

THE HAWK EYE

TUESDAY

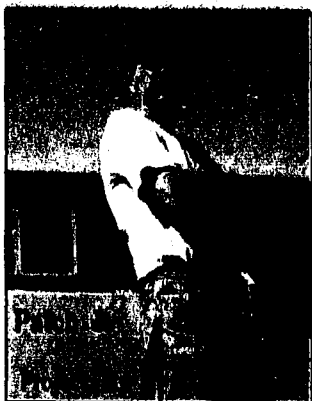
168th year — No. 18

BURLINGTON, IOWA

JULY 27, 2004

50 cents

Spotlight



Street work criticized

Some Burlington residents who live on Herblo Drive are upset with the aftermath of recent work done on their street. Mark Collins, 2832 Herblo Drive, is the resident with the biggest gripe and has a sign posted in his front yard that blames Public Works Director Ron Knoke for the street problems. **Page 2A**

Top stories

Muscatine firm rewiring Iraq

An Iowa company hired to help restore electricity to the Iraqi people has found that it isn't as simple as reconnecting broken lines and repairing damaged generators. "I could not think of any experience that we have had that has been as challenging and daunting as the Iraq reconstruction," said Gregs Thomopoulos, president of Muscatine-based Stanley Consultants Inc. **Page 6B**

Scoreboard

Cedar Rapids 4
Burlington 2

Minnesota 6
Chicago (AL) 2



In Sports

Weather



Mostly sunny and pleasant.

High 82 Low 60
Details, 8B

Wall Street

Monday's indicators

DOW 9,961.92 -0.30
NASDAQ 1,839.02 -10.07
S&P 1,084.07 -2.13

Selected stocks, page 6B

Tomorrow

Des Moines County officials begin the process of creating an all-volunteer bioterrorism response team. Read about it Wednesday. **In News**

Inside

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IOWA'S OLDEST NEWSPAPER
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Board ups Apollo ante

Vote opens way for legal action; Developers want answer by August.

By CRAIG T. NEISES
cneises@thehawkeye.com

With delays already mounting in their desire to obtain ownership of the Apollo building, a trio of would-be developers may be approaching the end of their interest.

Anything past August and those developers, Glenn Patton of

Iowa City, formerly with Ambrose, and Jon Hazell and Jill Schroeder of Burlington, are likely to back out on plans to begin rehabilitation of the 94-year-old former schoolhouse at 1200 University Ave. And that would leave the Burlington School District little choice but to press the legal action approved by the School Board in a 5-2 vote Monday to pursue enforcement of the district's purchase contract with Coralville-based Ambrose Development Co.

The board had the chance to

"We've been bit once. We don't want to be bit twice."

Linda Garwood,
School Board member

give the go-ahead to a transfer of Ambrose's interest in the building to Patton, but with Patton unable to attend the meeting due to family obligations in North Carolina, members were not willing to put faith in the former University of Iowa swim coach's abil-

ity to develop or demolish Apollo. "We've been bit once," said Linda Garwood, who voted against pursuing legal action despite seconding the motion, in reference to Ambrose Development's owner Gerry Ambrose trying to back out of his obligation to close the sale. "We don't want to be bit twice."

Board members said they would still like to talk to Patton — so long as he can provide a number of assurances about finances for the rehabilitation.

Specifically, the board wants to

see proof of the \$240,000 redevelopment loan Hazell said Patton has secured for the project. Board members also want Patton to cover the legal fees the district has accumulated as a result of Ambrose's intransigence over taking ownership of Apollo.

And member Don Harter was insistent Patton show, either by putting up a bond or by other means, that he has the ability to tear down Apollo if redevelopment efforts fail. According to the

See Apollo page 5A

Rollin' safari



Carla DePoyster/The Hawk Eye

Tyler Rooney, 7, of Burlington, races down the sidewalk Monday on his Rollerblades, with Ethan Williams, 8, of West Burlington, and Cole Erikson, 7, of Mediapolis following in Longmeadow Park in West Burlington. The boys are in the Safari Club, a summer camp with Burlington's YMCA.

Only information can reopen cases

Like other homicides, authorities want to find out more on the 1978 murder of James Andrew Harsch.

By DOROTHY de SOUZA GUEDES
dodsg@thehawkeye.com

Law enforcement officials never give up on unsolved killings. Having a cold homicide case means a killer was never brought to justice.

And murder is just not "a forgivable thing," said Des Moines County Sheriff Mike Johnstone.

"I think we'd like to solve them

all," he said.

Other than the unsolved death of Mary Lange, found drowned in Long Creek in rural Danville on December 1970, the county's only other unsolved homicide from recent decades involved James Andrew Harsch, 31, who was found dead on May 14, 1978, in a mobile home he rented north of Burlington on the city-county line.

