

NEWS JOURNAL

CEDAR RAPIDS

Jefferson crowns royalty

■ Mike Pendergast was named Jefferson High School's homecoming king and Jennifer Foster homecoming queen last night.

Foster is the daughter of Barry and Mary Foster of 2219 First Ave. SW. Pendergast, of 6921 Terrazzo Dr. NW, is the son of Timothy and Marilyn Pendergast.

Other court attendants were Becky Bartlett, Kareen Hayes, Heidi Karr, Cassie Mitvalsky, Amber Noggle, Brooke Ralston, Christina Schmaltz, Angie Spilman and Sarah Wieneke for the queen.

The king's attendants were Ben Adams, Blake Borrett, John Broghammer, Chris Buesing, Brett Faine, Luke Meyer, Andy Sheldon, Andy Strong and Eric Strong.

They were honored at Jefferson's football game with Kennedy last night. Kennedy defeated Jefferson 27-14. See page 3C for details.

Option tax questions sought

■ Do you have questions about the upcoming local option sales tax? The Gazette is compiling a list of the most frequently asked questions and will answer them in the Oct. 3 Gazette. Linn County voters will go to the polls Oct. 5 to decide whether they want to pay a 1 percent sales tax for school building projects.

All schools serving Linn County students would benefit.

Certain items like grocery food items, gasoline and prescription drugs would be exempt from the tax.

Send questions to Becky Stover, The Gazette, P.O. Box 511, Cedar Rapids, IA 52406; e-mail her at beckys@fyiowa.com; or send a fax to her attention to 398-5846.

Questions must be received by Wednesday to be considered for publication.

MARION

Cigarettes suspected in fire

■ A Marion residence sustained extensive damage last night from a fire that started in the basement, possibly from discarded cigarettes, the Marion Fire Department reported.

Firefighters were called to the house, 1255 D Ave., about 8:40 p.m. after an occupant smelled smoke, said Chief Terry Jackson. The house is owned by John Secor, who was home at the time of the fire. No injuries were reported.

Fire damaged the basement and part of the siding after spreading from a basement window, Jackson said. There was heavy smoke damage to the rest of the trilevel home, he said.

Investigators believe the discarded contents of an ashtray were the most likely ignition source, Jackson said.

Firefighters left the scene about 10:45 p.m.

Toddville school waits on vote

Elementary school could close, sending 75 pupils to Alburnett

By Becky Stover
Gazette staff writer

TODDVILLE — The Alburnett school board will be voting Monday on whether it wants to close the district's elementary school in Toddville and move all elementary students to Alburnett should voters approve a local option sales tax Oct. 5. All Linn County schools would receive proceeds from a 1 percent countywide tax. It's estimated Alburnett would get about \$500,000 over 10 years.

The board meets at 6:30 p.m. at the small gymnasium in Alburnett.

Some Toddville residents are unhappy with the proposal to close the neighborhood school and have put up signs of protest in their yards.

Carleta Herzberger, who has 14 grandchildren attending the school, said a letter announcing the potential closing came as a surprise to her and to other Toddville residents.

"It just doesn't make sense," Herzberger said.

The school has 75 students in kindergarten through third grade.

Herzberger, who lives near the school, has made five signs encouraging people to vote against closing the school. She plans to make more.

"We feel this money is not being used according to the wishes of a lot of the people in this area," she said. "Why remove a perfectly good school and haul all of the children to Alburnett, where they'll have to build 10 more classrooms to accommodate them?"

Alburnett school board member Shelly Baier, who lives in Toddville, said most of the feedback she's heard from people in the Toddville area is that they're disappointed but that the proposal to close the school, built in 1923, makes sense financially.

The board wanted to provide the same services to Toddville and Alburnett students and it didn't make sense to duplicate services like art, music and gym when there were only about 300 students in the district's elementary grades. The district has only two sections of each elementary grade



Gazette photo by L.W. Ward

Alburnett's Toddville Elementary School in Toddville may close if the school board votes on Monday to build an addition to the elementary building in Alburnett.

except third grade, which has three.

