

## NEWS JOURNAL

### LINN COUNTY

#### Victim started fatal fire

■ Ann Harford set the fire that fatally burned her, the state Fire Marshal's Office has determined.

"Our report's going to reflect that the victim set her clothing on fire," said Assistant State Fire Marshal George Howe. "We called it an arson."

Harford, 51, was discovered, her night clothes in flames, by a staff member at the Abbe Center for Community Care shortly after 3 a.m. Wednesday. She died late Wednesday afternoon at the University of Iowa Hospitals in Iowa City.

Harford moved into the Abbe Center, the Linn County's residential facility for the mentally ill and disabled, on Tuesday.

Howe said Harford used no accelerant to set fire to her night clothes.

### CEDAR RAPIDS

#### Man arrested outside drug store

■ A Cedar Rapids man was arrested early Thursday after he tried to break into a drug store, according to police.

David A. Bohn, 20, of 7207 Summerland Ridge Rd. NE, was apprehended as he tried to drive away from Clark's Pharmacy, 1946 42nd St. NE, shortly before 4 a.m. Officers answering a burglar alarm were guided to the car by the department's helicopter crew, according to Lt. Charles Mincks.

The pharmacy's door was damaged, but Bohn was unable to gain entry. Police are still seeking two other suspects seen running from the building.

Bohn was released from jail after a court appearance Thursday afternoon.

#### Blood drive set for Monday

■ The Grant Wood Area Chapter of the American Red Cross is hosting a blood drive Monday in Cedar Rapids.

Donors can stop at the local chapter at 3601 42nd St. NE from 11:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

### IOWA CITY

#### East campus to get rec center

■ The University of Iowa hopes to build a 140,000-square-foot recreation center on the east side of campus as early as 2002.

The likely location for the center, which will cost an estimated \$31 million, will be where the Iowa City water plant on Madison Street now sits, according to Phillip Jones, UI vice president for student services.

The plant will close in two years when a new plant opens on the city's north side.

"It'd be nice to have on our side," Jeremy Shover, a freshman from Manchester, said when he heard about the possibility of an east side recreation building. "Going to the Field House (on the west campus) takes so much time."

A report by Brailsford & Dunlavy, a Washington, D.C.-based consultant, recommended the east side complex have a three-court gym, 16,000 square feet of weight and fitness space, a wellness center, a leisure and a lap pool, a jogging track and a juice bar, among other features.

### JOHNSON COUNTY

#### Refuge to open Monday

■ The 1,400-acre refuge portion of the Hawkeye Wildlife Area in northern Johnson County will open to the public Monday, according to Department of Natural Resources wildlife biologist Tim Thompson.

The refuge is closed to protect waterfowl during the duck and Canada goose hunting seasons, which closed Thursday and Friday, respectively.

Deer and pheasant hunters, trappers, hikers, bird watchers and other outdoor enthusiasts will be able to pursue their avocations within the refuge starting Monday.

### WILLIAMSBURG

#### Drug charge ends in probation

■ A Williamsburg man this week was put on probation for three years and ordered to spend up to a year in an Iowa City halfway house after pleading guilty to a drug charge.

James P. Hubbell, 29, was also fined \$750 plus court costs.

Hubbell was arrested June 13 in Ladora. Police said his car contained materials needed to manufacture methamphetamine. Originally charged with possession of methamphetamine with intent to manufacture, he pleaded guilty to marijuana possession and possessing a product containing ephedrine or pseudo-ephedrine with the intention of using the products to manufacture a controlled substance.

# Pets await new homes

## Eastern Iowa shelters aim to be respite to animals

By Steve Gravelle

Gazette staff writer

CEDAR RAPIDS — Healthy, friendly and well-behaved — a prime candidate for adoption from the Cedar Rapids Animal Shelter — the young golden retriever scarcely fit the stray-dog stereotype. He was even neutered.

"This is a real nice one," Animal Control Director Kaye Chadima said as Animal Control Officer Jim Clark washed the dog, a recent pickup. "He's young, and well-behaved."

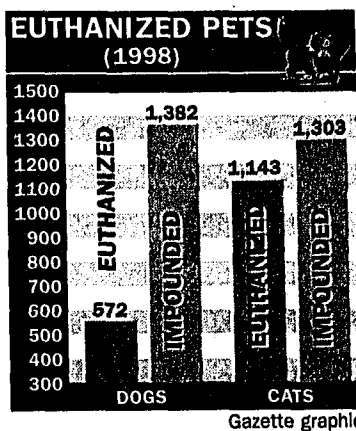
Chadima expected the dog would make a smooth transition to being someone's pet. After all, she said, he'd already been one before.

