Locals split on Sat. mail

By BRENT GRIFFITS
brent@hawkeyes.org

Gov. Terry Branstad outlined some of his education benchmarks during a press conference in Des Moines Monday morning, and while local officials welcome his intense focus on education, they approach his use of test scores with caution.

“Looking at test scores as a single point of comparison is a disservice to the educational process and our kids,” said Taryn Durr, an Iowa City Schools Board member. “We need to look beyond (test scores) and look at the individual growth the children are experiencing.”

She pointed to a specific program used by Mann Elementary in which binders are kept for students with their test-score history, so each teacher can help keep track of their progress. Overall, the district is pleased with the focus on student achievement and emphasized it will take more than just teachers to help meet the goals.

“The measure would discontinue Saturday deliveries, a lot of things in the jewelry business are last-minute,” he said. “It’s unfor- 

Raymond Bostman, a University of Iowa professor of economics, thinks the changes could affect small businesses.

“Mostly sunny, breezy.

LOW

HIGH

WEATHER

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2013

The Iowa City School District will implement the policy on plan.

Locals wary of Branstad’s test data

By BRENT GRIFFITS
brent@hawkeyes.org

Although the diversity policy passed the Iowa City School Board’s final test, the Iowa Department of Education wants more information on how the School District will implement the policy before moving forward.

In a letter sent Monday to Superintendent Steve Murley, the state education department requested that the Iowa City School District provide additional information about the policy.

“We have decided not to oppose school diversity plans at the use of socioeconomic factors in crafting these plans, we are con- cerned with the proposed use of free and reduced-price-status information which is more orderly and controlled for individual students,” AFSCME, the

Tangs takes plea deal

Peng Tang originally faced a first-degree kidnapping charge in connection with a March 2012 incident.

By CASSIDY RILEY
cassidy.riley@uiowa.edu

A University of Iowa student pleaded guilty Monday to a charge in connection with a 2012 sexual assault.

Johnson County Prosecutor Janet Ed- nes confirmed 22-year-old Peng Tang, a native of China, pleaded guilty to third-degree sexual assault by threat, extortion, and to a separate charge of solicitation to commit tampering with a witness.

Tang’s guilty plea to sexual assault was an Allford plea, meaning he be- lieves a jury could find him guilty but that he wasn’t admitting to the crime, Lantern said Tang could serve up to 17 years in prison. He may serve up to 10 years for the sexual-assault charge, up to five years for extortion, and up to two years for solicitation to commit tampering with a witness.

Calls to Tang’s attorneys Monday were not returned.

On March 29, 2012, Tang allegedly kidnapped a woman and sexually assaulted her while seeing her apart- ment for a possible sublet.

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Calls to Tang’s attorneys Monday were not returned.
Researchers say the hospital was seen as quite forthcoming.

By LAUREN COFFEY

A study focused on cost availability in the healthcare system shows that the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics ranks very high in transparency with patients.

The UIHC is among the top-ranked hospitals in the nation, and researchers found that transparency made the cost of care more apparent to patients as possible.

“With patients we had to call, and they would give us a price and then refer us to a physician for her or his advice,” study co-lead Thomas Rosenthal said. “The UIHC gave us a direct answer.”

The study released Monday — conducted by Medical Management Solutions, an organization that studies patients and consumers and how they interact with hospital costs — found the UIHC and the Iowa City Veterans Affairs Medical Center conducted the study, which looks at the cost availability of top-ranked and non-ranked hospitals.

UIHC spokesman Tom Bolemont officials stress being transparent to keeping the hospital as possible for the sake of the healthcare system.

“Transparency is a way of doing business,” he said. “In the last few years, we’ve made a real effort to provide information in a way understand for the patients to use our services, but we’re not done yet.”

The hospital goes as far as providing advocates to help patients and families understand the language in the health-care system. According to the study, the hospital was not a service that was not a shopper to shop.

The study found that the transparency of hospitals regarding price for surgical procedures was much higher than the quality of the institution.

“The University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics is in the government, it’s on Wall Street, and it’s in the business of making money,” said Robert Dunn, a re-constructor of the study and a UI associate professor of medicine. “There’s a wealth of health-care system to which we want to know about the quality of government websites, and when we found out what was being misspelled, a request for a correction Policy: The Daily Iowan IUB (319) 335-6063 e-mail: dailyiowan.com

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Phone: (319) 335-6063 Fax: (319) 335-6297

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News

Continued From Front

School District officials have been asked to provide
gality of the policy on both
those not receiving them.

mail

Continued From Front

In order to prove the le-
ter to 4-3 vote.