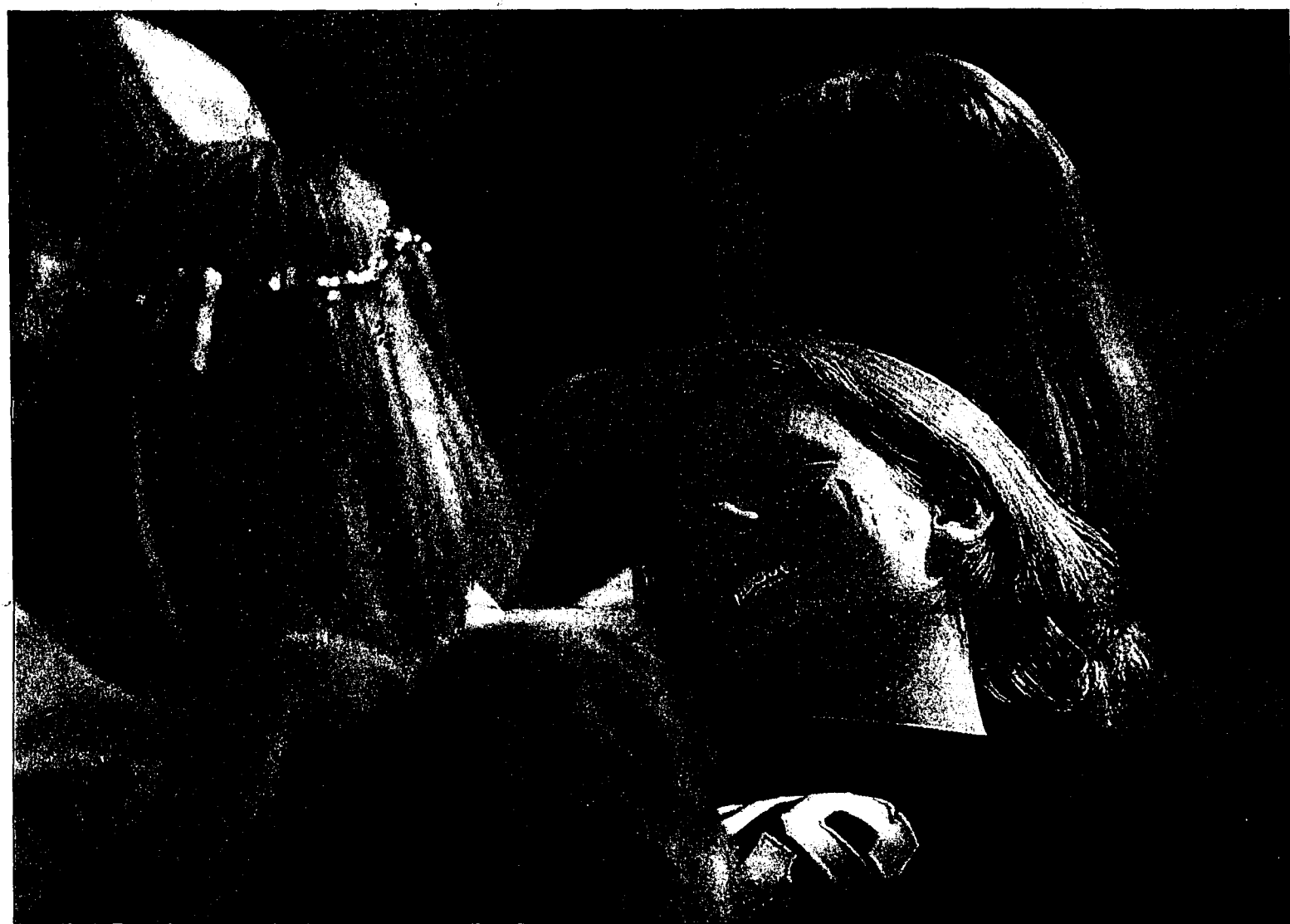
Baier, whose two children went to the Toddville school, said she hasn't heard many complaints and that most people are enthusiastic about plans for the high school, including building 18 rooms and an auditorium/gym.

