

## CORRIDOR

### Construction worker killed when hit on I-80

IOWA CITY — A construction worker was killed about 10:30 a.m. Monday when he was hit while working on Interstate 80, Iowa City police reported.

The crash happened on I-80 east of the Dodge Street/Highway 1 interchange.

The worker, whose name was not released pending notification of relatives, was dead when emergency responders arrived.

### Iowa City Council seeks funds to build new levee

IOWA CITY — The City Council voted 7-0 last night to apply for state funds to help build a levee to protect flood-prone Baculis and Thatcher mobile home parks.

The city will seek state I-JOBS funding for the \$3.8 million project. It hopes to get \$2.1 million from the state program, with the city picking up at least \$1.7 million of the tab.

The 2,700-foot-long levee would run along the west side of the Iowa River between McColister Boulevard and the CRANDIC railroad tracks in southern Iowa City.

There are about 160 mobile homes and 400 residents combined in Baculis and Thatcher. The levee also would protect 20 businesses on Commercial Court, according to the city.

### Flash flooding closes Highway 151 in Marion

MARION — Flash-flooding forced officials to close a portion of Highway 151 in Marion near the intersection of Highway 151 and Highway 13 for about two hours on Monday.

About 2 to 4 inches of rain fell within a two to three hours.

"I've never seen this much rain in the past four or five years," Martin Zieser of Marion said.

Onlookers gathered in the parking lot of the Aldi Foods store to watch the water rise.

"I think it's pretty cool. I kind of want to go swimming, but I know better," Kyle Barry of Marion said.

### Graffiti cleanup will cost C.R. \$1,500

CEDAR RAPIDS — School officials estimate it will cost up to \$1,500 to clean up spray-painted graffiti on the press box, stadium seats and other areas at Cedar Rapids' Kingston Stadium over the weekend.

Pictures of the graffiti will be shown to art teachers and students to see if they recognize the style.

### Sokol to use grant for preservation plan

CEDAR RAPIDS — Sokol Cedar Rapids will develop rehabilitation plans for its flood-damaged hall in downtown Cedar Rapids with the help of a grant.

The group was awarded \$3,000 from the National Trust for Historic Preservation's Johanna Favrot Fund for Historic Preservation.

Sokol will use the grant to develop a building preservation plan.

The century-old building at 417 Third St. SE was inundated in the June 2008 flood.

Gymnastics classes and other events have been held in a new location at 5200 18th Ave. SW.

# CONNECTIONS

## UI engineering students help with bridge in Zambia

By Diane Heldt  
The Gazette

IOWA CITY — Five University of Iowa engineering students have made connections on a couple levels with their counterparts in Zambia.

The UI students spent three weeks last year helping build a 200-foot suspended cable footbridge in rural Zambia, replacing wooden railroad ties laid over mud that constituted the old bridge across the Maramba River.

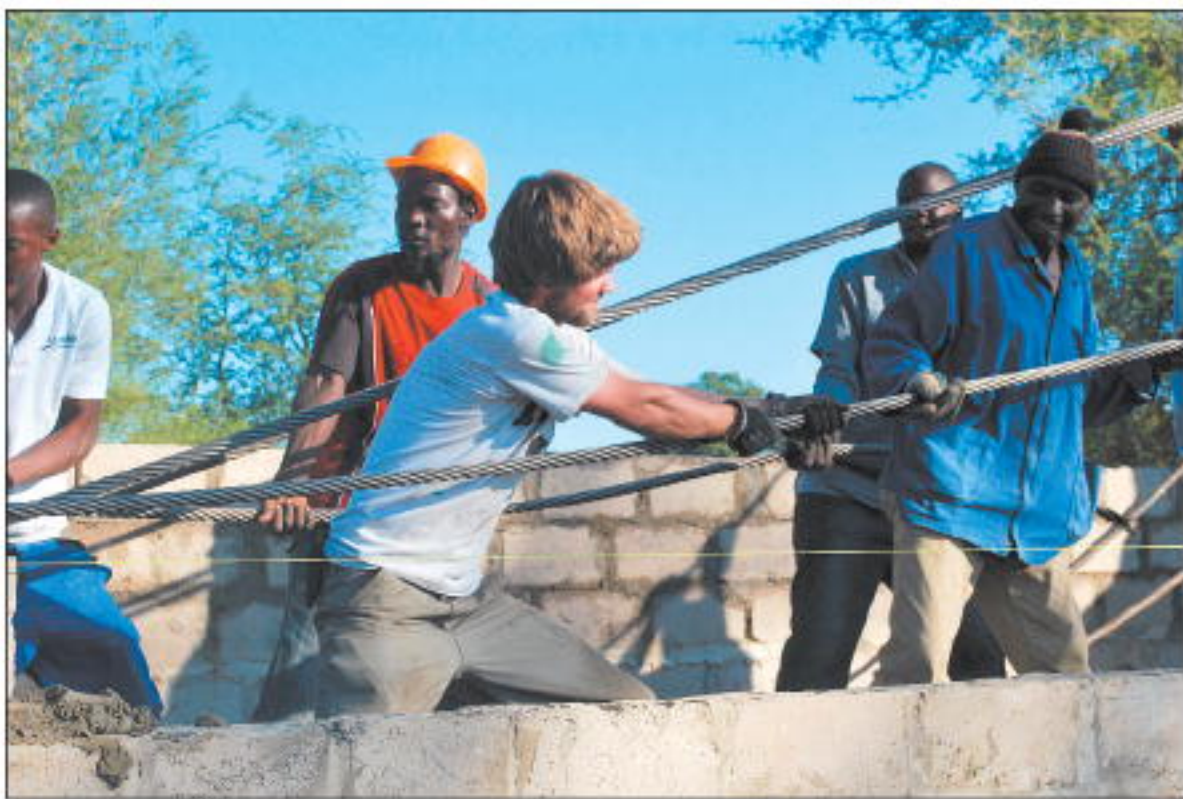
It was a lesson in hands-on design and engineering and, in some cases, ingenuity, as the students completed the project at a site without electricity.