Diversity

Continued From Front

department’s bureau chief of
and health ser-

The Postal Service was not
available. Monday ev-

Diversity

Continued From Front

department’s bureau chief of
and health ser-

The School Board ap-
plauded the Iowa Test-

The governor also wants
the diversity policy until
plans are reviewed.

Branstad said his re-
forms, if passed, would be fully implemented by
2017 or 2018. But La-
Laventure believes edu-
cation reform will contin-
ue to be a pressing issue.

“Education is a fluid
process, and I don’t think
we will see a day when we’re not talking about reform in this field,” she said.

Do the Math

- NCU Law dean says law itself: Trainers and fee for review student is currently $250.

- NCU Law has had debt. Last year, they charged a debt load rate of 48% of the national average.

- NCU Law grad go full time. They work in legal firm, corporation, and the government.

A light degree is a major concern in our field. As NCU Law, we provide all our students with a legal education that is both high quality and affordable.

To receive an application for waiver and to apply in NCU Law, please visit us at: www.nculaw.edu/.

Walk-in mammography screening clinic every Wednesday.

Stop in, no appointment needed.

Walk-in mammography screening clinic every Wednesday.

Step 1: Your local post office.
Step 2: Ask for love notes.
Step 3: Deliver love notes with the Postal Service.

It’s either that or raise
delivery. Nasser thinks the Postal Service’s deci-
sions are questionable.

“I wish they would use a
better, more streamlining
process,” he said. “The Postal Service’s deci-
sions are questionable, but they act like it just yesterday. They should be smarter in the way they operate.”

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State inheritance tax could provide additional revenue

O f the minor details almost lost among the multifaceted fiscal cliff crusader earlier this year was the remnant of the state inheritance tax. It is taxed according to a percentage of the estate tax by 5 percentage points. To increase this tax could provide revenue for state education, which could in turn promote diversity on the UI campus. However, there is a subtle but distinct difference between Iowa’s state inheritance tax and the federal estate tax.

Iowa’s state inheritance tax is distinct in that it does not rely on the whole amount of an estate but on the relationship between the beneficiaries and the decedent of the estate. Key Arvidson, an assistant public information officer for the Iowa Department of Revenue, wrote in an essay that there are different tax rates based on each individual relationship.

"Iowa taxes the beneficiaries based on their relationship to the decedent and the size of the shares of the estate that was received," Arvidson said. "There is no tax if the beneficiaries are parent, grandparents, grandchildren, chil- dren, stepchildren, grandchildren, great-grand- children, or other direct lineal descendants."

An obvious argument that would increase the amount of tax revenue for the state government would be to switch the entire inheritance-tax system to model the federal estate tax to tax all estates over a specific amount. But this solution may not be a solution at all. A similar system to the federal government, it taxes the entirety of an estate instead of the beneficiaries. In 2012, its estate tax accounted for approximately 0.7 percent of the entire revenues. This is nearly equal to Iowa’s inheritance-tax revenue, which accounted for slightly more than 1 percent of the tax revenue. The difference between the two, however, is quite significant.

This year was the increase in federal es- tate tax by 5 percentage points. When a person dies, there is generally a transfer of property, but in physical property such as a house, or a sum of money, from an individual to one or more beneficiaries. This property is called an estate, and both the federal and state governments tax it. However, there is a subtle but distinct differ- ence between Iowa’s estate tax and the federal estate tax.

The federal estate tax sets up a system in which the entirety of a deceased person’s estate, or accumulation of property, is taxed because of its value. Because of the cliff-effect deal, this tax rate for estates valued more than $5.12 million, meaning a deceased’s estate would pay more than $2 million to the federal government.

Iowa’s state inheritance tax is distinct in that it is not directly based on socioeconomic status on the UI campus. This could in turn promote diversi- ty on the UI campus.

Breath of state air

By MEADE ELLIS
nfo@dailyiowan.com

Former State Health

Deputy Director Cheney has crit- icized Obama’s national-security team, telling a group of Washington Republicans on Feb. 19 that the gays Obama has chosen (John Kerry, Chuck Hagel, and Eric Shinseki) are not “good folks.”

I am, by the way, the only person who’s willing to bet that they’re not good folks because none of them have first names that happen to be “Cheney.”

