

IOWA TODAY

CEDAR RAPIDS



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IN BRIEF

CEDAR RAPIDS

Armed men rob restaurant

■ A Cedar Rapids restaurant last night became the third armed robbery site in two days in Linn County.

Two white men wearing black ski masks robbed Little Caesar's Pizza, 3919 Center Point Road NE, and then fled on foot. The suspects were believed to have wielded a semiautomatic handgun in the robbery, which happened at 11:15 p.m., according to Police Sgt. Bernie Walther.

About midnight, police were looking for the two men, one wearing a burgundy sweatshirt and the second a dark shirt.

Further details were unavailable.

On Wednesday, two ski-masked robbers broke into a rural Fairfax home. They forced the 49-year-old woman there to the floor as they grabbed their loot and fled. That happened shortly after 8 p.m.

A few hours later, two men robbed the Exel Inn at 616 33rd Ave. SW.

WEST BRANCH

Quayle to speak Monday

■ Vice President Dan Quayle will deliver a speech at 2:30 p.m. Monday during a visit to the Herbert Hoover National Historic Site in West Branch. The speech, to be delivered at the the Hoover gravesite, will be open to the public.

Those wishing to see Quayle should be at the gravesite by 2 p.m. For security reasons, there will be no on-site parking. Those attending the speech will be directed to parking lots within a 10-minute walk of the gravesite.

In case of rain, Quayle will speak in the gymnasium of West Branch High School, one mile west of downtown West Branch on Main Street.

After Quayle's speech, Marilyn Quayle will be honored by the American Cancer Society of Iowa for her efforts on behalf of breast cancer research.

The Quayles are scheduled to arrive at the Hoover Presidential Library-Museum at 2 p.m. to tour the expansion and remodeling of the facility.

The library-museum will be closed Monday until the Quayles leave West Branch about 3 p.m. From 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. admission to the library-museum will be free.

CORALVILLE

Home economics meeting

■ The fall meeting of the Iowa Home Economics Association's Southeast Region will be Monday from 3:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Best Western Westfield Inn in Coralville.

Brenda Dobson, nutrition coordinator for the Iowa WIC Program, will present "Falling in Love with Your Job Again." She will focus on how employment satisfaction is related to one's perception of what the job should be.

"Today's Home Economic Professions, Career Paths and Employment Trends" will be presented by Beverly S. Madden, coordinator of career planning and placement at Iowa State University.

Ralph Palmer of Ar-Jay Building Products in Cedar Rapids, will give the final session, "The Kitchen for 2011."



Gazette photo by John McIvor

KENNEDY ROYALTY: Kennedy High School crowned a king and queen last night for this year's homecoming festivities. Christy McCaughey and Chad Everett, both of Cedar Rapids, will be the reigning royalty. The queen is the daughter of Gary and Cheri McCaughey. The king is the son of Dale Everett and Marlys Ross.

Ol' Herky warms up

Victor Tarrizzi of Evanston, Ill., wraps Herky in plastic to protect the University of Iowa mascot from Friday's nasty weather. Herky was part of a Homecoming float being built by the Kappa Sigma fraternity and Chi Omega sorority for last night's Homecoming parade in Iowa City. The float was made out of wood and spray-painted napkins.



Gazette photo by Lisa Powell

Keokuk towns faced mascot question

Sigourney-Keota Savages 1st school stripped of images

By Rick Smith
Gazette staff writer

It's a long way from Kinnick Stadium to the gridiron of the Sigourney-Keota Savages.

But the off-the-field dispute over American Indian sports mascots now raging in Iowa City already has been fought in the two Keokuk County towns.

It was in 1989 that the Iowa Department of Education took a stand, largely unnoticed in the media, like the one the University of Iowa American Indian Student Association wants the Big Ten to take against Chief Illiniwek, the University of Illinois' mascot.

Back then, for the first and only time, the state education department descended on the two Iowa school districts — two of some 45 which sport mascot names like the Braves,

Indians and Redskins — and demanded Sigourney-Keota make changes.

The Sigourney and Keota districts, which share a football program and superintendent, kept their nickname, but agreed to do away with all mascots and logos that tied the name to American Indians.

The change brought hurt feelings, says Superintendent Keith Sasseen. And it proved, says Tom Andersen, consultant in educational equality for the Department of Education, that traditions die hard.

Since, the state department has encouraged other districts with mascots portraying American Indians to change them, and it has asked those districts to examine the way they teach about American Indians.

"But we haven't yet taken any others to the wall," says

Andersen.

He adds that small districts in the process of combining with others have agreed not to adopt new names that refer to American Indians.

The changes at Sigourney-Keota came only after what Andersen calls "tense" public meetings in which athletes, parents and fans turned out to resist.

