

Hunter bucking DNR

World-class whitetail deer rack in dispute

By Oran Love
Gazette outdoor editor

James Portwood's dream of a world-class trophy buck has turned into a yearlong legal struggle that likely will be resolved in court early next year.

The Oxford man has filed suit in Johnson County District Court to regain possession of a 42-point whitetail rack from the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR). A hearing has been set for Feb. 9.

Portwood said he shot the buck Nov. 8, 1993, while legally bow hunting in Washington County. The DNR, which contends he shot the deer illegally with a high-powered rifle, seized the deer head and rack on Nov. 22, 1993, from a taxidermy shop.

According to Johnson County District Court records, the rack later scored 256 1/2 points on the Pope and Young scale, which would make it the

third-largest non-typical whitetail rack taken in the United States by a bow hunter. The record score is 279.

Almost a year after Portwood shot the deer, he was charged Nov. 7 in Washington County with illegally transporting a deer and with aiding and abetting others to illegally take a deer. The deer had allegedly been dismembered before delivery to a processor, in violation of state law. Portwood is scheduled to face those charges Jan. 31, but he said the hearing will not likely take place.

"I will be very surprised if it ever goes to court," he said. "They have no evidence. That deer is legal all the way."

Susan Hager, the DNR conservation officer who conducted the investigation, said, "We felt that the evidence we had was enough to charge the individual."

■ Turn to 7A: **Buck**

Mom told murder suspect of plan to move out 1 day before tot hurt

C.R. man accused of murdering girl, 2

By Becky Stover
and Lynn M. Tefft

Gazette staff writers

A Cedar Rapids man is accused of fatally injuring a 2-year-old girl the day after her mother told him she was moving out of the apartment they had shared for five weeks.

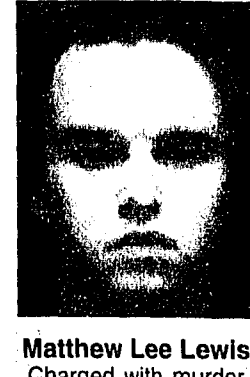
Matthew Lee Lewis, 22, of 1614 Park Towne Lane NE, was charged Thursday with first-degree murder in the death of Rylee Marie Gray, the daughter of his girlfriend, Elise Gray, 21.

Rylee died of head injuries Sunday morning, two days after she was rushed to St. Luke's Hospital by her mother and Lewis, court records said.

The funeral for Rylee was held Thursday in Monticello. Elise's father, Don Gray of Central City, said last



Rylee Marie Gray
Died Christmas Day



Matthew Lee Lewis
Charged with murder.

night that the large, close-knit family is in shock.

"To think one day we saw Rylee as her normal full-of-life self, up and running around, and then this," he said. He declined comment on the case except to say, "This charge never would have been filed if the police

weren't absolutely sure about it."

According to the Linn County Attorney's Office, Rylee was unconscious and unresponsive when she arrived at St. Luke's Hospital the morning of Dec. 23 with injuries to her head, extremities and buttocks.

A brain scan showed Rylee was suffering from a subdural hematoma and brain swelling. She was taken to emergency surgery and remained in critical condition until she died.

The injury appeared to be caused by a severe blow to the head, according to Cedar Rapids police Capt. Glen Fox. An autopsy revealed the child died of brain injuries.

Wilbur Smith, pediatric radiologist at St. Luke's, concluded that the injuries were caused by trauma not related to a normal childhood injury.

Lewis remained in the Linn County

■ Turn to 7A: **Murder**

N. Korea frees U.S. pilot

Fervent feeder



Gazette photo by L.W. Ward

Five-year-old Eli Miller throws food to the geese at Robbins Lake near Ellis Boulevard NW on Thursday afternoon. His mother, Valerie (beside him), said they feed the geese frequently.

Copter pilot looks weary but OK, radio report says

PANMUNJOM, Korea (AP) — U.S. Army helicopter pilot Bobby Hall, looking weary but OK, walked to freedom Friday, ending a 13-day crisis that threatened to plunge relations between the United States and Communist North Korea back to Cold War levels.

The South Korean Defense Ministry in Seoul said Hall crossed the border in the truce village of

■ We spy, but not that way, U.S. says, 2A
■ Photo, 3A

Panmunjom at 11:16 a.m. (8:16 p.m. Thursday CST). The Pentagon confirmed the release.

