PEN CITY CURRENT

It's Black & White and Read all over

Thursday, July 22, 2021 | 9 pages | Volume 5 • Issue 139



www.pencitycurrent.com

Tactical team raids FM home



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg

Fort Madison police officers put a suspect into a cruiser following a raid on a home in the 1300 block of Avenue G Wednesday morning.

EXECUTE WARRANT: One arrest on suspicion of weapons, stolen property, drugs

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG

FORT MADISON - Local authorities are on the scene of raid conducted this morning at 7:39 a.m. in the 1300 block of Avenue G.

According to Fort Madison Police Chief Mark Rohloff, a tactical team forced entry into the home to execute a search warrant for stolen property, drugs and possible weapons.

One person is in custody as a result of the search warrant. However, Fort Madison Police and other investigators remain on the scene at the home conducting the investigation.

Casey J. Wolf, 40, who resides in the 1300 block of Avenue

G, has been taken into custody as a result of the investigation and transported to Lee County Jail.

"There was intelligence of weapons in the home with known felons," Rohloff indicated in a text to PCC Wednesday

The tactical team consists of officers with Fort Madison Police, Keokuk Police, and Lee County Sheriff's deputies. Lee County EMS was on stand by at the incident and police had cordoned off a two block area around the home during the

Rohloff said additional arrests could be made as a result of

See **RAID**, page 8

COUNTY NEWS

Man convicted of 1976 Keokuk murder dies at ISP

FORT MADISON - According to officials with the Iowa Department of Corrections, a 66-year-old man convicted of murder in a 1976 Keokuk shooting died Monday at Iowa State Penitentiary.

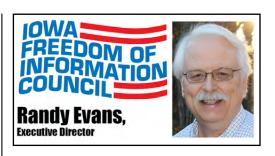
Ular Lee Winfun was pronounced

dead due to natural causes at 6:57 p.m. on Monday, July 19, 2021 in a hospice room at the prison.

Winfun had been serving a life sentence for the crime of Murder 1st Degree and began his sentence on February 4, 1977.

He was convicted of shooting Morris Green to death on July 31, 1976 in the back of a Keokuk tavern. According to news reports from papers and trial information from the Iowa Supreme

See WINFUN, page 4



Universities need to learn lesson around free speech

In recent years, Republicans and Democrats in the Iowa Legislature often agree on little.

But they were nearly unanimous this spring in supporting an important piece of legislation — a bill requiring faculty and administrators at the state universities to go through training about the First Amendment and the rights it contains.

Anyone skeptical of the need for the new law received a wake-up call last week when the U.S. Court of Appeals in St. Louis handed down a decision against the University of Iowa.

The decision should embarrass and anger Iowans.

In a blistering 3-0 ruling, the court said university administrators engaged in clear discrimination against a student religious group based solely on the views of the organization and its leaders.

"What the university did here was clearly unconstitutional," the judges wrote. "It targeted religious groups for differential treatment under the [university's] human rights policy — while carving out exemptions and ignoring other violative groups with missions they presumably supported."

The court went on: "Of course, the university has a compelling interest in preventing discrimination. But it served that compelling interest by picking and choosing what kind of discrimination was okay. Basically, some [student organizations] at the University of Iowa may discriminate in selecting their leaders and members, but others, mostly religious, may not."

See **EVANS**, page 8

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WEATHER

..... Light Rain, 84° F/ 69° FWarm and Sunny, 86° F/ 69° F FRI 23 Jul..Partly Cloudy and Warm, 89° F/70° F SAT 24 Jul.

IOWA LOTTERY

878
0.79
4363
15.03

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For the Record

For the Record

Fort Madison Police Report

07/12/21 – 1:21 p.m. – Fort – Fort Madison Police Madison Police responded to a report of vandalism in the 500 block of 9th Street. 07/12/21 – 5:15 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of vandalism in the 1200 block of 14th Street. 07/12/21 - 8:37 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a burglary in the 200 block of Avenue F. 07/15/21 - 11:31 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of vandalism in the 2700 block of Avenue K. 07/15/21 - 11:40 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a stolen vehicle, reported at the police station. 07/15/21 - 12:47 p.m. - Fort Madison Police arrested Ashley Elizabeth Steele, 43, of Fort Madison, on a warrant for failure to appear. She was taken to Lee County Jail. 07/15/21 – 5:47 p.m. – Fort Madison Police cited Gary Lee Swanson, Jr., at the police station, on a charge

of criminal mischief. 07/15/21 - 6:45 p.m. responded to a report of larceny/theft in the 1700 block of Avenue H. 07/16/21 - 11:33 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of vandalism in the 2700 block of Avenue K. 07/16/21 - 1:50 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 1900 block of 48th Street. 07/16/21 - 11:14 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of vandalism on Cindy Drive. 07/16/21 - 11:32 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of vandalism in the 2800 block of Avenue L. 07/19/21 - 7:29 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of vandalism in the 2300 block of Avenue L.