I’m not so concerned with first names, in a name, Good Will Writing on a check, am I?

Government-run, because they’re presumably not referring to each other. We’re all going to have to make some concession:

And his skin color.

So, I’m not sure the average American now knows that we have a government in this country that only 5 percent of tested public-university tuition.

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Iowa’s state inheritance tax is distinct in that it is not directly based on socioeconomic status on the UI campus.
State policymakers are at odds over whether an increase in the federal estate tax will help or hurt Iowa families.

The federal estate tax, which taxes the assets people leave behind after they die, rose from 35 to 40 percent as part of the fiscal-cliff legislation passed in January.

Sen. Tod Bowman, D-Maquoketa, said it only seems fair the money that heirs inherit is taxed the same way any income is taxed.

“I think the real question is that people who work 40 hours a week making $15 an hour pay an income tax, but if there was not estate tax, people who inherit million dollars wouldn’t pay any taxes,” he said. “It seems a little inconsistent.”

The estate tax currently will only tax what is inherited after the first $5.12 million.

“There are multimillion dollars that you can inherit tax free under the estate tax currently,” Bowman said. “At what level should we begin to tax people who receive a huge chunk of money?”

Timothy Hagle, a University of Iowa associate professor of political science, said the argument that the class gap can be bridged by raising the estate tax is a view typically held by those who are more left-leaning on the political scale. He said they trust the federal government to redistribute the wealth in a more equal way.

“This is another way for those on that side of the ideological field to get more money for the government,” he said.

Hagle said on the other side of this issue people will argue that each generation generally tries to leave a better life for those who come after them and a high estate tax tends to make that difficult.

“It also makes sense to say, ‘Well look, I want to provide for my family,’” Hagle said. “You’re basically saying that you can’t do that [and] everyone has to start from zero.”

Rep. Dave Jacoby, D-Coralville, said, breaking with his party, that the estate tax should be even lower.

“The only way to bridge the gap is to help bring lower-income-status groups up to the middle class,” he said. “The death tax doesn’t level any playing field, in my book.”

Jacoby said the only thing raising the estate tax accomplishes is making those paying the tax angry, while the lower classes don’t worry themselves about it.

“The estate tax really isn’t on their radar screen, and it doesn’t worry them as they are just trying to get by,” he said.

Locals debate estate tax

By CASSIDY RILEY

cassidy-riley@uiowa.edu

Students eat Chinese food and write their names in Chinese in the Pappajohn Business Building on Monday. Sunday ushered in the Chinese Year of the Snake. (The Daily Iowan/Adam Wesley)
By MANDI CAROZZA

In order to maintain Io-
wa's position as the state with the highest pass rate, instructors in both Iowa City and across the state will practice new methods to prepare their students for a new computer-based test.

“Since the GED re-
mains a timed assess-
ment, digital literacy will need to be incorporated into the instruction of fu-
ture testing candidates,” said Allan Harr, state di-
rector of adult education at the Iowa Department of Education.

Sean McAtee, an Io-
wa City GED instructor and coordinator at Kirkwood Commu-
ity College High-School-Completion Programs, agreed.

“We will have to make sure our students are pre-
pared for testing,” McAtee said.

“Assessing their comput-
er skills will become more important as we want to make sure each student feels comfortable in a computer-based test,” he said.

“If we are working to offer more word-processing coursework for students so that they are able to simply type fast enough for a timed test,” he said.

Kirkwood will offer 1,500 to 2,000 students enroll in Kirk-
wood’s High-School-Com-
pletion Program per year. Of those students, around 450 to 475 earn either a GED or an adult high school diploma, Kielkucki said.

In 2011, 3,375 people took the complete GED test in Iowa. Of those peo-
ple, 3,499 passed the test and received an Iowa High School Equiva-
 lent Diploma,” Harris said.

“Iowa has the highest pass rate in the coun-
try,” said CT Turner, the director of public affairs at GED Testing Service, noting that Iowa has a pass rate of around 98 percent, which has stayed consistent over re-
cent years.

“If Iowa’s pass rate makes the GED test more accessible to students, then the test will be easier,” he said.

“People will get instant score reports,” Turner said.

“With the [computer-based test] students will get instant results,” he said.

Test takers who take the comput-
er-assisted GED test will be able to start their exam at any time, as long as they have pre-registered, Turner said.

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“People will get instant score reports,” Turner said.

