

NEWS JOURNAL

IOWA CITY

Industrial park plan advances

■ The City Council voted 6-1 last night to adopt an ordinance, a resolution and an agreement that clear the way for developers Al and Mary Jo Streb to build the Scott-Six Industrial Park.

While Mayor Naomi Novick will sign the agreement on the city's behalf, the Strebs have indicated they will not move forward on the project until a controversial road placement issue is resolved. City officials say that where the Strebs want to place a road creates a dangerous intersection with Scott Boulevard.

However, the Strebs presented a proposal last night that appears to address the city's concerns. Negotiations between the Strebs and the city will continue.

Council member Karen Kubby voted against approving the agreement. She said she is concerned that since the city's waiver of sewer and water tap-on fees is not considered a direct benefit, the companies locating in the park won't be held to the city's standards for pay, benefits and safety.

CORALVILLE

Trial set in tax fraud case

■ A Coralville man pleaded innocent Tuesday in federal court to a 20-count indictment charging him with misappropriating more than \$235,000 of his clients' money.

The trial of Ronald D. Skubal, 43, who was an accountant and tax preparer in Iowa City, is set for Oct. 6 in Des Moines. Skubal remains free on a \$20,000 unsecured bond.

A federal grand jury in Des Moines indicted Skubal on Friday on charges that he obtained money from clients under false pretenses, saying he would pay the money on their behalf to the Internal Revenue Service and Iowa tax authorities.

The indictment charges that Skubal diverted approximately \$184,000 to his own use. In other instances, Skubal is accused of misappropriating about \$52,000 by using money from one client to pay another client's taxes.

The 20 counts in the indictment are: eight counts of mail fraud, one count of wire fraud, eight counts of submitting false tax returns, one count of obstructing the IRS and two counts of bank fraud.

All are felonies and each carries a maximum penalty of at least three years' imprisonment and a \$250,000 fine.

POWESHIEK COUNTY

911 service lost temporarily

■ A fiber cable was accidentally cut Tuesday, leaving some south-central Iowa residents without emergency telephone service for about five hours.

The US West cable was cut around 11 a.m. by workers who were digging near Highway 69 in Indianola, US West spokeswoman Lynn Gipple said. That cut 911 emergency service in Poweshiek, Wapello, Jefferson, Mahaska and Warren counties.

Gipple said dispatchers in Jackson and Jasper counties could still receive 911 calls, but the address of the call was not automatically displayed.

US West customers are advised to keep the full seven-digit local emergency numbers near the telephone, Gipple said.

Gipple said the problem was fixed around 4 p.m.

\$1 million-plus campaign promotes smoke-free kids

Organizers: Statewide education plan gets children involved

By Krista Larson
Gazette news intern

Tobacco foes in Iowa have a new weapon to combat tobacco advertisements aimed at children.

More than \$1 million will be used in a statewide educational campaign to promote tobacco-free lifestyles, leaders announced in all major Iowa cities Tuesday.

"Our main thrust is going to be stopping young people from starting," said Phil Brammer, executive director of Healthy Kids 2000 and a former state representative. "Children have been primed by an industry that has no conscience."

A \$600,000 grant over three years from the Robert Wood

Johnson Foundation will help fund the campaign. It will be matched by \$400,000 in private contributions, Brammer said at a news conference held at the Cedar Rapids Public Library. A media public relations group has also pledged to raise an additional \$500,000, said Brammer.

The campaign is being run by Tobacco Free Iowa, a loose coalition of health and education groups that will spearhead the fund-raising drive.

"For years the tobacco industry has had access to enormous advertising budgets enabling them to promote tobacco to our



Phil Brammer
"Thrust is to stop young people from starting"

kids," said Aaron Bangsund, who is heading up the effort.

"For the first time we have the opportunity in Iowa to compete in the same arena," Bangsund said in Des Moines. That news conference was held at the camel exhibit at a zoo to draw attention to an advertising symbol that has been important and effective for cigarette makers.