Hall, captured after his helicopter went down in North Korea Dec. 17, was released after the Clinton administration publicly expressed regret for the incident — but did not admit to spying as the North had charged.

Hall's co-pilot was killed in the downing.

Hall's family in Brookville, Fla., cheered when they got word he had been released. Tears streamed down the face of his wife, Donna, and mother, Diane.

President Clinton had called them a few hours earlier to tell them of the impending release.

Hall, 28, looked a bit tired as he crossed the border but seemed to be in good health, with no visible injuries, according to South Korean radio.

He was flown by helicopter to the U.S. military hospital in Seoul for a medical checkup and debriefing, the radio said. Harvey Peritt, a Pentagon spokesman, said Hall could be back in Florida as early as this afternoon.

U.S. and North Korean officials agreed to a written understanding saying the helicopter "accidentally strayed into North Korea," State Department spokesman Michael McCurry said in Washington on Thursday.

As its part of the deal, McCurry said, "the United States expresses sincere regret for this incident" and will work to prevent similar occurrences.

North Korea said it decided to return Hall "with magnanimity and humanitarianism" after he "admitted his crime of illegally intruding into" North Korean airspace.

For updates on this story call 363-7000 or 337-7000, category 2532.



Airman Bobby Hall
Walks to freedom

BRIEFLY

Collins Road study OK'd

The Iowa Department of Transportation has agreed to share costs with Cedar Rapids for studying improvements on Collins Road NE. Details on page 1B.

Not-so-strange bedfellows

Doris Anderson, 67, and Velda Mallie, 73, have been friends for 30 years, but sharing a hospital room for the same surgery came as a surprise. Details on page 1B.

Trial set for Iowa City man

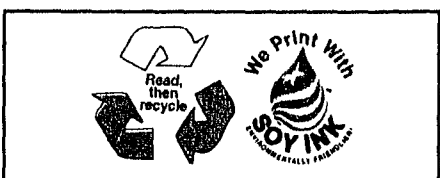
Chadwick D. Hippler of Iowa City will be tried April 17 for theft and attempting to elude an officer. Details on page 3B.

U.S. dollar goes further

The devalued Mexican peso is translating into cheaper vacations for Americans who cross the border. Details on page 4B.

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Clinton: I'll run for re-election

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Clinton declared Thursday he will seek re-election in 1996 despite the repudiation of his administration in November's elections. Complaining he hasn't gotten credit for his accomplishments, Clinton said, "There's the talkers and there's the doers."

In an Oval Office interview, Clinton also said he wants his wife, Hillary, to remain an activist in his administration despite the failure of health reform legislation that she championed.

"Ordinary voters were con-

vinced — wrongly — that we want the government to run their health care and take their choice away," Clinton said. He added, "I'm not discouraged or despondent" that health reform failed.

He said he would work with Republicans on the issue in a "more step-by-step fashion."

In light of his political troubles, Clinton was asked if there were any circumstance under which he might not seek re-election. "No," he replied without hesitation. "As long as I have my health and I'm doing a good job."

"I intend to seek re-election, but that is not uppermost in my mind," he said. His focus will be on easing the financial burdens on middle-class Americans and reforming the welfare system, he said.

"I believe with all my heart that I'm doing what's right for this country," he said. "Other people talk about problems; I try to do something about them."

With threats of a Democratic challenge for the nomination rising from the left and right, Clinton shrugged off the speculation, saying, "I don't know and I'm not worried about it."

Pork prices heading up as herds trimmed

By Marlene Lucas
Gazette rural affairs writer

Iowa's hog producers cried "uncle" under low market prices and reduced their herd sizes by 5 percent, from 15 million hogs to 14.2 million, during the past year.

That means they'll start to see higher prices for their pork.

Consumers also will see higher prices at the meat counter, although no one is predicting exactly when.

Farmers in other states, where herds increased in the past year, also began to make cutbacks the most recent quarter.

Nationwide, the hog population was 59.6 million hogs, up 3 percent from a year earlier but down 3 percent from the Sept. 1

count. (See chart for leading hog state numbers.)

Joe Arata, senior livestock analyst with Merrill Lynch Futures Inc. in New York, said pork prices may rebound to 39 cents or even 40 cents a pound in the spring quarter of 1995. But a "heap of cattle could show up" in the summer months and hold hog prices between 35 cents and 39 cents a pound.

