



The Delaware Gazette

Delaware county's only daily newspaper

191ST year
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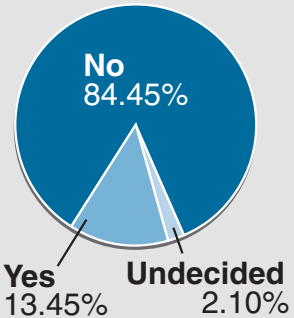
Which team do you predict will win the NCAA men's basketball tournament?

- Duke
- Kentucky
- Ohio State
- Syracuse
- Xavier
- Other

VOTE & COMMENT at delgazette.com

Comments may appear on the Gazette's editorial page in the coming week.

LAST WEEK'S RESULTS: Current candidate and former county commissioner Jim Ward has requested that his ethics records be sealed. Do you think the request should be granted?



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E-MAIL newsroom @delgazette.com
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Gazette Amy Allan

Brad Whitmoyer (left) and Cory Grywalski have worked side-by-side to develop a new Web site for the Delaware County Board of Developmental Disabilities.

Friends with disabilities collaborate on county Web site

By ANDREW TOBIAS
Staff Writer

For Brad Whitmoyer, using computers isn't just a pastime, it's a way of life.

Whitmoyer has severe cerebral palsy that limits his movement and ability to communicate. He moves around with an electric wheelchair, and has used a computer mounted on the front of the chair to help him com-

municate since he was five.

He also uses the device to run his small web-design business. His first project was designing a Web site for a local church; he has since accumulated more than 40 clients. He has taken a few design classes, but is mostly self-taught through online search engines.

Impressively, he inputs all the raw coding using only his right knee.

His wheelchair-mounted computer

screen communicates wirelessly with his office PC. Whitmoyer taps a button with his knee to start cycling through a grid of 190 letters, numbers and computer commands. He taps it again to select the "windows" key on the screen. With a few more taps of his knee, he opens a Web design program. With a few more taps, he selects an individual line of code, ready to edit.

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Alzheimer's program approved by county

By ANDREW TOBIAS
Staff Writer

Just last month, an elderly Alzheimer's patient in Franklin County went missing. A week later, the 88-year-old man was found dead, just a block from his home.

Delaware County commissioner Tommy Thompson said a new county program that would help track Alzheimer's patients and other people with dementia prone to "wandering away" would hopefully prevent something similar from happening here.

"I think that if we have means of tracking and finding these folks, we can provide them the best care we can," Thompson said.

Commissioners approved a \$770 start-up fee for a contract with technology provider Project Lifesaver.

In exchange for the fee, the company will provide the county with bracelets that will transmit the wearer's location to the Delaware County Sheriff's Office.

The county will be required to pay a \$200 annual fee, money which will come out of a \$15,000 grant received by the Council for Older Adults, which is partnering with the county and the sheriff's office.

Organizing a conventional search for a missing person with tracking dogs can take hours, Sheriff's Office Lt. David Buttler said.

"Now (with the tracking system) it will take minutes to an hour at the most," Buttler said.

The bracelets and tracking services will be free to whoever uses them. Council for Older Adults Executive Director Bob Horrocks said the program would help his and other similar organizations.

"We thought this was a need that this program could fill. It's been shown to work in other communities," Horrocks said.

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Congress completes overhaul of health care

AVID ESPO
AP Special Correspondent

WASHINGTON — Capping an epic struggle, congressional Democrats put the final touches Thursday to historic legislation enshrining health care as the right of every citizen. Republicans vowed to campaign for repeal in the fall election season, drawing a quick retort from President Barack Obama: "I welcome that fight."

The president spoke in Iowa as the Senate voted 56-43 for legislation making changes, including better benefits for seniors and low-income and middle-class families, to the bill he signed into law with a flourish at the White House on Tuesday.

The House added its approval a few hours later, 220-207, clearing the way for Obama's signature on the second of two bills that marked the culmination of what the president called "a year of debate and a century of trying" to ensure coverage for nearly all in a nation where millions lack it. Obama is expected to



Associated Press Charles Dharapak

President Barack Obama speaks about health care reform at the University of Iowa in Iowa City Thursday.

sign the legislation early next week.

Taken together, the two bills also aim to crack down on insurance industry abuses and to reduce federal deficits by an estimated \$143 billion over a decade. Most Americans would be required to buy insurance for the first time, and face penalties if they refused.

The second of the two bills

also presented Obama with another victory, stripping banks and other private lenders of their ability to originate student loans in favor of a system of direct government lending.

After a monthslong battle in Congress, the political struggle was morphing into a new phase, where public debate was tinged with violence —

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