Current-day detectives and others on the sheriff's department aren't as familiar with Harsch's case as they are with other unsolved crimes. As with Lange's death, and those of

See Cases page 5A

Iowa's unsolved homicides

There is a not a complete listing of unsolved homicides in Iowa because no one agency is involved. The Iowa Division of Criminal Investigation often is called to help a sheriff, police chief or county attorney, but typically the DCI doesn't have original jurisdiction.

A list the DCI does have includes three John Does, one Jane Doe, two unidentified babies, an unidentified 8-year-old child and a skull.

The Des Moines County cases of Dorothy Miller (1969), Mary

Lange (1970) and James Harsch (1978) are on the list.

Cold homicide cases, including double and triple homi-

clides:
1960-1969 31 (34 victims)
1970-1979 34
1980-1989 52 (58 victims)
1990-2000 38 (39 victims)

—The Hawk Eye

Clintons wow delegates, vow Kerry win

Former president and first lady cap opening night at Democrats' convention.

By DAVID ESPO
The Associated Press

BOSTON — Former President Clinton stirred the opening night of the Democratic National Convention Monday with a summons to send John Kerry to the White House, attacking President Bush for pursuing policies that divide the nation.

"Strength and wisdom are not opposing values," Clinton said sarcastically of the man who followed him into office.

"They need a divided America but we don't," the former president said of the Republicans who have held power for four years.

The 42nd president was the

■ **Christie Vilsack criticized for column**

See page 4A

■ **Union rallies for Kerry in Scott County**

See page 4A

cleanup speaker for the night, joining a parade of party elders to the podium for oratory designed to depict Kerry as a Vietnam War hero — and George W. Bush as a chief executive who has botched the economy as well as the war on terror.

The Massachusetts senator "will lead the world, not alienate it. Lower the deficit, not raise it. Create good jobs, not lose them. Solve a health care crisis, not ignore it," said Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton in her turn at the podium.

The party's 44th national con-

See Convention page 7A



The Associated Press

Former President Bill Clinton hugs his wife, Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton, D-N.Y., as she introduces him Monday during the Democratic National Convention at the FleetCenter in Boston. Gov. Tom Vilsack and his wife, Christie, look on from the convention floor with others in the Iowa delegation.

Car bomb kills three Iraqis

Blast wounds three U.S. soldiers; Militants free captive Egyptian envoy.

By RAVI NESSMAN
The Associated Press

BAGHDAD, Iraq — A suicide car bomb packed with explosives, mortars and rockets exploded Monday outside a U.S. base in the northern city of Mosul, killing three Iraqis — including a child — and injuring three U.S. soldiers.

Also, militants announced they were holding four new hostages but freed a senior Egyptian diplomat, amid their escalating campaign to force U.S.-allied countries and foreign contractors to flee Iraq. In other violence, an Iraqi government official was gunned down by assassins outside his Baghdad home.

Suicide attacks, assassinations, roadside bombs and abductions have been persistent tactics in the 15-month insurgency sowing chaos across Iraq. Kidnappings have escalated, however, since the Philippines last week met militant demands and withdrew troops to save the life of a Filipino truck driver.

Egyptian Mohammed Mamdouh Helmi Qutb — the militants' highest-ranking captive — was abducted three days ago. His kidnapping was followed by censure from leaders in Iraq and the Arab world for excesses including beheadings, and it was possible the criticism factored in the diplomat's swift release.

An Egyptian Foreign Ministry official said Qutb was released after negotiations and was in good condition at the mission's headquarters. His captors said in a statement on the pan-Arab television station Al-Jazeera that they had decided to free Qutb because he was a good religious

See Iraq page 5A

Vilsack apologizes to Hispanics

Governor regrets signing 'English only' bill.

By KEN THOMAS
The Associated Press

BOSTON — Iowa Gov. Tom Vilsack apologized to Hispanic Democrats on Monday for a law declaring English the state's official language, saying the issue nearly made him decide not to seek re-election.

Vilsack signed the bill two years ago, but the issue resurfaced when the Iowa Democrat was being vetted as John Kerry's possible running mate.

Vilsack told the Latino Caucus at a meeting surrounding the De-

See Vilsack page 7A

FROM THE FRONT PAGE

Cases

Continued from page 1A

Dorothy Miller and newlyweds Bonnie Sue and Bob Swanson in 1969, someone coming forth with new information would cause the sheriff's office or police department to reopen an investigation.

"I just recall that it had been a drug-related murder," Johnstone said. "If there is any information that could bring the responsible people to justice we would certainly reopen the case at any time."

The Des Moines County Sheriff's Department, Burlington Police Department and agents with the State Bureau of Investigation (now the Division of Criminal Investigation) looked into the death, with the sheriff's office, under then-Sheriff Bob Glick, taking the lead.