"Pork prices have a limited influence on beef, but a large supply of beef overpowers pork prices," Arata said.

Consumers should buy hams and bacon now, Arata said, as retail prices will slowly climb to avoid the shock of higher prices next summer.

Iowans, still the top hog pro-

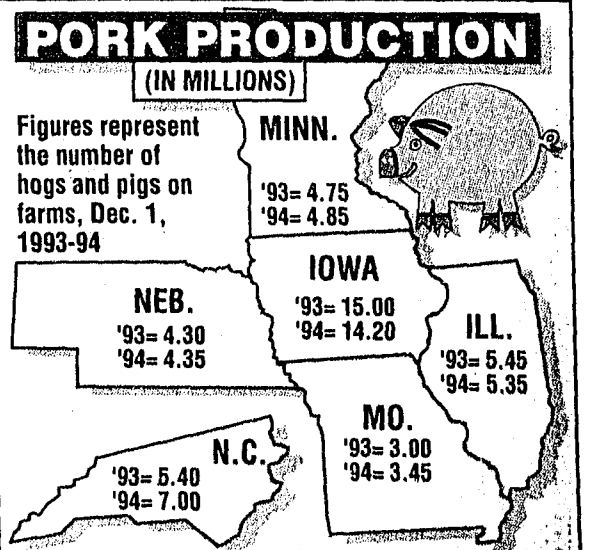
ducers in the nation, cut back their breeding sows by 18 percent — from 1.7 million on Dec. 1, 1993, to 1.4 million on Dec. 1, 1994, according to the government's December Hogs and Pigs report.

The second-largest producer, North Carolina, on the other hand, increased its total herd count to 7 million from 5.4 million. That's half of Iowa's production and a 30 percent increase.

North Carolina also boosted its breeding sow numbers by 25 percent, from 625,000 to 780,000.

At least one Iowa producer is alarmed.

"This is the first time we've ever seen a state with half the



■ Turn to 7A: **Pork**

Murder: Child previously injured when left alone with suspect, court documents say

■ From page 1A

Jail last night under \$1 million bond. His preliminary hearing was set for Jan. 6.

He had been questioned Wednesday night and was arrested early Thursday morning. He told detectives that he did not strike the child, the Linn County Attorney's Office said.

According to court documents, Gray said Lewis was upset when she told him Dec. 22 that she was moving out. Fox said Gray believed the injury to Rylee may have occurred when she left the toddler alone with Lewis for about half an hour the morning of Dec. 23.

The child had previously been injured when she was left alone with Lewis, court documents said.

Don Gray said Elise was planning to move back in with him, where she had lived for about two years before moving in with Lewis. He said he'd met Lewis a few times when Lewis had accompanied his daughter to the Central City house.

"He was pretty quiet," he said. "He didn't just start talking about himself."

He added, however, that his daughter must have been very comfortable with Lewis to move in with him soon after they met.

"Now she's absolutely devastated that someone she trusted would do this to her," he said.

Lewis' mother, Colleen Lewis of Cedar Rapids, said she doesn't believe her son did what he's been charged with. She said

she believes Rylee's death may have been caused by two falls she said the toddler took in the week prior to her death.

Colleen Lewis said that Rylee took a spill in the bathtub two days before she was taken to the hospital and that she fell out of a Portacrib and twisted her neck five days earlier.

"It has to be a combination of the two," said Colleen Lewis, noting that may explain the two fractured vertebrae revealed by X-rays and the autopsy.

Don Gray said he doesn't believe Rylee's earlier spills contributed to her death.

"Obviously, the doctors didn't think those were the cause of death," he said. "Otherwise they wouldn't have pursued it with the police."

Don Gray said his granddaughter was an outgoing, happy child who was always laughing and smiling with those around her.

"I want people to know that

this baby trusted everybody," he said. "She had no fear of anyone."

Colleen Lewis and her daughter, Lori Lewis, insisted that Lewis is not a violent person.

"He's not a physical person," said Lori Lewis. "We've never got in a fight in 19 years."

Mindi Waite, who introduced Lewis and Gray, said she doesn't think Lewis is capable of murder. She's known him for three years.

Waite said Lewis, just a friend, lived with her for about six months two summers ago, and she never saw him become violent. In fact, she said her 4-year-old son recently listed Lewis as one of his two favorite people as part of a preschool activity.