Lee County **Sheriff's Report**

07/15/21 - 3:34 a.m. -Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Bryon Ray

McCannon, 25, of Danville at 218th Avenue and Hwy. 2 in Donnellson, on a charge of OWI-1st offense. He was taken to Lee County Jail and released on his recognizance. 07/15/21 - 7:47 a.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Christopher Adam Barnes, 30, of Keokuk, at the sheriff's office on a charge of sex offender registration violation and a warrant for a judgment hold. He was taken to Lee County Jail. 07/15/21 - 11:26 a.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Danielle Lynn Smith, 33, of Fort Madison, at the Clark County Jail on a warrant for violation of probation. He was held in custody. 07/15/21 - 1:42 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Charles Williams Hanley, 30, of Keokuk. in the 300 block of Main Street in Keokuk, on a charge of sex offender registration violation. He was taken to Lee County Jail. 07/15/21 – 7:19 p.m.

- Lee County Sheriff's deputies cited Teri Le McCarty, 49, of Keokuk in the 3400 block of 270th Avenue on a charge of dog running at large. 07/16/21 - 3:13 a.m. -Lee County Sheriff's deputies cited Allan-Kent Lee Creed, 20, of Montrose, in the 400 block of N. Oak Street on a charge of supply alcohol to a minor. 07/16/21 – 2:34 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies responded to a two-vehicle accident on Exit 18 on Hwy. 61. According to the report, a vehicle driven by Connen Craig Hahnbaum, 32, of Fort Madison collided with the back end of a vehicle driven by Frank R. Nicholson, 72, of Niota, who was waiting to turn on the off ramp northbound. Hahnbaum is suspected of having a diabetic seizure causing the collision. No citations or injuries were reported. 07/16/21 - 3:13 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Charles

fice on a fugitive warrant. He was held in custody. 07/16/21 - 4:35 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Paul Daniel Henson, 43, of Keokuk, in the 2500 block of Cramer Lane in Keokuk, on a charge of a felon in control of a firearm. He was taken to Lee County Jail and released on a promise to appear. 07/17/21 – 2:00 a.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Rod Wayne Knustrom, 58, in the 2600 block of Hwy. 2 on a charge of public intoxication. He was taken to Lee County Jail and released on his recognizance. 07/17/21 - 10:22 a.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Charles Austin Spiller, 61, of Keokuk, in the 3600 block of Lake Road in Keokuk, on a charge of driving while barred and a fugitive warrant. He was taken to Lee County Jail and held. 07/17/21 – 6:47 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Ryne Steven Sackman, 28, of

Fort Madison, in the 2300 block of 263rd Avenue in Fort Madison, on a warrant for contempt of court. He was taken to Lee County Jail and released on his recognizance. 07/17/21 – 7:11 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Rya Star Daniel, 43, of Keokuk, at 260th Street and Hwy. 61, on a warrant for failure to appear. She was taken to Lee County Jail and released after paying a fine. 07/17/21 - 10:23 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies cited Brian Joseph Brem, 22, of West Burlington, in the 2100 block of N. Fork Drive, on a charge of driving while license revoked or denied. 07/18/21 - 6:12 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Howard Green Burgess, II, 39, of Burlington, at the sheriff's office on a warrant for violation of probation. He was taken to the Lee County Jail. Those listed above are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

William Hanley, 30, of Keokuk, at the sheriff's of-



Come check out what is available at our Swap Shop in our Household Hazardous Waste facility. Our Swap Shop is open Monday-Friday during regular business hours at our main facility in Fort Madison. Stop in the Scale house to let them know you want to look through the swap shop, and they will get someone to help you!!

