

DAILY NOTEBOOK

TEL • US



To answer today's question call CITYLINE, 363-7000 or 337-7000 and enter category 1111 between 6 a.m. and 8 p.m.

YESTERDAY'S QUESTION: What was your main objection to the recently defeated C.R. school levy? Higher taxes? Use of money? Need not well explained? (85 responses)

HIGHER TAXES: 51
USE OF MONEY: 19
POOR EXPLANATION: 15

TODAY'S QUESTION: Would you like to see the formation of a Cedar Rapids citizens group to take a look at the school district budget?

WHAT'S YOUR OPINION ON TODAY'S TOPIC? If you have a computer and modem, call FYIowa, (319) 368-8800, and share your views in the daily "Tel•Us" forum.

TEL•US is a non-scientific sampling of public opinion

TODAY/March 13, 1995

MEETINGS

9 a.m. — Linn County Board of Supervisors, informal session, conference room, Administrative Office Building.
3:30 p.m. — Linn County FEMA Board/Local Homeless Coordinating Board, second-floor conference room, Witwer Building.
4 p.m. — Marion Independent school board, Room 203, Educational Services Center, 346 Second Ave. SW, Cedar Rapids.
4 p.m. — Kirkwood Community College Board, board room, Kirkwood Hall.
4:30 p.m. — Cedar Rapids Community school board, work session followed by regular meeting at 7:30 p.m., board room, Educational Service Center, 346 Second Ave. SW.
5:30 p.m. — Marion Library Board, library auditorium.
5:30 p.m. — Foresight 20/20 Task Force, Beems Auditorium, Cedar Rapids Public Library.
7 p.m. — Clear Creek school board, followed at 7:30 p.m. by Clear Creek/Amana school board, elementary cafeteria, Oxford.
7 p.m. — Hiawatha City Council, special meeting to interview city administrator applicants, City Hall.
7 p.m. — Iowa City Board of Appeals, civic center council chambers.
7 p.m. — Lisbon City Council, City Hall.
7 p.m. — Coggon City Council, City Hall.
7 p.m. — Ely City Council, Community Center.
7 p.m. — Springfield City Council, City Hall.
7:30 p.m. — Alburnett City Council, Fire Station.
7:30 p.m. — Iowa City Planning and Zoning Commission, informal meeting, Iowa City/Johnson County Senior Center.
7:30 p.m. — Palo City Council, Community Center.
7:30 p.m. — Walker City Council, City Hall.
7:45 p.m. — Johnson County Republican Central Committee, Coralville Public Library.

FILMS

Winter Film Festival: "Flood '93 Special," showing effects of the flood in communities of Eldon, Fort Madison, Kingston, Bellevue, Green Island and south of Muscatine, 1 p.m., Effigy Mounds National Monument, Harpers Ferry.

LECTURES

Chautauqua: "The Civil War," by history Professor Philip Lucas, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Hedges Lounge, The Commons, Cornell College. For adults 50 and older.

CANCELLATIONS

For updates on weather-related cancellations, phone CITYLINE, 363-7000 or 337-7000, category 2105.

CITYLINE CALENDAR

More on CITYLINE'S Calendar of Events (Category 8000): Cedar Rapids, 363-7000; Iowa City, 337-7000.

LOTTERIES

SUNDAY ILLINOIS LOTTERY

PICK 3 EVENING: 2-2-7 PICK 4 EVENING: 8-6-3-2

SATURDAY POWERBALL

1-3-9-17-40 Powerball: 34 Jackpot: \$7.5 million
No one won the drawing. Wednesday's jackpot: \$11 million.

SATURDAY IOWA LOTTERY

SUPER CASH LOTTO: 6-18-20-21-35-41
\$100,000 CASH GAME: 4-6-9-17-33
Nobody won the Super Cash drawing. Wednesday's jackpot: \$950,000.
Lottery numbers also are available on CITYLINE, 363-7000 or 337-7000, category 2900.