Board members considered renovating or building a new school in

Toddville, but cost estimates made adding classrooms in Alburnett a better option, Baier said.

The district's top priority at this point is making major improvements to the high school, said Superintendent Bob Rampulla.

■ Turn to 5B: Toddville



Gazette photo by John F. Martin

Sunny Mass

Xavier High School freshman Magen Senen, 14, leans on some friends Friday during the first outdoor Mass to be conducted at the school.

Young and old celebrate Franklin school's 75th

By Becky Stover
Gazette staff writer

CEDAR RAPIDS — The young and the old joined forces to sing "The Thunderbolt Battlecry" at an assembly held Friday afternoon in honor of Franklin Middle School's 75th birthday.

A Franklin all-school reunion this weekend has drawn representatives of all graduating classes between 1936 and 1957, when Franklin served as a junior and senior high school.

"Every class has someone here," said a delighted Barbara Hutton Edmunds, a 1954 graduate who chaired the reunion committee.

As of Friday, 260 former students and their guests have registered for tonight's banquet in the cafeteria.

Members of the Franklin string quartet that won a national music contest in 1947 reunited and performed the finale to Dvorak's "American Quartet." Violinists Norm Paulu and Dave Jacobs, violist Judy Latner Dows and cellist Bob Swaney wowed the current students and alums. Paulu lives in Colorado; Jacobs in Pennsylvania; Dows in New Mexico and Swaney in Cedar Rapids.

Swaney also played a few pieces on the Wurlitzer organ, donated in 1943 as a memorial to 48 Franklin graduates who died in World War II. In all, 1,143 alums served in the war.



Gazette photo by John F. Martin

Kiki Cullman (right) of Cedar Rapids talks with Franklin Middle School student Katie Brewer, 12, Friday during Alumni Day lunch. "These students are lovely!" said Cullman, who graduated from Franklin in 1943. More than 200 graduates returned to Franklin on Friday to celebrate the Cedar Rapids school's 75th anniversary.

Edmunds announced one of several birthday gifts to the school from alumni — \$13,829 to maintain the organ. Frank Kinney, a 1943 graduate who studied under regional artist Marvin Cone, donated a watercolor painting of the school.

Tom and Nan Riley officially announced the donation of their parchment document bearing the signature of Benjamin Franklin after Tom, a 1947 graduate and local attorney, told about being a varsity cheerleader when only boys had that job 53 years ago.

Leo Leonard, a 1939 graduate, said he skipped his grand-

son's football game for the first time and the 50th anniversary celebration of his San Diego business so he could see former classmates and present a plaque from his class.

Franklin eighth-grader Ann Virden said the day was "a great opportunity for older alumni to meet students from today."

"It was a good learning experience to see what it was like a long time ago," said eighth-grader Ashley Edmunds, Barbara Edmunds' granddaughter.

■ Contact writer Becky Stover at (319) 398-8219 or beckys@fyiowa.com

Tumey psychiatrist dismisses confession

Defense expert cites history of delusions

By Rick Smith
Gazette staff writer

TIPTON — Among the prosecution's most vital pieces of evidence in Dean Tumey's first-degree murder trial here is a single piece of paper — and on it, a simple typed summary, half a page in length.

It is the graphic confession Tumey allegedly made to authorities in 1990 about how he had strangled Sandra Jo Pittman in his car a decade before.

On the defense side of the case, and submitted as evidence Friday, are multiple volumes — 3 feet high — of the 54-year-old Tumey's travels through psychiatric hospitals beginning at age 28 and dating from 1973 through today.

But neither the single piece of paper, according to the defense, nor the stack of psychiatric history, according to the prosecutors, is what it seems.

