

# Murder retrial begins

Psychiatric testimony to be central in 20-year-old Davenport killing case

By Rick Smith  
Gazette staff writer

TIPTON - Dean Ray Tumeys retrial for the 1980 murder of a young Davenport woman began here Monday in Cedar County District Court with jury selection and opening statements.

Central to the prosecution's case are two purported confessions Tumeys made to authorities some years after the murder, neither of which prompted his arrest or prosecution at the time.

A periodic review of unsolved homicides by the Iowa Division of Criminal Investigation led to Tumeys' arrest in May for the murder of 17-year-old Sandra Jo

Pittman.

Tumeys, who was 35 and receiving disability payments for mental illness at the time of the murder, was acquainted with Pittman through the rooming house where he lived in Davenport.

The second Tumeys trial is expected to include psychiatrists who saw the defendant in the hours after he allegedly confessed in Fairfield in 1990 and Marshalltown in 1992. Both times, Tumeys, who has suffered from paranoid schizophrenia since the mid-1970s, was hospitalized for psychiatric examination.

In the first trial, which ended in a hung jury with the vote 7-5

to acquit, only the law officers who listened to the confessions testified about them.

Defense attorneys Brad Norton and Brian Fairfield contend that Tumeys' confessions were the rantings of a man living near the streets who was either delusional or trying to get attention.

The prosecutor, Assistant Muscatine County Attorney Alan Ostergren, has called Tumeys' confessions credible and has said that Tumeys was the last person seen with Pittman on the day before her body was found in a Cedar County rest stop along Highway 30 west of Clarence.

She had been stabbed and strangled. The prosecution has hinted that Tumeys killed Pittman because she denied him sexual favors.

In an interview with a prosecution psychiatrist immediately before his first trial last fall, Tumeys said he witnessed three men kill Pittman.

During the first trial, the defense pointed the finger at others in Pittman's circle, one that included drugs, crime, domestic assault and a boyfriend who asked friends about killing her.

In recent years Tumeys, 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.



Dean Ray Tumeys  
Jailed under medication

# City can't afford plan for employee parking

By Pam Hinman  
Gazette staff writer

CEDAR RAPIDS — Cost is likely to knock out a \$75,000 proposal to provide more convenient free parking for city employees who work downtown. Free parking is provided for

fiscal 2001 budget review. He presented a proposal that would give the 180 City Hall and library employees parking closer to their work buildings, such as in the underground lot at City Hall.

Winnery likened the problem to a thorn festering in the bottom of your foot. You can continue to walk, although it becomes more difficult each day to ignore the cause of the pain.

In a memo to the mayor and City Council, Winnery wrote that employees who pay to park closer are "irritated."

"There are productivity losses, such as the early adjournment of meetings to allow employees to feed parking meters," he said. "This has caused confrontations between managers, meeting leaders and the employees involved."

Library employees have also cited safety concerns about walking to the free lot at night, Winnery said.

Mayor Lee Clancey said council members aren't necessarily against the plan, but it doesn't look like there will be enough money in the fiscal 2001 budget to fund such a proposal.

Parks Commissioner Dale Todd said it is an "ugly, ugly issue that we can't win on."

Finance Commissioner Lyle Hanson agreed budget concerns probably will preclude implementation of the plan this year.

## CITY COUNCIL

all city employees, but for some, such as those who work in City Hall and the downtown library, the lots are remote and no shuttle is provided. Employees who want to park closer to their workplaces must pay.

City Hall employees have two free lots to choose from, one on First Street SW, between Second and Third avenues, and the other under Interstate 380 near the old police station.

Library employees may park free at a lot near the current police station, a half mile away and across the river from the library building.

By contrast, employees who work in the Public Works Building have a large parking lot adjacent to their workplace.

Some City Hall and library employees believe Public Works employees and others in similar situations enjoy an extra \$420 annual benefit.

David Winnery, human resources director, discussed the issue with City Council members Monday morning during a

# Derailment no deterrent

Dad, son take train home after accident

By Cindy Hadish  
Gazette staff writer

MOUNT VERNON — Evan Yeats didn't let a derailment derail his plans for a train trip back to Iowa from Washington D.C.

The Mount Vernon High School sophomore and his father were among the 139 passengers and crew on board the Amtrak that derailed about 9 p.m. EST Saturday in Pennsylvania.

