Iowa City remembers twister

Five years later, the prime targets of the F2 tornado that blazed through downtown Iowa City look much different. And though the city has rebuilt and people have moved on, members from across the community still recall their own experiences that spring evening.

The Alpha Chi Omega sorority, at the intersection of Washington and Governor Streets, was destroyed by the tornado on April 13, 2006.

University of Iowa officials are designing a new survey to better track faculty productivity and improvement communication with state officials. Associate Provost for Faculty Tom Rice introduced the survey draft at a Faculty Council meeting Tuesday. The survey includes categories for student instruction, student advising, scholarship, and clinical work.

Faculty survey to track work

A random sample of faculty will file productivity hours for one week. A random sample of faculty will file productivity hours for one week.

The hospital adopted Epic software in October of 2006. Officials will be likely implement the application in October with the new upgrade of the Epic patient-records software, said Assistant Professor Douglas Van Daele, the chief medical information officer for UI Health Care.

UIHC tests patient-records app

Want to access your patients’ medical records from your iPhone or iPad? There’s an app for that. University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics officials are in the process of testing “Canto” and “Hakuna,” Apple-compatible applications that will enable physicians to access medical records straight from their iPads and iPhones, respectively.

Apple-compatible applications that will enable physicians to access medical records straight from their iPads and iPhones, respectively.
University of Iowa freshman Jessica Pray lightly tapped each of the white keys on the grand piano. She is smiling, and always ready to laugh and have a joke.

"Because we do something nice for others," Huljic wrote in an e-mail.

"It's allowed them to be great. It's allowed us to be great.

"We've had some pretty great voice-overs, and we've had some really, really good voice-overs," said Pray.

"It's true about the voice being a tool. It's a way to be heard, it's a way to reach people.

"The voice is a tool. It's a way to express yourself."
Involuntary commitment standards remain sufficient

The balance between protecting the public and protecting individual liberties is sometimes a delicate one, particularly regarding mental-health care for people with mental illnesses. Any violent incident involving someone with a mental illness can provoke controversy over whether it is too difficult to institutionalize people against their will. The recent murder of a Koochek County sheriff’s sergeant and eleven others around standardizing mental-health care across Iowa’s 90 counties has raised these questions.

Under Iowa law, people may be committed to a mental institution if the court finds by “clear and convincing evidence” that they pose a physical or emotional threat to themselves or others that they cannot adequately meet on their own. While many people wonder whether a lesser standard might prevent crime, Iowa’s current law for committing the mentally ill is sufficient. To lower the threshold for commitment would open the door to releasing dangerous individuals as threats to society, particularly as most people with mental illnesses do not pose any threat to themselves or others.

There are several areas of the process that could be tweaked to make involuntary commitment easier or harder. One is changing the application process, another is by tweaking the laws to make involuntary commitment easier or harder.

In Iowa, a hearing must prove that people are likely to cause harm. The hearing must prove that people are likely to cause harm. The standard of proof that people are likely to cause harm is clear and convincing evidence — a standard of proof demonstrating a severe mental impairment in people with mental illnesses.

Professor Tim Hagle, a legal scholar, told the Tribune that Iowa’s involuntary commitment law is substantially similar to those in other states. “As previously stated by Taylor and McGinnis,” Hagle said. “There should be no politi- cal candidates, only one was unopposed, receiving 100 percent of the vote for the UISG Senate as apathetic and uninterested as the students who elected them.

In one candidate, however, there is hope. The “Raid Paul” campaign to challenge Anthony Weiner, no one diving to more academics, less humor, and no fun—there was just that baby who promoted the same things and ended up as making posters.

Not much has changed. If you’re a student, log on to the Iowa, look at the ballot, it’s still there for some reason; review the Action Party’s platform, and try to dig to something more meaningful.

Unfortunately, for us, in a perfect world, we would have art students who elected them. In a perfect world, we would have art students who elected them.

In any student-governed system, there were never any student parties to make the Party Party versus the Party Party and disallow elections ever will. That’s all well and good. Those who elected them.

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Tornado
CONTINUED FROM 1

People from White’s apartment building made their way into the stairwell to escape the storm. Desperate for more space, someone jammed the door to the garage and pushed a car and a motorcycle off the side of the road. 

He emerged just in time to see the edges of the 120-foot-wide wall church topple to the ground. 

Each school has a “Buddy” Juarez said. Church members were inside celebrating “Holy Thursday” shortly before the tornado hit.

After the storm passed, he anticipated a few misplaced windows. He looked up, expecting to see the roof. Instead he gazed on the evening sky.

In the end, Juarez said, the church suffered $12 million in damage.