On Friday, Dr. Vernon Varner, an Iowa City psychiatrist testifying for the defense, could barely conceal his contempt for the typed confession from 1990 because, he said, the statement clearly was not in Tumey's own words.

"I don't believe he made any of those statements," Varner told prosecutor Alan Ostergren at the start of a sometimes contentious cross-examination. Varner said the typed confes-

sion represented a coherent summary in a few paragraphs of a lengthy interrogation of Tumey by the Iowa Division of Criminal Investigation (DCI) and Cedar County Sheriff Keith Whitlatch.

At the time, Varner said, Tumey, who long has suffered from paranoid schizophrenia, was as delusional and psychotic as he ever had been during 26 years of hospitalizations.

Paranoid schizophrenics can experience delusions of guilt, imagining that they did something bad that they did not, Varner said.

The alleged confession came after Tumey walked into the Fairfield Police Department on Feb. 3, 1990, talking about rat poison in toothpaste in town and his fear someone was going to kill him. He also announced that his spirit was about to enter the fetus of a pregnant woman and the child to be born would prompt ritualistic killing, Varner reported from the medical record.

But prosecutor Ostergren, an assistant Muscatine County attorney, confronted Varner, asking him if someone experiencing delusions or hallucinations had the ability, like a healthy

person, to feel guilt about a previous bad act and a need to confess it.

Varner said that was true. Ostergren then read the simple summary of Tumey's alleged confession to Varner, who scoffed as Ostergren began to read.

"He is not for a second able to write a paragraph like that," the psychiatrist said of Tumey. Ostergren read on.

In the summary confession, Tumey says he went to a Day-enport shelter on Sept. 16, 1980, to warn the petite 17-year-old Pittman that their acquaintance Ron Neels was going to kill her. But he says he decided to kill her himself.

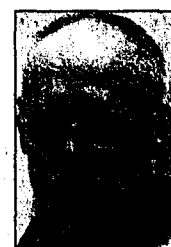
The summary says Tumey drove around in his car with Pittman, drinking beer, before strangling her at a rest area near Tipton and laying her on the ground in the rain.

Ostergren asked if Varner heard any hints of delusional thinking in the confession. Varner said there could not have been any because an investigator, not Tumey, wrote the summary.

"I'd like to know if (the person who took the statement) is professional and understands the illness (of paranoid schizophrenia)," Varner told Ostergren.

Ostergren then challenged the very heart of Varner's testimony, suggesting that those suffer-

■ Turn to 3B: Tumey



Dean Tumey
Allegedly made 1990 confession

Tumey: Defendant diagnosed as paranoid schizophrenic

■ From page 1B

ing delusions cannot experience delusions of guilt about imagined behavior.

The prosecutor asked the psychiatrist to read from the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual, the bible of sorts of mental illnesses, which includes a list of the kinds of delusions an ill person can experience. Where does it mention delusions of guilt, Ostergren wondered.

Varner said the manual's list is not complete and that delusions of guilt for imagined behavior are not unusual for schizophrenics.

Varner interviewed Tumey once for three hours and spent more than 10 hours studying Tumey's hospital records, most from Veterans Affairs hospitals in Iowa and some Western states and the Mental Health Institute at Mount Pleasant. The records show Varner was granted a federal disability in 1978 for mental illness.

Varner estimated that over time, as many as 100 mental health professionals had diagnosed Tumey with paranoid schizophrenia. He described the illness as a chronic one, like Alzheimer's, in that it never goes away. It can only be controlled to a degree by medication, he said.

He said delusions, hallucinations and a sense that someone

is out to harm one are typical of the disease. Often the sufferer thinks he or she is not ill and so refuses to take medicine. That has been a theme across Tumey's medical history, he said.



Sandra Jo Pittman
Was 17
when murdered

Varner noted that Tumey has admitted to seeking hospitalization at times for "three hots and a cot." That had Ostergren suggesting that Tumey at times was a malingering, inventing delusions to get in off the street.

