

PILOT

15273 0899 62 5 0
09/09/9999
STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
600 E LOCUST BUREAU OF LI
DES MOINES IA 50319-0001

50¢
NEWSSTAND

Volume 134
Edition 1

IOWA'S AWARD-WINNING COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER - STORM LAKE'S TRUSTED NEWS SOURCE SINCE 1870

Twins share New Year baby honors

By LORRI GLAWE
Pilot-Tribune Staff

The 2004 New Year's baby - make that babies - have arrived at the Buena Vista Regional Medical Center!

Identical twin boys - Justin Marcos and Jayden Michael - were born to Barbara and Gustavo Constancio of Alta on Thursday, January 1. Justin made his entrance at 12:48 p.m. and Jayden arrived at 1:11 p.m. Each tipped the scale at 5 pounds 12 oz. and each measured 20 inches.

The couple traveled to the hospital about 11:30 p.m. New Year's Eve. Had the babies not arrived on their own Jan. 1, labor was scheduled to be induced on Jan. 2, Barbara said. There was no competition in the labor room for the first baby of 2004 on New Year's Day; two other babies were born at the Medical Center on Jan. 2.

The couple is excited about their arrivals and the honor they earned. They will receive a host of gifts complimentary gifts from several Storm Lake



The first babies of 2004 arrived at BVRMC in Storm Lake on New Year's Day. The Constancio family includes mom Barbara, big brother Jacob, holding Jayden, and dad Gustavo holding Justin.

businesses, as is local tradition. "It still hasn't sunk in that there are two of them," Barbara laughed, adding that it won't take long after she and the babies go home for reality to set

in. It was no shock that twins would be born to the couple - twins have run in both sides of the family.

Welcoming home the babies is big brother Jacob, 23 months.

Grandparents are Shawn and Darin Anson, Galva; Jonathan Rothkehl of California; and Adela and Gustavo Constancio of California.

'Morning after' pill controversy surprises clinic

SL Planned Parenthood has used drug for years

By DANA LARSEN
Pilot-Tribune Editor

Local Planned Parenthood workers are surprised at the recent firestorm of controversy surrounding the "morning after" or "Plan B" contraception pills.

While regulations on the drugs vary from state to state, women have been readily obtaining the pills at the Storm Lake Planned Parenthood clinic for a number of years.

"It's something that's available here already, and we do get quite a few calls for it," says Storm Lake Planned Parenthood office manager Sue Thayer.

In fact, the "morning after" pills have been around as long as regular birth control pills, and have been accessible to the public since around 1997.

However, the drugs have only recently been more aggressively manufactured and promoted, and when the federal Food and

Drug Administration debated making them available over the counter as a non-prescription drug, the general public became more aware of the practice, and the controversy was immediate.

Some argue that the pills will cause women to be more casual or irresponsible about sex, claiming it will lead to a further breakdown of societal morals. Others attack the pills as a thinly-disguised method of abortion.

The "morning after" contraceptives can be used effectively up to 72 hours after the woman has had unprotected sex. It is available in an intrauterine copper insert or pills that are prescribed to be taken twice. They are said to reduce the risk of pregnancy by 75-89 percent.

In some areas, the pills are available only through women's health or family planning agencies. In others, they are routinely carried by pharmacies. In a handful of states, the pills can be ordered over the internet. Currently, all sales of "morning after" pills are supposed to take place with a

Morning After / See 6A

Iowa: A Place to be Reborn for Iraqi-American

By STEVE HERMANN
Pilot-Tribune Staff

Although Iowa hasn't been a place where people could reinvent themselves since it was settled in the mid-1800s, in recent years the Hawkeye State is becoming a place where people from all over the world are finding sanctuary.

Beginning in the 1970s then-Gov. Robert Ray helped Lao refugees from the Indochina wars settle in communities throughout Iowa. Since the changes in meat packing and production, Latinos are moving from south of our border with Mexico and from Texas and California.

But in what has to be one of the most unlikely stories of people finding Iowa a port in a



storm was the passage of Nawar Hishan and his sister Runda from Colorado to Iraq and then to Iowa.

