I turned back to the television with a sigh of relief.

And then heard about my friend, David Bloom, a fantastic reporter and a most genuine man. He had not died in combat, but I'm convinced that warfare killed him. Killed him softly.

I suppose I could disconnect the phone and the television and might be better off for it. But really, there is no escaping the reach of war. Whether in mind or in body, we're all in harm's way.

Lawmakers delay tax cut decision

WASHINGTON (AP) — "The motivation is pretty clear and simple: To pass the buck for something the budgeteers couldn't figure out."

Sen. Chuck Grassley

Iowa Republican

House and Senate leaders struck an extraordinary budget agreement on Wednesday that would postpone until later this year a resolution of the internal Republican battle over how deeply to cut taxes.

They also tried resolving eleventh-hour disputes over a separate package providing nearly \$80 billion for initial costs of the Iraq war and its aftermath plus other efforts to combat terrorism around the globe.

The budget compromise removed the last major obstacle to congressional passage this week of a \$2.2 trillion tax-and-spending plan for 2004. Lead-

ers also wanted to send President Bush the war spending bill this week. "We're done," said House Budget Committee Chairman Jim Nussle, R-Iowa. The fiscal blueprint would

let the Senate pass a tax-cutting bill in coming weeks costing \$350 billion through 2013, while the House's price tag would be \$626 billion, Nussle said. The two chambers would have to approve a bill with a common number before shipping it to Bush for his signature.

The agreement seemed to spell the end of the full \$726 billion package Bush proposed in January. He said his plan — which would end taxes individuals pay on corporate dividends and accelerate scheduled income tax cuts — would revitalize the listless economy.

Congressional aides and

private analysts said they believed a final congressional budget had never before left the tax number undecided.

The ambivalence underscored an unresolved feud between GOP conservatives who say a larger tax cut would be a boon to the economy, and moderates who say it would worsen federal deficits expected to approach \$400 billion this year.

"The motivation is pretty clear and simple: To pass the buck" to the tax-writing Senate Finance and House Ways and Means committees "for something the budgeteers couldn't figure out," said Sen. Chuck Grassley, R-Iowa.



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