

Inside the 'Star Wars' hoopla



Fans get ready for 'Episode 1: The Phantom Menace' WEEKEND!

The Gazette

Friday May 14, 1999

GOOD MORNING

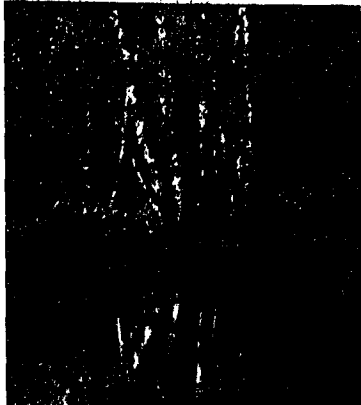
TODAY	SATURDAY
Partly Sunny Wind: ESE 8-16	Partly Sunny Wind: S 8-16
High 70 Low 47	High 76 Low 49
Weather Report, 12C	
Latest forecasts online http://www.kcrg.com	

FINAL / VOL. 116 NO. 111

THE NEWSPAPER OF EASTERN IOWA

CEDAR RAPIDS, IOWA 50 CENTS

TODAY



Bypass through sand dunes slated

Delayed by the discovery of an endangered plant, construction might begin this summer on a bypass slated to cut through sand dunes in Eddyville. Details, 1D.

Source: Recker leans to Arizona

A source said former Hoosier basketball player Luke Recker apparently will transfer to Arizona. Details, 1D.

Turtle breeder guilty on 3 counts

Craig Kohl of Toddville was found guilty of three counts of animal neglect and acquitted of one count. Details, 1B.

ADM wants to buy unaltered soybeans

Archer Daniels Midland will offer a premium for non-genetically altered soybeans developed by DuPont. Details, 5B.

Kirkwood baseball leading Division II

Coach John Lewis credits his assistants with leading the team to a No. 1 rank. Details, 1D.

Bamboo can be versatile at home

Columnist Martha Stewart has tips for using bamboo inside and outside the house. Details in Accent, 14A.

TOMORROW



Area trails combine recreation, scenery

Recreation trails offer a little bit of everything, and Eastern Iowa has plenty of offerings for walking, running, biking, horseback riding or skating. Recreation page in Saturday's Gazette sports section.

INDEX

Accent	14A	Horoscope	8C
Advice	17A	Jumble	6C
Births	3B	Legals	10C
Bridge	9C	Lottery	3B
Calendar	W	Money	5B
City Briefs	10C	Movies	W
Classified	C	People	3B
Comics	16A	Real Estate	14A
Crossword	7C	Stocks	6-7B
Crossword	9C	TeleUs	3B
Crypto	5C	TV	15A
Deaths	2B	Weather	12C
Editorial	8A	Wuzzles	7C
Farm	5B		

GO!
GAZETTE ONLINE
www.GazetteOnline.com



Downing's mom tells of calls after killings

By Dave Gosch
Gazette staff writer

A tearful Nancy Downing testified Thursday that her son should be held accountable for murdering his wife and daughter.

She also said that her son called her after the murders and told her that he felt like he was in someone else's body and that they were forcing him to commit the acts.

Downing's son Scott Downing, 33, is on trial in Linn County District Court for first-degree murder in the slayings of his estranged wife, Ruth Downing, 30, and their 7-year-old daughter, Cassie.

Downing was shot and captured after a chase through Iowa and Keokuk counties on Aug. 25,

Nancy Downing said her son told her that he felt like he was in someone else's body and that they were forcing him to commit the acts.

the day after the two bodies were found in his apartment at 4122 Wilson Ave. SW. A second daughter, Abbie Downing, 4, was found alive near the Cedar River roller dam.

Authorities charge that Downing beat his wife to death with a baseball bat and choked and suffocated Cassie. He also is accused of trying to strangle and drown Abbie.

Defense attorneys Jill Ableidinger and Tyler Johnston, with the Public Defender's Office, claim that Scott Downing was insane at the time of the murders.

Assistant Linn County Attorney Russell Keast claims that Downing "brutally" and "selfishly" killed his wife and child to "prove that no court would dictate to him how often he would get to see his children."

On Thursday, Keast questioned Downing's mother on the statement she said her son made about feeling he was in someone else's body.