"All the dogs that come in here have been somebody's pet at one time," Chadima said. "He belongs to the city, now."

Despite apparently being abandoned by his previous owners, the retriever was lucky.

Nearly half the 1,382 dogs impounded last year were euthanized.

Things have improved since 1981, when the city euthanized 1,381 of 2,585 dogs impounded, but the availability of such animals — healthy, neutered, trained — troubles



those who must take them in until a new home is found.

"Euthanasia should not be an alternative for healthy animals," said Tom Colvin, executive director of the Animal Rescue League of Iowa. "It should be up to the public. Unfortunately, we're seeing pets are actually staying in a home an average of two to three years" before they're abandoned.

"We're a throwaway society," said Clark. "It's just sad that people throw away their pets."

The picture is worse for cats, which seem more adaptable to life on the run. Cedar Rapids euthanized 1,143 of 1,303 cats impounded last year — many of them feral and unadoptable.

Stray animals brought to Cedar Rapids' shelter are observed three days to determine they're healthy before being offered for adoption.

Chadima said animals that are unadopted after about a month are likely to be euthanized.

"We can't save them all," she said. "There's just not enough people" looking to adopt.

The shelter's \$78 adoption fee for cats and dogs covers a flea bath, rabies and other vaccinations, and \$25 toward spaying or neutering, required by state law.

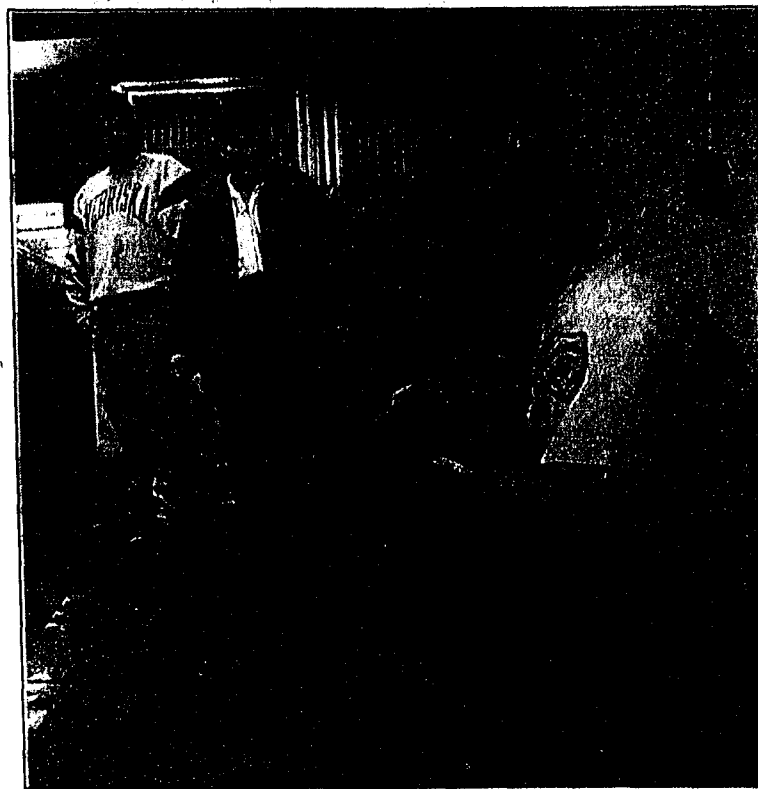
As of this week, adopted animals are also implanted with a microchip that when read by a device can trace a stray to its owner.

The shelter found homes for 73 dogs and 42 cats last year. Younger, healthier animals are the best candidates for adoption, according to Pat Hubbard, executive director of the Cedar Valley Humane Society.

The society's shelter takes in strays from rural Linn County and communities other than Cedar Rapids.

"Temperament, health — those are major concerns," said Hubbard. "We do adopt out older animals, but if it's real old we wouldn't. We look at an animal that does not have a great deal of problems. We do not want the family to start out with a lot of problems."

