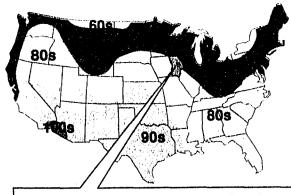


August 29, 1992

IOWA TODAY, FINAL EDITION CEDAR RAPIDS, IOWA VOL. 110 NO. 233 50 CENTS





FORECAST: Becoming partly sunny, late day shower. Highs 78-82; lows 58-62. Today's daylight: 13 hrs., 17 min. See 12C

TV VISION

Emmy awards promise multiple winners Sunday

Page 2T

BASEBALL SCORES

AMERICAN

Brewers 22, Blue Jays 2 Rangers 4, White Sox 1 Tigers 4, Royals 2 Yankees at Twins, late Red Sox at Angels, late Indians at Athletics, late Orioles at Mariners, late

NATIONAL

Cubs 3, Giants 2 Mets 4-12, Reds 3-1 Cardinals 1, Dodgers 0 Phillies 7, Braves 3 Astros 8, Expos 1 Pirates at Padres, late



BRIEFLY

Citizen patrol?

C.R. police scoff at idea

A man in Cedar Rapids' Wellington Heights neighborhood hopes to form a citizen crime-fighting group. But a police officer says the idea is a bad one.

'Mr. B' returns to C.R.

Don DeFore at class reunion

He's been away from his native Cedar Rapids a long time, but actor Don De-Fore, Mr. B on television's "Hazel," has fond memories of the city. He's in town for a class reunion. Details on page 1B.

Hawks tee it up at 8

Wolfpack is 'Classic' foe

The Iowa Hawkeyes - sans ANF (America Needs Farmers) helmet decals - open the season against North Carolina State at 8 tonight in the Kickoff Classic. Details on page 1C.

Help wanted

D D

Especially telemarketers

A Cedar Rapids telemarketing firm hopes to lure new workers with a \$100 bonus. Details on page 9C.

Horoscope 7D Births 2B Legals 8C City Briefs 14D Log 3B Money 8-9C Classified D Comics 6C Movies...... 7C Daily Planner .. 2A Religion 5B Deaths 2B Stocks 10-11C Editorial 4A TV Vision Farm 8-9C Weather 12C

TODAY'S CHUCKLE

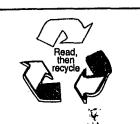
Cooperation: doing cheerfully that which you have to do anyway.

TOMORROW

Legal tactics

Divorcing for Medicaid

Ever higher costs have forced a growing number of Iowa families to use legal tactics to qualify for Medicaid and avoid nursing home costs. For one Eastern Iowa couple divorce was seen as the only solution. Page 1A in Sunday's Ga-





C.R. ages: America in microcosm

Gazette staff report Cedar Rapids' leaders might consider it an insult to be called average, but that's just the distinction being awarded

It is one of four cities that most closely matches the average age distribution of the United States, this month's American Demographics magazine says.

When charted, the age distributions of the United States and Cedar Rapids have a very similar barrel shape. The bulge in the middle is caused by the baby-boom generation making its way up "like a pig passing through the digestive system of a python," Judith Waldrop writes in the article.

Cedar Rapids shares its distinction with Cheyenne, Wyo.; Tulsa, Okla.; and Billings, Mont. Each would require a demographic shift of less than

POPULATION AGES: A CLOSE MATCH Cedar Rapids, Iowa **United States** 1990 Population: 248.7 million Population: 108,751 Median age: 33.2 Median age: 32.9 60-64 68-59 55-59 50-54 50-54 45-49 40-44 45-49 35-39 35-39 30-34 25-29 15-19 10-14 10-14

Source: 1990 Census

2 percent to match the U.S. pattern perfectly. So what does this distinction mean to Cedar Rapids?

"Well, it's sure interesting," says Mike Blouin of the Cedar

He said he may use the comparison when recruiting potential employers to show them that while Iowa has a large population of older citizens, Cedar Rapids has a solid group Rapids Chamber of Commerce. of hard-working baby boomers.

Gazette graphic

\$1.5 million Armstrong's suit may end for \$65,000

By Dick Hogan

million in a class-action suit.

Gazette courts reporter The estate of Robert Armstrong has agreed to a proposal to pay \$65,000 to 300 former Armstrong's department store employees who had sought over \$1.5

Half of that \$65,000 could go for attorney fees, which has so upset one former employee that she's seeking a court hearing and disclosure of the details of the terms and fees.

Any settlement must be approved by the Linn County Probate Court.

