

Making the grade



P-C's annual sport-by-sport report card inside sports

IOWA CITY Press-Citizen

Entire Register Inside

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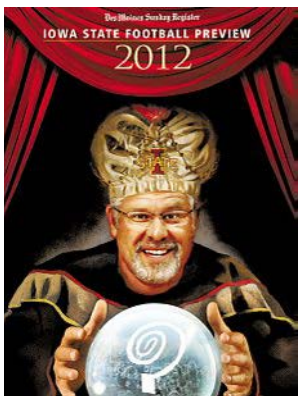
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Football rewind

Prep sports writer Susan Harman analyzes Friday night's opening prep games.

Sports, 1B



Cyclone preview

How will the Iowa State football team fare in the new-look Big 12 Conference?

In the Register

Iowa's role in GOP convention

Who are Iowa's delegates at this week's Republican convention? Plus: Five things Iowans should watch for as the national convention opens in Tampa.

In the Register



Weather

Rain today with a high of 79 and low of 67.

Details, 6B

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Neil Armstrong: 1930-2012

Quiet hero leaves mark on history

Associated Press

Neil Armstrong was a quiet, "nerdy" engineer who became a global hero when as a steely-nerved U.S. pilot he made "one giant leap for mankind" with the first step on the moon. The modest man who entranced and awed people on Earth has

died. He was 82.

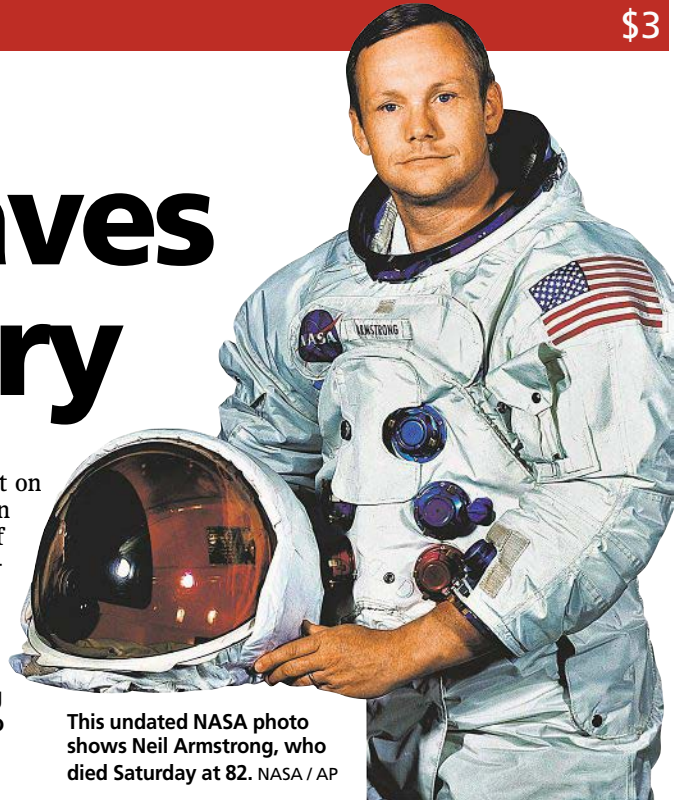
His first words after setting foot on the surface of the moon are etched in history books and in the memories of those who heard them in a live broadcast.

Find complete coverage inside today's Des Moines Register.

» **Famous lost word:** Why "mankind" quote was wrong.

» **Giant leap for humanity:** How Armstrong changed history.

» **Child's dream:** Armstrong cemented ISU grad's desire to become an astronaut.



This undated NASA photo shows Neil Armstrong, who died Saturday at 82. NASA / AP

Will we soon be filling up with 'trashanol'?



Trash is dumped and sorted June 24, 2011, at the Iowa City Landfill. A company called Fibright wants to build a material recovery facility at the Iowa City Landfill. PRESS-CITIZEN FILE PHOTO

Company proposes building facility at the Iowa City Landfill to convert trash into fuel

By Lee Hermiston
Iowa City Press-Citizen

PROPOSED FACILITY

Local residents could soon be fueling their cars and trucks with their own garbage while at the same time limiting what goes to the landfill.

A garbage-fueled motor vehicle is a concept straight out of "Back to the Future," but a Maryland-based company said the idea is more science fact than science fiction.

Iowa City Public Works Director Rick Fosse said the city has been approached by a company called Fibright, which wants to build a material recovery facility at the

» Fibright wants to build a material recovery facility at the Iowa City Landfill. The facility would process garbage destined for the landfill, sort out organic material and recyclables and use the organic material to make ethanol at a plant in Blairstown.

» Preliminary plans call for the construction of a \$15 million to \$20 million facility with a 40,000-square-foot footprint at the landfill.

» A Fibright official says the facility would be able to process 500 tons of refuse a day.

» That official also says the facility would reduce what goes into the landfill by 75 percent to 80 percent.

Iowa City Landfill. The facility would process garbage destined for the landfill, sort out organic material and recyclables and use the organic material to make ethanol at a plant in Blairstown.

"It's an intriguing concept," Fosse said. "If the concept proves out, it could be a very good thing from the perspective of volume production."

See FIBRIGHT, Page 4A



Driver Larry Chmelar performs a safety check Dec. 5, 2008, at the Durham Student Services depot in Iowa City. PRESS-CITIZEN P-C FILE PHOTO

Is your child safe on the school bus?

By Jason Clayworth
For the Press-Citizen

Are Johnson County school children safe on school buses?

Public schools buses for Iowa City area districts are among the least problematic for state inspectors, a Des Moines Sunday Register investigation shows.

The Register's review of the state's inspection data shows that at least 99 school buses in 67 Iowa districts have been repeatedly flagged in the past five years by state inspectors who have found the same serious categorical safety or mechanical problem on the same bus.

Only one bus serving Iowa City public schools was repeatedly flagged. That bus belonged to Durham School Services, a company that provides transportation services for the Iowa City Community School District. State inspectors cited the wheelchair bus in March 2008 as having an improper seat barrier. That problem was fixed soon after the inspection but in the follow-up about six months later, it required an additional adjustment, said John Elliott, CEO emeritus of Durham who still works with the company.

The Register's review found the Iowa City, Clear Creek Amana, Solon, West Branch, West Liberty and Mid-Prairie districts fared relatively well in comparison to other districts around the state. Of the group, Solon scored the best with just 21 percent of their inspection records resulting in a required fix. Statewide, some school districts had nearly 70 percent of buses that required repairs after inspections.

Of Clear Creek Amana's buses, 37 percent required repairs. Transportation Director Keith Pirkel is expecting another round of inspections Thursday. He already has voluntarily taken one bus out of service because of a faulty stop light. And he says he knows another will get dinged with a 30-day fix order for what he called a "dummy light" — it's one of those dashboard indicators that he says is inaccurately flashing engine warnings to the driver.

Pirkel plans to make all the fixes in one swoop after the inspectors make their visit this week.

"When he comes down, I expect him to find something," Pirkel said.

Read more about The Des Moines Register's investigation inside.