



PRIMARY ELECTION TODAY

■ FOLLOW RESULTS TONIGHT AT WWW.GAZETTEONLINE.COM

■ POLLS OPEN FROM 7 A.M. TO 9 P.M.
■ WHERE TO VOTE? CALL YOUR COUNTY AUDITOR
■ YOU CAN REGISTER TO VOTE AT THE POLLS, IF YOU HAVE CURRENT I.D. AND PROOF OF ADDRESS (LIKE A UTILITY BILL)



The Gazette

TUESDAY

June 3, 2008

www.gazetteonline.com

VOL. 126 NO. 146

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER IN IOWA'S TECHNOLOGY CORRIDOR

75 CENTS



RECREATION

My kind of camp

Today's specialty camps help youths find their niche

By Carly Weber
The Gazette

This summer, while his friends are playing computer games and riding bikes around town, 9-year-old Jared Termini is going to leap from a 40-foot building. After that he'll jump out of a moving car.

Meanwhile, his 12-year-old brother, Blake Termini, will be slithering Army-style through the woods, launching paintball attacks and learning evasive maneuvers on an ATV.

These days, singing "Kumbaya" around the campfire and weaving baskets just don't cut it.

Sleep-away camps with bunk-bed-filled cabins, mess-hall meals and craft time have been replaced by niche camps tailored to tweens' and teens' individual interests. While some camps are all about fun, others are designed to teach under the guise of a good

► CAMPS, PAGE 5A

Beach closings stretch into July

High water putting big dent in recreation at Coralville Lake

By Bryce Bauer
The Gazette

CORALVILLE LAKE — The beaches will not be open by July Fourth because of continued high water, operations manager John Castle said Monday.

"All the beaches are under water, so there is no swimming," Castle said. The lake's water level was about 705 feet Monday, 22 feet above the normal summer level of 683. And it will get worse for those looking to relax at Sandy Beach, Sugar Bottom or West Overlook. Castle said water levels are expected to rise to around 710 feet by next Monday, two feet below the spillway.

If no more rain were to fall, beaches wouldn't start opening for another month. Forecasts show more rain in the next few days.

The high level at the man-made flood-control reservoir is foiling summer plans for those accustomed to lounging on a beach, swimming, camping, picnicking or having easy access to boat ramps at this time of year.

"We didn't even know it was flooded. We brought everything," Maria Rojas, 33, said Sunday as she, her husband, Ramon, and their two daughters, Tania, 12, Jackie, 8, and son, Aaron, 6, sat under an East Overlook shelter munching chips and drinking sodas.

When they departed Cedar Rapids, they had intended to spend the day on the beach and in the water, only to be greeted by inundated restrooms and picnic shelters and water lapping at parking lots instead of sandy beaches.

"It was very disappointing," Jackie Rojas said.

Beyond beaches, the high water has forced the closure of 65 of the lake's 500 campsites, and has shut all public boat ramps except the one at

► BEACHES, PAGE 5A

C.R. parks reeling from 2 weekends of vandalism

By Rick Smith
The Gazette

CEDAR RAPIDS — Vandals, spray-painting hooligans, illegal dumpers and thieves have been taking it out on city park property, and City Hall isn't happy about it.

"We're taking a licking," says Dave Smith, the city's parks superintendent.

The list of city parks victimized this past weekend and the weekend before is nearly too long to list, Smith said Monday.

He said Riverside Park and the city's skate park and restroom there have been particularly hard hit, with profanity and swastikas included in the spray-painted graffiti. Swastikas also have been painted

at the Noelridge Park playground, while racist graffiti have been splattered in the restrooms at Van Vechten Park.

Smith called the damage "extremely heavy" the weekend before and "very heavy" during the weekend just ended. He termed the racist graffiti "troubling."

Smith suspected that youngsters between the ages of 9 and 16 are responsible for much of the damage. Toilet paper strung through trees at Riverside Park was an indication of younger vandals, while damage at some of the city's more remote parks likely required someone with a vehicle, he said.

Smith said city parks employees are on duty late into

the evening, but catching vandals can be difficult.

"You can empty a can of spray paint in three minutes," he said. "That's a lot of damage you can do in a very small amount of time. And the chance of catching someone is low."

Smith said vandalism is part of the reality of running a park system. He said the toughest times for parks are when youngsters get out of school in the spring, when they return in the fall, and Halloween.

"Those are your peaks, and I would say this is the highest peak," Smith said. "Those first few days, when it turns warm, it's like a shark

► PARKS, PAGE 5A



Liz Martin/The Gazette

Some of the graffiti on the skate ramps at Riverside Park in Cedar Rapids have been covered up, but some remained on Monday. Vandalism has spiked in Cedar Rapids parks in the past two weeks.

Parkersburg pauses for funeral, toils on

Disaster team helping city pick up the pieces

By Adam Belz
The Gazette

PARKERSBURG — About midafternoon Monday along Highway 57 through Parkersburg, everything stopped.

The backhoes froze, the dump trucks stayed put and all the volunteers, police, National Guard members and truck drivers turned to watch

Want to help with tornado cleanup?

■ Those interested in volunteering to help with the cleanup of Parkersburg and New Hartford are asked to call the Iowa Concern Hotline at 1-(800) 447-1985.

■ Right now there are enough

the funeral procession for Shirley Luhring.

It was raining lightly, and

volunteers for the weekend. When additional help is needed, volunteers will be contacted. Volunteers efforts need to be scheduled so they can help rather than become a scheduling burden, officials said.

the procession passed through on its way to a cemetery on the west side of town. The 71-year-

old woman was one of seven who died when a tornado demolished huge swaths of Parkersburg and New Hartford on May 25.

When the blinking lights on the squad car at the end of the procession passed, work resumed, and there's still plenty to do.

The streets in Parkersburg are clear and much of the debris left by the tornado has

► CLEANUP, PAGE 5A



Adam Belz/The Gazette

The funeral procession for Shirley Luhring, 71, of Parkersburg, heads west out of Parkersburg on Monday afternoon, bringing the cleanup to a halt until the cortege had passed. Luhring was one of seven killed by the May 25 tornado.

FREE

PLUG IN TO MORE NEWS 24/7
WWW.GAZETTEONLINE.COM

- BREAKING LOCAL NEWS UPDATES THROUGHOUT THE DAY
- FULL OBITS AND TODAY'S SERVICES
- BLOGS, PICTURES, DISCUSSION BOARDS



WWW.GAZETTETO.COM
KEEP UP WITH THE LATEST LOCAL NEWS, WEATHER AND SPORTS, WHEREVER YOU ARE

SEE NEWS, HAVE NEWS? CEDAR RAPIDS (319) 398-8254 IOWA CITY (319) 339-3155 IOWA 1-(800) 397-8212



CHEAPER TO SUBSCRIBE
1-(800) 397-8333

Index
Accent.....D
Advice.....5D

Bridge.....2E
Calendar.....5D
Classified.....E
Comics.....5-6D

Deaths.....4-5B
Editorial.....4A
Food.....1-3D
History.....8E

Horoscope.....3E
Legals.....6-7E
Lottery.....2B
Money.....7-8B

Movies.....4D
People.....5A
Puzzles.....8E
Stocks.....7B

TV.....4D
Weather.....8E

TODAY'S WEATHER



Showers/storms likely
TODAY 77 58
WEDNESDAY 81 62