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Maternity clothes taking off as more expectant mothers demand style, 1E

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CORRIDOR

CEDAR RAPIDS

City settles stadium dispute with architect

The city and the architect for the 2-year-old Veterans Memorial Stadium have reached a settlement over differences that will bring the city \$56,000, the city reported Tuesday.

A year ago, the city said it would seek up to \$115,000 from Heinlein Schrock Stearns Inc. of Kansas City, Mo., for what the city considered design problems at the stadium.

Among the bones of contention was a bill the city paid for \$50,017 to repair stadium stairs that the city's own zoning office concluded were improperly designed.

The total cost of the stadium was put at \$16.49 million a year ago by city Finance Commissioner Lyle Hanson.

Victim of house fire died of smoke inhalation

Robert Lockhart, 48, of 1406 N St. SW, died of asphyxiation due to smoke inhalation, according to autopsy results from the Linn County Medical Examiner's Office.

Lockhart was killed Friday when his house caught fire about 11:30 a.m.

The Cedar Rapids Fire Department is still investigating the cause of the fire.

A neighbor said the fire broke out when Lockhart was upstairs taking a bath or getting ready to take one. His 14-year-old son, Kyle, was able to escape and call 911.

Firefighters removed Lockhart from the house, and paramedics tried to revive him.

IOWA CITY

French fries left cooking on stove caused fire

Hills firefighters extinguished a grease fire that caused about \$2,000 worth of damage to a rural Iowa City home Tuesday around 3:15 p.m.

Fire Chief Steve Emerson said a renter in the home at 4853 Oak Crest Hill Rd. SE, Sharmen Yoder, 34, caused the fire by inadvertently leaving french fries cooking on the stove.

Yoder escaped without injury, but the home will need a new stove and a new drop ceiling for the kitchen, he said.

Ed Pechous of rural Iowa City owns the home, Emerson said.

The Red Cross assisted the residents.

CENTER POINT

Man arrested on arson, meth charges in fire

Police arrested Terrence M. Kuddes, 42, of Center Point, on Tuesday in connection with a May 7 fire at his parents' place on Alice Road.

The outbuilding fire was ruled arson, and investigators allege that Kuddes was trying to burn materials associated with methamphetamine.

Kuddes was injured in the fire. He was arrested on warrants for possession of methamphetamine and reckless use of fire after being released from the hospital.

He was released from the Linn County Jail after posting \$4,000 bond last night, according to jail officials.

RAMBLIN'

Gazette columnist Dave Rasdal is on vacation. His next column will appear Monday.

Murder trial testimony today



C.R. man charged after house fire that killed 2 neighbors

By Elizabeth Kutter

THE GAZETTE
CEDAR RAPIDS — Testimony will start today in the trial of a man accused of setting a fire so he could be a hero by saving a family and instead killing a father and his little girl.

Brian Zirtzman, 40, of 3748

H Ave. NE, faces first-degree murder and arson charges in Linn County District Court.

He is accused of intentionally setting an April 5, 2003, fire at the home of his neighbors, Vickie Reed-Grahlman and Jay Grahlman, so he could rescue them and their four children.

Jay Grahlman, 38, and his daughter, Jaymie Grahlman, 6, died as a result of the blaze that fire investigators said was started in a utility room



Brian Zirtzman
Charged with murder, arson

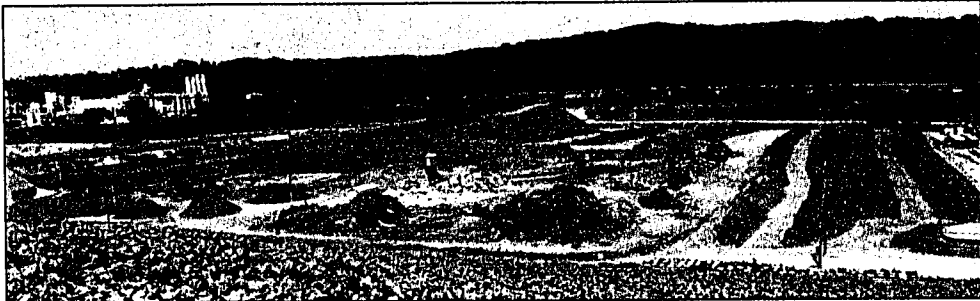
and swept through the kitchen into the living room where it trapped Grahlman and Jaymie.

Surviving the fire were Grahlman's wife, Vickie Reed-Grahlman, Kylie Reed, 9, Nicole Reed, 7, and Ida Mae Grahl-

man, 3. Jaymie and Grahlman died at University of Iowa Hospitals — Jaymie on April 6, 2003, and Grahlman on April 9, 2003.

