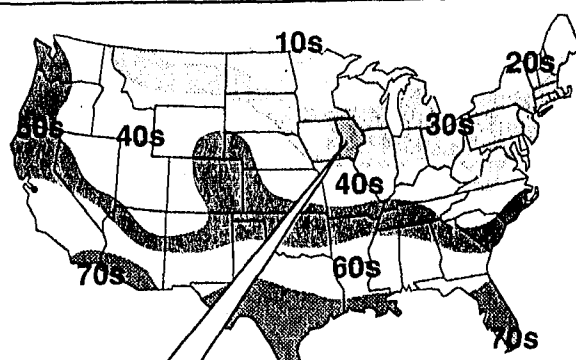




The Gazette

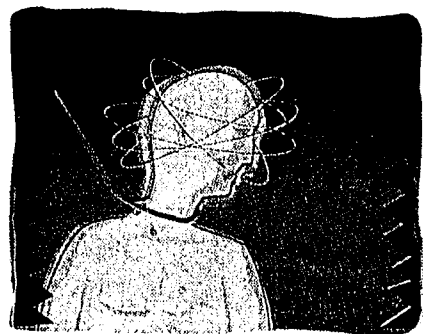


THURSDAY Feb. 13, 1992

IOWA TODAY, FINAL EDITION
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A regional newspaper serving Eastern Iowa

FORECAST: Mostly cloudy today; some snow early. Highs 33-37; lows 20-24. Today's daylight: 10 hrs., 31 min. See 14D.



HEALTH / SCIENCE

Fear of fear is at base of panic attacks

Page 1C

IOWA TODAY

Restoration key for piano factory

Page 1B

BRIEFLY

Change urged

Schools must do better

Schools are doing a better job than ever, but they must do much better to keep up with the fast-changing world, education consultant Willard Daggett said last night. He spoke to about 500 people at Jefferson High School. Details on page 3B.

Term commuted

Woman may be paroled

Gov. Terry Branstad on Wednesday commuted the life prison sentence of a woman convicted of the 1976 murder of her abusive husband. Katherine Sallis will be eligible for parole this year. Details on page 4B.

Wrong numbers

Phone rates may be cut

Residential customers of US West Communications would get a \$16 refund and would see their telephone bills cut by \$1 to \$2 a month under an agreement announced Wednesday. The agreement between the state Office of Consumer Advocate and the largest phone company in Iowa was the result of a settlement in a case that alleged that US West rates in Iowa were too high. Details on page 5B.

Wilson retires

Trust settlement reached

Retirees of the old Wilson Foods Co. in Cedar Rapids and Albert Lea, Minn., have worked out details for dispensing money from a trust fund established as the result of a health-benefit settlement with Daskocil Foods of Hutchinson, Kan. Initial checks are scheduled to be sent to retirees in July. Details on page 4C.

Rough road

Iowa, ISU cagers lose

The Iowa and Iowa State men's basketball teams lost on the road last night. Iowa fell to 17th-ranked Michigan, 79-74, and Iowa State was beaten by fourth-ranked Kansas, 91-60. Details on page 1D.

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TODAY'S CHUCKLE

Sign on a ski resort: "There's no business like snow business."

TOMORROW

The beat goes on

Music for the future

Compositions by C.R. native Michael Daugherty are helping keep the Kronos Quartet on the cutting edge. Weekend in Friday's Gazette.

Insurer sued by Mather

Slain man's mom sides with wife, whose lawsuit maintains her innocence

By Dave Gosch
Gazette staff writer

Mildred Mather believes the Principal Financial Group should honor a \$50,000 life insurance policy for Dawn Mather, the wife of her slain son, Tom Mather.

Dawn Mather is suing the life insurance company. The lawsuit states the insurance company will not pay the claim on the grounds that she committed the crime. She has not been charged in the case, and the lawsuit said she did not commit the crime.

Tom Mather, 32, was shot and killed in September in their home in Springdale, about 10 miles northeast of Iowa City. Dawn Mather, 24, escaped and told authorities that an unidentified man killed her husband.

