

Mad for marinades

Tips for homemade mixtures that are easy to make, use, 1D

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CORRIDOR

CEDAR RAPIDS

Slaying victim First stabbed, beaten

Slaying victim Dennis



Dennis First
Body found May 11

First, 64, had a cutting/stab wound to the right side of the neck and multiple blunt force injuries to the head and chest, First's death certificate shows.

First was killed by another person in May. His death certificate said he was stabbed and beaten by another person.

First was found dead about 7:30 a.m. May 11 in his apartment at 2249 C St. SW. He had been stabbed and had bled to death in the 24 hours before his body was found. No arrests have been reported.

Masons to help kids make Father's Day gifts

For the sixth year, the Cedar Rapids Valley of Scottish-rite Masons are sponsoring two workshops for children who want to make wooden toolboxes for their fathers for Father's Day.

The program is free to children, but registration is required.

The first workshop will be Thursday from 4 to 8 p.m. The second workshop will be Saturday from 9 a.m. to noon. Call (319) 364-2904 between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. to make reservations.

The workshops will be held at the Scottish-rite temple at 616 A Ave. NE.

JOHNSON COUNTY

I.C., Coralville customers lose land-line service

Thousands of homes and businesses in Iowa City and Coralville remained without land-line telephone service late last night.

A city crew working on a water main accidentally severed underground cables about 3:15 p.m., cutting service to most of downtown Iowa City, Qwest spokeswoman Kara Neuverth said.

Repairs crews were still on the scene at 9:30 p.m.

"It is still out, and we don't have an estimated time that it will be repaired," Neuverth said.

Neuverth said there was a chance customers would still be without telephone service this morning.

SOLO

Prosecutor needs reports in Truitt case

A Florida prosecutor said



Ashley Truitt
Jailed in Florida

Monday it could be several days before prosecutors get paperwork that helps them determine what, if any charge, to file against Ashley Truitt.

Truitt, 18, of Solon, was being held without bail on suspicion of murder in a Broward County, Fla. jail. She is accused of killing her newborn daughter June 2 by throwing the baby down a trash chute at a Florida hotel where she was vacationing with her family.

A Broward County State Attorney's Office official said Truitt will not be charged until the office receives a case file. Prosecutors have 21 days from the date of an arrest to ask a grand jury to allow a capital first-degree murder charge or file lesser charges.

C.R. district set to ban tobacco

Board members plan to approve policy at June 25 meeting

By Kristina Gleeson
The Gazette

CEDAR RAPIDS — A proposed ban on smoking on school property should pass easily at Cedar Rapids school board members' next meeting.

Members had a chance to ask questions about the pro-

posal last night, but there was no debate. After the meeting, six of seven board members said they plan to approve the proposed policy change at their June 25 meeting. Ken Childress could not be tracked down by deadline for comment.

The district's policy now prohibits tobacco use in school buildings, district vehicles and outdoor bleachers and seating areas. Still, people at area schools — includ-

ing students at Metro High — have been allowed to stand outside buildings and smoke.

The new policy would extend to all grounds.

Under the proposed policy, smokers would not be allowed to smoke or chew tobacco in their cars unless they drove off school property. People would no longer be allowed to step away from the Kingston Stadium bleachers during school games and light up.

Chaperones at school-related or school-sponsored events would not be able to use or display tobacco.

Students violating the policy would be subject to discipline and suspension from school.



Keith Westercamp
School board president

Employees

would be guilty of insubordination. Visitors using tobacco would be "asked to leave the grounds and property," the proposed policy states.

The policy would "let kids know how important it is not to smoke," said Keith Westercamp, school board president.

"It's a great policy," member Mary Meisterling said.

Member Ann Rosenthal said she supports the policy.

► **SMOKING, PAGE 6B**

AGRICULTURE



Chris Kelleher/The Gazette

Sam Aitchison, 3, of Iowa City, waves at a passing tractor in Backbone State Park on Monday. The eighth annual WMT Great Eastern Iowa Tractorcade passed through Backbone State Park, where Aitchison's family was vacationing, Monday morning en route to Strawberry Point from Oelwein.

Country cruise

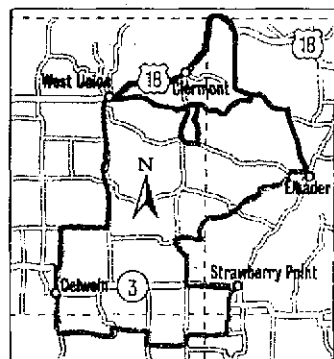
Tractorcade hits Iowa's back roads for 3-day trek



Cliff Jette/The Gazette

A line of tractors heads into Lamont on C64 during the second day of the eighth annual WMT Great Eastern Iowa Tractorcade on Monday.

