



WHEN WILL YOU GET YOUR TAX REBATE?

MONEY, 10B

MAKE A SPLASH WITH YELLOW

ACCENT, 1D

DRAKE RELAYS HIGHLIGHTS

SPORTS, 1C



DREW CLARK OF MARION



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Flood-weary towns battle water

Volunteers build a sandbag wall around the Anchor Inn Supper Club in Garber in northeast Iowa on Friday. Heavy rains sent the Turkey River over its banks, threatening the city of 103.



Brian Ray/The Gazette

By Orlan Love
The Gazette

GARBER — The state's most experienced flood battlers — the residents of the twin towns of Garber and Elkport — are engaged in another epic struggle with the rapidly rising Turkey and Volga rivers.

Barring additional rain overnight, they expected the Turkey River to crest at 7 this morning at 30 feet — about 13 feet over flood stage and about 3 feet below the level of the May 2004 flood that nearly wiped Elkport off the map and prompted a federal buyout program in both towns.

At 30 feet, the Turkey could breach



a sandbag dike built Friday by hundreds of volunteers intent on saving the Anchor Inn, a bar and restaurant that is the heart and soul of the Garber business district.

Proprietor Boon-raksa Menge — "Boone" to her many friends — said this was the third major flood she's had to contend with in her 14 years in Garber. After the 2004 flood, she took out a \$50,000 Small Business Administration loan to

Inside

■ Photos, 9A
■ What's happened so far, and what more is coming, 1B

Online

■ For updates on flooding, go to www.GazetteOnline.com

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Last call

State lawmakers work to adjourn 2008 session

By Rod Boshart
and James Q. Lynch
The Gazette

DES MOINES — Legislators worked overtime Friday to bring down the curtain on the 82nd General Assembly.

State lawmakers planned to finish a sometimes-contentious election-year session by adopting a fiscal 2009 spending plan, finalizing some remaining must-do priorities and girding for what promises to be a bruising election campaign between majority Democrats and minority Republicans.

With adjournment sometime after midnight last night, Democrats declared it a noteworthy session that produced major health-care initiatives that included smoking restrictions in the workplace and additional insurance coverage for kids. They also cited fulfilled funding commitments to teachers and preschools and additional funding help for roads and schools. (See lists, 7A.)

"We're ending here in good style and with so many accomplishments," said Senate President Jack Kibbie, D-Emmetsburg. "We've done more for Iowans and their families than probably in the last 20 years this session."

Republicans countered that the Democrat-led Legislature brought a "tax-and-spend liberal attitude" to the Capitol

► LEGISLATURE, PAGE 7A



Jonathan D. Woods/The Gazette

Eighth graders Anna Egeland (left) and Eleanor Marshall prepare to deliver the morning announcements as they practice their presentation skills while becoming technology-literate at Northwest Junior High in Coralville on April 18. The students can learn broadcasting in front of a green screen, running sound and video mixers and metering lights.

Skills for the 21st century

Here are the 21st-century skills Iowa officials want all high school students to acquire by graduation:

1 Financial literacy

Learn how to manage money effectively by developing a budget, make responsible decisions about debt, evaluate insurance, assess money-management options.

2 Health literacy

Learn how to obtain information about health, apply critical thinking skills to health decisions, advocate for oneself and others and pursue active, healthy lifestyle.

3 Technology literacy

Learn how to use and understand technology and digital media, using it to collect and evaluate information, solve problems and make informed decisions.

4 Employability

Learn how to communicate and work productively with others while incorporating different perspectives. Demonstrate leadership skills, integrity and social responsibility while achieving common goals. Demonstrate initiative and self-direction through lifelong learning. Demonstrate productivity and accountability while meeting high standards.

EDUCATION

SKILLS OF THE FUTURE

What tools do youths need to navigate life?

By Kristina Andino
The Gazette

Along with reading, math and science, today's students need to learn skills and concepts that educators and employers believe they'll need to live and work in this century.

Those 21st-century skills, as they're called, include such skills as choosing the best long-term savings plan, figuring out health care costs, solving problems while working as part of a team.

A group of educators and business people has pulled together a list of those skills, which the State Board of Education adopted earlier this month. The list applies to high school students; the same kind of list is being assembled for elementary and middle school students.

The skills will become part of a baseline "core

► SKILLS, PAGE 8A

GAZETTE SPECIAL REPORT FRUIT OF THE POISONOUS TREE

HELL RISES ON EASTER SUNDAY

7 of 14
in a series

Content advisory

Some situations and language in this story may be offensive to some readers. Graphic descriptions were used to convey with authenticity what was transpiring or said.

Story so far

A 13-year-old Minneapolis-area runaway has been kidnapped in early 2005 and forced to become a sex slave in Wellman, Iowa, to a man named Demont Bowle. Law enforcement authorities are investigating a prostitution ring Demont's father and father's girlfriend run.

By Jennifer Hemmingsen
The Gazette

A Williamsburg police cruiser rolled up to the brown and beige ranch on West State Street about 8 p.m. on Easter Sunday 2005.