"It was hurtful because all kids have a mascot of some kind," says Superintendent Sasseen. "The mascot was never there with feelings detrimental to an ethnic group. And it was as old perhaps as the district itself."

Andersen says the state department very carefully targeted the Savages, "with all its negative implications," as a violator of a state law that requires multicultural, non-sex-

ist approaches to education.

"Sometimes when your team is the Indians, you don't even control what other people do," says Andersen. "The media puts in headlines that say, 'The Mohawks Scalp the...,' and pretty soon the fans pick it up and perpetuate stereotypes in very insensitive ways."

In the South Tama District, where one might expect sensitivity to be highest because of its percentage of American Indian students, there hasn't been any call for a change in the way schools name their athletic teams.

Ken Kolpin, South Tama activities director, reflected on a recent visit by the Marion Indians football team. At half-time, there was a celebration that featured Indian dancing. Kolpin said it was a "respectful" evening for both schools.

For Mather probe, time an enemy

But sheriff still hopes for arrest

By Dave Gosch
Gazette staff writer

Nearly three weeks have passed since Tom Mather was killed, but Cedar County Sheriff Keith Whitlatch is still confident that the case can be solved.

"We still feel it is a solvable crime, but it doesn't seem to be a quick solve," Whitlatch said.

Mather was killed in his Springdale home Sept. 30 while watching television with his wife, Dawn. Although no one is giving up on solving the case, Whitlatch and others agree that certain factors make finding a suspect more difficult with the passage of time.

"Every hour you go after 12 or 24 hours, there's problems unless there's somebody in mind," said Jim Barnes, who retired last year after heading the Cedar Rapids Police Department's detective bureau since 1976.

Barnes, speaking in general terms about murder investigations, said the worst scenario is when the murderer has no connection to his victim. That possibility has been raised in the Mather case.

"If there's (someone) going through and there's no connection, it's (nearly) impossible," Barnes said.

Asking for the public's help is another option, Barnes said.

The Cedar County Sheriff's Department has used that approach by issuing a composite drawing of Mather's murderer and asking for the whereabouts of the driver of a light-colored car who was asking for directions that night.

WHITLATCH ADMITTED that the passage of time hinders certain investigative tools.

People's memories begin to fade with time, he said, adding, "The crime scene changes, so there aren't things you can check on."

Whitlatch said his office keeps getting leads that outnumber the officers in his department. The lack of Department of Criminal Investigation agents from the state hasn't helped the cause either, he said.

A heavy caseload at the DCI, compounded with budget cuts and the fact that some agents are assigned to monitor riverboat gambling, has reduced the amount of agents available for criminal cases.

Whitlatch said his department is in the process of developing a profile of the killer, which will be entered into a nationwide system coordinated through the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The hope is that another state that has had a similar murder will aid in the investigation.

Keith Crew, a criminologist and professor of sociology at the University of Northern Iowa, said finding a murder pattern can lead to a successful investigation even with the passage of time.

"Sometimes the delay is not because you don't have a suspect, but they can't physically locate a suspect. Most murders are among people who know each other, and in a sizable amount of them, the person is there on the scene," he said. "If it falls out of that pattern, then the time frame for solving it is going to be longer."

CREW SAID there are other reasons why murder cases aren't solved quickly.

