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## News in Brief

### Iowa lawyer mulled as Clinton appointment

SIoux CITY (AP) — A Sioux City lawyer said Thursday he's being considered for a post in the Clinton administration. Dave O'Brien, who headed Bill Clinton's campaign in Iowa, said the president-elect has approached him about a possible appointment. In an interview, O'Brien would not identify the possible positions, other to say they're below the cabinet level. He said if the right job is offered, he might accept. "I'm not going to pull up my stakes in Sioux City for just any administration job," he said. O'Brien, who traveled to Arkansas last week for a reception to honor Clinton's victory, said he's excited about the Democrat's plans for the nation.

### Gosch's mother says show may solve mystery

DES MOINES (AP) — The latest television show on missing children may finally provide clues on what happened to Johnny Gosch, according to his mother, Noreen Gosch. "I do feel a big development is imminent," she said. "Ideally, when they show this program, we're going to have some massive leads that will help us tremendously and lead us the rest of the way. We're close, real close." Her son disappeared a decade ago as he was about to deliver Sunday newspapers near his West Des Moines home. The one-hour "America's Most Wanted" show will air on Fox stations Nov. 20. Producer Paul Sparrow said the show deals with the 200 or 300 children who are abducted by strangers in the United States each year.

### Campbell announces drive to collect support

DES MOINES (AP) — Parents who are behind in paying support payments for their children could find their faces pictured on "wanted posters" under a \$100,000 program announced by Attorney General Bonnie Campbell. "Iowa has one of the best records in the nation at collecting child support, but it is clear that changing public awareness is crucial if we are going to address this problem and do even better," Campbell said at a news conference Thursday. She said many children live in poverty because support isn't being paid. And she said taxpayers pay the bills through higher welfare costs. The campaign will distribute 10,000 posters to be displayed in courthouses, post offices and stores, she said.

### State ag department to shut down, budget

DES MOINES (AP) — After three days of unpaid days off in the last fiscal year, all 479 employees of the Iowa Department of Agriculture begin the first of four new one-day furloughs on Monday. Secretary of Agriculture Dale Cochran said additional one-day shutdowns are scheduled for Dec. 21, Jan. 11 and Feb. 8. But he continued to defer a previously announced plan to lay off 21 employees. The belt-tightening is in response to the state's budget crunch. "I regret having to furlough our employees to alleviate our budgetary shortfall. However, this approach is much more humanitarian and democratic than putting dedicated workers out on the street and eliminating some services entirely," Cochran said Thursday.

### State GOP political director resigns

DES MOINES (AP) — Will Lynch, arrested Oct. 23 on cocaine and assault charges, resigned as political director of the Iowa Republican Party. Lynch said in a letter to the Republican State Central Committee Thursday that he was leaving "to pursue other opportunities."

### United Way drive

\$51,600  
83%

### Community Plaza

\$320,501.00  
96%

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# Violence more common in America

## More than in other industrialized nations: study

WASHINGTON (AP) — Criminal violence is more common in the United States than in any other industrialized country, and the fear of it has become a trait of American life, researchers say. A National Research Council report Thursday said the specter of violence, ranging from assault to murder, has left people afraid to walk their neighborhoods at night, endangered children in their schools and caused many citizens to barricade themselves behind locked doors. "The nation's anxiety on the subject of violence is not unfounded. In 1990,

more than 23,000 people were homicide victims," the report said, although it noted that murder rates were higher earlier in this century, and higher still in some locations last century. "Violent deaths and incidents that result in lesser injuries are sources of chronic fear and a high level of concern with the seeming inability of public authorities to prevent them," the report said. The United States, the study found, is generally more violent than other societies. "Homicide rates in the United States far exceed those in any other industrialized nation," the report said. "Among 16 industrialized countries surveyed in 1988, the United States had the highest prevalence rates for serious sexual assaults and for all other

assaults, including threats of physical harm." Despite this, the study said U.S. violence is not the worst it has ever been. The homicide rate peaked in the early 1930s and then dropped for the next 30 years, the study said. The rate rose again between 1979 and 1981, then declined, only to rise again in the late 1980s. "Historical data suggests that certain cities may have experienced still higher homicide rates during the 19th century," the report said. The study also found: —Both victims and perpetrators of violent crime are more likely to be male and come from ethnic or racial minorities. Blacks are 41 percent and Hispanics 32 percent more likely to be victims than are whites.