He asked Nancy Downing why she didn't tell prosecutors and police about that statement when they questioned her about the phone call.



KCRG-TV9 photo

Nancy Downing, mother of murder defendant Scott Downing, testifies Thursday at his trial.

"The most important thing I forgot," Nancy Downing said. "I called you right away and told you that."

Nancy Downing said she received three calls from her son on Aug. 24.

■ Turn to 11A: Downing

Kidding around



Photo by Chip Pearson, Gazette intern

Three goats relax Thursday afternoon on top of an old car at 5900 Old River Rd. in Ely.

FCC acts to ensure cell phone 911 calls

From Associated Press and Gazette staff reports

WASHINGTON — Many people buy cellular phones for a sense of security, especially in an emergency. But sometimes — perhaps because of network congestion or "dead zones" — calls to 911 from those phones don't go through.

Help may be on the way.

The Federal Communications Commission acted Thursday to increase the chances that such calls are completed.

Specifically, the FCC is requiring new analog cellular phones to have software to route 911 calls to another carrier when the customer's own company can't complete the call.

Calls also would be routed to another carrier when a customer is outside his core calling area and the company designated to handle those "roaming" calls can't complete the emergency call.

"We want to provide a lifeline to the dead zones," said FCC Chairman Bill Kennard,

The FCC is requiring new analog cellular phones to have software to route 911 calls to another carrier when the customer's own company can't complete the call.

adding that the expected action is part of a broader FCC goal "to make sure that wireless phones are as reliable as possible."

More than 98,000 calls to 911 are made each day on cell phones. Most are completed. But some — neither the FCC nor the cellular industry has estimates on the number — don't go through.

Cedar Rapids doesn't track 911 cell phone calls, but Dennis Warren, the city's joint communications manager, estimated 20 percent of the 120 emergency calls handled each day by the dispatch center come from them.

"Most of them come from the interstate, or even city streets," Warren said.

The Iowa City Police Department does not keep statistics on 911 calls coming from cell phones vs. those coming from land lines. Officials with the Johnson County Sheriff's Department also had no specific statistics.

However, Jim Thayer, the department's communications supervisor said he believes the majority of cell phone-based 911 calls have to do with traffic accidents.

Not all calls will be covered by the new FCC rules. The rules will apply only to new analog cellular phones and to "dual mode" phones, when operating in the analog mode.

There are roughly 50.4 million analog cellular phones now in use, and the FCC's rules aren't expected to require them to be retrofitted. Fast-growing digital phones — an estimated 18.8 million of them now in use — wouldn't be covered, either. FCC officials said digital phones are more complex and technology doesn't yet exist to deal with the call completion problem.

Man charged in 1980 murder long central suspect in case

Suspect has history of mental illness, living on disability

By Rick Smith
Gazette staff writer

TIPTON — Dean Ray Tumey, charged now with the beating murder of a young Davenport woman 19 years ago, apparently has battled mental illness, has been living on federal disability income and has long been a central suspect in the crime.

In his initial court appearance Thursday morning in Cedar County, the lean 53-year-old with gray and white hair and goatee vehemently called the first-degree murder charge against him "all a lie."

Tumey asked that his first name be spelled Deano and said he would lose his disability income while sitting in jail in Tipton. He's being held on \$1 million bond.

"He's just an old man," blurt-

ed Eleanor Strong Miles, the mother of victim Sandra Jo Pittman, as she and her family left the courtroom at the end of the brief hearing.

A short time later, Miles, of Montpelier in Muscatine County, said she didn't know what she expected the man to look like who's accused of murdering her 17-year-old daughter in 1980 and dumping her body near Clarence in Cedar County.

"I guess the devil comes in all (packages)," she said.

She said anyone who could do what was done to her daughter must be a little sick.

"How could anybody beat somebody's face off and kill them?" she said.

In one way, Miles said, she was glad it took 19 years to charge Tumey.

"I would have killed him when I was younger," she said.

She said she never stopped calling Cedar County Sheriff Keith Whitlatch over the years for the latest news, and the

sheriff never stopped caring about the case.

Whitlatch got misty-eyed for a moment Thursday after leading Tumey into court and then back to jail.

