

# IOWA TODAY®

CEDAR RAPIDS



## NEWS JOURNAL

### LINN COUNTY

#### Send info for newcomers guide

Discovery, The Gazette's annual section designed to provide help for newcomers and a refresher course for current residents of cities and towns in Linn and Johnson counties, will be published Aug. 10.

Included will be a directory of clubs, lodges and organizations — all open to new members.

The directory will be compiled from information supplied by representatives of the various groups. Please submit in writing the following information to be published: a brief description of the group, when it meets, the name of a contact person and a phone number for that person.

The 1997 list will be organized alphabetically by interest areas such as hobbies, music, politics, and singles.

Information is due by July 5. It can be mailed to Discovery, The Gazette, P.O. Box 511, Cedar Rapids 52406-0511; faxed (398-5846) or e-mailed to [gazette@fyiowa.com](mailto:gazette@fyiowa.com). Either the fax or the e-mail should be marked to the attention of Phyllis Fleming.

### CEDAR RAPIDS

#### Mayor elected to national board

Mayor Lee Clancey has been elected to the advisory board of the U.S. Conference of Mayors.

The 23-member board oversees conference programs and policies in conjunction with the board of trustees and officers of the organization.

Clancey will serve on the board as long as she remains in office in Cedar Rapids. She was elected at the conclusion of the U.S. Conference of Mayors this week in San Francisco.

#### Character-shaping topic of talk

Lynn Nielsen, elementary principal at Price Laboratory School in Cedar Falls, will be the speaker today at a community meeting on character development.

Nielsen, who just attended a national conference on character development, will talk about the importance of character education and current trends.

The meeting will be held from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Cedar Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce, 424 First Ave. NE. The presentation is open to the public.

The East Central Iowa SAFE Coalition, the event sponsor, is one of several organizations involved in a community effort to promote values and character education.

Three local groups have joined forces in an effort to promote character development. This summer, a committee is assembling a list of commonly held values deemed important by community focus groups.

After community values are identified, the next step will be to develop strategies to teach and reinforce them, said Deb Bloom of the SAFE Coalition.

#### 3 schools in shutoff program

Jefferson, Kennedy and Washington high schools participate in IES Utilities' interruptible service program.

Activities at all three schools were shut down Monday, when IES interrupted service to several customers due to a high demand for electricity.

School officials are generally given one-hour notice before power is interrupted at a given building. When that happens, staff and students are sent home, and phones aren't answered.

In exchange for its participation in the program, the Cedar Rapids school district saves approximately \$100,000 annually.

# Police: Woman knew killer

### People who know where C.R. 22-year-old went after work Friday sought

By Steve Gravelle  
Gazette staff writer

Cedar Rapids police believe Traci Evenson knew her killer.

"I think this is somebody who she knew, so I don't think there's any cause for alarm for neighbors," Chief Bud Byrne told The Gazette on Tuesday. "We would advise them to take the same precautions they would anytime, but I don't think we have a serial (offender) to be concerned about."

One neighbor said most of the people who lived near Evenson seem to have reached the same conclusion.

"I don't think it has affected us much," said Virgil Kniffen, 420 Ninth Ave. SW. "There's a lot of talk."

Evenson, 22, had moved into the upstairs apartment at 438 1/2 Ninth Ave. SW about a month ago. Her sister Jodi Jackson found Evenson's body in the apartment Sunday morning.

Detectives had no public statements about the investigation Tuesday, but Byrne said police are following several leads and have eliminated several others.

"It's not progressing as rapidly as I'd like to see it, but some of these investigations take a little more time

than others," Byrne said.

Assistant Linn County Medical Examiner David Kresnicka said he's awaiting lab results before delivering the Evenson autopsy report. He said he has established a preliminary cause of death, and Byrne said detectives have eliminated some potential causes.

"I think we have ruled out several things, but to give you an exact cause, until the medical examiner gives us

his report, we can't say for sure," Byrne said.

A prayer service for Evenson was held last night at Brosh Chapel. She will be buried in South St. Paul, Minn., near the homes of her parents.

