

Chicken from the sea
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B The Gazette
Tuesday
June 8, 2004

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CORRIDOR

IOWA CITY

Officer swerves to miss 1 car, hits another

An Iowa City police officer headed to an accident swerved his car to avoid one car and hit another Monday afternoon.

Lt. Sid Jackson said the Iowa State Patrol will investigate the accident. It happened about 4:35 p.m. as Officer Matt Huber was driving north on Capitol Street with his lights and sirens on, headed to an accident at Church and Johnson streets.

A motorist driving west on Prentiss Street left a stop sign to turn south on Capitol, apparently not seeing Huber's squad car. Huber swerved to the right to miss the car and hit a car waiting at the stop sign. A young woman was driving the car Huber's hit. Neither she nor Huber was injured. Jackson did not have the woman's name.

Iowa City police had no information on the accident at Johnson and Church as of last night.

CEDAR RAPIDS

Bluestem considering dropping Bluestem name

Bluestem Solid Waste Agency is proposing a name change.

Bluestem's executive committee is recommending to the full board that it adopt using its legal name — Cedar Rapids/Linn County Solid Waste Agency — and drop its business monicker, Bluestem Solid Waste Agency.

Director Karmin Bradbury said "Bluestem" causes too much public confusion because many think it's the name for a for-profit agency and not a government agency.

The committee unanimously recommended to the full board using the longer, legal name. The board will consider the recommendation at its next meeting.

MARION

Linn-Mar OK's 4.4% increase for teachers

The Linn-Mar school board last night approved a 4.4 percent "total package" increase in teachers' salaries and benefits as part of a new contract negotiated with the Linn-Mar Education Association.

The new contract, effective for the upcoming school year, increases Linn-Mar's base teaching salary by 2.32 percent and the district's contribution to teachers' health insurance premiums by 10.8 percent.

The annual base teaching salary will increase \$603 to \$26,605.

Bluestem extends buyout plan

If property within a mile of landfill expansion can't attract a buyer, the agency will buy it

By Dick Hogan

The Gazette

CEDAR RAPIDS — Bluestem Solid Waste Agency's executive committee on Monday approved amending the agency's buyout program to take in more area.

The decision does not have to go before the full board.

As approved in April, the program included property within 1,000 feet of the proposed expansion of the Site 2 landfill north of Marion. The

amended version approved Monday extends the distance to one mile.

Bluestem Director Karmin Bradbury told the committee the change is not something the agency has to do — that it could seek waivers. "But it will be easier, simpler and less costly in the long run," she said.

The extended buyout program, called the Real Estate Market Stabilization Pro-

gram, covers only about 45 existing residential properties and is intended to help provide a stable market for property surrounding the expansion of Site 2 landfill north of Marion.

"We don't feel we're impacting farm ground," Bradbury said.

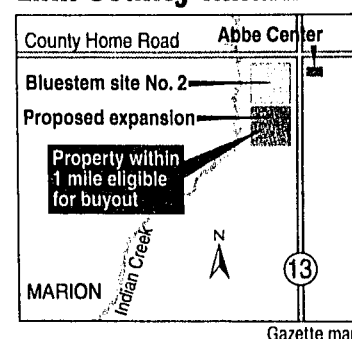
The program has several provisions, but generally it offers to buy eligible property if the market does not generate an offer. An offer to purchase is made only if a property owner wishes to sell an eligible property.

Qualifying properties are those abutting or within one mile of the boundary of a Bluestem-approved project allowed by local and state law. A property is considered eligible if any part of it lies within one mile of the property line of a proposed Bluestem project.

Bluestem is proposing to extend the Site 2 landfill, at County Home Road and Highway 13, south over about 144 acres it has acquired.

Marion city officials say the expansion will stunt Marion's growth, and they are

Linn County landfill



fighting the plan.

