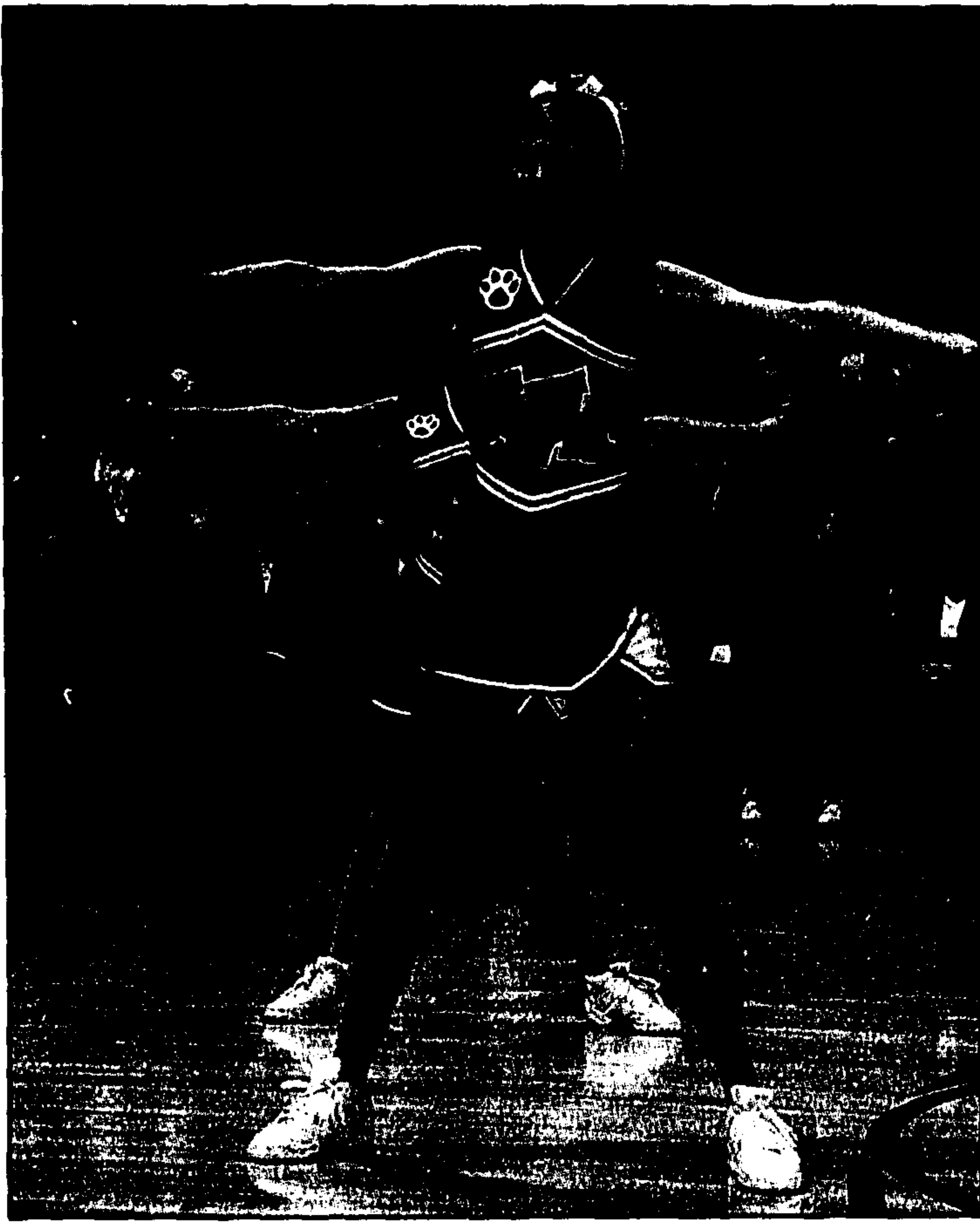