Through last week, the shelter had placed 753 animals toward this year's goal of 1,000 — a new record if achieved. Of 3,600 dogs and



Gazette photo by Miranda Meyer

Animal Control Officer Jim Clark plays with a 1- to 2-year-old male golden retriever that was picked up as a stray by the Cedar Rapids Animal Shelter. Clark had just finished bathing the dog when Jim Harris of Cedar Rapids and Diane Harris of Atkins came in to see the dog this week.

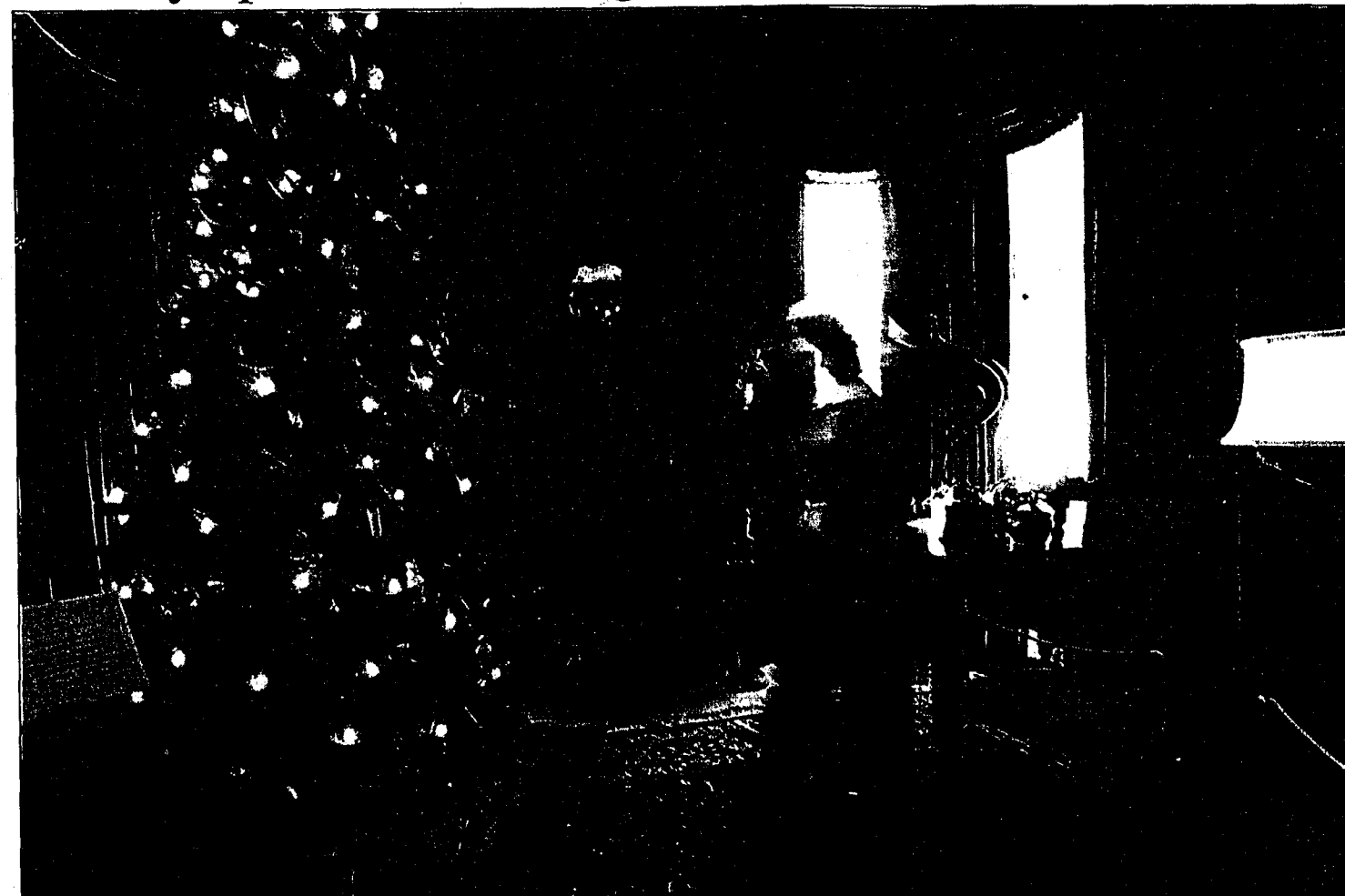
cats handled this year, 1,600 were euthanized.

