

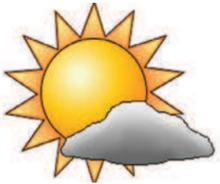
It's graduation day

INSIDE THE Q-C | St. Ambrose class of '08 gets degrees during ceremony on Sunday — **Page B1**



Thousands denied checks

INSIDE BUSINESS | Many soldiers and legal immigrants will not get rebate money due to a provision in the stimulus fund law — **Page A7**



Weather/ A10

HIGH 68 LOW 49

Quad-City Times

qctimes.com



INSIDE BUSINESS

As gas prices go up, more commuters get on their bikes — **Page A8**

COPYRIGHT 2008 / QUAD-CITY TIMES

MONDAY, MAY 12, 2008 / 75 CENTS

Rain keeps rivers up for few more days

No roads expected to be closed by the new flooding

By Linda Cook
QUAD-CITY TIMES

Rain that swept over the Quad-Cities in the last two days has prolonged the flooding in the area, but rivers will begin to recede later this week.

Lavern Cole, superintendent of street and sewer maintenance for the city of Davenport, said that no roads were closed

Sunday night, but River Drive and Federal Street were down to one lane heading each direction because of new flooding.

Manhole covers on River Drive blew off Sunday because of pressure in the system, he said. "They're about 160-pound lids — that's a lot of pressure."

Pumps are in place at Marquette Street and River Drive and the Garden Addition near Floral Lane, he said.

Terry Simmons, meteorologist with the National Weather Service, said skies will be clear until Tuesday. Today will be

warmer, with highs in the upper 60s.

"It's going to feel a lot more like spring," she said.

Rivers will swell from the weekend rain, which was reported from 1 to 3 inches across the area, she said.

"It was a large quantity falling on top of already-high rivers," she said. "Some of these rivers that were down in the last few days are going to come back up."

Moderate flooding is expected in DeWitt, Iowa, on the Wapsipicon River, which should be

below flood stage Thursday.

Lock and Dam 15 at Rock Island "might come up a foot or so" then go below flood stage Friday or Saturday, she said.

At Joslin, Ill., where the Rock River has been in a flood stage since March, "it's just going to delay the fall of the river. It's not going to drop below flood stage until May 17," Simmons said. The rain "just makes it more prolonged rather than a quick drop like people would appreciate at this time."

Although the rain added to

RIVERS | A2

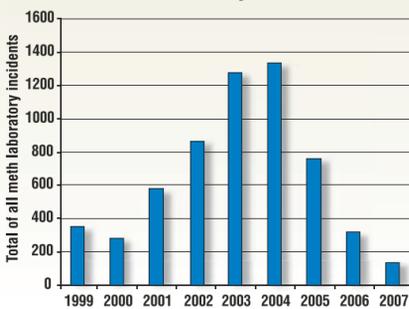


A motorist goes through water bubbling up from a manhole cover on Sunday on River Drive near Federal Street in Davenport. Heavy rains over the past couple of days caused manhole covers on River Drive to blow off and created some new flooding in the area. Officials believe area rivers will begin to recede later this week.

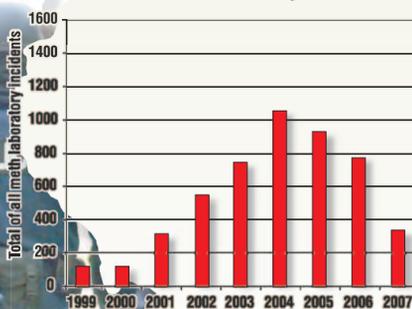
Jeff Cook
QUAD-CITY TIMES

Tough, new laws help bring down meth

Iowa meth laboratory incidents



Illinois meth laboratory incidents



QUAD-CITY TIMES

Fewer meth labs in Iowa, Illinois

By Thomas Geyer
QUAD-CITY TIMES

The Quad-City area saw a virtual explosion of methamphetamine labs from the late 1990s to the mid-2000s.

The makeshift labs, using whatever tubing or glass containers were available, popped up in places from out-of-the-way fields and woods, to trailer parks, homes in quiet neighborhoods, apartment complexes and hotel rooms in busy urban areas. The labs also were literally explosive, because addicts put getting the drug above safety.

MORE INSIDE

Some of the related stories on **Page A2** include:
 ■ A look at some of the meth cases being prosecuted in Rock Island County Circuit Court.
 ■ Drug treatment counselors are seeing other substances being abused.
 ■ Statistical information from the Illinois Meth Project.

