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It's Kaine
Clinton picks senator for VP
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Newman advances

Knights blast into semifinal **SPORTS, PAGE B1**

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CHRIS ZOELLER, THE GLOBE GAZETTE
Doug Champlin injects his brisket as his cousin's husband Jay Gerlich of Panora watches Champlin preps his meats for the Up in Smoke BBQ Bash competition Saturday at East Park in Mason City.

Latham seeking Urdahl position

Will challenge for seat on supervisors board

JOHN SKIPPER
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MASON CITY — Mason City businessman Tim Latham will run against incumbent District 1 Supervisor Jay Urdahl in the general election in November.



Latham

Latham, 60, was nominated by county Republicans at a meeting Thursday night. No Republican had filed for candidacy by the filing deadline earlier this year.

Urdahl, a Democrat who is seeking his eighth term on the Board of Supervisors, was unopposed in the June primary election.

Please see **Latham**, Page A2

Area ties: Ballooning gives way to barbecue

Man healed in North Iowa after crash, created friendships

MEREDITH COLIAS
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MASON CITY — Doug Champlin's wife was relieved when he traded ballooning for barbecue competitions.

In the five years since he took up the sport, Judi Champlin considers it a much safer hobby for a man involved nearly nine years ago as part of a fatal balloon crash near Coulter.

For the Albuquerque couple, each return to North Iowa is a welcome and emotional chance to reunite with folks who embraced them when Doug became the lone survivor of that balloon

crash in November 2007.

Champlin, a retired engineer for Intel Corp. in Albuquerque, was born in Mason City and lived in Clear Lake until he was 5.

His team — DJ's Smokin' BBQ, including his wife and daughter Tracy — will be completing for the first time this year in the Up In Smoke BBQ Bash competition in East Park.

En route on a flight from Gree-

ley, Colorado, the helium balloon struck a power line near Coulter, severing the cables attached to the basket and plunging the gondola 60 to 65 feet to the ground.

Champlin's companions, Thomas Boyland, 62, of Fort Collins, Colorado, and Bradley Brookhart, 37, of Littleton, Colorado, were killed on impact.

Please see **BBQ**, Page A2

Murder convict gets parole possibility

Judge changes Seats' sentence in aftermath of rulings on juveniles

MARY PIEPER
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MASON CITY — A Mason City man convicted of shooting a man to death during a home robbery when he was a juvenile will have a chance at parole.

District Court Judge James Drew signed an order Thursday amending Damion Seats' sentence to life in prison with the possibility of parole.

Seats' original sentence was life in prison without the possibility of parole, but that sentence has been ruled unconstitutional for juveniles, Drew wrote in his order.

Seats, now 25, received his sentence after being found guilty by a Cerro Gordo County jury in 2009 of first-degree murder and first-degree robbery. Iowa law required judges to sentence those convicted of Class A felonies to life in prison without parole.

Seats shot Isidoro Erreguin to death at a residence on North

Please see **Parole**, Page A2



FILE PHOTO

Damion Seats testifies during a 2013 court proceeding. A judge ruled Thursday that Seats, 25, will have a chance for parole after being convicted of first-degree murder in 2009. The crime took place when Seats was still a juvenile.

BALLOON LAUNCH



AARON THOMAS, THE GLOBE GAZETTE

FLIGHT FROM THE FAIRGROUNDS

Balloonmeister Mark Spanier fills a balloon with hot air during launch Friday evening at the North Iowa Fair. After lift-off the balloons floated west toward Clear Lake.

■ **More inside:** See story and photos on **Page A3**.

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