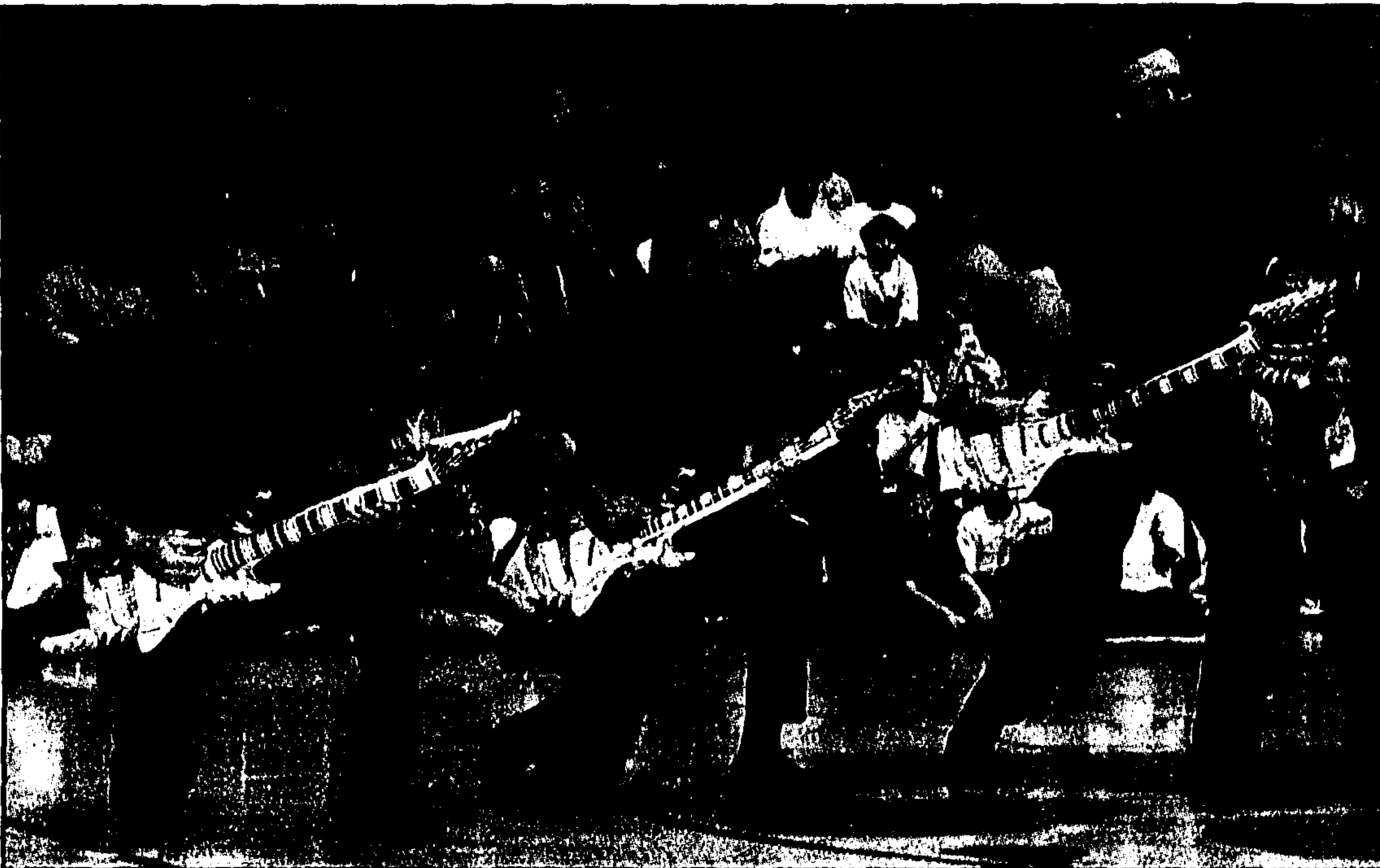