Using television, radio and even the Internet, the campaign will spread its message about the risks of smoking over many of the same mediums the tobacco industry uses.

The tobacco industry spends an estimated \$16 million daily on tobacco advertising, according to Bangsund.

While previous anti-drug campaigns have existed, this will be the first to specifically target

■ Turn to 3B: Tobacco

Victim's mother waits, wonders

Traci Evenson's mother has her own theory about C.R. murder

By Steve Gravelle
Gazette staff writer

Norma Zillyette knows without being asked how long it's been since June 22.

"It's been what, 36 days now?" Zillyette said Tuesday afternoon.

That's how long since Zillyette's daughter Traci Evenson was found murdered in her upstairs apartment at 438½ Ninth Ave. SW. Contacted at her West St. Paul, Minn., home, Zillyette said she followed the investigation as closely as she can.

"I call (police) every day," Zillyette said. "I called today and got ahold of them and they didn't have nothing."

That's not strictly true, according to Assistant Police Chief Bruce Kern. While there may be no new developments to report, detectives are pursuing the investigation.

"They're just reviewing some of the laboratory evidence and getting an interpretation of it from the DCI," the state Division of Criminal Investigation, Kern said.

Kern said detectives plan to meet this week with Linn County Attorney Denver Dillard to review the case. He termed the meeting "routine" and said it doesn't mean an arrest is imminent.

"We've got a lot of work yet to do," Kern said. He wouldn't say detectives have a suspect, but "we've



Traci Evenson
Found murdered
June 22

got a direction."

Without being specific about the manner of her death, police have said Evenson, 22, was suffocated. Zillyette has her own theories about the killer.

"We have suspicions about how it happened," she said. "We checked out the apartment, and stuff like that."

Some suspicions are at variance with police statements: Zillyette thinks Evenson was killed by a stranger who broke into her apartment, while police have said Evenson probably knew her killer.

Zillyette said she doesn't believe her daughter knew the killer.

"I think she was stalked, watched," she said.

Zillyette said her suspicions are fed by signs someone may have entered Evenson's apartment

■ Turn to 3B: Evenson



Nature detective Ricky Blair, 7, uses his waterscope to get a below-the-surface look at the creatures of Indian Creek.

"It gives the children a chance to explore and investigate what surrounds them."

Amanda Edwards, program designer

Gumshoes in gym shoes

Young detectives explore nature

Sherlock Holmes has some new competition. And instead of the streets of London, these pint-sized detectives examine the mysteries of nature at the Indian Creek Nature Center.

Last week, 13 children attended a two-day workshop at the nature center called "Nature Detectives."

For three hours each day, the kindergarten through third graders explored nature with hikes, collecting in-

sects and other activities.

"It gives the children a chance to explore and investigate what surrounds them," said Amanda Edwards, the center's intern who designed the activities.

The program runs again Aug 11-12. The cost is \$15 for members; \$18 for non-members. Call 362-0664 for details.

"It's a lot better than sitting at home watching television," said Tim Miller, 7, of Cedar Rapids.



Jennifer Michalick, 7, inspects a garter snake caught by naturalist Jan Aleis. Also pictured are Michael Ander (right), 7, and David Stenersen, 6.

Photos and story by John F. Martin, Gazette photographer

More C.R. homes could leave recyclables at curb this fall

In addition to projecting start of program, council may temporarily bag fee

By Douglas Neumann
Gazette staff writer

It's looking more and more like "when" rather than "if" for curbside recycling in Cedar Rapids.

Solid Waste Director Mark Jones said Tuesday that he hopes to start the first phase of a citywide program in early October.

As many as 25 percent of city households could begin curbside recycling in October. More could be added just after Christmas and the rest before midsummer of 1998.

Meanwhile, almost 5,000 households that participated in a recycling pilot program from April to July get to keep the carrot without worrying about the stick.

The City Council is today expected to drop the \$1.25 charge for garbage tags while continuing the curbside collection for those homes.