In turn, defense attorney Norton suggested that, if so, Tumey's confession in 1990, in the dead of winter, might be seen as the invention he needed to get into a hospital.

Norton noted that Tumey was hospitalized the day after his 1990 confession and in short order in 1992 after he walked into the Marshall County Attorney's Office to remind a prosecutor there that he had confessed to the Pittman murder in 1990.

Peter Grady, the prosecutor who talked with Tumey at the time, has testified that Tumey showed up at the office angry because the local mental health center wouldn't agree to see him for weeks. He thought people were after him, including relatives of Pittman.

Tumey said he had confessed to the murder and would kill this time for pleasure if he didn't get his way, Grady, now an assistant state attorney general, testified.

Tumey, he said, reported Pittman had come back to life.

Psychiatrist Varner noted that Tumey had once confessed to killing a Pennsylvania couple as he was seeking medical care.

In no place in the medical record, though, could he find an instance of Tumey harming anyone inside or outside of a hospital, Varner testified.

In no place in the medical record, Dr. Vernon Varner testified, could he find an instance of Tumey harming anyone inside or outside of a hospital.

Prosektor Ostergren asked Varner if he had tried to challenge Tumey about his behavior in September 1980 at the time of Pittman's murder. Varner said he asked direct, forceful questions that elicited only general responses.

"At all times in my conversation with him, he exclaimed his innocence," Varner testified.

Defense attorney Norton on Friday wouldn't say if he intends to call Tumey to the stand.

In rebuttal testimony next week, prosecutors will call their own psychiatric witness to challenge Varner's conclusions.

In a question to Varner, defense attorney Norton noted Tumey apparently told the prosecution's psychiatrist that three men in a car killed Pittman.

■ Contact writer Rick Smith at (319) 398-8312 or ricks@fjiowa.com

Cause of bear's death still unclear

400 people exposed to zoo animal that may have been rabid

By James Q. Lynch
Gazette Northeast Iowa Bureau
CLERMONT — Operators of a northeast Iowa petting zoo and state health officials are still waiting to learn whether a pet bear that died last month had rabies.

Kevin Teale, a spokesman for the Iowa Department of

CLERMONT

Health, expects that it will be October before the department learns the results of tests that are being performed on Chief Crazy Bear, the 5-month-old black bear cub.

The cub died Aug. 27, setting off concern that it had exposed nearly 400 people to rabies, a disease that is fatal in humans. Initial tests at Iowa State University confirmed that the bear died of rabies. Subsequent tests by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention were negative for rabies.

The health department tracked down nearly 400 people who were exposed to the bear in the month prior to its death and encouraged them to receive the rabies vaccination.

There have been no cases of

rabies among those people, Teale said Friday, and he has not heard of any rabies death anywhere in the nation that could be attributed to exposure to Chief Crazy Bear.

"Rabies deaths in humans are so rare that if it happened anywhere in the country, we would have heard about it," Teale said.

The waiting continues for Marsha and Rick Swenson, who operate the Wild Midwest Petting Zoo at their farm east of Clermont in Fayette County. They voluntarily closed the zoo after Chief Crazy Bear died. Although they are under no obligation to remain closed, they have no plans to reopen soon.

"We'll wait until spring," Marsha Swenson said. "We're just waiting."

Swenson said the couple, which received the rabies vaccination just like zoo visitors, is eager to learn the results of the test.

"It will be good to finally get

it all over," he said.

Teale said that while health officials are interested in the results of another test being conducted at the University of Iowa Hygienic Laboratory, the outcome wouldn't affect the department's response.

"Even if the tests don't show any sign of rabies, we're so far out — everyone has had their shots, so nothing we would say would change anything," he said.

The department has had a number of calls from people upset that they received the rabies vaccination only to learn that the second test on the bear did not confirm rabies.