Colleen Lewis said her son was alone with Rylee the morning of Dec. 23 long enough for Gray to go to the store for a gallon of milk and make a phone call. When Gray got

home, she made breakfast and asked him to go up to her bedroom and get Rylee.

That's when he found Rylee already comatose in her bed, Colleen Lewis said.

Lewis is unemployed, according to Waite. He was going to move in with some friends. The lease for the apartment Gray and Lewis were sharing is up Saturday, according to Colleen Lewis.

Elise was not working because she wanted to spend all her time with Rylee, Don Gray said.

"It used to bother me that Elise would start a job and not stick with it for very long," he said. "In retrospect, I'm glad she got to spend so much time with Rylee."

He said investigators told him that Elise, who is staying with friends, was never a suspect.

"For Elise, the way to stop Rylee from misbehaving was to tell her she had to sit still in a chair for a couple of minutes," he said. "She was never physi-

cal with her."

A check of court records showed Lewis has a prior record in both Linn and Jones counties. He is on probation for a third-degree theft charge from Jones County. He pleaded guilty July 22 to breaking into 10 to 15 vehicles in the Monticello area and taking items valued at under \$1,000. He had all but 10 days of his 60-day sentence suspended, and he was placed on probation for a year.

His probation officer, Mike Skaggs, said Lewis "hadn't been in for a while. He's been on the lam."

Lewis occasionally failed to keep appointments with him, Skaggs said. The Department of Correctional Services filed a report of a probation violation Nov. 3 and a warrant was issued Nov. 18, Skaggs said.

In Linn County, charges against Lewis included driving while barred and a few other traffic violations.

Buck: Hunter insists kill legal

■ From page 1A

Richard McGeough, DNR law enforcement bureau chief, said DNA testing at an Oregon laboratory cast doubt on Portwood's story. McGeough said the tests showed that hide from the seized head and hide which Portwood said came from the rest of the deer did not in fact come from the same animal.

McGeough also said Portwood had not been straightforward in his account of how the deer was shot and handled.

"People start telling you, 'Here's the hide from the animal,' and it's not true," said McGeough. "It makes you start asking questions."

Portwood disputes McGeough's interpretation of the laboratory test results. "All the tests came back negative," he said. "Lab tests show that there was no finding of any lead or powder deposits. They found two rectangular holes which came from the broad head of an arrow. DNA testing showed that the main deer hide matched the head. Their own tests are going to prove it's legal."

Portwood, 36, has been bow hunting seriously for 16 years. "When they took my deer head,

I cooperated 100 percent with those folks," he said. "I gave them the head, hide and legs and told them where the meat was at."

Portwood said he and his attorney, Patricia Kamath of Iowa City, "had to force them to charge me so we could get them into court. They waited four days less than a year after the seizure before filing their charges."

Portwood said he shot the trophy buck twice. "My first shot hit it high in the neck. It went down then got back up, so I put a second arrow in it, and the deer ran off."

Portwood said he did not immediately pursue the wounded deer because he didn't want to push him into a panic flight. He later tracked the deer by following a blood trail and found it about 60 yards from where he shot it.

Portwood said he thought the deer was a 20-pointer when he shot him. "It was unbelievable when I started counting the points."

McGeough said the vigorous DNR investigation is fully justified. "It would be a travesty to the record-holding hunters to have their records bumped down by someone who did not take the deer legally," he said.

Pork

■ From page 1A

hogs we have," said Mike Telford, executive director of Iowa Pork Producers Association. "We have to look at the long-term trends. We definitely may lose our lead in the hog industry."

Mike "Boomer" Downs, an independent trader in live hog futures in Chicago, said all hog producers were hurt when market prices hit 28 cents per pound earlier this month.

But the corporate pork factories continued to expand because "they don't run except at full capacity. They run on borrowed money, and they've got to use it when they have it."

"In Iowa, the small guys are using their own money." When the prices dipped, "they packed it up and quit."

Downs predicted higher pork prices on the futures market today and told pork producers "all is forgiven. Go ahead and expand. I recommend people take advantage of rallies and hedge in the summer months."

After-Christmas markdowns

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Keep track of your days

The Mini Page
 by Betty Debnam

Appearing in The Gazette
Monday, January 2.

from The Mini Page by Betty Debnam
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We're throwing the biggest New Year's Eve party...

all over town

A BURST OF CELEBRATION

Mays Island
6:00 p.m.

