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AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER IN IOWA'S TECHNOLOGY CORRIDOR

50 CENTS

WAR IN IRAQ

Al-Qaida group claims kidnapping

Deadly attack Saturday
left 3 U.S. soldiers missing

BAGHDAD (AP) — An al-Qaida front group announced Sunday it had captured American soldiers in a deadly attack the day before, as thousands of U.S. troops searched insurgent areas south of Baghdad for their three missing comrades.

The statement came on one of the deadliest days in the country in recent weeks, with at least 126

people killed or found dead — including two American soldiers who died in separate bombings. A suicide truck bomb tore through the offices of a Kurdish political party in northern Iraq, killing 50 people, and a car bombing in a crowded Baghdad market killed another 17.

Troops surrounded the town of Youssifiyah and told residents over loudspeakers to stay inside, residents said. They then methodically searched the houses, focusing on possible secret chambers under the

floors where the soldiers might be hidden, residents said. The soldiers marked each searched house with a white piece of cloth.

Soldiers also searched cars entering and leaving the town, writing "searched" on the side of each vehicle they had inspected. Several people were arrested, witnesses said.

The Islamic State in Iraq offered no proof for its claim that it was behind the attack Saturday in Mahmoudiya that also killed four U.S.

soldiers and an Iraqi translator. But the Sunni area known as the "triangle of death" is a longtime al-Qaida stronghold.

If the claim proves true, it would mark one of the most brazen attacks by the umbrella Sunni insurgent group against U.S. forces here.

Maj. Gen. William Caldwell, spokesman for the U.S. military, said 4,000 U.S. troops backed by

aircraft and intelligence units were scouring the farming area as the military made "every effort available to find our missing soldiers."

President Bush was getting regular updates on the missing soldiers, said Gordon Johndroe, a spokesman for the White House's National Security Council in Washington.

The early morning attack on two U.S. military vehicles outside of Mahmoudiya, about 20 miles south

► IRAQ, PAGE 6A

POSTAL RATES:

GOING UP

The price of a standard first-class stamp rises 2 cents today, to 41 cents.

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The new "Forever" stamps sell for 41 cents and can be used any time, regardless of future rate increases. Or add a 2-cent stamp to an old 39-cent one.

■ For details, including new rates for other types of mail, see www.usps.com/prices/

■ Rate increase worries rural Alaskans, 8A

■ Letter carriers collect food for the hungry, 4B

PTAs keep recruiting to remain strong

CEDAR RAPIDS — We did it.

Months of brainstorming, spreadsheets and solicitations came to fruition April 27 with Pierce Elementary's Fun Fest, the school parent-teacher association's annual carnival and fundraiser.

The event at the Cedar Rapids school went off without a hitch. Buoyed by near-ideal weather and a strong legacy, Fun Fest drew hundreds while raising funds for Pierce's PTA.

Yet it nearly didn't happen. The reasons are numerous, as they are with PTAs throughout the Corridor facing challenges that range from socioeconomic factors and competition for resources, to

► PTA, PAGE 6A

FIRST PERSON



Richard Pratt
The Gazette

Dyersville plant building barracks for Army base

By George C. Ford

THE GAZETTE
DYERSVILLE — The assembly line at All American Homes off Highway 20 in this northeast Iowa community is usually cranking out modular homes this time of year.

That changed in mid-March when the plant started building barracks modules to house U.S. Army personnel at Fort Bliss in El Paso, Texas.

Each two-story barracks unit is essentially a two-bedroom apartment, with bathroom, kitchen, vanity, walk-in closets and central air and heat.

The Dyersville factory

and a Fleetwood Homes plant in Belton, Texas, are manufacturing 256 units to house 512 soldiers under an \$11.5 million contract with the Army.

All American, a division of Coachmen Industries of Elkhart, Ind.,

is working with The Warrior Group of DeSoto, Texas, which has a contract with Hensel Phelps Construction Co. of Greeley, Colo., gener-



Dan Stetzer
All American Homes



Two soldiers will occupy each of the units being built in Dyersville. Each will have his or her own bedroom and walk-in closet, and they will share the kitchen and bathroom.

