

# IOWA TODAY

CEDAR RAPIDS IOWA CITY



## NEWS TIPS

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## IN BRIEF

### EASTERN IOWA

#### Information on clubs sought

■ As part of the annual Discovery section to be published Aug. 11, The Gazette again will provide a directory of clubs, organizations and lodges in Linn and Johnson counties.

If you want to update information that was used in last year's directory or if your group was not on that list, please send the following for publication: Name of group, purpose of group, day of meeting, contact person and phone number. Send the information by Aug. 2 to:

Discovery  
Cedar Rapids Gazette  
P.O. Box 511 Cedar Rapids 52406

### CEDAR RAPIDS

#### Shot fired at police car

■ A Cedar Rapids police squad car with two officers inside was shot at Thursday night while it was parked behind a downtown convenience store.

Police are investigating the incident but had made no arrests as of Friday.

According to police reports, two officers were in the car, which was parked behind a convenience store at 116 First Ave. NW shortly before 10:30 p.m.

The front driver's side was hit by what sounded like a pellet, possibly from a BB gun. The officers didn't see where the shot was fired from. Though there were several witnesses, the initial investigation couldn't determine who had fired the shot.

#### 1st Avenue work next week

■ Here's the schedule of the First Avenue East resurfacing project that begins next week:

**Monday and Tuesday** — Patching in westbound and center lanes between 16th and 17th streets.

**Thursday** — Begin grinding asphalt to expose curb lines on both sides of the road from 10th Street to Cedar Memorial Gardens. Work will be from 6 p.m. to 6 a.m. each day until completed. Outside lane in vicinity of the milling equipment will be closed.

Meanwhile, although it is not part of the resurfacing project, eastbound traffic on downtown First Avenue continues to be confined to one lane where underground utilities are being replaced as part of the sidewalk beautification project. The area affected begins across from the Five Seasons Center and ends at Fifth Street.

#### Sock hop for AIDS Project

■ Rapids AIDS Project is sponsoring a '50s and '60s sock hop tonight from 8 to midnight to raise money for clients diagnosed as HIV-positive or having AIDS. The benefit, featuring music by The Cruisers, will be in The Roosevelt Ballroom, 201 First Ave. NE. Admission is \$5.

The event also will include a Hula-Hoop contest with prizes awarded to the top contestants.

Proceeds from the benefit will be applied to Rapids AIDS Project's patient emergency fund, which helps provide direct services to clients, including assistance with medical expenses.

Linn County has the third-highest number statewide of individuals diagnosed with AIDS. Rapids AIDS Project provides the community with information, education programs, support services and referral to individuals affected by AIDS and related issues.

For more information contact the Grant Wood Area Chapter of the American Red Cross, 393-3500. Donations on behalf of the benefit can be sent to Rapids AIDS Project, 3601 42nd St. NE, Cedar Rapids 52402.