Cedar County Sheriff Keith Whitlatch said the case is still being investigated.

"She certainly has never been proven (guilty)," Mildred Mather said Wednesday. She said Dawn Mather is living in Des Moines and needs the money to pay expenses.

"They don't want to honor their policy. It's a way for them to put it off," she said.

THE LAWSUIT, filed in Polk County District Court, alleges Principal refused to honor the \$50,000 life insurance policy on the grounds "that a beneficiary who intentionally and maliciously murders the insured, will be disqualified from receiving insurance proceeds."

Principal spokeswoman Susan Houser said Wednesday the company has not denied the claim. "Basically, the status of the claim is that it has not been denied, but it is currently under review," she said.

Principal issued the policy on the life of Tom Mather through a group life insurance policy for the University of Iowa. Mather worked as a custodian at Carver-Hawkeye Arena.

Whitlatch said there is "nothing I would call dramatic" concerning new developments in the case.

Cottage industry



Gazette photo by Lisa Powell

A crane attempts to lift the Hoover birthplace cottage in West Branch on Wednesday.

Weight defeats Hoover movers

By Dave Gosch

WEST BRANCH — You might not budge either if you'd been sitting in the same place for 54 years.

Such was the case Wednesday with the Herbert Hoover birthplace cottage in West Branch. Contractors were at the Herbert Hoover National Historic Site all day with the goal of moving the cottage several feet so its foundation could be repaired.

Workers from McComas-Lacina Construction of Iowa City tried to lift the cottage in the morning but found that the crane could not hoist the building. A larger crane was brought in later in the day, but a problem with a beam used to lift the cottage caused further delays.

"The beam apparently flexed a little when they put all that weight on it," said Park Superintendent Steve Kesselman. The cottage's weight is estimated at 14,000 pounds, not counting the weight of the steel support beams underneath it.

It was decided to postpone the move until 8 a.m. today.

THE WORK is part of a \$159,000 renovation project on the cottage, according to Kesselman. In addition to the foundation work, drainage, sprinkler, heating and alarm systems must be put in place and the exterior must be restored before the cottage can reopen.

The cottage was built in 1871 by Hoover's father and grandfather, Kesselman said. Hoover was born in the cottage in 1874.

It was last moved in 1938, when it was restored by Lou Henry Hoover at her expense. Plans are to complete the cottage restoration in time for the annual Hoover birthday celebration in August. That will coincide with the opening of the new wing of the Hoover Presidential Library-Museum.

"The key thing to remember is we're obligated to preserve this building forever," said Kesselman, who added that it had been damaged by flooding in recent years.

Improvement of the drainage system around the cottage is aimed at preventing such damage.

The project is being financed with \$50,000 in private-sector donations, \$15,000 from the state's Historic Resource Development Program and the rest from National Park Service funds.

Bill would get golfers off the hook

By Rod Boshart

Gazette Des Moines Bureau

DES MOINES — A group of House Republicans is taking a swing at two recent Iowa Supreme Court rulings that threaten to move golfers with bad aim from the links to the courts.

Reps. Ron Corbett, R-Cedar Rapids, Mary Lundby, R-Marion, and Charles Hurley, R-Fayette, are among eight GOP lawmakers proposing legislation to undo court rulings that hold golfers and golf facilities liable for injuries caused by poorly hit golf balls.

Sponsors hope their legislation will return Iowa law to a situation where a golfer who inadvertently hits someone with a golf ball cannot be sued.

The bill still holds golfers and golf facilities liable for activity that is willfully dangerous or reckless, Corbett said, but exempts them from being sued for actions that are within the normal course of play.

The Supreme Court recently decided that a golfer could be liable for injury caused by a shot that strikes someone outside the line of sight or intended flight of the ball. Also, the justices held that a jury could properly find a country club liable for a golfer injured on its premises.

"There is a certain amount of risk individuals should take when playing golf," said Corbett.

"The Supreme Court decision would definitely raise liability insurance for golf courses and for the

golfers themselves. This decision also sets a dangerous precedent.