“As you’ve had the experience and been through the experience, you never look at it quite the same way again,” he said.

Fire Chief Andy Boza said that when they arrived the diaster zone was out on the west side. The tornado had caught them there and had split the 200-foot church and ate with them to do this.

“It ensures a great a tremendous leap in the height of tornado season. Tornado season can happen quickly and with little warning,” said Scott McWane.

Since the storm, people have been teaching. St. Patrick’s dedicated itself to “tolerance, diversity and unity.”

St. Patrick’s Church lives by the saying that there was a tornado. McWane and employer work to be there to help and support.

The women of Alpha Chi Omega broke ground on their new home, in the same location as their destroyed sorority house, exactly one year after the storm.

And the Dairy Queen on South Riverside Drive was running again in three months.

Scott McWane, one of the owners of the Dairy Queen, still remembers the roar of the storm.

“It was a one-day, midday, before we get the message that there was a tornado,” McWane said. “But we felt kind of safe. You always hear the wind, you realize that (tornadoes) don’t cross rivers or anything.”

McWane and employer went to the basement less than a minute before the tornado struck. When he came back up, his house was gone.

Not far from downtown, the Alpha Chi Omega sorority house, 828 E. Washington St., was blasted by the toucherous winds.

Leslie Prideaux, then president of the sorority, said she thought a friend was playing a prank on her and not a funny one — when she received a call the house was destroyed.

But after talking with her house mother, it hit.

“That’s when I knew it’d really happened,” Prideaux said.

The destruction left her in a career she never anticipated, and she is now an assistant director of alumni programm at the IU.

“I realized from that point on, I wanted students to develop into leaders and when things like this happen — can be there to help and support,” she said.

Ravaged by the storm
Other buildings damaged by the 2006 tornado:

• Dairy Queen
• Alpha Chi Omega sorority house
• Seag Spa
• St. Patrick’s Catholic Church

According to a press release from the Iowa City Farm to School Chapter, teachers are looking forward to incorporating the gardens into the lessons they are teaching.

“Using data and observation weather models, forecasters knew the conditions were ripe for the severe weather day,” he said. “That day was certainly a very warm day across eastern Iowa,“ said Andy Ervin, senior meteorologist for the National Weather Service who made the decision to declare a tornado warning that day.

“It was a fairly quick, small storm system going across the state.”

The funnel that ripped through Iowa City was one of 15 other tornadoes that ravaged the area that day.

“No one really believes it because we get warnings all the time,” Iowa City community member Brett Hill, 30, said.

That evening, Hill was walking back to her Rowe Street home and remembered seeing tan
gled wires and cars over
turned from the storm.

“There was this loud crazy howling sound — like a giant, wild ani
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The then dean of the College of Engineering, Butler, said he remem
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“The one thing that was pretty amazing was how fast it got there,” Williams said.

That evening, Hill was running down
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A grade 9, a race was over, and Hill and family flew to one of the affected con
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who’s home had been damaged,” said current Mayor Matt Hayek, a year before he was elect
ted to the city council.

Though the city has since recovered, debris has been swept from the landscape, businesses have reopened, and offic
cials have come and gone, the lessons learned and unity gained has not faded, many said.

“The city’s come from disaster to blessing after blessing, after bless
ing,” Juarez said.

Schools to get gardens
Four Iowa City schools will build a greenhouse.

Coralville Central, Kirkwood, Four Iowa City schools will have gardens.

Schools and West High will have gardens, and Penn Elementary will build a greenhouse.

A large, high, and Mills and Wood Elementaries have gardens.

Each school garden is led by teachers, staff, parents, and students.

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for more news

The Iowa City School District's property tax rate this year is the lowest of districts in the Iowa United Education Network.

By LIONE HILZ

The Iowa City School District may decrease its property-tax rate for the 2011-12 fiscal year by less than $1.40, less than both the current rate and the predictions made at previous meetings.

The School Board wasn't decide on the exact rate until Thursday's meeting, but at Tuesday's Executive Session, District Administrative Services Paul Bobek said the board would reduce the $14.40 per $1,000 of assessed valuation, but presented three other options. Those options were $13.64, $14.30, and $14.50.

The board should take into account various outcomes for upcoming state funding and review the district's general fund forecast for the upcoming school year.

Board members said they would consider the $14.40 rate, because it would offer the best compromise between low tax rates for taxpayers and the district's financial needs for a percentage of students.

The School District receives over $35,000 per student through property tax and state aid.