Prospective adoptive families receive a visit from a staff member from Iowa City-Coralville Animal Care and Control Shelter, which takes in Johnson County strays.

"We just verify they own their home, so they're not going to be taking it into a rental property that doesn't allow pets," said Animal Control Officer Chris Whitmore.

■ Turn to 5B: **Pets**

## Holiday spirit drifts through Brucemore



Gazette photo by John F. Martin

LeAnn Hughes of Cedar Falls appears as the Ghost of Christmas Present while touring Brucemore, 2160 Linden Dr. SE, on Friday afternoon. The mansion's holiday tours, which continue through Dec. 31, start at the top of the hour: 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Saturday; 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Wednesdays; and noon to 3 p.m. Sundays. The tours last 50 minutes.

## Parents want Taft teacher removed

### Sex offender registry listing prompts concerns

By Becky Stover

Gazette staff writer

CEDAR RAPIDS — Some Taft Middle School parents want vocal music teacher Gene LeVasseur relieved of his duties because he is listed on the state's sex offender registry.

LeVasseur, 37, of 612 Jonadel Ln. NW, said he put his name on the registry after pleading no contest to an undisclosed charge about three years ago. He would not say what the charge was, and a search of Linn County court records found no criminal complaints involving him.

LeVasseur's attorney, Hanna Weston of Iowa City, also refused to discuss specifics of the charge last night but said it was classified a "serious misdemeanor," did not involve physical contact with

another person and did not involve children in any way.

"There's a huge range of offenses that are listed on the registry," Weston said. "This (charge) is at the lowest, lowest end in the category of criminal charges."

Weston said LeVasseur received six months' probation as a result of his plea.

Parents have "absolutely nothing to worry about," she added.

LeVasseur told The Gazette he was not guilty of the charge but pleaded no contest on the advice of Weston. He said he'd only been on the job in Cedar Rapids one year.

He said last night he would not have pleaded to the charge had he realized he would have to register as a sex offender.

Though LeVasseur wouldn't discuss the accusation against him, he did say the matter involved his word against another person's. He also said the charge did not involve contact with an individual.

Parents have "absolutely nothing to worry about," said Hanna Weston, attorney for Gene LeVasseur.

Cedar Rapids Superintendent Lew Finch, after hearing complaints from parents, said district administrators talked to LeVasseur and his attorney and checked police records.

Finch declined to provide details of that internal investigation, citing personnel confidentiality.

He did say the district confirmed LeVasseur was on the sex offender registry. That alone, however, was not grounds for dismissal, according to legal counsel, Finch said. "Based on the information provided to us, there is no basis for any punitive action by the board," Finch said.

LeVasseur has worked at Taft since August 1996. He worked for the Omaha public schools from August 1993 to May 1996. Court records in

Douglas County, Neb., in Omaha, showed no charges against LeVasseur.

All sex offenders are required to register with their local sheriff's departments but only those deemed "likely to reoffend" are the subject of public notice. LeVasseur is not classified as "likely to reoffend."

Two hundred Linn County residents are on the registry. LeVasseur said he believes a few parents are behind a push to have him removed from his job at Taft, 5300 E Ave. NW.

A person can be required to register as a sex offender for a variety of charges. Those range from indecent exposure to sexual exploitation or other crimes involving a sex act.

Staff writer Frank Gluck contributed to this story.

## Tumey retrial delayed

Murder case pushed to Jan. 31 to allow time for depositions

By Rick Smith

Gazette staff writer

TIPTON — Dean Ray Tumey's retrial for the 1980 murder of a young Davenport woman, set to begin Monday in Cedar County District Court, has been postponed until Jan. 31.

The delay was needed to allow prosecutors to take depositions of defense witnesses who did not testify at the first trial, prosecutor Alan Ostergren, assistant Muscatine County Attorney, said Friday.

A first Cedar County jury deadlocked Oct. 1 trying to determine if Tumey murdered

Sandra Jo Pittman. The jury voted 7-5 for acquittal before giving up. Tumey, then 35, and Pittman, 17, were acquaintances whose paths crossed at a Davenport rooming house in the summer of 1980. Her body was found in a Cedar County rest stop along Highway 30 west of Clarence on Sept. 17, 1980. She had been stabbed and strangled to death.

