



Encouraging peace

Obama sees 'extraordinary opportunity' in Middle East



Favre takes a chance

New Viking says he's thinking about his legacy



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Damage clouds county home's future

Water damage, mold growth expected to require extensive cleanup.

By JEFF ABELL
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The former Des Moines County care facility's days may be numbered due to extensive water damage caused by a broken drain pipe undiscovered by county employees for several weeks.

For decades, the four-story brick

building on Washington Road served as the county's mental health treatment facility. In 2006, it was closed when the Cottonwood Residential Care Facility in Burlington was opened.

The future of the rural West Burlington building, now used for record storage, is in doubt due to widespread water damage that officials say occurred within the past six months. Records from the city/county assessor's office also were damaged due to condensation and mold.

"It's pretty bad. There's mold everywhere," said Des Moines County Board Chairman Jeff Heland. "At this point, I'm not sure what we'll do with the building. Its future is up in the air."

Maintenance Supervisor Jerry Strause said the damage was caused by a drain pipe extending from the roof to the basement that broke near the third floor. The break allowed rainwater to inundate the interior.

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The former Des Moines County Residential facility is located on Washington Road in West Burlington.

John Lovretta/
The Hawk Eye

Healthy discussion



John Lovretta/The Hawk Eye

Congressman Dave Loebsack, D-Iowa, listens to pharmacist Tom Greene on Tuesday during a visit to the Heritage Park Pharmacy at Great River Medical Center in West Burlington. Loebsack was visiting pharmacies across his district to discuss aspects of health care access and cost.

Loebsack tackles pharmacy issues

Congressman touts cost-saving measure of medication management.

By CHRISTINA CRIPPES
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WEST BURLINGTON — One of Congressman Dave Loebsack's first jobs was as a delivery boy for a pharmacy, so he's seen firsthand the value of providing customer service and care to patients outside a clinic.

Now, years later, the Mount Vernon Democrat is traveling the 2nd Congressional District touting a provision in America's Affordable Healthy Choices Act that would offer medication therapy management through pharmacies.

The voluntary initiative — for both pharmacies and their clients — would offer better reimbursement rates for pharmacists that take time to talk with patrons about their medications, going so far as to call them when it's time for

• Health care town halls venues change

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another dose. "Not only will it lead to, of course, a healthier life, but in the end, it can do things like cut down on hospital re-admissions," Loebsack said after stopping Tuesday at the Heritage Pharmacy at Great River Medical Center. "This can be a cost-

saving measure in the long run, so I'm promoting this."

Loebsack has been touring the district doing both town hall meetings and visits with health care professionals during the August recess to discuss health reform legislation being considered by Congress.

He said his experience has been pharmacists are on board with the medication management provision, as long as they have the staff to handle the extra service.

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Schools prepare for H1N1 concerns

Information packets, cleaning on list of prevention efforts.

By MICHAEL J. CRUMB
The Associated Press

DES MOINES — Education officials across Iowa are preparing for a possible H1N1 flu outbreak as students return to school, hoping plans to offer vaccines or provide information kits to teachers will help ward off the illness.

"We have some information we received from the Centers for Disease Control that we plan on sending home to the parents," said Lu-Ann Glaser, director of special services for the Burlington School District.

More than 200 cases of H1N1 flu have been confirmed in the state since it first surfaced in Iowa late April. Earlier this month, a middle-aged person who wasn't identified by health officials died in eastern Iowa.

Glaser said Burlington also has a pandemic flu plan in place as a preventative measure. The plan, which was prepared several years ago, calls for more extensive cleaning and sanitizing throughout school buildings and provides detailed steps for staff members in case a pandemic flu hits the student population.

West Burlington school officials also plan to distribute additional materials on the virus to parents and students, and staff will emphasize cleanliness and proper hand washing techniques to students.

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Teen victim takes stand in kidnapping, abuse trial

Attorneys for both sides lay out arguments.

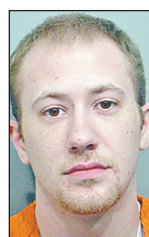
By JOHN MANGALONZO
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With both her hands pressed on her face and her head bowed down, a 17-year-old girl wept as she sat in front of a jury and recalled the time she said she was raped by two men 17 months ago.

"It felt like forever," the girl said when Des Moines County prosecutor Lisa Taylor asked her how long the ordeal was.

Tuesday marked the first day of the trial of Chad William Curry, 20, of Burlington, who is charged with first-degree kidnapping and second-degree sexual abuse. The stakes remain high, and tension filled the courtroom.

If convicted of the kidnapping



Curry

alone, Curry faces life in prison without parole. Sexual abuse in the second degree carries a maximum penalty of 25 years in prison.

Like most trials, this one involves two different stories — one claiming the sex was forced and the other insisting it was consensual and was even "discussed" beforehand.

The official report on file is as simple as any other rape case: The girl, who was 16 at the time, alleges Curry and another Burlington man, Lloyd Terrell Stevenson, 28, forced her into a bedroom and took turns sexually assaulting her.

See Trial page 8A

DNR sends case to AG's office

Pieper Inc. penalty for water quality violations could exceed \$10,000.

By NICHOLAS BERGIN
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MORAVIA — A history of environmental violations and an alleged manure discharge in March have landed the Lee County agricultural business Pieper Inc. in a pile of trouble.

The Iowa Environmental Protection Commission unanimously voted Tuesday to refer Pieper Inc. to the state attorney general's office for enforcement action. The EPC met at the Honey Creek State Park Resort near Moravia.

Department of Natural Resources office say uncertified Pieper employees improperly applied manure to a field outside Wever that drained into nearby road ditches.

"We (DNR) are requesting that

Pieper Inc. be referred to the attorney general's office not only because of the water quality violations, the prohibited discharge, the improper land application and the uncertified manure applicators ... but because there is an extensive enforcement history with this company," DNR attorney Kelli Book said during the hearing.

Run by Mike Pieper of Wever, Pieper Inc. has 13 full-time employees and includes a swine facility consisting of a 7,100-head gestation, farrowing and finishing operation, as well as a 1,300 head nursery, according to a DNR report.

By statute, DNR can only assess fines up to \$10,000.

"So anytime we have a case that we believe has a penalty that could exceed \$10,000, we're required to re-

"It's not like somebody backed up a truck and dumped it there in a ditch on purpose. I can see being in trouble for that."

Mike Pieper of Pieper Inc.

fer that to the attorney general's office," Book said.

DNR officials do not recommend fine levels in such cases. Usually, the attorney general's office will negotiate a settlement with the offender. But if Pieper Inc. and government officials fail to reach an agreement, the attorney general's office likely will file a lawsuit in Lee County, where the offense took place, Book said.

While investigating two complaints about the discharge, DNR Environmental Specialist Mark Heiderscheid on March 20 found a stream of green liquid that smelled of hog manure flowing from a field owned by Pieper into a drainage ditch.

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