"I remember vividly what she (the victim) looked like (the night she was found)," Whitlatch said.

He's kept a picture of Pittman on his office wall ever since, he said, adding he'd always hoped to make an arrest in it.

In 1992, when asked about the Pittman investigation for a Gazette story about unsolved murders, Whitlatch said then that a suspect in the case was in a mental institution.

Grudgingly on Thursday — the sheriff said he didn't want to jeopardize having a trial moved



Dean Ray Tumey
Murder charge
"all a lie"

Firefighters free tot stuck in Kansas well

MULVANE, Kan. (AP) — A toddler who fell 16 feet into a narrow well last night was pulled free about five hours later after firefighters dug a tunnel to rescue him.

Firefighters freed 17-month-old Jesse shortly before midnight as his family waited above. He was strapped to a board and appeared to be in good shape, rescuers said.

The boy was immediately taken away by ambulance to the hospital. During the rescue effort, Jesse was "very vocal, he's been talking to us and crying," Sedgwick County Fire Marshal Greg Thompson said.

About 50 emergency workers worked under emergency flood lights as Jesse's parents, whose names were not released, talked to their son.

Firefighters dug a tunnel about 25 feet deep near the well and tunneled toward it to reach the child. Rescuers worked in 15-minute shifts, digging by

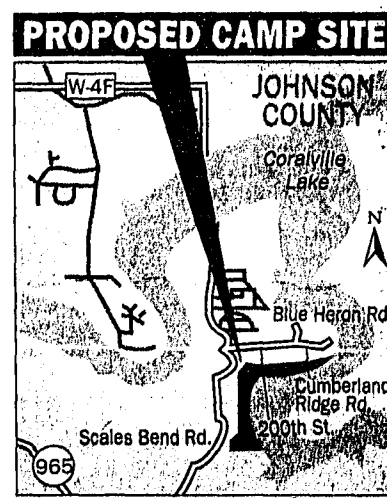
hand toward the well and taking dirt out in 5-gallon buckets.

About 100 neighbors joined television crews that were kept about a block from the scene in a recently built housing development in Mulvane, 20 miles south of Wichita.

The well is 20 to 25 feet deep and only 8 to 10 inches wide. The boy was outside with his father shortly before 7 p.m. when he fell 16 feet and became stuck with one arm over his head, authorities said.

Rescuers fed oxygen to Jesse through tubes lowered into the well to help the child breathe. Thompson said Jesse occasionally grabbed hold of a tube or tugged it.

In October 1987, 18-month-old Jessica McClure fell into an abandoned well in Midland, Texas, and became trapped 22 feet down in a hole 8 inches wide. It took emergency crews 2½ days to reach her.



Gazette map

■ Turn to 11A: Camp

PROPOSED CAMP SITE
The map shows the proposed camp site in Johnson County, near Coralville Lake and Blue Heron Rd. The site is located near the intersection of Blue Heron Rd. and Scales Bend Rd. The map also shows the location of the Jolly Roger campground and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Tumey

■ From page 1A

out of Cedar County because of publicity — Whitlatch nodded "yes" when asked if the suspect in 1992 was Tumey.

At the time of her death, Pittman was last seen at the Catholic Worker shelter in Davenport on Sept. 16, 1980. The following day, Chicago & North Western railroad workers found her body in a roadside park on U.S. Highway 30 a mile west of Clarence.

Tumey would have been about 34 then.

Sheriff Whitlatch said Tumey was living in his own residence in Knoxville when arrested Wednesday.

Tumey's 91-year-old mother, Marie, of Muscatine, said Thursday that her son grew up in Wilton, was in the service, though not in the Vietnam War, has been disabled and has not worked. He has been living for some time in Knoxville near the Veterans Affairs Medical Center there and spent a lot of time at the facility, she said.

"I'll bet he didn't do it," she said. "Somebody else did it and blamed him. He couldn't do something like that."

Still unknown is why investigators and prosecutors believe they now can charge Tumey with Pittman's murder.

The case will be prosecuted in Cedar County by Muscatine County Attorney Richard Phillips because Cedar County Attorney Lee Beine and the Iowa Attorney General's Office both have conflicts of interest.