The Hishans' story was first told in the Sept. 13 issue of the Pilot-Tribune. A chance meeting of Nawar and a U.S. Army lieutenant from Iowa led to opportunity for the brother and sister to escape from war-torn Iraq to the United States, the country of their birth.

The Hishans were born in Colorado while their parents were graduate students at the University of Colorado in Boulder, which makes them U.S. citizens - a fact that Iraqis under Saddam Hussein didn't much like. Especially after the first Gulf War when all Iraqis with U.S. citizenship were treated as second-class citizens and not allowed to leave Iraq.

During the war things changed for the worse for Nawar and his sister. They were

subjected to attacks by Saddam's followers and Nawar was forced into hiding for making an anti-Saddam statement that was overheard by one of the dictator's family members.

When the siblings got to Iowa they had nothing, but they got plenty of help in their efforts to find housing, food and clothing. And Runda was able to resume her college studies after getting enrolled in Iowa Central Community College.

"I really like it here," Nawar said, during a recent interview at Buena Vista University, where he has found work as a security officer. "Things are very good. Getting this job was great."

He said that when he and sister passed through Kuwait on

Nawar / See Page 6A

Business of the Year nominees are revealed

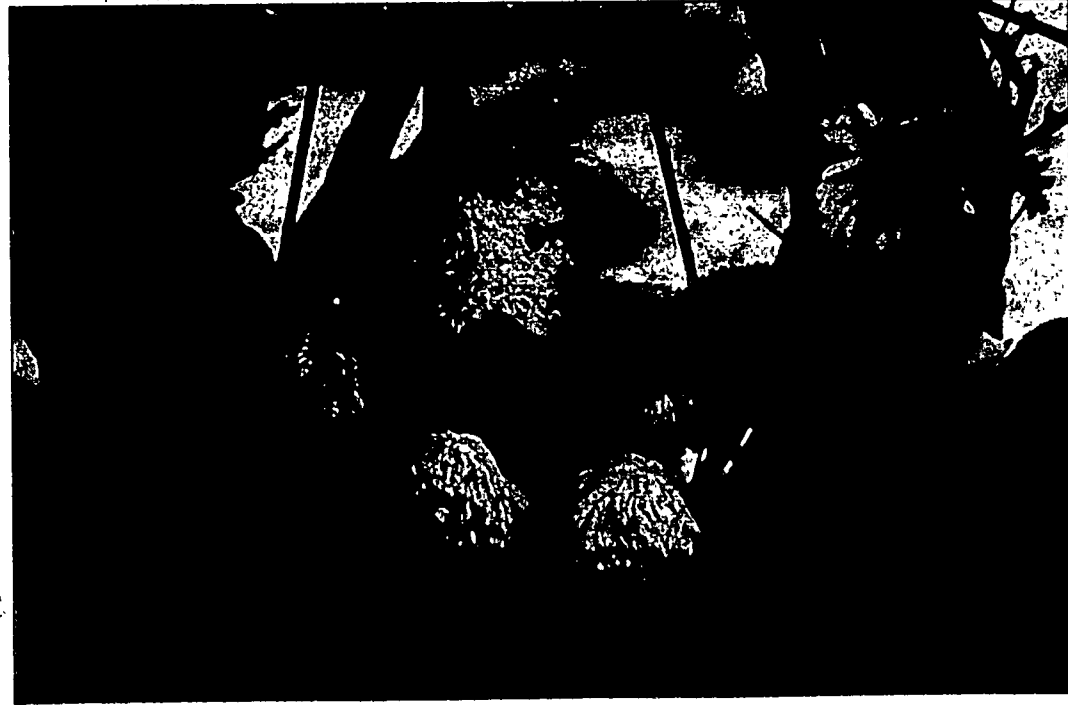
The following nominations for the Storm Lake Business of the Year Awards were announced Friday by the Storm Lake Chamber of Commerce. Winners will be announced at the Chamber Banquet to be held January 21.