Neighbors had called to say they heard yelling at the house where Betty Thompson and Robert Sallis had lived for nearly a month. It sounded like someone was being pushed around, neighbors said.

The Williamsburg police officer

got out of the car and asked what was going on.

People at the house told the officer there wasn't any fight. Someone had a seizure and they were going to take him to the hospital, they said.

"They were all lying through their teeth," the officer wrote in the log after returning from the call. That's pretty standard for a fight report, Williamsburg police

► PROSTITUTION, PAGE 8A



Johnson County court records

This is the living room of the Williamsburg house where Betty Thompson and Robert Sallis lived and ran their prostitution business. The photo was taken by investigators serving a search warrant on the property.

► Special video report Read previous stories in this series and watch a special video report of Eastern Iowa investigators explaining how they banded together to crack Iowa's first human trafficking case, at www.GazetteOnline.com

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TODAY'S WEATHER



Turning partly sunny
TODAY 57 35 106
SUNDAY 48 32

GAZETTE SPECIAL REPORT FRUIT OF THE POISONOUS TREE

Prostitution/There's a way out, runaway is told

► FROM PAGE 1A

Sgt. Robert Knoop said. The officer had no clue that in the basement of the house before him, less than two blocks from the police station, there was a 13-year-old kidnap victim.

Editor's note

This is part of a two-week series that explains how a human trafficking and prostitution ring involving minors flourished in Eastern Iowa. The stories run daily, through May 3.

Betty remembers it was so late when she heard about the party, she had to drive to the Wal-Mart Supercenter in Coralville to get the groceries. She stayed up the rest of the night cooking: greens, fried chicken, fried fish, corn bread, pinto beans, smoked turkey and lots of cakes.

Robert's son Moosey Jones brought his girlfriend, Tiffany Wells, and her kids. Robert's other sons, Tarik and Andre, were there. That

afternoon, another son, Demont Bowie, brought Toni Debler, her three children and M.B.

About 20 people were at the house that afternoon, gambling, drinking and smoking weed in the living room.

Betty hadn't wanted Demont there. He'd been acting crazy, threatening his father. He'd told Robert he and Betty had had sex, which Betty said wasn't true. Demont and Robert had always had a stormy relationship. B.J. Hoaglin, then 23, hid in the basement when she learned Demont was there. Demont had recruited her to work for Naughty-bi-Nature the winter before, but he beat her and she'd moved out of the Cosgrove house to get away from him. In March, she moved with Betty and Robert to Williamsburg and continued to work for the prostitution business.

The women were in the kitchen, where Betty kept the food coming. M.B. was standing in a kitchen corner as Demont had told her to. He was mad at the girl, Betty said, because she had had sex with Isaac Reed the day before while Demont was in jail for drunken driving. Demont told M.B. to get him a beer.

"I guess I took too long, so he beat me up," the girl later would testify. Then Robert and De-



Brian Ray/The Gazette

The 1,770-square-foot ranch home that Betty Thompson, Robert Sallis and Betty's five children moved into in Williamsburg is across the street from the St. Paul Lutheran Church. Betty said she liked living near churches. "That was cool to me," she said. "I always told my kids maybe we would go to church." Betty, Robert and her children had to move to the new home after Betty's former landlord would not make the necessary changes for her to continue to receive Family Independence Program money.

mont started fighting over a \$50 roll of the dice. Robert chased after Demont with a knife. Betty told the girl to go down to the basement, where her 14-year-old son was hanging out with Hoaglin and the younger kids.

Basement confrontation
Upstairs, Demont locked

himself in a bedroom and, as Robert tried to beat down the door with an ironing board, went out through a window. He took off running.

People at the party scattered. Betty gave some of them a ride. But Moosey and one of his friends, a 27-year-old man from Chicago, went back into the house, down into the basement.

Moosey asked M.B. if Demont owned her.

"What are you talking about?" she asked.

"Does Demont own you?" she remembered Moosey asking again.

"No," she said.

Moosey told her if she didn't have sex with everyone there, he'd tell Demont to come back and get her.

The girl's face was swollen where Demont had punched her earlier that day. She started to cry. She said she didn't want to have sex with them. She begged Moosey not to tell Demont where she was, Hoaglin later would tell investigators. But Moosey kept telling

her he was going to call his half brother, Hoaglin said. M.B. took off her clothes. She had sex with Moosey and Betty's son, then with Moosey's friend.

Hoaglin would testify later in court that she didn't try to help, even though she knew the girl didn't want to do it. "I didn't want to get in trouble," Hoaglin said.

Betty came downstairs and saw her son with M.B. She was angry.

"Are you ready to stop being a bust-down now?" she asked the girl.

Then they talked. Betty told M.B. she could stay with Betty and Robert in Williamsburg. She told M.B. she knew how

the girl could make enough money to get home.

"I needed to get home," M.B. said.

Sunday: M.B. learns the tricks of the trade, while investigators seek evidence for a case.