The attorney general's conflict involves assistant state prosecutor Peter Grady and his contact with Tumey before Grady joined the Attorney General's Office about 10 years ago, the office said Thursday. Grady formerly worked as a prosecutor in Marshall County and as a public defender.

The prosecution witness list includes 22 names, many of them law officers.

Francis Garrity, Polk County Medical Examiner, said he was brought into the case about 10 days ago to comment on evidence from an autopsy conducted by a pathologist who has died.

Tumey's mother's name is on the prosecution's witness list as is the name of his twin sister, Deanna, who lives in the Boston area. Another sister lives in Onslow.

Victim Pittman's mother was joined in court Thursday by her husband, five other family members and her pastor.

She urged others involved in unsolved murders to continue to "pester" investigators.

"But I never had to pester the sheriff," she said. "I was always reassured."

**Keep up on
news in East Iowa**
Daily in The Gazette

FRIDAY, MAY 14
Stop by for
FREE DONUTS & COFFEE
at our Emergency Vehicle
at the Corner of 3rd Ave.
& 3rd St. SE

From 1917 on the battlefields of France when the Salvation Army was there serving our servicemen ... to today.

Join us for
DONUT DAYS
10 a.m. - 5 p.m.



SERVING OTHERS

Downing: Calls after killings told

■ From page 1A

During the first call, she told her son that Abbie was alive. Her son's reply was, "Oh, no," she said.

During the second call, Nancy Downing urged her son to come home. He said he was in Grand Island, Neb. It was during that call, she said, that her son referred to being in someone else's body.

During the third call, Nancy Downing asked Scott Downing how the murders happened and whether Cassie got in the way of an argument between him and Ruth Downing.

Scott Downing replied that Cassie wasn't in the way and that he "put her head in the toilet."

"I said, 'You did what?'" Nancy Downing testified.

She also said her son told her that he threw his other daughter, Abbie, in the river.

Nancy Downing also testified she noticed a change in her son when he quit taking medication in 1997 for a mental condition.

Her son, she said, would appear extremely happy or extremely depressed. She said her son's mental condition worsened after Ruth Downing filed for divorce and the couple separated.

Thursday's testimony also revealed how Ruth and Cassie Downing died.

St. Luke's Hospital pathologist Dr. Keith Krewer, who performed the autopsy on Cassie Downing, testified the girl died from strangulation. He indicated the Girl Scout T-shirt she was wearing could have been pulled up and used to strangle her.

Cassie Downing, who was found with her head in the toilet, had bruises on her shoulder and lower legs that indicated she put up a struggle before her death, he said.

He added that bruises on the child's wrists indicated she was resisting some type of restraint. He said handcuffs, found near Cassie's body, were likely the restraint used on her wrists.

Keast asked Krewer how long



Gazette photo by John F. Martin

Betty Schmidt (center), the mother of murder victim Ruth Downing, weeps during opening statements Wednesday in Scott Downing's murder trial. At right is Schmidt's husband, Everett. Betty Schmidt was incorrectly identified in a front-page caption in Thursday's Gazette.

it takes for someone to die from strangulation.

"The brain can go four to five minutes without oxygen," he said.

Dr. Henry Carson, a pathologist with Weland Clinical Laboratories and Mercy Medical Center in Cedar Rapids, testified about the autopsy he performed on Ruth Downing.

He said Ruth Downing suffered at least three blows to the head and died of blunt force trauma to the head. Carson said the injuries were consistent with those from a wooden baseball bat found near her body. Ruth Downing's body was found on her husband's water bed.

Carson said Ruth Downing may have lived from a half hour to two hours after suffering the injuries.



For updates on this story
call 363-7000 or
337-7000, category 2551.

Camp: C.R. Muslim group seeks Coralville Lake site

■ From page 1A

ronment, the safety of bus loads of campers motoring up narrow Scales Bend Road and the noise generated by hundreds of kids.

But Chris Dolan, a Marion attorney who helped the Multicultural Youth Camps of America apply for non-profit status, said the camp estimates may be inflated.

"I think those (numbers) are a little optimistic," he said.

The Multicultural Youth Camps of America — referred to by its initials, MYCA, is made up of longtime Cedar Rapids residents of Muslim heritage who want to offer youths a chance to develop and learn in a natural surrounding.

