

'Star' SEARCH

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Youth Plus

The Gazette

Thursday March 23, 1995

FORECAST

TODAY	FRIDAY
Partly cloudy and mild	Mostly cloudy and warm
High 56 Low 33	High 58 Low 33
Weather Details 14C	

CEDAR RAPIDS, IOWA 50 CENTS

2nd murder suspect held, also linked to '94 slaying

By Rick Smith
Gazette staff writer

Cedar Rapids police investigators on Wednesday did what they have wanted to do for 13 months.

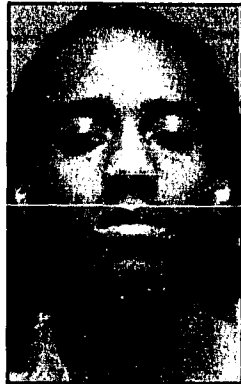
They arrested Carlos Dawaun Montford — a 19-year-old with a long record of juvenile crime and an adult prison term to his name — for first-degree murder.

Montford is accused of aiding and abetting up to four others in the Friday evening attack and slaying of Kevin Donte Eatman on Cedar Rapids' southeast side, a block from First Avenue East.

Montford is the second arrested for the crime.

Police have characterized Eatman as a 15-year-old Chicago gang member, saying he likely served as a "mule," bringing crack cocaine from Chicago to Cedar Rapids.

Montford associated with "people of the Black Gangster Disciple (gang) persuasion," police said Wednesday, though Montford's



Carlos Montford
Faces murder charge in Friday slaying



Stephanie Vasser
Charged with obstructing investigation

roots are not in Chicago.

Montford has been on police investigators' minds since the Feb. 7, 1994, crack-related slaying of Louis Chambers Jr.

Montford is the prime suspect in the murder, police have said privately for a year.

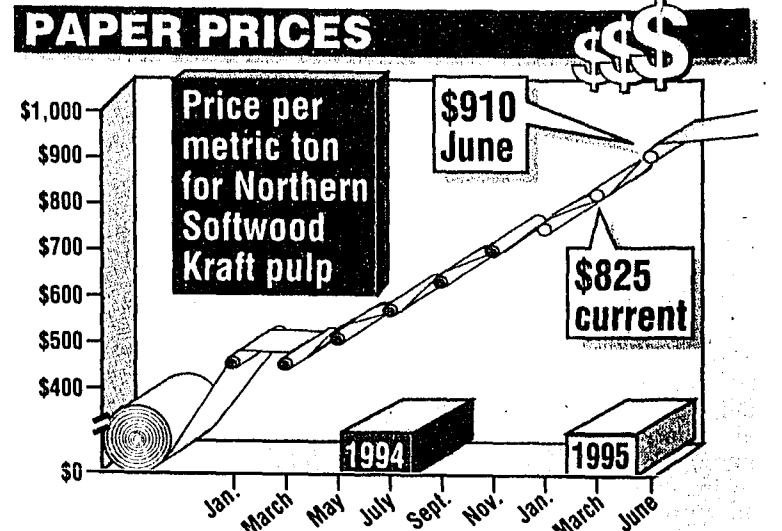
Chambers, who was gunned down five blocks from where Eatman was slain Friday evening, had one rock of crack cocaine in a plastic bag in his mouth when police arrived.

According to court documents based on initial witness statements, Chambers purchased the crack along with an associate in a deal allegedly involving Montford's girlfriend, Stephanie Vasser. Chambers was shot on the street, moments after he failed to pay for what he had gotten, witnesses told police at the time.

Vasser was charged with delivery of crack cocaine. Linn County Attorney Denver Dillard, in his court complaint, suggested Vasser also saw who murdered Chambers.

The drug charge was dropped when two

■ Turn to 7A: Murder



Paper prices felt across the board

By Lynn Feuerbach
Gazette associate financial editor

Paper is becoming a precious commodity.

Over the past year, the cost of pulp, the raw material used to make paper products, increased nearly 100 percent from about \$450 per metric ton to \$825 per metric ton. Additional increases are expected within the next few months.

"As to where the end is, I couldn't even hazard a guess," said Gary Kilberger, a salesman for First Choice Distribution/Hach Brothers in Cedar Rapids.

For consumers, that means the cost of everything from paper towels to notebook paper to publications is likely to increase.