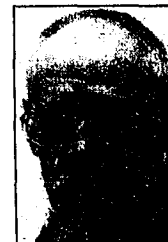
Tumey, with a history of mental illness and institutionalizations that predate the murder, was a suspect in the crime from the start.

But he was not arrested and charged until May of this year despite the fact that he allegedly confessed to law officers in 1990 and allegedly reaffirmed the confession to a prosecutor two years later. He was hospitalized both times.

Tumey's attorneys, Brad Norton and Brian Fairfield of Lowden, have dismissed the confessions as the rantings and attention-getting of a sick man.

In an interview with a prosecution psychiatrist prior to his first trial, Tumey said he witnessed three men kill Pittman.

■ Turn to 5B: **Tumey**



Dean Ray Tumey  
Accused of 1980 murder

## DAILY NOTEBOOK

## TEL-US POLL

To answer today's question, call CITYLINE, 363-7000 or 337-7000, and enter category 1111 until 6 p.m.

## Yesterday's question:

Do you think people in this area generally have good manners?  
(44 responses)

YES: 36% NO: 64%

## Today's question:

Should the 6-year-old Cuban boy who arrived illegally in the United States be returned to his father in Cuba?

TEL-US is a non-scientific sampling of public opinion.

## YOUR TWO CENTS ONLINE

Discuss the issues of the day on "Your Two Cents," FYIowa's online talk forum at [www.fyiowa.com](http://www.fyiowa.com).

## Current news discussion topics

- Should marijuana be legalized for medicinal use?
- Should the blood-alcohol standard for drunk driving be lowered?
- What's the future for Quaker Oats?

## TODAY/Dec. 11, 1999

## NEIGHBORHOODS

10 a.m. — Moundview Neighborhood Association, Central Park Presbyterian Church, 1700 B Ave. NE.

## ENTERTAINMENT

Entertainment events in CUE.

## CHRISTMAS

Breakfast with

Santa for underprivileged children, 9 to 11 a.m., Collins Plaza. Features the Friendship Clown Troupe, and each child will receive a gift. For ages 4 to 11; reservations required (364-9131).

## RECYCLING

Cedar Rapids drive-through recycling site, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Public Works complex, 1201 Sixth St. SW.  
Marion recycling, 8 a.m. to 4:15 p.m., 195 35th St.

## LOTTERIES/ FRIDAY, Dec. 10

## IOWA LOTTERY

\$100,000 CASH GAME: 1-4-6-14-18  
CASH 4 LIFE: 5-25-42-69

## IOWA/ILLINOIS PICK 3

6-8-7 (ILLINOIS PICK 3 EVENING)

## ILLINOIS LOTTERY

PICK 3 MIDDAY: 6-1-3

PICK 4 MIDDAY: 7-0-2-8

PICK 4 EVENING: 9-7-4-7

LITTLE LOTTO: 4-5-12-21-22 6-of-48 JACKPOT: \$7 million

Lottery numbers available on CITYLINE, 363-7000 or 337-7000, category 2900.

## VITAL STATISTICS

## BIRTHS

## MERCY

Dec. 9 — Jeanne and Doug Joens, 4808 Marygreen Ct. NE, a son; Melissa Peal and Joel Hite, 3120 Ninth St., Marion, a daughter.

Dec. 10 — Tami and Jake Daubs, Center Point, a daughter; Deb and Todd Rettig, Robins, a daughter.

## ST. LUKE'S

Dec. 8 — Kathryn Mason and Andrew Doss, 1626 Park Towne Lane NE, Apt. 10, a daughter.

Dec. 9 — Jacinda and Jorge Avalos, Tama, a son; Julie and Tom Silver, 3786 Brookside Dr., Marion, a daughter.

Dec. 10 — Patricia and James Booth, 1404 First St. SW, twin son and daughter; Katey and Darrell Andersen, 1600 Second Ave. SE, a daughter; Melissa and Brett Minar, Lowden, a son.

## UI HOSPITALS, Iowa City

Dec. 6 — Lisa and Phil Helsdorffer, Keota, a son.

## THE LOG

Information for The Log is collected by The Gazette from public safety agencies in Eastern Iowa. Charges are subject to review by county attorneys' offices.

## Linn County

## DRUNKEN DRIVING CHARGES

The following people charged with drunken driving are listed with date and place of arrest. Addresses are taken from court records.