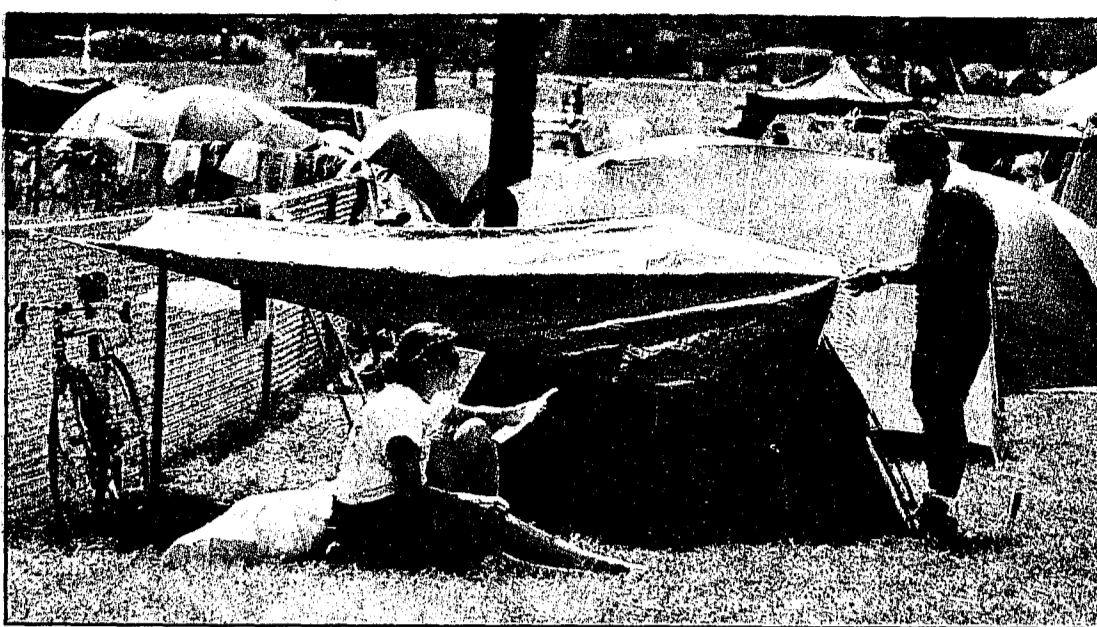
## U OF I NOTES

#### Volunteers sought

■ The University of Iowa's Office of International Education and Services is seeking volunteers from the Iowa City community to participate in Operation Welcome.

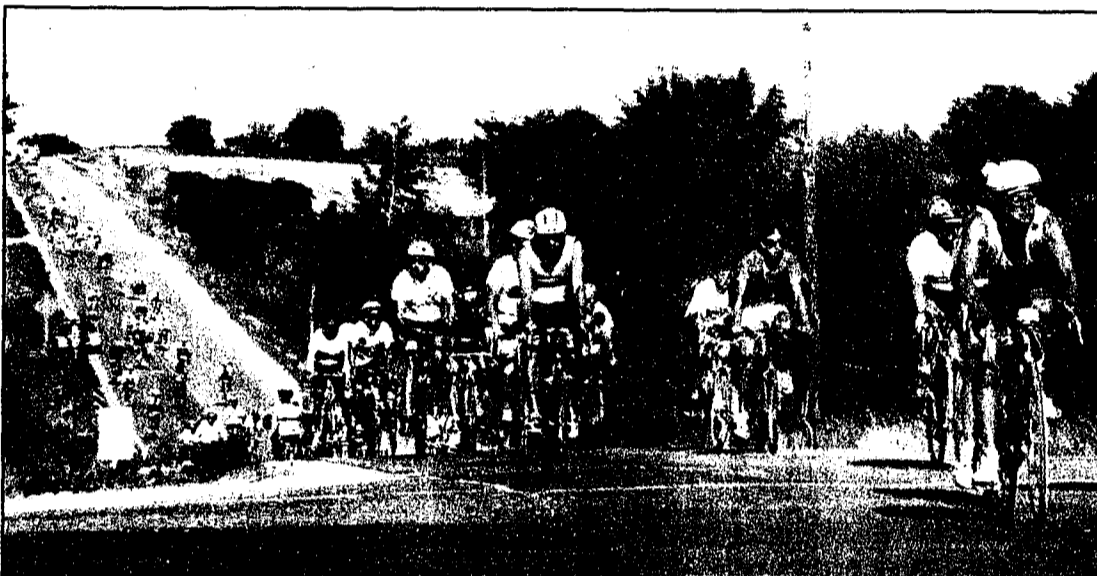
Volunteers for Operation Welcome are needed in August to help international students in many ways, ranging from working at the office's Reception Center for Foreign Students to helping new students find housing and get settled in Iowa City.

Anyone interested in volunteering should contact the International Education office, 335-0335. Volunteer hours are flexible and training is provided.



