

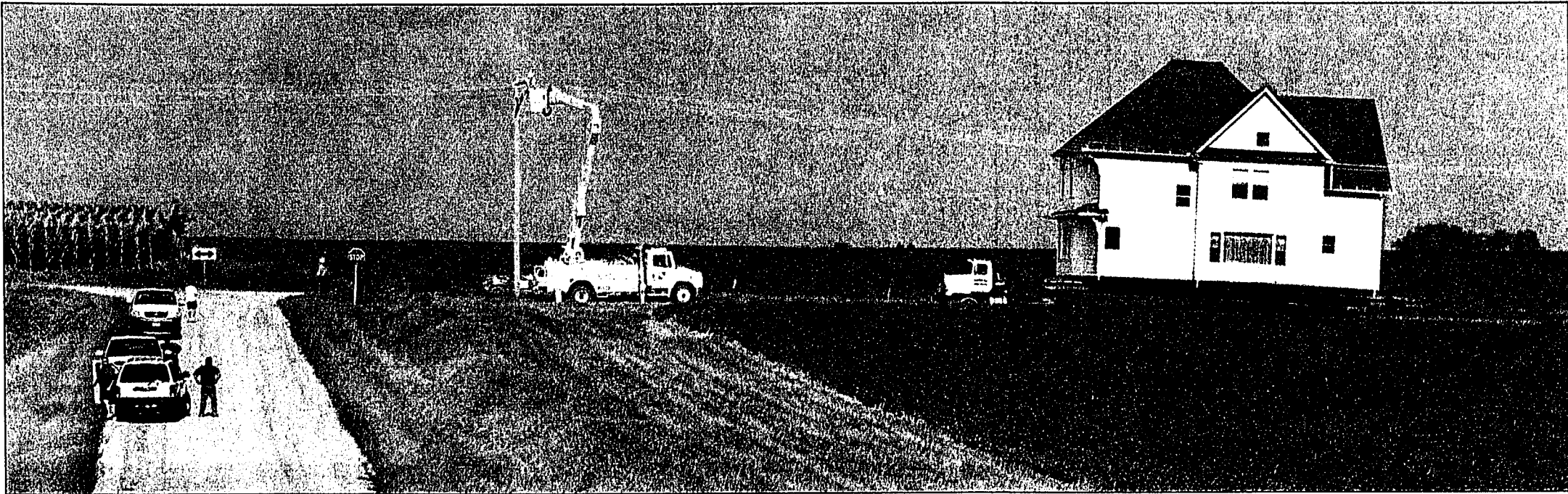
**Rate hike settlement**  
Alliant and consumer groups agree on electric rate compromise, **2B**

# IOWA TODAY<sup>®</sup>

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**B** The Gazette  
Wednesday  
July 14, 2004  
[www.gazetteonline.com](http://www.gazetteonline.com)

## Hollywood house moved near Van Horne



Duane Crock/The Gazette

A house is pulled along a gravel road about six miles north of Van Horne on Tuesday. The house appeared in the movie 'Michael,' starring John Travolta. John Strawn sold it to Michael and Lorraine Kerkman, and it was moved to their property about a mile northeast of Van Horne. The house's seven-mile trip took about three hours.

## CORRIDOR

IOWA CITY

### Robber with shotgun shoots person at store

Police are looking for a man armed with a shotgun who shot someone working at an adult store late last night in Iowa City.

Rescue crews and police rushed to the Adult Marketplace, 440 Kirkwood Ave. The victim was sped by ambulance to a hospital.

Patrons at the Kitty Hawk, a bar near the Adult Marketplace, said they were told by police that someone in the adult shop had been shot with a shotgun and that there had been an armed robbery.

Police said they were looking for a white man in his 20s, patrons said.

The Adult Marketplace is open 24 hours and sells adult videos, magazines, lingerie and marital aids, according to its Web site.

NORTH LIBERTY

### City Council shown nursing home plans

The North Liberty City Council saw plans last night for what will likely become the city's first nursing home.

Roger Holdeman, a partner with Greenwood Manor nursing home in Iowa City, proposed a facility on seven acres of a 34-acre property on the south side of West Penn Street and yet-to-be-built Hayden Drive. The land is owned by Canaan Properties, which also wants to build a hospital there but must first receive certification.

Holdeman told council members the 87-bed nursing facility would employ 100 people.

OXFORD/SOLON

### Cable TV franchises overwhelmingly OK'd

Voters in Solon and Oxford gave overwhelming approval in special cable television franchise elections Tuesday.