Ft. Madison Main Office: 2092 303rd Ave Fort Madison, IA 1-319-372-6140

Keokuk Transfer Station: 111 Carbide Lane Keokuk, IA 1-319-524-6175

Obituaries

DARROL G. GAYLORD

Darrol G. Gaylord, 67 of Ft. Madison, passed away on Friday, July 16, 2021 at 5:52 PM at his

He was born on September 27, 1954 in Ft. Madison to Charles and Katherine Cecil Gay-



lord. On January 25, 1975 he married Judy Ann Philips and she passed away on April 3, 2005. Darrol worked for Rathbun Regional Water and retired in 2020 after twenty three years of service. In his early years he enjoyed hunting. Darrol was an avid fisherman and loved tinkering around in his shop. His greatest love of all was spending time with his family.

Survivors include one son, Thad (Melissa) Gaylord of Ft. Madison; two grandchildren, Austin Gaylord and Alexis Gaylord; three brothers, Dean Gaylord, Bill Gaylord and Charles Gaylord all of Ft. Madison; three sisters, Norma

Bohnenkamp of Wever, Barbara Patton of Brunswick, GA and Beverly Wildrick of Jefferson City, TN; his companion, Denise Kempker of Ft. Madison and several nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents, wife and a sister, Donetta Gaylord.

Per his wishes, cremation has been entrusted to King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory. A celebration of life, including a fish fry will be held on Sunday, August 1, 2021 from 12 PM-4PM at Thad's home. Burial will take place at a later date in Appanoose Cemetery, rural

A memorial has been established in his memory and online condolences may be left at www.kinglynk.com.

DANNY L. GILBERT

Danny L. Gilbert, 67, of Donnellson Health Center, passed away at 12:05 a.m. Saturday, July 17, 2021, at the Donnellson Health Center.

He was born on July 8, 1954 at home, the son of Gilford M. and Darlene Genevieve (King) Gilbert. On November 4, 1998 he married Bonnie Goodwin. She preceded him in death.

He is survived by his daughter: Danielle Gilbert; son: Samuel Gilbert; brother: Richard Gilbert; grandchilden; great grandchildren; three sisters: Meredith Ann Osbon, Karen S. Kerr and Patricia K. Graham. Also surviving are several cousins, nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, grandparents and wife: Bonnie. His body has been entrusted to Schmitz Funeral Home for cremation. Per his wishes there will be no services.

A memorial has been established in his memory and can be mailed to the family at: Schmitz Funeral Home, P.O. Box 56, Donnellson, Iowa 52625.

Online condolences may be made to the family at www.schmitzfuneralhomes.com. Schmitz Funeral Home of Donnellson is assisting the family with arrangements.

EMERALD J. STEVENSON

Emerald Josephine "Em" Stevenson, 92, of rural Nauvoo, Illinois, passed away at 8:13 p.m. Saturday, July 17, 2021, at Memorial Hospital in Carthage, Illinois.

She was born on November 18, 1928 in Fort Madison, Iowa, the daughter of Stephen and Catherine (Hermis) Krogmeier. On November 29, 1947, she married Robert Leon "Bob" Stevenson at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Fort Madison. He preceded her in death on March 23, 2013.



Survivors include one daughter Dianne (Tom) Hall of Nauvoo, Illinois, four sons Dennis Stevenson of Hamilton, Illinois, Kenneth (Debbie) Stevenson of Kahoka, Missouri, Joseph (Jeannie) Stevenson of Dallas City, Illinois and Jeffery (Judy) Stevenson of Nauvoo, Illinois. Eleven grand-

children, fifteen great grandchildren, six step grandchildren and thirteen

step great grandchildren. Also surviving are several nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents; husband; one son: Thomas Stevenson; one grandson Timothy Stevenson and eleven siblings.

Em was a member of Sts. Peter and Paul Catholic Church, the Catholic Women's Club and Piecemaker's Quilting Group. She volunteered as a "Gray Lady" at the Memorial Hospital in Carthage. Em enjoyed playing cards, quilting, puzzles and traveling to Canada with friends to go fishing. She was an avid St. Louis Cardinal fan.

Her body has been entrusted to Schmitz - Banks & Beals Funeral Home for crema-

Friends may call after 12:00 noon Thursday, July 22, 2021, at Schmitz - Banks & Beals Funeral Home in Nauvoo, where the family will receive friends from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. that evening and a parish rosary will be recited at 6:30 p.m.

The Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 10:00 a.m. Friday, July 23, 2021, at Sts. Peter and Paul Catholic Church with Father Tony Trosley as celebrant.

