

Iowa City deer hunt set to begin Oct. 11

Sharpshooting firm hopes to finish job in 3 weeks

By Adam Lowenstein
Gazette staff writer

IOWA CITY — Iowa City's effort to thin its rampant deer population by sharpshooting most likely will begin Oct. 11, city officials said Wednesday.

"Realistically, I can't imagine we will get started before the 11th," said Lisa Mollenhauer, administrative assistant to the city manager.

Mollenhauer said the contract between the city and White Buffalo, the Hamden, Conn., firm that will supply the sharpshooters, is to be signed in the next week or two.

And also next week, city workers will install "No Trespassing" signs on public land in the peninsula where the shooting will take place. The intervening days will allow activity on the Elks Golf Course, in the upper part of the

peninsula, to slow.

"We just would like (golfing) to be over, or at least getting so there aren't so many folks out there," she said.

Mollenhauer said state rules will be followed that require notification and permission of residents within 200 yards of shooting on private lands.

The city has until March 20, 2000, to carry out the deer reduction, according to guidelines set by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

The DNR granted Iowa City permission to have up to 733 deer shot by sharpshooters in the northern part of the city and the peninsula.

The sharpshooting kill would drop the number of deer to 35 per square mile in the areas with the highest concentration of deer.

Tony DeNicola, president of White Buffalo, has said he plans to conduct the shoot over a three-week period.

The Iowa City hunt will be independent of the one approved Tuesday for

Coralville. In Coralville, plans call for letting hunters register to kill up to 100 deer with bows and arrows in two weeks of October and the first two weeks of November.

The Coralville City Council voted 4-1 to adopt an ordinance that allows the hunt by people licensed by the DNR. The ordinance requires two more votes.

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No verdict in 1st day of Tumey deliberations

By Rick Smith
Gazette staff writer

TIPTON — The Cedar County murder case that took 19 years to bring to trial will take at least part of one more day for a verdict.

Jurors deliberated Wednesday without reaching a decision in the first-degree murder trial of Dean Ray Tumey.

Tumey is accused of brutally beating and strangling 17-year-old acquaintance Sandra Jo Pittman in September 1980 and leaving her body in a Highway 30 rest area near Clarence.

Prosecutors have centered their case on a confession that authorities say Tumey made to them in 1990 and his reaffirmation of the confession in 1992.

Prosecutors say Tumey, now 54, picked up Pittman at a Davenport emergency shelter in the last 12 hours or so of her life, was seen cleaning out the trunk of his car the next day and then fled Iowa.

Defense attorneys say Tumey's confessions represent either delusions that long have been part of his mental illness, paranoid schizophrenia, or the attention-seeking exaggerations of a long-time mental patient trying to get medical care.