- **Chamber Involvement of the Year** - Melinda Cords - McDonald's; Dave Feddersen - First Federal Savings Bank of the Midwest; Todd Oxley - US Postal Service.
- **Businessperson of the Year** - Mike Kohler/Molly Wilson - Sugar Bowl Gift Shop; Dale Carver - Sara Lee Foods; Joe Gailey - Metcalf House Bed and Breakfast.
- **Business Improvement of the Year** - Schaller Family Center for Women, BVRMC; Health to the Max; Honey Kissed Pizza & Party; Wal-Mart; American Family Insurance.
- **Customer Service of the Year** - Sharon Eddy - AmeriHost Inn; Randy Harrington - Honey Kissed Pizza & Party; Shelley Glienke - Iowa Office Supply; Citizens First National Bank; BozWellz; Hoffman's Flower and Candle.

Local Weather

Sun 1/4	17/-2	
Snow showers at times. Highs in the upper teens and lows 0 to -4F.		
Mon 1/5	6/-11	
Times of sun and clouds. Highs in the mid single digits and lows -9 to -13F.		
Tue 1/6	8/-5	
Times of sun and clouds.		
Wed 1/7	11/-2	
Mix of sun and clouds. Highs in the low teens and lows 0 to -4F.		
Thu 1/8	23/12	
Partly cloudy. Highs in the low 20s and lows in the low teens.		

'Still hope' to solve tragic baby mysteries



A bedraggled teddy bear rests amid the fresh flowers on the grave of the "Child of God" in a Storm Lake cemetery. Officers continue to keep the cases of two abandoned and unknown infants open, and hope 2004 will be the year someone comes forward with the clue that can solve one or both mysteries. / Pilot-Tribune Photo by Dana Larsen

By DANA LARSEN
Pilot-Tribune Editor

In a quiet cemetery at the west edge of town, a simple little marker now almost a decade old reads, "Baby Doe."

Across town, in the shade of an evergreen, another infant rests under a stone inscribed in 2002 with the words, "A Child of God."

The community has not forgotten its two unknown babies. People still come to leave flowers and toys on the graves. They still wonder how two infants could be left to die in such disturbing and mysterious ways, years apart. And they still wait for answers.

The two law enforcement departments that investigated the cases have not forgotten, either. As a new year dawns, both the Storm Lake Police and the Buena Vista County Sheriff say that their respective investigations will remain open in 2004 - and both have hope still that this will be the year the troubling mysteries will be solved.

As cold cases go, they are colder than most. No clue to the identity of either baby or their parents has ever been found, and all leads have long since been exhausted.

Baby Doe was found dead of exposure in the winter of 1995, wrapped up in a sweatshirt and left in a closet in a boarded-up mobile home in the trailer park on West Eighth Street. A shocked community came together to give the baby a touching memorial service, and police pushed for months on the baffling case, but found no witnesses.

In 2002, the body of the Child of God was found on the trash

Baby Mysteries / See Page 6A

Area

Baby Mysteries: Could two cases be connected?

Continued from page 1A

line in the Harold Rowley Recycling Center at Storm Lake. The child had apparently been discarded in the garbage shortly before that somewhere in Buena Vista County, and may or may not have still been alive at the time it was abandoned.

Again, the community was stunned by the news, and again, a desperate search for answers by the county sheriff's department turned up no witnesses and few clues. Community volunteers one more provided for a touching ceremony, at which local youngsters released balloons into the sky in memory of the unknown baby.

Sheriff Chuck Eddy said the Child of God case has never been far from his mind. "It is still open and it will stay open. We have no leads to go on, but if someone can give us something to work with - anything - we will actively investigate it. We are still looking for answers."

Before the burial, DNA samples were taken from the baby, and if a solid suspect of a parent is ever uncovered, the genetic profile of the baby can be matched against the potential suspect, he said.

"The problem is, we've never been able to find that clue that would lead us to a person," Eddy said.

The sheriff brings up a frightening hypothesis.

"What if these two cases of abandoned babies were related? It's not impossible to think that the same person might be responsible in two very similar cases. And that would lead us to believe that it's not impossible that this could happen here again at some point, although we hope with all of our heart that it won't."