The pilot program collected an unlimited

amount of seven recyclable materials but restricted free pickup of other trash to a single container. A \$1.25 sticker was required for each extra container.

The unit-based pricing strategy is supposed to encourage recycling and other methods of waste reduction so less material ends up in landfills. The \$1.25 charge likely would resume in October if — or when — the phase-in of the citywide program begins.

Jones said the pilot program demonstrated support for curbside recycling, and he left little doubt Tuesday that the program will be extended. The city, though, continues to study just how that will be done. Jones said he has enough personnel and equipment to expand the program to about 9,200 homes in October.

After that, timing will depend on equipment purchases, either by the city or a private company. The city has not ruled out allowing private industry to compete for all or part of a curbside recycling contract.

Marion already committed to phasing in a citywide curbside program. Its pilot program ran about the same time as Cedar Rapids'. All other Linn County communities have had curbside recycling for several years.

METRO/IOWA

DAILY NOTEBOOK

TODAY/July 30, 1997

MEETINGS

8:30 a.m. — Linn County Board of Supervisors, board room, Administrative Office Building.
9 a.m. — Cedar Rapids City Council, council chambers, City Hall.
7 p.m. — Center Point City Council, City Hall.

WORKSHOP

"Building Community Justice Partnerships Between Neighborhoods, Police and Corrections" workshop, 7:30 a.m. to 2 p.m., Iowa Hall; public meeting to be convened by the Commission on Community Justice from 2 to 4 p.m., Linn Hall, Room 203 B.

THEATER

"An Afternoon in the Old Colony," by Old Creamery Theatre Company, noon, Amana Community Church, Homestead; includes meal; \$15, \$10.

HISTORY

Family Night, 5 to 8 p.m., Herbert Hoover Presidential Museum, West Branch; musical, "Remembering the 1950s," 6 and 7 p.m.

"Taste of a 1850 Heritage Garden," samples of teas, salad, sauces, casseroles, soups, breads and desserts, 5:30 to 7 p.m., Plum Grove, Iowa City; reservations requested.

MUSIC

Cedar Rapids Municipal Band, 8 p.m., Cherry Hill Park.

FARMERS MARKETS

Noelridge Farmers Market, 4 to 6 p.m., Collins Road and Council Street NE.

Iowa City Farmers Market, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., lower level of the Chauncey Swan parking ramp between Washington and College streets.

Marion Farmers Market, 3 to 6 p.m., East End Shopping Center, 3400 block of Seventh Avenue.

Jones County Farmers Market, 3 to 6 p.m., Blue Chip parking lot, Monticello.

RECYCLING

Cedar Rapids drive-through recycling site, 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., Public Works complex, 1201 Sixth St. SW.

Cedar Rapids recycling truck, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Randall Foods, 1332 Edgewood Rd. SW.

For other recycling information, call Bluestem Solid Waste Agency, 398-1278.

LOTTERIES

IOWA LOTTERY

\$100,000 CASH GAME: 3-8-9-27-31
DAILY MILLIONS: Red: 1-20; White: 10-13; Blue: 1-13

ILLINOIS LOTTERY

PICK 3 MIDDAY: 7-0-8 **PICK 3 EVENING**: 9-4-5
PICK 4 MIDDAY: 2-1-4-9 **PICK 4 EVENING**: 7-3-1-3
6-of-54 JACKPOT: \$11 million

Lottery numbers also are available on CITYLINE, 363-7000 or 337-7000, category 2900.

VITAL STATISTICS

BIRTHS

MERCY

July 28 — **Kari and Kevin Hromidko**, Walker, a son; **Traci Evans and Clyde Hoffpaul**, 224 29th St. Dr. SE, a son.

July 29 — **Susan and Dan Voss**, Atkins, a son; **Pam and Doug Feltes**, 6401 Wolf Creek Trail, Cedar Rapids, a daughter.

ST. LUKE'S

July 28 — **Beth DuCharme and Matt Perkins**, 706 Ninth St. SW, a daughter.