WLVA Dance Corps presents 'Fire and Ice'

Members of the Wall Lake View Auburn Dance Corps were burnin' up the floor during their annual spring dance show Saturday that featured the theme "Fire and Ice." Pictured during the squad's pom routine is junior Lindi Lapel, daughter of Jerry and Lauri Lapel. The 17-member dance team brought home state-championship honors for the routine, which is set to a Brittney Spears mix, at the 2003 Iowa State Dance/Drill Team Championships in December.



Daily Times Herald Photos
by Brenda Heithoff



WLVA Dance Corps dads, also known as the "Dance Corps Hunks," were a crowd favorite at the spring dance show. The men, complete with fake sideburns and plastic guitars, got the audience all shook up when they performed to popular Elvis songs. The King himself

even made an appearance at the end of the routine. Pictured are (from left) Mike Mahn, father of freshman Stephanie Mahn; Kevin Schmidt, father of senior Heidi Schmidt; and Lynn Mohr, father of senior Nicole Mohr.



Members of the WLVA Dance Corps went undercover for their "Spy Mission" jazz/funk routine. Pictured are (from left) sophomore Lindsey Trost, daughter of Steve and Lori Trost, and junior Ally Boeckman, daughter of Dale and Christy Boeckman.



WLVA Middle and Elementary School students also took center stage at the spring dance show, performing routines choreographed and taught to them by Dance Corps members. Taking part in a pom routine to an "It's Cold in Here" mix are (from left) eighth-graders Christina Lamaak, daughter of Dale and Tina Lamaak, and Mikayla Rohde, daughter of Derek and Carol Rohde. Rohde is a sister of Dance Corps member Angela Rohde.

Clive woman delivers her grandson at home

PLEASANT HILL, Iowa (AP) — It wasn't planned that way, but a Clive grandmother delivered her grandson in the Des Moines suburb of Pleasant Hill.

JoAnn Nemmers is a nurse. She was on her way from her western Des Moines suburban home to the eastern suburb where she was to watch a granddaughter while her daughter-in-law and son went to a hospital for delivery.

Just after 5 a.m., as her mother-in-law walked through the front door, Kary Nemmers' water broke.

"I was so scared because I knew it was coming," Kary Nemmers said. "You know, it's such an instinctive thing, and I was in so much pain and nobody was here to help."

So JoAnn Nemmers took over.

"I guess the adrenaline just kicked in," she said. "After the ambulance came, I just stepped back and thought, 'Oh

God, what have I done?' It was one of those once-in-a-lifetime experiences."

No hospital bed. No doctors. And most importantly, no painkillers.

"That was the first thing I asked for when the ambulance got there," said Kary Nemmers, a pediatric nurse at Blank Children's Hospital.

Nemmers, 27, who was pregnant with her second child, woke up at 3:30 a.m. Tuesday. She was having contractions, but then she had been having contractions for a few weeks. She waited an hour to wake her husband, Shawn, 29.

They called Shawn Nemmers' parents to look after 2-year-old daughter Haley. By the time the in-laws arrived, Kary Nemmers was ready to give birth.

Isaac was born 17 minutes later, entering the world in the middle of his parents' Pleasant Hill living room. He was quiet

and tinged with blue, but he was OK, Kary Nemmers said.

"Other than that, he was perfect," said the now mother of two.

The few minutes between the birth of his son and the arrival of the paramedics were nerve-racking — "and amazing," Shawn Nemmers said.

"It was like, 'OK, what do we do now?'" he said. "It was such a relief when they showed up, that someone was there to take over."

As Haley adjusts to her role as

big sister, and as Kary and Shawn Nemmers adjust to being parents of two, JoAnn Nemmers knows she will always have a special bond with her first grandson.

"Little did I imagine I would deliver my grandson," she said. "God was watching over us, because so many things could have gone wrong. But they didn't. And now they have a beautiful little boy."

Fed chairman says economy shows resiliency in face of war

SIMI VALLEY, Calif. (AP) — The U.S. economy showed resilience through the 2001 terrorist attacks, corporate scandals and declining stock prices, and should weather the war in Iraq as well, Federal Reserve chairman Alan Greenspan said.

"We will not know what the full effect of this war will be until it's over, but we do know something about the framework of the American economy before entering the war, which was very surprising to me," Greenspan said Wednesday citing recent examples of its performance.

"We kept absorbing all those shocks, which, in my experience 30 years ago, would have created a major contraction in the economy," he said. "We'll come through this effectively with a stable economic system and one prone more to long-term growth and not stagnation."