Byrne said detectives would like to talk to anyone who may have seen Evenson or known of her whereabouts after she left her job as an APAC telemarketer Friday. Evenson probably died within the 36 hours before her body was found at 9 a.m. Sunday.

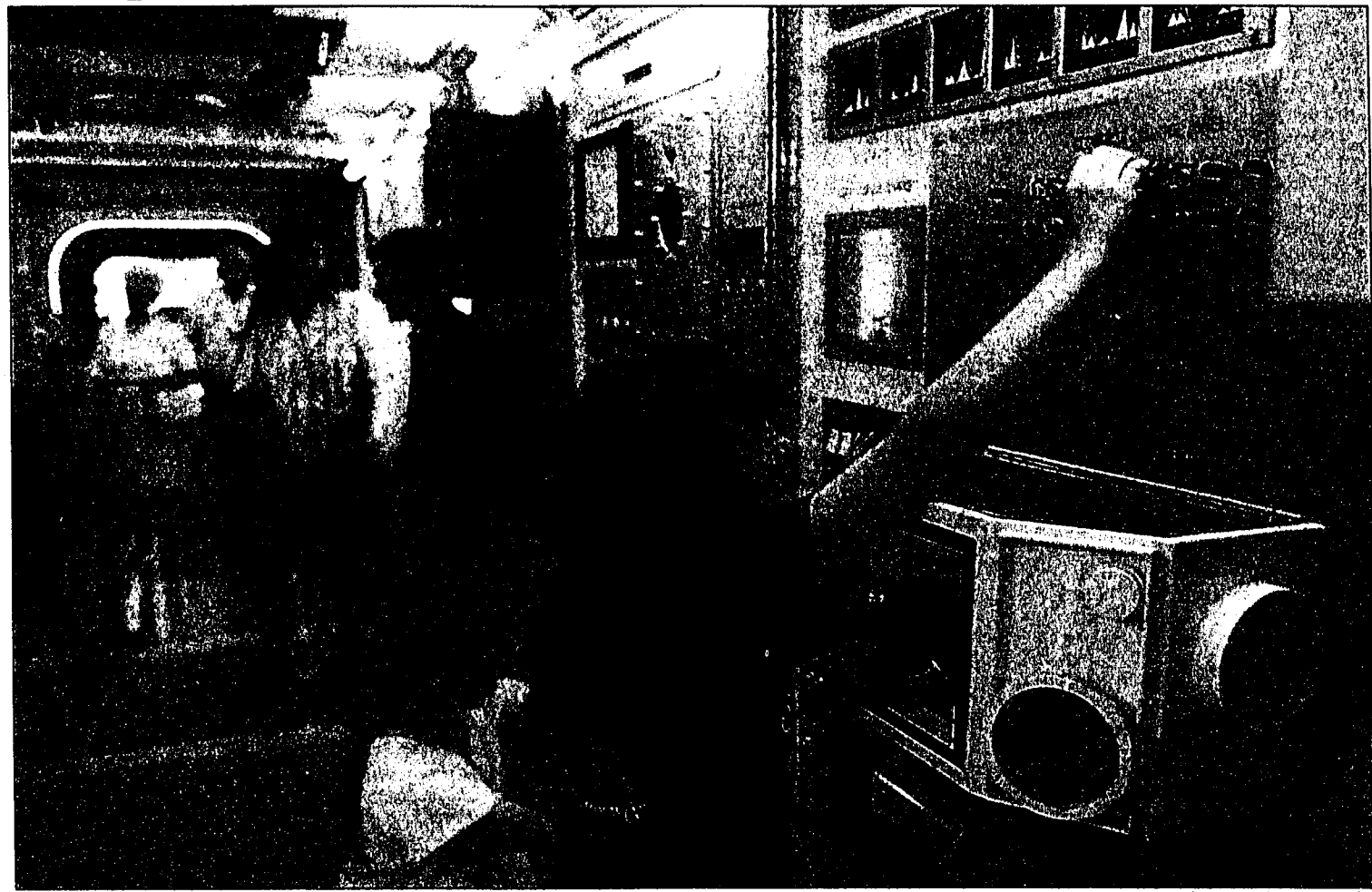
Information should be relayed to the police Investigative Unit, 286-5400.