Yeats, 16, who describes himself as a seasoned rail traveler, returned to his Mount Vernon home last night after spending Saturday night and part of Sunday in the train.

No one was injured when four cars of the Capitol Limited derailed about 44 miles southeast of Pittsburgh.

With a mountain on one side and a river on the other, Yeats said the situation could have been worse. "We were very lucky," he said.

Crew members attributed the problems to cold weather, which caused a broken rail, but never referred to the situation as a "derailment," Yeats said.

"You could definitely tell something was wrong," he said. "The train started rumbling and the whole train shook."



Evan Yeats  
Mount Vernon sophomore

Yeats was with 20 to 30 others — many of them children — in the lounge car, where a children's movie had been showing.

After the derailment, water didn't run due to the train's tilt, and no one in the car was given blankets or pillows for several hours into their 10- or 11-hour wait, he said. Restrooms also backed up during that time, he said.

News cameras and other disruptions made sleeping impossible for Yeats, so he and others spent the time making phone calls and trying to entertain the children.

Everyone was finally boarded onto two sleeping cars, then went a short distance to three school buses that took them to Pittsburgh.

Yeats and his father, Robert, stayed overnight at a hotel at Amtrak's expense, then boarded another Capitol Limited that brought them to Chicago.

From there, they took a train to Mount Pleasant before driving back to their Mount Vernon home.

They had been to Washington D.C. for a conference his father attended.



Gazette photo by Cecelia Hanley

## Snow power

Carryne Olds, 11, of Marion, and Charey O'Toole, 7, of Springville, land in a flurry of snow Sunday after jumping a snow ramp with their sled in Thomas Park in Marion.

# Inspectors consider Abbe Center fire

Official: Woman set herself ablaze to get attention, not to kill herself

By Steve Gravelle  
Gazette staff writer

MARION The state investigation into an incident in which an Abbe Center resident tried to set fire to herself will draw on reports from the facility's staff and the state fire marshal.

David Werning, public information officer for the state Department of Inspections and Appeals, said inspectors will review the reports before conducting their own on-site investigation.

A 22-year-old woman wrapped toilet paper around herself and lit it Thursday afternoon in her room at the center at 1860 County Home Rd. in Marion, said Peter Zevenbergen, president of Abbe Inc. Abbe began operating the former Linn County Care Center in 1988.

Zevenbergen said the incident is only superficially similar to one in December in which a resident set a fatal fire in her room. "This was totally different for us," said Zevenbergen.

Ann Harford, 51, died after she piled toilet paper around

## A 22-year-old woman wrapped toilet paper around herself and lit it Thursday afternoon.

her as she lay in bed, then set the paper afire. That incident occurred about 3 a.m. Dec. 8.

The victim in Thursday's incident didn't intend to injure or kill herself, Zevenbergen said. "I don't think this was suicidal. This was kind of like a kid getting themselves in trouble and then getting themselves sick (for attention)."

Zevenbergen said the woman may have been upset after an incident the day before when she was away from the center on a pass. "She basically had a problem that occurred Wednesday in the community. She got herself in some trouble."

But the woman seemed normal Thursday afternoon, until she stepped from her room shortly after 3 p.m. and told a nurse she'd set fire to herself.

The nurse saw no smoke or flames, but found minor burns on the woman's upper arms and armpits and a superficial burn on her left leg. The woman's hair was also singed.

The woman told the nurse she'd wrapped toilet paper around herself and set it afire, Zevenbergen said. The burning paper fell apart before the woman was seriously hurt.

After emergency treatment at the nurses' station, the woman was taken to the University of Iowa Hospitals in Iowa City.

The woman's identity wasn't released. Zevenbergen said UI officials could release information on her condition only to her immediate family.

The woman has been at the Abbe Center, the county's residential center for the mentally ill and mentally disabled, since October, Zevenbergen said.

Werning said the state's investigation after the December incident cleared Abbe Center's staff procedures, but two citations were issued for minor record-keeping violations. Zevenbergen said he's appealed one of them.

Also pending is Abbe's appeal of a fine levied in February 1999 for improper supervision of two residents, including one who choked to death while eating dinner.

Zevenbergen said a consultant called in after the December incident also found no fault with the center's staff or practices. It would be a violation of residents' rights to ban smoking, he said. "It's disconcerting, because what can you do?" he said.

Contact writer Steve Gravelle at (319) 398-5819 or stevegr@fjiowa.com

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