#### Des Moines Area Community College Open SPACE @ DMACC

**Banner News** 

Student Work

4-26-2006

# Banner News

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#### Vol. 5, No. 14

Wednesday, April 26, 2006

#### **Des Moines Area Community College**

# Boone Campus Commencement to be held May 5

#### **Grant Mulholland**

Banner staff writer

It's that time of year again. It's warming up outside, the trees are starting to show leaves, and the semester is drawing to a close.

For some students, this time of year represents the frantic race to prepare



**Dave Palmer** 

for finals. For others it means their DMACC experience is drawing to a close. That's

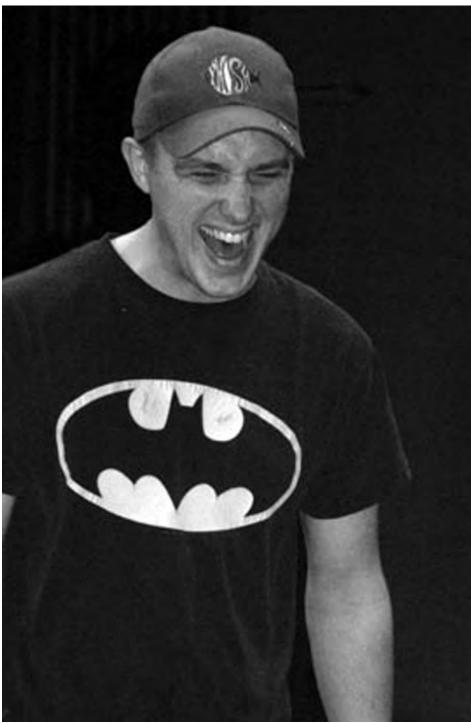
right, it's graduation time. At 10 a.m. on May 5, 105

students will be taking part in the graduation ceremony in the DMACC gymnasium.

The speaker at the graduation ceremony will be Dave Palmer. Palmer graduated from this campus and has been a lobbyist for community colleges here in Iowa. Over the year he has held various positions here at DMACC. On July 1, 1994, he was hired as the assistant to the president of DMACC.

In May 2001, Palmer became Senior Vice President of Governmental Affairs. He retired from DMACC in 2004 to become effective in June 2005. He now is a consultant to Iowa Association of Community College Trustees.

Palmer has been an adjunct faculty member for many years at the various



Music concerts this Friday and Saturday

The DMACC Concert Choir, as well as piano and guitar students, will perform this week on the Boone campus.

At 12:30 p.m. Fri. April 28, the DMACC Concert Choir will hold a special informal concert for the student body. All students, faculty, and staff are encouraged to attend.

Also on Friday, seven DMACC students and six precollege students will perform at 7 p.m. in the auditorium. The recital will include two student pianists, Jessie Peterson and Devon Rasmussen, four guitarists, David Ellis, Jodie Watkins, Bryan White, and Kimberly Sego, and Jason Allen performing on djembe drum.

After the students night performance, there will be a reception with refreshments available.

On Sat. April 29, the DMACC Concert choir will be performing their final concert for the semester.

The program will begin at 7 p.m., and will feature soloist Sarah Gelbowitz, and a song called "The Song That Goes Like This" from the musical "Spamalot" performed by Adam Uhl and Beth Carlson

Selections on the program range from a gospel song to a pop medley, as well as a pair of madrigals. There will be refreshments available at a reception after the concert.

All events are free and open to the public.

Photo: Richie Monk

Adam Uhl practices a song called "The Song That Goes Like This." He will perform this song both Friday at 12:30 p.m., and Saturday at 7 p.m.

# Temporary office move to begin in May

DMACC campuses.

Graduates will be accompanied by the 37 faculty members who are participating in the event. Dave Howell will be playing the organ to accompany the DMACC choir. Sam Pritchard and Tammie Foltz will announce the graduates after Tim Bergin and Jeff Schroeder lead the procession as marshals.

After the ceremony there will be a reception in the Courter Center.

Boone Campus Graduation Commencement

Friday, May 5 at 10 a.m.

#### **DMACC** Gymnasium

#### **Arley Sitzmann** Banner staff writer

DMACC's front office is under construction and will be moving to the nursing department in the middle of May. "Once the semester is over, we will be starting the moving process. It will be a one to two week process," said Brian Green, the Associate Provost.

The financial aid office, advisors, admissions, student records, registration, provost and assistant provost will all be moving.

According to Green, when they

did the construction last year, the office was left out. DMACC staff is now putting the heating and cooling

and new carpet in this

#### summer.

For the office staff, the move is a lot of work, but will be worth it in the end.

"You just have to smile through it. The heating and cooling is a positive change and it's a good way to clean house," said Shelby Hildreth. Some staff members have other views on the construction.

"It's a pain, but it'll be nice when it's done," said Teresa Rouse. In the end, most of the office staff members feel the same way. "It will be nice to have the office renovated," said Rita Davenport, a

Financial Aid	Room 158 E&F
Academic Advisors/Counselor	Room 158
Admissions, Registration, & Student Records	Room 163
Provost, Tom Lee	Room 164
Associate Provost, Brian Green	Room 168

DMACC counselor.

For students, it won't make much of a difference.

"We want the students to know that all the services that were available before are still available. We're hoping in no way this will affect students' educational process," said Green.

This is a temporary move for the office and everything should be done by July 1, according to Green.

"Timing wise, we wanted to do when it would least effect the students. We wanted to displace the staff when it's not

so busy," said Green.

Signs will be placed in front of the main office. financial aid office and around the school to let students know where to go.

# Graduation

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## CANDIDATES FOR ASSOCIATE IN ARTS LIBERAL ARTS -- AA

Kelli Marie Angstrom Carolina Arceo Moukda Linda Baccam **#Ruth Abigail Bartels** Cheryl Lynn Bearden #Laura J. Burdette #Megan Marie Carlson #Sean Michael Carlton \* Bruce A. Carroll \* Chelsey Beth Chittenden Jamie Lee Coffman \* #Emily Rose Cooper Jessica Nichole Daugherty \* Clint Jared Dee Adam Robert Djordjevic \* Alex Lee Eklund Judith A. Fangmann \* Jill Nicole Faust Hannah Elizabeth Frederick \* Adam Martin Grieser #Nassrene A. Hashemi-Toroghi Ronald Paul Hauser Alex W. Hertzke Jonathan Brian Howe \* Bonita Joy Johnson \* Andrew Thomas Jones \* Joshua P. Khan #Danielle Marie Knutson Jessica Paige Kroft Michelle Lee Kumrow \* #Heather Anne Lee Carly Jo Lonergan \* Kelsy Lane Lonergan #Douglas Wayne Longman Steven Alan Mahan Nathan Robert Mallas Claudio S. Matos **#Brian Patrick McClain** #Alyssa Erika Miller Kristopher J. Miller