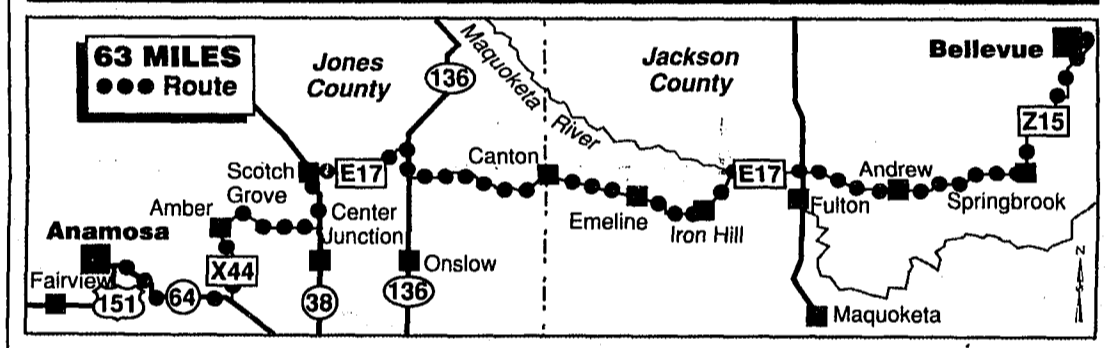
ABOVE: Jessica Wales of McAllen, Texas, looks over an advertisement for an Anamosa restaurant Friday as Paul Sabal of Austin, Texas, stretches out a plastic cover to manufacture shade. The RAGBRAI riders were camping north of Wapsipinicon State Park in Anamosa last night. BELOW: RAGBRAI riders make their way through Swisher on County Road F12. Thousands of riders traveled from Amana to Anamosa Friday. The ride ends today in Bellevue.

Gazette photo by Dave Rasdal



Gazette photo by Lisa Powell

## RAGBRAI ROUTE / SATURDAY



Gazette graphic by Chris Bideaux

## Nordic Fest a solid tradition

By Val Swinton

Gazette Northeast Iowa Bureau

DECORAH — Perhaps the most amazing aspect of Nordic Fest is how similar this year's celebration is to the first one 25 years ago, said Nordic Fest President Jane Bullard.

"I think the lack of change is almost what makes it unique," she said. "It has changed so little."

The 25th annual Nordic Fest is this weekend in Decorah. The fest, which celebrates Decorah's Norwegian heritage, always begins with opening ceremonies in front of the Winneshiek County Courthouse. It always has lasted three days, except for the first year when the celebration was four days.

The Nordic Dancers and Decorah Kilties Drum and Bugle Corps have been mainstays in the celebration's history. Even the crowds have been remarkably consistent, typically ranging from 30,000 to 50,000.

And the celebration always has been relatively inexpensive, with many free activities.

"I guess one of our biggest problems is trying to keep it non-commercial and try to keep it as inexpensive as possible," Bullard said.

There was a great deal of discussion among Nordic Fest participants and in the Decorah newspapers this spring and summer about creating new sources of revenue.

One suggestion that gained a little bit of momentum was creating a Nordic Fest Foundation to channel donations. No action was taken.

The Nordic Fest Committee is selling T-shirts this year to raise funds but the committee is proceeding cautiously, because local businesses already donate a good share of money to Nordic Fest.

"We want to be careful because we don't want to compete with our local merchants," Bullard said.

Toward that end, Bullard has turned down requests from numerous out-of-town vendors who would like to profit from Nordic Fest's popularity.

"I've had requests from as far away as New York and Canada that want to sell T-shirts and mugs, or what have you," Bullard said. "We just try to protect our local merchants, since they are the ones who are supporting us."

ACTIVITIES this weekend:

Nordic Fest Parade, 10:30 a.m. today, starting at the Winneshiek County Fairgrounds and proceeding west on Water Street to downtown Decorah; Ongoing antiques sale after the parade at John Cline School on Claiborne Drive; Dorian Opera Theatre performance of "Mountain Adventure" at 7:30 tonight and 3:30 p.m. Sunday at Luther College's Center for Faith and Life.

