

Yoga party

Free sessions offered outdoors during summer months Living, 11A



Education

DNR says asbestos regulations weren't followed at C.R. Wash Iowa Today, 2A

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FLOOD RECOVERY

C.R. housing project honors Percy Harris

City's first black physician knew housing discrimination

By Rick Smith, The Gazette

CEDAR RAPIDS — Dr. Percy Harris' name now adorns the latest of the 39 post-flood, multifamily housing projects that have been built, or are being built, in the city.

The retired, 87-year-old Harris was on hand Thursday to celebrate the naming of the 10th Street Brickstone project in his honor. The 30-unit apartment building is at 906 10th St. SE.

Harris was a longtime family physician in Cedar Rapids and also served as the longtime Linn County medi-

cal examiner. He was the first black intern in 1957 at St. Luke's Hospital. He stayed and became the city's first black doctor. Later, he was the first black member of the Iowa Board of Regents.

Project developer Jack Hatch, the unsuccessful Democratic gubernatorial candidate in 2014, praised Harris, and Mayor Ron Corbett praised Hatch for participating in the city's housing recovery program.

Hatch noted that Harris experienced discrimination in housing in Cedar Rapids firsthand and then worked over the years "quietly, and with grace," to change the city's thinking.

The ceremony's modera-

tor, Dale Todd, who is Hatch's regional development director in Cedar Rapids and a friend of Harris, cited a 1961 news story from The Gazette, which detailed Harris' housing challenges as the congregation of St. Paul's Methodist Church deliberated and then voted 460-291 to sell a residential lot owned by the church to Harris for \$7,500.

"Any feeling of elation which we may have as to the result of the vote is tempered by our sorrow that there was any opposition at all to this action," Dr. Jackson Burns, the church's senior minister, said after that vote.

The Harris building is the

► HOUSING, PAGE 10A



Adam Wesley/The Gazette

Dr. Percy Harris (left) and Jack Hatch man the scissors Thursday at the dedication of a new 30-unit apartment building in the Oak Hill Neighborhood. Hatch, who ran unsuccessfully for governor in 2014, was the project's developer. The building is named after Harris, a longtime Cedar Rapids doctor.

FLOOD RECOVERY

Anamosa, DNR still in spat over levee

City built flood protection without state permission

By Jessie Hellmann, The Gazette

ANAMOSA — Nearly two years after the city of Anamosa built a levee on the Wapipinicon River to keep floodwaters from destroying local businesses and homes, it's still waiting to hear back from the Iowa Department of Natural Resources about whether it has to tear down the structure it spent some \$97,000 building.

The city constructed a temporary sandbag levee in 2008 to prepare for oncoming floodwaters, but then took it down. In 2013, another levee was built, without the state's permission, city officials conceded, saying oncoming floods threatened to damage local structures.

Now the city wants to make the levee permanent, with

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HEALTH CARE

Audit: Doctor diverted \$1.9 million

By Vanessa Miller, The Gazette

IOWA CITY — The University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics is strengthening its internal controls after a state auditor investigation found one of its former orthopedic surgeons diverted nearly \$1.9 million in collections from the institution over 15 years.

Brian David Adams, 58, of Iowa City, is accused of depositing the diverted money into

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Brian Adams

EDUCATION

Prairie schools expand student laptop program

Tech director says increased availability can lead to deeper thinking



Jim Slosiarek photos/The Gazette

Collin Knoll (left) passes a bag containing a laptop computer to Chase Schulte as they inventory and pack laptop computers on Thursday at the College Community School District office in southwest Cedar Rapids. The district is expanding its "1-to-1" initiative to give every student in sixth through 12th grade a laptop.

By Andrew Phillips, The Gazette

CEDAR RAPIDS — In a back corner of a storage space in the College Community School District's central office, dozens of laptop bags sit two to a box, color-coded by homeroom and stacked several feet high on rolling shelves.

These computers are part of an expansion of the district's "1-to-1" initiative that will give each student in sixth through 12th grades this fall a laptop computer. The district this summer is buying more than 2,000 new computers for the program, and that means an extensive organizational process for its

information technology staff.

But for students and teachers, technology director Craig Barnum said, the increased availability of technology in the classroom can lead to deeper thinking, new teaching practices and better insight into which students are paying attention in class and which aren't.

Programs like this one, which place computers directly in students' hands rather than in computer labs or on mobile carts, have become more popular in recent years among schools in Iowa and other states.

► LAPTOPS, PAGE 10A

Laptops/\$930,000 cost

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IT workers here say they're ahead of the curve. The College Community district began planning its initiative several years ago, Barnum said, and in the fall of 2012 officials provided each student in ninth through 12th grades with a MacBook Air laptop.

This summer, Barnum's staff is working on 300 new MacBook Air laptops, which now will be distributed to students in 10th through 12th grades, and 1,750 new Google

Chromebook laptops, for students in sixth through ninth grades.