"We were mixing concrete on the ground, with shovels and buckets. You use what you have on hand," Michael Schaefer, 24, of Ames said. "It's good for your perspective."

Schaefer, who graduated in May with his master's degree in civil engineering, was part of the UI group that made the trip to Zambia in June. It was through the volunteer charity Bridges to Prosperity, which works to empower poor, rural communities in Asia, Africa and South America through footbridge building.

Engineering students from the University of Zambia took the lead on the footbridge project.

The director of operations for Bridges to Prosperity is Avery Bang, an Iowa City native and UI graduate. Schaefer and Bang are friends, and when the Zambia project needed a volunteer partner,



John Schaeffer photos

University of Iowa engineering student Thomas Bang pulls a cable as he helps build a footbridge in Zambia as part of a project with Bridges to Prosperity, a volunteer charity that builds footbridges in rural Africa, Asia and South America. The UI students returned from the trip at the end of June.



Gazette map

Bang called upon her UI contacts. UI engineering students several years ago worked on a Bridges to Prosperity project.

The UI students worked with five University of Zambia students and workers from local villages to build the footbridge. Coralville engineering firm Shoemaker & Haaland was a sponsor for the UI students.



The footbridge built by University of Iowa and University of Zambia students connects the villages of Linda and Libuyu in Zambia.

The bridge design was developed by Bridges to Prosperity and involves two towers joined by steel cables, with wood decking as the walkway.

"You learn the amount of team work involved," Ross Johnson, 21, UI senior in electrical engineering

from North Liberty, said. "Nobody is idle waiting on something else. Everybody can be doing something constantly. It was much more difficult than I expected just to try to coordinate the whole project."

The Linda Libuyu Suspended Pedestrian

Footbridge connects the villages of Linda and Libuyu in Zambia. The area floods during the rainy season and would essentially leave Libuyu as an island. And the old railroad tie bridge would get muddy and slippery and was frequented by resident crocodiles who sometimes made crossing interesting for residents, Schaefer said.

More than 5,000 residents will be served by the new bridge, he said.

"It was just a really great experience," he said.

The UI engineering students hope to do another project with Bridges to Prosperity next year, and perhaps make it a regular student outing.

■ Comments: (319) 339-3158; diane.heldt@gazcomm.com

## C.R. to get most of \$2 million Wells Fargo investment back

By Rick Smith  
The Gazette

CEDAR RAPIDS — City Hall is getting most of its money back on what proved a lousy, nearly \$2 million investment in 2007.

The good news comes in the form of a legal settlement with Wells Fargo Brokerage Services LLC.

In 2007, the city invested \$1.948 million in a short-term investment called "commercial paper," which provides money to businesses to meet their short-term, cash-flow needs. However, the investment in something called Golden Key Ltd. — which was

supposed to pay the city \$2 million after several months — flopped.

The city sued Wells Fargo Brokerage Services LLC in June 2008, claiming the brokerage violated federal securities law by selling "unregistered" investments that should not have been sold to government entities.

The City Council tonight is expected to approve a settlement of the lawsuit, which according to city documents, will pay the city all but \$250,000 of its original \$1.948 million investment. The settlement also will pay the city \$110,000 in attorney's fees and court

costs, the city documents say.

The city still may recover more from the investment's underlying assets, it reports.

In 2007, City Hall also handled a second investment in commercial paper for the Cedar Rapids/Linn County Solid Waste Agency. That investment, called Rhinebridge LLC, has recently been tied to a larger investment called Abacus, which has Goldman Sachs in litigation with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission.

The solid waste agency's investment was to have paid \$6 million

over the course of a few months, but did not. The agency had recouped part of the investment in 2008, lessening its loss to \$2.64 million. The solid waste agency also sued Wells Fargo Brokerage Services LLC, and the agency, too,

has reached a settlement with Wells Fargo, city officials report.

The agency did not return a phone call Monday to specify what its settlement amounts to.

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