"There are always leads to follow up," Byrne said.



Traci Evenson  
Police following several leads in case of slain C.R. woman

### Not quite ready for takeoff



Gazette photo by L.W. Ward

As a NASA guide explains the operation of the International Space Station exhibit on display at the Science Station in Cedar Rapids, Kayla Dudley (front) and Gina Llegl, both 10 and of Central City, check out some of the many switches and knobs available. The free, hands-on exhibit consists of mock-ups of science labs and the crew's living quarters on the space station. The first element of the station is scheduled to be launched in mid- to late 1998. The exhibit continues from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. today.

## Zoo vote depends on poll

Linn County will consider referendum if voters interested

By Beth Chacey  
Gazette staff writer

The Cedar Rapids Area Friends of the Zoo asked Linn County officials Tuesday to support a plan to put the proposed \$13 million zoo to a countywide voter test this fall.

Taxpayers would be asked to fund the start-up cost of the 50-acre facility: Owners of a \$75,000 home, for instance, would pay \$10 to \$15 a year, depending on interest rates.

All three Linn County supervisors, though, said they couldn't endorse the referendum without knowing first if the public even supports a zoo.

"I take kind of the conservative approach," Board Chairman Jim Houser said.

Houser said he wants the public to be aware that other county projects are looming: a juvenile detention center and possibly a jail expansion and new administrative office building.

If people are aware of those future needs and still want to back a referendum, Houser said, then it could go before voters.

The zoo organization hopes to tie its bond referendum with an October primary, which will be held if two or more candidates file for Cedar Rapids City Council seats.

Sixty percent of voters would have to approve the referendum. Friends of the Zoo is shooting for a spring 1999 zoo opening, said Jeff Smith, president of the group.

Smith said Friends of the Zoo went to work right after Tuesday's supervisor meeting getting a proposal from a company to do a survey. He said the clear message from supervisors is that if the community supports the idea, supervisors will approve placing it on the ballot.

"We were extremely pleased with what they said this morning," Smith said.

Smith said his group wanted to work through county officials.

■ Turn to 3B: Zoo

## C.R. council to hear deer-reduction plan soon

By Kathleen Carlson  
Gazette news intern

The Cedar Rapids City Council soon will consider recommendations for solving the city's deer population problem.

"We will be taking something to council sometime in the near future," Parks Commissioner Evan Hughes told the Linn County Deer Task Force at its final meeting last night.

Although task force members and concerned citizens ran the gamut in opinions on how to deal with the growing deer population in the municipal area — including bow hunting, contraceptives, fencing, sharpshooting and road reflectors — the task force's recommendations focused on 23 bow hunting guidelines.

The guidelines include suggestions for proper licensing, what kind of deer may be hunted, use of archer proficiency tests and where the hunting may happen.

The task force submitted the guidelines earlier this month to the City Council, which could accept or change the proposal before holding a public hearing,

Hughes said.

Members of the task force told Hughes they think the issue should be a priority for the council. They are concerned whether action will be taken in time for the Department of Natural Resources to implement any proposal approved by the council. Among other things, the DNR would need to issue licenses and set a season.

"This is a Cedar Rapids moment and it would be nice to see something done, even in the next week," said task force member Shearon Elderkin of 4081 Oak Valley Dr. NE.

After fielding several questions about a time line for the project, Hughes assured task force members that the time and effort they have put into educating themselves about deer overpopulation is appreciated, and that the City Council is not ignoring them.

"We are sensitive to timing on this. We're aware of the concern and we're handling it as best we can," Hughes said.

The task force was formed in June 1996

to seek a solution to Linn County's growing deer population. Based on its recommendations, extra bow hunting sessions were added at Squaw Creek Park. In Marion, which already had a hunting ordinance, a few more hunting licenses were issued.