—The most likely to commit violence are men in the age range of 25 to 29. —In the majority of assaults, rapes and homicides, the perpetrator was an acquaintance of the victim. —Homicide rates are five times higher among blacks than among whites, and the rate among Native Americans is almost double that of the rest of the population. —It estimated these average costs per violent incident: rape, \$54,000; robbery, \$19,200, and assault, \$16,000. This loss includes a value given to pain, suffering, psychological damage and the loss in quality of life. —Putting more people in prison for longer periods of time has had little effect on the rate of violence, the report said. Average prison time per violent crime tripled between 1975 and 1989, the

report said, but the rate of violent crime still increased after 1985. Instead, the study advocated certainty of punishment. "A 50 percent increase in the probability of incarceration would prevent twice as much violent crime as a 50 percent increase in the average term of incarceration." Among its recommendations, the National Research Council committee suggested future studies of better ways to disrupt illegal drug and firearm markets as well as a search for brain "markers" that signal an individual's potential for violence. The National Research Council Committee on Law and Justice conducted the study. The council is the research arm of the National Academy of Sciences.



**Down and out**  
Nathan Hall, (Albert Peterson,

kneeling) and Todd Rima, (Conrad Birdie, lying on the floor), perform in the play "Bye, Bye, Birdie" Wednesday at the Oelwein Junior High

School Auditorium. Performances of "Bye, Bye, Birdie" are 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday. More photos on page 9. (Photo by Dennis Schrum)

# Consumer prices jump

WASHINGTON (AP) — Consumer prices shot up an unexpectedly sharp 0.4 percent in October, led by the biggest monthly increase in airline fares on record, the government said today. The Labor Department said the gain in its Consumer Price Index, the government's most closely watched barometer of inflation, was the largest since a 0.5 percent advance last March. Airline prices, which had been held down by a summer fare war, jumped 7.8 percent in October, the largest one-month gain since the government began tracking airline prices in a separate category in 1989. Energy prices and apartment rental prices also posted big increases last month, the government said. The October increase in inflation caught many economists by surprise because it was about double what they had been expecting. Consumer prices had risen a much more modest 0.2 percent in September.

For October, energy prices shot up 0.5 percent, the biggest gain since a 2 percent rise in June. Gasoline pump prices, which had been falling in the previous two months, rose 0.6 percent in October. Home heating oil prices were up an even sharper 1.2 percent in September while electricity and natural gas prices posted gains as well. Going against the trend of higher price pressures, the rise in food costs actually moderated in October, posting a small increase of just 0.1 percent. Fruit and vegetable prices, which had been up a sharp 2.1 percent in September, fell by 0.2 percent last month. This decline came despite the fact that tomato prices shot up 28.3 percent last month, the biggest advance since February. Outside of the volatile food and energy categories, the underlying inflation rate took a spike upward as well, rising by 0.5 percent, the biggest increase since a similar rise in March. In addition to higher airline prices, housing costs were up 0.4 percent, four-times the modest 0.1 percent gains in the past three months. Analysts blamed the increase on higher rental costs. Tuition costs were up a sharp 1.2 percent. Tobacco prices, which have been rising for most of the year, jumped another 1.5 percent in October. The various changes left the Con-

sumer Price Index at 141.8 in October. The government reported Thursday that weekly unemployment claims fell to a two-year low of 355,000 for the week ending Oct. 31, marking the sixth consecutive week they have remained below the 400,000 mark.

# Kremer officially asks for vote recount

By JACK SWANSON  
Register News Editor

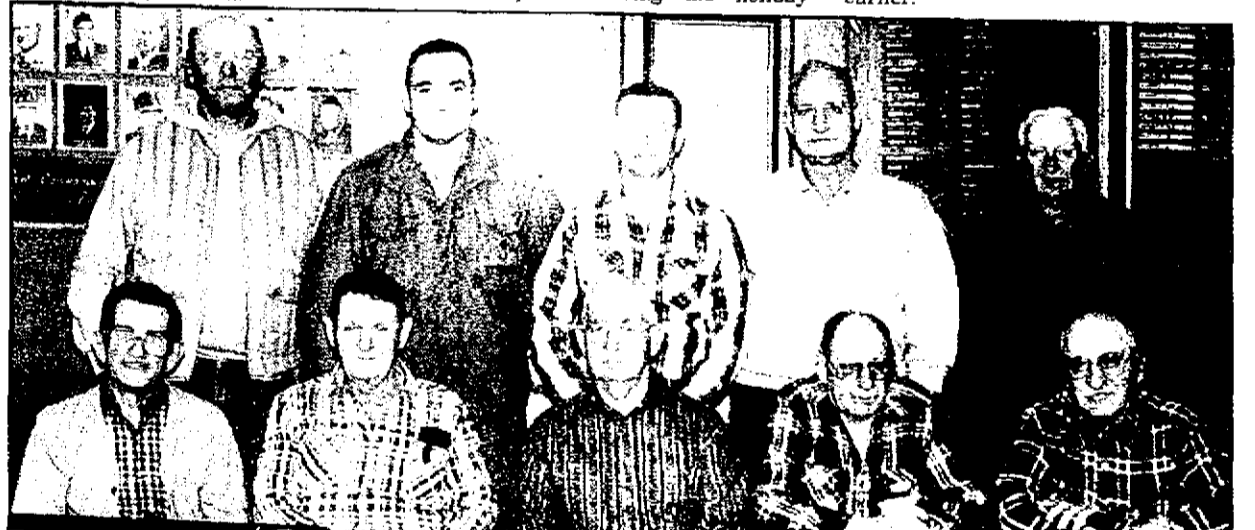
WEST UNION — Joe Kremer officially filed for a recount of votes in the District 14 Senate race. Kremer, a Republican from Jesup, lost the election by only three votes to incumbent Sen. Larry Murphy, D-Oelwein. Totals after canvassing had Kremer's total at 12,471, while Murphy received 12,474. Kremer filed recount petitions in all four counties in the district, Fayette, Buchanan, Blaw Hawk and Delaware, Thursday. Under recount procedures, each candidate will pick an observer.