The suit against the Armstrong estate was filed in Probate Court in April 1991 on behalf of members of an Armstrong's Employees Stock Option Plan (ESOP). The suit seeks to recover \$1.505 million paid to Robert Armstrong for his stock in 1986, four years before the firm filed for bankruptcy.

Executors of the Armstrong estate announced the proposed settlement late Friday afternoon, after the Gazette made inquiries.

But the \$65,000 amount was stated as long ago as June 23 in a letter to ESOP members from John Wagner, attorney for an employees committee that filed the lawsuit. Wagner said the committee had approved the settlement and that \$32,500 was available for distribution, with the other half going for attorney fees. The letter did not inform clients that a settlement and attorney fees must be court ap-

Joseph Schmall, attorney for Armstrong's estate, said Friday, "We think that (Wagner's letter) was premature.'

Marty Hagge, an attorney with Wagner's firm, said he anticipated that a class certification application will be filed in court within two weeks. Such a certification must be approved before any proposed settlement can be addressed, he said. Wagner could not be reached Friday.

■ Turn to page 7A: Armstrong's

Andrew hits lumber prices

'Solving the world's problems'



Gazette photo by Duane Crock

Kerm Chesmore, 64, Harold Kress, 65, Ellis Shirley, 69, and Howard Crow, 78, pass the morning seated in front of "Old Crow's Store" in Quasqueton. The four fellows say they congregate there often after having coffee down the street. "We solve all the world's problems right here," Kerm explained. Many years ago the store was a lumberyard, Howard said. Then it became an antiques store, and "anymore it doesn't amount to much of anything."

Johnson paramedics: Harassed by boss

By Lyle Muller Gazette Johnson County Bureau

IOWA CITY — Nearly all full-time Johnson County Ambulance Service paramedics have hired an attorney and called on Ambulance Director David Cole to resign.

Twelve of the ambulance service's 13 full-time paramedics hired Marengo lawyer John Wagner to represent them and send a letter to Cole demanding the resignation. They accuse Cole of abuse and harassment, sources involved in the mat-

The letter prompted Cole, the paramed-

ics and their attorney, and two Johnson County supervisors to meet Wednesday night to discuss the complaints. The supervisors will discuss the matter further in an executive session Tuesday.

The complaints have been general in nature, Supervisor Steve Lacina said. But Wagner has promised specifics.

Cole, the ambulance service's director since 1987, said he does not intend to resign. "At this point I'm trying to respond to the generalities that were made, then wait for some specifics," he said Fri-

Cole acknowledged that staff paramedics have complained in previous years about his management but said he responded by setting up new lines of communication this past year.

Efforts to reach Wagner were unsuccessful. He previously declined to reveal details until he and the upset paramedics can compile a list for the supervisors.

Besides full-time paramedics, the ambulance service has 13 part-time paramedics and three other paramedics who serve as management. Those employees were not among those who hired Wagner.

Dealers in C.R. report plywood up to 40% higher

By Dale Kueter Gazette staff writer

Prices for some building materials are being blown sky high in the aftermath of Hurricane Andrew, and in some cases shortages are expected.

"Some plywood prices have gone up as much as \$3 and \$4

- U.S. troops aid Florida hurricane victims, 3A
- Price-gouging crackdown promised in Florida, 8C

this week," said Larry Paulsen, vice president of Ogden & Adams lumberyard in Cedar Rapids.

Half-inch plywood (sheeting grade) has gone from \$10 per 4-by-8-foot sheet to \$14. "And suppliers won't take any more orders," added Paulsen.

He said lumber industry officials estimate the rebuilding of South Florida may take three years, with lumber prices being affected for the same period of time.

A spokeswoman for Payless Cashways Inc. in Kansas City said there has been a 40 percent increase, generally, in building commodity prices over the past three weeks.

Brenda Nolte attributed the big jump to not only the devastating hurricane but also to fires in California forests and normally high demand this time of year. Rick Flynn, president of

Suburban Lumber in Cedar Rapids, said Friday afternoon mill prices showed half-inch standard plywood had increased from \$9.45 to \$11.78 per 4-by-8-foot sheet. "We won't jump the prices right away because of old inventory," he said. Nolte said prices "are set by

the mills. Our profits are the same." She said Payless has issued "strict" orders that there be no price gouging.

When existing inventories of plywood run out, there could be problems of getting new supplies, Paulsen said. That could delay some roofing and flooring construction.

Pastor quits amid sex allegations

By Rick Smith

Gazette staff writer There was no regular Friday evening prayer meeting last night at the Sound Doctrine Church on Cedar Rapids' southwest side.

In fact, though a church building remains at 716 Eighth Ave. SW, there isn't a church congregation there anymore.

