

Bagworms, often mistaken for pine cones, can damage your conifers



Rock Island triple jumper Julian Mayfield takes home Illinois 2A title

SPORTS: B1

HOME & GARDEN: D1

▶ AT QCTIMES.COM: TIMES PHOTOGRAPHERS SHARE THEIR FAVORITE SHOTS FROM THE PAST WEEK

Family, friends recall 6-year-old

Community wants to know what led to Grace Vah's drowning

By Ann McGlynn and Doug Schorpp
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Little Grace Vah came to the United States as a refugee with her mother, her brother and her sister four years ago. They

settled in an apartment in the Century Woods complex in west Rock Island.

Grace's father died in her native Liberia when Grace's mother, Victoria Mohn, was pregnant with her.

On Saturday afternoon, her family and friends gathered on the lawn at Century Woods to remember the girl who loved to jump rope and play outside and had a huge grin, missing one



Grace Vah

tooth just lost. Grace, 6, drowned Thursday while on a school field trip to Whitewater Junction. "She's not supposed to die," said Tenneh Darlue, a friend who also is from Liberia. "She's supposed to live so her mother can tell her" the story of the

▶ VIDEO: Watch friends of Grace Vah's family talk about the 6-year-old and their search for answers in her death at qctimes.tv

beginning of her life.

Mohn, sitting nearby, said she is not able to talk about her daughter. She cried.

The people who sat with her say they want to know how this happened, and have not been able to get any answers. Some went to the school, Frances

Willard, on Friday, seeking answers and were unable to get any, they said.

"We will never, ever forget about her," said Bankre Nevis, whose daughter has beads in her hair borrowed from Grace.

Grace was found underwater Thursday in the deep area of the pool at Whitewater Junction. She was on a field trip with about 260 other students from

— GRACE | A4

CREATIVE MINDS, CREATIVE JOBS



Jeff Cook/QUAD-CITY TIMES

Jake Pautsch took a leap of faith and moved his car detailing business out of the family garage and into rented space in downtown Davenport. The 18-year-old is among Quad-City entrepreneurs who see opportunity despite the faltering economy.

White House touts Q-C project

Davenport is using stimulus money to replace stoves

By Ed Tibbetts
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A Davenport project to replace 42 stoves at public housing projects using federal stimulus money has gained the attention of the Obama administration. But it's also raised the question of whether the stimulus funding is truly aiding the local economy.

The city is using \$13,000 in federal stimulus money to replace the stoves at its scattered-site public housing.

The effort got the eye of the White House on Wednesday.

The administration issued a report aimed at highlighting 100 projects to illustrate "the progress the country has made" since the law was signed. Davenport's stove project was included.

The report notes that Zeglin's Home TV & Appliance was hired to replace the stoves with "American-made Whirlpool appliances."

The \$13,000 in federal money is part of a \$139,000 effort to replace 162 stoves and refrigerators at the 42 scattered housing sites and the 120-unit Heritage building at 501 W. 3rd St.

At first, the city planned to use its own money for the project over this fiscal year and next. But when the federal money became available, officials used it instead.

Margaret Murphy, the assisted housing manager for the city, said most of the stoves being replaced are about 15 years old and the new appliances will result in savings on utility bills.

"We were just thrilled that they used a local, independent, family-owned operation like Zeglin's," said Jeff Parker, the company's contract sales manager. He added the company needed additional help with delivery and unpacking of the stoves.

But is it really stimulating the economy, if the replacements were already planned, and all but \$8,000 of the money was to have been spent by July 1?

Peter Orazem, a professor of economics at Iowa State University, said replacing local dollars with federal funds wouldn't stimulate the economy. But if the \$13,000 in local money ends up being spent somewhere else, it will have some effect, he said.

The spending must be done quickly, however, or the funds will simply displace

— PROJECT | A4

Entrepreneurial endeavors flourish amid sour economy

By Doug Schorpp
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Jake Pautsch developed business sense early in life.

While in middle school, he and a friend started a successful small company that distributed T-shirts and hats. Today, at the age of 18, he has created an auto detailing business called Difinity Auto Detail and recently moved into a building at 1013 W. 4th St., Davenport.

INSIDE

BUSINESS: Twelve area women have teamed up to open a Davenport arts and crafts shop. **Page A11**

"I started about a year ago in my garage," Pautsch, of Davenport, said. "About a couple of months ago, I expanded to my shop and have three people working for me."

Pautsch, who dropped out of high school last year, worked part-time at a couple of jobs — including a pizza parlor — when he began detailing cars on the side. "I was car detailing a quarter of the time that I was working at the pizza parlor but was making twice the money," he said.

Plus, he prefers working for himself. So, it made economic sense to quit the pizza job and jump into the detailing job full-time. He saved

MORE JOB SEEKERS STARTING THEIR OWN BUSINESSES

Chicago-based Challenger, Gray & Christmas Inc., a global outplacement firm, recently completed a survey of more than 3,000 job seekers. Here are some of those results:

Percentage of clients starting own business			
2nd Qtr 2008	3rd Qtr 2008	4th Qtr 2008	1st Qtr 2009
4.25%	6.06%	2.73%	6.44%

Of the clients who started business, percentage older than 40			
2nd Qtr 2008	3rd Qtr 2008	4th Qtr 2008	1st Qtr 2009
92.31%	78.57%	40.05%	69.23%

enough money to purchase the equipment he needed for his new venture.

"I didn't think it would go this well," he said. "I hoped it would. But whether it fails or succeeds, at least I tried it."

'A whole different breed'

Pautsch's venture is but one example of the spirit of entrepreneurship that is flourishing in the Quad-Cities. Such innovators are special people, said Donna Scalf, director of the Illinois Small Business Development Center at Black Hawk College, Moline.

"They are people who don't mind putting

everything they own on the line," she said. "They are a whole different breed, and they are wonderful, and that is what makes our economy work."

She has seen many people who want to take advantage of the current economy by starting or expanding a business. "Some have lost their jobs and say, 'I want to go into business for myself. It is the right time for me to do it.'"

Ann Hutchinson, director of the Eastern Iowa Small Business Development Center in Davenport, sees similar trends.

"What I am really hearing is that people are

— ENDEAVORS | A4

Illinois Senate narrowly passes tax increase

By Kurt Erickson
Times Bureau

SPRINGFIELD — The Illinois Senate voted 31-27 Saturday on an estimated \$5.2 billion income tax hike.

But its prospects for passage in the House remain slim.

As part of a last-minute flurry

of activity in the Capitol, the Senate debated raising the state income tax to 5 percent, from its current 3 percent. If enacted, it is expected to generate a little more than \$5 billion.

The measure, designed to close a massive budget gap, also contains a number of other small tax hikes and provides an estimated

INSIDE IN OTHER ACTION: The House overwhelmingly approves a recall provision, and a bill legalizing online horse betting heads to Gov. Pat Quinn's desk. **Page C6**

\$500 million in property tax relief. The Senate's decision to debate the measure was seen by some

lawmakers as gamesmanship. The House has been unable to muster support for Gov. Pat Quinn's smaller income tax hike, leaving some senators frustrated over the situation.

The governor said he prefers the House version of the tax hike.

— TAX | A4



78 62
HIGH LOW

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HOME & GARDEND1

NATION/WORLDA5
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