Jason D. Moore

Brooke Lynn Tebrake #Ashley Ann-Maria Goretti Tucker Selena Ranae Ulrick \* Rachel Danielle VanderSchel \* Kristin M. VanZee #Denise Lea Wagner \* Adam Ronald Weig Jason Lloyd Westvold Darren Jared Wheeler Lee Marinus Willett Callie Ann Wirtz Kiera Janae Woolson Junko Yamamoto

**COMMENCEMENT – MAY 5, 2006** 

#### **CRIMINAL JUSTICE – AA**

Debi Susan Huff

## CANDIDATES FOR ASSOCIATE IN SCIENCE

#### LIBERAL ARTS – AS

#Luke Christian Ahrendsen Tina Sue Argetsinger Jerry Jermaine Bennett #Andrew Jacob Bond **#**Rita Marie Brueland #Laura J. Burdette Sicily Ann Canny Elizabeth A. Carlson \* Alex Lee Eklund Jessica Jean Gasperi #Brock A. Hager Jeanette Marie Hamil Janann Laree Klemme Holly D. Siepker Michael Ray Smith \* Melanie Kaye Thorpe \* #Justin A. Walters Erik David Wisecup

## ACCOUNTING

Jeff Thomas Bierl Bryan Kyle Edwards Marshall R. Gibbs #Nathan John Guess Jennifer Ann Hatten Jennifer Marie Kruse Crystal Dawn Kuyawa John Creighton Morris Justin Jon Roberts Valerie Lee Stoner

**CRIMINAL JUSTICE -- AS** #Laura Arcenia Fernandez #Carol Ann Musser

**EXERCISE SCIENCE -- AS** #Laura Ann Kiesling \*

### FITNESS SPORTS MANAGEMENT -- AS

Christopher J. Andringa Laura Ann Kiesling \* Jonathan C. Lara

## CANDIDATES FOR ASSOCIATE IN APPLIED SCIENCE

### ACCOUNTING SPECIALIST -- AAS

Christina Nicole Bear Jill J. Lynch \*

## ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT – AAS

Kathleen Anne Crouse \* Sandy Jo Hines Tricia Marie Fogarty Megan L. Runge

Trudy A. Seidel
ASSOCIATE DEGREE



Lauren Leigh Morz #Neil W. Nerem Jaime A. Nissen \* Rylee Elizabeth Olsen \* #Cameron Riley Osborne Vicki A. Parks #Steven T. Petesch Matthew F. Pierce Brett Joseph Prince George Karl Pruitt #Allison Lynn Purdy Marshall Randy Shoemaker #Jennifer Jo Schumacher #Jessie Cole Sward \*

#### PARAPROFESSIONAL -- AS

Angela Ranae Hanson #Jessica R. Johnston Jill J. Lynch \* Melissa A. Muschick \*

### BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION -- AS

Andres Amador Michelle Jo Ayala #Brian Michael Berger Gina Marie Bernardo

#### NURSING -- AAS

RaGeana Kay Brown Mindy K. Burke \* Dawn L. Dentlinger Mary Elizabeth Elliott George W. Hackler Sherry Lyn Heath Mary A. Hein Rebekah Ann Jacob Christina Rae Larson Tara Kay Loecker Krisane Marie McCoy Morgan Leigh Nelson Micah Nicole Olson \*

Congratulations

# raduation

Janet Marie Pattee \* Tiffany Susan Perpich Deborah Mae Pitt Gina Marie Showers Caroline Syowia Rebecca Jo Taylor Mary Annette Thomas Denise Lea Wagner \* Laura Ann Walker \* Marcy Marie Winert Kari L. Wilkins Sarah H. Woodward

### CIVIL ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY – AAS

Luke Dean Ahrens Randell Lee Cox \* Jason S.M. Day \* Bruce Allen Dieken James Patrick Doran \* Justin Ryan Dye Shawn L. Georgesen Chad Michael Herring Susan Jane MacQueen \* Steven Wayne Messler \* Dana Ann Pope Noah Aaron Thomes Brian Adam Young

### LAND SURVEYING - AAS

Clinton Joseph Meierotto Terry Randall Pickett \*

## CANDIDATES FOR ASSOCIATE IN GENERAL STUDIES

Becky Jo Ahrens-Adams #John H. Booth #Norene Kay Graham

## CANDIDATES FOR DIPLOMA

#### PRACTICAL NURSING DIPLOMA

#Brandi Michelle Aspengren Pamela Denise Baker \* Edie Renee Blackburn #Melissa Sue Bolinger Misook Cho-Yang \* **Brian Robert Fisher** Amy L. Fitz \* #Autumn Christine Gallagher **#Tiffany M. Garrett** Amanda R. Hem Lisa Ann Klopfenstein Tamara Joy Law \* Angela Rona Lewis #Trisha Jean Linduski #Marcia Pauline Mallinger Victoria Ann McCool Ibid Marisa Nicolaisen JaNan Kay Osborne Dawn Marie Ozmun Melissa M. Paulson Jessica Lee Petersen #Donna Rae Reischauer Veronica G. Ritland \* Melissa E. Rolling \* Kara Linn Samuelson Holly M. Sutch \* #Jennifer Ann Thorne Melanie Kaye Thorpe Jason Lloyd Westvold **#Betty Grace Zaiser** 

#### OFFICE ASSISTANT DIPLOMA

#Kathleen Anne Crouse \* Tricia Marie Fogarty Megan L. Runge CANDIDATES FOR CERTIFICATES OF SPECIALIZATION COMPUTER APPLICATION --CSP

Kathleen Anne Crouse \*

OFFICE SPECIALIST – CSP

Megan L. Runge

### SUPERVISION -- CSP

John Harrison Booth

Key:

- # -- Fall Graduate
- \* -- Honor Student
- (3.50 GPA and above)

#### Best of luck to all the Boone campus Graduates!

From the office staff Sandi Johnson Nancy Moeller Teresa Rouse Christina Graham Vicki Lauzon Paula Goldsworth Joanne Temple

## Way to go, Graduates!

From the Academic Advisers

Shelby Hildreth Rita Davenport Patty Harrison Ivette Bender Kathy Weaver



### ACCOUNTING AND BOOKKEEPING DIPLOMA

Andrea Reann Hicks \* Katherine M. Pogwizd \* Hien N. Truong



Sandy Jo Hines

**DATA I -- CSP** #Kathleen Anne Crouse \* Sandy Jo Hines \*

### INFORMATION PROCESSING – CSP

Megan L. Runge

Congratulations Graduates! Best of luck to all

> Tom Lee Provost & Brian Green Associate Provost

E S





# The United States of Grant

#### **Grant Mulholland** *Banner staff writer*

I'm telling you people, when I take over the world, and it will be soon, things are going to change. I will rule with an iron fist and if you don't like it you will be immediately exiled to Mongolia, or perhaps Ecuador, and if you really anger me you will be confined to France. Governments will topple and when faced with my infallible logic; everyone will bow down to me.

This first thing I'm going to do is invade Canada. Those smug Canucks will never see it coming. For too long our neighbors to the north have sullied our borders; the invasion will be swift and complete. My guess is it will take about two and a half hours.