al contractor for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

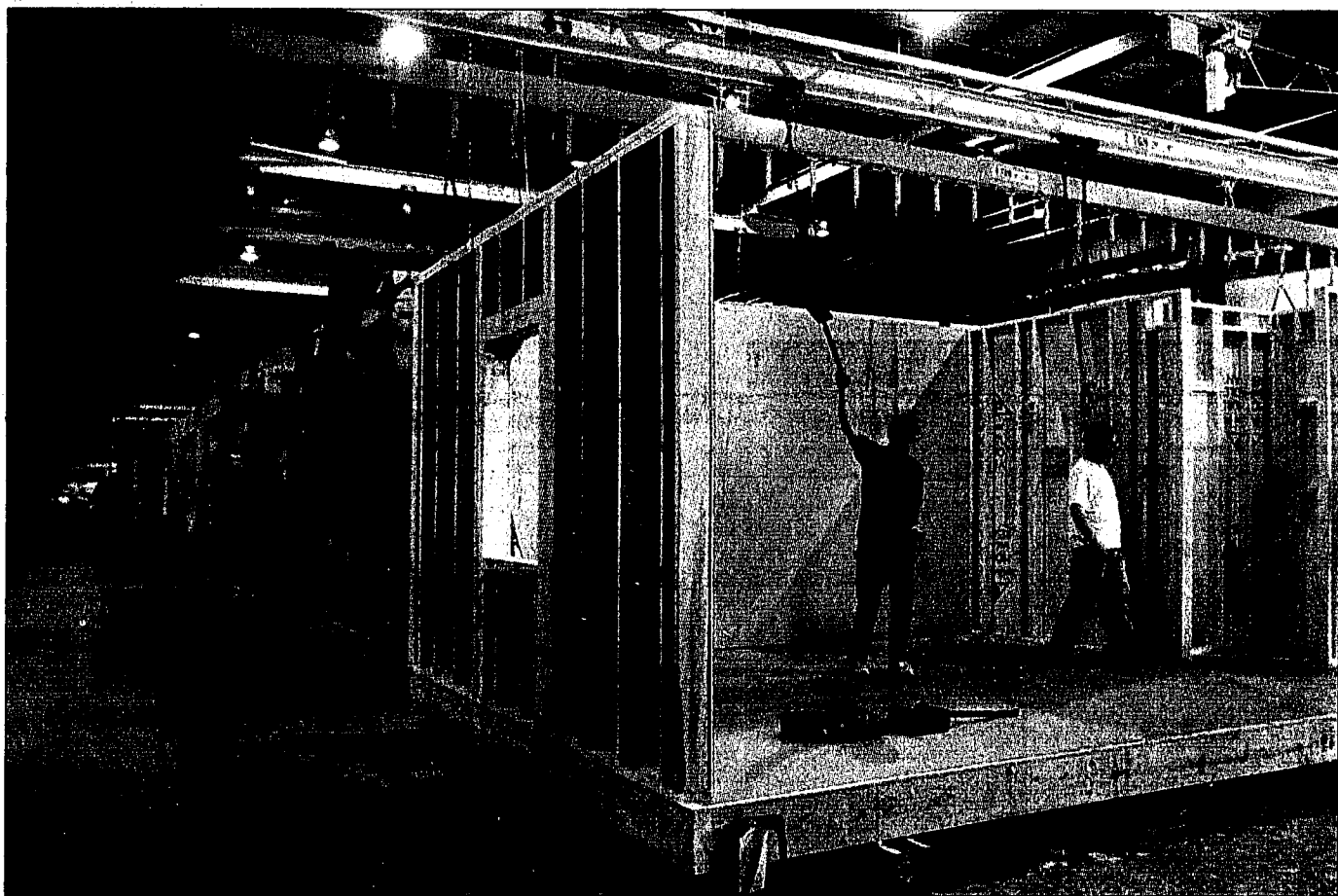
Dan Stetzer, assistant general manager of All American Homes in Dyers-

ville, said convoys of 24 semi-trailer trucks loaded with barracks modules have left the Eastern Iowa

► BARRACKS, PAGE 6A

MANUFACTURING

Home away from home



Duane Crock photos/The Gazette

Military barracks apartment units like this are being constructed at All American Homes in Dyersville for shipment to Fort Bliss in El Paso, Texas. The project, called Homes for Heroes, must be finished in 2 1/2 months, with the company completing an average of five units per day.

PUBLIC SAFETY

C.R. man slain, say police

Dennis First's body found Friday in home

By Adam Belz

The Gazette

CEDAR RAPIDS — Someone killed the man whose body was found Friday morning at Hawthorne Hills Apartments, police said.

An autopsy Saturday showed that Dennis L. First, 64, of 2249 C St. SW, No. 5, died from loss of blood, Cedar Rapids Police Lt. Kenneth Washburn said in a press release. He did not describe First's injuries but said the death was ruled a homicide.

At least one officer has been posted at the top of the stairs to the efficiency apartment since Friday morning, neighbors said.

First was lying face up on the bed, his feet on the floor, when Robert Gross, a maintenance employee at the apartments, walked in around 7:30 a.m. Friday.

Tammy Mims, assistant manager at the apartments, said a friend of First's had called and asked her to check on him. First lived on Social Security and didn't have a lot of visitors, she said, and had prostate cancer.

She sent Gross to his apartment. He knocked several times on the door. When no one answered, he went in.

"I saw him lying there and I just walked in about five steps and looked at his

► FIRST, PAGE 6A



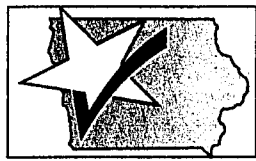
Cliff Jette/The Gazette

Police said a southwest Cedar Rapids man, whose body was found in his home at Hawthorne Hills Apartments, was killed. Dennis First's body was found Friday and an autopsy was conducted over the weekend.

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TODAY'S
WEATHER



Sunny, late storms

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AP

A Chilean youth reacts at the arrival of Pope Benedict XVI for the opening mass of the V General Conference of Latin American Bishops in Aparecida, Brazil, on Sunday.