Escalating prices are caused by a simple case of too much demand, too little supply. The demand for paper extends to foreign markets, which have become more attractive to suppliers because of the weakness of the dollar, said Bill Gasway, president of J.P. Gasway, a Cedar Rapids company that distributes paper products.

Distributors have been passing costs on to their customers — commercial institutions, printing businesses and grocery stores. Hach customers, for example, are now paying \$10 more than a year ago for a 96-roll case of toilet paper.

So far, supplies available to distributors are adequate, but the shortage has caused some companies to adopt a

■ Turn to 7A: Paper

Lawmakers agree on school funding

Leaders expect Branstad support for 2-year package

By Rod Boshart
Gazette Des Moines Bureau

DES MOINES — State lawmakers today will try to finalize a tentative school-funding compromise that they hope will avert Gov. Terry Branstad's veto of a 3.5 percent spending hike for schools next year.

House and Senate negotiators hammered out an agreement Wednesday whereby school districts' base budgets would be allowed to grow an average of 3.5 percent in fiscal 1996 and 3.3 percent in fiscal 1997. Lawmakers would also scrap the current system of setting allowable growth and begin next session to establish the future funding increase two years in advance.

Key leaders said the proposal appeared to have the support of Branstad, who delayed today's planned trip to Washington, D.C., to see if lawmakers could satisfy his demands for a new forward-funding approach for schools before a midnight Friday deadline.

"I think it's very good," Sen. Michael Connolly, D-Dubuque, said of the tentative agreement that was endorsed last night in caucus by the House Republican majority. "I think all parties have visited and I think we're finally there."

Connolly said he hoped lawmakers could seal the agreement today and avert a gubernatorial veto. Otherwise, he added, "I think the entire session is in jeopardy. I think things would come totally unraveled."

Next year's school-funding increase was estimated to cost

\$64.8 million in state aid, and the 3.3 percent allowable growth level for fiscal 1997 carried about a \$61 million price tag, said Rep. Steve Grubbs, R-Davenport, chairman of the House Education Committee.

Extra money for school improvements or technology upgrades appeared to be a casualty of the long-standing school financing impasse.

Grubbs said the House would forgo starting the new program next fiscal year but may consider up to \$10 million for fiscal 1997. House Republicans and Branstad had insisted that allowable growth not exceed 3 percent so the state could spend \$15 million annually for other school improvements.

Wednesday's developments came after Senate Democrats surprised Branstad by sending him the 3.5 percent allowable growth bill for fiscal 1996 without an agreement on the forward-funding issue. The move drew renewed veto promises from the governor and some sudden breakthroughs in negotiations by late afternoon.

"I think there's a genuine understanding by the governor's office and the Legislature that this can't go on any longer," Grubbs said. "The House, the Senate and the governor are all losers. You can't even say schools are the winners because it took us so long to get to this point. I don't think this process has looked good for anyone."

For the second time in three years, lawmakers this session failed to meet their self-imposed 30-day deadline for setting the following year's allowable growth figure. Legislators have been in violation of their own law since Feb. 9.

2 lines for tickets



Gazette photo by Chris Stewart

As part of a two-pronged effort with co-workers trying to get tickets Wednesday to the University of Iowa's next game in the National Invitational Tournament, Marissa Hove of Cedar Rapids tries to reach Ticketmaster with a cellular phone. Behind her, co-workers wait in the long line at the Five Seasons Center ticket office over the noon hour. Hove tried for 25 minutes without success, but her Commerce Clearing House co-worker Glenn Trueblood returned with 10 tickets in hand and announced, "We're there." Tickets sold out in 50 minutes. **Tournament details, 1C.**

BRIEFLY

C.R. bottler sold after 77 years

A 77-year-old Cedar Rapids bottling company has been bought by the nation's largest independent Pepsi bottler. Details on page 4B.

McCarney to stay with Cyclones

Dan McCarney will remain at the helm of the Iowa State football team. Details on page 1C.

Spanish named 'Mr. Basketball'

Cedar Rapids Regis' Adam Spanish has been recognized by the Iowa Newspaper Association as the state's top senior basketball player. Details on page 1C.

Younger Canney continues tradition

Kevin Canney says he has some big family shoes to fill as he begins working for the city of Cedar Rapids, where his dad served as mayor for many years. Details on page 1B.