The Mounties will be swiftly overthrown and their pathetic country renamed the United States of Grant. Oh yes, all their syrup and gravy fries will be mine. The country's entire stockpile of Molson will be emptied into the Bering Strait. The speaking of French will be immediately outlawed.

That brings me to my next imperial decree. The country of France will be completely fenced off by a 30 foot concrete wall topped with razor wire and a trench filled with rabid badgers. France will then become the first world wide prison colony.

All criminals will be tossed over the wall and left to fend for themselves. If France doesn't like it, then I will just quell the uprising by myself with some roman candles and bottle rockets. Like I always say, "Yes, I speak basic French... I surrender... there, basic French."

Next I will get rid of people who just plain suck. Those who are deemed unfit to remain in my utopia will be given their choice of Mongolia, Ecuador, or France. If they don't like it they will be given the opportunity to fight for their freedom in my new coliseum.

Just like the ancient Romans, they will fight for their lives for the amusement of my loyal subjects. But instead of lions, they will have their choice of fighting blood thirsty midgets armed to the teeth or a newly created animal, genetically engineered to be half grizzly bear, half mountain gorilla, and half rhino. For you math majors out there, yes, I know that you can't have three halves, but as supreme ruler of the world I can do whatever I want. You don't like it? Hope you speak French.

The following is a short list of those who will be exiled or thrown into the pit to fight; Joan Cusack, George Clooney, Angela Bassett, Michael Moore, anyone who has ever had anything at all with the Andy Milinokis show, Kevin Federline, Fred Durst, Moby, Tom Cruise, R. Kelly, anyone in a pink polo shirt with the collar popped, crooked cops, bleeding heart animal rights activists, Courtney Love, anyone who doesn't think Christopher Walken and Jack Black should be in every movie made, Kurt Russell, Michael Jackson, all scientologists, anyone who has ever knocked on a door before noon and asked whoever answers if they have "found Jesus", the entire cast of American Idol, whoever thought that annoying "let me hear your seatbelt click" commercial was a good idea, Nicholas Cage, Boy George, Ben Affleck, Mathew Perry, anyone who doesn't like Michelob Golden, Justin Timberlake, Barbra Striesand, anyone who says South Park isn't funny, Steven Segal, Oprah and her little sidekick Dr. Phil, Kirstie Alley, all the Baldwins except the one in Bio-dome, John Kerry, the list goes on and on.

Furthermore, when I'm in charge, the drinking age will be lowered to 18. If you are old enough to go die in a war, then you are sure as hell old enough to have a frosty brew. Also, marijuana will be decriminalized and taxed even more than alcohol and cigarettes. The funds generated by this tax will be used to fund free health care for the entire country, those rotten Canadians have been waving that in our faces for far too long.

These are just a few of the things that will be changing when I take over. So I say to you the huddled masses, be prepared. And don't say I didn't warn you.

# Gas prices too high for broke college students

ImmCrude oil prices hit a record \$75 perriterbarrel, which is up from \$69 a week ago,<br/>according to AAA.

## *Letter to the Editor* Boone sports 'dangerously out of kilter'

In the view of this humble observer, many schools today spend far too much of their increasingly limited resources and energies on what has become, to say the very least, a nation-wide obsession with college sports, in many cases to the detriment of academics. My fear is that Boone Campus might be in the early stages of falling victim to this temptation. Thus, I hope a patient reader will maintain an open mind regarding my reservations about a system often thought of as being sacrosanct.

The most oft-repeated argument in defense of money devoted to college sports rationalizes the dollars as well spent for the revenue seen rolling into the institution as a consequence. So, let's take a look, and see if such is the case. According to the United States Department of Education Equity In Athletics website, two of the forty-five Texas community colleges saw returns on athletic spending in an impressive forty percent range: Navarro College at 42 percent and Texarkana College at 41 percent.

From there, a precipitous drop brings us to the third highest revenue earner, Western Texas College at a 24 percent profit, if that's what one wishes to call it. All other colleges, 93 percent of them, earned from the low-teens in percentages of revenue over expenses on down, and most made virtually no money at all on their athletic programs or actually lost money. Nearly seventy percent earned less than four percent on their athletic programs, and nearly half earned literally nothing. In fact, one school spent \$260,500 to gain just \$3,500 in total revenue, something one would not expect to see on any for-profit company's earnings statement. Another school, Kilgore College, reported a one dollar net earning on more than \$837,000 spent on sports. South Plains College experienced a seventeen percent loss on its spending on competitive athletics.

More to the heart of the problem is the disparity between the number of coaches some schools have on staff relative to faculty, an issue very dear to my heart. Though many colleges are able to maintain a good mix of faculty positions, others, like ours, seem to skimp on the academic side in favor of employing additional coaches. An admittedly rather extreme example is Ranger College in Ranger, Texas. According to Equity in of just 475 full-time undergraduates. The college's website lists a total faculty, including coaches and physical education teachers, of some forty-four, and fourteen of those are listed as either coaches or PE teachers. That is to say, nearly one third of the entire faculty either coach or teach PE. The school's website shows one history teacher, one biology, two math, three English, two psychology, one speech, and, again, no less than fourteen coaches, two of whom evidently teach rodeo, though that sport wasn't listed on the Equity in Athletics site. Those fourteen coaches serve 136 student-athletes for a ratio of around one full-time coach for every ten of them. The school spends nearly \$600,000 on sports every year and devotes more than \$140,000 to athletic scholarships. This, again, is for a school with just 475 students.

The one Texas college to serve as a pleasantly atypical example of academic primacy was Palo Alto College in San Antonio, a model I wish Boone Campus would follow. This 8,100 student campus had no full-time coaches, spent \$5441 on competitive athletics and had the same amount of revenues. Their eight student athletes participated in two sports, one student in swimming and diving and seven in track-and-field and cross-county. There are no big-time sports such as football and basketball listed there. They spent nothing on athletic scholarships and \$83 on recruiting those eight athletes. A brief look at the college catalog reveals an impressive course offering, while that of Navarro College listed just the basics in the core areas, even though the school is only slightly smaller. Palo Alto also appears to have a superior faculty, as judged by their website.

Let's take a look at an example a little closer to home. Ellsworth Community College in Iowa Falls has, according to Equity in Athletics, some 644 full-time undergraduate students, very tiny by some standards. There are a total of twenty-seventeen full- and part-time coaches of whom eighteen appear to be full-time salaried employees. According to the college's website, there are about thirty-six full-time teaching faculty. Thus, the school has nearly as many coaches as it does faculty. The school's course offering is even more revealing. The history department taught twenty-two credits, the

#### Arley Sitzmann Banner staff writer

Since everybody else is complaining about the sky-rocketing gas prices, I thought I would comment on what I feel about gas prices.

For most college students, today's rising gasoline prices are an annoyance and a serious financial burden. At almost every gas station in Ames and the surrounding areas, the price has gone from around \$2.00 to \$2.79. What a joke!

