

Waterloo Courier

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Capitol quips
The theory is that laboratory rats get cancer just by feeding such a heavy responsibility.



Bill Severin's Column

Duck-watchers

People who enjoy watching ducks as they pass through this area on their annual spring migration may expect concentrations of migratory waterfowl to reach a peak during the next week or 10 days.

The northward-bound flocks have not yet reached this area in substantial numbers, probably due to the fact that freezing nighttime temperatures have kept most of the prairie ponds and pools ice covered.

Fortunately, precipitation that occurred a week ago has removed water levels in many of the potholes and rain ponds across northern Iowa so that the migrating birds will have plenty of places in which to rest and feed.

IT IS THESE shallow ponds that appeal to the ducking ducks such as the mallard, teal, blue-wing and other varieties that are best adapted to obtaining their food in shallow water areas.

The diving ducks, such as the canvasback, seek out deeper water and are seldom seen in substantial numbers in this part of the state.

Large concentrations of birds have already built up in southern Iowa and they should be moving into this area any day as the weather moderates.

Incidentally, a new organization has been formed in Iowa with the principal objective of giving sportsmen a voice in the Iowa General Assembly.

Organized last year, it is called the Iowa Sportsmen Federation, Inc.

IT CURRENTLY has two representatives working on legislative lobbying and keeping an eye on proposed bills dealing with hunting, fishing, trapping regulations and regulations affecting outdoor sportsmen.

Last session there were nearly 30 bills filed that would have had some effect on hunting, fishing, sport shooting, and trapping. This session there are 30 on file.

This is the first serious attempt on the part of Iowa sportsmen to organize in a way that they can have a voice in legislation affecting their area of interest.

The new federation has an office at 322 Capital City Bank Bldg., Des Moines, and plans to establish a regional office in Dubuque.

Other sportsmen may find this organization worthy of their support.

Grocery costs plunge

Price rise at 4-year low

WASHINGTON (AP) — A near-record drop in grocery prices, fuel inflation to its smallest monthly increase in more than four years during February as consumer prices rose only one-tenth of a per cent, the government said Friday.

Falling prices for beef led the decline at grocery counters where prices tumbled 1.5 per cent, the largest monthly drop in 24 years, the Labor Department said.

GASOLINE prices also declined, but the department said the food was the

big factor in the slowdown of prices last month.



Alliance Artist Union announced...



John Deere Foundation and the Iowa Arts Council...



John Deere Foundation and the Iowa Arts Council...

Patty Hearst case goes to the jury

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — After her mother ruled tearfully from the courtroom, Patricia Hearst's trial was sent Friday to a jury that must decide whether the heiress was a first-stricken victim or a free-willed volunteer in a terrorist bank robbery.

HER MOTHER, Catherine Hearst, was not present at the trial proceedings, having quietly left the courtroom in tears about two-thirds of the way through the instructions.

She had come to court with her face red and swollen with tears, and her husband said later that Mrs. Hearst had a sleepless night but nothing to prevaricate on her part.

IT'S JUST, you know, sort of the end of the line, and she was spent," said Randolph A. Hearst.

After leaving the courtroom, Mrs. Hearst told a reporter, "I'm afraid I checked out. I don't do the well." She was then taken by a marked to a waiting car in the basement of the Federal Building and driven home.

When court was over, Miss Hearst leaned toward her father and said, "My Mommy," Hearst assured in a whisper, and the young defendant bowed.

IN HIS INSTRUCTIONS, Carter said the jurors not to be governed by "sympathy, prejudice or public opinion" in reaching their decision on Miss Hearst's fate.

In final arguments Thursday, U.S. Attorney James L. Browning Jr. repeatedly urged the jurors to base their verdict on the evidence and not to be guilty verdict against Miss Hearst, whom he portrayed as a consenting robber under threat of death.

Her attorney, F. Lee Bailey, suggested the panel to weigh upon the film of Miss Hearst robbing the bank, read her underground writings, listen to her shrill voice on taped messages and her profanity-laced jailhouse conversation with a friend.

Bailey, in a dramatic entreaty that barely mentioned the evidence, said the trial dealt with "dying or surviving. That is all that Patricia Campbell Hearst thought about."

Miss Hearst, 22, testified that she was a terrified hostage of her Symbionese Liberation Army kidnappers and participated in an April 15, 1974, bank robbery under fear of death. Bailey argued that a guilty verdict would encourage similar kidnappings in the future.