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Ex-postal worker arrested in 4 killings

MONTCLAIR, N.J. (AP) — A former postal worker burdened with a "mountain of debt" was charged Wednesday with shooting to death four men in a holdup at a small neighborhood post office, including two employees he knew.

Christopher Green, 29, was arrested at his apartment in East Orange, four miles from this New York City suburb, less than 24 hours after the robbery.

Investigators had gotten a tip from someone who knew Green and saw news of the slayings on

television, U.S. Attorney Faith Hochberg said.

Authorities also got a description of Green from the only person to survive the attack, a customer shot twice in the face. David Grossman, 45, who was in critical condition, was able to answer investigators' questions Tuesday by wiggling his toes and fingers, Hochberg said. Police Chief Thomas Russo said Grossman was able to write information down Wednesday.

In Green's apartment, investigators found blood-spattered

clothes worn during the holdup, a 9mm pistol believed to have been used in the crime and \$2,000 cash, some of it under the refrigerator, Hochberg said. More than \$5,000 apparently was taken in the robbery, she said.

Green said he committed the robbery "because he had a mountain of debt," Postal Inspector Kevin Manley said.

Green, who works in the Montclair Public Works Department, was a temporary postal employee in 1992-93 in Montclair.



Suspect Christopher Green

Hip pointers

Cut risk of break with daily walk, less caffeine, more weight: Study

BOSTON (AP) — Worried about breaking a hip? A study offers some advice: Take a daily walk, lay off caffeine and perhaps even carry a little natural padding.

Many habits and conditions have been linked over the years with broken hips, and the study sought to sort out their significance.

An estimated 250,000 Americans suffer hip fractures annually at a cost estimated at \$4 billion to \$5 billion. White women are at the highest risk, and they were the subject of the new study.

Dr. Steven Cummings' study identified 17 risk factors that affect women's risk of breaking a hip. Those who have five or more of these risk factors face about a 10 percent chance of suffering a hip fracture over the next five years; those with two or fewer have about a 1 percent risk.

The study confirmed earlier work showing that in this instance, being overweight is a good thing. It showed that the fatter women are, the less likely they are to break their hips.

Fat probably serves as cushioning. Furthermore, overweight women produce

more estrogen, which also helps keep bones strong.

However, Cummings cautioned that obesity contributes to other illnesses, especially heart disease, that are bigger health hazards than hip fractures, so the latest work should not be taken permission to forget about weight control.

Cummings, a researcher at the University of California at San Francisco, based his findings on a four-year review of 9,516 women with an average age of 72. The results were published in today's issue of the New England Journal of Medicine.

Among the findings:

- Women face double the usual risk if their mothers had suffered hip fractures.
- Use of Valium and similar sedatives increased the risk.
- Taller women are more likely to break their hips.
- The more caffeine women consume, the higher their risk.
- Walking significantly lowers risk. Those who spend less than four hours a day on their feet have double the risk of those who move around more.
- Women with poor depth perception or rapid pulse rates have an increased risk.

Murder: Suspect, 19, has long criminal record

■ From page 1A

crucial witnesses decided not to cooperate with the prosecution. Any murder charge in the Chambers case depended on those same witnesses and Vasser, and so the probe stalled, officials have said.

With the new murder case, Vasser, now 28, was again in jail. She was arrested Wednesday for obstructing a murder investigation in connection with the Eatman case. By last night, she had posted \$1,300 bond and was released from jail.

Montford remained jailed without bond on a charge of first-degree murder and unrelated charges of terrorism, fifth-degree theft and interfering with official acts.

The terrorism charge stems from a Dec. 30 incident in which he is accused of firing a handgun in Spanky's bar in Cedar Rapids.

A warrant for Montford's arrest on first-degree murder was issued Tuesday.

His arrest came when uniform officers spotted him at 4:30 a.m. Wednesday riding in a taxicab near Mercy Medical Center. Officers followed the cab to his residence, 3311 Pioneer Ave. SE, Apt. 3, where Montford gave officers a false name, police

Neither Montford nor Washington is considered the gunman in (Friday night's) murder, but aiding and abetting first-degree murder still brings a life prison term.

Police confirmed his identity and took Montford to the police station. They then obtained a search warrant, searched his apartment and took girlfriend Vasser to the police station.

Eatman's murder last Friday has reopened debate about the gang presence in Cedar Rapids.