Stephen M. Pacer, 31, of Mount Vernon; Friday in the first block of 16th Avenue SW (second offense).

Andrew J. Johnson, 19, of Granger; Friday along Interstate 380 at Walford Road.

## ASSAULT CHARGE

Demorro D. Harris, 18, and Delinda Morgan, 29, no address, charged with assault causing bodily injury; accused of assaulting Feysal Hage, Friday.

## Remembrance set Sunday for children who have died

The Compassionate Friends is asking everyone to light a candle at 7 p.m. Sunday in memory of all children who have died. The date has been designated by the U.S. Senate as National Memorial Children's Day.

The Linn County Chapter of The Compassionate Friends welcomes families to join the remembrance by lighting candles in their homes.

For further information about area chapters, call Terry or Harriet Van Gilder at 377-2490. The Linn County Chapter meets at 7:30 p.m. the second Monday of the month at Mercy Medical Center in the McKinley room.

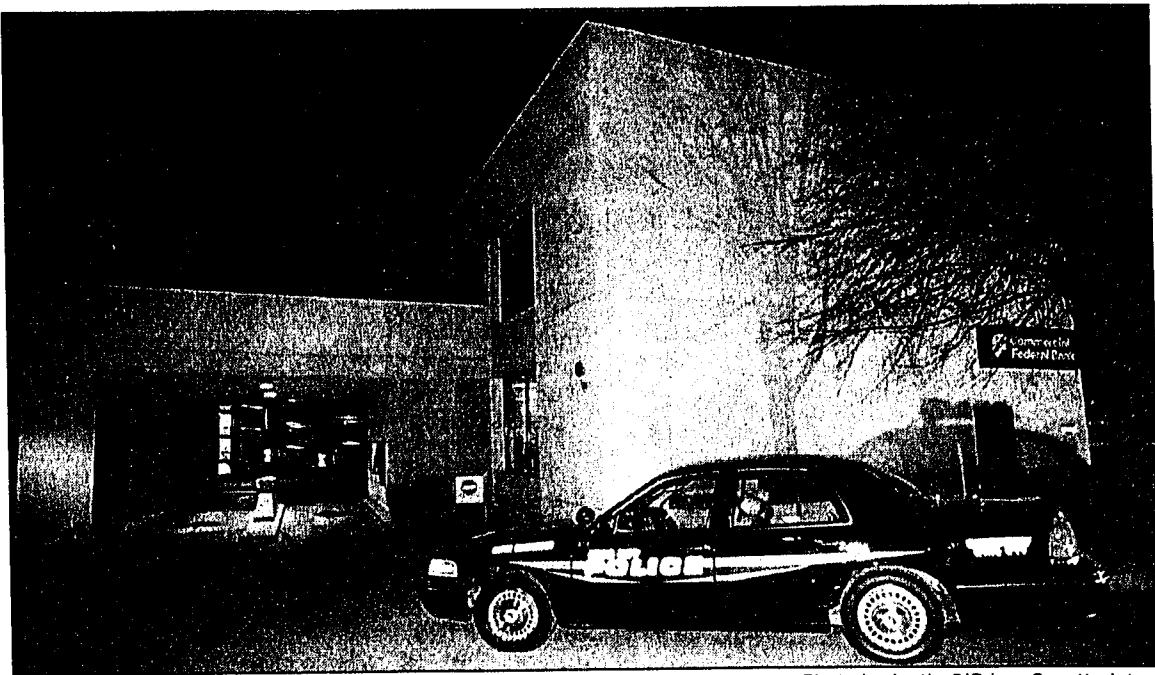


Photo by Justin O'Brien, Gazette intern

The Commercial Federal Bank at 301 S. Clinton St. in Iowa City was robbed at approximately 5 p.m. Friday.

## I.C. bank robbed

Police search for the man who robbed Commercial Federal last evening

By Nathan Hill  
Gazette staff writer

IOWA CITY — A man walked into the Commercial Federal Bank last night, flashed a note and got away with an undisclosed amount of money.

The robber is a black man around 30 years old, approximately 5 feet, 8 inches tall, weighing between 160 to 180 pounds and sporting a mustache. He was wearing a black-and-white Hawkeyes stocking cap and a dark blue wind-break sports jacket when he entered the bank at 301 S. Clinton St.

The man handed the teller a note demanding money at 5:23 p.m. Police say the suspect made no mention of a weapon and left on foot heading south.