Burial will be at Thornber Cemetery in Powellton, Illinois.

Memorials have been established in her memory for Thornber Cemetery Association, Illinois Veteran's Home or Sts. Peter & Paul Catholic Church.

Schmitz-Banks & Beals Funeral Home in Nauvoo is assisting the family with arrangements. Online condolences may be made at: www.sbbfuneralhome.com.

Pen City Current obituary policy

Pen City Current runs obituaries one time at no charge to funeral homes and they run the day they are submitted in most cases. They are also run as submitted by the funeral homes. Reposting of obituaries due to changes can only be requested by the submitting funeral home and will be assessed a \$15 reposting fee.

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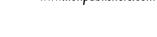
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Market Street Publishing, LLC. Pen City Current is published Sunday through Friday mornings by 6AM.



FP00

Sports/From the Front

11U Revolution wins state title



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

From left to right front row is Zach Nemecek and Jack Ragar. Back row left to right is Jay Ellison, Keagan Westfall, Stefan Berlett, Reece Huey, Liam Enger, Kyler Beelman, Noah Schinstock, Owen Huffman, and Caedon Newton. The Revolution are coached by Brent Berlett, Josh Ragar, Randy Beelman, and Chase Newton and went 6-0 at the USSSA 11U state tournament over the weekend knocking off the Quad Cities Rage 8-3 in the championship game.

Winfun's case rejected by Iowa Supreme Court

WINFUN - Continued from Page 1

Court, the two had been working together on a painting crew and had several disagreements.

According to court documents, Winfun shot Green once upon arrival to the tavern and then shot him five more times before walking to the Keokuk Police Department and turning himself in.

The Iowa Supreme Court rejected a request from Winfun for a new trial in 1978 citing the evidence was sufficient to support the conviction of first-degree murder.

Miller supports opioid settlement

DES MOINES – Attorney General Tom Miller supports a historic \$26 billion agreement that will help bring desperately needed relief to people across the country who are struggling with opioid addiction.

The agreement includes Cardinal, McKesson, and AmerisourceBergen – the nation's three major pharmaceutical distributors – and Johnson & Johnson, which manufactured and marketed opioids. The agreement also requires significant industry changes that will help prevent this type of crisis from ever happening again. The agreement would resolve investigations and litigation over the companies' roles in creating and fueling the opioid epidemic.

"Today's announcement is a significant milestone in the fight against the opioid crisis. We support the agreement," Miller said. "The substantial majority of the money is to be spent on opioid treatment and prevention. Money from this settlement, as well as our previous settlement with McKinsey and the anticipated agreement with the Sackler family, can save lives and prevent such a crisis from happening again."



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Opinion/Business News

Squirrels, thistles invade Empty Nest | Link gets Ameriprise

Surrounded by corn, soybeans, and pasture, our two-and-a-half acre Empty Nest Farm was devoid of squirrels when Ginnie and I moved here five years ago. Both Ginnie and I had previously lived in residential areas with lots of trees and squirrels. So the absence of squirrels was somewhat of a disappointment, but other factors far outweighed this deficiency—like the stunning sunrises and sunsets we were privy to.

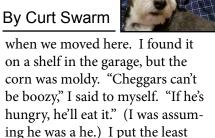
I brought a squirrel feeder with me when we moved to the Empty Nest Farm. It was in need of repair, but with the absence of squirrels, I didn't need it, so tossed it on the burn pile.

Lo-and-behold this spring we noticed a young squirrel prancing about the yard, searching for food. It looked lonely all by itself. We do have one fairly young oak tree that produces acorns, so I knew there was at least a little food. I thought about cobbling together some sort of squirrel feeder, one that would hold an ear of corn—you know what they look like.

Then I was picking up some downed tree branches and tossing them on the burn pile. There was the old squirrel feeder I had chucked there five years ago. It looked like it still might hold an ear of corn.

I screwed it to a large maple tree that we can see from our kitchen window, then looked for some ear corn. I could sort of remember bringing a bag of corn with me

EMPTY NEST



A week went by. The moldy ear of corn was still there. I sort of forgot

moldy ear on the nail of the squirrel

Then one day I noticed the kernels of corn had been stripped from the cob, "Well, I'll be danged," I said to Ginnie. "When you're in town, get a bag of squirrel corn."