Is it because of the rising oil prices, the new gasoline taxes that went into effect at the beginning of the year, or because it's just getting nice outside and more people want to get out and do more?

In my opinion, it's due to a combination of all three of these things. While experts say gas prices are going to be going down soon, we haven't seen that yet. In fact, gas prices are only climbing. Prices jumped 14 cents last week alone. Now, is that necessary? I can remember when gas prices were \$1 per gallon and when it went up, it went up 1 to 2 cents not 14 cents.

Why is it that gas prices every year jump as soon as the weather gets nice? Yes, more people are driving and the demand is higher, but does that call for a 50 to 60 cent increase in prices?

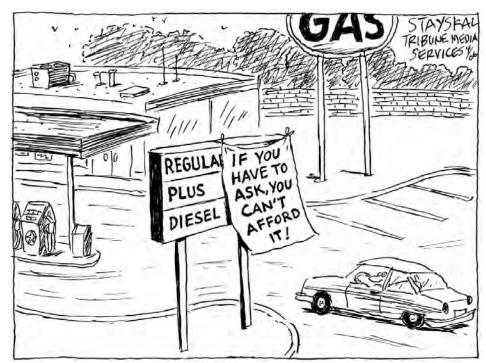
I guess we could all buy hybrid cars which would help on saving gas, but how many college students can really afford a 2006 Honda Civic Hybrid?

In the end, most students will fill their gas tank up before they will eat that day, just to get to class and work.

For most college students, it's their wallets, not their fuel tanks that are in real danger of running on empty.

Athletics, the school has a student body

--Continued on next page--



# Letters to the Editor

## Students respond to Chronicle's Editorial of teaching Creationism as a science

Having read Matt Bockert's recent editorial "Creation explains the true origin of Earth" in the April 11 issue of the Chronicle, we felt compelled-Christians and university students-to respond to the claims that he made in that piece. We applaud Mr. Bockert for his decision to run the editorial, if for no other reason than for the discussions that it will no doubt inspire. But we cannot allow the assertions that he made to go unchallenged. We believe that his arguments fail in a number of crucial areas: he presents only one view of Creationism as normative; he presents Creationism as a science; and he presents a very inflexible approach to scripture.

Mr. Bockert uses the following definition of Creation: "the divine act by which, according to various religious and philosophical traditions, the world was brought into being." We, with Mr. Bockert, affirm that the universe is the product of the creative activity of God. However, Mr. Bockert implies that there is only one view of creation when he asserts that "the earth has been around for no more than 10,000 years". This view of creation—that the universe has only existed for between six and ten thou-

#### Boone sports, continued

basic survey courses in addition to a few more specialized classes. In political science, only six credits, two general classes, were available to students being prepared to be informed citizens. The economics offering comprised but nine credits mainly, once again, general classes. Rounding out a partial list were the following: sociology, 12; speech, 9; anthropology, 3; geography, 3; journalism, 6; and English and literature, a relatively impressive 30 credits. This rather pales, however, next to the physical education department's offering of no less than sixty-seven credits, including Fundamentals of Riding and Swimming Pool Management. My question to the reader is a simple one. Are we at Boone Campus heading in this direction?

Even more illustrative of the Ellsworth's mission and priorities is the curious assignment of administrative duties. The wrestling coach is Dean of Students, in addition to being athletic director. Director of Admissions is the women's basketball coach. The men's basketball coach is Wellness Coordinator, in addition to being something called Event Manager. An assistant professor of PE also serves as head volleyball coach, assistant men's basketball coach, and, get this, athletic academic advisor. Doubtless, he has opinions on the courses to be taken by the volleyball and basketball players under his supervision, something I've always seen as a blatant conflict of interest. The instructor of social sciences is the head football coach, a professor of business and computer science is the men's and women's golf coach, and a basketball coach is listed as "sign interpreter." The swine management instructor also serves the head softball coach. In my view, all of that seems to indicate the school's priorities. Again, is this where we're heading? While there were no full-time coaches at Boone Campus prior to 1996, by next year we will have five of them, in addition to five assistants. According to Equity in Athletics, operating expenses for our athletic program were more than \$60,000 last year, and revenues of \$282,000 were earned on nearly \$244,000

sand years—is more properly known as "young-earth creationism", and is only one of several competing views of God's creative activity. This view denies the veracity of astronomical findings that assert a fourteen-billion-year-old universe. The young-earth view depends on a concrete-literal interpretation of the six "days" of creation recorded in the first chapter of Genesis. Mr. Bockert asserts, "There is no indication that the days were anything other than standard 24-hour days, or that the process of creation was anything other than a standard 7-day week". But the Hebrew word yom, translated "day" in Genesis one, has not one but three literal definitions: "...all Hebrew lexicons cite three different literal definitions for yom: (1) approximately 12 hours (the period from sunrise to sunset, variable according to season and location); (2) 24 hours (the time from one sunset to the following sunset; and (3) a long period of time (arbitrarily, but not infinitely long)." The twenty-four-hour days of young-earth creationism are the "plain sense" of Genesis only according to our understanding of the English word "day", not the Hebrew word yom.

Unlike Mr. Bockert, we sub-

in spending. \$108,500 went for athletic scholarships to attract sixty-eight student athletes. Imagine how many full-time faculty could have been added for all of that money. Nearly half of all of the Boone Campus student activities money is spent on athletics. All of this has been done during a period in which no new full-time, core teaching faculty have been added at our campus. The last such position to be created was mine in 1988, before some of my high school AP students were born! We have essentially the same number of English, science, math, and social science faculty as we had when I came here in 1983. This has to be viewed within the context of tremendous growth in student body in recent years, up to some 1700 today. Some teachers have commented to me about having difficulty in getting materials, though the athletic department seems more than adequately funded. The typical response when administrators are asked why more faculty positions can't be created is that money is tight. It appears the tightness only extends to adding faculty positions not coaches.

A college is an academic institution, and, quaint as it may sound, the bulk of the resources should go there, and educational needs should always have priority over areas not essential to the core mission of the school. Adding faculty and new courses should take precedence over what some see as the fun of sports. It is so true that a school's priorities are reflected in its spending, and those priorities seem dangerously out of kilter at Boone Campus, and a reexamination of them is more than overdue. A debate on all of this could be nothing but healthy for the school, and therefore I would encourage anyone reading this who is concerned about the direction in which Boone Campus is going to contact our administration and encourage them to reevaluate our priorities. Providing the best education must always be at the forefront of what we do. The result of such a discussion will best serve the ability of our campus to provide a high-quality education.

scribe to the day-age view: that the "days" of Genesis one ought to be understood according to the third definition above long but finite periods of time. According to the day-age view, the "days" of Genesis represents vastly long periods of time during which God worked to create the universe. The day-age view does not the deny findings of the scientific community with respect to the astronomical dating of the universe, or the geological dating of the earth. Rather, the day-age view asserts fundamental agreement between the revelation of Genesis and the scientific study of nature.