## 'Monkey tails,' pumpkin heads greet bicyclists

RAGBRAI makes its next-to-last stop in Anamosa

By Dave Rasdal  
Gazette staff writer

ANAMOSA — When 10,000 bicycle riders come to town, it can make normal citizens do crazy things.

Take, for instance, Connie Gogel of Anamosa, who was hawking "Monkey Tails" at the St. Patrick's School food booth on Main Street. For those unfamiliar with this "nutritious, delicious treat," it's a frozen banana dipped in chocolate — all on a stick for easy eating.

"Some people coming by say they've had them before, as kids," she said. "About 50 percent of the people say they'll be back for dessert."

Jim Wunder of Anamosa was raffling off a 300-pound limestone bench with the profits going to charity. As owner of Stone Concepts, he made the bench specifically for RAGBRAI riders — it features the carvings of bicycles.

And no, he said, the winner last night didn't have to haul the bench home on his or her bicycle. "We'll ship it wherever the winner lives," he said.

TED WESENBERG, manager of Main Street Anamosa, became a pumpkin head. He wore a hat in the shape of a pumpkin, promoting the upcoming Anamosa Pumpkinfest Oct. 12-14.

Wesenberg said the idea that so many people from around the state — and the country — would be visiting Anamosa provided impetus for some last-minute work downtown — including the installation of Anamosa's first ATM machine at Citizens Savings Bank.

"This whole week, Main Street looked like the president was coming," he said. "We ought to have RAGBRAI every year."

First-time riders from California to Maine agreed.

"This is a wonderful place," said Ed Gaylord, 62, of Claremont, Calif., who accompanied his daughter, Susan Willis of Tucson, Ariz., on the ride. It was their first trip to Iowa.

"There are a lot more trees than I thought there would be," she said. "I'm not used to all this green. It looks like Hawaii."

"I've thoroughly enjoyed this," said Sanford Peyton, president of Citizens State Bank in Owensboro, Ky., as he munched on corn on the cob. "I get a piece of this everywhere I go."

PAUL SABAL of Austin, Texas, stretched a plastic tarp between a fence and his tent to "make a little shade."

"I've had a shower, something to eat and a massage," he said. "Now it's nap time."

"I think the hospitality is first-class," he added. "I'm really impressed at the people turning out, cheering us on at every little town we go through at seven in the morning."

And in a tent next door Joyce Bagshaw of Sanford, Maine, breathed in the fresh Iowa air as she gazed out toward the rolling hills of Grant Wood territory. She could have been bitter, considering she broke her leg Thursday in Brooklyn.

"Someone stopped in front of me and I fell off my bike," she said. "I broke my fibula. Luckily the ambulance was right there."

The ambulance took her to Grinnell General Hospital where a cast was put on her right leg and she was sent on her way — in a car with some other people.

"It's really disappointing because I really enjoy my riding," she said.

"The biggest joy," she added, "is meeting all of the nice Iowans. It's great talking to all the people."

## Family fears murder probe could be lost in D.M. shuffle

By Rick Smith

Gazette staff writer

Waukon is about as far from Des Moines as you can get in Iowa, and these days, the state capital couldn't seem more distant for Waukon barber Ken Krambeer.

Krambeer's pleasant life in his small Iowa county seat town has been upended by a murder investigation in Des Moines — the place some say no longer is just an overgrown small town but Iowa's murder capital.

Krambeer's sister, Lana Anderson, 43, a Waukon native, was beaten to death the afternoon of May 10 as she worked in her manager's office at an apartment complex on Des Moines' south side.

Krambeer's biggest fear now is that the murder probe soon will hit the big-city back burner, left there to cool, to be forgotten, to forever remain unsolved.

"There's so darn much going on in Des Moines all the time," said Krambeer, meaning crime. "There have been three or four murders there since Lana's."

Krambeer hasn't given up on the Des Moines Police Department. He says he believes detectives when they report they've interviewed about 300 people in the case.