A beautiful display of colorful fireworks will signal the kickoff of our Firststar Eve celebrations. The display will be shot off from the center of things... Downtown on Mays Island. The color and clamor will be noted from miles around.

Downtown Family Entertainment

All Aboard

Firststar Bank - Parking Lot
222 Second Avenue SE
6:00 p.m. - 10:30 p.m.

All aboard... for a trolley or horse pulled wagon ride tour around downtown Cedar Rapids. We'll be making trolley stops at all Firststar Eve downtown celebrations. Take a trolley ride and join in as we sing holiday carols. Or if you prefer to brave the elements, the real treat is a wagon ride lead by beautiful Clydesdale horses.

Kids Kick

Firststar Bank Downtown Office
222 Second Avenue SE
6:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.

The hub for all Firststar Eve festivities, our Downtown Lobby will offer a kick for kids of all ages. Join the fun of carnival games, magic and caricature drawings. Disabled accessible.

FAMILY IN THE ARTS

Cedar Rapids Museum of Art
410 Third Avenue SE
6:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.

Children's hands-on art, a dance from 7:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. for middle school teens, Jazz in the Winter Garden and open art galleries make-up a wonderful family-oriented evening at the Cedar Rapids Museum of Art. Disabled accessible. Site Sponsor - Q103

Puttin' on the Ritz

Witwer Senior Center
304 Second Avenue SE
6:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.

Take a trip down memory lane, as we will spend our evening dancing to the tunes of the Don Miller Band. An event for those who love the "Big Band" era. Light refreshments will be served. Disabled accessible. Site Sponsor - KMRY

FAMILY FUN NIGHT

Central YMCA
First Avenue and Fifth Street NE
6:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.

Visit the YMCA for an evening of family activities including: swimming, New Games, contests, and a family fitness circuit. Adult co-ed volleyball will also be offered, for which you need to preregister as an individual or as a team of six. Preregistration for all YMCA Firststar Eve activities is required. Simply call 366-6421 by Tues., Dec. 27.

Station Break

The Science Station
427 First Street SE
6:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.

Hey Kids! Here's an opportunity for you to try your luck at weather casting in the station's recreated studio. We'll even take care of the video taping. There will also be a special hologram display, a station wide treasure hunt and the hands-on exhibits will be open. Disabled accessible. Site Sponsor - KGAN

Neighborhood Events

Center of Celebration

Marion YMCA
31st Street and
10th Avenue, Marion
6:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.

A total family celebration... splash around in the pool, teens can participate in a special dance from 8:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. and everyone is invited to try a game or two in the game room and get their faces painted. Join us at the Marion YMCA, the center of New Year's Eve celebrating. Site Sponsor - Marion Times

December Splash

Bender Pool
940 14th Avenue SE
6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

You don't have to wait until summer to enjoy an invigorating swim. Bring your family to Bender Pool. This truly will be a family swim. Baby pool available. Disabled accessible.

Western Family Fest

Ellis Community Center
Boys & Girls Club
1501 Ellis Boulevard NW
6:00 p.m. - Midnight

Put on your dancing boots and join us for an evening of Country and Western line dancing. We've added plenty of activities for the kids, so you can relax and enjoy the evening. Beginning dancers welcome. For kids there will be family swimming, a play room for tots, movies and a game room.

6:00 p.m. - Midnight - For the Kids
 Play Room, Movies, Game Room
 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. - Family Swim
 8:30 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. - Kids Only Swim (ages 6-18)
 8:00 p.m. - Midnight - Line Dancing
 Site Sponsor - KHAK AM/FM

Ticket Information

For your convenience, tickets will be on sale at the door of each Firststar Eve site. Simply purchase a ticket and you will be eligible to attend as many Firststar Eve celebrations as you wish.

Ticket Prices

Adults - All Events Ticket \$2 (tax included)
Children 12 and under Free

FIRSTSTAR

BANK CEDAR RAPIDS

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222 Second Avenue SE

Council St. Office
5321 Council St. NE

Vernon Village Office
3401 Mt. Vernon Road SE

Westdale Office
2350 Edgewood Rd. SW

Marion Office
895 31st Street, Marion

Amana Office
Amana, Iowa