Pope blames capitalism, Marxism for Latin problems

APARECIDA, Brazil (AP) — Pope Benedict XVI blamed both Marxism and unbridled capitalism for Latin America's problems on Sunday, urging bishops to mold a new generation of Roman Catholic leaders in politics to reverse the church's declining influence in the region.

Ending a five-day trip to the most populous Catholic nation in the world, Benedict also warned that legalized contraception and abortion in Latin America threaten "the future of the peoples" and said the historic Catholic identity of the region is under assault.

Like his predecessor Pope John Paul II, Benedict criticized capitalism's negative effects as well as the Marxist influences that have motivated some grass-roots Catholic

activists.

"The Marxist system, where it found its way into government, not only left a sad heritage of economic and ecological destruction, but also a painful destruction of the human spirit," he said in his opening address at a two-week bishops' conference in Brazil's holiest shrine city aimed at re-energizing the church's influence in Latin America.

He also warned of unfettered capitalism and globalization, blamed by many in Latin America for a deep divide between the rich and poor. The pope said it could give "rise to a worrying degradation of personal dignity through drugs, alcohol and deceptive illusions of happiness."

Bird migration patterns shift

May reflect effects of climate change

BONN, Germany (AP) — Disoriented by erratic weather, birds are changing migration habits and routes to adjust to warmer winters, disappearing feeding grounds and shrinking wetlands, a migration expert says.

Failure to adapt risks extinction. Birds face starvation when they arrive too early or too late to find their normal diet of insects, plankton or fish. In the north, some birds have stopped migrating altogether, leaving them at risk when the next cold winter strikes.

"Species that adapted to changes over millennia are now being asked to make those adaptations extremely quickly because of the swift rise in temperatures," said Robert Hepworth, executive secretary of the Convention on Migratory Species, a treaty

under the auspices of the U.N. Environment Program.

"We don't know how many will survive. We will lose species," he said in an interview Saturday on the sidelines of an international climate change conference in Bonn, Germany.

This weekend, bird watchers and conservationists in dozens of countries marked World Migratory Bird Day with concerts, films and children's drawing contests to attract attention to the rising threat of global warming.

Climate change adds another threat to bird life already under pressure from human intrusions like coastline development.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change — a body of some 2,500 scientists — has warned in a series of reports this year that high emissions of greenhouse gases are likely to raise the Earth's average temperatures by at least 3.6 degrees.

First/Details coming today

► FROM PAGE 1A

stomach to see if it was moving," Gross said.

It was not, and a dried trail of blood ran down his cheek from his mouth to the bed.

"I said, 'He's dead! He's dead!'" Gross said.

Gross, who's worked at the apartment complex for eight years, said First was a friendly man. He said hello to people and fed birds and squirrels. He caused no trouble.

Curtis Padgett, a neighbor, said he sometimes rolled cigarettes for First and last saw him Wednesday night.

"I was going to go knock on his door (Friday morning)," Padgett said. "When I came out, they were carrying him away in a body bag."

Another neighbor, Mark Stender, said he briefly visited First at noon Thursday to check on him.

"He was fine," Stender said. "And then all of the sudden they tell me he's dead."

First and ex-wife Christine Burmeister had two children. His son, Brad, was killed in an auto accident in 1993. First's daughter, Laura Schroeder, lives in Lowden and declined to comment.

Police said more information will be released at a press conference today.

No services will be held. (Obituary, 6B)

The last reported homicide in Cedar Rapids was the killing of 24-year-old Robert Nel-

PTA/Fundraising events aid schools

► FROM PAGE 1A

shortages of leaders and volunteers.

"It really comes down to the parent base — how involved the parents are," Tammy Koolbeck, president of the City PTA in Cedar Rapids, said.

The PTAs are important because they provide key support to their schools. A recent project at Pierce, completed over several years, has equipped every teacher with a wireless microphone system for his or her classroom. Classroom air conditioners, TV monitors, playground equipment and computers all have been purchased with PTA funds. And the school's outdoor walking track will be improved and paved this fall — again, a PTA-funded project.

But even successful PTAs are led, at most, by a few dozen volunteers, and recruiting PTA officers and committee chairs can be a substantial challenge.

"Time is so valuable for

parents today, it's hard to find people for some of the leadership roles," Koolbeck said.

Patti Benson, co-president of the Iowa City schools' District-Wide Parents Organization and president of the Parent-Teacher Organization



Patti Benson
I.C. group

at Horn Elementary in Iowa City, said one of the keys to PTO recruitment in the Iowa City district is getting parents excited when their children enter the district.

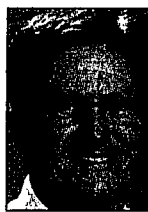
The Iowa City district includes Coralville, North Liberty and Hills. Kindergarten orientation includes a pep talk about joining the district's parent-teacher organization, Benson said.

Still, no perfect ways exist for recruiting support, she said.

In Cedar Rapids, the City PTA works with Gregg Peter-



Tammy Koolbeck
C.R. group



Gregg Petersen
C.R. schools

sen, the district's executive director for elementary education. Working as a liaison between the district and the City PTA, Petersen offers support, encouragement and programming assistance for PTA activities. He even facilitates leadership seminars for PTA officers as needed.

