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Homers

What's going right

THE AMBER ALERT system worked, contrary to criticism from a few following the death of Jetseta Gage. Cedar Rapids police received 388 missing children reports last year, many of them quickly resolved, so an Amber Alert isn't issued immediately upon such a report. Less than three hours after Jetseta was reported missing, an Amber Alert went out to law enforcement agencies, and - despite a few glitches - the alert was generally broadcast state- and nationwide shortly thereafter. The call that led to the arrest of suspect Roger Paul Bentley came from someone who heard an Amber Alert broadcast only hours after the girl was reported missing.

KIRKWOOD COMMUNITY COLLEGE won praise from its guest Wednesday. President Bush noted the importance of all community colleges in training today's work force, specifically mentioning Kirkwood's registered and licensed practical nurse training programs that are helping fill unmet demand for medical personnel.

THE IOWA SENATE took a step toward helping cities collect parking fines by voting to authorize county treasurers to refuse to renew vehicle registrations for people with outstanding parking fines. The fines don't do much good if they can't be collected.

SPRING IS really here. Early-morning dog walkers know because high school track athletes have begun their 6 a.m. training runs. And those out for an evening stroll can hear the "ping" of bats during practice for summer softball and baseball. To all of the athletes involved in spring sports - track, soccer, tennis, golf - and preparing for summer sports, thanks for the inspiration and the anticipation of games to come.

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