By presenting only one view of creation—the young-earth view—Mr. Bockert implies that Christianity itself teaches a young earth (where in fact this is only one of a number of competing interpretations) and even seems to imply that in order to be Christian one must believe in the young-earth view of Creation (thus adding a doctrine to the Christianity faith that is not extant in the Bible).

Mr. Bockert's editorial asserts that "Creation" is "scientifically...more sound" than Darwinian evolution and that "scientific evidence supports records in the Bible more than the ideas of Darwin". Yet Mr. Bockert cites only one source-creationscience.com, a site that can hardly be described as a source of impartial scientific reporting. If we may be so bold, we suggest that had Mr. Bockert done a more thorough investigation of the matter, he would have found that there is near-universal rejection of the young-earth hypothesis among the scientific community at large. The vast majority of scientists support the 14-billion year-old age of the universe arrived at via legitimate science. The community of scientists arrived at their conclusions via the scientific method, and it is this method that distinguishes true science from the sort of pseudo-science that Mr. Bockert seems to propose.

Whatever else may be true about science, it is its methodology above all that distinguishes it. In its simplest form, science first makes observations of natural phenomenon and then attempts to derive theories about the natural world from those observations. That is, science is inductive: it proceeds from the particular (individual phenomenon) to the general (laws and theories).

Creationism, on the other hand, relies on deductive reasoning: it proceeds from the general (the Genesis creation account) to the particular (the age of the earth, for instance). That is, creationism begins with its conclusion (e.g. God created the world, the earth is ten thousand years old, or Genesis is a factual account of the beginnings of the universe) and then proceeds to look for particulars to support that conclusion. An approach to the study of nature that begins with inflexible presuppositions cannot properly be called science, because the very nature of science is to allow the data to take you where it will. In this sense, creationism runs the course backwards: it begins with a conclusion in place, and then goes searching for evidence to support that conclusion. It is for this reason (among many, many others) that creationism has been prohibited from school curriculum. In his opinion on McLean vs. the Arkansas Board of Education, Judge William R. Overton wrote, "The creationists' methods do not take data, weigh it against the opposing scientific data, and thereafter reach

the conclusions [of young-earth creationism]." Instead, they take the literal [i.e., concrete] wording of the Book of Genesis and attempt to find scientific support for it...While anybody is free to approach a scientific inquiry in any fashion they choose, they cannot properly describe the methodology used as scientific, if they start with a conclusion and refuse to change it regardless of the evidence developed during the course of the investigation.

It might be objected that scientists working at creation science institutes follow evidence faithfully. But even these scientists begin with fatal presuppositions: applicants to the Creation Research Society, for instance, must subscribe to a statement of belief that affirms, among other things, creation of the universe by God, a world-wide flood, and the scientific truth of Genesis.

Ultimately, the attempt to force a scientific reading onto Genesis misses the point of the Biblical text. Of the twenty one references to the creation of the world throughout the Bible, the emphasis is on the who of creation, not the how. The text of Genesis demonstrates the existence of an all-powerful creator God. It does not—and cannot—be used to develop a scientific cosmogony (a theory of the origin of the universe).

We affirm, with Mr. Bockert, that the Bible gives an account of the creation of the universe, and we affirm the Biblical witness that God is the Author of creation. But we disagree that science ought to proceed from Biblical presuppositions, and we disagree that the scientific witness at large supports young-earth creationism. Finally, we insist that humility demands that both scientific findings and religious doctrines must be held loosely, and be discarded if proven false. Both nature and scripture are interpreted by flawed, imperfect men therefore; the interpretations of science and religions may be inaccurate. It is inappropriate to hold some particular interpretation of faith or science as immune from criticism. And given that young-earth creationism is merely one interpretation among many, it must be held loosely, be open to critique and be abandoned if shown to be false. Being that it is an interpretation of the Bible, it cannot be accorded the same inerrant status as the Bible itself.

The Bible says that "The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky proclaims the work of His hands. Day after day they pour out speech; night after night they communicate knowledge" (Psalms 19:1-2) and that "since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities-his eternal power and divine nature-have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made" (Rom 1:20, emphasis added). That is, nature itself communicates to us, revealing God, and science is the interpretation of nature. Likewise, scripture communicates to us: "All scripture is inspired by God and is profitable for teaching, rebuking, correcting, for training in righteousness." Scripture also communicates to us, and theology is the interpretation of scripture.

-- Bruce Kelly DMACC Instructor, Political Science But man is flawed and imperfect, and despite his best effort, the products of his interpretation—whether of nature or scripture may be in error. God, on the other hand, is perfect, and does not contradict himself.

Creation letter, continued page 7

#### 6 Wednesday, April 26, 2006 | THE BOONE BANNER

# Campus News

# Musician Rob Lumbard played for students

#### Beth Carlson

Banner staff writer

The Literary Arts Festival started on Monday, April 17 with a performance by Rob Lumbard in the Courter Center. Lumbard, a left handed acoustic guitarist from Des Moines, provided a "refreshing break from class,"said Andrew Jones, a DMACC student.

Lumbard has a blues style, with more inventive lyrics than you might expect, including a song about a vasectomy. Jeff Birel, a DMACC student, thought Lumbard is a "good guitar player, even though I don't really listen to this."

During the performance, Lumbard took a break to allow the winners

of the Boone Campus Creative Writing Contest to be announced.

Jerrod Appenzeller, a DMACC freshman, won first place in the fiction category with a story he described as being about "an alcoholic forced out of the army who is struggling in civilian life."

Allison Cobb won first place in the poetry category for her poem "Murals," and was asked to read her winning poem. She read her poem while Lumbard played background music.

After the music finished up, students and faculty alike filed into the auditorium to hear Deirdre McNamer and Bart Edelman read their work and answer questions.

Contributed photo

Glendale College Professor and poet Bart Edelman (left to right), Ankeny Campus English Instructor and Celebration of the Literary Arts Coordinator Rick Christman and University of Montana Creative Writing Instructor and fiction writer Deirdre McNamer answer questions on the DMACC Boone Campus. Edelman and McNamer were among the area writers and literary instructors who visited DMACC campuses as part of the College's fourth annual Celebration of the Literary Arts. Both Edelman and McNamer read from their works while on the DMACC Boone Campus.

_	Final Exam Schedule					
_	Monday, May 1Monday/Wednesday/FridayClass Time RangeExam Time8:00 a.m 8:55 a.m8:00 a.m 10:15 a.m.10:10 a.m 11:05 a.m10:30 a.m 12:45 p.m.12:20 p.m 1:15 p.m.1:00 p.m 3:15 p.m.2:30 p.m 3:25 p.m.3:30 p.m 5:45 p.m.					
_	Tuesday, May 2Tuesday/ThursdayClass Time RangeExam Time6:30 a.m 7:55 a.m.6:30 a.m 8:45 a.m.9:40 a.m 11:05 a.m.9:00 a.m 11:15 a.m.12:50 p.m 2:15 p.m.11:30 a.m 1:45 p.m.					
-	Wednesday, May 3Monday/Wednesday/FridayClass Time RangeExam Time6:55 a.m 7:50 a.m.7:00 a.m 9:15 a.m.9:05 a.m 10:00 a.m.9:30 a.m 11:45 a.m.11:15 a.m 12:10 p.m.12:00 p.m 2:15 p.m.1:25 p.m 2:20 p.m.2:30 p.m 4:45 p.m.3:35 p.m 4:30 p.m.5:00 p.m 7:00 p.m.					

