## **DEATHS/**LINN COUNTY

Ralph Frank Podzimek, 72, of 1231 Sixth St. NW, was found dead Thursday in his home. Services: 10 a.m. Monday, Teahen Funeral Home, where friends may call from 3 to 7 p.m. Sunday and after 9 a.m. Monday. Burial: Czech National Cemetery, with military rites by American Legion Hanford Post 5.

Survivors include a brother, Joseph and his wife, Jan of Cedar Rapids; a niece, Juli Spilman of Vinton; and a nephew, Joseph of Spencer.

Born Aug. 28, 1920, he graduated from Mexico Military Acadamy and retired from the Cedar Rapids Water Department. He was a member of American Legion Hanford Post 5, Voiture 1305, 40-8, Retired Army Officers, Veterans of Foreign Wars and Disabled American Vet-



Sister Mary Lou Podzimek will officiate. Instead of flowers, a memorial fund has been established.

#### **SERVICES**

Dorothy Hoover: 10 a.m. Saturday, Cedar Memorial Chapel of Memories. Burial: Dunkard Cemetery, Midway. Friends may call from 3 to 8 p.m. today at Cedar Memorial Funeral Home and after 9 a.m. Saturday at the chapel. The Rev. Carroll Brown of Salem United Methodist Church will

Charles E. Schlotterback: Graveside inurn-

**DEATHS/**LINN COUNTY

ment, 11 a.m. Saturday, Shellsburg Cemetery, with military rites by American Legion Post 166. Murdoch-Linwood Funeral Home, Cedar Rapids, in charge of local arrangements.

Eugene C. Zobel: 10 a.m. Saturday, Stewart Memorial Methodist Church, Vinton. Friends may call from 6 to 8 tonight at Campbell-Russell-Overton Funeral Home, Vinton, and 9 a.m. to service time Saturday at the church. Please note change of visitation time.

#### ARRANGEMENTS PENDING

Isabella C. Proffitt, 73, of 3026 Shaver Dr. SW, died Thursday in St. Luke's Hospital after a sudden illness. Arrangements are pending at Turner Chapel East.

#### **DEATH NOTICES & OBITUARIES**

Death notices and obituaries can be submitted at The Gazette between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to noon on Saturday and 4 to 6 p.m. on Sunday and holidays.

Arrangements pending and death notices, including immediate survivors, and a photo of the deceased are published as a news item on this page

Other obituary material, including additional survivors employment, education, military service, civic and social activities, accomplishments, special interests and hobbies, friends, pets, memorials and eulogies will be published for 35 cents per word.

Second-day funeral notices and out-of-town death notices will be published at 35 cents per word.

See your funeral director for help in preparing an obituary. For further information about The Gazette's guidelines call 398-8221.

#### **CASCADE**

James R. Thomas, 59, died Wednesday morning in St. Mary's Hospital, Rochester, Minn., after a long illness. Services: 10 a.m. Saturday, St. Martin's Catholic Church. Burial: St. Mary's Cemetery. Friends may call from 2 to 9 p.m. today at Reiff Funeral Home, where there will be a parish rosary at 4 and a Scripture wake service at 7 p.m.

Survivors include two brothers, Bill Thomas and Clyde Seltzer, both of Dyersville; and a sister, Fay Melton of Cedar Rapids.

A James R. Thomas Memorial Fund has been established.

#### **DECORAH**

Alvin F. Hancer, 87, died Wednesday in Barthell Eastern Star Nursing Home. Services: 10 a.m. Saturday, First United Methodist Church. Burial: 3:30 p.m. Saturday, Evergreen Cemetery, Grand Mound. Friends may call from 4 to 8 p.m. today at Fjelstul Funeral Home and one hour before service time Saturday at the church.

Survivors include his wife, Gladys; a brother, Kermit of Hayward, Calif.; and two sisters, Gladys Steffen of Santa Clara, Calif., and Ethel Hodgson of Sunnyvale, Calif.

#### **IOWA CITY**

Florence H. Fackler, 91, of 1100 Arthur St., died Thursday in Greenwood Manor after a short illness. Services: 10 a.m. Saturday, George L. Gay Funeral Home, where friends may call from 3 to 8 p.m. today. Burial: Oak Hill Cemetery, Coralville. Survivors include a son, Charles of Iowa City;

and a daughter, Janet Stout of Cedar Rapids.

### **OELWEIN**

Florence Sieck, 86, died Wednesday night in Maplecrest Manor, Fayette, after a short illness. Services: 10:30 a.m. Saturday, Zion American Lutheran Church, Oelwein. Burial: Long Grove Cemetery, Maynard. Friends may call after 3 p.m. today at Hintz-Geilenfeld Funeral Home and one hour before service time Saturday at the church.