MARRIAGE LICENSES

Mike R. Dyson and Renee S. Cole, Brett W. Boorman and Anita M. Molyneux, Mark W. Cottrell and Jean E. Wiese, Jeffery S. Woods and Michelle R. Lane, Timothy J. Peterson and Mary B. Peterson, Kenneth J. Day and Shirley A. Waldrep, Norman W. Arons and Terry L. Goranson, Clark L. Wagner and Tonya K. Losee, Mark E. Rambo and Janean K. Johnson, Brett A. Stephenson and Lisa A. Ralston, all of Cedar Rapids.

Scott V. Kongable and Jennifer J. Ochiltree, both of Marion. James A. Petrick, Springfield, and Jennifer L. Barlow, Center Point. Ryan D. Van Gerpen and Tracie L. Kaufman, both of Center Point. Scott R. Hauser, Waterloo, and Darcy J. Smart, Anamosa. Dean N. Roepke, Buffalo, Minn., and Michelle L. Batchelder, Cedar Rapids. Dean E. Stick, Alburnett, and Esther V. Davis, Central City. Patrick R. Dicus and Tara L. Sorensen, both of Fairfax.

Harold A. Bries, Guttenberg, and Lois A. McDonnell, Solon. Kevin E. Bills and Jodi L. Richard, both of Marion. Brett A. Vasey and Dorene M. Larimore, both of Marion. Richard G. Grofton, Newhall, and Judie A. Volk, Cedar Rapids. Theodore J. Koehler, Ainsworth, and Sheri L. Morris, Marion. Kenneth B. Gall, Hiawatha, and Susan K. Robbins, Cedar Rapids. Robert G. Arbogast, Mexico, Mo., and Ricky F. Mabry, Cedar Rapids. Thomas W. Tjarks and Barbara J. Domer, both of Marion. Mark R. Williams, Hiawatha, and Mary A. Cassis, Cedar Rapids.

MARRIAGE DISSOLUTIONS

Reva M. and Gary W. Sanders, Deborah J. and Mark H. Jirouch, Nikki E. and James F. Moore, Cheryl A. and Charles R. Jones, Sam T. and Nguyen T. Tran.

'Snake sitter' wants C.R. to return reptiles

Gazette staff report

A Cedar Rapids man hopes the five snakes he says he was watching for a friend will be returned. They were seized from his apartment over the weekend.

"They said there's no way I can get them back or anyone can get them back," Todd Johnson said Tuesday. "They said they were going to try to find homes for them."

Johnson said the fox snake, ball python, two boas and albino Burmese python already have a home in Linn County. He said he was keeping the snakes for his friend Noel Tiedt of Swisher while her home was being fumigated.

Cedar Rapids Animal Control removed the snakes from Johnson's apartment at 1801 First St. SW after police were called there Saturday.

"There was a little argument with my roommate, it got a little loud, and the neighbors called police," Johnson said.

Johnson said he was not aware that snakes could not be kept as pets in Cedar Rapids, but he found out Saturday.

Animal Control Director Kaye Chadima said Johnson was cited for harboring constricting snakes, which are banned in Cedar Rapids and Linn County. She said the reptiles will be held until Johnson's court case is completed.

"It's under investigation," Chadima said. "Nothing's going to be euthanized or anything like that. We'll probably have them for six or seven months." Under Cedar Rapids code, dangerous animals may be humanely destroyed.

Getting over radio 'fumble-itis'

Linn deputies, C.R. police working out few kinks in new communications systems

By Steve Gravelle

Gazette staff writer

Linn County sheriff's deputies changed to their new communications system Tuesday, a day after Cedar Rapids police did the same.

The switch at 12:10 p.m. was delayed briefly by the discovery that some switches were improperly installed, Sheriff Don Zeller said.

"It didn't go, and we had to reverse them," Zeller said.

"As far as I know, it went fine after that."

Digital transmission is the key feature of the \$2.5 million system. A

software program converts voice to digital bits for broadcast. The result is near static-free communications.