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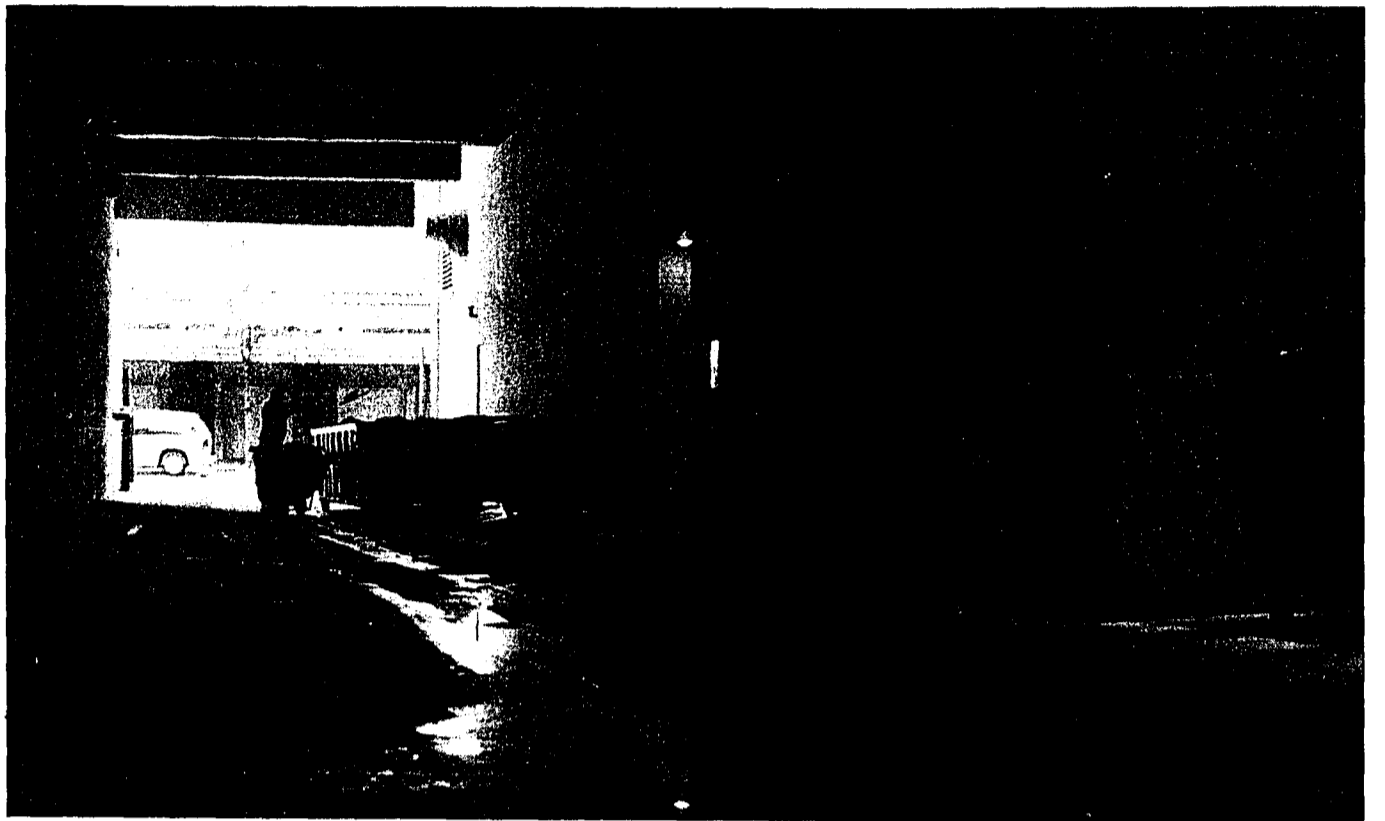
Someone else, perhaps an abusive, drug-dealing boyfriend who talked about killing Pittman in the week before her death, killed her, defense attorneys say.

Tumey did not testify at trial, but in his most recent comments about the Pittman murder, made to a prosecution psychiatrist in late August, he said he did not kill the girl. He witnessed three men kill her and has wrestled with guilt for years for not intervening to stop them, he told the psychiatrist.

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

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Downtown deconstruction



Chris Harris of Ryan Construction of Cedar Rapids disposes of construction refuse in a service alley under the skywalk behind Town Centre in downtown Cedar Rapids.

Photo by Zara Tzanev, Gazette intern

Harmony: Youths recruited

From page 1B

he says. "He has tremendous communication skills. Our guys just love him. He's brought us back on top again. We hope we can keep him."

Since he's been with the Harmony Hawks, Hayden has led a push to recruit youths.

Besides encouraging some of his own students to join the chorus, he spearheaded an outreach program in which choir members introduce their music and show off their talents at area high schools, churches and other places where young people congregate.

"The younger they start, the more they'll be able to enjoy it throughout their life," explains Hayden, of Blairstown. "There's a perception that barbershop is not something for the younger generation."

"But when you expose students to it, they love it. It's basic a cappella harmony, just like what Boyz II Men, Backstreet Boys, 94 Degrees and other groups do."

Though he's something of a latecomer to the genre, 32-year-old Scott Muters of Cedar Rapids agrees.

The vocal music director at Roosevelt Middle School for the past two years, he's worked for several years as a private voice instructor and with high school show choirs. He's also a popular tenor in a host of local community theatrical productions.

Hayden this year asked Muters to sing in the Harmony Hawks and serve as assistant director. "My background is in choral music," says the University of Iowa graduate. "So I sort of learned barbershop as I went along. But I really enjoy it. And I got my 17-year-old nephew to join."