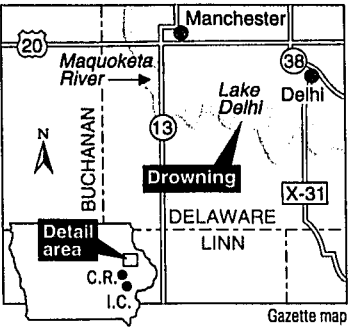
Residents in both communities were asked to approve 10-year non-exclusive cable television franchises with South Slope Cooperative Telephone Co.

In Solon, 32 (91 percent) voted yes and three (9 percent) voted no. In Oxford, the vote was 49 yes (96 percent) to two no.

RAMBLIN'

Gazette columnist Dave Rasdal is on vacation. His next column will appear Monday.

# Teenager drowns in Lake Delhi



## Inside

■ Final autopsy results for Coralville Lake drowning victim may take weeks, **8B**

### Dubuque boy, 16, went swimming with friends; body found

By Orlian Love  
The Gazette

A 16-year-old Dubuque boy drowned Monday evening at Lake Delhi.

The Delhi Fire Department recovered the body of Tony Murphy about 10:10 p.m., according to the Delaware County Sheriff's Office.

It was the second drowning in Eastern Iowa in only three days following the death of a

man in Coralville Lake.

Sheriff John Le Clere said Murphy was swimming with three friends, all teenage boys from Dubuque. They were not visiting residents of the area, he said.

Murphy was last seen swimming near the dam about 6:30 p.m. His friends searched for him for about two hours before calling authorities, the Sheriff's Office said.

Murphy and his friends attempted to swim from the shore near the dam to a rock on the south shore that is a popular diving site, said Dave

## Water safety

Water safety organizations offer the following tips for preventing drowning:

- Wear a life jacket in a boat or when swimming across a river or lake.
- Never use alcohol or drugs while swimming, diving or boating.
- Consider your swimming ability

before you go in the water. The best places to swim have lifeguards and are designated swimming areas.

■ Check the water before you jump or dive in. Make sure it is deep enough (at least 10-12 feet for diving). Check for submerged items or sudden drop-offs.

Fink, assistant Delhi fire chief, who participated in the recovery of the body.

"Three of them made it, but one had trouble on the way

over," Fink said.

"That rock is farther than it looks," said Fink, who

► **DROWNING, PAGE 8B**

## CRIME & COURTS

Defense attorney Casey Jones presents his closing argument to the jury in the double murder and arson trial of Brian Zirtzman in Linn County District Court on Tuesday. Zirtzman is accused of setting fire to his neighbors' Cedar Rapids home in April 2003. Jay Grahman and his 6-year-old daughter, Jaymie, died.



Cliff Jette/The Gazette

# Closing arguments

## Jury deliberations start today in Zirtzman murder trial

By Elizabeth Kutter  
The Gazette

**C**EDAR RAPIDS — In his closing argument Tuesday, defense attorney Casey Jones asked the jury to consider that Jay Grahman may have started the fire that took his life and that of his 6-year-old daughter.

Grahman's friend and neighbor Brian Zirtzman, 40, is accused of lighting the April 5, 2004, fire so he could be a hero.

Zirtzman will spend the rest of his life in prison if he is convicted of the first-degree murders of Grahman, 38, and his daughter Jaymie in a fire at 3755 H Ave. NE. The jury will deliberate this morning in Linn County District Court.

Jones said Grahman was asleep or passed out from drinking heavily when his wife found

him in the living room shortly before midnight when she discovered the fire.

The fire had not yet reached the living room when Vickie Reed-Grahman pulled Jay Grahman to safety, according to trial testimony.



**Brian Zirtzman**  
On trial for murder, arson

Forensic pathologist Richard Lynch testified that Jay Grahman had second and third-degree burns over 37 percent of his body.

"If the living room wasn't on fire when he was removed, how did he get those burns?" Jones said.

"What we don't know is if something accidentally hap-

pened when Grahman stumbled into the kitchen or (utility) room," Jones said.

"Did he have a cigarette when he went back to light the furnace?"

"Did he drop a cigarette in the clothes in the laundry room?" Jones asked.

He reminded the jury that before he died, Grahman asked, "Am I the one who started this?"

Jones criticized the prosecution for failing to provide the report of an investigation conducted by the insurance company.

The insurance investigator concluded that the fire started in the kitchen.

Zirtzman confessed to starting the fire in the utility room by throwing clothing in the furnace.

► **TRIAL, PAGE 8B**

# 'Nurse-in' planned at West Branch restaurant

Customer was asked to stop breast-feeding on recent visit

By Tom Owen  
The Gazette

**IOWA CITY** — Supporters of a woman who was taken to task for breast-feeding at a West Branch restaurant are planning a "nurse-in" protest at the eatery.

