

Sitters wanted

A good baby sitter is hard to find, 1L

Health clinic open today for measles shots

The Gazette
CEDAR RAPIDS — The Linn County Health Department will hold a special measles vaccination clinic from 2 to 4 p.m. today at the County Health Department, 501 13th St. NW, for passengers at The Eastern Iowa Airport at risk of contracting measles. A person on a Friday flight was diagnosed with the disease Saturday.

Health Department staff will begin answering telephones at 1:30 p.m. today from people wanting more information. The number is (319) 892-6093.

Passengers on Northwest Airlines Flight 3786 from Detroit to Cedar Rapids on Friday, or anyone at the airport between noon and 3 p.m. Friday, may have been exposed to the disease, said Kevin Teale, spokesman for the Iowa Department of Public Health.

Anyone on the flight or at the airport during that time who hasn't had measles or hasn't been vaccinated should be vaccinated as soon as possible, Teale said.

State health officials were working with the airline last night to obtain a passenger list, Teale said.

The person who was diagnosed with measles is an Iowa resident and is undergoing treatment, Teale said.

Measles causes a high fever and a red rash over most of the body, Teale said.

"It's extremely contagious," he said.

CORRIDOR

CEDAR RAPIDS

Vehicle hits house, causes gas leak

Residents evacuated a home at 1700 Second St. SW early Saturday after a vehicle struck the house and gas meter, causing a natural gas leak.

Ashley Cach, 16, of Cedar Rapids, was charged with failure to maintain control after the accident, which happened just after midnight, Cedar Rapids police reported.

Police said Cach saw something in the road, and as she tried to avoid it, she hit the gas pedal instead of the brake, and her vehicle hit the north side of the house.

No one was injured, but Cach's vehicle and the home's central air conditioning unit sustained major damage. Cedar Rapids firefighters and MidAmerican Energy workers handled the gas leak.

Parole violator arrested after high-speed chase

Chad Ault, 24, of Clinton, was arrested on a felony warrant for parole violation early Saturday morning after leading Cedar Rapids police on a high-speed chase in which his vehicle struck a Linn County Sheriff's Department patrol car, police said.

The pursuit reached speeds of up to 106 mph, police said. It began after Cedar Rapids police pulled Ault over for a traffic offense at the intersection of 20th Avenue SW and Wiley Boulevard SW about 2 a.m. Ault sped away before the stop was complete.

Ault's car ran into the patrol car on Club Road just south of Wright Brothers Boulevard, causing minor damage. Police deployed stop sticks on Club Road, which shredded the right rear tire of Ault's car.

He was being held in the Linn County Jail last night.

PUBLIC SAFETY



Jim Slosiarek/The Gazette

Peggy Burnett and her son, Dustin, 17, at their home in Lisbon. Peggy reported Dustin missing after he got out of the car after a disagreement. Dustin was on the state's missing persons list for more than a year even though he was gone only overnight.

On the list

Some on Iowa's missing-persons list are not missing at all

By Christoph Trappe
The Gazette

Dustin Burnett ran away from home Aug. 19, 2002, and returned the next day. But Burnett, 17, of Lisbon, remained on the state's official list of missing persons for more than a year.

He was listed because his mother, Peggy Burnett, did not tell authorities to remove him — a common problem, authorities say. However, Dustin was out in public, in town and school, while on the list. Authorities who knew he was listed as missing had ample opportunity to stop him or contact his mother, Peggy Burnett said.

"It makes me feel like nobody is looking for him," Peggy said about that lack of contact. "He's been out and about since (the next day) and nobody has seen him around?"

On the Net

■ Iowa list of missing persons:
www.state.ia.us/government/dps/dcl/mpic

Like Burnett, The Gazette wondered how accurate the state's list is overall. Families and friends who send someone's name to the list find some solace in knowing it may lead to finding that person. If the list is wrong, you wonder if anything is

done at all, people like the Burnetts and others who have had family members on the list said.

In a three-month investigation, The Gazette found 36 cases — almost 11 percent of the 331 people on a Nov. 10, 2003, list the newspaper worked from — where a person was listed as missing but was found.

Thirteen of those still were on the list March 1.

Police in Iowa said they follow leads when people are reported missing. But they don't have much to go on when available leads are exhausted, they said.

Wendie Nerem, the list's coordinator, said an accurate list is needed so the public has an accurate picture of who is missing.

Most of last year's reports — about 86 percent — were for juveniles. It's the

► MISSING, PAGE 8B



Cliff Jette/The Gazette

Nancy Heckle sits in the living room of her northeast Cedar Rapids home next to a picture of her son Guy, who has been missing since 1973. Eleven-year-old Guy was never found after vanishing from a Boy Scout camp near Palo.