Zeller said it will take a few days for deputies and dispatchers to become accustomed to the system.

"It's just going to take some time to get used to it," he said. "The clarity's going to be a lot better."

It's a similar story at the police department, where officers were learning not to press the wrong buttons after Monday's switch to their encoded system.

The police and sheriff systems are similar in function but aren't direct-

ly compatible.

"It's working fine, as far as the citizens calling and us getting the citizens' calls out to the units," Police Chief Bud Byrne said.

"It's more a matter of getting familiar with their radios and not having to look at it when you use it."

Police dispatchers remained in the old police station when most operations shifted in May to the new headquarters.

Byrne said the dispatchers' move to the new building this week revealed a software problem that pre-

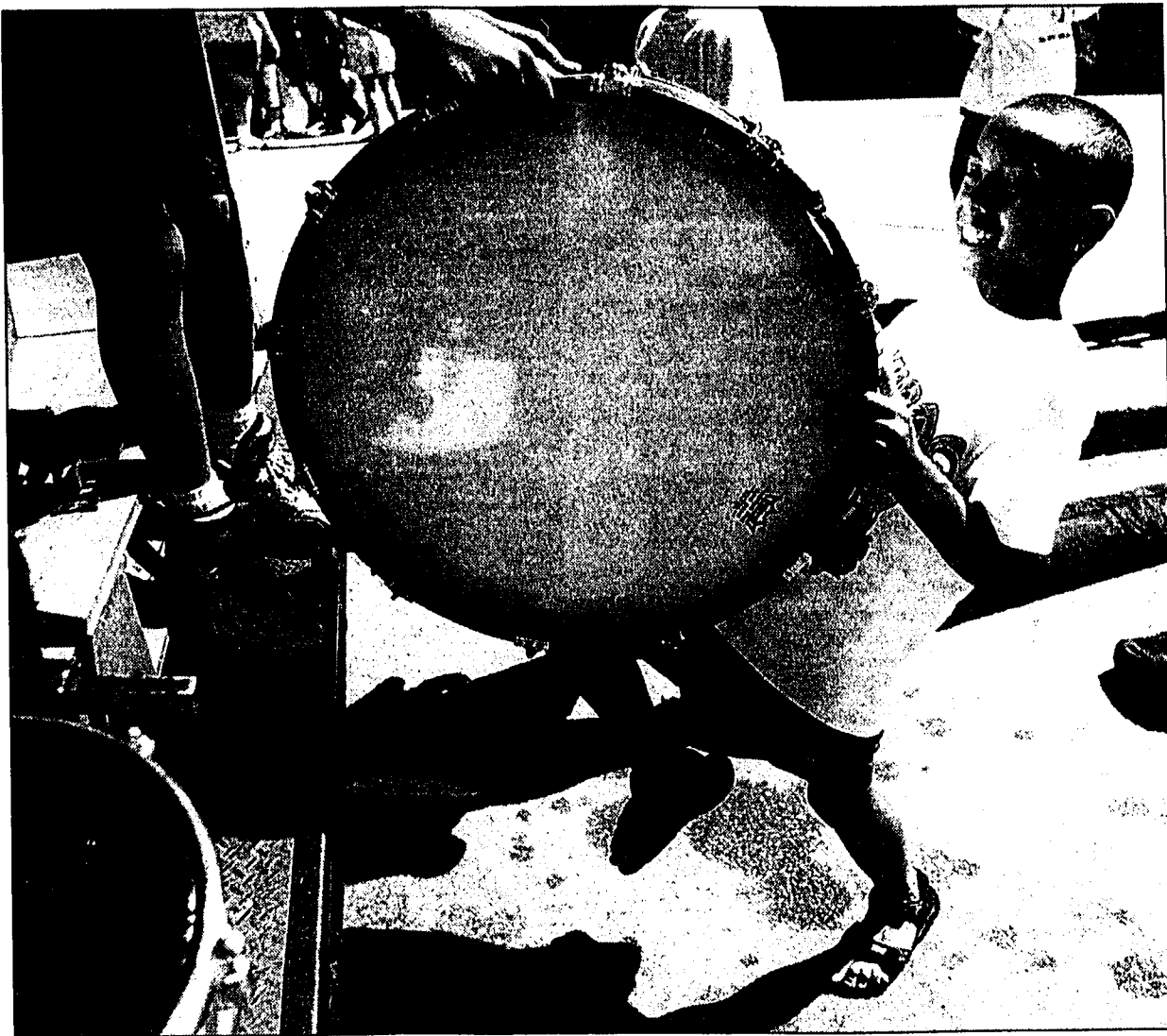
vents initial report records from being entered into the computer system.

