

## Johnson cuts it

In the event closest to C.R., golfer Zach Johnson comes through, 1C

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## CORRIDOR

IOWA CITY

### Defendant free on bond in pedestrian's death

A West Des Moines man accused of driving while high on marijuana and killing University of Iowa student Amanda Skolnick was released from jail hours after making his initial appearance on a vehicular homicide charge.

Thomas H. Eldridge, 21, made a brief initial appearance in Johnson County District Court on Friday morning in front of District Associate Judge Sylvia Lewis.



Eldridge, who was represented by Cedar Rapids attorney Steve Swift, spoke once during the three-minute hearing when he acknowledged he understood the charges against him. His mother, Sarah Pitts, posted her son's \$20,000 cash-only bail a few hours later. She declined comment.

Skolnick, 20, originally of Woodstock, Ill., was hit Sept. 4 at Burlington and Linn streets. She died at University Hospitals the following day.

A urine sample Eldridge provided following the crash determined he had enough marijuana in his system to reach the state's presumed level of intoxication. Eldridge told police he had smoked marijuana within 12 hours of the accident. He faces up to 25 years if convicted.

## CEDAR RAPIDS

### Local woman competes in Miss D.C. contest

A Cedar Rapiidian is scheduled to compete today in the finals of this year's Miss District of Columbia contest.

According to Roll Call, a Capitol Hill newspaper, Joan Kato, 23, is one of 10 finalists in the pageant.

Kato graduated from Cedar Rapids Washington High School and from the University of Iowa in May 2003 with a marketing degree and a minor in Spanish.

She was named Miss Johnson County last year, and participated in the Miss Iowa Scholarship Program. She now works as a scheduler for Democratic Rep. Luis Gutierrez, D-Ill. She could not be reached for comment on Friday.

### 4 juveniles arrested in rampage with forklifts

Four juveniles are accused of ramming forklifts into refrigerators the past three nights, causing \$20,000 in damage at the Maytag/Amana warehouse at 4401 Bowling St. SW, police said.

The juveniles — three boys and a girl, ages 13 and 14 — face felony criminal mischief charges. Three were charged with first-degree criminal mischief, and one was charged with second-degree criminal mischief because he was only there one night.

One boy was charged with second-degree burglary for allegedly breaking into the building and stealing a cordless phone. The teens also are accused of spraying 10 fire extinguishers.

# Accused knew fire details

Investigator testifies C.R. man confessed to setting fatal fire

By Elizabeth Kutter  
The Gazette

CEDAR RAPIDS — Brian Zirtzman's confession to the April 5, 2003, fire that claimed the lives of two people included details known only to the person who started the fire, according to the fire investigator.

Capt. Alan Brockhohn, fire investigator for the Cedar Rapids Fire Department, testified Friday that Zirtzman said he threw or placed a piece of clothing near the furnace a few minutes before the fire began.

Information released to the media said the fire began in the kitchen.

Brockhohn said he had con-



Brian Zirtzman

On trial for allegedly setting a house fire that killed a C.R. man and his daughter

cluded before the June 19, 2003, interview of Zirtzman that the fire began in or near the furnace of the house at 3755 H Ave. NE. "Once we had Mr. Zirtzman's admission that he started the clothing on fire in front of the furnace, it all made sense," Brockhohn said.

Zirtzman, 40, is on trial in Linn County District Court for first-degree arson and two counts of first-degree murder in the deaths of Jaymie Grahman, 6, and Jay Grahman, 38.

Brockhohn said the fire

spread from the utility room where there was evidence of a low-burn pattern. Since fire travels up and out, investigators look for evidence of low burns when seeking the origin of a fire, Brockhohn said.

From the utility room, the fire spread to the kitchen and on to the living room. Because of materials in the living room — polyester fibers and foam cushions — the fire quickly reached the flash point temperature of 1,100 degrees.

Brockhohn said the fire did not begin in the electrical system, which remained largely intact following the fire, he said.

