

# Camps/Niche approach a nudge to think about the future

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time. While the Termini boys of Iowa City are flying out to California for their extreme camp experience at Pali Adventure Camps, Eastern Iowa also has plenty of niche camps.

Budding digital artists will edit and create videos and future Nobel Prize winners will power light bulbs by pedaling bikes at the University of Northern Iowa's Multimedia and Young Scientists' camps in Cedar Falls. Campers at Kirkwood Interactive Camp for Kids in Cedar Rapids will weld 18-inch dinosaurs, build video games, study a crime scene and build a kayak.

Even 4-H, an organization with a long history of camp traditions like archery, canoeing and campfires, has added summer specialty camps. Un-Camp campers get a

## For more info

- Kirkwood Interactive Camps for Kids: [www.kirkwood.edu/kick](http://www.kirkwood.edu/kick)
- University of Northern Iowa Multimedia Camp: [www.campmultimedia.com](http://www.campmultimedia.com)
- University of Northern Iowa Young Scientist Camp: [www.uni.edu/camps/sciencecamp/index.html](http://www.uni.edu/camps/sciencecamp/index.html)
- 4-H: [www.iowa4hcamp.com](http://www.iowa4hcamp.com)

movie and pizza night, ice cream with breakfast and food fights. At Create-a-Camp they design their own experience from a budget and list of activities. Campers even choose and cook their meals.

This niche approach makes sense to Springfield mom Alexis Hulett.

"If your kid has a specialty in drawing, you're obviously going to look for something that goes with drawing," she

## On TV

■ Gazette staff writer Carly Weber is scheduled to discuss this story today during the 11 a.m. newscast on KCRG-TV9.

said. "I don't think you should ever channel your kids, but you're not trying to build any superkids with one week of camp. You just want to provide them opportunities to explore."

Michael Termini, Blake and Jared's dad, gave his boys the option of going to a more traditional sleep-away camp closer to home. But they chose Pali's Hollywood Stuntman and Secret Agent camps.

"They are so excited they can't speak," Termini said. "The (camp's) site is so exciting that I wanted to go."

His own camp experience as a child "wasn't anywhere near

what these kids are doing. I had more the traditional hiking-swimming type of things. There were no ATVs or paintball wars," he said.

Pali's owner and founder Andy Wexler calls his camps "fantasies." UNI's specialty camps are rooted in reality.

"This is more about skills and less about relaxing and having fun. It's less about giving parents a break," said Bettina Fabos, director of UNI's Camp Multimedia.

"We see this as a way to get kids to be really creative and think about careers in multimedia."

Kirkwood's camps also are career-focused.



**Kim Johnson**  
Kirkwood Community College



**Tana Leaverton**  
Marion



**Alexis Hulett**  
Springville

"We are seeing much emphasis ... on trying to get our youth younger and younger to educate them on career opportunities," said Kim Johnson, executive director of continuing education programming at Kirkwood. "We felt summer camps was a nice piece of the puzzle."

At these niche camps, kids can immerse themselves in a topic, but only for one week. That's appealing to both par-

ents and kids.

Twelve-year-old Tommy Leaverton of Marion is OK with learning, as long as it's disguised as fun, he said.

"I don't like just sitting inside. I want to be able to make stuff," said the Vernon Middle School sixth grader who is signed up for Kirkwood's Weld-A-Saurus camp.

As for his mother, Tana Leaverton, it's never a bad thing "any time you can challenge a child, especially if they don't know it and inadvertently they are having fun in the process," she said.

"The career exploration is awesome," she said. "It gives (parents) a chance to pick and choose on what is best for their child. It's a different way of looking at camps."

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# Cleanup/Company travels nation

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been shoved into piles. But in the hardest-hit area, piles of debris and splintered tree trunks dominate the landscape.

Among the hundreds working in Parkersburg are men with the company Disaster Recovery Solutions. They've been in town since Tuesday.

The company is a for-profit business that makes money cleaning up after hurricanes in the Southeast, but owner Tad Agoglia keeps a team of five with two crane trucks on the road to respond — for free — to everything from tornadoes to mudslides and wildfires.

"There's no humanitarian organization that does this," said Agoglia, 31, of Long Island, N.Y., standing out of the rain in a splintered closet on the foundation of a home. "We work directly under the emergency officials."

By Sunday, Agoglia's men had removed 375 truckloads of debris with their specialized crane trucks, he said. The cranes are equipped with huge claws that can fill a dump truck in one to three minutes, Agoglia said.

In the past 12 months, his company has been in Greensburg, Kan., after the EF-5 tornado there, in California for wildfires and mudslides, in Tennessee and Alabama for tornadoes there and in Picher, Okla., to help clean up after the tornado there.

He and his men drove straight from Picher, where a



Adam Belz/The Gazette

Tim Wolkowicz of Lancaster, Pa., operates a crane on the back of a truck owned by Disaster Recovery Solutions, a company that volunteers men and equipment for cleanup at major disasters throughout the country. The company has been in Parkersburg since last Tuesday, two days after the tornado plowed through the south side of town.

## Red Cross report

■ Red Cross officials say pledges of financial support are strong, 2B

May 10 tornado killed six, to Parkersburg.

Agoglia said he's never seen a community rebound as quickly as Parkersburg. City leaders know what they're doing, he said, and citizens seem to have more commitment to the cleanup than he's seen in other places.

Agoglia started his company in 2003 and incorporated it under the name Disaster Recovery Solutions in 2005. He hopes one day there will be multiple

teams like his in the country, funded by several companies to respond to disasters.

