



## HOW VALUABLE IS COACH CHIZIK?

Bank creates commemorative coin of Iowa State coach to lure customers. Will it work? **Business, Page 1D**

# The Des Moines Register

The Newspaper Iowa Depends Upon ■ [DesMoinesRegister.com](http://DesMoinesRegister.com) ■ Price 50 Cents ■ Tuesday, July 17, 2007 **A** FINAL

## Borlaug earns rare 'triple crown'

### Iowa scientist's honor marks 'historic day' for state

By **JANE NORMAN**  
REGISTER WASHINGTON BUREAU

Washington, D.C. — An Iowa farm boy today will receive the Congressional Gold Medal in honor of his lifetime work saving millions of people around the world from starvation.

Norman Borlaug, a pioneer of the "Green Revolution" who was born on a Cresco farm in 1914, will become one of only five people in history

to receive the Congressional Gold Medal, Nobel Peace Prize and Presidential Medal of Freedom.

The others are Martin Luther King Jr., Mother Teresa, Elie Wiesel and Nelson Mandela.

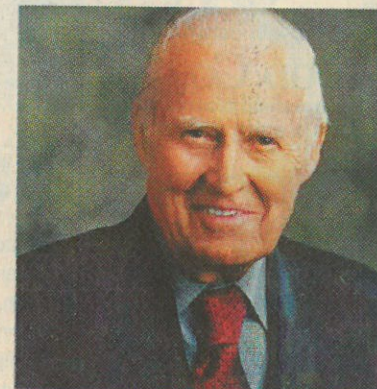
The ceremony in the Rotunda of the U.S. Capitol will be attended by President Bush, Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., other congressional leaders and members of the

Iowa congressional delegation.

Iowa congressmen worked to get approval for the highest civilian honor that can be bestowed by the U.S. government for Borlaug, 93, for his achievements in developing high-yield, disease-resistant varieties of wheat.

Friends and colleagues of Borlaug's

See **BORLAUG**, Page 6A



### Why Borlaug matters

Norman Borlaug was born on a farm in Cresco. His accomplishments include:

1. Saving millions of people from hunger. He pioneered plant-breeding research and farming techniques.
2. Founding the World Food Prize, based in Des Moines, in 1986 to raise awareness of the role of agriculture in the world.
3. Being one of only five people to win the Congressional Gold Medal, Nobel Peace Prize and Presidential Medal of Freedom.

## Neighborhood fights back

### D.M.'s River Bend residents band together to reverse crime trend



## Newton courts wind energy turbine maker, 723 new jobs

Four cities are competing for the Rhode Island-based company's \$56 million plant.

By **WILLIAM RYBERG**  
REGISTER BUSINESS WRITER

Newton, Ia. — A 723-employee factory could be the latest addition to Iowa's growing wind energy industry.

TPI Composites of Warren, R.I., is considering building a \$56 million plant in Newton. The city is competing with two undisclosed locations in

# Borlaug honor marks 'historic day' for Iowa

**BORLAUG**, from Page 1A

from Mexico, India, Africa and Japan are expected to attend.

"This is one of the most historic days Iowa will ever have," said former Ambassador Kenneth Quinn, president of the World Food Prize.

Borlaug founded the World Food Prize in 1986 to increase attention to landmark achievements in food and agriculture on a scale equal to the Nobel Prize. Des Moines businessman John Ruan became the sponsor of the prize in 1990 and set its headquarters in Des Moines.

Borlaug, who is of Norwegian descent, said in an interview Monday that his passion to end hunger was spurred by the times in which he grew up,

during the darkest days of the Depression in Iowa.

"I saw the prices collapse, the banks go broke in Iowa when I was in high school," he recalled. "The farmers were going broke."

He left home to attend the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis, figuring he had a better chance in a big city of obtaining a part-time job to support himself.

"There I saw what poverty really was," he said. "This was my first experience in a big city. People, many of them, not only elderly but middle-aged and younger, with their hands out asking for a nickel to buy bread."

Yet farmers at home in Iowa had no money. "The chaos of that period, the hunger and

the misery, left a big impact on me," he said.

Borlaug studied forestry for his bachelor's degree, dropping out a couple of times to work to gain enough money to continue. By 1942, he earned his master's and doctoral degrees in plant pathology.

He went on to take part in a Rockefeller Foundation program in Mexico, where he worked to improve wheat yields for the next 16 years.

The remarkable results he achieved were transferred to Asia and Latin America, sparking what is known as the "Green Revolution" because so many people were fed rather than dying of malnutrition and starvation.