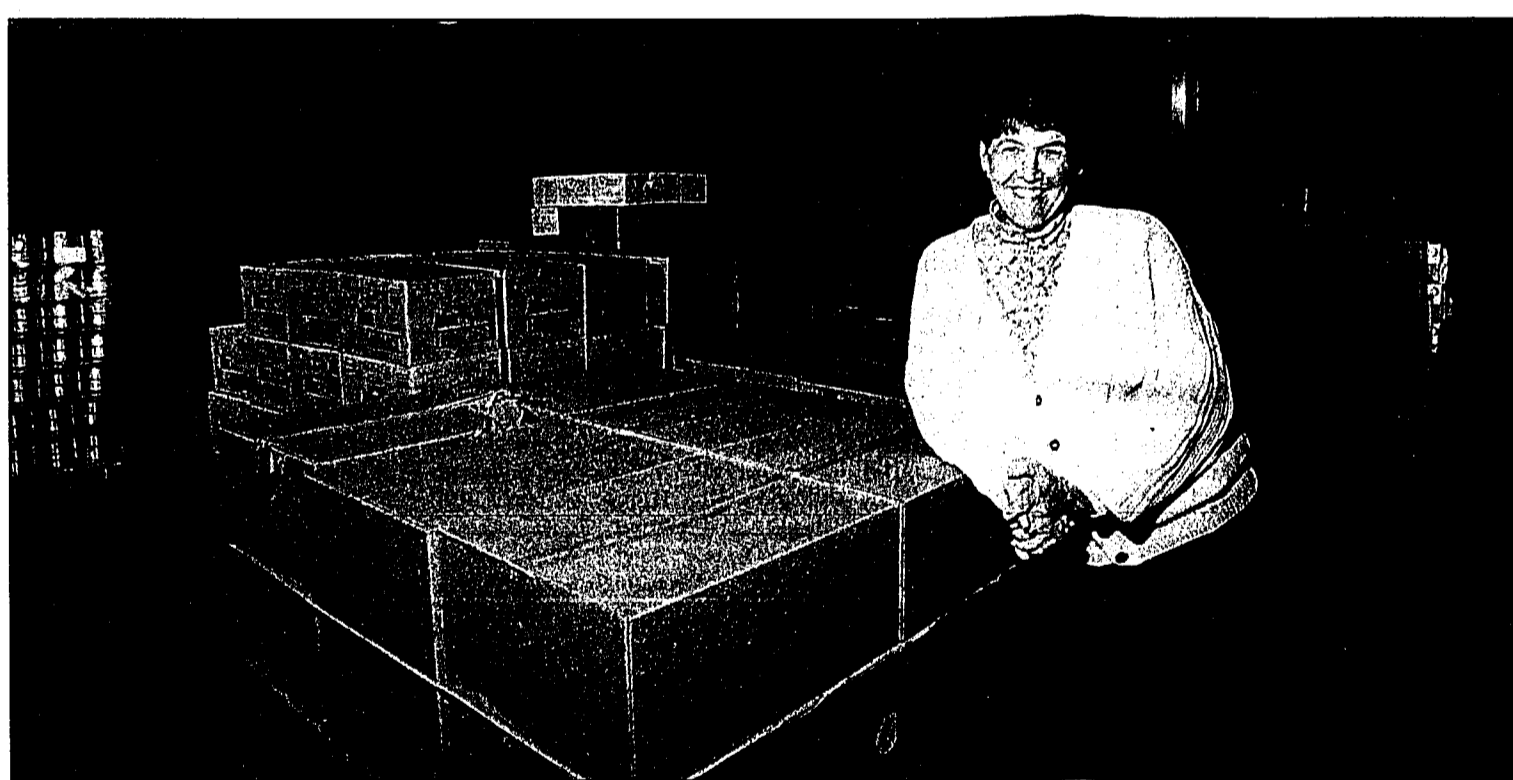
He said other victims or witnesses in a case are sometimes unwilling or unable to cooperate with authorities.

"It could depend on the police department and their style of investigation. They could want to nail down every piece of evidence before they go for an arrest," he said.

Crew said the lapsing of time isn't always going to stifle a murder investigation. He gave the example of a former student who was murdered in Waterloo by one of four people traveling together.

The suspects were captured when one of them bragged about the killing to a third party.

"That's one of the common ways a suspect is identified," he said. "They tell someone who tells the police."



Gazette photo by John McIvor

Barb Elsasser, director of the Hawkeye Area Community Action Program's Food Reservoir, says food supplies are dwindling at the same time the needs of area poor people are growing.

Less food in public pantry

By Rick Smith

Pallets stacked high with food fill part of a warehouse, half the size of a football field, that stands unnoticed behind the eye-catching Collins Plaza Hotel in Cedar Rapids.

The food is for Eastern Iowa's poor. Some comes from U.S. government stockpiles. Others are mispackaged, aging or slightly substandard products from major food companies. A small portion just got back from the front: gallon cans of corn and carrots, big bags of cheese snacks, and boxes holding "100-man dinners" that got to Operation Desert Storm after the troops came home.

It's a formidable show. But any hint of abundance at the Hawkeye Area Community Action Program's Food Reservoir is deceiving, says director Barb Elsasser. In short, she says, there needs to be more.

According to Elsasser, the amount of

"Hunger has not become less of an issue, but it has become less of an 'in' issue."

Barb Elsasser

food commodities coming to HACAP through the 10-year-old federal Emergency Food Assistance Program has been cut 75 percent in two years. That cut has forced commodity giveaway efforts in Iowa, which were monthly affairs at 600 distribution sites in the 1980s, to be held four times a year. Surplus cheese, which Elsasser says was the "premium" draw in years past, now is rarely available. Reduced dairy price supports and other programs have cut the supply of govern-

ment cheese to zero.

Commodities arriving at the food reservoir from the private sector also have been dwindling, Elsasser says. Companies concerned about their own bottom lines have less to give, she says.

All the while, Elsasser says, the demand for emergency food is ever increasing.

Elsasser knows of only one reason emergency food supplies are dwindling at a time of increasing need: The issue of free emergency food has been upstaged by homelessness, the affordable-housing issue and Operation Desert Storm.

"People in the mid-1980s were saying that hunger is a big problem and we're going to step in and take care of it," she says. "What we've found, is that hunger

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