Investigators were at the bank until 9 last night interviewing witnesses and checking for fingerprints. Both the Iowa City Police Department and the FBI are investigating.

Steve Quigley, the bank's retail manager, could not comment, saying the bank was referring all inquiries to the police. The bank released a picture of the suspect taken by a security video camera.

The bank was known as Perpetual Savings



This security camera photo, released by the Iowa City Police Department, shows the man who robbed the Commercial Federal Bank at 301 S. Clinton St. in Iowa City on Friday.

Bank until it merged with Commercial Federal last year. Quigley said he did not know if the bank had been robbed before.

This was the second bank robbery in Iowa City this year. On Oct. 1, the Iowa State Bank & Trust branch at 2233 Rochester Ave. was robbed.

On Oct. 12, Robert David Dennis Melton, 36, of Cedar Rapids, turned himself in to authorities who had issued a warrant for his arrest. He has pleaded not guilty to the robbery, in which around \$5,000 was taken, and is jailed awaiting trial.

## Pets: Shelters try to avoid euthanizing

## ■ From page 1B

She said the shelter also reviews an applicant's "pet history" for past runaways or similar problems.

Whitmore said shelter staff tries to avoid euthanization.

"As long as they're adoptable and they can handle being in a cage, they can stay," she said.

At least one Iowa shelter doesn't euthanize strays. Ava Bothe, executive director of Animal Lifeline, said one dog has been at the group's rural Polk

County shelter for 10 years.

"He's happy," said Bothe. Founded in 1987, the shelter specializes in finding homes for difficult to adopt animals — "animals that are sick, injured, pregnant, nursing, or handicapped," according to Bothe.

With space for only 23 dogs and about 15 cats, the shelter places about 200 animals a year, Bothe said. The shelter accepts animals referred by Des Moines-area animal control

agencies, but she admits the "no-kill" philosophy wouldn't work for a municipal operation.

"If a shelter has a contract to pick up strays, it would be very hard," said Bothe. "The answer is to spay and neuter."

"The mathematics don't lend to it," agreed ARL's Colvin. "In order to be no-kill, no (additional stray) comes in until there's room."

■ Contact writer Steve Gravelle at (319) 398-5819 or [stevegr@fyiowa.com](mailto:stevegr@fyiowa.com)

## FYI

This may be a good time to adopt a stray dog or cat from an area shelter, according to Chris Whitmore of the Iowa City-Coralville Animal Care and Control Shelter. "This time of year is pretty slow for adoptions," Whitmore said. "They don't want to housebreak a dog when it's getting cold." Each shelter's fee covers flea and tick baths, vaccinations for rabies and other diseases, and the state-mandated spaying or neutering.

■ Animal Shelter of Cedar Rapids, 1401 Cedar

Bend Ln., Ely, 848-7373; \$78 adoption fee for dogs and cats includes \$25 refundable for spaying/neutering.

■ Cedar Bend Humane Society, 7411 Mount Vernon Rd. SE, 362-6288; \$90 fee for dogs and cats.

■ Iowa City Coralville Animal Care and Control Shelter, 111 Kirkwood Ave., 356-5295; Cats \$25, plus \$30 deposit refunded after spaying or neutering; Dogs \$35, plus \$40 deposit.

## Tumey

## ■ From page 1B

The prosecutors, Ostergren and Muscatine County Attorney Richard Phillips, have said Tumey was with Pittman the evening before her death and that his confessions are credible.

They have hinted that he killed her because she denied him sexual favors.

During the first trial, the defense pointed the finger at others in Pittman's circle, one that included drugs, crimes and domestic assault.

In recent years Tumey, now 54, has lived near the Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Knoxville and has taken medicine to control the paranoia and delusions of his mental illness.

He has been housed in the Cedar County Jail under medication since his arrest in May.

■ Contact writer Rick Smith at (319) 398-8312 or [ricks@fyiowa.com](mailto:ricks@fyiowa.com)

## Senate candidate launches campaign

CEDAR RAPIDS — Harvey S. Ross has launched his bid for the Democratic nomination for the 26th District seat in the Iowa Senate.

A Cedar Rapids resident since 1994, Ross, 53, of 1103 Third St. SE, is employed by Goss GraphicSystems Inc.