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LAW ENFORCEMENT

6 experienced E. Iowa sheriffs retire this year



Bob Carpenter
Johnson County



Leonard Davis
Buchanan County



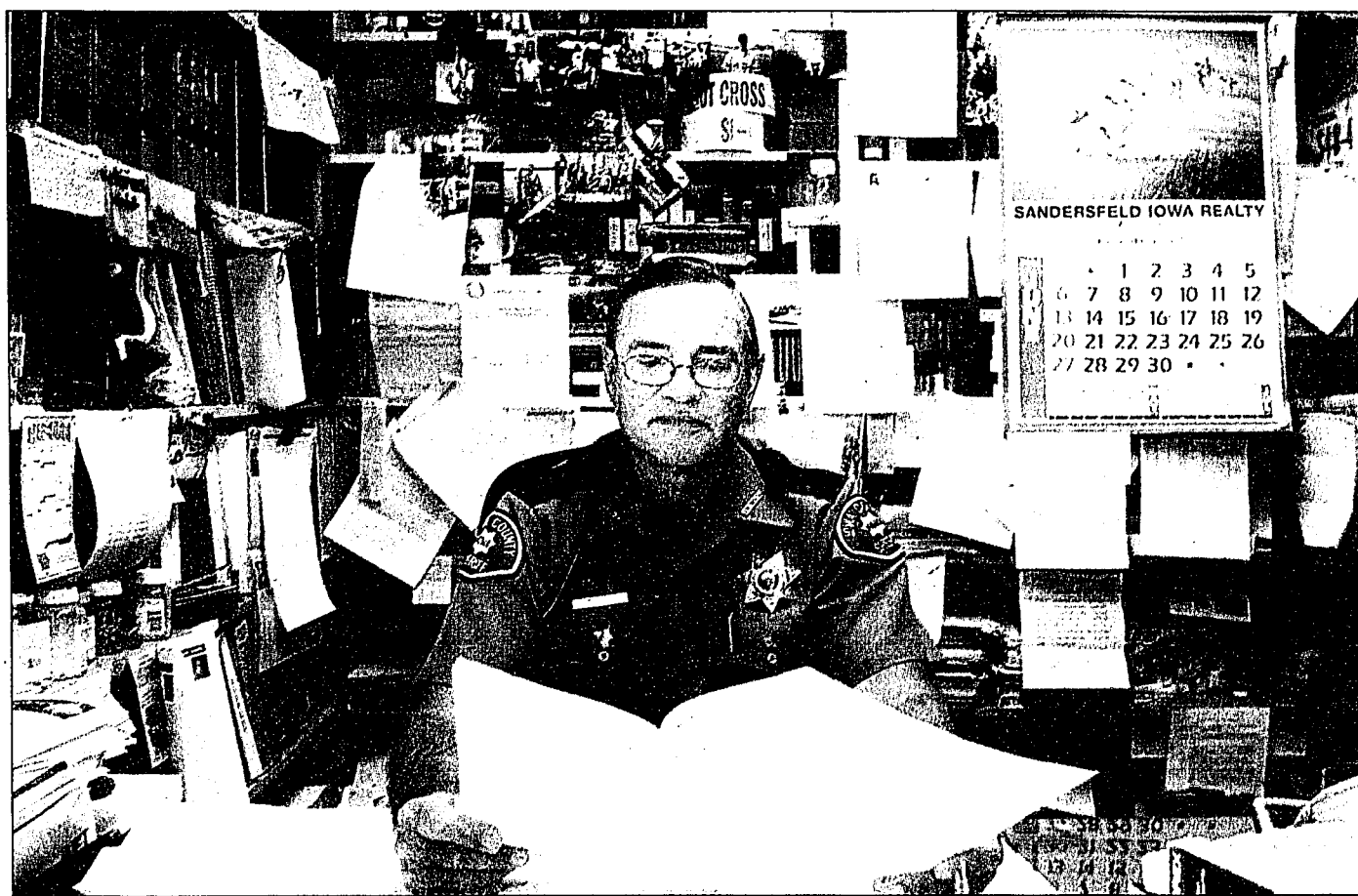
Yale Jarvis
Washington County



Leo Kennedy
Dubuque County



Ken Popenhagen
Benton County



Michael Stenerson/The Gazette

Iowa County Sheriff Jim Slockett goes over paperwork in his office last week in Marengo. Elected as an independent in 1980, Slockett has served as sheriff for 24 years. He will retire Dec. 31, one of six retiring Eastern Iowa sheriffs.