"Something went haywire," Byrne said, and the department's software consultants were called in to troubleshoot.

Until the problem is fixed, calls will be logged on handwritten cards, Byrne said.

"Right now we're seeing a bit of fumble-itis," Byrne said.

"In the future, people will say 'How did we get along with the old system?'"



Gazette photo by John F. Martin

Chris Richardson, 9, a member of the Grant Wood All-City Drum Corps, loads a bass drum onto a truck after a performance at the Cedar Rapids Public Library on Tuesday afternoon. The corps performed at a news conference at which details of a statewide educational campaign to promote tobacco-free lifestyles were announced.

Tobacco: Drum corps performs at news conference

■ From page 1B

smoking.

"We'll be involving kids rather than speaking down to them," Brammer said.

Other states, such as Massachusetts and California, have had good luck with certain ads, Brammer said, and Iowa will look to use similar ones.

The drive also is timed to coincide with a settlement that attorneys general from 40 states have bargained with the tobacco industry.

If that deal is approved by Congress, it would impose new limits on tobacco advertising

and create an opening for health groups to begin reshaping attitudes.

Bangsund said that is crucial because of demographic trends among tobacco users. While the overall smoking rate has been dropping, smoking by young people has been gradually increasing in recent years.

Members of the Grant Wood All-City Drum Corps, in an ongoing participation with Healthy Kids 2000, performed in front of the Cedar Rapids Public Library following the news conference Tuesday morning.

Sweat shirts worn by the drum corps and provided by the Iowa Healthy Kids project proclaimed, "Let's March to a Different Drummer" on the front and "Drumming Out Tobacco" on the back.

"We wore them because they are consistent with our mission," explained Slayton Thompson, director of the 120-member corps, founded to increase pride and self-esteem in children.

The Associated Press contributed to this story.

C.R. Band to play at Cherry Hill Park

The concert will be repeated three times on the weekend — at 8:30 p.m. Saturday at the Hoover Presidential Library in West Branch, Sunday at 4 p.m. in Bever Park and Sunday night at 8 in Ellis Park.

Opera auditions, he has performed more than 20 operatic roles. He sings the national anthem for University of Iowa sports events and for the Chicago Cubs, New York Rangers and New York Yankees.

The concert will be repeated three times on the weekend. Neuzil will be a soloist for a concert at 8:30 p.m. Saturday at the Hoover Presidential Library in West Branch. Lang will solo Sunday at 4 p.m. in Bever Park, and both soloists will be featured Sunday night at 8 in Ellis Park.

Evenson: C.R. murder victim 'had no enemies'

■ From page 1B

through a window, instead of being admitted through the door.

Kern confirmed a window screen was torn, but said that detectives haven't determined whether it plays a role in the case.

"From what I know, there was no forced entry," he said.

"There was a torn screen, but we don't know how. That's one of the things we had to test."

Evenson was born in St. Paul and moved with her family to Iowa when she was about 4 years old, her mother said.

She graduated from Washington High School in 1994 and lived with her sister Jodi Jack-

son and her family before moving to the Ninth Avenue apartment three weeks before her death.

Zillyette described her daughter as a "sweet and innocent girl, trying to do something with her life."

