

West Liberty agrees to pay \$41,472 fine

Pact with DNR settles lawsuit over waste-water releases

By Frank Gluck
The Gazette

WEST LIBERTY — The city of West Liberty has settled a lawsuit filed by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources by agreeing to pay \$41,472 in fines for waste-water violations at the city's treatment plant.

It's an amount considerably lower than the \$119,000 the DNR sought when it filed the lawsuit in January.

"We're quite happy about it," said City Manager Lon Pluckhahn. "We were glad to see this come to a settlement so we can proceed with our capital projects."

Topping that list is a project to improve the waste-water facility, Pluckhahn said. The city will receive \$500,000 in federal funds to help pay for that project in October 2003.

The city on Tuesday will select an engineer for a small part of that project.

The DNR accused the city of releasing too much waste water into Wapsinonoc Creek.

The releases happened between February and December 2000, between February and June 2001 and in December 2001, the lawsuit claimed.

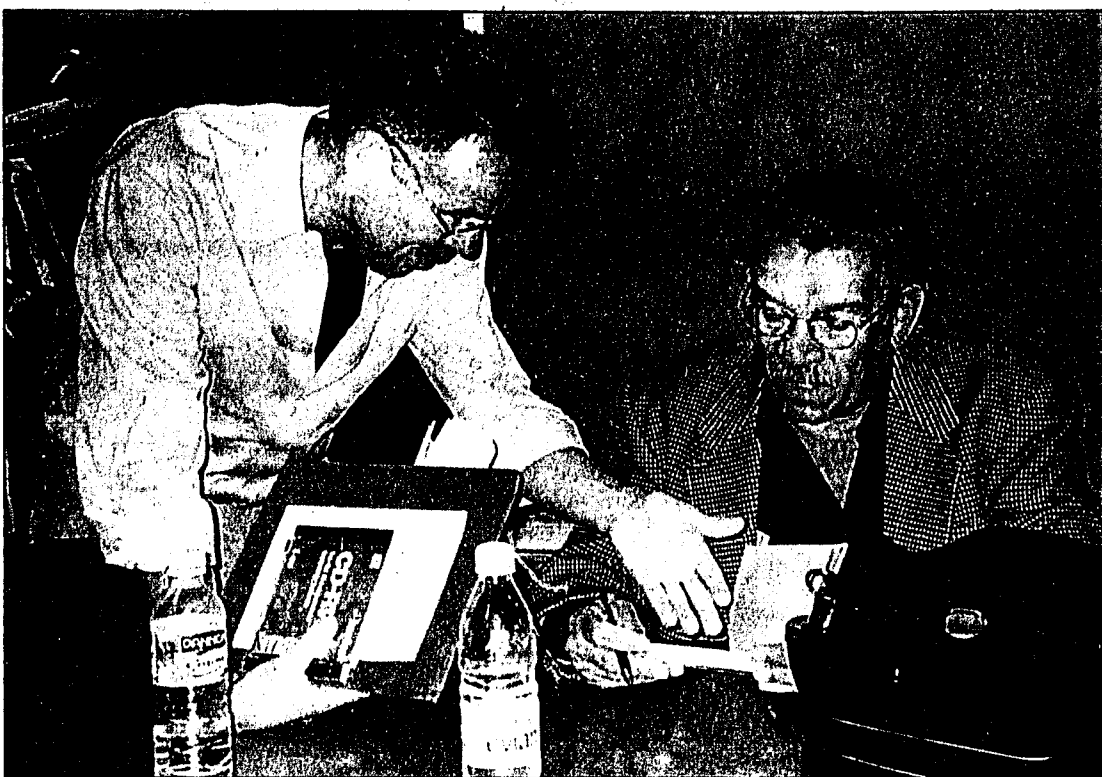
West Liberty's sewage problems began after production was stepped up at West Liberty Foods in 1996.

The company in 2001 agreed to pay fines of \$97,500 after the Environmental Protection Agency filed its own suit. The company last year improved its pretreatment facilities reducing the overload of the city's facility.

A DNR representative could not be reached for comment Friday following the settlement announcement by the Iowa Attorney General's Office.

Muscatine County District Court Judge Patrick Maddad approved the West Liberty/DNR settlement Monday.

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Gazette photo by John Kenyon

German writer Michael Zeller, a participant in the University of Iowa's International Writing Program (IWP), has a book autographed by Nobel Prize-winning poet Derek Walcott after a seminar Walcott held for IWP writers and students in the UI's Writers' Workshop on Friday. Walcott was in Iowa City as an Ida Beam visiting lecturer.