But Carl Nelson, owner of the Hoover House, said he will welcome the women when they arrive for dinner at 6 p.m. Saturday.

The 13 women plan to have dinner at the restaurant and then nurse their babies, if the infants are hungry; they call the event a "nurse-in."

"Why wouldn't I (welcome the women)?" Nelson said. "Business is going to be great."

The controversy started July 3 when Amy Schoon of Iowa City came to Hoover House with her 8-month-old son, Henry, her husband, Tim, and her brother-in-law, Mark Schoon.

Amy Schoon, 32, told The Gazette last week that she was breast-feeding Henry in the restaurant when an employee — and later Nelson's wife — told her she was upsetting customers. Nelson's wife told Schoon she had to either feed her son in the restroom or leave the restaurant.

Schoon's party decided to leave. Schoon said she declined to breast-feed in the restroom because she believed it unsanitary.

Nelson repeated on Tuesday his earlier contention that his wife also told Schoon she could continue to breast-feed in the dining room if she "covered up."

Schoon said Tuesday that Nelson's wife said nothing about covering up. Besides, Schoon said she had already covered up.

"There was nothing to see," she said. Now, her supporters plan the nurse-in to educate people about women's right to

► **NURSE, PAGE 8B**

**"Why wouldn't I (welcome the women)? Business is going to be great."**

**Carl Nelson**  
Restaurant owner

# Trial/IQ cited as factor Nurse/Education is goal

► FROM PAGE 1B

"If the fire originated in the kitchen, then we know that (Zirtzman's) confession is 100 percent hogwash," Jones said.

If the fire was not an accident, the insurance investigator is duty-bound to contact the authorities, Jones said. He did not contact the authorities, Jones said.

Two other fire investigators said the fire originated in the utility room. They listed arson as the cause.

In seeking a not-guilty verdict for Zirtzman, Jones said, "We ask that this fire does not claim a third victim."

When County Attorney Harold Denton was given the opportunity to rebut Jones' remarks, he came out swinging. "There could have been six victims," Denton said, referring to Reed-Grahlman and three children

who survived the fire.

"Not to mention the firefighters who went out there to put the fire out."

More than the confession links Zirtzman to the fire, Denton said. Zirtzman was the last one at the Grahlman house before the fire, the last one awake. He was familiar with the problems with the furnace. He knew the furnace door was unlatched and removed.

"These things tie him to the fire," Denton said.

Denton said a psychologist hired by the defense found Zirtzman to have an IQ of 67. He also said Zirtzman used poor judgment and doesn't think things through.

"These are the exact characteristics you would look for in a person who might start a fire," Denton said.

■ Contact the writer: (319) 398-8263 or betsy.kutter@gazettecommunications.com

nurse in public. According to the Iowa Code, a woman may breast-feed her own child in any public place where the woman's presence would otherwise be legal.

Bob Brammer, a spokesman for the Iowa Attorney General, said it's a simple misdemeanor to "knowingly" disobey that law.

However, he could find no guidance on the issue in previous Iowa court decisions.

Schoon said she has received dozens of supportive calls and letters; Nelson also said the public supported him.

Asked whether she would take part in the event, Schoon said she doesn't "know why I would patronize a place that made me feel uncomfortable." But she said she supports the women planning the event.

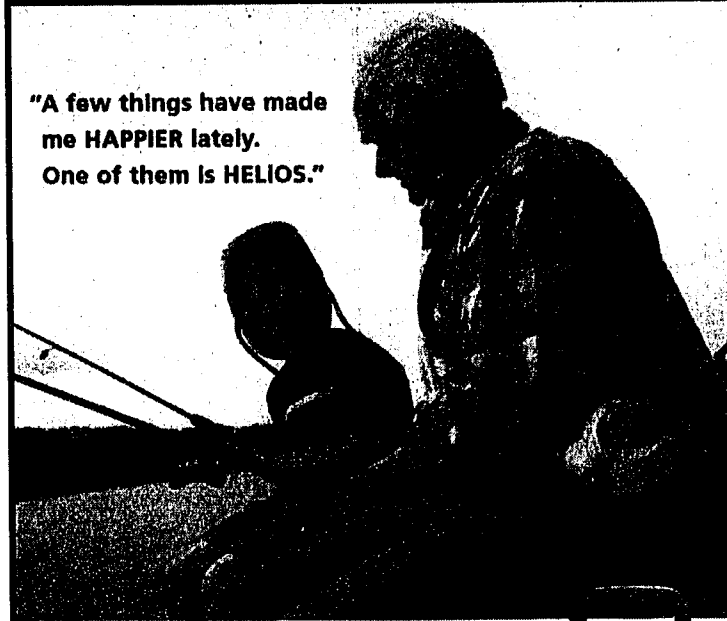
Schoon's friend Nicole Knapp of North Liberty is one of her strongest supporters. Knapp announced in an Internet chat room that she'd put up a long-distance traveler who wanted to attend the nurse-in.