"But we had one lab saying black and another lab saying white, and we couldn't say black or white," Teale said.

Rabies tests sometimes produce false positives, he said, adding, "that could be the case here."

■ Contact writer James Lynch at (319) 387-3198 or jamesl@oneota.net

Theatre C.R. opens season with winner

Lots of fun, lots of good music, close harmony and a dancing good time. It all happened last night at "40s on First: A Zoot Suit Revue." Theatre Cedar Rapids' opener for the 1999-2000 season is a winner.

The musical is being presented in the GreatAmerica Building, where the entire sixth floor has been transformed into a night club.

It continues tonight and on Oct. 1, 2, 8 and 9. Tickets remain only for the Oct. 8 and 9 performances.

Check Kathy Alter's full review in Sunday's Gazette or at www.iowalive.com by noon today.



NEIGHBORS HOLIDAY CALENDAR 1999

Shopping and special events are a big part of the holiday season. Every Wednesday, from October 6 through December 8, the Neighbors Section of The Gazette will again feature the Neighbors Holiday Calendar.

Be sure to check each week to find everything you're looking for to make your season bright!

To let Eastern Iowa know about your boutique, bazaar, open house, or other seasonal happenings, call your Gazette advertising representative, or Suzanne or Sara, at 398-8222 or (800)397-8222.

I.C. fountain stays in storage after high bid on installation

By Adam Lowenstein
Gazette staff writer

IOWA CITY — While all the attention is on the new Pedestrian Mall fountain being dedicated tonight, the old fountain will remain tucked away in storage for at least another winter after the bid to install it in Chauncey Swan Park came in too high.

The city estimated the project to install the fountain, which had been in place at the Pedestrian Mall for more than two decades before its removal last year as part of the mall's renovation, would cost \$82,700.

The only bid received for the project was for \$119,000 from All American Concrete of West

City Architect Jim Schoenfelder said the project will be rebid in early January.

Liberty. That bid will almost certainly be rejected by the Iowa City Council at its meeting Tuesday night.

City Architect Jim Schoenfelder said the project will be rebid in early January, when it is likely to garner at least three or four bids. "Every one is so busy (now), and this is a small enough project that it didn't get a good, representative bid," he said.

The fountain would be installed in the spring. That project would involve concrete work around the fountain's base and the installation of mechanical pumping apparatus and a below-ground reservoir tank.

The new fountain at the Pedestrian Mall is the \$70,000 Weatherdance, which will be formally dedicated at the 20th anniversary celebration of the mall starting at 1 p.m. today. The fountain dedication will be from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m.

■ Contact writer Adam Lowenstein at (319) 339-3157 or adaml@fjiowa.com

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Celebrate! International Year of Older Persons 1999

'Towards a Society for All Ages'

Friday, October 1

Clapp Recital Hall
University of Iowa Campus



Dr. Joyce Brothers
'Older and Better'

PLUS
Voices of Soul
Roy Justis, emcee
7 p.m.

Lobby Reception featuring an exhibit of work by older local artists
6 p.m.

Free tickets required
To obtain your free tickets, call Mercy on Call at 358-2767 or (800) 358-2767

Robert A. Lee Rec Center
Downtown Iowa City

Saturday, October 2

Intergenerational Festival 1-4 p.m.
All activities free and open to the public

Active Events

Batting Cage with Bob Feller
Walk with Judith Conlin, Dir., Iowa Dept. of Elder Affairs
Swim Events with Rob Leyshon, UI record holder
Billiards tournament

Stage Entertainment

Dori's Music Four; Ocean Waves; Dean & Bea Woodrum; Voices of Experience; Bonnie Bleeker; Sweet Adelines; Taylor Trio

Activities

Quilting; bookmark making; gardening; calligraphy; textiles; pottery; sand art; face painting

Educational Presentations

U of I College of Nursing
U of I Health Care
Mercy Iowa City
Gannett Foundation/Press-Citizen

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Cleveland Indians
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