We now have a regular visitor to the squirrel feeder that we can see from our over-the-kitchen-sink window. (With hands in soapy water, we look up to see nature and nurture.) Where there is one squirrel, there is bound to be another. And then you know what happens—kits.

Last fall, when Ginnie and I were sitting on the yard glider under our back-yard maple tree, we saw a hen pheasant step out from the aronia bushes. The aronia berries were ripe and the hen pheasant was no doubt eating her fill. I reached for my camera, but the movement spooked her. With a hop and a skip she was up and away.

When I was working in the garden this spring, I saw a rooster pheasant cross the road. I knew now the hen pheasant wouldn't be

I also noticed occasional deer tracks in the garden, with a bean or pepper plant bitten off here and there. Dues have to be paid.

We don't have a lot of flowers on the Empty Nest Farm, but we have our share. There are lilies, peonies, iris, roses, hostas, trumpet vine, morning glory (farmers call it a weed), lilac, hollyhocks, black-eyed Susans, sunflowers and of course a zillion dandelions. Ginnie has her annuals outside the kitchen door: geraniums, petunias, snapdragons and a hybrid patio tomato plant she keeps an eye on. The squirrel likes to scratch in the potting soil.

Thistles are always a nuisance. I try to dig them out by the roots so they don't spread. Thistles are murder on grandkids' bare feet. I did notice, however, the thistle flower, in my estimation, has the prettiest flower on the Empty Nest Farm. Ha! Thorns and beauty, like guns'n roses. The thistle seed also feeds a lot of finches. I might just keep a few thistles around, as well as plenty of ear corn to, hopefully, propagate a colony of squirrels.

Have a good story? Call or text Curt Swarm in Mt. Pleasant at 319-217-0526, find him on Facebook, email him at <u>curtswarm@yahoo.</u> com, or visit his website at www. empty-nest-words-photos-andframes.com.

advisor designation

FORT MADISON – Steven W. Link with Ameriprise has become an Ameriprise Financial Private Wealth Advisor. Link is among the 18 percent of approximately

> 10,000 Ameriprise financial advisors to achieve this status.



Ameriprise Private Wealth Advisors provide personalized client service and are dedicated to meeting the complex and unique financial needs of their clients. To become eligible for this status, advisors must be experienced in providing a comprehensive approach to financial planning and advice, complete specialized training and achieve

exceptional business results.

As a Private Wealth Advisor, Link provides financial advice that is anchored in a solid understanding of client needs and expectations and provided in oneon-one relationships with his clients. Steven Link and Associates has served the Fort Madison area since 1992. For more information, please contact Steven Link and Associates at 319.372.7554 or visit the Ameriprise office at 702 Avenue F in Fort Madison.

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Got a news tip Call Chuck (319)371.1670











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Classifieds/Public Notices

PEN CITY CURRENT CLASSIFIE

PUBLIC NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICE PROCEEDINGS FORT MADISON CITY COUNCIL 7/20/2021

The Fort Madison City Council met in adjourned session at 5:30 P.M. on Tuesday, 7/20/2021, at City Hall, 811 Avenue E. Mayor Mohrfeld presided with Council Members Andrews, Bowker, Lair, Schulz, Rink, and Amandus present. Council Member Cangas was absent.

On motion, Council approved the agenda. On motion, Council approved the Consent Agenda: Minutes of 7/6/2021; June Library Claims, Claims

dated 7/15/2021; Liquor License Renewal: Moose Lodge, 624 Avenue G, effective 8/1/2021; New 14-Day Liquor License: RiverfestFM, LLC, Riverview Park, effective 8/2/2021; and Resolution No. 2021-39, Fiscal Year 2021-22 Budget Transfers.

The Mexican Fiesta Committee gave a report on their upcoming event.

At 5:34 P.M., Mohrfeld opened the public hearing concerning the sale of City Owned Property Located in Outlot 1078. With no oral or written comments, Mohrfeld closed the public hearing at 5:35 P.M. On motion, Council adopted Res-

olution No. 2021-40, approving the sale of City Owned Property Located in Outlot 1078 to Jacob N. Thompson.

On motion, Council approved the creation of a City account for the Marina Project and the transfer of funds into said account as the City's financial contribution to the project. On motion, Council adopted Resolution No. 2021-41, ordering construction, setting public hearing and bid letting for PIP 2021-01, Riverview Marina Dredging. On motion, Council received the bid that was received on 7/13/2021 from Cessford Construction for the 2021 Rip Rap

and Rock Procurement. On motion, Council adopted Resolution No. 2021-42, accepting the platted 1.12 acres for Woodland Heights and .53 acres for Woodland Heights Court.