## Mumps vaccination available at Ankeny campus

A free Mumps vaccination clinic provided by the Polk County Health Department will be held on DMACC's Ankeny campus on April 28 at 10:30 a.m. in the Quiet Lounge.

#### **Facts about Mumps**

What is it?	The mumps is an infectious virus caused by the mum virus.	nps
How is it spread?	When an infected person coughs or sneezes, their moder droplets from the nose or throat is airborne.	licus or
Who can get it?	Anyone, more common in infants, children and your adults. 85% of those who have not been given the sh will have mumps by adulthood, but since symptoms mild they are not recognized.	ots are
What are the symp- toms?	Common symptoms of the mumps are a fever, heada and swollen salivary glands under the jaw.	Mon <u>Class</u> 8:00
What happens if not treated?	It can lead to hearing loss, aseptic meningitis (an inf covering the brain and spinal cord), and in 20 to 30% males who have reached puberty, it can cause painfu len testicles.	ection         10:1           6 of         12:2
How soon do the symptoms start to appear?	They appear 12-25 days after infection, but usually v 18 days.	<u>Clas</u> 6:30
How long is a person contagious?	From 3 days prior to the symptoms and 4 days after.	9:40 9:40
What is the treatment?	There is no treatment, a doctor should be called and medications as directed.	given Wee Class
Is there a vaccine to prevent it?	Yes, two doses of mumps-containing vaccine, the M vaccine, separated by at least four weeks, are given to dren. (The first dose is given on or after the first birth the second dose is given at 4-6 years of age.) The MMR vaccine is a live attenuated vaccine. Pregnant women and people with immunodeficiency immunosuppression should not receive the attenuate cines.	MR         6:55           o chil-         9:05           nday;         11:1           1:25         3:35           o or         11
What can stop spread- ing the mumps?	Anyone with the mumps should not be around childs school or work until 5 days after symptoms began of they are well, whichever is longer. Contact to the mumps should have their immunization status evaluated. Anyone who has not received two of of the mumps-containing vaccine should be vaccinate And anyone who has been exposed should seek med attention as soon as symptoms show.	• until     11:1       2:25       on       doses       red.
-	t of Health <http: default.asp="" www.idph.state.ia.us=""></http:>	
Lastin	ames' Oldest	Ave
CD	and Best!	1

**Thursday, May 4** 

 <u>Class Time Range</u>

 8:05 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.

 8:115 a.m. - 12:40 p.m.

 10

 2:25 p.m. - 3:50 p.m.

 1:00 p.m. - 5:25 p.m.

**Tuesday/Thursday** <u>Exam Time</u> 8:00 a.m. – 10:15 a.m. 10:30 a.m. – 12:45 p.m. 1:00 p.m. – 3:15 p.m. 3:30 p.m. – 5:45 p.m.



# Creation Letter

Continued from page 5

Therefore, if an interpretation of science disagrees with an interpretation of scripture, one of them must be flawed, and it could be either of them. These contradictions call for further study and research, and ultimately or the other must be abandoned or adjusted. Therefore doctrines of science and theology must be held loosely, because they might be in error.

If a doctrine of theology is shown to be in error, one ought to abandon it, just as one would abandon a defunct scientific theory. No less venerable a source than Augustine of Hippo recognized this point. Augustine recognized that while scripture is perfect, humans are not. And because doctrine is the result of imperfect human work with perfect scripture, those doctrines might be in error. Augustine therefore advocated a readiness to abandon a doctrine that is shown false, lest the faith be ridiculed.

Faith has abandoned outmoded doctrines before. Scripture was once used to prove that the earth was the center of the universe. When Galileo Galilei proposed a model of the solar system with the sun at its center (heliocentric), he contradicted church dogma, which held that the earth was the center of the solar system (geocentric). Although the heliocentric system is hardly challenged today, the Catholic Church (of the 17th century believed the geocentric model based on a particular interpretation of the scripture. He was tried on suspicion of heresy and was required to recant his heliocentrist position, which was declared "formally heretical".

To the modern reader, this seems absurd, at best. Science has proven beyond the shadow of a doubt that the sun is the center of the solar system; the outmoded interpretation has been abandoned. We do not suggest that the case is closed on young-earth creationism; we merely insist that with Dr. Mortimer Adler (from his book Truth In Religion) that, "No doctrine of faith should remain firm among the dogmas of the Church if what it claims to be true runs counter to what we know by other means and methods."

We appeal to Mr. Bockert to thoughtfully consider the possibilities

# SAC organizes Penny Project for cause

Anna Sunstrom
Banner staff writer

The Student Activity's Council organized the "Penny Project" held April 19 to help raise donations to the organization, "1000 Wells/Blood: Water Mission." This organization uses the money it receives to "help clean blood and water in the fight against HIV/ AIDS, build clean wells in Africa, and to support medical facilities caring for the sick."

mpus News

A donation contain was placed in the Courter Center. Over \$100 was raised for the project.

Steve Krafcisin said that the project was successful. He also said that he hoped to fill the gym floor but didn't realize how small pennies were. The project is on going on cam-

pus. The goal is to raise \$10,000. If students wish to contribute to

this they can drop their donations off in Krafcisin's office.

Krafcisin said, "Any money will do." He also said, "People have called from the community with donations."



which may challenge his assumptions, given that all men are imperfect. And we conclude our response to his editorial echoing Thomas Aquinas: "The truth of our faith becomes a matter of ridicule among the infidels if any Catholic, not gifted with the necessary scientific learning, presents as dogma what scientific scrutiny shows to be false."

> -- Tim Larson DMACC Boone campus student

-- Caleb Keller Iowa State University student



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Contributed Photo

Sam Pritchard, Boone Campus writing instructor, reads a poem in the library during National Poetry Month, sponsored by the DMACC Boone Campus Library. Pritchard was one of many volunteers who read a poem.



The Clothesline Project in the Courter Center raises awareness about domestic violence.

# Book buyback May 1-4 8 a.m.-6 p.m., May 5 8 a.m.-Noon\*

Author	Title	<b>Buyback Price</b>
ATWAN	Convergences	\$ 27.75
CHRISTIAN	Philosophy	35.00
FAIGLEY	Brief Penquin Handbook	26.25
FELDMAN	Understanding Psychology	53.00
MACIONIS	Society: The Basics w/ CD	37.25
MCCONNELL	Macroeconomics w/ Discoverecon Online w/v	51.50
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Photo: Richie Monk

Members of PBL enjoy free pizza from Domino's Pizza of Boone following the Earth Day cleanup, sponsored by The Banner newspaper: (clockwise) Emily Hitsman, Ashley Blizzard, Christine Farrington, and Jenna Carlson.