It had been a week, and up to 10 days, after Harsch was killed before an anonymous tipster called police to tell where they would find Harsch's body.

They found him on a Saturday afternoon in the green and white mobile home he rented from Preston and Mary Butler on Mill Dam Road, about a quarter mile off Iowa 99. Harsch was wearing corduroy pants but was shirtless and shoeless when found in a hallway leading to the bedrooms from the living room. There was blood throughout the trailer.

Through an autopsy done that night at the Burlington Medical Center, it was determined Harsch had died of head injuries of a unknown origin to the back of the head. A quarter-inch thick cord was tied around his neck, but investigators didn't say initially whether that factored into his death. His identity was established by comparing fingerprints.

Harsch had a brother, Thomas Harsch, and sister, Anita Harsch, living in the area who were notified before the autopsy. A recent search for Harsch's family members, including a second sister named Alice Howard was done but his siblings could not be located for comment on this article.

Newspaper accounts from 1978 note that Preston Butler said he hadn't seen Harsch, described as a quiet loner, since the first week of May.

The Butlers lived across the road and Mary Butler recently said she would see Harsch come and go. Harsch was living alone and unemployed but was taking a real estate course at South-eastern Community College. He was quiet and didn't drive and always put the rent check in the mailbox, Mary Butler said.

"I don't think I ever met the man. He never bothered us," she said.

Investigators questioned the landlords and other neighbors soon after Harsch's body was discovered.

"At first we thought he just died. They (the investigators) didn't tell us what happened," she said.

Contact Crime Stoppers

■ Anyone with information concerning the deaths of Bonnie and Bob Swanson, Dorothy Miller, Mary Lange or James Harsch, or any other local crime, is asked to call the Greater Burlington Area Crime Stoppers hot line at (319) 753-6835. Callers remain anonymous and, if their tip leads to an arrest, they could be rewarded with up to \$1,000. With Crime Stoppers, it's first-come, first-served. The reward goes to the first caller whose information leads to an arrest. If people prefer to speak directly to a detective about the Miller case, call the Burlington Police Department Criminal Investigation Division at (319) 753-8353, or about the Lange, Swanson and Harsch cases, call the Des Moines County Sheriff's office at (319) 753-8212.

—The Hawk Eye

More than 100 people were interviewed but investigators couldn't pinpoint when Harsch last was seen alive. An acquaintance who later spoke with police said he saw Harsch May 3 and spoke with him the evening of May 4.

At the time, then-Sheriff Bob Glick said no weapon was recovered and although no motive was established, the crime was not "indiscriminate." Drugs, retribution and a love triangle were three possible motives investigators came up with and a number of minor suspects were interviewed.

Harsch, who lived in the Burlington area most of his life, had rented the trailer since the previous fall and in recent months the number of visitors seemed to have increased, an 1978 newspaper article noted. Investigators learned that Harsch was involved in trafficking drugs, particularly marijuana, but no large quantity of drugs was found in the trailer.

Leads dried up and people quit talking and the case stayed open but got cold.

Johnstone said he is willing to look at any of the area's unsolved homicides. The investigations stall, then stop being actively worked, when no new information is available. People may have information, all these years later, that will make a difference, Johnstone said.

"If they think it's important, they should contact us because we're very interested in any new information," Johnstone said. "I would like to see all of these people that are responsible for all of these deaths brought to justice."

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Iraq

Continued from page 1A

man and had good morals.

Militants said they had taken the diplomat to deter Egypt from sending security experts to help the new Iraq government, and his abduction seemed to signal that insurgents were seeking higher-value targets.

Many of the more than 70 people abducted in Iraq have been truck drivers, more vulnerable than heavily armed military troops as they bring essential goods and materials into the country.

Since Filipino truck driver Angelo dela Cruz was freed Tuesday, separate militant groups have kidnapped three Kenyans, three Indians and one Egyptian working for a Kuwaiti company. Two different groups announced Monday they were holding two Pakistanis and two Jordanians, and threatened to kill them if their companies continue working in Iraq.

"We've seen since the Philippines government acceded to the demands of the terrorists a whole spate of new hostage taking," Australian Foreign Minister Alexander Downer said. "And I'm afraid that's what inevitably is going to happen in those circumstances."

George Sada, spokesman for Iraqi interim Prime Minister Ayad Allawi, also expressed regret at the Philippines' decision: "We think that to bow to the terrorists' threats is the wrong policy."

Iraqi government officials say the abductions are damaging reconstruction efforts, and foreign companies — particularly transport firms — say kidnappings have driven up the cost of doing business and made it tougher to find employees.

Adel Abou Hawili, shipping manager for a Kuwaiti company, said kidnappings have forced transport costs up "50 to 65 percent" and made it harder to find drivers to work here. The lack of security has forced the company to subcontract land transport jobs to Iraqis to "avoid the risks."

