

## Oelwein

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high site and the parking lot at Charles and First Avenue, where the First Christian Church was until 30 years ago, serve as reminders of the devastating storm.

Lori and Steve Gabriel have one of the few remaining visual reminders of the tornado — a 5-foot plank protruding from the wall of their home on First Avenue NE. It was driven there by the wind, one end near the ceiling, the other sticking outside.

It's wedged in the wall so tight no water or wind gets in, Lori Gabriel says. They leave it alone, a quiet reminder of the storm.

At the time of the tornado, the house was owned by George Shirk. He would hang Christmas stockings from the inside portion, Gabriel says.

Oelwein doesn't have any event planned to mark the 30th anniversary. Perhaps that's because many of those who witnessed the storm are no longer around, Sieleman says. Others rely on news reporters to remind them, he says.

For those who remain, bad weather, any time of the year, serves as a reminder.

"If you're around anyone who was here for the tornado, you can sense it in them if the weather starts to get bad," Rundle says. "You can sense them getting on edge. They don't get panicky. They're just more aware, more ready to react."

## Everest: Summit bid under way

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going to be easy."

Huss, medical director of Mercy Iowa City's Emergency Department, is one of 11 Americans who are part of the Everest Environmental Expedition '98 team. The team, one of several on Everest trying to reach the summit in the next few weeks, is to bring discarded oxygen canisters and other garbage down the mountain after reaching the peak.

"If the weather (at Camp 2) is extraordinary, after one day's rest, they may go to Camp 3," Gaumer said. "I would anticipate that they would spend two days at Camp 2 and then a day at Camp 3 and then a day at Camp 4 and then a summit attempt."

For now, gale-force winds that assaulted the mountain's upper altitudes the past week have subsided, Gaumer said. There has been little wind and sunny skies. Even the snow, which had been dropping at a rate of up to 6 inches on some days, has stopped.

The climbers are getting forecasts from a London agency.

Two team members are to catch up with Huss and the others. Expedition climber leader Pasquale "P.V." Scaturro of Denver, Colo., and deputy expedition leader Chuck Demarest of Boulder, Colo., are to leave base

## Option tax

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she said as to why she changed her mind. Voters, she said, will find it easier to cast one vote that will either mean "yes" or "no" to both questions.

Council member Norton said each option had its own clarity, although he supported the single vote.

With two votes, elected leaders would know how voters feel about each issue. With a combined vote, "we'll never know," Norton said.

Under the two-vote scenario, the library question would require a 60 percent majority because, if it passed, it compels the council to borrow money to pay for the project. The city would have to pay back the money with property taxes if the sales tax failed.

A vote on a local option sales tax alone requires a 50 percent majority.

With a single vote, the library project would get the green light with only a 50 percent majority.

City Manager Steve Atkins said the state law governing local option sales taxes was, in fact, structured that way to encourage cities to use sales tax, rather than property taxes, to pay for major projects.

If the votes were not combined, the library would go down to almost certain defeat, Champion said. "I may be wrong, but what's going to give the greatest impetus to pass the sales tax is the library."

"We have to campaign on what's most important for the library," said Library Director Susan Craig. If the votes were split, library supporters' efforts would be focused on the library question, not the sales tax, she told the council.

## Education study flawed: Professor

WASHINGTON (AP) — A widely publicized study that showed U.S. 12th graders trailing other countries in math and science was based on flawed methods that distorted the results, an education professor contended Thursday in a scientific journal.

Iris Rotberg, research professor of education at George Washington University, said the Third International Mathematics and Science Study "tells us little about the quality of education" in the United States or other countries. The critique appeared in Science, the journal of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

The latest test results, released in February, showed U.S. 12th graders performed below the international average in a 21-nation comparison of students in their final year of secondary school. They did even worse in a comparison of those who took physics and advanced mathematics.

President Clinton called the results inexcusable.

The critique, however, says the international comparisons are invalid because the characteristics and numbers of students varied from country to country.

In countries where fewer students finish school, for example, results are higher because the

poorer students have been weeded out. Also, secondary school lasts longer in some countries, so "older, more advanced students" scored higher. Other students attended specialized schools that focused on science and math, while the Americans were chosen from all kinds of schools, even vocational ones.

The study also ignored the role of poverty and related problems such as crime, violence and poor health and nutrition, the critique said.

Many of the criticisms have been voiced before, and the Education Department has addressed them in speeches and statements by Pascal Forgione Jr., U.S. commissioner of education statistics.

Forgione said the test is meant to compare students at a similar point in the educational system — the end of secondary school — not students of the same age or year of schooling.

## Lawyer quotes McDougal note: 'Lie against Clinton'

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (AP) — While cooperating with White-water prosecutors, James McDougal wrote "Lie against Clinton and Tucker" and "for immunity" in his prison cell, a lawyer for his ex-wife said Thursday.

Attorney Mark Geragos said the note bolstered Susan McDougal's claim that White-water prosecutor Kenneth Starr has pressured her to lie about President Clinton and first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton.

"Now we've got one voice, at least, speaking from the grave in support of" Susan McDougal's story, Geragos said outside federal court.

Geragos said he had obtained the note within the last week and had confirmed that the handwriting was McDougal's, but he would not say how he got it. Prison officials

and Starr's office would not comment.

Earlier, Susan McDougal, 43, pleaded innocent to charges of criminal contempt of court and obstruction of justice for refusing to answer questions from the Whitewater grand jury in September 1996 and again last month.

U.S. Magistrate H. David Young set a June 22 trial.

Geragos said Susan McDougal was prepared to tell 12 jurors what she wouldn't say to 23 grand jurors behind closed doors: whether President Clinton testified honestly at her 1996 fraud trial.

"She's always been interested in answering that question if somebody's interested in hearing the truth," Geragos said. "I assume that we'll have 12 people who are interested in hearing the truth."

Leaving the courthouse

Thursday, Susan McDougal said she was ready for the trial to begin.

Criminal contempt is punishable by a maximum fine of \$250,000 and an open-ended prison term set by the judge. Obstruction of justice carries a maximum 10-year prison term with a \$250,000 fine.

Susan McDougal has repeatedly said she fears that Starr would charge her with perjury if her story differed from that of other Whitewater witnesses, including her former husband.

James McDougal died March 8 from a heart attack at a Texas prison where he was serving time for a 1996 fraud conviction in the Whitewater case. Susan McDougal and then-Gov. Jim Guy Tucker also were convicted.

McDougal began cooperating with Starr after his conviction.

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