"The Harmony Hawks will celebrate their 50th year in 2000, and I think it's important to get young people involved if we're going to last another 50 years. And we are. We're good and getting better."

"I wouldn't be here if I didn't enjoy it."

Greg Tucker

Indeed, about a dozen young men form the front line for Harmony Hawks performances. Among them are two sets of twins and two sets of brothers.

Doing dance steps along with the songs, they add an upbeat and up-to-date show choir flare to the production.

Both Greg Tucker, 16, and his brother Ryan, 13, of Vinton, joined their dad, Bill, with the Harmony Hawks last year after a quartet put on a show at their Presbyterian church.

"I like to sing," says Greg, a junior at Vinton-Shellsburg High School. "And I like singing with 60 or so other guys who can actually sing. I wouldn't be here if I didn't enjoy it."

Besides breathing new life into the organization, Greg says his fellow teen-agers serve a practical purpose. "We tap dance and sing in front on the floor. It's hard to dance steps up on the risers. Besides, some of the old guys have trouble with dancing."

Merrill Aitchison, fortunately, was out of earshot when Greg made his last comment.

Barbershop choruses coming

This year's Central States District Barbershop Convention will be Friday, Saturday and Sunday in Cedar Rapids with business activities at the Crowne Plaza Five Seasons Hotel and performances at the Paramount Theatre.

Convention chairman Merrill Aitchison of Cedar Rapids said the competition will involve the best choruses and quartets from the five-state area of Iowa, Missouri, Kansas, Nebraska and South Dakota.

Well over 1,500 registrations are expected and some 675 area hotel and motel rooms have been reserved.

Contests at the Paramount start at 6:30 p.m. Friday, 11:30 a.m. Saturday and 6:45 p.m. Saturday. They are open to the public. Tickets are \$8 for Friday and \$10 and \$15 for Saturday sessions; they may be ordered by calling 364-1703.

A mass choir at the Tree of Five Seasons will perform Sunday at 3:30 p.m. An estimated 500 singers will be directed by former Cedar Rapids resident Len Bjella, now of Springfield, Mo.

Cedar Rapids will host the convention again in 2003.

Nursing home concerns top agenda

DES MOINES (AP) — Senior citizens have put protections for nursing home residents atop their priority list and vowed to make that stick when the Legislature convenes next winter.

Capping a two-day run of the Older Iowans Legislature, delegates to the mock legislature on Tuesday made two of their top five priorities new protections for nursing home residents.

Their top priority is expanding the use of resident advocate committees, panels where local activists monitor care of patients and act as advocates on their behalf.

Fifth on the priority list was a proposal that Department of Inspections and Appeals officials responsible for inspecting nursing homes go to a drop-in inspection system.

Job fair aids fired workers

By Kristophere Owens
Gazette staff writer

CEDAR RAPIDS — More than 100 former Cedarapids Inc. employees attended a "mini job fair" Wednesday at Kirkwood Community College.

According to one of the organizers, Iowa Workforce Development, the fair is a good first step to get those employees familiar with a job search.

A mix of 40 employers, from local telecommunications company McLeod USA to Des Moines-based trucking firm Annett Holdings Inc., were available for the crowd that gathered in Iowa Hall on the Kirkwood campus.

Many people took advantage of the fair and talked with employers.

People like Troy Tiedeman, 24, of Van Horne, felt the fair was a good idea, but wished there were more positions that suited the assembly-type jobs at Cedarapids Inc. He said many cannot afford to earn less than the wages they earned at the company.

"At \$8.50 an hour, there's no way," said Tiedeman. "A lot of those guys can't survive."

Brice Smith, 54, of 1396 Starry Drive, Marion, said it depends on the individual whether to accept a job at the fair. He said there were some trucking companies, some offering more than \$35,000 a year, that he was interested in.

Smith also said he could explore the option of getting a job that pays less than the more than \$16 an hour he earned at Cedarapids Inc.

Since Sept. 1, about 289 jobs have been cut at the northeast Cedar Rapids company. The cuts occurred more than a month after Terex Corp. of Westport, Conn., acquired it. The company once employed about 900 workers.

Cedarapids Inc. designs, manufactures and markets crushers, mixers and other paving equipment for road construction.

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