Its pastor of nearly 20 years -The Rev. Wendell Beets, 828 Camburn Ct. SE — has been forced to resign, his congregation left to reel

impropriety with a 19-year-old female church member.

And the one accusation is bringing similar ones from other females, say two ministers in Beets' former church, Louise and Clarence Ellis of Cedar Rapids.

The Ellises say Beets — the brother of Bishop Paul Beets of Gospel Tabernacle Church in Cedar Rapids allegedly abused the 19-year-old victim for several years.

And they say he admitted mis-

amid an accusation of Beets' sexual deeds three weeks ago in front of 50 members of the 150-member church. He then resigned and since has reportedly left town with his family.

> The alleged victim has been interviewed by both the Linn County Sheriff's Department and the Cedar Rapids Police Department, the Ellises say. They expect a criminal charge against Beets will be forthcoming.

In a recent interview in their

■ Turn to page 7A: Abuse



Sound Doctrine Church, 716 Eighth Ave. SW

The charges include accusations that, as a con-

gressman, Mayroules extorted \$12,000 from a feder:

al prisoner's family to help move the man to a

better prison; and that he conspired to extort

\$25,000 and a job for his brother at a liquor store

in exchange for a liquor license while mayor of

If convicted on all counts, Mavroules could face

a maximum sentence of more than 20 years in

prison. U.S. Attorney A. John Pappalardo said he

expects the congressman to spend at least two

Mavroules pleaded not guilty Friday and was

Abuse: Pastor quits amid sex charges

From page 1A

southeast-side home, the Ellises shared their distress over Beets' actions.

In one breath, they admitted that he was a pastor they held in high esteem for his abilities in preaching to his church.

"He always taught the word of God. He was a great teacher," said Mrs. Ellis.

But in the next breath, they admit that is a world that has come tumbling down.

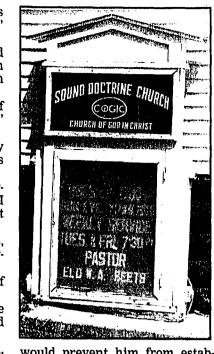
"That he would attack a 19year-old girl," said Mrs. Ellis. "I knew him very well. But not well enough."

The accusations against Beets, though, are not a complete surprise, the Ellises conceded.

Beets was a "flirt" outside of church, the Ellises alleged.

"He was another man when he was not in the church," said Mrs. Ellis.

Among her wishes, she said, was that the public know exactly why Beets resigned from his church, in hopes that knowledge



would prevent him from establishing another church. They feared he would victimize some

other female who had come to trust in him as a spiritual lead-

"Nobody's going to stop me from preaching," Mrs. Ellis said Beets promised in the wake of his resignation.

He also promised he would surrender to authorities to face a criminal charge, the Ellises said.

Clarence Ellis said Beets' resignation has destroved the Sound Doctrine Church. He said some members were hoping to start a new church, in a new building, with a new name, in an effort to find a fresh start.

In the three weeks since Beets' departure, the Ellises, to their surprise, have found themselves criticized for talking about Beets' resignation.

Mrs. Ellis said last night she expected a new round of criticism now that Beets' story is going public.

"I'm so tired of it all," said Mrs. Ellis. "After tonight, I expect it to start up again.'

contacted them. He invited

ESOP members to contact the of-

fice with questions. "Our bottom

line is we have nothing to hide.

They can come talk to us,'

Hagge said the attorney fee

was agreed to by the Employees

Committee. "The committee had

contacted at least five different

attorneys in the community who

turned it down based upon the

complexity of the case," he not-

Hagge said Friday.

Tourism officials unfazed by bad publicity in Montana

BOSTON (AP) — In the factory towns and fish-

ing villages along Boston's north shore, U.S. Rep.

Nicholas Mavroules forged a reputation as a guy

who worked his way up from the bottom and

But federal indictments unsealed Friday paint a

"I know there were a lot of heavy hearts last

dark underside of a popular politician using his

power to extract money and perks from constitu-

night in Peabody," said Mary Waselchuk, a long-

time City Council member. "He's one of the favor-

ite sons of the city. He never forgot from where he

Mavroules, a Democrat, is charged with racke-

teering, extortion, illegally accepting a gratuity,

filing false tax returns and making false state-

ments. He called the charges "absolutely a bunch

of lies" and pledged to fight for re-election to an

maulings. Mountain lion attacks. Charging bison. Armed highwaymen shooting at hapless tourists. And to top it all off, a foot of snow in the middle of August.

never forgot his roots.