Not missing

People found by The Gazette on the Nov. 10 state list of 331 missing persons

- 9 Were gone one night to a few days
- 7 Were gone a few weeks/few months
- 6 Were seen by police while being charged with misdemeanors
- 5 Were dead
- 3 Had moved
- 3 Were in juvenile detention
- 1 Was hiding from police
- 1 Moved in with girlfriend
- 1 Was at home but marked missing after skipping drug treatment

Source: Gazette research Gazette chart

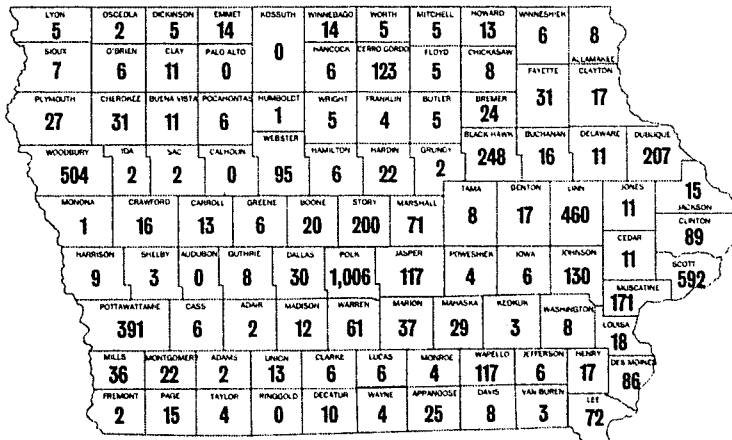
What we did

■ Gazette reporter Christoph Trappe selected the Nov. 10 statewide list of missing persons and tried to locate each person over three months by calling people with the same last name in the reported city and by checking statewide court records.

■ Each week the newest state list was checked against the Nov. 10 list.

Missing juveniles — 2003

This map shows the volume of complaints Iowa missing-persons officials handle just for juveniles, who accounted for 86 percent of missing-person reports in 2003.



Source: Iowa Division of Criminal Investigation

Gazette graphic

4 lanes
2 wheels
1 hassle

The Iowa Senate has deferred action on a controversial bill banning bicycles on certain

four-lane highways, a move that raises two related questions.

First, why does anyone think the bill is necessary in the first place?

Second, why would it be controversial?

The bill, Senate File 2032, prohibits bicycles on rural four-lane divided expressways if there is a paved shoulder or an available parallel bike path. It would affect only about 17 miles of road, some in Marshall County, some in Dallas and some in Bremer.

Proponents say the law is needed because it is dangerous to ride a bike on a four-lane highway. Well, no kidding, but it's dangerous to ride blindfolded while juggling chain saws, too, and nobody is proposing a law prohibiting that.

OK, that's an exaggeration, but anyone smart enough to figure out that the handlebars are in the front is too smart to pedal around among semi-trailer trucks moving 60 mph faster. And if not, chances are good he or she will try it only once.

Other than being of questionable necessity, though, what's the objection to the bill? One could argue the problem should be addressed in broader fashion instead of mile-by-mile, but that isn't the opponents' argument. They say it is an attack on bike trails and could open the way to similar rules in urban areas. They complain it would prevent bikers from taking the most direct route.

This confuses me on several counts. I don't see how requiring the use of bike trails constitutes an attack on them. I think it's just as dumb and dangerous to bike on the highway inside the city limits as outside. The point of bicycling is to save the world, get exercise and enjoy oneself, not get from Point A to Point B as efficiently as possible.

This subject is as sensitive as a biker's backside on the fifth day of RAGBRAI because many cyclists feel they are deprived of their share of public pavement and treated like second-class citizens by motorists. I tend to avoid ruffling the feathers of these people, in part because they have a good point and in part because most of them — coincidentally, I'm sure — are in much better physical condition than I am.

Having said that, though, it must be said that some cyclists apparently think the laws of physics are, like Senate File 2032, open to debate and amendment. This is not the case. Put a Schwinn up against a Freightliner, and the Schwinn is going to lose every time, no matter which one has the right of way.

One of more than a dozen proposed amendments, this one by Sen. Joe Bolkom, D-Iowa City, would have the state develop guidelines for bicycle safety education and provide \$1 million to the public schools to teach it.

A well-intentioned idea, but for people who need to be taught it's unsafe to ride a bike on a high-speed, four-lane highway, \$1 million won't be nearly enough.

■ 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)

Missing/Number of reports per year down

► FROM PAGE 1B

parent's job to tell police if the juvenile returns, police said.

The Iowa Department of Public Safety's Information Clearinghouse posts an updated list of reported missing people weekly on its Web site.

Burnett, a Mount Vernon High School sophomore, was on that list for about 14 months. He had run away after an argument with his mother. He hid at his grandparents' vacant house while his family and friends were searching nearby.

Peggy Burnett said she felt Lisbon Police Chief Malcom Kimble didn't care about the case when he took the report and never followed up.

"I care and I care about kids," Kimble said. "I care a great deal. I don't know what Mrs. Burnett's problem is. I don't know where she gets that, and I disagree."

Kimble said he took Dustin off the list as soon as he found out Dustin wasn't missing. Iowa law says the person

who filed the report has to let police know when the missing person returns. There's no penalty for failing to do this.

Information on missing persons on the state's list comes from filed and canceled reports by local law enforcement agencies.

