

Section
M
QUAD-CITY TIMES
Friday, June 6, 1997

Q-C AREA

CITY EDITOR: Mark Ridolfi (319) 383-2450

the
Classifieds
Pages 5M-14M

Q-C REGION

Boys & Girls Club celebrates anniversary

The Boys & Girls Club will host a carnival Saturday in Moline to celebrate its third anniversary in the Quad-Cities.

The Grizzlies, a teen-age lead group, will sponsor the event from noon to 4 p.m. at the club's Mississippi Valley facility, 350 3rd St.

Area artists Ralph Iacurino and Lauren Shaw will create a mural depicting the day's activities. Staff from the Family Museum of Art and Science in Bettendorf will help participants paint their own mural.

There also will be baked goods and Mexican food, pinatas, games such as a sack pull, face painting, Jell-O painting and Mexican bingo.

Carnival proceeds will be used by Grizzlies Club members to attend a national leadership conference in the fall.

Moline offers advice to tonight's grads

If you're graduating from Moline High School tonight, the city police department has some advice that could last a lifetime. Don't drink and drive.

Everyone's heard that before, but it will be especially meaningful beginning about 10 p.m., or shortly after graduation ceremonies end at Wharton Field House. Extra officers will closely monitor streets near the YMCA, where the all-night Project Graduation party will take place.

It's an alcohol-free affair, but Sgt. Greg Crouch, the head of the department's traffic investigation unit, said he knows some students may elect to drink anyway. "This enforcement effort will target impaired drivers, not Project Graduation, and is intended to provide safe corridors for our graduates to travel," he said.

He said officers will employ the Illinois zero-tolerance law that makes it illegal for any person younger than 21 years to have any amount of alcohol in their system.

—Doug Schorpp

Police investigate alleged sexual assault

Rock Island police are investigating an alleged case of sexual assault in which an 11-year-old boy is accused of fondling a 5-year-old boy.

No arrests have been made, but charges could be filed later this week, Lt. Don Reichert said. A lot of factors must be determined, including the older boy's maturity level, before that could happen, he said. But if charges are filed, the boy would be tried as a juvenile.

He said the alleged incident occurred Monday as the 11-year-old's mother was baby-sitting for the younger boy. "The mother of the perpetrator reported it," Reichert added.

The Illinois Department of Children and Family Services also is investigating the incident.

Storage tank leak fuels evacuation

Bettendorf investigates spill that forced 250 workers from old high school

By Doug Schorpp
QUAD-CITY TIMES

About 250 employees of the Mississippi Bend Area Education Agency have been evacuated from its main facility in Bettendorf because heating fuel from an old underground storage tank is leaking into the basement.

It's called an emergency situation because there is potential for it spreading beyond the site itself," said Glen Pelechy, the chief administrator for the agency at 720 21st St., that sits atop 23 eastern Iowa school districts.

But officials said Thursday there appears to be no immediate danger and no detectable trace of the non-toxic material in any other portions of the building, surrounding water and sewer systems or at nearby Armstrong Elementary School.

Crews were working Thursday to find the exact location of two storage tanks that probably have been dormant since the late 1960s. That is when the building—the majority of which is the former Bettendorf High School—went to a different heating system and the tanks probably were capped.

This is complex because many

factors are going into this," Bettendorf Fire Chief Gerry Voelliger said. "The tanks that fed the old high school were used for heating fuel. We know the tanks were there, but we didn't know the location."

The tanks could not be located during an expansion project last year. The urgency in finding them changed last week when maintenance workers noticed an odor that was identified as fuel seeping through the ground and up to the boiler room in the basement.

For days, tests were taken and temporary ventilation systems were tried. But it became apparent

Wednesday that things were progressing to the point that employees needed to be sent home.

Voelliger said environmental officials are cleaning up, pumping fresh air into the sealed boiler room, drilling wells to relieve the pressure and searching for the two tanks that eventually will have to be removed.

Once the tanks are located, it may take as long as two weeks to remove them, Pelechy said. "What they actually have to do is excavate the whole area," he added.

CLASSES MOVE

Two staff development classes scheduled to be held at the Mississippi Bend Area Education Agency, or AEA, today next week will be moved. Both classes involved teachers from many of the 23 school districts in the AEA.

■ AEA's "A Way of Thinking" will be 2:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. daily at the Davenport Administration Service Center. The "Integration of Literature and Science Class" will be 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday and Tuesday at the Pleasant Administration Building board room. For more information, call Kim Schreckloth at (319) 344-0373.



Photos by Jeff Cook/QUAD-CITY TIMES

Welding rods replace paint brushes on this canvas

By Jennifer DeWitt
QUAD-CITY TIMES

WELDING—skill or art? It's turned out to be both for a group of six Moline teenagers who were nearing completion Thursday on a sculpture that marries their new-found craft with their Latino heritages.

For the past five weeks, the young men have been learning the basics of welding and design to create a work of art that soon will adorn the Florentine Neighborhood where they live.

"I learned a lot about welding," said Adam Juarez, one of the participants in Street Heat, an outreach program of the Family Museum of Art and Science in Bettendorf. "I didn't know if I'd be able to do it. I took a chance and I like it."

The program, which has brought other sculptures and mural art to Bettendorf, is designed to teach youth not only about creating public art, but also a skill they can transfer to a career, said Julie Arneson, the museum's education coordinator.

"I think this will give them some sort of direction in their life if they don't have one," Jim Richardson said Thursday as he proudly showed over his students at John Deere Harvester Works in East Moline. The factory donated the use of its welding training lab and the scrap metal for the project.

Richardson, a welder for Deere & Co., has taught various welding and oil painting classes for the museum, "but this was something new to teach kids from a neighborhood."