"We do what we can to provide effective leadership," Petersen said. "It's always working together, saying 'We value you, PTA.'"

But pulling off a larger-scale event still takes commitment.

My wife, Tracy, and I, teaming with a handful of

other core volunteers, decided to help lead Fun Fest, one of the school's largest annual events, after word went out that the event might be called off. Coordinators who previously led the charge were stepping aside and, without replacements, Fun Fest likely was to become a memory.

Even though we'd never been to Fun Fest before — our oldest son is just a kindergartner this year — the possibility of losing a school tradition seemed unfortunate. And we didn't want our kids to miss out. So last fall, we stepped into the void.

"Our main goal is the active involvement of parents in the PTA's mission — advocacy for students," Petersen said. "It's the active engagement of parents in the life of a school. Fundraising is helpful, of course, but we don't want PTA workers to think that's their primary role."

It's not. We can have some fun, too.

■ Contact the writer: (319) 368-8975 or richard.pratt@gazettecommunications.com

Iraq/Claim is unverified

► FROM PAGE 1A

of Baghdad, left the bodies of the four U.S. soldiers and their translator badly burned.

Caldwell said the bodies of the interpreter and three of the slain soldiers had been identified, but the military was still working to identify the fifth.

Later Sunday, the Islamic State of Iraq posted a brief message on a militant Web site saying it was responsible for the attack and held an unspecified number of U.S. soldiers. The group promised more details later.

The Islamic State is a coalition of eight insurgent groups. Late last month, it named a 10-member "Cabinet" complete with a "war minister," an apparent attempt to present the Sunni coalition as an alternative to the U.S.-backed, Shiite-led administration of Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki.

U.S. military officials said they had no indication of who was behind Saturday's attack.

"It's difficult to verify anything that al-Qaida in Iraq would say because they lie," said Lt. Col. Christopher Garver, a military spokesman. However, "it would not surprise us if it were al-Qaida behind this, because we've seen this type of attack, this type of tactic, before."

Insurgents also launched attacks across the country Sunday, with a suicide bomber in northern Iraq slamming a truck into local offices of the Kurdistan Democratic Party, which is headed by Massoud Barzani, leader of the autonomous Kurdish region in northern Iraq.

Fatalities mount

At least 124 people were killed or found dead nationwide on Sunday — the same day an al-Qaida front group announced it had captured U.S. soldiers from Saturday's deadly attack in Mahmudiya.



Makhmur
A suicide truck slammed into the offices of the Kurdistan Democratic Party, killing at least 50 people, including the mayor.

Baghdad
A car exploded near Sadriyah market, killing at least 17 people.

Youssifiyah
U.S. troops conduct a massive search for three missing soldiers, marking houses and cars after being investigated.

SOURCE: ESRI

AP

Cars were charred and crushed by the blast in Makhmur, a town with a substantial Kurdish population just south of the autonomous Kurdish-controlled areas.

At least 50 people were killed and 115 wounded, including the city's mayor, said the health minister of the Kurdish regional government.

In Baghdad, meanwhile, a parked car exploded near the popular Sadriyah market in the center of the city, killing at least 17 people and wounding 46, police said.

The U.S. soldiers who died Sunday were killed in bombings in Anbar and Salahuddin provinces, the military said.

Barracks/Extra workers required

► FROM PAGE 1A

plant the last three weeks bound for Fort Bliss. A fourth convoy will leave today, with deliveries scheduled through the second week of July.

"We have had to balance our production where we intermingle our traditional single-family homes with the Fort Bliss project," Stetzer said.

"We build ahead a little bit on the barracks modules and then we put some traditional homes on the assembly line. We work right to the nub trying to make those barracks delivery dates while keeping up maximum production."

Stetzer said the barracks project has been a "godsend" in a slow housing market for the 200 employees at the Dyersville plant.

"We have just about tripled our production in the last six weeks," he said. "We've exhausted the local unemployed and we're starting to dip into people who are working for other area companies to meet our staffing needs."

Stetzer said 20 people from an All American Homes plant in Miliken, Colo., have been living and working in Dyersville to help meet production schedules, and a group from a plant in Decatur, Ind., worked on the production line several weeks ago.

Once the barracks units ar-

"We've exhausted the local unemployed and we're starting to dip into people who are working for other area companies to meet our staffing needs."

Dan Stetzer

All American Homes

rive at Fort Bliss, they need to be inspected before installation. That usually takes about 72 hours.

"When we get them there on Wednesday night or Thursday morning, they start setting them up the following Monday," Stetzer said. "They set them up at a rate of eight boxes per day."

Coachmen Industries, which operates five modular home manufacturing plants, is bidding on additional barracks projects for Army bases in Colorado and along the East Coast.

"It's a new product for us, something we've never done at this plant before," said Stetzer, who served in the Army from 1986 to 1989. "We're really proud to be able to build these for our soldiers."

■ Contact the writer: (319) 398-8366 or george.ford@gazettecommunications.com

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CEDAR RAPIDS

Richard F. Nazette, Services: 11 a.m. Tuesday, Westminster Presbyterian Church, Cedar Rapids, with Masonic rites. The Rev. Herbert Isenberg will officiate. Burial: Cedar Memorial Park Cemetery. Friends may call from 5 to 8 p.m. today at Cedar Memorial Funeral Home, Cedar Rapids. The casket will be closed Tuesday at the church. Memorial donations may be made to the Shriner Crippled Children's Hospital in Dick's name.

