RODNEY WHITE/THE REGISTER

Becky Suckow, front, practices with the Valley Marchmasters in the Valley Southwoods gymnasium early Thursday morning. Iowa high school music students now must pass all classes or become ineligible to participate in competitions for 30 days.

By LYNN CAMPBELL
REGISTER STAFF WRITER

Iowa high school students who fail a class this semester will be ineligible to participate in music competitions for 30 school days next semester.

The little-publicized rule change applies to nearly 64,000 band, orchestra and chorus members. It follows passage of similar rules for athletes and speech and drama students.

"We needed to have a consistency," said Leon Kuehner, band director at Hampton-Dumont High School. "With the state speech and athletic associations, we needed to be on the same page so we're unified and doing what's best for the kids."

The new rule, approved 155-26 by members of the Iowa High School Music Association, requires music students to pass all classes instead of just four. The change comes as the season heats up for music events: The state Marching Band Festival is today in Waukee; the Mid-Iowa Band Cham-

See **BAND,** Page 5A

Music eligibility rule changes

THE CHANGE: 25,598 students in band, 2,431 in orchestra and 35,813 in chorus must now pass all classes instead of just four.

PENALTY: Students who fail at least one class are ineligible for music competitions for 30 consecutive school days after the day grades are issued.

WHICH COMPETITIONS: Those sanctioned or sponsored by the Iowa High School Music Association that are outside the school curriculum and do not affect grade-point average.

OTHER PERFORMANCES: Eligibility for other public music appearances is left up to the school district.

LEARN MORE ONLINE: www.ihsma.org

"Seven percent of phone calls that come in over the crisis line are now in reference to online gambling. I don't think this is a cure-all, but it's a deterrent."

The Unlawful Internet Gambling Enforcement provision signed by President Bush on Friday was buried as an amendment in the

See **GAMBLING,** Page 12A

Successful test, or nuclear fizzle?

By CHARLES J. HANLEY
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Surveillance aircraft sweeping Asian skies without success for a hint of krypton or a sign of strontium have deepened the mystery over North Korea's claimed nuclear explosion. Was the blast that rocked global politics an atomic fizzle, a mini-test, or simply the thunder from hundreds of tons of TNT?

A senior U.S. administration official said Friday that one of a number of tests of samples was consistent with a nuclear explosion, but no definitive conclusion had been reached.

Earlier in the day, a U.S. government intelligence official said initial air sampling in the area Tuesday by a specialized U.S. WC-135

See **KOREA,** Page 6A

First World Food Prize, now Nobel

This year's peace prize recipient was recognized early on in Des Moines for his work with Bangladesh's poorest.

By JERRY PERKINS
REGISTER FARM EDITOR

The World Food Prize headquarters in Des Moines buzzed Friday with the news that Muhammad Yunus and the Grameen Bank he founded had been awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.

In 1994, Yunus received the World Food Prize for his work promoting the economic and social advancement of the poorest citizens of Bangladesh, especially women and children, through his work with the Grameen Bank.

Kenneth Quinn, president of the foundation that oversees the prize, said the 1994 World Food Prize was one of the first awards to recognize Yunus and Grameen Bank. "The road to the Nobel Peace Prize began in Des Moines," Quinn said.

Yunus and the Grameen Bank pioneered the concept of microcredit, loaning small amounts of money — less than

See **LAUREATE,** Page 5A

PAVEL RAHMAN/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Nobel Peace Prize winner Muhammad Yunus smiles as daughter Dina Yunus congratulates him Friday in Dhaka, Bangladesh. He pioneered the microcredit concept.

ELECTION 2006

Big dose of politics coming Sunday

IOWA POLL: Which candidate for governor — Jim Nussle or Chet Culver — has opened up a lead in the campaign? Read the Sunday Register to see what the latest Iowa Poll shows.

CLINTON IN IOWA: Find photos and coverage of former President Bill Clinton in Des Moines for the Democratic Party's Jefferson-Jackson dinner in Sunday's Register.

FORECAST

HIGH 57° LOW 35°

Mostly sunny skies and pleasant conditions.
Page 8B

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ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE PHOTO

Muhammad Yunus, founder of Grameen Bank, a micro-credit institution, explains the benefits of the system at Kalampur village in Dhaka, Bangladesh, in 2004.

the poor in Bangladesh, he said.

Yunus is the first Nobel Prize winner from Bangladesh, a poverty-stricken Southeast Asian nation of about 141 million on the Bay of Bengal.

Grameen, which means rural in the Bengali language, was the first lender to hand out microcredit, giving small loans to poor Bangladeshis who did not qualify for loans from conventional banks. No collateral is needed for Grameen loans, which average about $200.

But there is social pressure to repay. Recipients form groups of five and members qualify for future loans only if all are current on their old ones.

The results are hard to argue with — the bank says it has a 99 percent repayment rate.

Des Moines early stop on road to peace prize

LAUREATE, from Page 1A

$100 and rarely more than $300 — to poor people.

Loans supported farming activities to help provide better access to food and, in many cases, to make a profit and improve living standards.

The World Food Prize was founded in 1986 by Norman Borlaug, the Iowa native who was awarded the 1970 Nobel Peace Prize for developing high-yielding varieties of wheat in Mexico.

Borlaug, called "the Father of the Green Revolution," has been credited with preventing widespread famine in India and Pakistan by introducing the high-yielding wheat in Asia in the 1960s. Borlaug started the World Food Prize to honor those who have improved the quality, quantity or availability of food throughout the world.

When the original sponsor of the World Food Prize withdrew, Des Moines businessman John Ruan picked up sponsorship of the prize in 1990 and brought it to Des Moines. Ruan's son, John Ruan III, has succeeded his father as chairman of the World Food Prize.

Quinn said the selection of Yunus as the 2006 Nobel Peace Prize laureate will add more prestige to the World Food Prize.

"It's especially meaningful because this is the 20th anniversary of the founding of World Food Prize," Quinn said.

The 2006 World Food Prize will be given Thursday night at the Iowa Statehouse to three men who played an important role in making Brazil's interior region — known as the Cerrado — into highly productive cropland. They are former Brazilian Minister of Agriculture H.E. Alysson Paolinelli; Edson Lobato, former technical director of a Brazilian research center; and A. Colin McClung of the United States.

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face tougher academic standards