VITAL STATISTICS

BIRTHS

MERCY

March 11 — Carol and Michael Nash, 190 S. 11th St., Marion, a daughter.
March 12 — Mary Sue and Bob Otis, 3200 Iowa Ave. SE, a son; Sue and Andrew Scott, 1430 26th St. NW, a son.

ST. LUKE'S

March 11 — Lisa and Greg Cooley, 2452 Eighth Ave. SW, a daughter; Kelli and Mel Hamilton, Lowden, a son; Angela Neal, 1630 F Ave. NW, a son.
March 12 — Lisa and Randy Gardner, Toddville, a daughter; Monique Cortez, 504 Ninth St. SW, a son.

THE LOG

Information for The Log is collected by The Gazette from public safety agencies in Linn County. Charges are subject to review by the Linn County Attorney's Office.

SELLING ALCOHOL TO MINORS

Daniel Frantz, 26, at Deanoz, 3321 First Ave. SE; Loren Garland, 25, at Double Inn, 3338 Center Point Rd. NE; Lance Handel, 30, at Baja Surf Club, 912 First Ave. NW; Jolene Murray, 29, at The Break Room, 3108 First Ave. NE; Tiffany Cross, 19, at Kum and Go, 2029 C St. SW; 17-year-old male at Sun Mart, 1625 J St. SW.

DRINKING ALCOHOL AS MINOR

Cindy Kim, 20, Richmond, Va.; Nicholas Loper, 19, 101 Larick Ct.; Hosht-Shoko, 20, Coe College; Sarah Swallow, 19, Alburnett; Karyn Dusil, 20, Dubuque; Robert Frees, 20, Solon; Jered Derby, 20, 2665 17th Ave., Marion.

BOOTLEGGING

Heath Brodersen, 21, 1514 J St. SW; Corey Scott, 20, Solon.

DISORDERLY HOUSE

Heath Brodersen, 1514 J St. SW; Corey Scott, 20, Solon; Luke Greazel, 19, Solon; Kyle Grimm, 19 and Kevin Grimm, 21, both of 3175 Hawthorn Ct. NE.

FIRE CALLS

Medical calls and false alarms are not included in this list.
Friday — 12:40 p.m., explosion with no fire, 1350 Waconia Ave. SW.
Saturday — 11:26 a.m., chemical emergency, 418 Second St. SE
Sunday — 11:28 a.m., brush fire, 5299 Center Point Rd. NE.

End of the line

Legislative bills face Friday deadline

By Rod Boshart

Gazette Des Moines Bureau

DES MOINES — Lawmakers face a busy week of committee work to save some priority bills from falling prey to a Friday deadline.

Non-money bills must clear at least one legislative panel by Friday to stay eligible for consideration this year.

Some attention likely will be diverted away from the approaching "funnel" deadline as negotiations are expected to resume today to break a school-funding impasse. Lawmakers will also be fashioning fiscal 1996 budget bills.

LEGISLATORS LEFT the Capitol on Friday with expectations that there could be a breakthrough this week in resolving differences between majority House Republicans and Democrats who control the Senate over how much increased funding to give public schools next year.

House GOP leaders indicated a willingness to move off their position of a 3 percent allowable growth boost and \$15 million for school technology upgrades. Senate Democrats have said since the Feb. 9 deadline lapsed that they would come down some with their plan. Democrats want a 4.2 percent hike to go into base budgets that primarily fund teacher salaries.

"I'm hopeful but my heart did not skip a beat" when House Republicans requested that the House-Senate conference committee on school funding resume talks today, said Sen. Michael Connolly, D-Dubuque, the Senate's chief negotiator.

Also today, floor debate is slated in the Senate

on a \$760.1 million education appropriations bill that is \$9 million above Gov. Terry Branstad's proposal and \$11 million higher than House Republicans' target.

Other budget bills also are slated for committee work in both chambers with Senate Majority Leader Wally Horn, D-Cedar Rapids, saying lawmakers will have to get serious beginning next week about breaking the logjam and paving the way for adjournment in April.