Survivors include a stepdaughter, Ruth of Oelwein; and two stepsons, Eugene of Maynard and Donald of Fayette.

### **TIPTON**

Vera Adaline Getty Fry, 89, of Mediapolis, died there Wednesday. Services: 10:30 a.m. Saturday, First United Presbyterian Church, Mediapolis. Burial: Kossuth Cemetery. Friends may call from 7 to 8:30 tonight at Hagele-Honts Funeral Home, Mediapolis, Local arrangements by Fry Funeral Home.

Survivors include a daughter-in-law, Connie Fry of Mediapolis; two grandsons, David of Tipton and Robert of Osage Beach, Mo.; and two greatgrandchildren, Darren and Amber.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Paul. in December 1983; her son, Keith, in March 1982; and a brother and sister.

Memorials: First United Presbyterian Church, Mediapolis.

### WATKINS

Laverne Kuen Schulte, 70, died Wednesday in Mercy Medical Center, Cedar Rapids, after a brief illness. Services: 10 a.m. Saturday, St. Patrick's Church. Burial: St. Patrick's and St. Paul's Cemetery. Friends may call after 3 p.m. today at Brosh's, Norway, where there will be a Fairfax

Lady Foresters rosary at 3:30 p.m. and Scripture service at 8 p.m.

Survivors include a daughter, Catherine and son-in-law, Lee Schulte, and granddaughter, Deah, all of Watkins; and two sisters, Betty Pickart of Norway and Bernadette Sokol of Cedar Rapids.

#### WAUCOMA

Hugo Busche, 88, died Thursday morning in Health Care Manor, New Hampton. Arrangements are pending at Waucoma Funeral Chapel.

#### WEST BRANCH

Raymond VeDepo, 71, died Wednesday evening in Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Iowa City. Services: 10:30 a.m. Monday, St. Bernadette Catholic Church. Burial: West Branch Cemetery. Friends may call after 2 p.m. Sunday at West Branch Chapel of Barker Funeral Home, where a wake service begins at 7:30 p.m.

Survivors include his wife, Gladys; two daughters, Sharon Farnsworth of Iowa City and Deborah Myers of Conrad; a son, Richard of Iowa City; two brothers, LaVerne of Iowa City and Leonard of West Liberty; and two sisters, Betty Hotz of Lone Tree and Marilyn Jennings of Litchfield Park,

Also surviving are 11 grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents, two sisters and a brother.

Born Dec. 17, 1920, in Hills, a son of William and Elizabeth Binz VeDepo, he married Gladys Turecek on May 31, 1945, in Tipton. Mr. VeDepo farmed until 1955 and then was employed as a groundskeeper at the University of Iowa, retiring in 1969. He was a World War II veteran and was awarded the Purple Heart. He was a member of St. Bernadette Catholic Church, Disabled American Veterans, 12-year member of West Branch Town Council and member and past commander of the American Legion Chauncey Butler Post of West Branch.

The Rev. Lou Leonhardt will officiate. A memorial fund for the American Legion has been estab-

### **WEST UNION**

Amanda Knutsen, 86, died Wednesday night in Good Samaritan Home of natural causes. Services: 2 p.m. Saturday, Bethany Lutheran Church, rural West Union. Burial: church cemetery. Friends may call after 4 p.m. today at Burnham-Wood Funeral Home.

Survivors include two sons, Kenneth of Blaine, Wash., and Walter of Postville; and a daughter, Doris Guver of Elgin.

### WILLIAMSBURG

Dr. Julian J. Gallo, 62, died Tuesday in his home after a long illness. Services: 10 a.m. today, St. Mary's Catholic Church. Burial: St. Mary's Cemetery. Uhlmann-Powell Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Survivors include his wife, Sally; three daughters, Mary Engel of Richmond, Va., and Cynthia and Rita Gallo, both of Iowa City; four sons, Thomas and Anthony, both of Grinnell, Richard of Davenport and Andrew of Williamsburg; his father, Joseph of Albuquerque, N.M.; his mother, Margarita Rocha of Irapuato, Mexico; four sisters, Josephine Jimenez of Rochester, Minn., Margaret Graham of Cedar Rapids, Beatriz Negrete of Des Moines and Mercedes Cantu of Des Moines; and a brother, Mario of Albuquerque, N.M.

## Racism charged in withdrawal of funding to ISU minority group

AMES (AP) — An Iowa State University minority support group that complained about offensive items placed on dorm doors has lost all of its funding.

