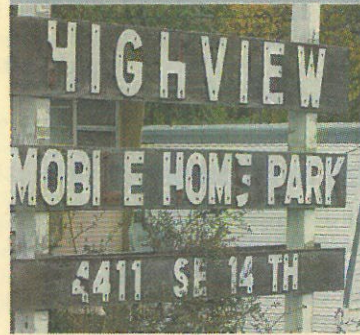




DAVID PETERSON/THE REGISTER

Brent Richman loads the aluminum skirting that was around his trailer, hoping to sell it to a salvage dealer. Richman, along with the other residents of the Paradise Park mobile home park, is being evicted Aug. 31. "I'm basically homeless in nine days," said Richman, who has lived in the mobile home park since 1988.

**HIGHVIEW: DES MOINES**



REGISTER FILE PHOTO

**HIGHVIEW MOBILE HOME PARK**

**LOCATION:** 4411 S.E. 14th St.

**CLOSED:** January 2004

**RESIDENTS:** About 400

**REASON FOR CLOSING:** Too costly to keep property up

**PROPERTY:** Demolished and turned into a carwash

**Affordable housing is scarce, residents say**

By **FRANK VINLUAN**  
REGISTER STAFF WRITER

**L**inda Quinn moved into "paradise" last year planning a new home. A real estate deal and an eviction notice forced her to find another one.

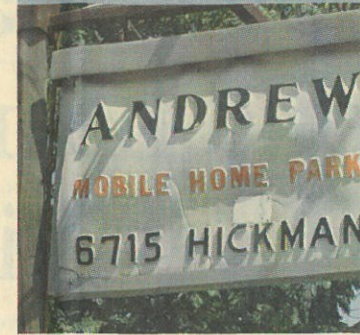
Quinn and 100 residents of the Paradise Park mobile home park in Windsor Heights are scrambling to find new homes before the Aug. 31 deadline to close the park.

The search is tough. Paradise is the third Des Moines-area mobile home park to close in the last two years; Andrew Mobile Home Park in Urbandale closed in May, and Highview Mobile Home Park in Des Moines closed in 2004.

Advocates for the homeless say such affordable housing is disappearing in Iowa and

See **MOBILE PARK**, Page 5B

**ANDREW: URBANDALE**



REGISTER FILE PHOTO

**ANDREW MOBILE HOME PARK**

**LOCATION:** 6715 Hickman Road

**CLOSED:** May 2006

**RESIDENTS:** About 30 homes

**REASON FOR CLOSING:** Owner Peter Riccelli Sr. retired and sold property. Riccelli also owned Paradise Park.

**PROPERTY:** Undeveloped

ers here in Storm Lake." Ben Stone, executive di-

See **KLAN**, Page 4B

**London firm chosen to track sex offenders**

The whereabouts of miscreants will be monitored by satellite.

By **JONATHAN ROOS**  
REGISTER STAFF WRITER

A global security services company chosen by Iowa corrections officials to provide "real-time" community monitoring of convicted sex offenders will charge \$7.88 a day, per offender, for the use of its equipment.

G4S, which stands for Group 4 Securicor, was selected this week from three finalists for the state's electronic monitoring contract. The company has its headquarters in London; a California subsidiary will handle the Iowa contract.

The movements of 350 to 400 offenders who have committed

crimes against children will be followed around the clock with a tracking device linked to satellites that can pinpoint an offender's location. The data are fed by wireless phone to a monitoring station, so there's little delay in knowing a person's whereabouts.

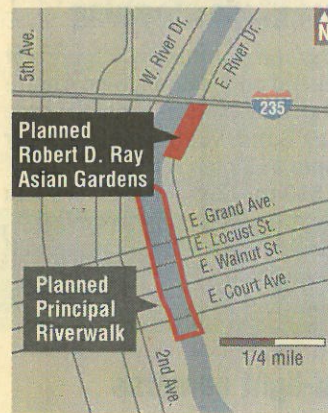
Eventually, about 500 offenders will be monitored that way, said Gary Sherzan, director of correctional services in the 5th Judicial District, which includes Des Moines.

This type of Global Positioning System is also the most expensive monitoring program.

For \$2.28 a day, G4S will lease to the state a radio transmitter that is worn on the ankle and a base receiver plugged into a telephone. That type of monitoring equipment is used to keep tabs on when

See **MONITOR**, Page 3B

**Ray gardens' pavilion is completed**



A B C

The \$1.6 million structure was prefabricated in China, then shipped to Des Moines and reassembled.

By **TODD ERZEN**  
REGISTER STAFF WRITER

Chinese firecrackers blew away the standard notion of a ribbon-cutting ceremony Tuesday as construction of a three-story Chinese pavilion and hand-carved marble bridge was completed on the Des Moines River's east bank.