IN THE MEANTIME, lawmakers' attention this week will be focused on making sure that several issues stay alive this session including: public safety initiatives; welfare reform and replacement ideas; legislation dealing with environmental concerns; and nuisance lawsuits over siting of large livestock confinement operations.

House Majority Leader Brent Siegrist, R-Council Bluffs, said one likely casualty of Friday's deadline for winning down the list of eligible bills is Branstad's juvenile justice package — a wide-ranging package that likely will wait until next year.

Sen. Randal Giannetto, D-Marshalldown, chair of the Senate Judiciary Committee, said lawmakers may have to wait for results of a prison impact study before proceeding changing sentencing laws or abolishing parole for violent offenders.

Public safety issues expected to be considered in committee this week include changes in drunken driving laws, domestic abuse and drug laws and efforts to expand economic remedies against criminal conspiracies in areas of forfeiture, money laundering and financial transaction reporting.

Murder suspect living in C.R.

■ THEN: Louis Chambers Jr., 32, of Waterloo, was gunned down about 4:45 a.m. Feb. 7, 1994, in the 1400 block of Fifth Avenue SE. He died a few hours later at Mercy Medical Center from the one shot he took to the belly.

■ NOW: Some murders stump police. But the Louis Chambers Jr. murder 13 months ago in Cedar Rapids is not one of them.

Investigators are sure they know who shot Chambers dead on one of the city's toughest streets. Police say Chambers was shot because he didn't pay for a rock of crack cocaine.

Police say they know where he bought the crack, who bought some with him, who arranged the buy, and who shot him. There was one eyewitness, an associate of the murderer, and perhaps two. No one is willing to cooperate. The suspect lives in Cedar Rapids.

KOCR gone, not Fox

■ THEN: KOCR-TV (Channel 28), a Fox Television affiliate in Cedar Rapids, went off the air Oct. 6, 1994, when station operator Jerry Fitzgerald was evicted from property he leased after months of legal battles and negotiations over his inability to make rent and utility payments.

■ NOW: Cox Cable of Cedar Rapids plans to continue carrying Fox Net, which it picked up in October after KOCR-TV went off the air.

Arlen Heck, Cox marketing director, said that if a local station started carrying Fox, Cox would pick up that station's programming. Whether Cox would also continue to carry Fox Net, a national feed, would be answered then, she said.

In early December, The Gazette reported that a new station, KTVG, would be coming to Cedar Rapids in mid-1995. KTVG is incorporated as Fant Broadcasting Inc. of Cedar Rapids and is owned by Anthony Fant of Alabama.

At that time, George Singleton, an associate of Fant's, said the new station could possibly be a Fox affiliate. The Paramount and Warner Brothers networks were also mentioned.

Last week, Singleton, general manager of the Nebraska Television Network, said there was no new information to disclose about KTVG's future.

Culver a lawyer in D.C.

■ THEN: John C. Culver, a Cedar Rapids Democrat, was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1964 and to the U.S. Senate a decade later. He was defeated for re-election in 1980 by Republican Charles Grassley.

Born in Rochester, Minn., on Aug. 8, 1932, Culver is a 1950 graduate of Franklin High School of Cedar Rapids and a 1962 graduate of Harvard University's law school.

■ NOW: Culver, 62, is a senior partner with Arent, Fox, Kintner, Plotkin and Kahn, a prestigious law firm in Washington, D.C.

He has been with the firm since 1981 and specializes in legislation and lobbying, according to a spokeswoman for the firm.

Story ideas?

■ Call The Gazette's News Tip Line at 398-8254 or 1-(800) 397-8212.

■ Send E-mail to "story ideas" on FYIowa, 368-8800.

■ Write News Track, The Gazette, P.O. Box 511, Cedar Rapids 52406.

Please include your name, address and daytime telephone number. All suggestions will be considered.

■ "News Track" is published each Monday in The Gazette.