What he has trouble accepting is that his sister's murder, after a couple of stories in the Des Moines newspaper, has seemed to vanish from public view.

The murder, though, remains on minds 200 miles away in Waukon, he says.

Hardly a day goes by that friends at the local cafe or customers at Krambeer's barber shop or at sister Janet Baumgartner's beauty shop in town don't ask how the murder investigation is going.

Krambeer isn't sure.

Krambeer, Baumgartner and other of Lana's rela-

tives — including brother Brad and mother Carol Reeder, both also of Waukon, sister Kim Sylvester of Cedar Rapids, and brother Dean of Pine Island, Minn. — keep in constant touch with Des Moines police detectives, doing their part to keep the case a priority.

The family has put up \$5,000 for information leading to a conviction in the case. No one has responded.

Police have revealed little: Lana was robbed, they say, and the apartment complex's maintenance man found her body.

Lt. Bill Fitzgerald, of the Des Moines Police Department's detective bureau, says the Landmark Apartments complex where Lana worked and died is a "nice complex," but "like any place else, it has its undesirables mixed in."

"Anything's possible," he says of the murder motive.

According to Fitzgerald, this year to date, Des Moines has had 10 murders, three of which remain unsolved. Last year, the capital city had 18, all solved. In comparison, Iowa's second-largest city, Cedar Rapids, had one murder in 1990 (plus one just outside the city limits); and has had three so far this year.

Fitzgerald admits that crime is keeping Des Moines police busy these days, and that an unsolved murder case can age and end up "filed away."

Krambeer doesn't want his sister's case to die in a file cabinet.

He says he and his brothers have huddled long hours with Lana's husband of 25 years, Tom, also a Waukon native, trying to figure out what happened. Krambeer says the saddest part of his sister's death is knowing that she nearly died two years ago during a bout of colitis.

"We brought her back to 100 percent, only to have her taken away this way."

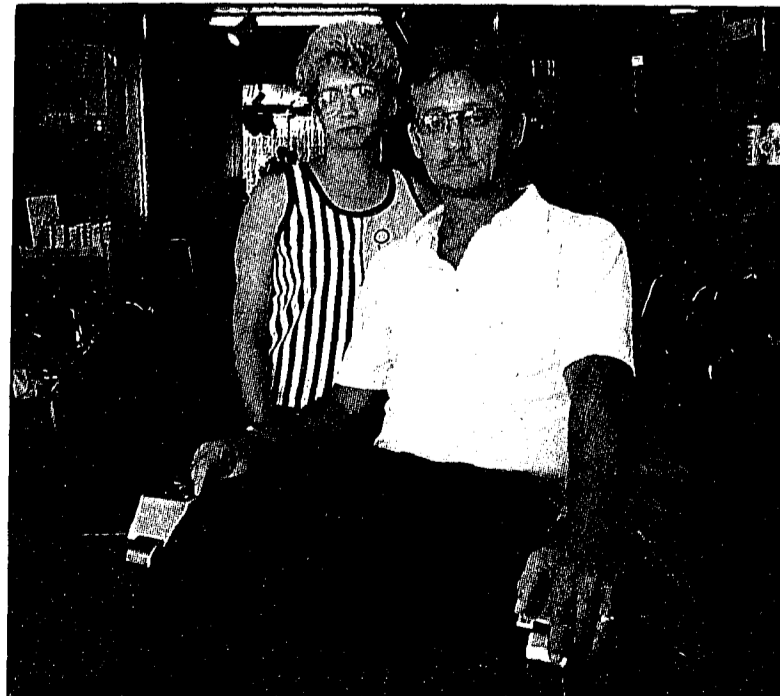


Photo by Stephen Gassman, Elkader

Ken Krambeer and his sister, Janet Baumgartner, both of Waukon, are part of a family effort to make sure the murder of their sister, Lana Anderson, in Des Moines doesn't get put on the back burner by busy police in the capital city.