Eddy said that he's tried to avoid guesswork in the case, but when a child fatality so grips a community, it is hard not to have some gut feelings about the scenario.

"My personal feeling is that this was not a case of someone just passing through who decided to dump off a baby and drive away. I feel that this was a person who lived here, and very well may still live here," he said.

The sheriff's department checked with hospital delivery rooms around the state, but found no babies unaccounted for. They tried to match it against other cases of abductions or missing persons from around the country, and exhausted those leads.

For one long, hot summer, the department wrestled with the local Planned Parenthood program seeking to legally force the agency into revealing its records on recent local pregnancies, but medical privacy rights won out in a case that raised a firestorm of national debate that nearly obscured the tiny child for which the issue was initiated.

The Planned Parenthood records, Eddy said at the time, had been their last best hope of finding a lead.

Since then, Eddy came to learn of a couple of cases involving similar baby deaths in Arkansas. Eddy met the sheriff of that jurisdiction, and was briefly excited that the results of that investigation might have produced the leads needed in the Storm Lake Child of God case. Those leads also did not pan out.

"We'll never give up hope that this one gets solved. It's happened before that a clue shows up years after a crime, and something that seems impossible is suddenly solved," the sheriff said.

"If there was one case that I most would like to see solved before I'm done, this would be it," he said of the baby's death. "Any time you deal with the death of a child, it is difficult for all of the people involved in the investigation. Having it unsolved makes it that much harder."

Eddy still feels that someone in the area may have the bit of information that could close this frustrating case, and he pleads for them to come forward. Anyone with information may call 749-2530.

While the Baby Doe case is considerably older, the scars have neither healed or been forgotten by the Storm Lake

Police who worked the case.

"The case is now considered inactive, but I can tell you that it never went away," Police Captain Bob Swanson said. "Every so often an officer will sit down and open it up and go through it all over again looking for some little thing."

Officers have been as shocked as anyone else that someone could value a life of their own child so little that it could be abandoned to die alone. Like the sheriff's officers with their case, police have turned over the Baby Doe scenario again and again in their minds looking for possible explanations for the death.

"It's a painful thing, but it's kind of a part of the job. Sometimes as hard as you might try, you still come to a dead end," Swanson said.

The department, however, has no intentions of stamping this effort "case closed."

"There is always some hope. All we need is one person to come forward with one piece of information, and we could get this open again," Swanson said.