He also provides generators, water pumps, hovercrafts for rescue and communications equipment in case of emergency. Some of that equipment is still in Picher, where he and his men will likely return soon, he said.

Police at roadblocks around town are mostly allowing only volunteers, cleanup workers, law enforcement and those who used to live in the destroyed neighborhood to enter the south side of town.

Police and firefighters from Muscatine, Cedar Rapids, Des Moines, Scott County and even Wisconsin are working

in Parkersburg under a central command center set up at the fire station south of town.

"There are units from literally all over the state," said Iowa City Deputy Fire Chief Roger Jensen, who's part of the third incident management team to cycle through Parkersburg since the tornado.

Even the fire station is damaged. Most of its doors were ripped off by the tornado, and the doorways are covered by plywood.

Swarms of volunteers are moving through cornfields around town, picking up the little pieces of Parkersburg the tornado sprayed across the countryside.

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# Beaches/With rising water comes debris

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Mehaffey Bridge, which was crowded Sunday, Castle said.

Castle said rising water also tends to become cluttered with debris, which can pose a threat to boaters. He said he was unaware of any incidents this year.

Because of such flooding, which Castle said happens on average every five or six years, he said he didn't expect the lake to receive the normal 1 million visits this year that it receives in other years.

"We are definitely going to be below average," he said.

While fewer visits mean

less revenue from user fees, the lake's funding already has been set by the federal government so the loss of income should not affect the lake's operating budget, Castle said.

But for families like the Rojas, it has affected summer plans. Normally, her family would make the trek to the lake five or six times a year, but this year Maria Rojas said they probably won't return until the water has left.

"I guess we are going to have to go back to Cedar Rapids and go to the pool or something," she said.

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Jonathan D. Woods/The Gazette

Campsites remain flooded at West Overlook at the Coralville Reservoir on Monday. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is having to increase the amount of water it releases from the Coralville Reservoir. The Corps is releasing 8,600 cubic feet per second, up from what it has been releasing the past few days, because of increased rain and more anticipated rain.



Liz Martin/The Gazette

Graffiti are faded and scraped away on the walls and doors of the restrooms at Riverside Park in Cedar Rapids on Monday.

# Parks/Restrooms at Shaver Park have 60 coats of paint

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smelling blood. They just get wild. It will get your attention."

Terry Robinson, Smith's parks counterpart in Iowa City, on Monday said vandals "continuously" hit city parks. He reported no recent spike in damage, but spray-painters have hit Happy Hollow Park on the city's north side, he said.

Cedar Rapids' Smith said city

crews often clean up and make repairs quickly, but some damage requires sinks, toilets and parts that are not in stock. In some instances, too, paint remover and pressure washing haven't been able to remove the spray paint. Sandblasting will be needed to clean up the 5-year-old, \$80,000 restroom at the skate park, Smith said.

He said some park restrooms — at Shaver Park, for instance — have

had 60 or more coats of paint over graffiti.

He said vandals have left two cases of broken beer bottles in Jones Park, tipped over portable restrooms in Cherry Hill and Delaney parks and stolen sewer caps at a Bever Park restroom, which caused a sewer spill.

Two pickup loads of tires, rims and debris also were illegally dumped on the road leading to the roller dam, and a \$5,000 tent was stolen from the

garden area at Noelridge Park.

Spots hit by vandals and spray-painters include Riverside Skate Park, Riverside Park, Northview Park, Daniels Park, Noelridge Park, Shawnee Park, Cleveland Park, Time Check Park, Jacolyn Park, Cedar Lake Park, Hider Park, Lincolnway Park, Bever Park, Van Vechten Park and Jones Park.

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## PEOPLE

# O'Neal released after arrest

Associated Press

Tatum O'Neal, who has publicly battled drug addiction, was released without bail Monday after her cocaine-possession arrest in downtown Manhattan.

The Oscar-winning actress, 44, looked tired but said nothing as she was arraigned in New York's Manhattan Criminal Court on a misdemeanor charge of possession of a controlled substance. She entered no plea. Afterward, her lawyer whisked her into a waiting car. She is due back in court July 28.

O'Neal, daughter of Ryan O'Neal, was 10 when she won an Academy Award for best supporting actress for 1973's "Paper Moon."

The former child star struggled for years with drug abuse and publicly feuded with both her father and her ex-husband, John McEnroe.



Tatum O'Neal

# Grammer has mild heart attack

Associated Press

A spokesman for Kelsey Grammer says the "Frasier" star is recovering in a Hawaii hospital after a mild heart attack this weekend.

Stan Rosenfield says Grammer is "resting comfortably" in an undisclosed hospital after being stricken Saturday. Rosenfield says the 53-year-old actor will be released



Kelsey Grammer

early this week.

Rosenfield says Grammer — the star of "Cheers," "Frasier" and the recently canceled Fox sitcom "Back to You" — was paddle-boarding with his wife, Camille, when he experienced symptoms.

The couple lives in Kona, on Hawaii's big island.

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# Chopra says the joke's on him in new Myers film

Associated Press

Deepak Chopra has something to say about Hindu opposition to Mike Myers' new movie: Get over it.

The best-selling author and spiritual teacher is defending "The Love Guru," a comedy in which Myers plays an aspiring self-help guru who aims to achieve Chopra's level of popularity. Chopra posted an essay online in response to those in the Hindu community who say "The Love Guru" is offensive and mocks important tenets of their faith.

"The premature outcry against the movie is itself religious propaganda," Chopra writes, noting that the protesters based their views on the film's 2 1/2-minute trailer. "As viewers will find out when the movie is released this summer, no one is more thoroughly skewered in it than I am — you could even say that I am made to seem preposterous."



Deepak Chopra