Vickie Reed-Grahman testified earlier in the trial that she was awakened just before midnight by a loud noise and then observed smoke coming

► TRIAL, PAGE 8B



Jim Slosiarek/The Gazette

Capt. Alan Brockhohn, a certified fire investigator with the Cedar Rapids Fire Department, explains to the jury Friday the extent of fire damage to one of the rooms in the Jay Grahman home as the image is shown on a television screen during the first-degree murder and arson trial of Brian Zirtzman in Linn County District Court in Cedar Rapids. Zirtzman, 40, is accused of intentionally setting a fire that killed Jay Grahman, 38, and his daughter, Jaymie Grahman, 6, on April 5, 2003, in Cedar Rapids.

## FAITH & VALUES



Laura Segall/The Gazette

Marlene Hill (from left), Renee Sneitzer, Kari Sneitzer, 8, and Richard Schulke, all of Cedar Rapids, get food during fellowship time recently at St. Mark's Faith and Life Center in Marion. St. Mark's Faith and Life Center tries to provide healthier food choices, including fruit and bagels in addition to pastries, during fellowship.

# Indulging Christians

Some churches bear weighty cross more than others

By Keith E. Gottschalk  
The Gazette

Every Sunday there are sweet rolls, doughnuts and coffee, an array of treats provided gratis by the friendly church staff in the interest of fellowship.

Who said there are no temptations at church?

Purdue sociologist Kenneth Ferraro first noted in 1998 that the more people go to church, the heavier

they are, pastors even more so.

In Ferraro's study, Southern Baptists lead the pack, Catholics and mainline Protestants fill up the middle ranks and agnostics, Buddhists and other Eastern religions bring up the rear, so to speak.

Not that the Rev. Mark Crotinger, pastor at Immanuel Baptist Church, 1900 F Ave. NW, Cedar Rapids, hasn't fought the good fight

in the pulpit and on the exercise track, but he casts a somewhat jaundiced eye at Ferraro's take on Southern Baptists and their weighty ways.

Crotinger believes Ferraro might not be comparing "apples to apples" when he compares churches and their congregations' eating habits and concludes that a more robust theology may make for robust appetites.

"It would be interesting to look closely at the study and see what groups included more of the emotional

side of worship and belief and how that panned out in terms of their eating habits," Crotinger said.

The Rev. Perry Fruhling, pastor at St. Mark's Faith and Life Center, 8300 C Ave. in Marion, said that blaming church potluck and punch and cookie spreads for congregational weight gain misses the mark.

"I think poor eating habits start in the homes and families," Fruhling said.

► WEIGHT, PAGE 9B

## Father questions Tanager's policies

Dubuque man wants to know why son who died wasn't restrained

By Christoph Trappe  
The Gazette

CEDAR RAPIDS — Russell Jankowski, the 15-year-old who died after falling into the Cedar River in May, had run away from Tanager Place five times since the end of March.

The last time he ran away, May 29, ended with him falling off the 16th Avenue Bridge. His body was found about a week later in the Cedar River.

Tanager Place is a private non-profit organization, which provides services to children and families challenged by social and psychological needs. Police have said that 92 runaway reports were filed between early June 2003 and early June 2004 from Tanager Place.

Today, Jankowski's parents, Richard and Carol Menadue of Dubuque, question why Tanager Place staff didn't stop him.

Richard Menadue said police records definitely show that Russell was a threat to himself and others before he left.

He said staff at Tanager

► TANAGER, PAGE 8B



Richard Menadue  
Father of Russell Jankowski



Russell Jankowski  
Former Tanager Place resident

# Positive identity matters for C.R.: Speakers

Luncheon focuses on tapping city's distinctiveness

By Rick Smith  
The Gazette

CEDAR RAPIDS — So how do you explain this place when you talk to others about it?

Is it the City of Five Seasons or a spot on the Cedar Rapids/Iowa City Technology Corridor?