Cover Story

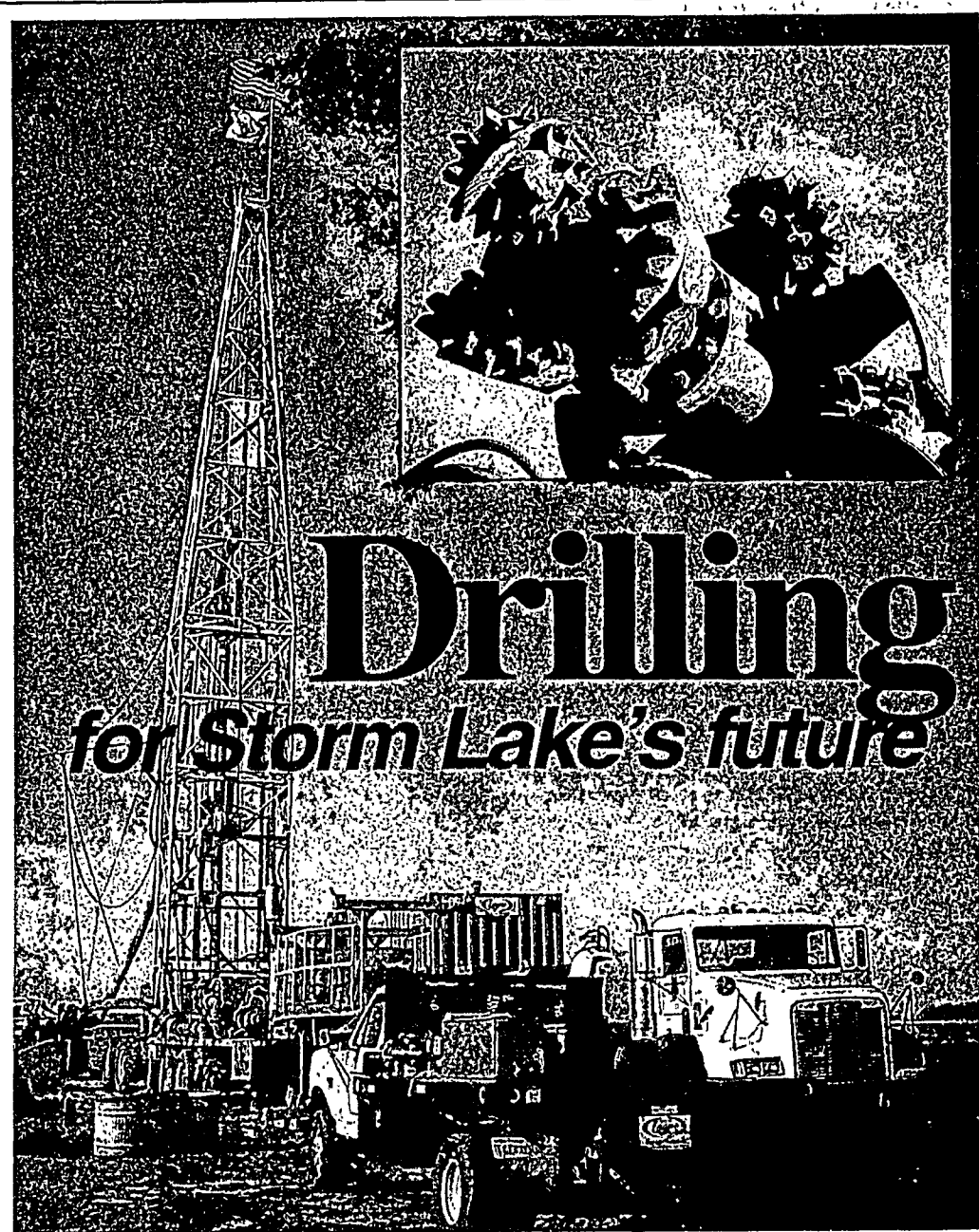
Depending on the circumstances of death, the parents or whoever had custody of the child at the time of death could face anything from mental health evaluation to a charge of unlawful disposal of human remains to potentially a first-degree murder trial.

Medical officials also expressed concern in both cases. Since there was no sign that the babies were born in hospitals anywhere in the region, they feared the mothers had given birth on their own, and without proper medical care, could suffer serious health consequences.

As with the Child of God, Storm Lake Police officers believe that someone has the information they need to close the Baby Doe case, if only their conscience leads them to share it. Anyone with information is encouraged to contact the department at 732-8010.

"This is one I think we would all personally like to see resolved. It eats at a person, it would any officer - any time you have a human tragedy it is bad, but when it's a child, it's even a little worse," Swanson said. Local officers investigate every report of possible child abuse or endangerment with a passion, and for those who have been around for a while, Baby Doe or the Child of God may not be far from their hearts when such a call comes in, the officers agree.

On opposite sides of town, separated by several years, two babies rest under a blanket of snow and their respective anonymous gravestones. They are gone, but not forgotten. And those who investigated their tragedies hope that with the right piece of help, 2004 will be the year those children are given back their names.



The derrick being used to drill the shaft for the Dakota Well in Storm Lake, above. Inset shows the toothy drill bits used to bore the deep shaft. Below, Layne-Western's Kevin Holub and Nathan Greer put the platform back on the derrick as the crew prepares to attend to an emergency in Nebraska.

By STEVE HERMANN
Pilot-Tribune Staff

Layne-Western has filled its well shaft up with sand and taken off for Nebraska, leaving fewer and fewer days to complete Storm Lake's new 490-foot deep Dakota Well.

According to head driller Dane Elliott, the crew is headed to the Cornhusker State for an emergency situation on the Republican River near the Kansas border.