Nobel laureate: U.S. poets lack political conviction

By John Kenyon
The Gazette

IOWA CITY — Though we live in politically charged times, American poets aren't adequately addressing those events and situations in their verse, according to poet Derek Walcott.

Walcott, who won the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1992, was on the University of Iowa campus Friday as an Ida Beam guest lecturer.

Walcott spent the day meeting with students in the UI Writers' Workshop and participants in the International Writing Program, and gave a public reading Friday night to a capacity crowd of 350 at Shambaugh Auditorium at the UI Main Library.

In the session with students and writers, he decried obliqueness in American poetry, saying it was borne of the poets' arrogance and desire to show their intelligence.

"In American poetry, you see a complete absence of concern for what is going on politically anywhere," Walcott said.

Poetry that is oblique or obscure is that way for its own sake, he said, and fails to connect to readers.

"This is something that says to the reader, 'You don't have my intelligence, so you won't understand,'" he said.

Walcott, 72, has made his name as both a poet and a playwright. The West Indian writer splits his time between Trinidad and the United States,

and writes often about Caribbean culture.

He read Friday night from "Omeros," a book-length poem dealing with identity and heritage. Names are often confused, he said, as people move from place to place.

"In Iowa, you find no Iowans, but foreign people who shouldn't be here," he said, referring to Native American tribes who first named the area. "But that's OK, you can stay."

His most recent book of poetry is 1997's "The Bounty." A book of essays, "What the Twilight Says," came in 1998. He contributed to Paul Simon's musical, "The Capeman," that same year.

At least 1 of 2 slain in D.M. had been bound

DES MOINES (AP) — Two people were shot to death in a house on the city's north side and at least one of them had been bound, police said Friday.

No arrests had been made as of late last night.

Officers were called to the house shortly before 11 p.m. Thursday on reports of shots being fired.

"We're looking for a motive at this point," Lt. Kelly Willis said. "We're asking for the public's help."

"There were a lot of people out in the neighborhood that evening."

Clestina Payano, 22, was found dead in the living room and Emanuel Burgs Jr., 21, was

found dead in the basement, Willis said.

Willis said both victims stayed at the house, but he had no other immediate information about them.

Investigators have talked to the person who initially called police, Willis said.

"The person who made the call was identified as the person who did see the bodies and reported the crime," he said. "The call giver said there was an unknown problem and the phone went dead. The officer came up and this is what they found."

Willis would release no other information about person who made the call.

LINN COURT NEWS

Felony cases

CEDAR RAPIDS — Action has been taken on the following felony cases in Linn District Court:

Brian J. Banks, 24, of Nevada, Iowa, pleaded guilty to a charge of third-offense drunken driving filed in connection with a Sept. 23, 2001, arrest. He was fined \$2,500, given a five-year suspended sentence and placed on probation.

Deshaun M. Williams, 25, of Cedar Rapids, pleaded guilty to a charge of third-offense drunken driving filed in connection with a Nov. 5, 2001, arrest. Williams was fined \$2,500 and sentenced to 210 days in jail with all but 30 days suspended. He was placed on probation.

Tony R. Ricklefs, 34, of Cedar Rapids, pleaded guilty to a charge of third-offense drunken driving filed in connection with a March 3 arrest. He was fined \$2,500 and sentenced to 30 days in jail.

Barry J. Allyn, 41, of Cedar Rapids, pleaded guilty to a charge of third-offense drunken driving filed in connection with a Jan. 17 arrest. He was fined \$2,500 and sentenced to 122 days in jail.

Todd J. Hale, 37, of Cedar Rapids, pleaded guilty to a charge of third-

offense drunken driving filed in connection with a Feb. 6 arrest. He was fined \$2,500 and sentenced to 30 days in jail.

The following defendants, originally accused of felony offenses, pleaded guilty to lesser or amended misdemeanor charges:

Jeffrey J. Perkins, 24, of Cedar Rapids, pleaded guilty to a charge of third-offense drunken driving filed in connection with a Nov. 29, 2001, arrest. He was fined \$2,500 and sentenced to 60 days in jail.

Melvin Browning, 40, of Cedar Rapids, charged with third-offense domestic abuse, pleaded guilty to second-offense domestic abuse. He was accused of assaulting Vicky A. Jordan during a March 29 incident in the 1500 block alley between Third and Washington Avenues SE. Browning was fined \$500 and sentenced to 90 days in jail with credit for 32 days served and the balance suspended. He was placed on probation.

