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# GLOBE GAZETTE

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MASON CITY/CLEAR LAKE, IOWA



## Rice: Government of Iraq is up to task

Visit coincides with discovery of 38 executed people

AP photo  
U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice walks with Kurdish Democratic Party leader Massoud Barzani during a surprise visit to Irbil in Kurdish northern Iraq Sunday.

**BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP)** — Under heavy guard on a surprise visit Sunday, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said Iraq's new government realizes it must move quickly to write a constitution that reflects the full spectrum of ethnic and religious groups.

Acknowledging the recent increase in deadly attacks, she said the insurgency can be beaten not just by force but also by "a political alternative that is strong."

The trip was a closely kept secret even at the State Department and among Iraqi

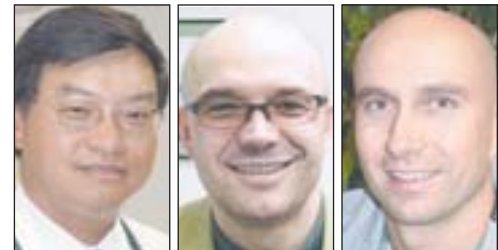
leaders. It showed both the importance that U.S. officials place on the success of the Iraqi government and the dangerous reality in the country two years after the American-led invasion that toppled Saddam Hussein.

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**Rice used a borrowed government plane on her journey to the area and was accompanied by only a few of her regular assistants.**



Ramos Shaik Velez



Tan Zawierucha Izakovic

## Mason City: Beacon to foreign-born physicians?

Originally an unknown, these doctors now call North Iowa their home

By **KRISTIN BUEHNER**  
Of *The Globe Gazette*

**MASON CITY** — When Dr. Roberto Velez learned of a job opportunity in Iowa, his first thought was — where?

Iowa, let alone Mason City, was not exactly in the sights of Velez, an obstetrician-gynecologist from Puerto Rico, when he graduated from medical school.

"Originally, I wanted to go to the East Coast," said Velez, 41. "Close to 50 percent of my classmates were relocating to the States."

For Velez, as for many of Mason City's community of foreign-born physicians, the decision to move to the Midwest came in a round-about way.

After checking out job opportunities in Virginia and New Jersey, Velez decided he didn't want to work on the East Coast.

Through the influence of an uncle in Chicago, he began to consider the Midwest.

After first taking a job in Muscatine, where he was "on call 24-7," Velez heard of a job in Mason City.

"It was pretty much what we were looking for," he said. "A smaller community, good schools, great for the kids, easy to get around, easy to get to the Cities."

See **HOME, A2**



ARIAN SCHUESSLER/The Globe Gazette

John Williams, of Mason City, drives a NASCAR race simulator Sunday at the "Big Toys for Big Boys" show at the North Iowa Fairgrounds.

## BIG TOY DREAMS

Event features the kind of stuff that gets guys drooling

By **DICK JOHNSON**  
Of *The Globe Gazette*

**MASON CITY** — Having competed in a wild, simulated NASCAR race, Mathew Trebil hatched another motorrific dream.

"I wish I could put one in my house," said the 19-year-old from Plymouth on Sunday after his ride in one of two hard-bucking, hydraulic-powered miniature Chevrolet Monte Carlo race cars. "It's pretty cool."

"It's nice," agreed Tom Herrod, 48, of Mason City. "I just wish it wasn't so heavy. I couldn't get it up my stairs at home."

The three-lap simulated races — drivers faced an onscreen likeness of Atlanta Motor Speedway, right down to advertisements along the wall — were part of the second-annual Big Toys for Big Boys event at the North Iowa Fairgrounds, sponsored by KGLO, Clear Channel Radio and several other North Iowa-area businesses.

It also featured professional lawn-mower racing, vintage cars, recreational vehicles, hot new motorcycles and all-terrain vehicles, and other displays by area businesses.

About a dozen lawn-mower racers from five states competed Saturday, said Tami Ramon, marketing director for Clear Channel Radio of North Iowa, which operates KGLO. Professional lawn-mower races often are broadcast on ESPN2.

Herrod recorded the fastest 1.5-mile lap in the NASCAR tournament, at 29.770 seconds. Thus he won a year's supply of Pepsi and an inflatable race car.

Ramon said Big Toys for Big Boys is a good way to attract motor fans and others from the North Iowa region.

"They've been selling some cars, a couple RVs and some wheels, stuff like that," she said. "So the big boys are here today."

## Still no end in sight for Legislature

Entering third week past scheduled finish with no budget yet

By **DAN GEARINO**  
Globe Des Moines Bureau

**DES MOINES** — The Iowa General Assembly enters its third week of overtime with lots of finger-pointing and little sign of compromise.

The House and Senate are \$25 million apart on their 2005-06 spending plans, though House Republicans say the differences add up to

\$117 million spread out over several years.

"We are acting in good faith, in a quiet, confident and calm manner. We're also trying to protect the taxpayers in the future," said Rep. Bill Dix, R-Shell Rock, chairman of the House Appropriations Committee.

The Senate, which is split 25-25 between the parties, wants to spend more than the Republican-controlled

House on child welfare programs, state universities and teacher training, among other things.

Also, the Senate wants to raise the cigarette tax 36 cents per pack and use the proceeds to lower property taxes and increase the money available to community colleges — an idea opposed by House leaders.

"We're not done yet and

See **SESSION, A2**

**The Senate, wants to spend more than the Republican-controlled House on child welfare programs, state universities and teacher training, among other things.**

**There are currently 31 foreign-born physicians at Mercy Medical Center-North Iowa\*, representing the following countries and commonwealths:**

- Burma: 1
- Canada: 1
- China: 1
- Egypt: 1
- Ghana: 1
- Guatemala: 1
- India: 11
- Iran: 2
- Malaysia: 1
- New Zealand: 1
- Philippines: 1
- Poland: 1
- Puerto Rico: 2
- Scotland/United Kingdom: 1
- Slovak Republic: 2
- South Africa: 1

Sri Lanka: 1  
Syria: 1

**Specialties represented are:**

- Anesthesiology
- Cardiology
- Dentistry
- Dermatology
- Ear, nose and throat (otolaryngology)
- Emergency
- Family Practice
- Internal Medicine
- Neurology
- Obstetrics/gynecology
- Oncology
- Pediatrics
- Plastic surgery
- Psychiatry
- Radiology
- Surgery

\* - Foreign-born physicians with privileges at Mercy Medical Center-North Iowa include some employed by Mercy and some who are not.

Wednesday: Follow instructions to get best benefits from medicines. **Health & Fitness**



**WEATHER**

A brief light shower is possible today, otherwise light clouds. Partly cloudy tonight.



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