The Police Department says gang members from Chicago have been in the city for a few years but have not established an organization here. Others, including local gang specialist Virgil Gooding, contend gangs are now organized in the city. Gooding suspects Eatman, who was from Chicago, died last Friday in a crack-cocaine dispute about money.

Tayo Washington, 20, of Chicago, also was arrested for Eatman's murder, and police con-

tinue to hunt for three others, apparently all with Chicago ties.

Washington, the only one nabbed at the murder scene, contends he is a friend of the dead teen and had been fleeing from attackers with him, police have said.

Neither Montford nor Washington is considered the gunman in Eatman's murder, but aiding and abetting first-degree murder still brings a life prison term.

Montford has faced the prospect of a life prison sentence before.

In March 1993, when he was 17, Montford and a friend were charged with first-degree kidnapping after allegedly forcing a woman acquaintance into a car, driving her to a church parking lot and threatening her with a gun. The woman alleged Montford forced her to perform a sex

act and that he boasted of belonging to "The Black Mafia." She alleged his acts were intended to keep her quiet about gang and criminal activity.

Montford was prosecuted in adult court and pleaded guilty to a dramatically reduced charge of assault while displaying a dangerous weapon. He was placed on probation; he didn't comply with probation rules, picked up a new charge of carrying a loaded handgun and was sent to prison on a two-year term in spring 1994.

He returned to Cedar Rapids on work release in November 1994.

In March 1993, in ordering Montford to be tried as an adult, District Associate Judge Jane Spande noted he had faced 13 delinquency charges since February 1990, when he was 14.

Spande noted Montford had failed at probation, foster care and group foster care, and had spent a year at the Iowa Boys Training School at Eldora. He left there only because his sentence had expired.

Between November 1992 and March 1993, he essentially lived on his own, spending some time in Indiana with relatives. In February 1993, he returned to Cedar Rapids, apparently to wait for his mother's release from prison at Mitchellville, the judge wrote.

Paper: 'There's no free lunch'

■ From page 1A

hold-the-line attitude.

"We're not asking for new business," Gasway said, "but we're able to take care of our customers by marshaling resources and doing it out."

The distributors' customers, in turn, have been reluctant to raise prices for their customers. The problem they face is how long they can continue to absorb the costs.

Chuck Murphy, owner of PIP Printing, said the cost of standard white paper has risen 25 percent since last summer. He's maintained his prices until now but said he will make adjustments within the next 30 to 60 days.

At Randall Foods, store manager Ken Quillin said the prices for carry-out sacks have more than doubled, from 4 cents a year ago to 9 or 10 cents now. Costs of other store supplies, like bakery bags, also have risen. But Quillin emphasized that those costs are folded into the cost of the operation, not passed onto shoppers.

He said prices of toilet tissue and other paper products sold to customers are stable.

"The consumer isn't going to notice it yet," he said. "But if it continues next year, well, there's no free lunch."

Businesses with long-term purchasing contracts insulated themselves from the brunt of the price hikes. St. Luke's Hospital is one of those.

"We've been able to maintain relatively low increases, 10 percent to 12 percent on most items, mainly because we were locked in for two years," said Randy Bunge, director of the hospital's materials management department.

At City Carton Company, the paper shortage is good for business. The Iowa City recycling firm is getting more money for its used paper as the demand for recycled products has increased, said Andy Ockenfels, vice president.

"We've been happy since the market came back," he said.

Wedding stories run Sunday

Information: 398-8261.

Louisiana GOP leapfrogs Iowa caucus

BATON ROUGE, La. (AP) — Louisiana has fired another volley in the battle of 1996 Republican presidential caucuses, scheduling its selection of convention delegates six days before Iowa's caucus and two weeks before New Hampshire's primary.

Louisiana GOP Chairman Mike Francis said last night

that the caucuses are tentatively scheduled for Feb. 6. The Iowa date is Feb. 12, and New Hampshire's primary is Feb. 20.

Francis said Louisiana GOP rules also provide him the flexibility to reschedule the caucuses in order to ensure Louisiana's first-in-the-nation status.

The meetings will select 21 of the state's 27 presidential dele-

gates. The rest will be selected by the state's Republican Central Committee.

Louisiana's decision to displace Iowa with the first-in-the-nation GOP caucus set off a flap earlier in the week. Iowa Gov. Terry Branstad was irked. So were presidential candidates Pat Buchanan and Lamar Alexander.

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