Changing of the guard

By Christoph Trappe

The Gazette

Iowa County Sheriff Jim Slockett drives by many county residences and remembers some kind of law enforcement activity that took place there.

"There've been so many cases, you drive by places now and I've been here and there," said Slockett, 61, who has been the sheriff for 24 years.

Once he realized the memories are everywhere, he knew it was time to hang it up. He's one of six longtime Eastern Iowa sheriffs that are calling it a career this year.

Among the group are Johnson County's Bob Carpenter, Benton County's Ken Popenhagen, Washington County's Yale Jarvis, Buchanan County's Leonard Davis and Dubuque County's Leo

Kennedy.

Combined, the group has about 200 years of law enforcement experience.

They've seen many things in the law enforcement world. Slockett will never forget the September 1980 unsolved double slaying of Rose Burkert and Roger Atkinson at the Amana

► SHERIFFS, PAGE 8B

Inside

■ Auditors expect low turnout for today's primary, 3B

RAIN FOREST

Coralville exploring options for development

By Zack Kucharski

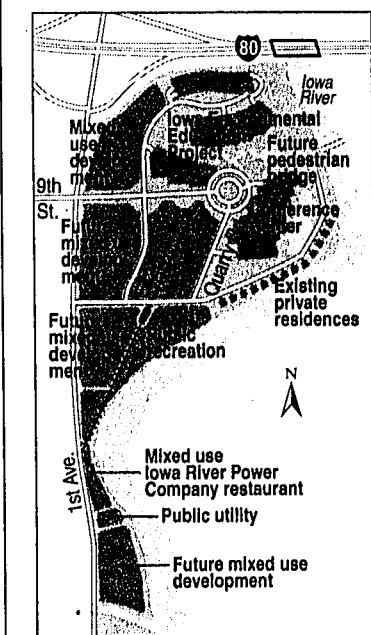
The Gazette

CORALVILLE — City officials here are keeping an open mind about what commercial development they want to see alongside the city's hotel and conference center and the rain forest project, known as the Iowa Environmental and Education Project.

A comedy club, outdoor shopping and various entertainment venues and housing are all ideas being bounced around as possibilities in the area now being called the Iowa River Landing District, which is east of First Avenue and south of Interstate 80 in Coralville.

"People who come to the hotel during the day will be occupied with conferences or visiting the environmental project," said Coralville City Administrator Kelly Hayworth. "But during the evening, they'll be seeking entertainment, and we want to be

► VISIT, PAGE 8B



Gazette map

Expected or not, Reagan's death evokes emotion

Even though everyone knew it was imminent and most considered it a blessing, I'll bet a lot of people were a bit jolted when they heard about the death of Ronald Reagan on Saturday.

That was true of many who were gathered at the Herbert Hoover Presidential Library-Museum in West Branch for a symposium on old-time Westerns.

Historian Boyd Magers showed brief clips of the work of four veteran supporting actors, led them through fascinating and often funny reminiscences, then moderated a question-and-answer session.

You might not know the names,

but you'd recognize the faces.

Dick Jones played the Range Rider's sidekick, Dick West, and starred in the title role of his own series, "Buffalo Bill, Jr."

Gregg Palmer began his career as a leading man and ended it as a bad guy, including a memorable role in "Big Jake," where he ran amok with a machete.

Dirk London had a number of roles, including a recurring one in Hugh O'Brien's "Life and Legends of Wyatt Earp" as the marshal's brother Morgan.

Jan Shepard, London's wife, was the pretty young woman who dressed up any number of TV westerns, including "Bonanza," "Rawhide" and many others.

Most of the great stars with whom they worked are no longer alive, so the audience was in a nostalgic mood. Palmer added to it when he ended the program with a fine

impression of John Wayne reading "America, Why I Love Her."

Then library director Tim Walch stepped to the lectern and told us Reagan had died. When the 30 seconds of silence he requested were over, a lot of eyes were moist.