Finding missing people

The Gazette used court records and phone interviews to locate the 36 people it found around the state.

In some cases, the person listed as missing answered the phone.

Like Joshua Cousineau, 17, of Sioux City. He was home late last year when The Gazette called his house to ask about why he was reported missing June 17.

"I ran away a lot of times. I came back the same day," he said.

The Gazette found nine people who were missing for only a few hours to a few days. Seven were gone for a few



Wendle Nerem
Missing persons list coordinator

weeks to a few months.

State officials take about 100 people off the list and add 100 new cases each week.

Nerem said that shows that many law enforcement agencies update

the list as best as they can, she said. Nerem said she sends monthly bulletins of missing people to law enforcement agencies to help officials find people still on the list.

The number of missing persons reports has been declining. The 6,405 reports taken last year in Iowa amounted to the fewest ever in one year. They compare to a high of 10,963 in 1995.

In all, 4,575 people accounted for the total number of reports. There were more reports than that because some people were reported missing more than once.

Joshua Namanny, 17, was

one of four Cedar Rapids people on the Nov. 10 list found by The Gazette. He said he was reported missing after skipping residential drug treatment. The Gazette found him when calling his home on Dec. 20, almost two months after he was reported missing.

Cherelle Griffin, 17, also of Cedar Rapids, ran away for three days on Sept. 30. She still was on the list two months later.

Six people that The Gazette located had been cited for offenses that ranged from traffic violations to misdemeanors after they were reported missing.

Police said those people might have fallen through the cracks because officers didn't check computer files to see if there were warrants out for them or if they were missing.

List still helps

The Gazette found five people on the list who have been declared dead. Nerem said those cases remain listed if

their bodies haven't been found so investigators could match up a body found in the future to the list.

That didn't happen for Tyson McCain, 18, of Carson, in western Iowa. McCain died in April 2003 after a fatal hit-and-run accident in Pottawattamie County. His name was still on the list earlier this month.

Looking at the missing persons list, Pottawattamie County Sheriff Jeff Danker spotted other names of people he knew were not missing. He told his staff to take McCain and the others off the list.

Despite wrong listings, Nancy Heckle of Cedar Rapids thinks the state's list is good. Heckle's 11-year-old son, Guy, disappeared while at a Boy Scout Camp in February 1973 near Palo. Guy's case is one of the oldest on the index.

Heckle said any information about a missing person is welcome, even if years pass since the person's disappearance. "The family needs the peace of knowing," she said.

■ Contact the writer: (319) 398-8488 or christoph.trappe@gazettecommunications.com

School to be sold on eBay

CASTANA (AP) — Ever wanted to own your own school? Now you can.


The Maple Valley-Anthon-Oto school district will turn to eBay to sell an elementary school building in Castana, a town of 178 that is about 48 miles southeast of Sioux City.

The building, which houses students in kindergarten through fifth grade, will be closed after this school year. The approval of a \$7 million bond issue will allow the district to build a new school in Mapleton, reducing the number of students that will have to be bused.

Some people have suggested using it as an alternative school or trade school. Other ideas have included apartments, a recreation center, a museum or flea market.

There also was talk of using the school as a sheriff's office.

With ideas being numerous but buyers being few, the school district decided to post the building for sale on the Internet auction site eBay.



Michael W. Karal, CPA
~Over 25 Years Experience~

- Individual & Business Tax Preparation
- Tax Planning
- Personalized Service
- Flexible Hours

Now accepting new clients!
Call for an appointment
319-378-0084
4859 Oak Grove Court NE • Cedar Rapids, IA 52411

"New Life For Old Tubs & Shower Walls"



BEFORE **AFTER**

FREE Shower Door Offer

New Acrylic Tub & Wall Liner - Installed Over Your Old Ones
*Call for more details

BATHQUARTERS.com 222 Collins Road NE
Cedar Rapids 377-8833

Rooms Are Filling Fast. Book Your Spring Break Getaway Today!

Reserve your room online at **grandharborresort.com** to receive **\$10 OFF** your room rate **PLUS A \$10 FOOD VOUCHER!**

The Grand Harbor Package
(Based on a family of four)

- Deluxe room accommodations
- Indoor waterpark tickets for each registered guest
- Complimentary hot breakfast for each registered guest

Package rates starting as low as **\$134***
(Ask about our Family Suite upgrades.)

*Rates quoted are good for Sundays through Fridays. Additional charges per room may apply Saturdays and (Grand Harbor) holidays. Taxes and gratuities not included. Subject to availability. Advance reservations required.


Grand Harbor
RESORT AND WATERPARK

At the Port of Dubuque, IA
Reserve online at
grandharborresort.com
or call toll-free (866) 690-4006

Managed by Platinum Hospitality Group




What if someone had the power to bring you nationwide calling on the largest wireless network in the world.

What if someone had the power to make wireless better, and that someone... was YOU.

Iowa Wireless is now **i wireless**.

Now you've got the Power of **i**.



1.888.684.0500 www.iwireless.com