The Boone Banner is a student newspaper, published bi-weekly at Des Moines Area Community College, 1125 Hancock Dr., Boone, Iowa 50036. The Boone Banner news desk may be reached at (515) 433-5092.

The Boone Banner is distributed free to all DMACC students, staff and alumni. Subscriptions can be purchased at the annual rate of \$10 to the general public. The editorial offices of the Boone Banner are located in Room 115.

The Boone Banner welcomes letters in an attempt to provide a forum for the many diverse views of the campus. The views expressed in the Boone Banner are not necessarily the views or endorsements of Des Moines Area Community College or the Boone Banner editorial board.

Letters to the editor should be no longer than 250 words, signed and brought to the editorial offices of the Boone Banner, mailed in care of the college, or can be emailed to eacarlson1@dmacc.edu. The Boone Banner reserves the right to edit as necessary for libelous content, profanity, copy fitting, grammatical and spelling errors or clarity.

## Be a voice on your campus--join staff this fall!

# News Features

# Archiving project reveals 50-year history of newspaper



Alex Watts looks over an issue he plans to archive.

Photo: Richie Monk

"During 1979-1981, the reporters made things up with fair regularity. There wasn't much news in the newspaper," said Watts.

Arley Sitzmann Banner staff writer

sanner staff writer

The Boone campus newspaper is a long running newspaper which will be celebrating 50 years on Sept. 27, 2006. The newspaper was started in 1956. When it was first started, it was called the Bear Facts and is now called the Boone Banner.

Alex Watts, a DMACC graduate, started archiving the newspaper Dec. 4, 2005.

"I'm archiving 50 years of the newspaper dating back to the beginning," said Watts.

People who graduated years ago will be able to read the paper that they wrote for or find historical events about DMACC.

"Paper doesn't last forever, that is why I'm putting it into digital format. Students can read historical facts about DMACC," said Watts.

Watts has been working on formatting the paper for awhile now. "I started towards the middle of December and more than half of it is complete," said Watts. He doesn't know how much longer it will take him to finish because the newspaper was published so irregularly. In 1993, the paper started being published regularly, prior to that there was no real schedule on when the newspaper was published.

"Some years it would be weekly and the next year there would only be six within the year," said Watts.

There are also interesting articles to read dating back 25 years ago.

"During 1979-1981, the reporters made things up with fair regularity. There wasn't much news in the newspaper," said Watts.

With all the work Watts has put into this, there was one thing he was proud of.

"I think it's safe to say, I have read more Boone campus articles then anyone else," said Watts.

# Student to leave for Kuwait in August

#### Beth Carlson Banner staff writer

In late August, Amanda Pence leaves for Wisconsin, and a few months later, she'll arrive in Kuwait.

A Cherokee native, Pence graduated in 2002, and later moved to Boone, where she lives now. She is currently a Boone Campus student.

She's been called to active duty from the Army Reserves, and will serve up to one year in Kuwait as a food inspector.

"I can't wait; I'm one of the few of us looking forward to it," said Pence. She won't be alone, either. Her

best friend will be stationed with her, and

her boyfriend is being deployed at the same time, but at a different site.

Pence didn't always have plans to join the Army Reserves; in fact, she did it on a dare. A friend told her that she'd never make it through Basic Training.

When she signed up in June 2003, she wanted to be a veterinary technician, but all of those positions had been filled. Instead, she became a food inspector.

Pence plans to reenlist after her tour, and said "I wish I was eligible for reenlistment while I'm overseas." When she returns from her tour in Kuwait, Pence plans to major in chemistry at an eastern Iowa college.



**Amanda Pence** 



Suz MacQueen

# CET student among May grads

#### Beth Carlson Banner staff writer

Suz MacQueen, an Iowa City native, is a little different from her classmates in the Civil Engineering Technology program. She has three grandchildren, and most of her classmates are older than her sons.

That doesn't slow her down, though, as she also has just enough time to sing in two choirs, including one here at DMACC, all while maintaining a 3.85 GPA.

Three years ago, MacQueen's sister talked her into going back to school, but she didn't know what she wanted to do. She decided to take a career aptitude test, and found that she should go into either nursing or CET.

She decided that since her son is in his residency as a surgeon in Wisconsin, she'd steer clear of the medical fields, and try the CET program on a whim.

MacQueen loves to be outside, and she soon found that civil engineering was a perfect solution to keep her outside and out of an office filing all day.

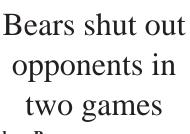
She likes to work with her hands, as she has refinished or built every piece of furniture in her home that she's lived in for 30 years.

MacQueen will graduate this May, along with around 105 other graduates participating in commencement on May 5. 

# Baseball continues on winning streak







Andrew Penner Banner staff writer

The Bears' baseball team swept past Grand View JV and Simpson JV on April 18 and 20. The Bears won against

All baseball photos courtesy of Pete Conis

# Duckett leads Bears to victory

#### Andrew Penner Banner staff writer

On April 21, the Bears baseball team hosted a conference match-up with the Panthers of Ellsworth Community College. The Bears defeated the Panthers





Jon L. Sunstrom D.D.S., P.C. 708 8<sup>th</sup> Street Boone, IA 50036 432-4223

Grand View 9-3 and 14-0, and also won against Simpson 12-0 and 5-1.

In the second game against Grand View, the Bears sent 14 batters to the plate in the second inning and 11 batters scored, which included a two-run home run by Matt Franke, as well as a solo home run only two batters latter by Phil Bartz. The Bears won both games.

In the match up with Simpson, Bears' pitcher Jordan Duffy had five strike-outs and only walked two batters.

In game two, the Bears turned two in the first inning starting with a throw from second baseman Mason Duckett to shortstop Troy Kelley and then to first baseman Neil Nerem for the double play and the final out.

The game continued with Franke, the Bears' pitcher, having five strike-outs and walking three batters. 4-2 and 1-0.

In the first game, the Bears allowed the Panthers to score one run in the third inning, which the Bears tied up in the fourth inning. In the fifth inning, the Panthers scored another run and the Bears responded to by a two-run home run hit by Mason Duckett.

In the sixth inning, the Panthers had the bases loaded, and the Bears took advantage of that with a double play that started with Bears' pitcher Javier Cicilio stopping the ball and throwing it to the catcher Jared Staudenmayer, who then threw it to first basemen David Guthrie for the second out.

During the second game, neither team scored until the bottom of the sixth inning when Duckett hit a solo home run to put up the Bears up by one. In the top of the seventh inning, the Bears went three up and three down to win the game.

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#### Wednesday, April 26, 2006 | THE BOONE BANNER 11

Sports



Contributed Photo

Remsen St. Mary's High School senior Megan Homan (third from left) signs a national letter of intent to play basketball at DMACC this fall for DMACC women's basketball Coach Steve Krafcisin (right). Others include Megan's parents (at her left), Remsen St. Mary's Athletic Director Craig Hoffman (back row, left) and St. Mary's head girl's basketball Coach Mike Green.