Montana's summer has generated headlines that would make tourist officials anywhere else blanch.

But the folks here say the headlines, particularly those about bears and lions and summer snow, reinforce the Big Sky state's reputation as one of the country's last frontiers.

"It's not the publicity we're looking for, but it lets people know that there are wild animals' out here," said Matthew Cohn, acting director of the state promotion division in the Department of Commerce.

It's been a rough summer for tourists:

• A 12-year-old Arizona boy was seriously injured by a al Park this month.

Congressman faces charges

NATION

eighth term. The primary is Sept. 15.

years behind bars if convicted.

released on his own recognizance.

• An Oregon man was mauled by a grizzly bear this month in another section of the park.

• In Yellowstone National Park, a Montana woman was mauled by a grizzly, and two tourists were gored by bison in separate incidents this summer.

• A Maryland family was chased in their car, shot at and robbed on U.S. Highway 93



(C) | (C)

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HELENA, Mont. (AP) - Bear mountain lion in Glacier Nation- southwest of Glacier early this month, and three local youths were arrested.

> Then, on Aug. 22, a snowstorm dumped up to 16 inches on parts of Montana.



Armstrong's: \$65,000 deal in \$1.5 million suit

From page 1A

The original suit filed by Ronald King as chairman of the emplovees committee and class representative charged that Armstrong's Inc. terminated one pension plan, arranged for "an overfunding" of the plan to be paid to the company, and had a new ESOP pension plan created that tied its worth to the company's financial health.

It claimed that Robert Armstrong later insisted the ESOP buy his 98,085 stock shares for \$1.505 million in cash and promise to pay him \$100,000 a year for five years. That was done Aug. 14, 1986. The suit contended he was paid about \$500,000 more than the stock's appraisal and that Armstrong's was already in financial decline. When bankruptcy was filed in the fall of 1990, the ESOP was left holding valueless stock, the suit said. Armstrong died in November 1990 at age 93.

In a written statement issued Friday afternoon confirming a settlement by the estate, co-executors Gary Ernst, Rodney Strang and Maxine Schoonover said the initial reaction to the claim was

"The fact that these groundless and outrageous claims were made after Mr. Armstrong's death made us want to do whatever was possible to protect his memory," the statement said.

But noting the estate's assets go to charitable organizations following Mrs. Armstrong's death, the executors said they

have an overriding obligation to conserve the assets. They "reluctantly concluded" agreeing to the settlement would be much less costly than defending the complex, "but groundless" claim, the statement said.

Former Armstrong's employee Laurie Stewart of Cedar Rapids, who filed a document Aug. 17 in Probate Court asking for the hearing and disclosure of settlement details, called the \$65,000 'a mere token sum." She said that with interest the ESOP claim would be more than \$2 million. She called the offer a 'nuisance payment made by the estate to avoid the greater costs of defending a spurious action."

Stewart claimed the case court file showed little evidence of activity in the case by Wagner, other than his claim of "protracted negotiations' and the unsuccessful result obtained." She maintains that Wagner's 50 percent fee is "substantially higher than what attorneys charge for successfully handling contingent fee cases'

But Stewart said she has no objection to settling the claim for \$65,000, "given attorney Wagner's failure to develop a case of liability." She would rather have a pro rata share of \$65,000 "after a reasonable attorney fee than receive nothing, the probable result if the case were tried," Stewart added.

Hagge said the firm has written Stewart regarding her objections, adding she should have

Williams said there was noth-

ing to prevent the IRS from au-

diting the syndicate's tax re-

turns and demanding payment

The group of 2,500 investors

attempted to corner a share of

the lottery by purchasing all 7.1

million six-number combina-

tions in the drawing.

said that could take years.

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State loses battle over tax on jackpot fund. The syndicate's lawyers

RICHMOND, Va. (AP) -- The state Lottery Department can't withhold taxes from a \$27 million Lotto jackpot won by an Australian syndicate, a federal judge ruled Friday.

U.S. District Judge Richard Williams ordered the state to pay the Melbourne-based International Lotto Fund the money it has withheld for taxes and not

to withhold any more. "The lottery will not appeal the judge's decision," said Kenneth Thorson, the department's executive director.

The syndicate won the jackpot, payable in annual installments over 20 years, on Feb. 15. The department made the first payment Aug. 14, but deducted 30 percent for state and federal tax-

Australian officials have said they plan to tax the prize, and syndicate lawyers argued that a treaty between Australia and the United States prohibits the taxing of the same income by both countries.

The Justice Department, arguing on behalf of the Internal Revenue Service, said the proper procedure was for the group to pay the taxes and ask for a re-