Zirtzman spent the evening of April 5 playing cards and socializing with the Grahlmans. About 10 p.m. the evening broke up as family members began going to bed.

The fire was reported at 11:55 p.m., according to court
► TRIAL, PAGE 8B



The Cedar Rapids/Linn County Solid Waste Agency compost facility, located on A Street SW in Cedar Rapids, operates last week.



Laura Segall photos/The Gazette

Ryan Hutchcroft of Cedar Rapids heaves branches onto a compost pile last week at the compost facility at A Street SW in Cedar Rapids. Run by the Cedar Rapids/Linn County Solid Waste Agency, it's the largest public compost facility in the state. The agency, formerly known as Bluestem, must move the compost operation soon.

Site fight? No relocation spot named for C.R./Linn compost operation

By Rick Smith

THE GAZETTE
CEDAR RAPIDS — You can almost smell the next big not-in-my-backyard brouhaha coming.

The focal point of the fight will be a vital manufacturing entity — and one that fits nicely in the state's ballyhooed "bio-economy."

The manufacturer: The Cedar Rapids/Linn County Solid Waste Agency, formerly known as Bluestem.

The operation: The agency's compost facility, the largest public compost operation in the state.

The agency's compost operation employs 13 workers who take

grass clippings, leaves and other recycled yard waste as well as sizable amounts of industrial organic waste from Cedar Rapids' paper and agriculture-related industries and turn it into a product that homeowners, developers and public entities buy to improve the soil and its ability to retain water.

Talk to Marie DeVries, the agency's solid-waste planner, and she can move a listener nearly to tears when she talks of all the good that composting can do for the community.

But the tears that matter, too, are the ones that some fear can result when the smell of a compost heap arrives downwind

on the back porch or the front yard.

The future battleground: In the not-too-distant future, the solid waste agency will have to move its 17-acre compost operation at the base of its landfill on A Street SW, just downriver from Czech Village.

The landfill is set to close in 2006, and the landfill and its companion compost operation need to make way for the Cedar Bend redevelopment project's hiking trails and outdoor amphitheater.

In the weeks ahead, the state's Vision Iowa Board is expected to

► COMPOST, PAGE 8B

I.C. Council will continue pursuit of airport changes

Members will debate referendum in August

By Frank Gluck

THE GAZETTE
IOWA CITY — Voters are a step closer to deciding whether Iowa City's airport should be transformed from a semi-autonomous facility into simply another city department.

With no discussion, the City Council agreed last night to debate the referendum proposal in August at its next regular meeting and ultimately decide whether to place the

issue on the Nov. 2 ballot.

Opponents of changing the operation of the Iowa City Airport, namely many of its users and the governing Airport Commission, are expected to turn out in force for the Aug. 3 council meeting.

The commission also meets at 5:45 p.m. today at the Airport Terminal Building, 1801 S. Riverside Dr., to discuss the issue.

The outcome of the August council debate probably won't be a surprise, said Jay Honeck, who rents an airport hangar and owns the nearby

aviation-themed hotel, Alexis Park Inn & Suites at 1165 S. Riverside Dr.

"I think it's a foregone conclusion they want to do this referendum," he said.

Honeck believes making the airport a city department will make it vulnerable to those wanting to buy the land and develop it for other uses.

The current council supports the airport, Honeck said, but future ones might not.

Proponents of changing the airport's governance say the council is often not informed

about airport business decisions, which have, so far, failed to generate significant revenue for the facility.

For this fiscal year, the city budgeted \$112,000 in subsidies to the airport.

City Manager Steve Atkins advocates turning the facility into a division of a newly named Iowa City Department of Transportation Services, which also would oversee parking and transit services.

The now-autonomous Airport Commission would become an advisory board, and financial decisions would be

left to the council instead.

"Through the advisory process, greater transparency will occur," Atkins wrote. "Attention will be called to airport operations and additional public policy debate will likely occur."

Airport Manager Ron O'Neil would remain the day-to-day supervisor.

"It's a council/commission issue," he said after the council decision last night. "My concern is making sure the airport gets managed."

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DEVELOPMENT

Wal-Mart proposes store in Marion

By Dave DeWitte

THE GAZETTE
MARION — Wal-Mart Stores Inc. has submitted plans for a 200,000-square-foot center in Marion that would be the city's first large discount store.

The project at the southwest corner of Highways 151 and 13 in Marion is scheduled for discussion at 6 p.m. Tuesday at the Marion Planning & Zoning Commission meeting at City Hall, 1100 Eighth Avenue.