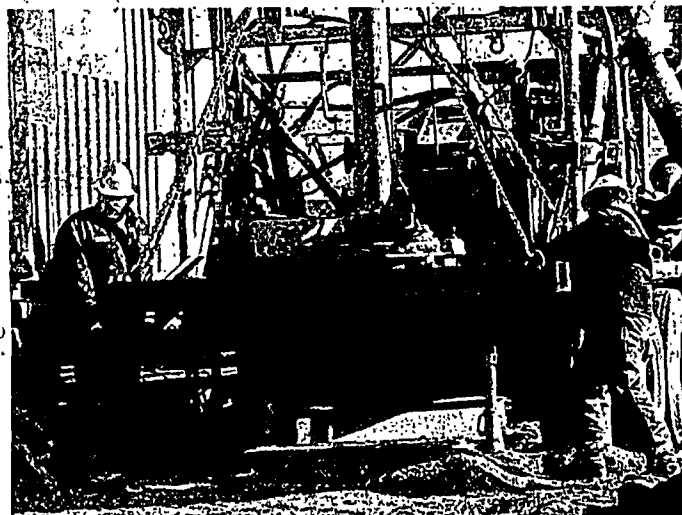
Storm Lake's city engineer Jim Winterton said the company also needed to get a different bit because it hit harder rock than anticipated near the 210-foot mark deep below Storm Lake. The Nebraska trip wasn't foreseen by the city or the crew.

But, he added, the clock's ticking.

"By the time they get back from down there they aren't going to have that many days left on the project," Winterton said. "The contract calls for completion in 75 days, and they've used up about 20 by the first of the year."

Winterton said if the diggers go over on the time line, the city will penalize them \$500 a day.

The drillers pulled the metal casing out of the well and



filled it with sand, Winterton said, so it won't be that difficult to drill it out, but they're going to have to hurry.

Located southwest of the city near the water tower adjacent to West Lake Estates, the new well is being drilled deep into the Dakota Aquifer to ensure Storm Lakes water needs are met for years to come.

"The city uses between 3.2 and 3.5 million gallons of water a day," Winterton said. "Industrial use accounts for 70 percent of that. In the summer the city's consumption goes up another million gallons a day."

During the fall, city crews laid a 12-inch water pipe from the well site to the water treatment plant.

"The water will then go to the water tower," he said. "The city softens and purifies the water before sending it out to the water tower and then to consumers."

The well is being drilled and a metal casing is being put in the shaft, which, Winterton said, will be used to form a 300-foot concrete collar.

He said this seals the well from becoming contaminated from shallower water.

The final 190 feet will have a gravel pack around the well shaft. The end of the shaft which will be submerged in the Dakota sandstone is a stainless steel mesh screen through which water will enter the well.

Nawar: Finding a cultural 'rebirth' in NW Iowa

Continued from page 1A

their way to the United States, he spoke with a Kuwaiti about Iowa.

"It was strange," Nawar said. "He had been here - to Iowa. He told me that if there was a place to go to be reborn, Iowa was the place."

"And it is almost like I have been reborn. Everything is so new and different - religion, culture, people ..."

Is he up to the task of handling B.V.U.'s visitors and students? His new boss thinks so.

B.V.U.'s director of security Mark Kirkholm said his department and the school are "very pleased to have him."

"Nawar is very qualified," Kirkholm said. "And he brings a new perspective of us and the university as a whole."

"We hope to learn from him - he has some pretty good stories."

Pretty good stories indeed. Before coming back to the



Pilot People

U.S. Nawar was a translator for the U.S. Army Special Forces after meeting Lt. Lorne Segerstrom of Ida Grove.

His courage and intelligence helped Segerstrom keep "some bad guys" out of Iraq, helped keep some others from getting away and helped the American soldiers rebuild a

communications center in Baquba so Iraqis could transmit information into Iran.

Lynn Segerstrom, Lorne Segerstrom's sister and an instructor at Iowa Central, was instrumental in getting the Hishans settled in Iowa.

Lynn Segerstrom said her brother has related by letter and email Nawar's exploits with Lorne Segerstrom's unit.

