A possible ordinance that would make possessing small amounts of cannabis a city code violation will be postponed for some time.

At a special Jacksonville council meeting Tuesday, Police Chief Tony Grootens told city officials

Grootens said one item being discussed concerns offenders simply receiving a city ticket without being booked into jail.

"One of the other things is if you have multiple charges, you charge one in city court and

There's all kinds of issues we have to take seriously and look to make sure we're doing it right.

The intention would be for first-time offenders to avoid 2.5 grams of marijuana or less receiving a code violation. Those found

BY JANE RUSSELL

After more than the three decades working with deaf and visually impaired students in Jacksonville, Marybeth Lauderdale is leaving.

Lauderdale, superintendent of both the Illinois School for the Deaf and the Illinois School for the Visually Impaired, will move to Pittsburgh as the director of the Western Pennsylvania School for the Deaf.

Her last day here will be July 31.

"Hands down, it's the students that she will miss the most, she said.

A MacMurray College worker 35 years ago, Lauderdale lived in a dorm at the Illinois School for the Deaf and worked on campus her junior and senior years.

When she became superintendent of both schools two years

LAUDERDALE, see Page 7

Bluffs School District hires superintendent

Blankenship begins July 1

BY JANE RUSSELL

Bluffs School District's new superintendent plans to "hit the ground running" when he begins

ABOVE: Mike Adams teaches children the musical form of the harp. Public Library.

LEFT: Mike Adams teaches children to play the harp.
LAUDERDALE: Taking job as director of Western Pennsylvania School for the Deaf

Graphics

Give Up Playing?

Senate defeats proposal to trim food stamp program

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Senate on Tuesday began
plowing through 79 amendments to a $200 billion bill that
will set farm policy and fund the food stamp program over
the next five years. One of its first votes was to reject a pro-
posal to trim food stamp spending.

The farm bill, one of the last major pieces of legislation
that could clear Congress before the election, carries out
major changes to the federal safety net for farmers, replac-
ing their direct payments, even when they don't plant crops,
with greater emphasis on crop insurance and a new pro-
gram to protect farmers from revenue losses.

The Senate is expected to vote on all the amendments
and pass the bill by the end of the week. It then goes to the
House, where it could run into resistance from fiscal con-
servatives. An early amendment in the Senate dealt with
the price of the food stamp program, the Supplemental Nutri-
tion Assistance Program, which now totals $20 billion a year,
about 45 percent of the bill's spending. Food stamp rolls
have doubled over the last eight years to 46 million people,
driven by the recession.

The Democratic Senate defeated 56-43 a proposal by
Sen. Jeff Sessions, R-Ala., that would have restored strict

Not a Chance.