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Robert Sallis
Fought with his son



Demont Bowie
Escaped through window



Betty Thompson
Offered runaway place to stay

Skills/Some on new list already being taught

► FROM PAGE 1A

curriculum" that state lawmakers Friday sent to Gov. Chet Culver to sign into law. The bill would require all public and accredited private schools to teach it by the 2012-13 school year in high schools and by 2014-15 for the lower grades.

School districts will be in charge of deciding how to teach those skills, which include health literacy.

Unhealthy images and products are all over the television and Internet, said Beth Pelton, associate professor and chair of the University of Iowa's Department of Health and Sport Studies. Pelton is a member of the 19-member team that defined 21st-century skills.

"The commercial world is telling us what we should wear, think, eat, whether we should exercise or not, or buy a car, and what kind of relationships we should have," Pelton said.

Nearly half of all American adults have difficulty understanding and using health information and, as a result, end up hospitalized and using emergency services more often than necessary, according to a 2004 report from the Institute of Medicine.

Given that, the 21st-century group decided that Iowa students, when they graduate from high school, should be



Jonathan D. Woods/The Gazette

Fifth grader Hanna Towns leads a classroom meeting at Truman Elementary in Cedar Rapids. The meetings are held once a week, allowing students to develop problem-solving and public speaking skills — two examples of 21st-century skills that educators and business leaders want students to learn.

able to obtain and interpret health-related information and make their own health-care decisions. For example, students can be taught to advocate for themselves or for sick loved ones in the doctor's office; to compare nutrients in diet plans; or to recognize advertising's effects on decision-making.

"We're trying to teach (students modern skills) at the college level, but a lot of kids don't go to college," Pelton said.

Nadene Davidson, co-chair of the 21st-century committee and a professor at the University of Northern Iowa, said she hopes the future

skills and concepts will help educators look at "the whole child" again. Math, science and other academic subjects are important, "but those in isolation aren't really going to prepare our students for the world that they're going to be living in," Davidson said.

The future-looking skills help tie academics to students' lives and success beyond school, she said.

Some of the skills — like problem-solving, how to create a mission and set goals — already are being taught in Cedar Rapids classrooms.

Students, for example, are now gathering data about their academic performance

and analyzing it. They are taking ownership of their learning and using problem-solving to make the classroom function better, said Associate Superintendent Jay Marino.

"We're actually talking to students about 'Why are you here? What's going to be our mission in second grade this year?'" Future employers will want workers who can answer questions like that, he said.

Cynthia Haring, a fifth-grade teacher at Truman Elementary in Cedar Rapids, said she has her students post sticky notes — about their concerns, suggestions, kudos, questions — during the week on a shared board.

Once a week, students use the notes to run their own class meetings. They discuss how well they are meeting classroom goals or what they need to do next.

"One year, (one of the) kids suggested, 'We can call a buddy in here and make sure they got it (their homework) done,'" Haring said. "They followed through with it. ... They are becoming more responsible."

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Flooding/Hardship returns

► FROM PAGE 1A

repair the damage, and hopes she won't have to do so again, she said.

Garber Mayor Harold Aulwes, who recorded more than 5 inches of rain at his home Thursday night and Friday, said the town doesn't have much left to lose. "We lost four homes to the flood of 1999 and eight homes to the flood of 2004," he said.

"We're looking at another three days with no sleep," said Angie Bolsinger, 27, who expects the water pouring into her basement to ruin her furnace and water heater for the second time in four years.

Randy Frank, Clayton County's deputy emergency management director, praised the scores of volunteers who poured into Garber to fill and stack sandbags. "They show up out of the goodness of their hearts to help their neighbors," he said.

Sandbagging also was under way Friday downstream in Osterdock and upstream in Elkader, Elgin and Waucoma.

Elaine Biermann, proprietor of the Osterdock Store, Restaurant and Bar, said she thought the dike between her

business and the Turkey River, renovated and elevated after the flood of 2004, would keep water out. Like most Garber residents, Biermann said she got no sleep Thursday night. "The way it was raining, my intuition told me something was not right with Mother Nature," she said.

In neighboring Delaware County, the Maquoketa River surged across Manchester's Main Street at midafternoon Friday.

"We'll be all right if the predicted 19-foot crest holds," said Delaware County Emergency Management Director Mike Ryan. The crest, expected this morning, would be 2 1/2 feet below the Maquoketa's 2004 crest in Manchester, he said.

The Wapsipicon River is expected to crest at 16 feet — 4 feet over flood stage — just before noon today in Independence, said Rick Wulfekuhle, emergency management coordinator for Buchanan County. Water had covered some roads in the northern part of the county, but no major property damage was expected unless more rain fell overnight, he said.

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Fruit of the Poisonous Tree



How could a human trafficking and prostitution ring involving minors flourish in rural Eastern Iowa?

The Gazette has been investigating the answer to that question for more than a year and a half. Read the answers in a special two-week long series by reporter Jennifer Hemmingsen.

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