Some concerned citizens said they feel as though they are simply repeating themselves and are not being heard.

"How much do we have to reinvent the wheel?" asked Barbara Everly, a citizen who said she has had a lot of damage on her property at 4405 Pepperwood Hill SE.

However, others said that other options beyond bow hunting still need to be considered.

"Maybe it is time to reinvent the wheel because it's not working. Coming up with a solution isn't the answer unless the solution is the right one," said Inara Powers of 2453 Killmanjaro Dr. NE.

Powers is worried that bow hunting is only perpetuating the deer population problem and that other options are not being considered seriously.

## Waukon parents relieved when premature baby came home

Danette Jones of Waukon holds Bailey, her 10-week-old daughter who was released from the hospital Monday, as her husband, Dwight, and 2 1/2-year-old son, Cameron, look on. Bailey, born at 24 weeks, weighed 1 pound, 10 ounces at birth. She now weighs 4 pounds, 3 ounces.



Jones family photo, Waukon

By James Q. Lynch  
Gazette Northeast Iowa Bureau

W AUKON — She holds her head up. She smiles. She lets her parents know when she's hungry.

"She's doing all the things a baby should do," her mother says.

Now she's home. Bringing their 10-week-old baby home from the hospital was a relief for Danette and Dwight Jones of Waukon, a milestone for their daughter, Bailey Sue. They were more than a little surprised and hardy prepared when she was born without warning April 15 — 3 1/2 months before her due date.

"We hadn't even talked about names," Dwight says. "With your first child that's the first thing you do, but this time we decided to wait on choosing a name."

Fortunately, the Joneses had agreed on Bailey if their first child was a girl. The name still was available since their first child born 2 1/2 years ago was a boy they named Cameron.

"Still she spent her first two days in the hospital without a name," Danette says.

Doctors haven't been able to explain why Bailey was born at 24 weeks, weighing 1 pound, 10 ounces and measuring 11 1/2 inches in length.

At first, she was taking one cubic centimeter (cc) of water and milk intravenously

every hour. Bailey, who now takes 45 cc, or 1.5 ounces, of breast milk and supplement every four hours, is up to 4 pounds, 3 ounces and is more than 16 inches long. Bailey takes a bottle, but sometimes tires before finishing, so then she receives nourishment through a feeding tube, Danette says.

"She seems big to us, but little to everyone else," Danette says, remembering when Bailey wore diapers "that looked like Kleenex with plastic on them" and Dwight's wedding band was loose on Bailey's arm.

Despite her growth, holding Bailey is not like holding Cameron when he was born, Dwight says.

"You pick her up and all you have is a handful of baby," he says.

That handful of baby is healthy, growing and developing as expected, doctors tell the Joneses. "Basically, she's just young and immature," Danette says, adding that Bailey sometimes receives oxygen because her lungs are not fully developed.

Doctors will monitor her progress closely, especially Bailey's sight and her immune system. For now, Bailey can have visitors, but to protect her from colds and other illnesses, her parents have been warned to keep her away from crowds and children.

That put a bit of a damper on Danette's homecoming plans.

"So far, both grandmas have held her, but that's about it," Danette says.

*"She seems big to us, but little to everyone else. (Bailey wore diapers) that looked like Kleenex with plastic on them."*

Danette Jones

For now, Danette is staying home full time with Bailey. She went back to work in Lansing after four weeks, so she would have been able to take off time when Bailey came home from Gunderson Hospital in La Crosse, Wis.

She spent the first two days of Bailey's life in Winnebago County Memorial Hospital recuperating from a C-section while Bailey was in La Crosse. That was rough.

"Everyone kept telling Danette that Bailey was doing OK, but especially with a baby that size, you want to see for yourself," Dwight says.

"If she was born at 4 pounds, 3 ounces you would think 'How am I going to take care of her?'" Danette says. "But now we're comfortable taking care of her."

"It feels great to have her home."