The district this year will spend \$930,000 on the program, Barnum said. The laptops are on a four-year replacement cycle, meaning costs of \$500,000 or more in future years.

Other Corridor schools have similar programs. The Clear Creek Amana Community School District provides each middle school student with a computer, technology director Joe Francis said, and it will provide one to each high school student this coming year.

At Xavier High School, each student is issued an iPad, said Nick Ireland, a spokesman for the school.

But for the Marion Independent School District, the cost of buying a computer for each student would make such a program infeasible, said technology director David Canaday.

"We don't have the taxable resources to really make that happen," Canaday said.

Putting the computers in students' hands is only one part of the program, Barnum and Canaday

said. Teachers also have to adjust their practices to make the computers worth it.

For example, Barnum said, typing a paper with a Google Doc on a Chromebook, rather than using Microsoft Word, doesn't make much difference.

Instead, students should "collaborate in real time with a content expert. Gather some feedback outside the school with a Google Form," Barnum said. "You can't do all that stuff without the 1-to-1."

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KCRG-TV9

The levee the city of Anamosa built in 2013 cost \$57,000. The Iowa Department of Natural Resources requested the city do an engineering study on the levee, which cost an additional \$40,000.

Levee/DNR says it's waiting for information

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Anamosa officials saying they have the responsibility to protect the community's assets.

"When you're in an emergency situation, you don't have the time to go through the DNR's red tape," Anamosa City Administrator Alan Johnson said. "Over the course of the past two years, since that time, we applied for the permit, after the initial emergency situation was over, and we have been waiting for the DNR to make a determination since."

The levee the city built in 2013 cost \$57,000. The Department of Natural Resources requested the city do an engineering study on the levee, which cost an additional \$40,000, Johnson said.

"The ball is in the DNR's court," Johnson said. "We're waiting for them to respond."

However, department officials said they are waiting for the city to comply with their requirements.

"I guess from our standpoint, we have been waiting a long time for the city's consultant, for some of the

information we need," Department of Natural Resources spokesman Kevin Baskins said.

Anamosa now is seeking to receive an "after-the-fact" permit, which can be granted to cities that build levees when emergency situations arise. Baskins said the department only would grant this permit if a study of the river shows a levee wouldn't cause any issues.

Department officials also could determine the levee needs to be modified or removed.

Meanwhile, Russell Roling of Anamosa said the levee caused the river and nearby Buffalo Creek to back up into his neighborhood, damaging his home and the homes of several neighbors.

"Outside the doors of the walkout basement, the water level was actually about four feet above the basement floor," he said.

Johnson said the city has offered to build Roling an earthen levee to block floodwaters, but he hasn't accepted the offer.

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KCRG-TV9 reporter Brady Smith contributed to this story.

Housing/Overcoming opposition

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latest in a series of projects that have replaced housing lost in the Flood of 2008 with the help of \$45 million in federal flood disaster relief.

Before Thursday's ceremony, Jennifer Pratt, the city's development director, recalled how plans to build the first of the replacement housing projects after the flood were not greeted warmly in some neighborhoods. The federal dollars required that the projects include a mix of apartments, some for lower-income workers, which some neighbors didn't like.

Seven years later, Pratt said "high-quality" projects like Hatch's 10th Street Brickstone have helped people set aside negative thoughts about rental housing and to see it as "workforce housing" for workers with a variety of incomes.

"It really has changed people's ideas of what rental can be," Pratt said.

Corbett told the gathering of perhaps 100 that the "single-most important thing" that the city did after the flood was to rebuild its housing stock. Some 1,400 properties were bought and demol-



Adam Wesley/The Gazette

Dr. Percy Harris (center) talks Thursday with those at the dedication of the 10th Street Brickstone project named in his honor. The 30-unit apartment building is at 906 10th St. SE.

ished during the city's flood recovery.

"When you lose that many homes in one day, you're tempted to want to build the very next day," he said. "But if you do something too fast at a low cost, you sacrifice quality. We didn't want to do that."

He said the city has taken its time, rebuilding both single-family homes and multifamily apartment projects with federal assistance. A year and a half ago, he said, the city "turned the corner," having replaced all that it

had lost in 2008. Projects opening now, like the 10th Street Brickstone, are preparing the city for the future, he said.

In total, this piece of the city's multifamily housing replacement effort will have seen \$100.87 million of investment, with \$45.5 million of the spending coming from federal disaster dollars.

According to city figures, the 10th Street Brickstone received \$3 million in public funds for what, Todd said, became a \$5.2 million

project.

Hatch also built and manages the Oak Hill Jackson Brickstones, two of the first replacement-housing apartment buildings supported by a different program that opened in 2011 on Sixth Street SE. One is named Adam, for Todd's son, who has epilepsy. The other is named Pennington, for Art Pennington, a neighborhood resident who was a baseball star in the Negro Leagues of the 1940s.