Located on a 28-acre site, the Wal-Mart Supercenter would face Highway 151 (10th Avenue).

The site does not require rezoning, said Planning and Development Director Tom Treharne, although it does require site plan approval. Wal-Mart has requested no city incentives or assistance.

The preliminary site plan was submitted only for discussion on Tuesday's planning and zoning agenda, Treharne said. He said a special meeting will likely be scheduled later in the month for the commission to consider action on the request. The commission's recommendation will go to the City Council for a final decision.

The world's largest retailer is reportedly in development talks for new superstores in both Marion and Anamosa. Company officials did not return calls on the projects. Anamosa City Administrator John Haldeman said no plans have yet been submitted for an Anamosa superstore.

The Wal-Mart Supercenter in Marion would open in the first quarter of 2006 if approved, Treharne said.

"It will be interesting to see what it does to the economy of Marion," Treharne said. "Not everybody is going to leave to go to Cedar Rapids to shop. Of course, there will be some who will not be happy about it."

Despite the 28-acre size of the development, Treharne described the project as a tight fit. Wal-Mart's proposal

► WAL-MART, PAGE 8B

Compost/Operation sometimes generates odor

► FROM PAGE 1B

announce a multimillion dollar award for the project, which will make it clear the compost operation is going to have to move.

Where it is moving is the question, and one that Jeff Schott, Marion's city manager, says he's been asking for months.

Marion already is embroiled with the agency over plans to expand its Site No. 2 landfill at County Home Road and Highway 13 on Marion's northern border.

Schott says Marion isn't

necessarily intent on blocking the landfill expansion, but the city would like to know if moving the compost operation to the site is part of the landfill expansion plan.

"It's got to go someplace," Schott says. "And it's certainly a concern because that (the compost operation) also generates smell."

The compost site includes an automated bagging operation and several rows of composting material in various stages of decomposition.

DeVries says workers turn the piles about once a week, taking into account wind di-

rection and speed.

"There's no question, when you turn the rows, there is a smell," she says. "So we're very careful about that."

In 2002, the agency received seven complaints about compost smell. In 2003, seven more people called. So far this year, no one has, DeVries reports.

"If the resident finds it offensive, we just quit the turning," she says. "Because you don't want to get in an argument that it really doesn't smell that bad."

DeVries and Stacie Johnson, a local environmental

consultant, say technology will reduce odor concerns.

Johnson talks about machinery that "fluffs" rather than "flips" compost piles, and DeVries talks about equipment that "blends and chops" instead of turning.

David Zahn, the city's public safety commissioner and chairman of the solid waste board, says no decision has been reached on the compost facility, in part because the focus has been on the bigger question of the landfill.

Among possible composting options, he says, is a 42-acre parcel off Sixth Street SW at

Ingleside Drive SW, which the agency earlier had in mind for a waste transfer station/compost site. Landfill Site No. 2 north of Marion is another option, he adds.

Bluestem makes an average of 80,000 tons of compost a year, reports DeVries, adding that it now must turn away some of what Cedar River Paper Co. generates.

By comparison, Des Moines' metropolitan compost operation averages 8,250 tons of compost a year, and the one at the Johnson County landfill makes between 3,000 to 4,000 tons a year, those

facilities report.

In recent years, demand hasn't kept pace with the compost supply. But DeVries says that's changing.

The future has little room for going back, DeVries adds.

In a time when Cedar Rapids and Linn County have spent seven years trying to find a home for a new landfill, she says no one is going to suggest putting yard waste and organic industrial waste back in a landfill here.

"That would be craziness," DeVries says.

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Trial/Jury was selected Tuesday

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documents.

After the fire, Zirtzman helped coordinate a drive to collect clothing and household items for the Grahman family. The house was destroyed, and the family lost most of its belongings in the fire.

Zirtzman was charged with murder June 20, 2003.

County Attorney Harold Denton and defense attorney Casey Jones spent all day Tuesday selecting six men and eight women to serve as jurors and alternates for Zirtzman's trial.

This isn't Zirtzman's first involvement with fire. At age 13, he set fire to a house at 3700 H Ave. NE. Two years later in 1979, he set fire to a house at 3751 H Ave. NE. Both houses are in the block where Zirtzman lived and where the Grahmans lived, 3755 H Ave. NE.

Zirtzman was treated at the state's Mental Health Institute in Independence three



Jay Grahman



Jaymie Grahman

Died as a result of fire

times as a juvenile after setting the fires. Following treatment, he returned home to live with his parents and work a variety of temporary jobs.

