

Official: About 200 Dubuque employees affected by IBM layoff

DUBUQUE, Iowa (AP) — A leader of the Greater Dubuque Development Corporation says about 200 employees at the Dubuque IBM facility have been affected by the company's mass layoff. Rick Dickinson, the corporations' president and CEO, tells the Telegraph Herald he expects formal notice of layoff numbers Wednesday. Dubuque's layoffs are part of companywide reductions after IBM announced a \$600 million workforce rebalancing in its fourth-quarter filing for 2014. IBM North America spokesman Clint Roswell says the workforce reductions stem from the company's need to keep up with what's going on elsewhere in the industry. Lee Conrad, national coordinator of a union representing some IBM workers, says job cuts would have a "big impact" in Dubuque. IBM opened a global delivery center in Dubuque in 2009.

Groups sue EPA seeking livestock farm air quality standards

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) — A coalition of environmental, animal rights and citizen action groups is suing the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency alleging failure to address air pollution from large-scale livestock farms. Two federal lawsuits filed in the District of Columbia allege the EPA has not responded to petitions filed in 2009 and 2011 asking the agency to use its Clean Air Act authority to regulate large hog, cattle and poultry farms. The groups include the Environmental Integrity Project, the Humane Society of the United States, and citizen groups from Wisconsin, Iowa and California. They claim ammonia, hydrogen sulfide and other manure-generated contaminants in states such as Iowa and North Carolina make people sick. The groups want the EPA to set air quality standards for large livestock farms. An EPA spokesman had no immediate comment.

Branstad receives get well calls from Christie, Walker

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) — Governor Terry Branstad is getting get-well calls from presidential hopefuls as he recovers from the flu. Spokesman Jimmy Centers said Wednesday that New Jersey Governor Chris Christie and Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker have both called Branstad to wish him well. The governor is recovering from a case of flu and dehydration that sent him to a hospital earlier this week. Branstad was taken by ambulance to Iowa Methodist Medical Center in Des Moines on Monday after he required assistance at a ribbon-cutting event. His public appearances for the week have been cancelled so he can recuperate. Branstad's personal physician said in a statement that the hospital conducted tests and ruled out other contributing factors, including cardiac issues, for which he's been previously treated.

Iowa farmer leads Senate panel on high legal posts

WASHINGTON (AP) — Senator Chuck Grassley — at 81 years old — is steering the Senate Judiciary Committee into a brave new world. The Iowa Republican is the first nonlawyer to chair

the panel considering the confirmation of Loretta Lynch, President Barack Obama's choice for attorney general. But he also may be the committee's first chairman to tweet straight from the podium. In his debut tweet as chairman Wednesday, Grassley reported that the hearings are "moving right along," adding that, "We must finish even if we go in evening." Grassley has long been the Senate's most prolific tweeter, boasting often about updating his own account without his staff's help. The tweet came after Grassley grilled Lynch on immigration policy.

Iowa officials go to Virginia to discuss slain cousins case

EVANSDALE, Iowa (AP) — Iowa investigators have gone to Virginia to consult national experts on the unsolved 2012 abduction and killing of two young cousins. The Waterloo-Cedar Falls Courier reports Evansdale Police Chief Kent Smock and an Iowa Department of Criminal Investigation agent will be in Alexandria, Virginia, until Friday. The two will meet with representatives from the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children to discuss the investigation into the disappearance and deaths of 10-year-old Lyric Cook-Morrissey and 8-year-old Elizabeth Collins. The girls disappeared in Evansdale while riding their bikes in July 2012. Their bodies were discovered about five months later in a rural wildlife refuge in Bremer County. No arrests have been made in the case. While in Virginia, officials will review the case and seek additional testing and investigation options.

Man convicted of second-degree murder in fatal Iowa stabbing

CEDAR RAPIDS, Iowa (AP) — A man has been convicted of one count of second-degree murder in connection to a fatal stabbing on the Meskwaki Settlement in central Iowa. Officials say 21-year-old Jonathan Youngbear pleaded guilty Wednesday in federal court in Cedar Rapids. A sentencing hearing has not yet been scheduled. In the plea deal, Youngbear says he stabbed his 17-year-old cousin Severn Jefferson. Jefferson died Feb. 24 in Youngbear's home, which is within the boundaries of the Meskwaki Settlement in Tama County. According to a news release, Youngbear was under the influence of drugs and alcohol at the time he stabbed Jefferson. Youngbear remains in U.S. Marshal custody pending sentencing. The Sac and Fox Tribe of the Mississippi in Iowa own the Meskwaki Settlement land.

Jespersion, Tuttle lead No. 18 Northern Iowa over S. Illinois

CARBONDALE, Ill. (AP) — Paul Jespersen matched his season-high with 13 points and Seth Tuttle also had 13 to keep 18th-ranked Northern Iowa in the hunt for the Missouri Valley Conference title with a 59-52 win over Southern Illinois on Wednesday night. The Panthers (19-2, 8-1 Missouri Valley) rallied from their fifth halftime deficit of the season and stay a game back of Number 12 Wichita State. Northern Iowa hosts Wichita State on Saturday at the McLeod Center. Jespersen, who had scored 12 points in his previous eight games, made 5 of 6 from the field, including 3 of 4 from the 3-point line. Tuttle made 4 of 7 from the field and 5 of 7 at the free-throw line to help the Panthers win their eighth straight game. Southern Illinois (9-13, 2-7) got a season-high 10 points from backup center Ibby Djimde but went more than six

minutes without a field goal in the second half.

Timmer, Ricks Jr. score 15 each; Drake beats Bradley 69-57

PEORIA, Ill. (AP) — Reed Timmer and Gary Ricks Jr. each scored 15 points to help Drake roll to a 69-57 victory over Bradley on Wednesday night. Timmer was 6 of 10 from the floor and Ricks made 5 of 12 shots, including 4 of 9 from long range. Jacob Enevold Jensen chipped in 14 points and Karl Madison dished out five assists for Drake (5-16, 2-7 Missouri Valley), which shot 55.6 percent from the field. The Bulldogs had a 41-31 halftime lead and stretched it to 54-39 on Ricks' 3-pointer with 14:09 remaining. Auston Barnes hit a 3 to pull Bradley within 58-51 with 7:37 left, but the Braves did not get closer. Warren Jones had 18 points, and Josh Cunningham scored 16 points and grabbed a career-high 15 rebounds to lead Bradley (7-15, 2-7), which outrebounded Drake 35-23.

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