Greenspan spoke at the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library and Museum. He was appointed by President Reagan as chairman of the board of governors of the Federal Reserve in 1987 and has been consistently reappointed.

Greenspan attributed the economy's flexibility in part to Reagan's economic policies, including the firing of unionized air traffic controllers, which he said bolstered the right of employers, previously not fully exercised, to use their discretion to hire and fire workers.

Asked about other aspects of the economy, Greenspan evaded answering whether he thought "abnormally low" interest rates could trigger inflation. The Fed is considering further cuts in interest rates and is also looking at pumping more money into the banking system to influence long-term rates.

When asked if he thought the housing market was overvalued, Greenspan indicated he didn't think so, at least not nationwide.

"I personally don't think there is a housing bubble similar to that that exists in stocks," he said.

He allowed that a bubble-like situation may exist in some regions. "We've had some in this particular state," he added to laughter.

He said California's stunning rise in housing prices since 2000 would likely slow or even reverse itself. "It's been so extraordinary, the presumption it will continue is not credible," Greenspan said.

He added that he did not think such a contraction would do the economy harm. "I would be doubtful about a major problem with the economy due to a retrenchment," Greenspan said.

Dry winter may not mean summer drought

SIBLEY, Iowa (AP) — A light spring drizzle dampened Steve Agar's farm near Sibley last week. The quarter inch was the first rain he's seen in a while.

"We've been pretty dry this winter," the Northwest Iowa farmer says. "An inch of rain would be great right now."

He isn't pacing the floor waiting for it.

"I'm not really worried right now. We've got a little subsoil moisture."

Agar recently attended a meeting during which Elwynn Taylor, Iowa State University Extension climatologist, told farmers not to lose sleep over the dry winter.

Some farmers and analysts say Taylor isn't concerned enough with a relatively dry 2002 followed by a very dry winter, but the veteran weather-trend watcher sees little reason to sweat.

For one thing, Taylor says, 2003 appears likely to be an El Nino year. Iowa has never had a widespread drought during this weather pattern.

Other weather watchers concede winter weather means little difference to either spring planting conditions or spring and summer weather patterns.

Larry Wilson, a meteorologist with Global Weather

Services in Kansas City, says there are no clear indicators this spring will be dry. He says recent forecasts show periodic shower activity heading into April.

Of course, there is no denying this past winter was dry. November through January was the second driest three-month period on record in Iowa, says State Climatologist Harry Hillaker.

Father dies of injuries suffered in house fire

CEDAR RAPIDS, Iowa (AP) — A man died early Wednesday of injuries suffered in a house fire that claimed the life of his 6-year-old daughter.

Jay Grahlmán, 38, of Cedar Rapids, died at University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics in Iowa City, said Tom Moore, a hospital spokesman. Grahlmán's daughter, Jaymie Grahlmán, died late Sunday after being taken off life support.

Both were injured in a fire at their Cedar Rapids home Saturday.

Fire investigators have determined that the fire started in a waste basket in the kitchen, said Dave Koch, spokesman for the Cedar Rapids Fire Department. They continue to investigate the exact cause, he

said.

Firefighters were called to the house just after midnight on Saturday. When they arrived, flames were shooting through the roof and from windows on three sides of the house, Koch said.

Two adults and three children had escaped the fire when firefighters arrived, Koch said.