Shirley Snell Hazelbaker, Services: 1 p.m. today, Cedar Memorial Chapel of Memories, Cedar Rapids. The Rev. Lloyd Brockmeyer will officiate. Inurnment: Arlington National Cemetery. A memorial fund has been established in Shirley's name.

Willie "Bill" C. Stamp, 95, of 3131 F Ave. NW, Cedar Rapids, died Sunday, May 13, 2007, in West Ridge Care Center, following a long illness. Arrangements are pending with Teahen Funeral Home, Cedar Rapids.

Birdella Lee Linkenback, 85, of Cedar Rapids, died Saturday, May 12, 2007, in her home ending her earthly battle with cancer. Services: 1 p.m. Tuesday at Calvary Baptist Church. Burial: Cedar Memorial Park Cemetery. Friends may call at Cedar Memorial Funeral Home today from 4 to 7 p.m. Phil Waters will officiate.

Survivors include her husband, Albert; a son, Ron (Jan) of Springfield, Ill.; a daughter, Sharyn (Phil) Waters of Lake-wood, Calif.; four grandchildren, Laura Linkenback Turner, Phil Linkenback, Amy Waters and Amanda Waters; two great-grandchildren, Molly and Reid Turner; and a sister, Lorene Miskimen, and brother, Forrest Parker, both of Cedar Rapids.

She was preceded in death by her parents and a brother, Harvey Kenneth Parker.

Birdella Parker Linkenback was born Jan. 31, 1922, in Jonesburg, Mo. Her family settled in Cedar Rapids when she was 7. Birdella grew up, was saved and baptized, met and married her soldier, Albert, and raised her family at Calvary Baptist Church. She had many good years working for Northwestern Bell Telephone Co. and in the Linn County Auditor's Office.

Cedar Rapids has taken good care of Birdella, from her favorite nurses, doctors, pharmacists, waitresses, neighbors, friends and family. A heartfelt thanks to Hospice of Mercy, Kevin, and to Dr. Squires for loving her.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Hospice of Mercy.

Dennis Lee First, 64, of Cedar Rapids, died Friday, May 11, 2007, in his home. Arrangements are being made through Fry Funeral Home, Tipton.

He was born Sept. 11, 1942, the son of Millard and Elvera (Juehring) First. On June 17, 1962, Dennis and Christine Griffin were united in marriage until they divorced in 1981. Together they had two children, Brad and Laura.

Survivors include his daughter, Laura and husband, Devin Schroeder and their two children, MacKenzie and Mitchell; grandchildren, Jacob First, Ross First and Jessica First; two great-granddaughters; and his ex-wife, Christine (Ken) Burmeister.

He was preceded in death by his son, Brad in 1993; his parents; and an infant sister.

At dad's request no services will be held.

Those of you who knew him over the years have your own memories of him. Embrace those memories as you mourn his death. Dad's ashes will be laid to rest in a place that meant the most to him.

Although there were many obstacles over the years keeping us apart, a father's love for his daughter and a daughter's love for her father never falters. May you now be in peace, dad.

Online condolences may be expressed at www.fryfuneralhome.com

Should friends so desire, expressions of sympathy make take the form of memorials made to the Dennis First Memorial, in care of Fry Funeral Home, P.O. Box 30, Tipton, IA 52772.

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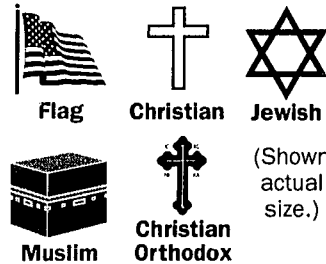
ARLINGTON — James R. Crawford
CEDAR RAPIDS — Dennis Lee First, Shirley Snell Hazelbaker, Birdella Lee Linkenback, Richard F. Nazette, Willie "Bill" C. Stamp
DECORAH — Ellen Jordahl
ELY — Verne Harry Upmier
GARRISON — Betty J. Trimble
IOWA CITY — Richard Buttolph, Mary Bell Glick, Janann (Jan) Stark
KEYSTONE — Wallace "Wally" Reinberg
MORLEY — Frances I. Hansen
NORTH LIBERTY — Earl M. Stimmel
STANWOOD — Leland E. Wagner
SUMNER — Leslie Fred Gloede
TAMA — John F. Roberts
TIPTON — C. June Kingsbury
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Emblems

Emblems to accentuate the deceased's involvement in various organizations are available at \$10 each. Up to three symbols may be used per obituary. Some examples are shown. Also available are emblems for other organizations and fraternal groups.



ARLINGTON

James R. Crawford, 63, of Arlington, died Sunday, May 13, 2007, in Mercy Living Plus, Oelwein, following a brief illness. Services: 11 a.m. Wednesday, St. John Lutheran Church, Arlington, with the Rev. Paul Fohs officiating. Interment: Taylorville Cemetery, Arlington. Friends may call from 9 to 11 a.m. Wednesday at the church. Jamison-Schmitz Funeral Home, Arlington, is assisting the family.