All in all, though, I can't imagine a better setting or situation in which to get the news.

REAGAN WAS the first Republican presidential candidate to get my vote. I wasn't terribly comfortable about the idea, either.

Like most people, my wife and I had been liberals when we were young, supporting George McGovern in 1972. Like most people, we became more conservative as we got older. I had voted for Jimmy Carter in '76, primarily to punish Gerald Ford for pardoning Richard Nixon, but I wasn't going to vote for Carter again. I wasn't sure of the

alternative, though, based on the impression I got from news stories and commentary.

My wife, who always has done a lot more reading than I have and followed politics more closely, had become a Reagan booster. Before I marked my ballot for him, I said to her, "This guy isn't going to start a nuclear war, is he?" She reassured me that he wasn't, and darned if she wasn't right. Again.

DOGGONE IT, Reagan made a lot of mistakes and said some things he shouldn't have said, but if his critics are going to drag out the "ketchup as vegetable" story in his obituary, for heaven's sake let's put it in perspective, if not to rest.

In 1981, the Agriculture Department drafted proposed guidelines to help schools save money on lunch programs. One suggestion was to count ketchup

and pickle relish, in conjunction with other foods, as a vegetable for purposes of meeting nutritional requirements.

The idea was ridiculed. Agriculture Secretary John Block was summoned to the White House and the proposal was dropped before the guidelines were published, although Block continued to defend it.

So Ronald Reagan never proposed classifying ketchup as a vegetable, and schools never could count ketchup as a vegetable.

They can, however, count salsa.

In order to help schools save money, the "other" tomato-based condiment was quietly approved as a vegetable . . . by the Clinton administration in 1998.

■ Mike Deupree's column appears Sundays, Tuesdays and Thursdays. He can be reached at (319) 398-8452 or mike.deupree@gazettecommunications.com (Previous columns at www.gazetteonline.com)



Mike Deupree
The Gazette

C.R. man convicted in crack ring case

By Steve Gravelle
The Gazette

The last of a group of men involved in a Chicago-to-Cedar Rapids crack cocaine ring has been convicted.

A federal jury found Christopher Funchess, 22, of Cedar Rapids, guilty of one count of distributing crack cocaine, two counts of aiding and abetting the distribution of 5 or more grams of crack and one count of conspiring to distribute 50 or more grams.

The June 3 verdict came

after a two-day trial, according to Assistant U.S. Attorney Teresa Baumann.

Funchess, also known by his nickname "C-Murder," sold crack to an informant last October and later that same day drove co-conspirator Maurice Pennington to make another sale to the informant, Baumann said. The next day, Funchess again helped Pennington deliver crack to the informant.

Baumann said Funchess, Pennington, Charles Rosebor-

ough and Maurice Wilkins worked together to sell crack cocaine that Pennington brought from Chicago.

Funchess remains jailed pending completion of a pre-sentence investigation. He faces up to 10 years in prison and \$4 million in fines, according to Baumann.

Pennington, Roseborough and Wilkins are awaiting sentencing after pleading guilty to similar charges.

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Sheriffs/'Everything you do is under scrutiny'

► FROM PAGE 1B

Holiday Inn.

"They were chopped up with an ax to grab your attention," Slockett said.

Washington County Sheriff Jarvis, 60, has been sheriff for 29 years and is looking forward to moving out of the public eye.

"You work 24 hours a day, and everything you do and say is under public scrutiny," he said.

Dubuque County's Kennedy, 61, who has been sheriff for 24 years, agrees.

He remembered the time he and his wife attended a wedding and a fight broke out at the bar.

"I ended up going over there and got it separated," he said. "My wife said, 'you are off-duty.'"

But, he replied, most people there knew who he was and expected him to intervene.

Washington County's Jarvis said incidents like the May 1998 tornado that hit the town of Washington were life-changing events. The city sustained millions of dollars in damage.

Dubuque County's Kennedy also said he can live without the disasters such as plane crashes and standoffs.

Though many of the bunch said they are unsure of what they want to do once retired,

Benton County's Popenhagen isn't taking any time off.