Or is it neither of those images — the first conceived



Richard Peterson  
Cornell sociology professor

35 years ago, the latter of recent vintage?

Maybe your identity comes from a community that isn't



Bill Munsell  
Former chairman/CEO of CFM&Z



John Morris  
Audience member

measured by municipal geography?

Maybe you think first of the community of evangelical



Nancy McHugh  
Audience member

Christians, for instance, or the gay and lesbian community, if you are a part of those.

So it went Friday at a luncheon discussion on the subject, "What Shapes Community Identity?"

The discussion at the Public Library's Beams Auditorium was the last of four community discussions presented by the Greater Cedar Rapids Community Foundation.

Much of the focus Friday was on city identity, with tacit agreement that a clear, positive identity matters and is something a city should try

to establish.

Bill Munsell, the former chairman/CEO of the ad agency CFM&Z and the creator 36 years ago of the city of the five seasons idea, ticked off a laundry list of medium-sized cities and suggested that most people think little more of those than spots on a map.

Munsell said making Cedar Rapids the City of Five Seasons was an attempt to give the city a commercial identity more remarkable than the

► IDENTITY, PAGE 8B

# Trial/Witness says defendant stated he wanted recognition

► FROM PAGE 1B

from an electrical outlet into her bedroom.

The noise came from shelving falling in the utility room, Brockhohn said.

Smoke filled the wall cavity from the top down, and when it reached the wall socket, poured into the bedroom, Brockhohn said.

Trained fire dogs eliminated the possibility of an accelerant being used to start the fire, Brockhohn said.

Brockhohn also ruled out any possibility that the fire started in the living room by careless smoking by Jay Grahlman.

Reed-Grahlman made three trips through the living room while attempting to rescue the children and her husband, Brockhohn said. If the fire had originated in the living room, the temperature would have been 900 degrees before the flash point, and she would not have been able to enter the room, he said.

During the interview, Brockhohn said, Zirtzman became very emotional and began crying. "He said he needed help," Brockhohn said.

"He said didn't mean to hurt anybody by the fire. He just wanted to be recognized."

On cross-examination, Brockhohn said he asked Zirtzman, "You didn't mean for anybody to get hurt, did you?"

Zirtzman's attorney Casey Jones compared the question to the old adage, "Have you stopped beating your wife?"

There was no good answer, Jones said.

Brockhohn said the answer from an innocent person would have been, "I didn't do anything to cause any harm."

Zirtzman said he went into the utility room about 11:40 the night of the fire and placed clothing near the access door on the furnace, Brockhohn said.

Zirtzman knew the furnace had a malfunctioning pilot light, and the door on the furnace was not latched, Brockhohn said.

An investigation conducted in July 2003 by AFT special agent Chris Van Vleet came to the same conclusions about the fire and its origin as Brockhohn's investigation.

Zirtzman's attorney questioned

Brockhohn about a third investigation conducted by Garry Lee, assistant chief of the Muscatine Fire Department, for the insurance company.

Jones said Lee's investigation concluded the fire began in the kitchen. Brockhohn said he had not seen the report and had not asked to see it.

Jones then asked Brockhohn his own "wife beating" question.

Did Brockhohn fail to request a copy of those findings because he would have to share it with the defense attorneys. Or did he fail to request a copy of the insurance report because it didn't agree with Brockhohn's findings.

Brockhohn answered, "No."

The trial will continue Monday at 9 a.m. in Linn County District Court with the cross-examination of Chris Van Vleet, who is expected to be the last witness for the state.

The defense will begin its case at the conclusion of Van Vleet's testimony.

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# Tanager/Boy had run away 5 times since late March

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Place should have restrained him.

Previously, George Estle, chief executive officer of Tanager, said staff only uses physical restraints in emergencies "that endanger the physical safety of the resident or others," citing federal law.

On May 29, Tanager Place staff followed when Jankowski walked out of the cottage, Cedar Rapids police records show. Jankowski attempted to hit, kick and throw things at staff, the report states.