Survivors include his wife Delores Crawford of Arlington; a daughter, Tanya Maness of Arlington; a brother, Paul Crawford of Arlington; and two sisters, Joyce Baumgartner of St. Olaf, and Linda Meyer of Elkader.



DECORAH

Ellen Jordahl, 91, of Decorah, died Sunday, May 13, 2007, in the Winneshiek Medical Center, Decorah, following a lingering illness. Arrangements are pending with the Schluter-Balik Funeral Home, Decorah.

STANWOOD

Leland E. Wagner, 72, of Stanwood, died Saturday, May 12, 2007, in his home following a sudden illness. Services: 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, Stanwood Union Church by Pastor Phil Leipold. Burial: Stanwood Cemetery. Friends may call from 3 to 8 p.m. Tuesday at Chapman Funeral Home, Clarence.

Survivors include his wife, Joyce; a daughter, Brenda (Ron) Thole of Ashton; sons, Randy (Lauralea) of California City, Calif., and Danny (Aimee) of Tipton; nine grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; and sisters, Leora (Richard) Tenley of Mechanicsville, Norma (Richard) Luckstead of Olin, and Violet Brinkman of Missouri.

He was preceded in death by his parents; and brother, Richard.

Leland was born July 1, 1934, in Coon Rapids, Iowa, the son of Albert and Dorothy Heron Wagner. He married Joyce Tenley on July 1, 1957, in Tipton.

Leland served in the Marines from 1954 to 1958. From 1958 to 1967, he worked as a hired hand at various farms in the Stanwood, Mechanicsville and Onslow areas. From 1967 to 1996, he worked for Moormans Feed. Leland enjoyed gardening, the Iowa Hawkeyes, fudge, bus trips and especially his family.

IOWA CITY

Mary Bell Glick, 97, of Oaknoll Retirement Residence, Iowa City, died there Jan. 20, 2007. Services: 2 p.m. Saturday, Unitarian Universalist Society of Iowa City. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations can be made in Mary Bell's memory to Project Green of Iowa City or the Unitarian Universalist Society of Iowa City.

Online condolences may be sent for her family through the web at www.gayandciha.com

Richard Buttolph, 53, of Iowa City, died Sunday, May 13, 2007, in University Hospitals, Iowa City. Arrangements are pending with Fry Funeral Home, Tipton.

Janann (Jan) Stark, died Friday, May 11, 2007. She was born July 7, 1948, to Herald I. Stark and Annis O. Stark in Iowa City. She graduated from Iowa City High School in 1966 and the University of Texas at San Antonio in 1981.

During her life she worked for Eble Music Co. in Iowa City, and Southern Music Co., in Publications in San Antonio, Texas. She also was a companion and caregiver for Martha Ellen Tye for a five-year period.

For the last 10 years, she cared for her mother before they returned to Iowa City following a 30-year absence.

Private services will be held at a later date. The body will be cremated and ashes scattered in the Rocky Mountains.

Jan was preceded in death by her father.

She is survived by her mother, Annis O. Stark; her brother, Philip "Pete" Stark and his wife, Chris, and son, Jonathon, all of Denver, Colo.; her sister, Linda MacTaggart and her husband, Phil, and Linda's sons, Alex Steinberg of Orland Park, Ill., and Cory Steinberg and his wife, Janelle, of Tustin, Calif.

On-line condolences may be directed to www.lensingfuneral.com

ELY

Verne Harry Upmier, 89, of Ely, died Friday, May 11, 2007, in the Solon Care Center. Funeral Mass: 2 p.m. Tuesday, St. Mary's Catholic Church. Friends may call from 5 to 8 p.m. today at Brosh Chapel, Solon, where there will be a 6:30 p.m. vigil. Friends may also call one hour prior to services Tuesday at the church.

GARRISON

Betty J. Trimble, 72, of Garrison, died Saturday, May 12, 2007, in St. Luke's Hospital, Cedar Rapids, following an extended illness. Services: 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Garrison, with the Rev. Mark Leckband officiating. Interment: Evergreen Cemetery, Vinton. Friends may call from 4 to 7 p.m. Tuesday at Phillips Funeral Home Chapel, Vinton.

She is survived by her husband, Marvin Trimble Sr. of Garrison; her children, Roxa (Art) Cummings of Spirit Lake, Krystal (Lenny) Geiger of Vinton, and Marvin Jr. (Michelle) of Garrison; her mother, Beulah Dake of Vinton; her daughter-in-law, Toni Trimble Clay of Sperry, Okla.; nine grandchildren; 15 great-grandchildren; and her sisters, Pat Turner of Punta Gorda, Fla., and Barbara Christensen Dake of Vinton.

She was preceded in death by her father, Donald Dake; and her son, Jack Trimble.

Betty was born Jan. 21, 1935, to Donald and Beulah (Kizer) Dake and attended Garrison High School. On Nov. 16, 1957, she married Marvin Trimble in Morrison, Ill., and the couple made their home and raised their family in Garrison.

