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## C.F. schools open doors for students



ANELIA K. DIMITROVA PHOTO

Cedar Falls High School students came to the first day of classes with big smiles thanks to a group of greeters who offered suckers and tootsie rolls to sweeten up the transition.

## Police investigator starts year with new post, baby



ANELIA K. DIMITROVA PHOTO

Dennis O'Neill will celebrate his sixth anniversary as a lieutenant. See story on page A6.

## Sealed With A Kiss opens up with a bang Aug. 29

Sealed With A Kiss (S.W.A.K.), a new, independently owned fine paper and gift boutique, announces its incorporation and Aug. 29 store opening off the Cedar Falls parkade. The business will be a first time venture for Deborah Berstler and Mary Taylor, long time friends from Waverly who discovered their common dream of owning a store while taking a trip together last year. A grand opening celebration for the store, located on 111 West Fourth Street, will coincide with Cedar Falls' Community Main Street "Girls Night Out" event on Thursday, Oct. 6.

With its motto "special things are hard to find," the store will specialize in exclusive, high-end stationery, invitations and papers, and will also carry an array of unique products that communicate remembrance of others, including books, journals, candles, baby gifts and small

enclosures such as handmade foreign gift boxes. S.W.A.K. will also carry seasonal products perfect for "trickier" shopping occasions like work and hostess gifts or family reunions. The upscale shop's large inventory of open stock, mix-and-match note cards, envelopes and other paper products is unique to the area, according to the owners. And gift products such as ambient air diffusers, popular on the coasts for its signature fragrances and exquisitely designed wicking devices, offer options shoppers won't find elsewhere in the Cedar Valley.

"We were very careful in our merchandise selection process to find items that were new and different," notes Deborah Berstler, co-owner of S.W.A.K.

for S.W.A.K. see page A6



ANELIA K. DIMITROVA PHOTO

Deborah Berstler and Mary Taylor are the owners of Sealed With A Kiss, to open Aug. 29.

## Kolpek vies for council seat against Hagarty

Former at-large City Council member Vern Kolpek has announced his campaign to unseat longtime council member Tom Hagarty in Ward 1.

In making the announcement, Kolpek said, "There are a variety of reasons I am seeking re-election. I enjoyed my four-year term on the council. I had an opportunity to see Cedar Falls from a different perspective. I met new people, made new friends, and did my diligent best to make sound representative decisions." Vern Kolpek is a former Cedar Falls police officer who was shot in the face in the line of duty many years ago. As a result of the incident, he was blinded. However, his blindness did not slow him down. He became active in private fundraising for area needs, including annual police and firefighter campaigns.

The City of Cedar Falls is enjoying phenomenal growth in all areas of the city and in all industrial, retail and residential sectors. Kolpek said, "I believe the main reason for the competitive strength Cedar Falls is showing is the smooth and effective operation of city

SEE KOLPEK, page A6

## Good bye Ray Edwards, hello new pool



PHOTO BY ANELIA DIMITROVA

Dianne Forker with 8-year-old daughter Morgan, Brent Clemons with son Carter, 19 months, and wife Dana, Pam Murray, Ryan Backes with son Noah and wife Ashley, 6-year-old Curtis Daponte, Kelly Backman with with 2-year-old Alex Twaites, 5-year-old Skylar Twaites, Laurie Zimmerman with Jake Madison and Lucas Madison enjoy the last weekend by the baby pool. See more pictures on A2.

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