WMT Tractorcade '07



- Monday — Oelwein to Elkader
Lunch: Strawberry Point
Overnight: Elkader City Park
- Today — Elkader to West Union
Lunch: Heritage Farm Park
Overnight: Fayette County Fairgrounds
- Wednesday — West Union to Oelwein
Lunch and wrap-up:
Oelwein Chamber office
(Route subject to change)

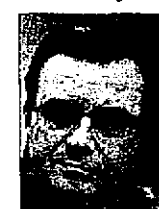
Source: www.wmtradio.com Gazette graphic

Johnson auditor arrested

Criminal complaint accuses Tom Slockett of drunken driving

By Lyle Muller
The Gazette

IOWA CITY — Johnson County Attorney Janet Lyness said she is asking the Attorney General's Office



Tom Slockett
Johnson County auditor

whether it will prosecute County Auditor Tom Slockett, who was arrested Sunday night on suspicion of drunken driving.

Slockett, 60, of 629 Brown St., was arrested at 10:14 p.m. at Dubuque and Washington streets in Iowa City, a criminal complaint filed Monday in Johnson County District Court shows.

He blew 0.133 on a blood alcohol breath test, the complaint says. The legal limit is 0.08. The blood alcohol level also is important because motorists convicted of drunken driving with a blood alcohol content below 0.15 and who were not involved in a traffic accident are eligible for deferred judgment.

Efforts to get comment from Slockett on Monday were unsuccessful. His office said he was in during the afternoon but in meetings when contacted and he did not return calls to his home.

Lyness said in a story posted Monday on GazetteOnline her office will not handle the prosecution because of a conflict of interest. The County Attorney's Office handles legal matters for the county.

An alternative to the Attorney General's Office handling the case would be asking a county attorney's office in another county to handle it, Lyness said.

Iowa City police said they stopped the car Slockett was driving after he failed to yield to several pedestrians in a

► **AUDITOR, PAGE 6B**

Voice of the people suffers from translation

Another poll came out the other day, reaffirming that when politicians talk about what the American people "said" in the last election, the politicians are proving they either weren't listening or were hearing only what they wanted to hear.



Mike Deupree
The Gazette

Or, heaven forbid, that they heard the people perfectly and choose to be less than honest about it.

This is hardly a revelation. It's common to see an individual or interest group claim an election was a clear referendum on a single issue when in fact it was a close vote decided for a variety of reasons. Political affiliation doesn't matter, either, as obfuscation and spin are truly bipartisan.

Take Newt Gingrich in 1994, for example. As soon as the Republicans took over the U.S. House, he and his gang of merrymakers began constantly referring to the victory as a ringing endorsement of the GOP's "Contract With America." Now, Gingrich is a smart politician (except when it comes to evaluating his own presidential possibilities), and the contract provided an excellent template for the exercise of power most Republicans didn't expect to get and weren't prepared to handle. But I seriously doubt if anybody except Newt and maybe his mother gave any thought to the "Contract With America" when they entered the polling booth.

Our current president provoked catcalls when he emerged from a tight electoral race in 2004 and spoke of all the political capital he had earned.

More recently we've been hearing

from anti-war groups and their supporters in Congress who want to cut off funding for the war in Iraq and pull out the troops immediately that this is what the American people said they wanted in last November's election.

Excuse me? If you review the record, you will find that almost any time during the campaign a Democratic candidate was portrayed by his or her opponent as an advocate of cutting off funding, the Democrat responded with a heated denial. No one wants to cut off the funding, they said.

The big issue was the "culture of corruption" in Washington, D.C. As soon as the polls closed, that issue was forgotten, and in the rear-view mirror, the election became an up-or-down vote on continuing to pay for the war.

That characterization is at odds with history, not to mention the poll

referred to above, which was taken for the Washington Post and Associated Press.

It showed 15 percent of Americans want to stop war funding, which is roughly the same percentage that wanted to de-fund the war in every poll taken over the past couple of years. Another 12 percent want the troops out within a year.

In other words, if you believe the poll numbers, groups like MoveOn.org and the congressional leadership are claiming they are acceding to the wishes of the American people in pushing for a policy that is opposed by three out of four Americans.

So do we believe the polls, or do we believe the polls? And isn't that a heck of a choice to make?

■ Mike Deupree's column appears Sundays, Tuesdays and Thursdays. He can be reached at (319) 398-8452 or mike.deupree@gazettecommunications.com