The two observers then select a third person and the three-member panel checks the tabulation of the votes. They have 18 days to finish their recount, or until Nov. 27, since the 28th is a Saturday, for Buchanan, Fayette and Delaware counties who completed canvassing Monday and until Nov. 30 for Black Hawk County. Any allegations of irregularities, and there have been none so far, would be resolved by the Senate. Fayette County Auditor Larry Popenhagen said there will be no cost for the recount since the margin of votes is so slim.

# Retail sales up in October

WASHINGTON (AP) — Retail sales jumped 0.9 percent in October, the steepest increase in three months, the government said today in a prelude to the all-important holiday shopping season. The Commerce Department said sales totaled a seasonally adjusted \$163.3 billion, up from \$161.8 billion a month earlier. Many analysts had expected an increase of 0.6 percent. The department also revised its original estimate of a 0.3 percent advance in September sales to a 0.5 percent gain. Retail sales have risen for four straight months through October and were 3.7 percent above the same month a year ago. The nation's major retailers reported earlier this month that their sales strengthened in October, raising hopes that the holiday shopping season would be the best since 1988. Retailers earn about half of their annual profits during the holiday

season. Retail sales represent about half of the nation's economic activity and thus are essential to the economic recovery. The last three Christmas seasons have seen poor sales as consumers curbed spending because of a lack of confidence about job and income growth. Sales of durable goods — usually long-lasting, big-ticket items — surged 1.7 percent on top of a 1.1 percent gain a month earlier. Automobile sales, a fifth of all retail sales, were up 2.9 percent, more than twice the 1.1 percent increase in September. Excluding this component, retail sales still rose 0.4 percent. Sales of home furnishings increased 2 percent following a 0.3 percent gain. Purchases of building materials, hardware and garden supplies rose 0.7 percent after rising 2.5 percent a month earlier.



**Honor guard**  
Some members of the Oelwein Honor Guard are, front row, left to right: Ross Platt, Howard Troupe, Carl Betts, Milo Floyd and John Misuraca. Back row,

left to right: Charles Zanatta, Jim Thole, Paul Hunt, Jim Morrison and Rod Wheeler. (Photo by Wendy Gadow)

# Honor guard serves with pride

By WENDY GADOW  
Register News Staff

OELWEIN — The recent observance of Veterans Day brought to the country's attention the men who risked their lives to fight for America. After the men serve in a war and leave the service, they sometimes participate in some type of community honor guard. Oelwein has such an honor guard. It is named the Ross Reid Post 9 Oelwein honor guard. The post is named after Ross Reid, an Oelwein man who was killed in action during World War I. The Oelwein American Legion was the ninth post to be chartered in Iowa, hence the designation, "Post 9," said Jim Morrison, the commander of the honor guard and Post 9. Morrison said the veterans do several things throughout the year, besides participating in Veterans Day ceremonies. They participate in the Oelwein high school homecoming parade, other types of parades, a flag raising ceremony at all home football games, military funerals for other veterans upon request, and ceremonies on Memorial Day, he said. Morrison said there are 26 men in the honor guard, 19 of whom are retired from the work force. The veterans are all from Oelwein and served in either World War II, Korea, Vietnam or the Persian Gulf wars. They are all



**Ceremonial**

The Oelwein Honor Guard fires a salute at a funeral. (Photo submitted)

volunteers and do the ceremonies on their own time. The guard does not meet regularly, he said, but they do have several

practices throughout the year. Morrison said the veterans enjoy being recognized for their service to their country.