But like the YMCA, which was founded for Christian youngsters but now serves everyone, MYCA does not cater to any one ethnic or religious group and neither would its first-ever youth camp, according to Manzoor Ali of Cedar Rapids, president of the MYCA board of directors.

"We are a neutral base," he said.

Adding to the worries of those living near the proposed camp site is a lack of information from the Corps of Engineers, Matthews said.

He said he filed a Freedom of Information Act request with the Corps in an effort to get the names of the two other groups apparently interested in the camp.

Two Corps representatives contacted by The Gazette — John Castle, chief park manager at the Coralville Reservoir, and Wayne Johanson, realty specialist at the Corps' district headquarters in Rock Island, Ill. — both declined to reveal the other interested parties.

Johanson said the Corps is not obligated to offer "calls for competition" when searching



Gazette photo by Buzz Orr

All that remains at the old Girl Scout camp at Coralville Lake are sheds and shelters and eight tent platforms. The structures are dilapidated, and the platforms have collapsed.

for tenants for its properties. The search process, he said, "is somewhat informal."

Castle said, "We checked around to see if anyone was interested."

A few months ago, Castle said, MYCA was selected. A 20-year lease is in the works, with the financial arrangements still to be determined, he said.

The Corps' technical review of the proposal — environmental, archaeological and other statutory concerns — started last month and could last another few weeks to a month, Johanson said.

The Girl Scouts used the site for a summer camp, Camp Day-

break, from 1966 to 1997, making a one-time payment of \$1 to the Corps for the use. The Scouts have made only limited use of the site since 1991, when the main lodge burned.

The MYCA is proposing to build a central lodge for up to 200 people, as well as a kitchen and two classrooms. There would be 8 to 10 cabins with room for up to 8 people each; 10 to 15 tent platforms for use during the summer; and a year-round camp director residence.

Ali, of Cedar Rapids, emphasized the plans are subject to change and that building will be done gradually.

Register Now!
AYSO
American Youth Soccer Organization

Fall '99 – Spring '00 Soccer Season

May 1 Tuma Soccer Complex 10-2pm May 4 Hiawatha Elem Sch 6-8pm
May 10 Linn Co-op Marion 5:30-8pm May 15 Tuma Soccer Cplx 10-2pm

\$50.00/1st child; \$45.00/2nd child; \$40.00/3rd child; \$35.00 each add'l child
Fee includes uniform -- jersey, shorts, & socks, National AYSO membership,
Soccer Now magazine, supplemental accident insurance.
Call 377-1409 for more information

Everyone plays—open registration—positive coaching—balanced teams—good sportsmanship

**You never
actually own a**

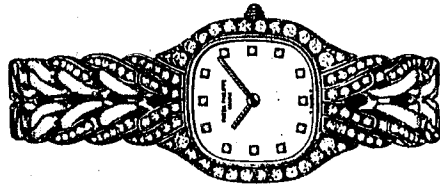
Patek Philippe.

You merely take care of it

for the next

generation.

PATEK PHILIPPE
GENEVE



Begin your own tradition.

m.c. ginsberg
OBJECTS OF ART

110 east washington • Iowa City, Iowa 52240
governor square • west des moines, Iowa 50266
319 351 1700 • 800 373 1702

AFFORDABLE PRICES & PAYMENTS...

MANAGER'S SPECIALS

82 VOLKSWAGEN RABBIT 4 Door, Automatic, Air SALE PRICE \$1,499*	86 CHEVY G-20 CONVERSION VAN 5.7 Liter V-8, Automatic, Extra Clean SALE PRICE \$3,977*	90 CADILLAC SEDAN DEVILLE 4 Door, Leather, Loaded, Sharp SALE PRICE \$5,742*
96 FORD CONTOUR GL 4 Door, 5 Speed, AC, Stereo SALE PRICE \$7,999*	96 FORD TAURUS GL 4 Door, V-6, Automatic, Loaded SALE PRICE \$8,399*	92 JEEP CHEROKEE LAREDO 4X4 6 Cylinder, Automatic, Air, & More SALE PRICE \$8,980*
95 CHEVY CAVALIER 2 Door, Automatic, Stereo SALE PRICE \$6,999*	95 FORD RANGER 5-CAB 4X4 V-6, Automatic, Air, Much More SALE PRICE \$11,479*	96 MERCURY GRAND MARQUIS GS V-8, Automatic, Loaded SALE PRICE \$14,418*
		98 LINCOLN TOWN CAR SIGNATURE V-8, Leather, Loaded SALE PRICE \$31,999*

