

IN THE KNOW

A briefing on what's news

LOCAL/STATE

E. Iowa grads may have tough time finding jobs

Most Eastern Iowa college students graduating this spring are having to work harder than Cassie Kloberdanz to find good jobs. Then again, when you have experience teaching classes at NASA while still in college, your job search tends to be a bit easier.

Due to the recession, with its expanding labor pool and hiring freezes, other graduates aren't finding themselves as lucky. **Details, 1A**

E. Iowa author marvels at new success of novel

Dow Mossman is taking the publication of his first novel in stride. After all, he's been through this before.

"There's no comparison," Mossman said Thursday after booksellers Barnes & Noble announced republication of "The Stones of Summer," his 1972 coming-of-age tale. "Of course, I'm different now, too." **Details, 1B**

I.C. budget cuts may affect police, firefighters

Fewer police staff and firefighters, elimination of weekend bus service and fee increases for many city services are among the proposals to slice the city's budget in response to state budget cuts, Iowa City officials said Thursday. **Details, 1B**

NATION/WORLD

Resolution gives U.S., Britain control of Iraq

The United States and Britain are seeking U.N. approval to run Iraq for at least a year in an American proposal that also limits the United Nations' role in the country, council diplomats said Thursday. **Details, 3A**

Study: Adulthood doesn't begin until age 26

The law may imply that you're a grown-up when you're old enough to vote, serve in the military or drink. But most Americans really think adulthood begins at age 26, according to a new study from the University of Chicago.

The study said most people don't consider a person grown up until they finish school, get a job and start raising a family. **Details, 8A**

Officials investigate hazing in Chicago suburb

Criminal charges are "very likely" in a touch football game between high school girls that turned into a brawl, police said Thursday.

The annual, unofficial "powder puff" game among students at Glenbrook North High School in Northbrook, a well-to-do suburb about 20 miles north of Chicago, landed five players in the hospital. One girl broke her ankle, another needed 10 stitches in her head. The game was supposed to be a "friendly initiation" for incoming seniors, one of the victims said.

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MONEY

Tight gas supplies to pump up prices

Gas prices are headed up, signaling the approach of summer driving season, with prices expected to average about 10 cents higher per gallon than last year's.

After declining steadily for about seven weeks, gas prices began rising again this week in Eastern Iowa. **Details, 1A**

Maytag CEO defends decision to close plant

Maytag's chief executive was forced repeatedly to defend the company's decision to close a Galesburg, Ill., refrigerator manufacturing plant Thursday at the annual stockholder's meeting in Newton.

As Chief Executive Officer Ralph Hake presided over the meeting inside a conference room adjacent to the company's corporate headquarters, more than 100 Galesburg workers and union activists protested outside. **Details, 6B**

Cuts expected in federal student loan rate

Some relief is on the way for families struggling to cover soaring college tuition: Lower interest rates are about to make federal loans cheaper than ever as tuition costs continue to rise. **Details, 6B**

SPORTS

Jepsen's pitching powers Kernels to victory

Cedar Rapids Kernels starting pitcher Kevin Jepsen flubbed a slowly hit grounder in front of the mound in the third inning that led to the Dayton Dragons scoring an unearned run. Other than that tiny miscue, the 18-year-old right-hander was essentially flawless in a 2-1 Kernels win.

Jepsen went a season-high seven innings, giving up one hit, and secured his Midwest League-leading sixth victory. **Details, 1C**

Iowa State begins search for new basketball coach

The gears are in motion in Ames as Iowa State looks for a men's basketball coach.

WOI-TV in Des Moines reported Thursday night

Wyoming Coach Steve McClain and Iowa State assistant Wayne Morgan will interview for the men's basketball position today, and Fresno State Coach Ray Lopes will interview for the position Saturday. **Details, 1C**

ONLINE

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 Gazette and wire reports

CLARIFICATION

RELATIONSHIPS CLARIFIED:
 Shannon Salmons of Logansport, Ind., is the mother of Jaymie Grahman, the 6-year-old girl who died April 6 after being injured in a house fire in northeast Cedar Rapids the night before.
 Salmons had joint custody of Jaymie with Jay Grahman, Jaymie's custodial parent, who died April 9 from injuries in the same fire.
 That relationship was not clear in stories published about the fire and its aftermath.
 Also, it was reported Jaymie was to be buried in Fredericksburg, Iowa, but she was buried in Logansport, Ind., April 10.
 The Gazette welcomes comments about the accuracy, fairness and completeness of news articles, headlines and captions in the newspaper. Please call (319) 398-8313 or 1-(800) 397-8212.