In the Mosul bombing, a suicide attacker detonated the explosives-packed Chevrolet about 50 yards from the gate of the U.S. base. Three Iraqis standing nearby, a woman, a child and a guard, were killed, and three U.S. soldiers and two other Iraqi guards were wounded, said U.S. military spokeswoman Capt. Angela M. Bowman.

"Four cars were totally burned," said base employee Sami Omar. "I saw two people lying on the ground."

Mosul has been the scene of numerous terrorist attacks. The last major one was June 24, when insurgents blew up four car bombs, killing more than 60 people, the military said.

Militants also have targeted Iraqi government officials and civilians working for U.S. or

Iraqi forces, calling them traitors or collaborators.

In Baghdad, gunmen killed Col. Musab al-Awadi, the Interior Ministry's deputy chief of tribal affairs, and two of his guards, according to Sabah Kadhim, an Interior Ministry spokesman.

During Saddam Hussein's regime, Al-Awadi had been forced to retire from the police force in 1979 because of his connection to the opposition Shiite Dawa party. He was appointed to his new post after Saddam's ouster, said Col. Adnan Abdel Rahman, another spokesman for the ministry.

Also Monday, gunmen in the southern city of Basra killed two Iraqi women who were working as cleaners with British forces, police Lt. Col. Ali Kadhem said. Two other women were seriously wounded.

In the latest kidnappings, a group calling itself the Islamic Army in Iraq released a video Monday announcing it had abducted two Pakistanis and passed a death sentence against them in part because of Pakistani President Gen. Pervez Musharraf's statements about the possibility of sending troops to Iraq.

The group did not say when it would kill the men.

The Pakistani government had declared the two men, Raja Azad, 49, an engineer, and Sajad Naeem, 29, a driver, missing over the weekend.

The video aired on Al-Jazeera briefly showed the two men, along with some of their identity cards, and an Iraqi contract driver whom they did not threaten.

The men reportedly work for the Kuwait-based al-Tamimi group; the militants also warned the firm to stop doing business in Iraq or it would kill more of its employees.

In a separate abduction, a group calling itself the Mujahideen Corps, announced it was holding two Jordanian drivers and demanded their Jordanian company stop cooperating with U.S. forces and cease doing business here or they would kill the hostages in 72 hours.

If the company does not comply "it will bear the consequences of the killing and retribution against these two men," one of the militants said on the video obtained by Associated Press Television News.

The video showed the drivers, identified as Fayed Saad al-Udwan and Ahmed Salama Hassan, seated on the floor, while six masked militants, carrying a variety of weapons including a sword, stood behind them.

Other video footage released Monday showed a third group of kidnappers — the one holding the Indians, Kenyans and Egyptian. It said it was extending its deadline for killing the seven men but did not say by how long.

Apollo

Continued from page 1A

contract with Ambrose, Ambrose or any developer who receives assignment of the contract must commence rehabilitation of the building within one year of the transfer of ownership from the district, or be required to demolish the building.

Harter suggested that the legal fees come out of the \$90,000 the district is holding in escrow as an incentive for development of the building. He also said he did not like the idea of just handing over the money to a group of developers with no track record.

Two of the options presented to the board other than pursuing legal action involved deeding the property to Patton, requiring Ambrose to sign a covenant — which the developer apparently agreed to do — taking responsibility for the develop-or-demolish portion of the contract until such time as Patton secured the loan and redevelopment work began.

Once that work does begin, the demolition clause is dissolved, meaning Ambrose would be absolved of any legal responsibility for the future of the facility. Superintendent Mike Book admitted that was a "weakness" in the sale contract for the building.

Also part of those options was to transfer the \$90,000 to Patton once he had the \$240,000 loan. The difference between the two proposals was that one required reimbursement of recent legal fees charged to the district as a result of seeking to close the sale with Ambrose.

Book said Ambrose has re-

fused to pay those fees. Hazell said Patton has no interest in paying them, either.

A fourth option, allowing Ambrose to back completely out of the contract, was not discussed.

Faced with the possibility of having to go to court, Book was no more reassuring to the board than attorneys have been to him about the district's odds of winning either reimbursement of legal fees or a court order requiring Ambrose to take ownership of the facility.

"I think they would say we have a good case," Book said, responding to board members' request for an assessment of the district's footing in a civil suit.

Melanie Richardson joined Garwood in voting against enforcement of the contract with Ambrose.


Depending on Patton's response to its demands, the board expressed willingness to conduct a special meeting in August if necessary to conclude a deal with Patton. He, along with Hazell and Schroeder, have publicly forwarded a plan to redevelop Apollo as a community education center called Apollo University, with the ultimate dream of creating a degree granting institution in Burlington.


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