In the courtroom, Zirtzman, a stocky, quiet man, sat between his attorneys, Jones and Julie Trachta, throughout the day.

At the close of the day after the jury left, he acknowledged the presence of his family members with a wave and a smile as he was escorted back to jail. He remains in custody under \$500,000 bond.

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Wal-Mart/Site includes room for development

► FROM PAGE 1B

squeezes the 200,000-square-foot store, a Wal-Mart affiliated gas station, and two outlying one-acre lots for future development on the site, along with two storm-water detention ponds.

Wal-Mart's plan for 1,016 parking spaces equates to five parking spaces per 1,000 square feet of retail space, well in excess of the city's requirement of three spaces per 1,000 square feet.

Primary access to the development would be entrances off Highway 151 and Eighth Avenue, with a secondary entrance off 57th Street, a Highway 13 frontage road in front of Ketelsen's RV sales that connects with Lin-Aire Drive. The Highway 151 entrance would allow only for right-turn entrances and exits. The 57th Street frontage road and the intersection of Highway 13 and LinAire would be improved to handle

truck traffic into the development, Treharne said.

The development would involve the purchase of about four tracts of property already under contract by Wal-Mart, Treharne said. They would require demolition of a single-family residence, some self-storage lockers and a small outlying building owned by Ketelsen's Recreational Vehicles Inc.

Gary Ketelsen, owner of the recreational vehicle business, is hopeful the project will succeed. He said retail development in the east end of Marion needs a focal point.

"It would make a nice entrance to the city," Ketelsen said.

Marion is enjoying a period of rapid growth, including a 40-acre retail development anchored by a Menards home improvement center on the Highway 100 bypass.

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Once deported, man now faces 20 years

The Gazette

CEDAR RAPIDS — Jose D. Ugalde-Perez, 28, of Mexico, faces up to 20 years in prison for illegally re-entering the United States after being convicted of vehicular homicide.

Ugalde-Perez pleaded guilty to illegal re-entry recently in

U.S. District Court in Cedar Rapids, according to Assistant U.S. Attorney Kandi Wilcox, who prosecuted the case.

Ugalde-Perez was deported on March 17, 1997, for the vehicular homicide conviction in the United States. He re-entered the United States in January 2000.

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Dyersville Ben Franklin, 631 16th Ave. SE

Eldora Jim Dandy Wireless, 1320 Edgerton St.
Eldora Jim Dandy Wireless, 4320 Edgerton Ave.
Elkader Browns Sales & Leasing, 109 Gunder Rd.
Forest City CB & Sound/Radio Shack, 117 N. Clark
Greene Mel's TV, 112 E. Traer
Grundy Center Van Werts, 604 8th St.
Guttenberg Brown's Sales and Leasing, Hwy. 52 South
Hampton Hampton Home Store, 14 1st St. NW
Hawkeye Hawkeye Telephone Com., 115 W. Main St.
Iowa City Next Generation Wireless, 1681 1st Ave. S.
Iowa City That Cellular Place, Sycamore Mall
Iowa City The Wireless Store, 14 S. Clinton St.
Iowa Falls Cellular Connect, 409 Oak St.
Independence The Phone Connection, 1200 3rd Ave. SE
Keokuk Conn Communications, 3111 Main St. (inside Hy-Vee)
Manchester Northeast Iowa Telephone, 119 S. Franklin St.
Marion Brown's True Value, 1035 Court Ave.
Marion Cell U Byte, Inside Marion Hy-Vee
Mason City Cell U Byte, 1531 4th St. SW

Mason City Mason City Music, 824 N. Federal
Monticello REM Electric Inc., 324 E. 1st St.
New Hampton Riley's Radio Shack, 2 W. Main St.
Oelwein Appliance Plus, 423 S. Frederick Ave.
Oran Oran Mutual Telephone, 5038 Main St.
Osage Davis Paint (Radio Shack), 725 Main St.
Sigourney Jody's Togs and Tan, 104 S. Main St.
Sumner Sumner Farm & Home, 1202 W. 1st St.
Tama Hill TV & Appliances, 100 E. 3rd
Toledo Bishop's Barber Shop, 109 E. High St.
Traer Whannel's Hardware, 508 2nd St.
Washington Archer's TV & Appliance, 122 W. 4th St.
Washington That Cellular Place, 115 S. 2nd Ave.
Waterloo Next Generation Wireless, 3622 Kimball Ave.
Waterloo NWC, 809 Ansbrough Ave.
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