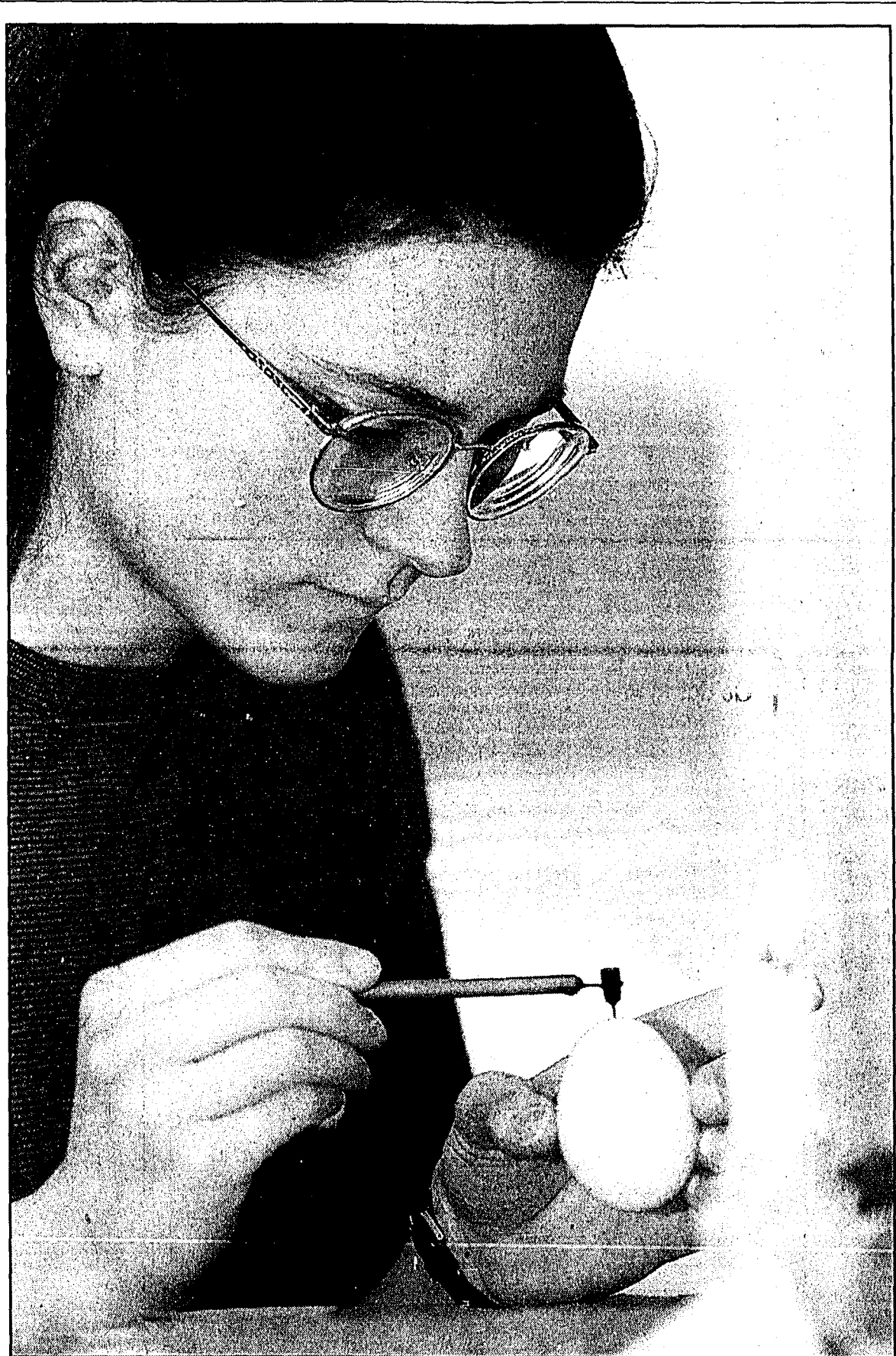


Photo by John Pendygraft, Gazette intern

Exacting touch

University of Iowa student Jennifer Coleman applies melted wax to an egg at a Ukrainian egg decoration workshop Sunday in the Iowa Memorial Union. Blanca Bailey, workshop organizer, said egg painting "traditionally is an art that people from Russian and Slavic countries do in springtime."