What works when the grades come

It's spring. Trees are budding. The air is mild. And a song, like the first robins' warble, is on the land.

The song goes this way: "What's with these grades?"



Jacquelyn Mitchard
 Tribune Media Services

Have I ever said such a thing?

Only as many times as I've ever eaten a bagel.

With six children, I've many a time found myself ready to jump out of a second-story window when the dreaded envelope arrives.

And I've made all the errors.

I've glowered and grounded and piled on chores. I've physically removed TV sets from the

house. I've talked about futures involving shopping carts, plastic bags and Chihuahuas. I've promised new software. I've taken away new software. I even once "edited" a paper so thoroughly it was all but written by me (and I got a C, thank you very much).

There IS a way to make next time, the time of sharpening new pencils, a kinder, gentler, more productive time, with better grades.

But I didn't learn it until yesterday.

That's when I talked to Thomas Connellan, a former program director and researcher at the University of Michigan. His New York Times best-selling book, "Bringing Out the Best in Others," LOOKS like just one more motivational manual; but it has secrets

inside about the way parents talk to kids about the successes and failures in their lives.

In fact, Connellan wouldn't even use words such as "failure." He'd simply say, "Here's a D. Here's another. What'll we do about this?"

"Everything is future orientation," he says, "Whether it was last week or last year, the past is over. Don't dwell on it."

That is the gateway to the Great Swamp. In the Great Swamp, kids make excuses; parents argue why excuses aren't valid; harsh words and even more harsh looks are exchanged and everyone stomps out of the room with nothing but resentment in place.

Connellan compares his technique to a windshield wiper.

One sweep of the wipe is "how" and the other is "what."

In other words, how can we change things? What can we do to make them different?

Expectations, accountability and feedback are the same whether you're a 40-year-old sales rep or a 12-year-old whose grades have slipped.

From you, even a glance, or tense posture, has a hurtful effect.

Connellan writes of families who reach the point of tears when they see the harm they've done by nagging, and how badly kids feel when they let their parents and themselves down.

Naturally, kids make excuses. "Mrs. Brown doesn't like me."

Acknowledge that this may be true, advises Connellan. Then point out that this may be something that has to be

worked around.

State the case. The grades have gone down. Privileges aren't being pulled by the parent, but by the facts.

He suggests we ask, "What can we do?" He assures us that the answer will be, "I don't know."

Connellan then advises that parents try their darndest to set aside emotion and ask, "What would you do if you DID know?" That way, parents might finally arrive at some useful strategies: Studying for an hour or two each week instead of waiting until the night before a big project. Regular check-ins with that mean Mrs. Brown.

He sets forth other useful comments to replace the customary rant:

- What can we do differently next time?

- I know you have the smarts to do better than these grades.

- Let's figure a plan out together.

Questions are the order of the day.

Most importantly of all, Connellan suggests that parents remember all the praise, attention and coaching they gave their firstborn.

Don't count on the fact that your children know how much their good results are valued. When your toddler learned to walk, you clapped your hands. Your toddler laughed with joy. If you've gotten as far from that delight as I sometimes have, you've forgotten that a modified version of that still works.

But guess what? It does.

Jacquelyn Mitchard's column appears in *The Gazette* on Friday. E-mail her at mitch@mailbag.com

Senate backs NATO expansion

Bush pays tribute to 7 'heroic nations'

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Senate unanimously endorsed the addition of seven former communist nations to NATO on Thursday in what would be the largest expansion of the alliance formed as a bulwark against Soviet military power.

With the vote, the United States becomes the third NATO member to have approved the expansion, joining Canada and Norway. Sena-

tors said the new members would boost the alliance, strengthen American security and encourage democracy throughout Europe.

The 16 remaining NATO members must also endorse the expansion for Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia to be admitted to the alliance.

President Bush hailed the expansion in a White House ceremony attended by the expansion nations' foreign ministers, who had looked on from the Senate gallery dur-

ing the earlier vote.

Noting that Thursday was the 58th anniversary of the allied victory over Germany in World War II, Bush said, "Today on V-E day, we mark another kind of victory in Europe."

"These heroic nations have survived tyranny, they have won their liberty and earned their place among free nations," Bush said. "America has always considered them friends and we will always be proud to call them allies."

Bush also took the opportunity to press for NATO to

develop new military capabilities "to confront the emerging dangers of a new era" — primarily terrorism.

The 96-0 vote contrasted with the heated debate that surrounded the last round of expansion five years ago, when the Senate voted 80-19 to add the Czech Republic, Hungary and Poland. A two-thirds vote is needed for treaty ratification.

The Senate vote came despite doubts by many lawmakers about the future of the alliance, following a rift over the Iraq war.

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