■ Contact the writer: (319) 339-3158 or tom.owen@gazettecommunications.com

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## Coralville Lake drowning victim's autopsy results may take weeks

The Gazette

IOWA CITY — Investigators may have to wait as long as six weeks before final autopsy results for 27-year-old drowning victim Aaron Hill are completed.

The autopsy, routine in such cases, will be performed by the Johnson County Medical Examiner and can reveal medical conditions or any other factor that could have contributed to the incident near the Sugar Bottom Recreation Area on Coralville Lake.

Hill, originally of Ellsworth

in central Iowa, was not wearing a life preserver when he apparently fell from a friend's boat, said Johnson County Sheriff's Detective Kevin Kinney. A friend of Hill's had been operating the boat, but Kinney said all other details relating to what may have caused Hill to fall out of the boat are still under investigation.

Hill, a fourth-year medical student at the University of Iowa, fell into the lake around 8 p.m. Saturday, but search teams didn't find his body until 3:30 p.m. Monday.

## Drowning/Other swimmers have died in the same area

► FROM PAGE 1B

estimated the distance at about 200 yards. The rock can be reached only by swimming across an open portion of the lake, he said.

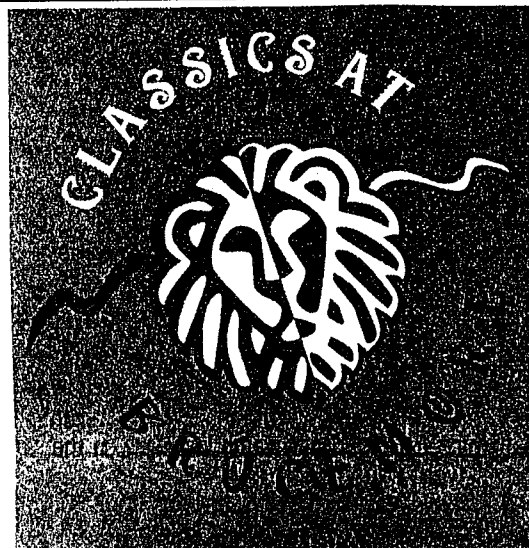
Firefighters dragged the lake to recover the body from about 16 feet of water, Fink said.

In 1996, a 15-year-old Manchester boy, Kelly Knott, drowned while swimming in the same Rocky Nook area that Murphy was trying to reach, Fink said. Knott had an asthma attack.

Adam Bemrose, 21, of Monticello, drowned at Lake Delhi in 1998.

In 2000, Scott Welcher, 45, of Manchester, drowned in Lake Delhi, which is about 35 miles northeast of Cedar Rapids.

■ Contact the writer: (319) 934-3172 or orlan.love@gazettecommunications.com



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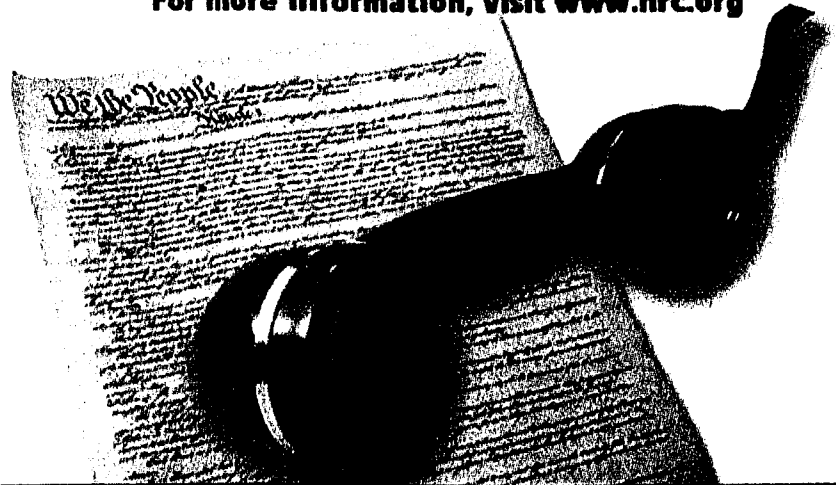
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