Julia Benning's body found

By LAMONT OLSON
Assistant City Editor

A four-month search for Julia Ann Benning has ended.

It appeared Friday the search for her 34-year-old body was over.

The 34-year-old Waterloo woman's body was found Thursday afternoon along a quiet country road near Shell Rock.

ALTHOUGH law enforcement officers did not determine the cause of death, an inquest will be held in a ditch and kill year.

Butler County Sheriff Marvin Barth said he believed Miss Benning was

Waverly, when she disappeared.

her body was discovered by Bruce Hubert of Shell Rock, a Butler County maintenance worker.

Hubert was piloting a road grader when he spotted the body lying near a culvert.

STATE and county authorities combed the area for clues Friday.

The scene was less than a mile west of the Butler County line, and a Bremer County line, and a Shell Rock.

Last the discovery of the body, the search for Miss Benning was headed by

Waverly Police Chief Clarence Wickham.

"WE DID about everything we could," Wickham said. "Checked out every lead, no matter how flimsy."

There's been a new lip or one almost every day, but we always hit a blind end," he said.

Among the leads checked were tips that Miss Benning had planned to go to Waterloo on the night of her disappearance to listen to a rock band.

She also was reported seen with a member of a rock band after her disappearance, Wickham said.

The reports were checked and all were unfounded.

Senate prepares for tax plan debate

By BOB CASE
Courier Staff Writer

SEN. MONSIEUR—Legislation to lower property tax collections by \$4.2 billion this fall was before the Iowa Senate Friday following passage by the House Thursday night.

There is a serious question as to whether Senate Democrats' leaders can muster enough votes to pass it when the measure is debated Tuesday.

Democrats have only a 28-24 majority in the Senate, and all of their members, Karl Neide of Holstein, is opposed. If and how has been promised for several weeks.

Since it takes a constitutional majority of 26 to pass a bill, Neide's shrewd means at least one Republican member will have to vote for it even if all Democrats support the plan.

THE NOTE in the House on the compromise package, worked out by a joint conference committee, was 32-

41, with all Republicans present voting against it.

Five Democrats were recorded as voting against it.

Passage came at 10 p.m. after a day of parliamentary maneuvering over whether the Senate or House should have possession of the bill and which body should consider it first.

Republicans spent considerable time during House debate in a series of amendments moves to either block consideration of the measure or to permit debate of an alternative proposal put together by Rep. Delores Bremer, R-Corner.

Suspension of the rules was required to debate on the Bremer plan, since a conference report is not amendable.

WHAT SEVERAL Republicans, including Ray Lagopoulos of Waterloo, objected to was that the conference had adopted property tax reduction provisions in legislation dealing only with local government spending when originally passed by the House and Senate.

They argued it was wrong to deny

members an opportunity to discuss other tax relief proposals.

One Republican—Richard Weiden of Iowa Falls—described the procedure as "the ultimate insult to the legislative process and a power grab for anything I've seen in my 38 years here."

And Rep. Andrew Varley, R-Bloomer, said the plan "completely ignores the major thrust—the problem of funding local services primarily from property taxes."

SENATE Majority Leader Jerome Fitzgerald, D-Fort Dodge, responded to the charges by Varley and other Republicans by arguing the package was "better than any other plan presented."

He included the proposals of Gov. Robert Ray and Bremer, both of which would have provided relief through the school aid formula.

During the fiscal year starting July 1, the two-year plan calls for state aid to go to homeowners and farmers under a revamped system of property tax credits.

In the following fiscal year, com-

parable sums would be spent on property exemptions, school aid and a new method of assessing agricultural land based on 100 per cent productivity.

It also establishes state guidelines for cities and counties to follow in collecting property taxes with provision for review of local budgets across the guidelines by the State Board of Appeals when local citizens petition for such review.

Few LAWMAKERS appear completely satisfied with the plan.

What worries many legislators is that some of their constituents probably are expecting reductions in property taxes this fall, while the package is designed primarily only to cushion increases which would be effective if no action is taken.

Even if the plan is enacted, total property taxes paid by homeowners, farmers and businesses will increase \$6.9 million during the next fiscal year.

On the other hand, industries and utilities will pay \$4 million less.

For the fiscal year starting July 1, 1977, total property taxes on all classes will increase another \$5.7 million.

Only on the lowest valued homes will the plan provide any reduction from the present level of taxation.

Rep. Lowell Nurland, D-Kossuth, chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, remarked that "we can't say it will actually lower