"I'd assume getting punched and kicked is a definite threat," Richard Menadue told The Gazette recently.

Menadue insists that staff should have restrained Jankowski that time.

Estle declined to comment on the Jankowski case specifically. In general, he said, every case is different, and it comes down to a judgment call.

"It depends on the situation," Estle said. "Some kids you might be better off to avoid an escalation."

He explained if staff intervenes with some children, somebody could get hurt.

On March 29, Jankowski got upset over a minor confrontation with a peer, a police report states. He then said, "I'm going to do something bad so I don't have to stay here any-

more," the report states.

"Doing something bad" doesn't fit the requirements to restrain a resident, Estle said.

"For some kids (doing something bad) means I'm going to shoplift," Estle said. "We need to get some sense of what they mean. It gets back to a judgment call."

According to reports, Jankowski's other runaway incidents since late March were:

- On April 4, Jankowski was caught trying to shoplift at Target, became upset and ran away from the van.

- On April 12, Jankowski found out that staff found stolen electronic items in his possession. Jankowski left out of a window.

- On May 27 — two days before going on his final run — he got upset at a park and later ran away from Tanager Place.

Also, the Menadues have said Tanager Place is not turning over records pertaining to their son. Estle, however, said records don't have to be turned over but just be made available to the family to copy.

He said he wasn't aware there was a problem since the Menadues looked through records recently.

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# Identity/Dubuque cited as example

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Grand Rapids and Peorias. The fifth season, he reminded, was a time to enjoy the other four.

From the audience, John Morris wondered if a community's identity at some point needed to change. And Nancy McHugh seemed to suggest that the individual identities of Cedar Rapids and Iowa City perhaps should be touted as strongly as the new notion of the Technology Corridor.

Richard Peterson, sociology professor at Cornell College and the program moderator, said communities were best that let their identities evolve.

Tom Patterson, mayor of Hiawatha, recalled a time when Hiawatha was seen as something of a "trailer town" on Cedar Rapids' doorstep. More recently, he noted, Hiawatha has wrestled with a taint from a bitter annexation dispute.

A city, though, can change its identity, Patterson said, adding Hiawatha has done that, in part, by attracting businesses to town.

He noted that communities are like individuals and are judged by the company they keep. For Hiawatha, it's the companies, he said. He listed several that now have set up shop there, providing tax dollars that the city has used in a beautification campaign.

Libby Slaphey, associate development director for the Carver College of Medicine at the University of Iowa and a Vision Iowa Board member, pointed to Dubuque and noted that it had come to be seen in some circles as narrow-minded in matters of race.

Now, with a lot of planning, hard work and local investment — and the help of a \$40 million Vision Iowa grant — Dubuque has a new river museum and riverfront devel-



**Tom Patterson**  
Mayor of Hiawatha



**Libby Slaphey**  
Vision Iowa Board member



**Dan Baldwin**  
President/CEO, Greater C.R. Community Foundation



**Hassan Igram**  
President, Cedar Graphics Inc.

side. He talked as much about the west-side identity in what he said is a city still split to a degree between the west side and east side.

He asked for a show of hands among the 35 at Friday's gathering, and no one raised a hand as a resident of the west side of town.

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# Judge rules city responsible for restroom ordinance

AMES (AP) — A judge has ruled that state regulators cannot get involved in a city dispute about whether mobile food stands must provide bathrooms.

In his ruling, Story County District Court Judge William Pattinson said city officials are responsible for enforcing an ordinance requiring restrooms for mass gatherings.

The city wanted the Iowa Department of Inspections and Appeals to voice an opinion about the ordinance. But state regulators said they are not responsible for enforcement, and have given the city the duty of overseeing food establishment regulations.

The dispute began when a business owner in the city wanted officials to revoke the vending license of a mobile food stand owner because he didn't provide his own restrooms for customers.

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