# Remsen standout, Homan, signs with DMACC

**DMACC**--Megan Homan, who played four years at Remsen St. Mary's, is the third leading scorer in school history with 731 points and fourth leading rebounder with 478 boards.

At 6' 2" Homan is the sister of former Iowa State University men's basketball player Jared Homan.

She is also the school's career leader in blocked shots with 99, including a school record 60 this past season.

She averaged 15.7 points and 9.5 rebounds per game. Homan scored a school record 14 field goals resulting in 32 points and a school record 23 rebounds against Spalding on Dec. 13, 2005.

Homan was a First Team War Eagle Conference selection and was named to the Iowa Basketball Coaches' Association Northwest All-Regional Team.

"I'm very excited to have Megan on our basketball team," said Krafcisin.

"She can score and run the floor very well and on defense she can alter shots and be an intimidating defender. We're very fortunate to attract such a student-athlete to DMACC."

# Anderson named to All-American Honorable Mention List



**DMACC--**DMACC Bears women's basketball player Jocelyn Anderson has been named to the Iowa Community College Athletic Conference Division II All-American Honorable Mention list.

Anderson of Gowrie was first in the conference in blocked shots averaging 5.4 blocks per game, fourth in scoring averaging 15.8 points per contest and had the second highest field goal percentage, making 58.3 percent of her shots.



Trista Hall signs letter of intent for DMACC women's basketball coach Steve Krafcisin

# South Tama senior signs letter of intent

**DMACC--**South Tama County High School senior Trista Hall (left) signed a national letter of intent to play basketball at DMACC Boone Campus this fall.

The 5' 7" point guard was First Team All-Conference in basketball, softball and soccer and also played high school volleyball. "Trista is an athletic point guard who will bring intensity to our offense and defense," said Krafcisin.

"Trista has a tremendous upside and a great knack for being able to get to the bucket and put pressure on the defense."



Contributed Photo

Wapsie Valley High School senior Jamie Sickles (third from left) signs a national letter of intent to play basketball for DMACC. Watching the signing ceremony are Jamie's family—her mom, Michelle Sickles (left to right); brother, Taylor Sickle; dad, Rod Sickles and DMACC women's basketball coach Steve Krafcisin.

**Jocelyn Anderson** 

She was also second in the conference in rebounds with 11.1 rebounds per game.

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# First team All-State INA player signs letter of intent

**DMACC--**Jamie Sickles, a 5' 7" point guard from Wapsie Valley High School in Fairbank, has signed a National Letter of Intent to play basketball for DMACC Boone Campus.

Sickles is the state record holder for assists in a career with 793. She was a first team All-State Des Moines Register selection and a first team All-State INA selection, as well as a McDonald's All-America nominee.

Sickles was also a conference player of the year and named to the third team All-State as a junior, while leading her team to a conference championship.

Sickles averaged 12.3 points, 5.3 rebounds and 6.6 assists per game for the Warriors this past year.

"Jamie is a very skilled point guard who is a great addition to our school and basketball program," said DMACC Women's Head Basketball Coach Steve Krafcisin.

"She is a fierce competitor who can take care of the basketball, deliver the basketball and score with the basketball. We're extremely happy to start our recruiting class with one of the state's best women's basketball players!"

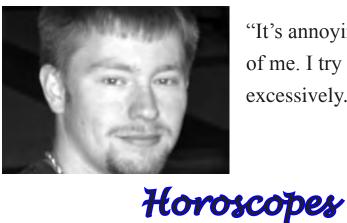
# Comics

# Other Side of the Courter -- How are you dealing with the price of gas?



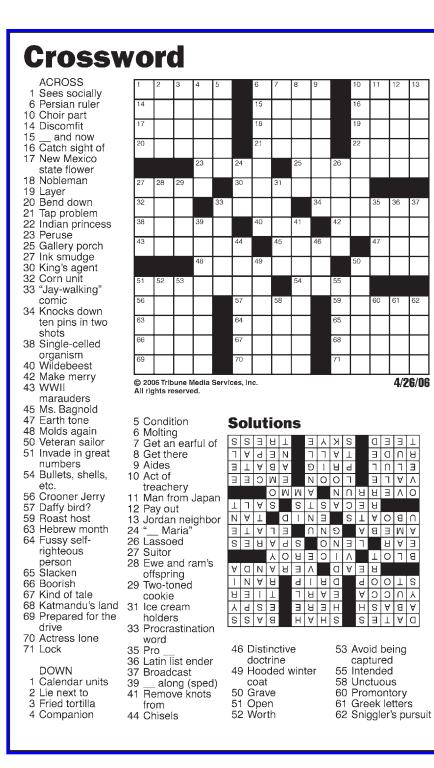
"I drive an hour here and an hour home. It brings new meaning to broke college student."

Natalie Bullock



"It's annoying the hell out of me. I try not to drive excessively."

## Justin Dye



#### Linda C. Black Tribune Media Services

Today's Birthday (04-26-06) - Check big projects off your lists this year, one after another. You'll be amazed at how much better this makes you feel.

To get the advantage, check the day's rating: 10 is the easiest day, 0 the most challenging.

Aries (March 21-April 19) - Today is an 8 - OK, you can launch now. You'll shoot straighter and get farther than you expected.

Taurus (April 20-May 20) - Today is a 6 - You're generally slow at making decisions. You find it more comfortable. Today, however, act quickly on a snap judgment, and you'll do fine.

Gemini (May 21-June 21) - Today is a 7 - If you have a short attention span, write yourself a note. Use bold colors and big letters, and put it where it can't be missed. Don't leave anything to chance.

Cancer (June 22-July 22) - Today is a 7 - You're in line for a promotion, a raise or a more difficult work assignment. It could be all of the above put together. If you get an offer, take it.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22) - Today is an 8 - Don't spend the entire day goofing around, even if you feel like it. You need to present a professional demeanor. Important people are watching. Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) - Today is a 7 - You can get what you've been seeking. Don't be embarrassed to shop in places where the overhead is low. Find it cheap.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) - Today is a 6 - There's one way to beat the competition \_ win them over to your side. Opposites attract, and today you're very attractive.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) - Today is a 7 - Push yourself past your own best time. Work faster and make more money. Great treasures can be yours but only if you move quickly.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) - Today is an 8 - Recent enterprises have been tiring. Accept encouragement. Let somebody who loves you reinforce your confidence.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) - Today is a 7 - Something you've kept hidden turns out to be exactly what you need. You had a hunch this would happen, and it did, eventually.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) - Today is a 7 - Your curiosity is intense now. You can partially satisfy it by yourself, but not completely. Consult a wise older friend.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20) - Today is a 7 - Another's generosity is tapped, in your favor. Be gracious and accept what you're given. Yes, you do deserve it.





"This may be a simple game of 'Spin the Bottle' to you, Bob ... but to us, it's Russian Roulette."





"Get this: J.D. Power and Associates just ranked ME the No. 1 guy at a party to hook up with!"