Betty served as cook and activity director at the Benton County Care Facility for 19 years and retired in 1990. Betty was a member of St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Garrison. As an active member of her community, she founded the Garrison Youth Recreation Organization, the Summer Recreation Program, and the Share Program in Garrison. Betty served as president of the Garrison Betterment Committee and co-founded Kozy Kountry Senior Housing.

Betty loved her family and helping others. She enjoyed cooking and fishing.

A memorial fund has been established.

KEYSTONE

Wallace "Wally" Reinberg, 77, of Keystone, died Sunday, May 13, 2007, in the Vinton Lutheran Home. Arrangements are pending with Phillips Funeral Home, Keystone.

MORLEY

Frances I. Hansen, 91, of rural Morley, died Saturday, May 12, 2007, in St. Luke's Hospital, Cedar Rapids. A celebration of her life will be held at 11 a.m. Wednesday at Lahey Funeral Home, Olin, with Pastor Pat Slater officiating. Burial: Rose Hill Cemetery, Mechanicsville. Family and friends may call from 5 to 7 p.m. Tuesday at the funeral home and one hour prior to services Wednesday.

She is survived by two daughters, Betty Austin, of Streator, Ill., and Shirley (Jerry) Reinert of Cedar Rapids; a son, Glenn "Chuck" (Geraldyn) Hansen of Anamosa; 12 grandchildren; 38 great-grandchildren; eight great-great-grandchildren; and a sister, Gwen Bulger of Mechanicsville.

She was preceded in death by her husband; a daughter, Patricia; a son, Robert; one grandson; her parents; and three brothers.

Frances I. Kamerling was born on Sept. 25, 1915, in Cedar County, Iowa, daughter of Glen and Mary (Bloom) Kamerling. She attended Coon Creek Country School and graduated from Lisbon High School.

She married Gifford John Hansen on June 4, 1932, in Vinton, Iowa. He died on Sept. 1, 1992.

She was a homemaker and worked with her husband on their farm. She was a former member of the You Go I Go Club in Morley.

Memorials may be given to the Morley First Responders.

Online condolences may be left for the family at www.laheys.com

NORTH LIBERTY

Earl M. Stimmel, 87, of 1820 Curtis Bridge Rd., North Liberty, died Saturday, May 12, 2007, in the Iowa City Rehabilitation & Healthcare Center after a lingering illness. A friends and family sharing time will be held from 5 to 8 p.m. Tuesday at Lensing Funeral & Cremation Service, Iowa City. Friends may call from 2 to 4 p.m. Tuesday at the funeral home. Earl chose to then be cremated. Private burial will be in Memory Gardens Cemetery, Iowa City.

Survivors include three daughters, Susan Steele of Lone Tree, Sandy Huedepohl of North Liberty, and Sara Myrick of Solon; one son, David Stimmel (Bernita) of Kalona; seven grandchildren; 10 great-grandchildren; and a special family friend, Donna Wyjack of Iowa City.

Earl was preceded in death by his parents; his wife; seven brothers; five sisters; and a son-in-law, Al Huedepohl.

Earl was born Sept. 26, 1919, in Liberty Township in Johnson County, the son of Wilbur and Lizzie (Rexelious) Stimmel. He graduated from Iowa City High School in 1939 and served in the Army National Guard for six years. On Nov. 3, 1939, Earl married Frances Brown in Davenport, Iowa.

A lifelong resident of North Liberty, Earl was a facilities mechanic for 27 years at University Hospitals in Iowa City, retiring in 1984. He also drove a semi for Watson Brothers Trucking prior to having polio in 1950. Earl received the outstanding handicapped worker service award by the Johnson Co. Committee on the Handicapped in 1977. He was a member of Shueyville Methodist Church and I.O.O.F. Eureka Lodge #44.

Memorials may be directed to the Visiting Nurses Association.

On-line condolences may be directed to www.lensingfuneral.com

IN MEMORY OF GUIDELINES

In Memory Of is a thoughtful way to remember, eulogize and pay tribute to friends and family members who have died but are not forgotten.

Announcements and photos must be submitted in writing by 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. Please specify date of publication. Forms are available.

Price is 40 cents per word. Pictures are \$10 each.

If you have questions, please call 398-8221.

SOLON

Carolyn Balkus Varn, 87, of Solon, died Friday, May 11, 2007, in Mercy Iowa City after a sudden illness. Funeral Mass: 10:30 a.m. today, St. Mary's Catholic Church, Solon. Friends may call one hour prior to services today at the church. Burial: 10 a.m. Tuesday, Calvary Cemetery, Omaha, Neb.

SUMNER

Leslie Fred Gloede, 72, of Sumner, died Saturday, May 12, 2007, in his home after a lengthy illness. Services: 10:30 a.m. Tuesday, St. John Lutheran Church (Buck Creek), rural Sumner, by the Rev. Carlton Shaw. Interment: Union Mound Cemetery, Sumner. Friends may call from 4 to 7 p.m. today at Becker-Milnes Funeral Home, Sumner, and for one hour prior to services Tuesday at the church.