James D. Feuerhelm II, 37, of Cedar Rapids, charged with third-offense domestic abuse, pleaded guilty to second-offense domestic abuse. He was accused of assaulting his wife, Rose, on April 18. Feuerhelm was fined \$500 and sentenced to 103 days in jail.

Rivalry: Candidates plan to mingle

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theme.

While a few fans may want to talk politics, most candidates just see it as an opportunity to be seen and shake a few hands.

"It's no time for a hard sell," Ganske said.

Matt Whitaker, who played tight end for the Hawkeyes from 1988-92, including the '91 Rose Bowl season, hopes to reintroduce himself to Hawkeye and Cyclone fans.

"I want to help people make the connection that the Matt Whitaker who is running for state treasurer is the same Matt Whitaker that played for the Hawkeyes," he said.

Don't look for him in black and gold, however.

"You don't want to turn off anyone by being too overtly Hawkeye," Whitaker said.

Instead, he'll show that his is a bipartisan campaign. He'll have his high school friends and former Cyclone quarterback Chris Peterson and other former Cyclones campaigning with him.

And once the game starts, Whitaker said, "I'll be cheering for the game."

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Terms for livestock buildings proposed

By Marlene Lucas
The Gazette

A minimum score on the scale to be used for siting livestock confinement buildings has been developed by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and will be presented to the Environmental Protection Commission on Monday.

The Master Matrix Technical Advisory Committee to the DNR had earlier selected 44 mitigating factors to be used in approving sites, but it had failed to agree on the minimum score needed for approval.

The DNR will suggest a total minimum score of 430 points, which is 50 percent of the points available. Minimum scores from the three categories of the matrix are 65.25 for air, 93.9 for water and 98.85 for community.

An applicant must score higher than the minimum in one or two categories to achieve a passing score.

Here's an example of how one of the 44 mitigating factors can be scored: If a confinement structure is proposed at 501 feet to 750 feet from an educational institution, a religious institution or a commercial enterprise, it will be scored 4 points for air and 6 points for community. If the confinement structure is proposed that same distance from a water source, the water score would be 10 points. The points would be higher if the distance is greater than 750 feet and lower if closer than 501 feet.

The scores from each of the mitigating factors are added to create each of the air, water and community matrix scores.

Having a minimum score in each of the three categories ensures all issues are addressed, said DNR's Robin Pruisner, who helped develop the minimum scores.

"This makes producers show, 'I did do things that count for community points,'" she said.

The commissioners will make a decision on the minimum scores in October.

The Monday meeting will be at Lakeview Community Center, Band Shell City Park in Clear Lake. It will begin at 8:30 a.m.

Implant: Student hopes to advance technology

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Brandau said, "and you can't beat that."

You also can't top the positive impact of the implant.

"His progress has been miraculous," his mother said. "Not only did he start out with absolutely no hearing or speech but he's gained hearing and speech that's intelligible."

However, his accomplishments were far from effortless. "It took six months or a year before he could recognize his name," she said.

She and her late husband, Bruce, spent many hours taking Brandau to appointments with audiologists, speech pathologists and surgeons at UI Hospitals. He and his parents made the three-hour trek to Iowa City every other week for several years.

Perhaps that's why Brandau

has so far made a smooth transition to college. He moved only a few weeks ago from Rudd, a town of 300 where he's lived all his life.

Besides being in marching band, he was elected president of the floor in the honors residence hall where he lives.

Even with the familiarity of Iowa City, Brandau still gets homesick.

"I love the country," he said. "I can scream as much as I want and no one cares, and I can sit outside at night and actually see the stars."

In the few weeks he's been in Iowa City, Brandau has begun learning American Sign Language (ASL) to fulfill his foreign language requirement.

As a child, Brandau was taught Signed English, which uses sign in the grammatical

order in which people speak. ASL, which is more commonly used in the deaf community, uses different syntax.

"I needed a foreign language to graduate, so I thought why not take advantage of the opportunities here to learn ASL?"

His major is biomedical engineering.

"Then I can give back to the technology that helped me become who I am," he said. "Maybe someday I'll be able to make something better for myself."

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Sunday, Sept. 15th
10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Polka Mass 10:30 a.m.
CRAFTS, BAKERY, GIFTS, RESALE SHOP

- Auction 5:00 p.m.
- Country Store 10:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
- Bingo, Games, Cake Walk Noon to 5:00 p.m.
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