After the Minority and International Student Coalition complained last year about the racially offensive materials, university officials banned all materials on dorm doors.

When the group went to the Richardson Court Association student government, which governs a group of ISU dormitories, they were asked if they were the ones who complained about the offensive materials.

After the questioning, the group's request for \$1,100 was turned down, 31-13.

Victoria Miller of Waterloo, a student senator in the universitywide Government of the Student Body, thinks the action was racially motivated.

"Zero funding is the ultimate slap in the face," she said. She called the denial of money "absolutely an abuse of authority."

But Darren Walter of Grand Ridge, Ill., a senator in the Richardson Court Association, said he didn't think racism played a role in this week's decision.

The minority group's request was triple that of last year and senators were reluctant to give that large of an increase when it had to cut the student government budget this year, he said.

"Most of the senators would probably be happy to vote yes if a budget similar to last year was submitted," Walter said.

The senators had the option of approving a smaller grant but didn't do so.

## **VITAL STATISTICS**

## **BIRTHS**

**MERCY** 

Sept. 10 - Julie Baldus-Moats and Steve Moats, 230 Broadmore Rd. SW, a daughter; Barbara Evon Bryant, 416 16th St. SE, a daughter; Dawn and Craig Althoff, 1041 Daniels St. NE, a daughter.

ST. LUKE'S

Sept. 9 - Allison and Travis Schlabach, Marengo, a daughter.

Sept. 10 — Elizabeth and Rick Fangman, 2321 Meadow Lane NE, a daughter; Renee Washington, 706 Second Ave. SW, a son; Barbara and Chris Wilson, Anamosa, a son.

U OF I HOSPITALS

Sept. 6 - Diane and Dennis Dohrmann, 1744 Woodside Ct. NW,

# Authorities seek 2 men in probe of Chickasaw murder

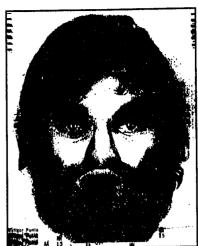
NEW HAMPTON — The Chickasaw County Sheriff's Department has released composite drawings of two men seen in a Williamstown convenience store the morning a clerk was found murdered.

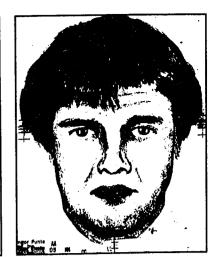
Rhonda Knutson, 22, was beaten to death early Labor Day morning. Her body was found inside the 24-hour truck stop at about 4:45 a.m. The medical examiner ruled that she died of head injuries.

The store is six miles south of New Hampton on Highway 63 near the intersection with highways 18 and 346. Knutson lived on an acreage a mile west and a mile south of Tripoli.

The drawings are based on observations of witnesses who saw two men in the store that Monday morning.

The men are described as white, of medium height with heavy builds. 35 to 45 years old. The man with a beard and mustache is believed to be the driver of a semi-tractor trailer previously described as a conventional tractor and a white/silver van or box trailer.





Chickasaw County authorities have released these composite drawings of two men they want to question in connection with the murder of a convenience store clerk south of New Hampton.

also was observed at the scene, but it is unknown whether he was driving a semi.

Officials want to interview the men. They do not know if there is a connection between the

Officials do not have a motive for the murder. The initial re-

The man without facial hair port of an attempted robbery was not supported by evidence at the scene, authorities said.

> Anyone who was in the store or driving by during the early morning hours on Monday are asked to call the Chickasaw County Sheriff's Department, (515) 394-3121. Collect calls will be accepted.

## Republican newcomer takes on Democratic veteran in District 45

By Lyle Muller

Gazette Johnson County Bureau IOWA CITY - Marc Libants tells of his first interest in politics, wondering during the 1988 presidential campaign how government could operate with a budget deficit.

His interest has gone beyond that of the 17-year-old bystander he was four years ago. This year he is challenging longtime Democrat Rep. Minnette Doderer for Iowa's 45th House District seat.

The race pits Libants, a Republican newcomer who says he wants social programs but also fiscal restraint, against Doderer, a Democrat who first went to the Statehouse in 1964 and boldly says she wants the state to provide as much service to its residents as possible.

"I'm trying not to campaign against her," says Libants, 715 Carriage Hill, an announcer at the University of Iowa-based WSUI radio. Instead, he says, he is trying to show himself as a "common sense" candidate who considers all Iowans when making decisions.

Even so, he says he wants to challenge Doderer as someone whose interests are restricted to a narrow list of issues and as someone who has been in the Legislature a long time.