*PLUS TAX, TITLE, LICENSE

OVER 175 NEW & PRE-OWNED VEHICLES ALL SALE PRICED

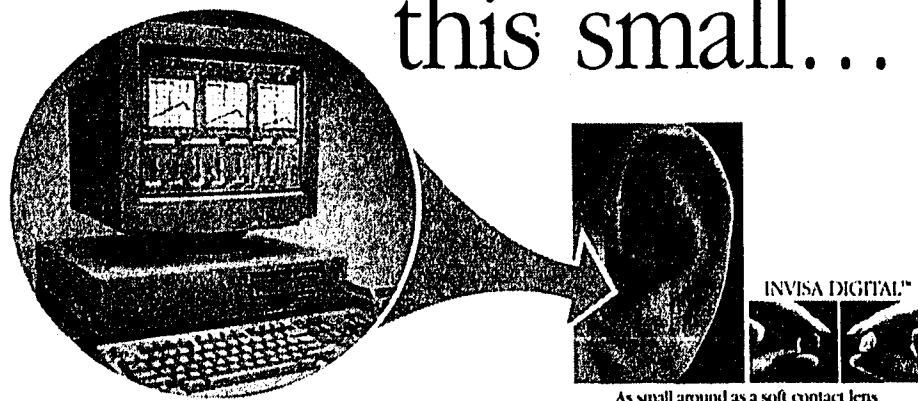
Lincoln • Mercury • Isuzu

WHERE SERVICE IS AN ATTITUDE, NOT A DEPARTMENT!

1510 Collins Rd. N.E., CEDAR RAPIDS, IA 1-319-393-6500 1-800-728-4461
www.jungo.com

TO FIT ANY BUDGET!!

**Introducing
100% Digital Technology
in a hearing aid
this small...**



Beltone's Digital Hearing Aid with 100% Digital Sound Processing and the Speech Pattern Detection System.

If you have trouble hearing clearly, you may be missing out on special moments and conversations with the ones you love. Visit Beltone today and find out how you can make the most of these special times with family and friends.

Beltone's advanced "Smart listening™" technology.

Beltone's new Digital hearing aid, with its advanced Speech pattern Detection System, continuously analyzes incoming sounds and, based on typical pattern differences, decides whether those signals are most likely to be speech. When the system determines that sounds are not predominantly speech-like, amplification is automatically reduced. This system actually adapts to sound as you move from one listening

environment to another. We call it "Smart Listening."

Find out precisely what you're hearing. FREE.

If you've ever wondered if your hearing what you should be, don't miss this special Digital hearing Aid Demonstration. While you're here you can also take advantage of Beltone's FREE 10-step hearing evaluation. This comprehensive test will help you find out precisely what you're hearing and what you're not. If you don't need a hearing aid, we'll be the first to tell you.

ALREADY WEAR HEARING AIDS?

Trade up to the new Beltone Digital with the Special Offer!

Are you tired of constantly adjusting your hearing aid in order to hear comfortably? Meet the Beltone Digital! Its SMART LISTENING features mean that it automatically adapts to varying sound levels as you move from one listening environment to another.

During a Special Event May 3rd through May 31, we'll give you 25% of the price you paid for your current hearing instrument off the price of Beltone Digital! Call today for an appointment!

**1950 Dodge Road NE
Cedar Rapids
393-8994**

**Monticello
309 E. 1st Street
465-6705**

**1-800-999-1391
326 E. Second Street
Iowa City
354-1512**

**Marengo
1068 Court St.
642-3312**

**Oelwein
5 S. Frederick
283-1916**

Beltone
Helping the world hear better
www.beltone.com

No hearing aid can distinguish all speech sounds from other sounds. Benefits of hearing aids vary by type of degree of hearing loss, noise, environment, accuracy of hearing and proper fit.