He said he'll volunteer with the American Red Cross and respond to area disasters, such as house fires.

After 32 years as sheriff and having four brushes with death, he said it's time to hand over the force. Four people are competing for his job.

Popenhagen's narrow escapes include two car accidents — one in 1969 and one in 1988 — and two separate inmates at the jail who tried to knock him out.

Jim Saunders, spokesman for the Iowa Department of Public Safety, said that there is going to be some transition with new sheriffs, but often other longtime law enforcement officers step in.

For example, in Johnson County, longtime deputies Lonny Pulkrabek and Maj. Keith Slaughter are in the running. Iowa County sheriff's Sgt. Nick Roggentien has been with the Sheriff's Office for more than two decades and is now running for the sheriff's spot.

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Visit/Other cities larger

► FROM PAGE 1B

sure to have that."

Hayworth, Mayor Jim Fausett and several consultants visited three areas built around other venues. The group visited Newport on the Levee in Newport, Ky., and two other places, the Easton Lifestyle Center, a shopping and dining area, and an entertainment and retail district around a sports arena, both in Columbus, Ohio.

"We kept hearing about these places as having successful examples of what we are looking to do here," Hayworth said.

Hayworth was impressed by the specialty theaters, a large restaurant that could be converted to host 4,000 people for a musical venue, and a comedy club that can offer lunch or dinner shows, aspects found in the three areas.

Other possibilities for the

What's next

■ Officials and consultants will report on their visit at a City Council work session following tonight's 7 p.m. meeting.

Coralville area are attractions such as ESPN Zone, a sports-themed restaurant with interactive games.

The group will report on their visit to other council members during a City Council work session following tonight's 7 p.m. meeting. It's the next step in drafting a master plan for the district.

Each of the projects visited was designed as an entertainment area supporting museums, aquariums, arenas or other major venues. However each of the areas has a larger population base than Coralville, which means finding the appropriate balance of activities for the population and guests to support, Hayworth

said. The city still isn't sure exactly how much of the land in the area will be commercially redeveloped.

Hayworth said recruiting businesses will likely take some time and could require between five and 10 years to complete. He expects to draw some interest with local businesspeople wanting to try something different, as well as national groups.

The city is working with consultant Deanna Trumbull, who also made the trip. Trumbull, who helped launch Coral Ridge Mall, will help guide commercial development in the area.

The city is continuing to purchase land in the area. Construction on the hotel and conference center is expected to begin in October, while construction on the \$180 million indoor rain forest is expected to begin sometime this fall.

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- Listings and descriptions of housing developments, home builders and realtors.

- Financial planning tools, mortgage tables and budget worksheets.

- Tips on lot selection, choosing a contractor and more.

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Cedar Rapids Convention & Visitors Bureau, 119 1st Ave. SE
Community Savings Bank, All Locations
Community Mortgage Group, 3412 Center Point Rd. NE, Ste. B
Home Appliance, 706 2nd Ave. SE
Liberty Bank, 320 3rd St. SE
Linn Area Credit Union, All Locations
Ogden & Adams Lumber, 123 32nd Ave. SE

CEDAR RAPIDS-WEST

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Cantebury Kitchens, 5042 4th St. SW
Cedar Rapids Billiards, 221 Edgewood Rd. NW
Cedar Rapids Lumber, 902 2nd St. SW
City of CR Building Dept., 1201 6th St. SW
Colony Heating & Air, 2224 16th Ave. SW
DuBall Electric, 901 2nd Ave. SW
Farmers Insurance Group, 3150 E. Ave. NW
IBEW Local 405 Electricians, 1211 Wiley Blvd. SW
Probitry National Mortgage, 3100 E. Ave. NW
River City Paint & Supply, 615 2nd St. SW
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Gilcrest Jewett Lumber, 7th Ave. & 35th St.
Heritage Bank, 695 Marion Blvd.
Hunters Ridge Golf Course, 2901 Hunters Ridge Rd.
Marion Chamber of Commerce, 790 11th St.
Marion City Hall
ReVosWel, 320 35th St.
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