Libants says he will make no promises in his campaign, taxes included. 'Candidates run and they

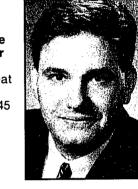
make outlandish promises and they have to stick to them or they're going to have trouble getting re-elected," he says. "I talk about common sense.

And I'll use common sense and do what I think is in our longterm best interests. When would taxes be necessary? Hopefully we can go through and try to find greater efficiencies in state government." Libants says he decided to

seek election while the Democratically controlled Iowa Legislature and Republican Gov. Terry Branstad battled over a state budget last spring. The result was two special legislative sessions before the combination of new taxes and program cuts was hammered out.



Minnette Doderer Holds seat District 45



Marc Libants GOP challenger

"There was, I think, more positioning, more game-playing, more posturing for the upcoming election going on," he says.

Libants says education and helping small businesses would be high priorities for him. But he said he also supports much of what Democrats have pushed for in environmental policies, welfare reform, civil rights and protection for collective-bargaining unions.

The difference that puts him in the GOP's column, he says, is that he believes there are limits to what the state can pay.

Doderer, 2009 Dunlap Ct., makes no apologies for her votes to raise taxes, saying she has done so when needed to maintain services upon which Iowans depend.

"My attitude has always been to be open," Doderer says. "This particular community has been a great consumer of tax money so they are interested in properly funded government."

People like the idea of tax cuts. Doderer says, but have difficulty accepting that the services they demand cost money.

"Somehow government is supposed to do services for a flat fee forever and private business can raise all the time. I doubt if our government taxes have kept pace with the increases in the cost of housing, cars and street repair that's done privately.'

However, Doderer says, she also goes to groups, such as the elderly and school districts, to say the state has reached spending limits. "I pride myself in trying to be honest with them instead of making promises that

# HOUSE JOHNSON DISTRICT COUNTY Iowa City

you can do everything.

Doderer first was elected to the Iowa House in 1964 and to the Iowa Senate five years later. She ran unsuccessfully for lieutenant governor in 1978 and returned to the House in 1980 after two years away from government.

She says she seeks re-election because she likes the job.

Doderer says she does not focus on a just a few issues because there are so many that it is impossible to name a few as top priorities.

"We have to take care of our citizens," she says. "We have to try to get them jobs, to support them in the meantime and we have to take care of their children. And that sounds like a big spender if ever I heard it.

"But we can do that without being big spenders. It costs us, actually, more in the long run if we don't take care of them in the short time while they're growing

## D.M. woman lied about kidnapping, trooper says

By Douglas Neumann Gazette staff writer

An apparent kidnapping victim led law enforcement authorities on a desperate chase Thursday, but they later discovered the story was "nothing but a pile of smoke," a trooper said.

Truckers found Virginia Porter. 34, of Des Moines, walking along Interstate 80 near the Newton interchange late Thursday afternoon. She told them she had just been freed by a stranger who had kidnapped her.

The truckers called authorities with a description of the car. The Iowa State Patrol, Newton police and deputies from Jasper and Poweshiek counties joined in the search. The car was stopped a short time later on I-80 near the Brooklyn interchange. about 30 miles from Newton.

The driver, Robert Greer, 33, of Des Moines, proved not to be a stranger or a kidnapper, said Trooper John Simonson. "She was very believable to

begin with, but she was lying,"

in a whole bunch of lies. Simonson said Greer and Porter apparently had a relationship for the past few weeks. They had an argument in the car, and Greer just let her off on the interstate.

he said. "We found none of the

evidence she said there would

be. We've got to go with the best

we've got. We didn't find any

lies by him, but we caught her

**ALTHOUGH AUTHORITIES** no longer consider the incident a kidnapping, Newton police continue to investigate other allegations made by Porter.

Porter was transported back to Polk County, where she was wanted for failing to appear for a court date. Greer was cited for driving with a suspended license and was released.

A 6-month-old relative riding with Greer was taken to the Department of Social Services, until her mother could be contacted in Iowa City.

## **THURSDAY LOTTERIES**

**IOWA LOTTO** \$100,000 CASH GAME:

**ILLINOIS LOTTO** 

2-4-8-15-22

**DAILY GAME: 4-2-9 PICK FOUR: 8-3-4-9** 

6-of-54 JACKPOT: \$10 million

## Powerball pot rises

DES MOINES (AP) - No one won the \$3.2 million Powerball jackpot Wednesday, sending it to \$5 million for Saturday.

Sue Bilstad of the Multi-State Lottery Association said one ticket sold in Indiana matched five numbers — 12, 17, 27, 33 and 37 — without matching the Powerball, 37, for a \$100,000 prize.