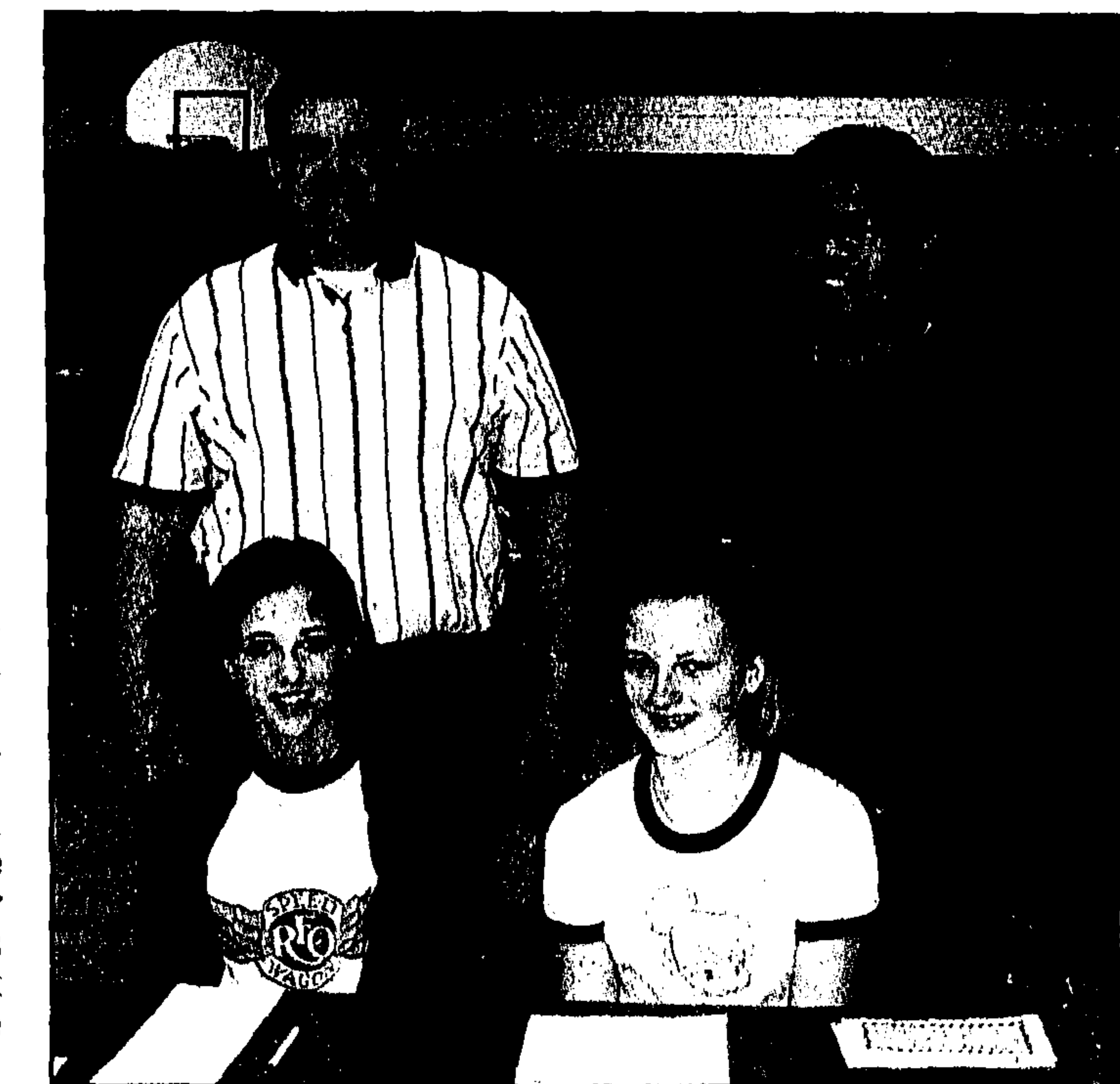
A neighbor, Orion Zirtzman, said her husband and others had to hold back Jay Grahlmán to keep him from going back into the burning house to find Jaymie.

Victoria Reed-Grahlmán, 32, was treated for smoke inhalation. Kylie Reed, 10, Nicole Reed, 7, and Ida Mae Grahlmán, 3, were not injured.



Photos courtesy Manning High School

MHS holds blood drive



Manning High School senior Brett Willenborg (above) donates blood during a recent drive hosted by Siouxland Community Blood Bank and 11 the Student Council. The drive produced 86 units of blood, including 12 units of double red cell, easily surpassing their overall goal of 50 units. In the photo at left, Jason Olesen, representing the blood bank, is pictured with student council members Holly Warner, Kelsey Feser, and Farfurm Ladroma. Olesen presented a certificate to the school for its efforts in collecting blood.