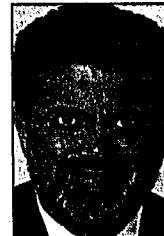
He has been an officer in the Linn County Democratic Central Committee and was a member of the 1st District Democratic committee.

He and his wife, Eva, have two children.

Ross said his campaign will stress government efficiency, human rights, education and the environment.

The Web site for his campaign is [www.geocities.com/ross4rights](http://www.geocities.com/ross4rights)

The 26th District currently is represented by Marion Republican Mary Lundby.



Harvey Ross  
Democrat  
candidate  
for 26th District

## Hunger relief effort needs volunteers

Gazette Iowa News Service

KALONA — A major hunger relief effort will be undertaken by the Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) and volunteers Jan. 7 when the MCC mobile meat canner arrives locally.

## KALONA

The unit can process between 3,000 and 4,000 pounds of meat per day, and will be at the Floyd Helmuth residence, three and one-half miles northwest of Kalona. Work will start at 4 a.m. and probably continue to 10 or 11 p.m.

All work is done by volunteers, and both men and women are needed. Anyone wishing to help, for even a few hours, should call 656-3505. Meals will be provided for volunteers.

Costs for meat, supplies and other fees are estimated to be approximately \$15,000. Although the canner, which is mounted on a trailer, was in the area years ago, no one could recall exactly when the last time was.

There are three MCC volunteers who take the canner to 32 locations in 13 states, as well as into Canada. As of August, more than 600,000 pounds of meat were sent to 10 countries, with North Korea receiving nearly one-third. A year ago, the canner processed 291 tons of meat, and MCC distributes the meat through local church partners and institutions in some 30 countries.

Processing today is different from the old days when the cattle and hogs were slaughtered and butchered at the canning site. At that time, lard was rendered in huge outdoor kettles. Today, meat is purchased already ground. And, all of the meat is federally and state inspected. In fact, a federal meat inspector will be present during the entire operation Jan. 7.

MCC is the relief, service and peace agency of the Mennonite, Amish and Brethren in Christ churches in North America. Since 1920, MCC has provided food for millions of people worldwide "in the name of Christ." Food has been shared in the wake of war and other emergencies, and in places afflicted with chronic, long-term food shortages. Whenever possible, MCC draws on local food production. At other times, it sends food from North America.

Local committee members are John A. and Marilyn Yoder, Wellman, chairman, 646-2880; Vernon and Mary Elva Ropp, Kalona, treasurer, 656-2795; and Ed D. and Mary Jane Miller, Kalona, secretaries, 656-3505.

## Forum to detail racism issues

By Pam Hinman

Gazette staff writer

CEDAR RAPIDS — A Monday forum on racism will feature three local college professors talking about hate literature such as what was recently left outside homes in Cedar Rapids and Iowa City.

Kathryn Coulter, a member of the Cedar Rapids Civil Rights Commission, put together the forum that begins at 7 p.m. in Beems Auditorium in the Cedar Rapids Public Library.

Commission members began holding special meetings in late October after hate pamphlets from the Creativity Movement, a white supremacist group, were left in driveways and on doorsteps of local residents.

Following those meetings, participants decided that Cedar Rapids needs to promote its diversity, not focus on hate literature from the movement's leader Matt Hale.

Coulter, a professor of business law and international markets at Mount Mercy College, said it's also important to expose the "information" in such pamphlets for what it is — inaccurate.

"What offends me the most is they make them sound like they're scientific, like they are learned people who have come up with this idea," Coulter said. "That always pushes my nerve button. When you read carefully, you find that they're just nonsense."

Commission members and a newly formed Community Diversity and Tolerance Task Force are hoping to coordinate monthly activities in 2000 to promote the city's diversity.

Some have criticized the media for giving Hale and others like him any space or air time, but Coulter said silence may be worse.

Research shows that "being quiet doesn't work either," Coulter said. "Being quiet — to them that's permission."

Many people in Cedar Rapids may not realize that there's racism in this city, but it is there, Coulter said.

"It's quiet. I don't think white folks see it as much," she said.

Three professors will speak at the forum that Coulter will moderate: Neil Bernstein, Mount Mercy biology professor; Lisa Barnett, Coe College sociology professor; and Rick Zingher, Mount Mercy social work professor.

■ Contact writer Pam Hinman at (319) 398-8339 or [pamhi@fyiowa.com](mailto:pamhi@fyiowa.com)