“The test will be easier,” he said.

By taking the GED on
day, students have an aver-
age of 24 to 48 hours to wait — sometimes sooner — rather than having to wait — sometimes over a month — for test results.

“We’re getting rave re-
sults,” Turner said.

“The GED will be eas-
er to fit into students’ busy lives, because once they have pre-registered, they will be able to take the test whenever the test center is open,” he said.

What’s more, Turner said, test results could come immediately after completing the test.

“The GED will be easier to fit into students’ busy lives, because once they have pre-registered, they will be able to take the test whenever the test center is open,” he said.

McAtee said the new test makes the GED more accessible to students.

“The way we will need to change is to incor-
porate more computer ac-
knowledge of computer-
radiation programs — es-
pecially keyboards,” Kielkucki said.

McAtee also high-light-
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ing proficiency.
An increasing number of University of Iowa students are choosing to not only study abroad but also to work and volunteer overseas. The university is ranked 46th among schools of its size in the number of students graduating and joining the Peace Corps.

The UI recently increased its response to this demand by creating a position specifically geared toward students wanting to work, intern, or volunteer abroad.

“The UI has consistently had a strong number of students across the Peace Corps,” said Meredith Mahy Gall, the UI Peace Corps representative.

For those students considering applying for the corps, there is a revamped online application aimed at making the process smoother and faster. Application times can take as long as nine months.

“The whole internal system was changed,” said Joyce Mayle, the publisher of the Peace Corps Chicago regional office. “Just in general, we expect people to move through the system faster.”

But even without online applications, UI alumni have been a part of the Peace Corps since it was created in 1961 — and both sides have benefited.

“The Peace Corps service really makes a difference in the lives of those served and of those who volunteer,” Mayle said.

UI alumni currently serve all over the world, from Albania to Zambia. They work in varied sectors: agriculture, education, environment, health, community economic development, and youth development.

“There are all of the sectors, doing all of the kinds of work Peace Corps volunteers do,” Mayle said. “That’s really interesting because it shows the wide range of skills UI students have.”

For Mahy Gall, who works to recruit UI students, the program is personal; she served in Botswana from 1995-1997.

“It gave me a chance to experience life differently,” she said.

Mahy Gall appreciates the strength of the relationship between the UI and the Peace Corps, seen both in the support from faculty and staff and the enthusiasm from past volunteers.

“The Peace Corps does not just take students from the UI — sometimes, those students come back,” Mahy Gall said.

UI alumni currently serve all over the world, from Albania to Zambia. They work in varied sectors: agriculture, education, environment, health, community economic development, and youth development.

The UI is only growing its global footprints, he said. “Students and faculty are the ones who will benefit.”
8

can I make it any more obvious?

Publisher, Student Publications Inc., or the
DI Editorial Board, the
This column reflects the opinion of the

Oldsmobile and died a few days
later. Thanks for bringing it up.

you could have saved me three

A: Even if you have, it never

Q: How come every time you

A: Because you’re a tramp.

Q: Will you still love me
tomorrow?

A: Let me sleep on it.

Q: Will you love me
forever?

A: Now you’re just being

Q: Who let the dogs out?

A: John Butler.

Q: How many roads must a
man walk down before you can
decide what to do next. Don’t allow
someone’s demands to ruin your plans.

facts. Take your time, listen, and show compassion. Communicating openly will help you

Virgo

(Sept. 23–Oct. 22) Revisit old ideas, and do what you can to spice things up. You will get

aries

(March 21–April 19) Someone interesting who can offer you good advice or an opportu-
nity that can result in a new beginning. Embrace change.

Q: Do you believe in magic?

A: John Shaft.

Q: Who let the dogs out?

A: Sadly, yes.

Q: How many even every time you
come around my London, London Bridge is my home!

A: Because you’re a tramp.

Q: Will you save me
from a far better reaction if you let your imagination wander and your creativity flow. Don’t worry

virgO

(Question of tomorrow we will consider: You will help you explore new possibilities. Your experience will pay
off.

taurus

(Oct. 23–Nov. 21) Rack up something or at least get started. You have great ideas and the

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from a far better reaction if you let your imagination wander and your creativity flow. Don’t worry
Emma Stevenson stands with her back bent, hands on her hips, head down. The senior gymnast waves to the crowd as an up-tempo song begins to play. She runs, somersaults, and twists. She moves gracefully across the blue square area, as if she is one with the music. Her teammates dance along. They’ve seen this routine many times before — they know it well and love to show support for their teammates. When gymnasts perform on the floor, things get personal.