Budget up for review

By Douglas Neumann

Gazette Linn County reporter

The public's last chance to comment on Linn County's \$58 million budget, which includes a 12 percent pay raise for county supervisors, comes at 9 a.m. Tuesday at the Office Administration Building, 930 First St. SW.

The budget boosts tax rates to \$6.86 from \$6.71 for residents in municipalities and to \$10.20 from \$9.96 for rural taxpayers. The increase would cost owners of a \$235,000 farm about \$47 on their tax bill, and the owners of an \$80,000 home about \$5.

The increases total about 2 percent, but the effect on a tax bill also depends on any valuation changes. The total tax bill includes tax rates set by the school, city and other smaller taxing entities.

Much of the 5.3 percent coun-

ty budget increase comes from salary and benefits increases. Most unionized county employees received a 3 percent pay increase. A settlement with the law enforcement employee union is expected this week from an arbitrator.

Elected officials received a 4 percent increase on the recommendation of the Compensation Board. Supervisors will receive an additional \$3,500 pay increase in an attempt to equalize their pay with the auditor, recorder and treasurer.

The supervisors will be paid \$49,913, up from \$44,628. The salaries of the rest of elected officials will be: county attorney — \$82,858; sheriff — \$59,893; auditor, recorder and treasurer — \$53,925.

The pay raises were approved by the supervisors last week at the first budget hearing.

Taxes: Option tax used

■ From page 1B

largest rate increases, each jumping \$1.46.

"This is going to happen with growing cities. The cities with these tax jumps are upgrading their town," said Lisbon Mayor Mike Williams.

"I think for the most part, the public understands our logic. They know we're not spending frivolously."

Bertram again has the lowest tax rate. It is the only city in the two-county area to use a local option sales tax.

The sales tax supplements property tax revenue to keep tax rates lower.

Strack, the league of municipalities director, said about 240 Iowa cities now use a local option sales tax. That totals more than 25 percent of all cities in the state.

Voters in all Johnson County communities and the rural area rejected a 1-cent local option sales tax in 1987, but Iowa City, Solon and the county supervisors all have recently discussed the tax. Solon has requested a referendum on the issue be put on the November ballot.

Habitat: Lawn a lure

■ From page 1B

contribute labor to construction of future homes for Eastern Iowans.

The Habitat chapter already is at work remodeling the home in Ridgeway, which was donated by a farmer and moved seven miles to town. The house will be occupied by a single mother who works at Wal-Mart in Decorah and has three children. Applicants must prove they can make house payments.

The Habitat chapter also is building a new home on a donated lot in Burr Oak.

The chapter, which received its affiliation with the international organization in November 1993, is continually looking for new projects and for a steady stream of volunteers. It has a mailing list of 400 volunteers.

Volunteers can do anything from serve on the family selection/nurturance committee, which selects the families and helps them with such problems as budgeting, or they can volunteer for construction work.

Sand said she learned to lay carpet, tack strips and sand drywall.

The house is the first the Starkses have ever owned, and they are looking forward to warm-weather chores some longtime homeowners might dread.

"I can't wait to start mowing the lawn," Terry said.

Call to check tax refund

Iowans can check on the status of an expected federal income tax refund by calling a toll-free number provided by the Internal Revenue Service.

IRS Automated Refund Information enables taxpayers to find out about their refund by calling 1-(800) 829-4477. Touch-tone telephone service is available Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. to 11:30 p.m.

For taxpayers with rotary or pulse tone phones, the service is available Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Callers should have a copy of their tax return. They will need to know the first Social Security Number shown on the return, the filing status and the exact whole dollar amount of the refund. The IRS updates the refund information each week.