The soldiers relied on Nawar, Lorne Segerstrom said, to translate for the troops and to help discern who the bad actors were at roadblocks. Nawar also had come under fire while with the soldiers.

But now that's over ... at least for Nawar and Runda. But with their family still in Iraq, the Hishans worry constantly. Nawar has not heard from his wife and 4-month-old baby since he left Iraq.

In fact, Lynn Segerstrom said in an e-mail Wednesday that she met with U.S. Rep. Steve King (R. Iowa) several weeks ago, requesting his assistance in getting the rest of the Hishan

family out of Iraq. They are in imminent danger, she said, although they have been able to keep it secret that Runda and Nawar are in the States.

She added that the Hishans parents have heard that Nawar is now on the Fadayeen's most wanted hit list and they are thankful he is safe in the U.S.

"My parents and family are still in a dangerous situation," Nawar said. "I miss them very much, but here there is so much that is good. It helps to be here with such good people."

Nawar said that he was afraid people wouldn't like him here in the United States because he was from Iraq.

"When people are nice with you, things are good," he said. "And when people here meet me, see what I'm doing, they're helpful and they treat me with respect."

"I miss my family and friends in Iraq, but people here are great and make me feel like I'm in my home here, too."

Morning After: Solution to the one-time slip?

Continued from page 1A

prescription from a physician.

The FDA debate, still to be decided, could make the pills available over the counter without a prescription. A study committee of the FDA has recommended such a move.

It doesn't take much to get those pills at the Storm Lake Planned Parenthood. No counseling is required, no examination and no-follow up visit are necessary.

When a woman requests the pills, she is asked to do a brief medical history, is informed of the proper method for using the drug, and charged \$35. The clinic can both prescribe the pills and deliver them, all within a few minutes.

According to Planned Parenthood Iowa spokesperson Todd Buchacker, there are many misconceptions surrounding the "morning after" pill, and his agency is supporting the change to make the pills available over the counter at any drug store.

"The real concern is whether the instructions for the proper use of the pills could be simplified enough so that people could use them," he said. "The pills are easy and they work."

The pro-choice/pro-life debate is not so easy to dismiss.

While opponents of the pills feel they represent abortion because they are used after the time of conception, Planned Parenthood officials strongly disagree.

"It is simply an emergency form of contraception, and makes it so that the uterus doesn't allow the egg to ever implant," Buchacker said. "Fertilization never occurs, so it is not abortion."

In fact, if people are concerned about the number of abortions, they probably should support the "morning after" pill, he said.

"We're talking about one safe way that can prevent women from needing to have abortions, or from having unwanted births. This has been easily available in some other countries."

While anything to do with changes in policy on contraception tend to kindle controversy, the Planned Parenthood spokesperson said confusion may be spurring the extreme debate.

"The morning after pill is a completely different thing that what is called the 'abortion pill.' It's a totally different process and totally different issue, but since people have been hearing and reading about both, I think many times there is some confusion," he said.

While the general public may be just finding out about the "morning after" pills, women of reproductive age are well aware of what it is and how to get it.

"The women who will come in to the Storm Lake Planned Parenthood will already know all about it," Buchacker said.

"Most often this is the person with a 'one-time' incident who has not felt they needed to be on birth-control pills - the woman who is not sexually active, but maybe gets carried away on a New Year's Eve or something and finds herself in bed with someone, or the woman who is married but the couple decide after having unprotected sex that they really are not ready at that time to have a baby."

Buchacker said he isn't worried about the claims that a "morning after" pill will make women more sexually reckless.

"I don't think women are generally irresponsible, in fact, I think coming in for this service shows that they are responsible and taking reproduction seriously. I have no worries that this pill is going to make a woman act any differently."

For those who work with women day in and day out at the clinics, the "morning after" pill can be a relief as well.

"Too often people think of Planned Parenthood as an abortion service, it actually accounts only 2 percent of the services we perform for women," Buchacker said.

"Our goal is not to provide abortions, because they hopefully will not be needed any longer," he said. "With that in mind, we hate to see anything that has to do with contraception or women's health turn into a big controversy."