“It’s like a show: you’re trying to engage the audience, you’re trying to engage your team members, you’re trying to engage the judges,” senior Maya Wickus said. “You pull them in with your dance, and you wow them with your tumbling.”

Gymnasts perform these routines on the spring floor — a 39-by-39-foot performance area. Any music and type of routine is game, as long as the gymnast stays inside the confines and doesn’t perform longer than 90 seconds.

Routines have two main aspects, said women’s gymnastics head coach Larissa Libby: the physical and the artistic. The gymnast’s endurance and tumbling skills make up the physical, while her dance moves, leeps, and jumps form the artistic.

Gymnasts must perform at least three tumbling passes in their routines. Passes can consist of “anything from a round-up backhand spring double Arabian to a front handspring double full,” Wickus said. Libby choreographs the routines but lets the gymnasts have input to individualize the routine.

Libby also allows her gymnasts to choose their own music. Once a song has been decided, Libby creates the mix herself. “It’s the best — I love the judges!” Wickus said. “A gymnast can even pick music for them, but for a practice Libby doesn’t suggest. She believes her gymnasts won’t perform their routines as well if it doesn’t reflect their personality.”

“Sometimes it’s because they don’t think they can physically dance to that,” Libby said. “But until you get them going, they never know.”

Gymnasts receive bonus points from the judges based on the difficulty of their passes, up to a score of 10, and are judged on the difficulty and execution of their leaps and presentation during the routine.

“Everything counts: your leaps, your landings, your presentation,” sophomore Monica Morrice said. “Gymnastics is skills, power and endurance, but it’s also the way you present yourself!”

Morrise performs her routine to Pitbull’s “Hotel Room Service,” as a reflection of her upbeat personality; a song that allows her to showcase her smile. The GymHawks have found success in the floor event, scoring a season high 49 against Michigan on Feb. 2 and tapped the score on Feb. 8 in a meet against Illinois-Chicago and Michigan State. Stevenson leads Iowa on the floor. The Winfield, Ill., native is ranked 42nd in the nation in the event, with an average individual score of 9.845. The routine has personal significance to the senior. The two songs, “Rayos Del Sol” and “Danza Kuduro,” take Stevenson back to last summer, where she heard both the songs while traveling in Spain.

Back on the floor, Stevenson stands in the bottom right corner. She begins to run again, somersaults, and lands safely in the opposite corner. She falls to the floor with a spin, raising an arm high towards the ceiling. She remains still as the crowd fades, a smile on her face. The crowd begins to cheer; the senior breathes a sigh of relief.

“It’s a really good time — I’m not even nervous in the routine,” Stevenson said. “It’s more just like getting the crowd involved, getting the judges involved, of course getting my team involved. I try to just have a good time with it — it is only a minute and 30 seconds of that kind of attention. It’s kind of fun.”

Hawkeye gymnasts like to ‘floor’ the crowd
Iowa forward Eric May shoots against Northwestern in Carver-Hawkeye Arena on Feb. 9. (The Daily Iowan/Adam Wesley)

Youth may reign supreme at Banks Field this season, but an old guard will still occupy the most important position on the diamond.

Senior catcher Dan Sheppard may have returned last season from Tommy John surgery, but the Illini native knows he still wants 100 percent. He showed in the field as he hit behind the stretch — posting a 2.67 earned run average and 10 RBIs in 94 at-bats.

Sheppard’s veteran presence would be valuable even on a balanced roster, but with the youth-driven Hawkeyes, the senior’s appearance looms larger.

“Getting Sheppard back 100 percent (is huge). He’s a very talented defensive catcher,” Sheppard said. “We’re very excited.”

Yacinich has shared a field with Sheppard for only half of a season, but has yet to witness the senior’s full capabilities. Yet, the sophomore star knows that his catcher is one of the most important pieces to his squad’s 2013 puzzle.

“Shep’s not only an outstanding player, but he’s one of our biggest leaders,” Yacinich said. “And when Shep tells you to do something, you do it.”

The Des Moines Register

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Notebook

Baseball goes young

Iowa baseball has experienced a full-fledged youth movement. Also, catch Dan Sheppard is back and hungry this season.

By Tom Clos

Iowa women’s basketball has lost four-straight games.

By Nick DelAquilla

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