

Boyfriend charged in accidental death

BETTENDORF (UPI) — A man has been arrested in the accidental death of his girlfriend in September.

Police charged Ronald Carpenter, 31, of Bettendorf with an aggravated misdemeanor in the Sept. 13 death of his girlfriend, Susan Anne Hannon, 22, of Bettendorf.

Mrs. Hannon was found dead on the living room coach in her mid-town apartment by her ex-husband. Earlier, she was with Carpenter in a pickup truck when she fell out of the moving vehicle and hit her head.

Police said Carpenter put his unconscious girlfriend back in the truck after the accident, drove to a party and left her in the vehicle.

An autopsy performed by Scott County Medical Examiner Dr. R.M. Perkins showed Mrs. Hannon died of a blow to her head.

Carpenter is accused of lying to police about the location and details of the accident and of not seeking medical attention for Mrs. Hannon. He was arrested Friday and posted a \$2,500 bond in an initial court appearance in Davenport Sunday.

Budget ax cuts short Medicaid drug plan

DES MOINES (UPI) — An experimental reimbursement system for pharmacists filling Medicaid prescriptions will end ahead of schedule because of reduced federal Medicaid funding, the Iowa Department of Social Services announced Monday.

Don Kassar, chief of the Bureau of Medical Services, said the Iowa Drug Capitation Project will end Dec. 31, after only nine months of operation. The project began in April and was scheduled to last 12 months.

"Recent funding reductions and the prospect of future reductions make it impossible for the department to financially maintain the administrative costs of the project," said Kassar.

The current regulations call for pharmacists to be reimbursed for Medicaid prescriptions on a fee-for-service basis. The capitation project provides prepayment for Medicaid prescriptions for 350 participating drug providers.

The payment amount is based on the number of Medicaid patients the pharmacist serves and the prescription requirements of those patients.

Kassar said the capitation system will be studied to determine its costs and benefits. He said data collected in the course of the project will be analyzed by the University of Iowa Health Services Research Center as it evaluates the results of the experiment.

Get extra dime ready for pay telephone call

If you now carry a dime to make sure you have enough for a call at a coin-operated telephone, make room in your coin purse for another dime. Effective Jan. 1, it will cost 20 cents for that call.

The increase will affect all 13,800 pay phones in Iowa, said Nancy Garrett, manager of Northwestern Bell's residence service center in Cedar Rapids.

The hike, recently approved by the Iowa Commerce Commission, is designed to make the pay phones "self-paying so they are not subsidized by other rates," Garrett said.

But the extra dime will not increase the phone company's over-

all revenue, Garrett added, since the extra money is expected to offset costs in other services. Although the company has not decided how that will be done, the extra revenue generated from the pay phones could be used toward something like the long-distance network or business phone expenses, she said.

Garrett said there are currently 14 states in the country with 20-cent phone calls from booths and four with 25-cent rates.

This is Iowa's first pay phone increase since 1954, when the coin-operated phones went up another 100 percent — from a nickel to a dime.

Past victim's father offers help on new case

CLINTON (UPI) — The father of a teen-ager murdered last January has offered assistance to police in the investigation of a similar murder last weekend, authorities said.

Raymond Hinrichs, 48, contacted Clinton police to offer his help in the investigation of the Saturday morning murder of George Leonard, 53, at The Inn, a local tavern.

Hinrichs' daughter, Pam, 19, was killed at the Amvets Club in January. Both Ms. Hinrichs and

Leonard were murdered during robberies, prompting reports the two slayings may be linked.

However, Clinton County Attorney G. Wiley Pillers said investigators have no information to associate the two killings. He said the search is continuing for a young white male suspected in the recent killing.

Hinrichs continues to offer a \$2,000 reward for information leading to the arrest of his daughter's murderer.

Police mishandled Oppelt: Suit

By Tom Walsh
Gazette Johnson County Bureau Chief

IOWA CITY — The mother of a teen-ager stabbed to death May 27 in a downtown Iowa City store has filed suit against the city, claiming Iowa City police should have driven her son's killer to a mental hospital the night before the stabbing.

Nancy Ewoldt of Rock Island claims in the suit filed in Johnson County District Court that David Oppelt, the 24-year-old Iowa Citian convicted Oct. 13 of second-degree murder for the stabbing of 16-year-old Steven Scott White, arrived at the Iowa City Police Department just after 9:30 p.m. on May 26, about 20 hours before Oppelt stabbed White repeatedly with a hunting knife.

Oppelt was subsequently charged by Iowa

City police with first-degree murder and sought acquittal on a plea of insanity.

The suit claims Oppelt told a Police Department employee that he had been referred there by the Iowa City Crisis Center and requested a ride to a psychiatric facility on the University of Iowa's Oakdale campus.

Testimony during Oppelt's two-week trial indicated Oppelt was referred back to the Crisis Center by police.

The suit contends Iowa City police should have recognized Oppelt "was in a mentally deranged state and a danger to himself or others."

"In spite of their knowledge of David Oppelt's condition, defendant's employee or employees refused to transport Mr. Oppelt to Oakdale as he requested or provide other assistance and Mr.

Oppelt was required to leave the police station," the suit reads in part.

The suit claims Iowa City police were negligent in failing to assist Oppelt and in allowing him to "remain at large as a danger to himself or others."

The suit seeks no specific amount of damages. Instead, it asks for damages "in an amount sufficient to compensate for Steven Scott White's death and for the costs of this action."

Oppelt, meanwhile, has begun serving a prison term not to exceed 25 years at the Iowa State Men's Reformatory at Anamosa.

After his sentencing Nov. 12, Oppelt's court-appointed attorneys said they expect an appeal will be filed. Under Iowa law, Oppelt has 60 days from the date of his sentencing to file such an appeal.

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