She said her daughter was taking business computing classes at Kirkwood Community College, where she'd made friends among the campus' exchange students. Evenson also worked two jobs, at the Collins Road Hy-Vee and APAC TeleServices.

"She had no enemies," said Zillyette, which is one reason she believes a stranger was the

killer.

"Anyone that was mad at her, she'd call her sister and talk about it," Zillyette said.

However, Evenson never mentioned any angry acquaintances in the weeks before her murder. In the days after her death, her family met friends they didn't know she had.

"We had one kid come all the way from Cedar Rapids to the funeral here (in West St. Paul)," Zillyette said.

"He said he owed it to her. Everyone else in school made fun of him, but she didn't. I didn't know she was that well-liked."

Solon woman wants spot on College board

By Becky Stover

Gazette staff writer

Sandy Flatgard has taken out nomination papers for the College Community school board.

Flatgard, 39, of Solon, is running for the at-large position held by Maggie York. York has announced she doesn't plan to seek re-election.

Flatgard, who has four children in College Community schools, said she thought this was a good time to give it a try.

"I just have a real vested interest with four kids there," she said. "I want to make sure my kids and others there have the highest quality education they can receive."

Flatgard has worked on the district's last three bond issues and served as treasurer of the Kids First Committee. She has held PTO offices at Prairie View Elementary and Prairie Middle School and is on the district's quality council.

"I volunteer a lot so I can see what really works well and things that may need improvement," she said. "The district is making great strides, and I want to see it continue."

"I just have a real vested interest with four kids there."

Sandy Flatgard

Key issues for the district include preparing students for the real world, staying on top of enrollment growth, implementing technology and ensuring quality education, Flatgard said.

Flatgard and her husband, Steve, have four children, Nathan, 16, a junior at Prairie High School; Jensina, 13, an eighth grader at Prairie Middle School; Jessica, 12, a seventh grader at Prairie Middle School; and Lucas, 9, a fourth grader at Prairie View.

Flatgard works part-time for the family business, Servpro of Eastern Iowa. The Flatgards have lived in the district for 11 years.

Hot air balloons to be high point of Tanager Fest

Twenty-six hot air balloons from throughout the Midwest will be the centerpiece attraction at the Tanager Place Summer Fest this weekend in Amana.

The festival will be staged across from the Amana Colonies Visitors Center from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. Saturday and from 7 a.m. to 11 a.m. Sunday.

Balloon competitions are set for 7 each morning and pancake breakfasts will be served from 7 to 9:30 a.m. A mass balloon ascension is scheduled Saturday at 6:30 p.m.

A special feature of this year's Summer Fest is the appearance of Chick-I-Boom, a flying "Carmen Miranda" complete with fruit on top. Balloonists will be available to answer questions throughout Saturday and tethered rides will be available Saturday afternoon if weather permits.

A large children's area will offer many hands-on activities, a children's stage, a safety town, games and rides, a half-mile kids run, and numerous displays and demonstrations.

Adult activities include Bingo, a state chili cook-off (public tasting begins at 12:30 p.m. for a \$2 donation) and other food concessions, arts and crafts, a 5K fun run, a coed volleyball tournament and four live concerts featuring Rio Grande, Dogs On Skis, Eddie Piccard Trio and Nite Moves.

Chances for a hot air balloon ride can be purchased for \$1 from Modern Woodmen. A 35 mm camera, film and processing are the prizes in a photo contest held in conjunction with Linn Photo.

The event sponsor is General Mills with assistance from eight major sponsors.

Tickets are \$3 in advance, \$4 at the gate. Children ages 12 and younger will be admitted free. Advance tickets are available at Target, Guaranty Bank & Trust and Tanager Place. Registration brochures for the 5K fun run and half-mile kids run are available at Tanager Place and run sponsor Cedar River Paper Company and 964-FM. The volleyball tournament is sponsored by Parsons Technology and registration forms are available at Tanager Place.

For a complete schedule of events, call Tanager Place, (319) 365-9164, or In Touch, 362-9955, category 7528.