"Meth is a life-consuming drug," said Chris Endress, director of the Quad-City Metropolitan Enforcement Group, or MEG. "When you start using meth, your entire life is consumed by using meth and getting more meth."

But the number of meth labs and dump sites has gone down precipitously. Police point to Iowa and Illinois now mandating restrictions on the sale of

LABS | A2

Q-C seems to have fewer users of the illegal drug

By Dustin Lemmon
QUAD-CITY TIMES

Drug counselors credit stricter laws that challenge a methamphetamine user's access to the drug to explain why they're seeing fewer addicts in the Quad-Cities these days.

Austin Gross, a certified alcohol and drug counselor at Riverside Alcohol and Drug Treatment in Rock Island, said that in the past two years he has counseled about 100 cocaine addicts compared with only three meth users.

"I just haven't seen it," Gross said of meth use since the narcotic reached its peak locally and nationwide about 2004.

Joe Cowley, clinical director at the Center for Alcohol

and Drug Services, has noticed a downward trend as well.

"I think the laws have been very good," he said. "We really have seen a decrease."

Laws restricting access to pseudoephedrine, which is a key ingredient in meth, went into effect in Iowa in 2005 and in Illinois in 2006. The laws, which are the same in both states, require the drug be sold behind the counter in pharmacies and limit purchases to 7,500 milligrams per month. They also require customers to show identification and sign a log.

Cowley said the Center for Alcohol and Drug Services worked with local pharmacies to restrict the sale of over-the-counter medications used to make meth

USERS | A2

TOUGHER REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS

Tracking down sex offenders

Sheriff: Grant is needed to keep tabs on offenders

By Kurt Allemeier
QUAD-CITY TIMES

Fielding the phone calls, taking the mugshots and filling out the paperwork for sex offenders registered in Scott County could be a full-time job.

The Scott County Sheriff's Department, given the assignment to track sex offenders in Scott County, has one deputy assigned to investigations who handles the task on a part-time basis. Sheriff Dennis Conard wants someone for the job full time.

Increased sex offender registration requirements that will go into effect next year will create enough additional work that

SEX OFFENDERS BY IOWA COUNTY

Johnson: 625
Polk: 419
Scott: 283
Linn: 266
Black Hawk: 228

Conard wants to create a full-time position through a federal grant for the assignment. He has submitted an application for a federal grant for \$72,964 to fund the position.

"If they put these requirements on us, and there are a large number of sex offenders in Scott County, we felt it is necessary to do what we have to do," Conard said. "There are only a handful of counties in Iowa that are going to have a big impact because of the number

OFFENDERS | A3

Some economists worry farm bubble will 'burst'

Farmers say they are prepared for a downturn

By Dan Gearino
QUAD-CITY TIMES
Des Moines Bureau

DES MOINES — Iowa's rural economy is riding high, maybe a little too high.

Land values and commodity prices have climbed to stratospheric levels, a rise so great that farmers and economists are worried that the gains are not sustainable.

"We've seen run-ups like this before, and we've seen those bubbles burst," said Chad Hart, an agricultural economist at Iowa State University.

And yet, several factors make the situation unique. First, renewable fuels such as ethanol provide a growing market for farmers, and federal legislation virtually guarantees the market will remain strong. Second,

demand for grains in developing countries is growing and expected to continue to rise.

Many Iowa farmers who benefit from the high prices today are survivors of the 1980s farm crisis, when land values fell through the floor and a wave of consolidation rippled through the state. Because of that experience, farmers say they are prepared for a downturn.

"I've been farming for over 37 years now, and there's one thing that a farmer knows, and that's that nothing stays the same," said Pam Johnson, who farms near Floyd in North Iowa and is an official with the Iowa Corn Promotion Board.

High prices, high expenses

Last year, Iowa farmland prices rose 18 percent, according to the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago. The region overseen by the bank — which also

ECONOMY | A3



152nd Year



No. 211

AskTimes . . . A2
Business . . . A7
Classified . . C2
Local News . B1

Lottery . . . A2
Nation . . . A4
Obituaries . B4
Opinion . . . A9

QuickTimes B2
Record . . . B4
Sports . . . D1
Weather . . A10

COMING TUESDAY

Obama, Clinton get ready for Tuesday's vote in West Virginia — **Politics**