The group, ages 16-18, includes Jesus Gonzalez, Israel Escamilla, Carlos Barbosa, Dan Guerrero and Eric Hedman.

■ Dan Guerrero and Israel Escamilla weld a likeness of an eagle as part of a sculpture that will be installed in Moline's Florentine Neighborhood, near 7th Street and 8th Avenue, when it is complete. Dan and Israel are involved in Street Heat, a program designed by the Family Museum of Art and Science in Bettendorf that involves youth in creating works of public art and learning a career-related skill or craft.

■ Here's a close-up look at part of the sculpture.

The young artists also worked under the direction of Chuck Knudsen, the artist who drew the original designs for the sculpture, which, like any artwork, changed a little along the way. The sculpture includes the sun and lightning bolts, and when it's finished, it will have an eagle on top.

"The sun represents community and life. We all need the sun to live. The bolts are a power symbol through all the cultures," he explained.

Arneson said the project could not have happened if it had not been for generous community support from: Deere & Co., U.S. West, the Kraft Corp., VIVA of the Quad-Cities, the Boys & Girls Club of the Mississippi Valley, Moline police, the Rock Island County Area Project and the cities of Bettendorf and Moline. The businesses, organizations and government entities did everything from provide funding and scholarships to transportation and supplies.

Although the welding is almost complete, the artwork will be weatherproofed courtesy of Group D Moline. Once it is installed at the 8th Avenue triangle near 7th Street in Moline, the teams will point it in bright, vivid colors, as is traditional for Latino art, Knudsen said.

Ipsco is ready to roll

■ But well water troubles still exist

By Doug Schorpp
QUAD-CITY TIMES

MONTPELIER, Iowa—Ipsco Inc. announced Thursday that it expects to begin full operations later this month at its steel manufacturing plant in rural Muscatine County.

"Barring unforeseen major problems with the rolling mill, we are pretty confident," said Joe Russo, the president of Ipsco Steel Inc., the Canadian firm's U.S. steel subsidiary.

The first steel production in slab form took place May 3 with batches of material shipped to Ipsco's Regina, Saskatchewan, Canada. The second production run produced what would be the plant's finished product: saleable, flat rolled steel.

World of full production starting yet this month probably did not sit well with some of the plant's neighbors who have been complaining about the reduction of their well water levels. In some cases, the wells have stopped working altogether.

According to an Iowa Department of Natural Resources, or DNR, permit, Ipsco can pump up to 1,800 gallons per minute from the underground water supply, yet, aquifer.

But the supply is a slow-moving underground system that may not be able to accommodate Ipsco's needs and those of surrounding residents once the plant goes into full operation. And that possibility is what concerns some residents.

Bob Lira, a hydro-geologist with the U.S. Geological Survey in Iowa City, said that Ipsco's draw on the water supply will affect private wells within at least a 1,600-foot radius of the plant's six wells. He said most of eastern Iowa and western Illinois, including Ipsco, gets its water from the Silurian Devonian aquifer.

Lira's models show the steel plant would draw down the water table by 150 to 180 feet after five years. Since May 3, perhaps as many as 30 area residents have reported experiencing well problems. Many wells had to be redrilled or deepened, work that Ipsco has

Last remnants of old Lincoln, Washington schools go on auction block

■ Bettendorf buildings will be torn down

By Jennifer DeWitt
QUAD-CITY TIMES

By summer's end, Lincoln School in Bettendorf will be just a memory for the students who once roamed its halls or in recent years, learned dance and art there.

The city plans to demolish both Lincoln School, which served as the city's Cultural Arts Center, and Washington School, once home to the Children's Museum. The two schoolhouses were vacated in December when the merged operations moved into the new Family Museum at the Learning Campus.

But the curious and the nostalgic will have one more chance to walk through the aging buildings when the city auctions off a variety of items left behind. The first sale is Saturday at Lincoln School, 601 27th Ave., with another to be

held in about a month at Washington School, 633 18th St.

"A lot of things accumulated within the building—a lot was donated to us over the years—but we don't need it in the new building," said Terry Tonn, the city's building maintenance supervisor.

At Lincoln, buyers will bid on everything from air conditioners, paint, props, office equipment, old school desks, tables, chalkboards and all kinds of chairs—a few little toddler seats and upholstered chairs pulled from the library to theater seats and the chairs once used in city council chambers.

The auction begins at 10 a.m. and will be conducted by G.A.L. Auction Services. It also will include items from various city departments, including parks, police, fire and the maintenance center.

The doors will open at 8:30 a.m. to allow people to view the items.

"I bet we've got six pianos in this place," Tonn said. "There's an old baby grand piano that needs reconditioned that someone gave to us."

"We're going to sell stuff that can easily be disassembled from the building," he said. That covers everything right down to the rope kids climbed in the gymnasium and the banisters in the stairwells.

This will give people a chance to take something that might be memorable to them. But we're not going to sell anything that will make the exterior of the building look torn up," he said, adding that liability is a concern.

All proceeds from the sale will go into the city's general fund. Tonn expects more interest in the Washington School sale because that will include heavy equipment and vehicles. But Saturday should draw a healthy crowd, including "a lot of people who just want to come see the building one more time," he said.

The city is in the process of seeking bids for the buildings' demolition, which will be completed yet this summer. The Lincoln site will become a park. The Washington site will be cleared to make way for single-family housing to be built by a private developer.



Larry Fisher/QUAD-CITY TIMES

Have a seat, any seat. Terry Tonn, Bettendorf's city building maintenance supervisor, sorts through some chairs and furniture from the former Children's Museum and Cultural Arts Center. The items will be auctioned at 10 a.m. Saturday at 953 27th Ave.