Built as the anchor of the Chinese Cultural Center of

America's Robert D. Ray Asian Gardens that are scheduled to be completed in 2007, the \$1.6 million structure is designed to "create the all-encompassing sensual and spiritual experience," said Paul Shao, Iowa State University architecture professor and the center's president.

Shao said the pavilion is a visual extension of the center's mission to promote closer cul-

tural and trade relationships between the United States and China, an effort he says was best embodied by Ray through his efforts, as Iowa's governor, to assist East Asian refugees in the 1970s. That effort is also represented by the pavilion's sponsor, Deere & Co., China's largest supplier of cotton-farming equipment.

The gardens, located on Robert D. Ray Drive between the Des Moines Botanical Center

See **GARDENS**, Page 8B



BILL NEIBERGALL/THE REGISTER

Lions guard the entrance to the three-story pavilion that will be the centerpiece of the Robert D. Ray Asian Gardens in downtown Des Moines.

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# Pavilion finished at Ray gardens

GARDENS, from Page 1B

and the site of the future Principal Center Street Pedestrian Bridge, will include a pond with a series of waterfalls, stone pagodas, lanterns, rock formations and sculptural vegetation. Work began at the pavilion site in November. The pavilion was prefabricated in China before being shipped to Des Moines and was reassembled under the guidance of master technicians from Beijing.

"Fairies from heaven" and "divine animals" that adorn the pavilion's tile rooftop and the zigzag path traced by the 120-foot-long marble bridge are design elements meant to bring visitors into harmony with nature and each other, said Shao, a point not lost on a major donor of the project.

"One of the things that has motivated us is the thought that in a small way, this could be a step toward world peace," said David Hurd, former chairman of Principal Financial Group. "When you see it and experience it, it brings a flood of different thoughts to your mind. You aren't just looking at these inanimate materials.... It gives us a place to broaden the mind."

Ken Quinn, former U.S. ambassador to Cambodia and current president of the World Food Prize, said he hoped the pavilion would become a place that future presidential hopefuls would regularly visit.

"It is a reminder that big ideas about how to keep the world peaceful can come from this state," Quinn said.

Reporter Todd Erzen can be reached at (515) 284-8527 or terzen@dmreg.com

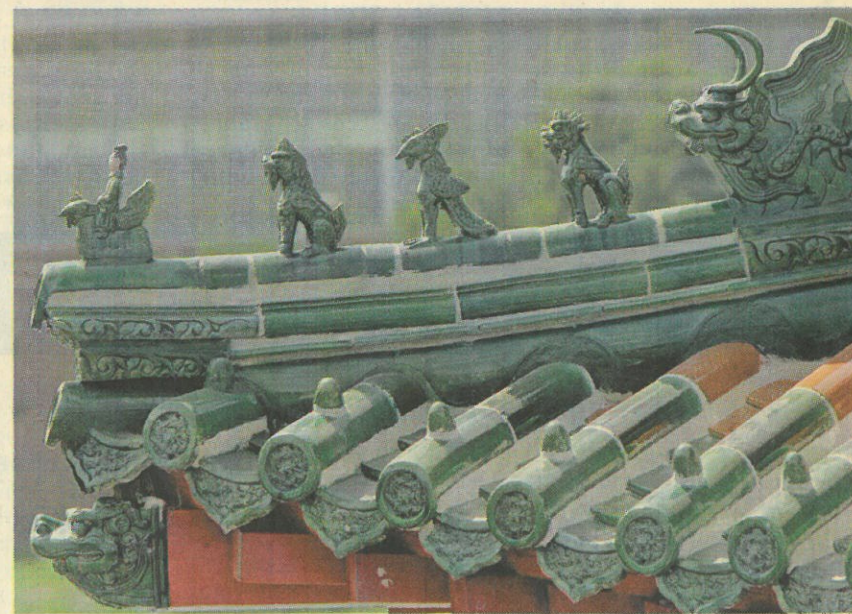


BILL NEIBERGALL/REGISTER PHOTOS

Downtown Des Moines has a new addition with the grand wooden pavilion at the site of the Robert D. Ray Asian Gardens along the east bank of the Des Moines River. The gardens, scheduled for completion next year, will feature a pond with waterfalls, stone pagodas and lanterns.



Paul Shao, president of the Chinese Cultural Center of America, says the pavilion is a visual extension of the center's mission to promote closer ties between China and the United States.



"Fairies from heaven" and "divine animals" decorate the tile rooftop of the pavilion. Such design elements are meant to bring visitors into harmony with nature and each other, Shao says.