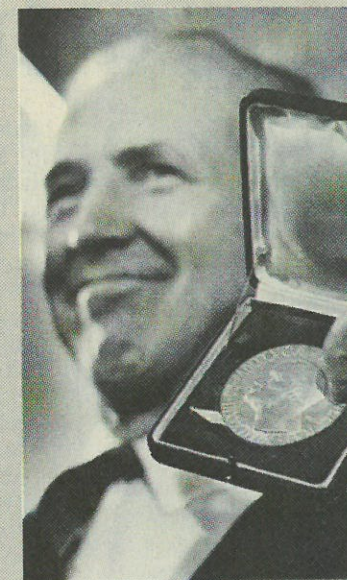
Even at 93, Borlaug continues working and spreading

## Borlaug on TV

**WHEN:** Iowa Public Television will broadcast the documentary "Out of Iowa: Norman Borlaug and the Green Revolution," at 9:30 p.m. Sunday.

**WHAT:** The program, which traces the life and achievements of the Cresco, Ia., native, will be updated with footage from today's ceremony, when Borlaug receives the Congressional Gold Medal.

**MORE:** In addition, Iowa Public Television's national agribusiness program "Market to Market" will feature a report about Borlaug's work and accomplishments at 8 p.m. Friday, and again at noon Sunday.



REGISTER FILE PHOTO

Norman Borlaug displays his Nobel Peace Prize during a Borlaug Day fete in his hometown of Cresco in December 1970.

the message of ending hunger, and he said it's his hope that today's event will bring more notice to "an army of hunger fighters" in many parts of the world.

"I have been fortunate in a number of cases of being a leader of this team," he said.

Borlaug noted in a statement he wrote for the gold medal ceremony that in 1960 perhaps 60 percent of the world's people felt hunger during some portion of the

year. By the year 2000, that had dropped to 14 percent.

Still, this translates to 850 million men, women and children who lack proper nutrition, he said.

"Thus, despite the successes of the Green Revolution, the battle to ensure food security for hundreds of millions of miserably poor people is far from won," he said.

Reporter Jane Norman can be reached at (202) 906-8137 or jnorman@dmreg.com

# U of I to rethink Wellmark moniker

**WELLMARK**, from Page 1A

to move forward and consider this naming gift at a collegiate faculty meeting early in the academic year."

Merchant said the resolution had been sent to Wellmark, U of I administrators and Michael Gartner, president of the Iowa Board of Regents. The regents would have to vote on renaming a college.

Fethke and Merchant were not available for comment Monday afternoon, but U of I spokesman Steve Parrott said the Wellmark naming gift was "still being discussed."

"He's pleased the discussions are continuing," Parrott said of Fethke. "He wants to let people have time to sort things out."

Lar Fuortes, a professor of occupational and environmental health, said Fethke and Merchant told the public health faculty Monday that faculty members were being given the opportunity to weigh in on the gift because it would set a precedent for a college to be named after a corporation.

"Apparently, these things are often done behind closed doors," Fuortes said. "They both recognize that this is precedent-setting enough that the faculty have concerns."

Faculty feared the naming of a college after a health insurance company could hurt efforts to get research grants, which fund 80 percent of the college's budget, Merchant said earlier this month.

Faculty members approved a resolution July 5 stating they did not want their college to be named after Wellmark Blue Cross and Blue Shield. The Wellmark Foundation withdrew the offer a day later. Marvin Pomerantz, U of I donor and former regents president, resigned from a public health fundraising committee last week, saying he was disappointed the U of I had

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**NEIGHBORHOOD**, from Page 1A

for crime in recent memory.

Less than two weeks after the homicide, a 16-year-old was shot in the leg two blocks from where Collins was killed. Police have not identified any suspects in the shooting in the 1800 block of Eighth Street.

"You'll go a day, a whole week even, that was cool," said Rodriguez, a block captain for the River Bend Neighborhood Association. "Then, boom."

She picks up litter on her street and tries to keep neighborhood kids from playing with fireworks.

The shootings are the type of serious crime that residents fear could become commonplace if left unchecked.

## BAD REPUTATION

River Bend reported 17 offenses in June, more than other neighborhoods of its size. Oak Park, the 12th-largest neighborhood, reported 7 offenses in June. Easter Lake the 14th-largest neighborhood reported 97 offenses.

River Bend, the city's 28th largest neighborhood, had 19 reports of vandalism, 13 cases of drug possession, 10 reported burglaries and 10 reported assaults.

River Bend ranked fifth out of Des Moines' 50 neighborhood for most offenses reported. Downtown Des Moines, the neighborhood with the most offenses, had 566.

The five neighborhoods with the most offenses reported to police were also among the largest, except for one: River Bend.

The neighborhood is fighting an old reputation as much as it is battling its current crime problem, said Rep. Wayne Ford, D-Des Moines, founder of Urban Dreams, a River Bend social-service organization near the corner of Sixth and Forest avenues.

It was "the worst corner, the worst neighborhood in the state" when Ford founded the organization 20 years ago, he said. "Does this community take a lot of hits because of its reputation? I would say yes."

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