"Imagine if a Little League baseball player foul-tipped a pitch and hit someone. Will we now allow the batter to be held personally responsible? How about the league for allowing the game to be played?" he asked. "We need to bring sanity back into our litigation system."

The proposed legislation indicates a golfer is liable for an errant shot only if it causes injury resulting from willful or reckless behavior. Also, a country club would not be liable unless the proprietor "knew or should have known that there was a condition on the premises which involved an unreasonable risk of injury to any participant."

IES ready to expand C.R. railcar subsidiary

By George C. Ford

Gazette associate financial editor

IES Industries Inc. of Cedar Rapids is expanding its rail-road car cleaning and repair subsidiary.

IEI Container Services, a subsidiary of IES Transportation Inc., will add two buildings and state-of-the-art equipment at its tank car cleaning and repair plant, 3150 12th St. SW.

Colleen Reilly, IES Industries manager of corporate communications, said the \$2.5 million project will add between 20 and 25 jobs. That would amount to a 50 percent increase in employment for IEI Container Services, which now employs 50.

Reilly said the new buildings will house sandblasting, painting and lining operations. The paint building will be completed in April and the second structure, which will house equipment for sandblasting and placing inner-linings in tank cars, will be operational in mid-June.

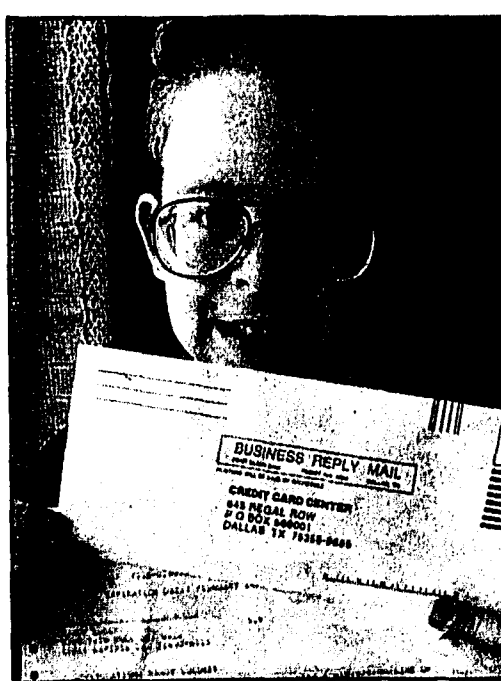
See photo, page 4C

Paul Treangen, vice president of IES Transportation, said the expansion was required to meet customer demand. "There's a lot of railcars out there right now that need to be serviced," Treangen said.

"We're basically positioning IEI Container as a one-stop facility that will be able to do everything at one location. We're currently doing some blasting and painting, but the lining will be a new venture for us.

"This will expand the scope of our blasting and painting operation. We're probably looking at two cars sandblasted or painted per day as well as one lining."

IES Industries, with headquarters in Cedar Rapids, is the parent company of Iowa Electric Light and Power Co., IEI Transportation, Iowa Land and Building Co. and Iowa Southern Utilities of Center-ville.



Gazette photo by L.W. Ward

The credit card offer 10-year-old Randy Lucore of Cedar Rapids received was not what it seemed.

Credit card deal for 10-year-old: Real or plastic?

By Kurt Rogahn
Gazette staff writer

Getting credit is getting easy. At least it looks that way to Randy Lucore, 5508 Twin Knolls Dr. NE. He was surprised this week when he opened mail addressed to him from Dallas.

"Congratulations," began the letter, which was designed to look like a telegram. "You have been preapproved for a Gold Card with a \$10,000 line of credit."

Paying that off could be awfully tough for the 10-year-old, a fourth grader at Hiawatha Elementary School. His allowance is only \$5 a week.

The direct-mail pitch intrigued Randy. But the letter sounded fishy to his father, Dan, who suspected the letter might

Please turn to page 7A: Credit card



AP photo

Making it official

President Bush formally announced his bid for a second term Wednesday. His re-election committee has been in place since October and he is on the ballot in every state with a primary. After the announcement, he plunged into a heavy campaign schedule in New Hampshire, where he faces a GOP challenge from Pat Buchanan. See story, page 3A.