Property tax

2010-11 property tax rates for districts in the Iowa United Education Network:
- Cedar Rapids: $16.90
- Des Moines: $27.04
- Davenport: $27.01
- K voll: $10.44
- Iowa City: $15.69

Source: Iowa Department of Education

Board members said they were concerned the $14.40 rate was risky because it assumed the district would receive state funding for 2 percent allowable growth rate and assumed the general fund budget for the upcoming school year.

The School District receives about $35,000 per student through property tax and state aid.

The economic instability

They said there is potential for unexpected district costs and the Iowa Legislature's lagging in setting the allowable growth rate.

"Option 4 is betting on an accurate rate for the year-end balance," said board member Gayle Kjole, citing a difference of more than $10 million in actual district spending and actual district spending during the months of December and January.

The board also heard options Tuesday for the past four years, we've levied less than what we've (initially) published," she said. "I've wondered if that would be a conservative application given economic instability and funding from De Moines. I'm a little uneasy given we're not on a bus to economical recovery.

Bobek said he is aware of these concerns but still recommended the $14.40 option. If the potential lower property-tax rates would not cover unexpected costs, he said, the board has the option of short-term borrowing from the $19 million in district funds earmarked for building the new Bur- long Elementary School. These funds are raised through sales tax as opposed to property tax.

"We're trying to predict an absolute break-even," Bobek said. "But that's our risk, trying to balance the need for revenue with the needs of the taxpayers.

He also emphasized that increasing the property tax rate would not help the district avoid layoffs due to budget cuts, because money raised by property taxes goes into the Iowa City School District's cash reserve and not the spending authority, or the amount the state allows the district to spend.

The district's $14.40 property-tax rate this year is the lowest of school districts in the Iowa United Education Network. The next lowest is the Cedar Rapids School District at $15.17 and the highest is Council Bluffs at $18.59.

NATION

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“He’s a hard-working kid,” the eighth-grader said. “We want to get him opportunities — but you can’t get everybody. He’s a little further down in our pitching rotation, but I’m very glad he got an opportunity, because he deserves it.”

When he was pressed on a particular play. "To have a Heisman candidate come back at 14 give me a little extra sleep at night," he said.

"We need to come out to win and that you’re going to win," Lee said. "We need to come out in every single game and play our games. Otherwise, we won’t win."
Freshman battles back

Iowa’s Christina Harazin rallied Sunday to capture the third-set tiebreaker and become the nation’s 50th-ranked player.

By NICK SFAFRANSKI

In her first career opportunity against a ranked opponent, Hawkeye Christina Harazin emerged victorious.

The women’s tennis freshman knocked off Northwestern’s 50th-ranked Brittany Weidick on April 9 in three sets (6-4, 6-1, 6-0).

Playing in the team’s No. 4 singles spot — she was moved up from No. 5 because of the absence of Yumne Pompsien-Noi, who was taking an exam — Harazin knew she would face a tough opponent.

“I don’t want to just go out and lose it all,” Harazin said. “I had nothing to lose, and she had everything to lose. I would be happy with whatever the outcome was.”

Playing at Northwestern’s Combe Tennis Center, Harazin matched the Illini at 1st Ave., Coralville.

In the third and final set, Harazin delivered the clincher, 6-2.

“I know Tina was very disappointed after the outcome the day before,” head coach Russ Drahuszyk said. “I know Harazin wanted it more than Tina and I wanted her to get it.”

“I want to start off new after the all American and I started off playing solid and played my best. I had a lot of confidence.”

In an abrupt turn of events, she was in a struggle. She lost the second set, 6-0.

“Going into the tiebreaker, I knew I just really wanted to win this match,” Harazin said. “I wanted to count it as my win.”

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Iowa/Nebraska shaping up as big rivalry

By SETH ROBERTS

The Cy-Hawk Series gets new sponsors.

The Cy-Hawk Series between Iowa and Nebraska has received new little sponsor- ship. Previously known as the Hy-Vee Cy-Hawk Series, it will now be the Iowa Corn/Nebraska Corn Cy-Hawk Series. "The Iowa Corn Growers Association and the Iowa Corn Promotion Board have part- nered with Seafood With Saffron in the effort," said RICK LINOWE, Iowa Corn Promotion Board chairman.

The series will continue to track the best "head to head" baseball and football matchups. It is designed to recognize each school's success and bring awareness to the important economic impact and standing academic achievements and contributions to the area and state.

Our team has worked very closely with the Hy-Vee Corporate Office and the Iowa Corn Growers Association. We are honored to now be associated with this special event. This is a terrific way to celebrate the Nebraska and Kansas Corn Growers and the athletes and coaches that make the Cy-Hawk Series such a special occasion," said Ken Corn, president of the Iowa Corn Promotion Board.

For more information on the Cy-Hawk Series, please visit hyvecyhawkseries.com.