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Investigation/Surgeon allegedly took payments meant for UIHC

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personal bank accounts, according to a report released Thursday on the special investigation into UIHC and its Department of Orthopedics and Rehabilitation between July 1, 1999, and Dec. 31, 2014.

Investigators believe Adams — employed by UIHC from Dec. 5, 1992, until his resignation Aug. 21, 2014 — diverted the money, in part, by improperly billing insurance companies and law firms for services he performed and royalties and consulting fees he received for products he developed.

The services in question included those routinely provided by UIHC, like seeing and evaluating patients for work-related injuries, providing impairment ratings and acting as an expert witness in legal matters involving UIHC patients, according to the report.

Investigators said diverted collections were deposited into bank accounts Adams established using the "UIHC orthopedics" name and UIHC address — although "the statements were sent to Dr. Adams' home address," according to the report.

The \$1.9 million in diverted collections included:

- \$404,875 for medical services provided

by Adams to UIHC and non-UIHC patients that — according to his contract and UIHC policies — should have gone to the university.

- \$426,446 for non-medical services, including depositions and expert witness fees related to UIHC that he didn't disclose as required.

- \$1 million-plus in consulting fees and royalties from companies he represented and helped develop products.

Had more information been available in some cases, those totals might have been higher, according to the report.

Adams declined to be interviewed for the investigation, State Auditor Mary Mosiman said. He could not be reached for comment for this story.

Johnson County Attorney Janet Lyness said her office is reviewing the auditor's investigation to determine whether criminal charges should be filed. Copies of the report also were shared with the Division of Criminal Investigation, the Attorney General's Office, the UI Department of Public Safety and the state Board of Regents.

'HAPPY TO PAY IT BACK'

The regents' Office of Internal Audit requested the state review after the UIHC compliance helpline received a call

in February 2013 alleging Adams was referring patients from medical records reviews to his own clinic.

Adams — who worked in a handful of UIHC clinics, including ambulatory surgery, orthopedics, and hand and wrist care — treated patients as part of his employment but also performed records reviews, provided second opinions to insurance companies, acted as an expert witness, consulted on product development, and presented at conferences and meetings.

In response to the caller's concerns, the regents' internal auditors conducted a review and found evidence Adams had seen patients, issued reports and received insurance payments for services he provided that were not billed through UIHC.

"They identified documents which showed payments which should have been deposited with UIHC were received by Dr. Adams instead," according to the report.

When internal auditors asked Adams about the discrepancies, he confirmed he wrote the letters and saw in clinic the patients in question, according to the report. He said his former department administrator approved the practice, although he didn't have

written authorization.

"Dr. Adams also stated, 'I'll be happy to pay it all back,'" according to the report.

Once the state got involved, investigators executed search warrants in Adams' Iowa City home and in vehicles and obtained information from electronic devices and email accounts, according to state and court documents.

Using that information, investigators tallied diverted collections for medical services to both UIHC patients and those not confirmed as UIHC patients. They saw an increase in those collections in 2006 — from a total of \$6,125 between 1999 and 2005 to \$21,748 in 2006 alone, according to the report.

Total diverted collections for medical services continued to climb annually, peaking in 2011 with \$94,639, auditors reported. They dropped off after that, falling by nearly \$75,800 to \$18,842 in 2013.

"The decrease corresponds to the time questions were raised regarding Dr. Adams," according to the report.

Regarding non-medical services — including acting as an expert witness, providing depositions unrelated to UIHC or its patients, and conducting unrelated case reviews — investiga-

tors determined Adams violated the hospitals' conflict of interest and conflict of commitment policies.

"Physicians are required to inform UIHC when they are going to provide non-medical services," according to the report. "UIHC could find no records indicating Dr. Adams disclosed these non-medical services."

According to the report, he filed only three disclosure forms — one for the 2010 budget year related to a speech at the University of Nebraska; one the following year reporting no anticipated compensation from outside parties; and one for 2012 disclosing a relationship with a medical manufacturing company, but excluding dollar amounts related to his contract with the entity.

Upon further investigation, however, the state found Adams had a business relationship with at least seven companies for which he either consulted or developed products.

RECOMMENDATIONS, FOLLOW-THROUGH

Other administrative violations auditors noted included Adams' opening of an unauthorized bank account that included the UI name and unapproved use of UIHC letterhead.

Based on its findings,

the state recommended UIHC strengthen its internal controls by requesting local financial institutions annually provide information on accounts that include UIHC-related abbreviations, department names and addresses.

It also suggested UIHC officials be more proactive in their conflict of interest enforcement.

"UIHC does not attempt to verify the information provided by the physicians is complete or accurate," according to the report. "UIHC relies on the physicians' ethics to properly disclose all required or potential conflicts."

UI spokesman Tom Moore said the institution is in the process of implementing the recommendations.

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