Survivors include his wife, Dorothy, of Sumner; four children, Randy Gloede of Denver, Rick Gloede of Sumner, Kelly McKinney of Oklahoma City, Okla., and Scott Gloede of LaPorte City; and a brother, Alfred Gloede of Sumner.

TIPTON

C. June Kingsbury, 81, of Tipton, died Saturday, May 12, 2007, in the Cedar Manor Nursing Home, Tipton, following a short illness. Services: 10:30 a.m. Tuesday, Fry Funeral Home, Tipton, with Pastor Paul Frederiksen officiating. Burial: Tipton Masonic Cemetery. Friends may call from 4 to 7 p.m. today at the funeral home.

Survivors include her daughters, Nancy (Bruce) Williams of Brooklyn, Bonnie (Tod) Swick of Tipton, Dolores (Tommy) Spain of Waverly, Va., Mona (Phil) Malone of Cedar Rapids, Robin (Randy) Ford of Tipton, and Kathy (Marvin) Silvey of Kerrville, Texas; a son, Tom (Pam) Reed of Atalissa; 20 grandchildren; 27 great-grandchildren; and numerous stepgrandchildren and stepgreat-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her husbands, Raymond W. Reed and David Kingsbury; sisters, Mildred Katherine Howe and Minnie Yeater; and grandchildren, Jeremy Kleinsmith, Chris Reed and Beth Reed.

She was born Dec. 29, 1925, in Aurora, Ill., to Fred T. and Ellen S. Ghrist Adams. She married Raymond W. Reed on July 2, 1949, in Muscatine, he preceded her in death. In December 1963, she married David Kingsbury in Muscatine.

She was a dietitian at UNIV Hospital and worked in house-keeping at the UNIV Surgical OR; and also baked at Hardees.

She attended Tipton High School and was a member of Tipton Methodist Church, the VFW Auxiliary, and Tipton Senior Dining for 15 years.

Memorials may be made to Senior Dining in Tipton.

Online condolence may be sent to www.fryfuneralhome.com

CONGRESS

Braley guides contracting bill for small business in House

DES MOINES (AP) — Freshman Rep. Bruce Braley, D-Iowa, said his first piece of legislation that passed in the House is designed to stop corporate conglomerates from gobbling up federal contracts that could be fulfilled by small businesses.

Braley, a Democrat who won an open seat in Iowa's 1st District in 2006, has guided the Small Business Fairness in Contracting Act through the House. Braley said he was elated when the bill handily won approval by a vote of 409-13.

"One of the biggest problems that's existed for small businesses in getting access to federal procurements is this process

TAMA

John F. Roberts, 35, of Tama, died Sunday, May 13, 2007, in Marshalltown Medical and Surgical Center. Arrangements are pending with Kruse-Phillips Funeral Homes, Tama-Toledo.

VAN HORNE

Herbert F. Ransom, 75, of Van Horne, died Saturday, May 12, 2007, in the Hiawatha Care Center, following an extended illness. Services: 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, St. Andrew's Lutheran Church, Van Horne, with the Rev. David Lindenberg officiating. Interment: Keystone Cemetery. Friends may call from 4 to 7 p.m. Tuesday at Phillips Funeral Home Chapel, Keystone.

He is survived by his wife, Joyce of Van Horne; his son and daughter-in-law, Erik and Kristen Ransom and their children, Kyle and Matthew of Van Horne; his daughter and son-in-law, Lisa and John Duffy and their children, Adam and Erin of Van Horne; and his sisters and brothers-in-law, Rosemary and Masa Nuki of Yuba City, Calif., and Kathy and Doug Tumilty of Vinton.

His parents preceded him in death.

Herb was born May 9, 1932, in Keystone, to Herbert M. and Leona C. Nelson Ransom and graduated from the Van Horne High School. From 1951 to 1954, he served his nation in the U.S. Navy.

On Sept. 30, 1956, he married Joyce Offt at St. John Lutheran Church in Keystone.

Herb was employed by Rockwell Collins in Cedar Rapids for 30 years and retired in April of 1989. He was a member of St. Andrew's Lutheran Church and the Thomas F. Bevin's American Legion Post No. 148 in Van Horne. He also belonged to the Amana Sportsman's Club and enjoyed skeet shooting, camping, hunting and fishing. His greatest pleasure in life came from spending time with his family.

DEATH NOTICES AND OBITUARIES

Death notices and obituaries can be submitted to The Gazette between 9 a.m. and 7 p.m. Monday through Friday, 3 to 7 p.m. Saturday and Sunday and 4 to 7 p.m. on holidays. Daily submissions must be made by 7 p.m.

Arrangements pending and death notices, including immediate survivors, and a photo of the deceased are published as a news item on this page. These notices must conform to Gazette style and sequence or the item is subjected to the per-word charge.

Other obituary material, including additional survivors, employment, education, military service, civic and social activities, accomplishments, special interests and hobbies, friends, pets, memorials and eulogies will be published for 40 cents per word.

Second-day funeral notices and other deaths (formerly out-of-town) will be published at 40 cents per word.

Emblems to accentuate the deceased's involvement in various organizations are available at \$10 each. Up to three symbols may be used per obituary.

See your funeral director for help in preparing an obituary. For further information about The Gazette's guidelines call 398-8221.