On motion, Council approved the Mayor's signature on a Professional Services Agreement with McClure Engineering for development of storm water pollution prevention plan for the Airport. On separate motions, Council approved Mayor's signature on Change Orders No. 3 and No. 4 for PIP 2020.08, Phase 2 Parking Lot Reconstruction and Storm Water Improvements. On motion, Council approved a contribution of \$2,500 to the Mexican Fiesta Committee to be paid from the City Council's contingency account.

At 6:51 P.M., the meet-

EXDENIITIDES

EXPENDITURES	
General	\$58,443.12
Special Revenue	279,918.68
Road Use	18,241.19
Capital	344,246.66
Vater	22,909.96
Sewer	4,273.20
Solid Waste/IWC	15,319.75
Storm Water Util.	1,532.25
	\$744.884.81

CLAIMS 7/20/2021

AHLERS & COONEY, PC, PROF FEE.....310 ALLIANT ENERGY, ELECTRIC......1,508.38 AMAZON CAPITAL SER-VICES, PENS/BATTER-IES......40.4

2090 250th St

General Insects

Residential

Commercia

ing adjourned until August 3, 2021, at 5:30 P.M.

/s/ Matt J. Mohrfeld, Mayor

ATTEST: /s/ Melinda L. Blind, City Clerk

REVENUES 7/15/2021 General 95,294.42 163,409.87, Special Rev Debt 7.489.56 2.895 09 Water 11.576.04 Sewer Solid Waste/IW 3,217.54 SW Utility

AMSOIL, INC, GREASE298.95

\$1,621,327.36

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COMPLETE RENTAL, RENTAL FEES 694.79
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Lee County provides equal opportunity in employment to all persons regardless of age, race, creed, color, sex, national origin, religion or disability.

For a job description and to apply, download an application from our county website, www.leecounty.org, or pick them up at the Engineer's office and return your completed application along with a resume to Lee County Engineer, P.O. Box 158, Fort Madison, lowa 52627, or email it to bhull@leecounty.org and copy it to shartson@leecounty.org Applications will be accepted until Monday, July 19, 2021 at 3:30 p.m.

If you have any questions please contact Lee County Engineer, Ben Hull at (319) 372-2541 or email him at bhull@leecounty.org.



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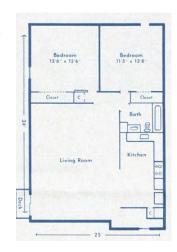
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To be considered, send your cover letter and resume with three references, on or before July 30, 2021 to: United Way of the Great River Region, PO Box 251, Keokuk, IA 52632 or email director@unitedwaygrr.org

From the Front

U of Iowa, ISU off base on first amendment cases

EVANS - Continued from Page 1

The case involves a student group called InterVarsity Graduate Christian Fellowship. Membership is open to all students, but its leaders must affirm their belief in "the basic biblical truths of Christianity."

For more than 25 years, that was not a problem. But in 2018, the university's coordinator for student organizations accused InterVarsity of violating the school's human rights policy. The school responded by taking away the organization's status as a registered student

That prevented InterVarsity from meeting in campus buildings, using the university trademarks and receiving money from the school. The organization sued the university in 2018 for violating the group's First Amendment rights to select its own leaders.

This was not the first case of the University of Iowa taking a different approach with one student group and taking a different approach with other groups.

In 2017, the university removed another campus religious organization from the list of registered student groups. Officials acted because the group, Business Leaders in Christ, prevented an openly gay member from becoming a leader when he refused to affirm the organization's belief that same-sex relationships are contrary to the Bible's teachings.

Business Leaders in Christ sued the university for selectively enforcing its human rights policy, violating their free speech, free association, and free exercise of religion rights.

A federal judge agreed, noting that other student

organizations in Iowa City are allowed to restrict their membership and leadership based on people's gender, ethnicity or ideology. For example, men cannot join a singing group called the Hawkapellas.

After the court decision in the Business Leaders case, the university began reexamining student organizations. That process led to InterVarsity's status as an approved student group ending.

But the appeals court wrote the reexamination basically ended after the university finished with religious groups. Among the organizations that escaped scrutiny were Muslim groups, ethnic groups, political groups, and fraternities and sororities.

The appeals court said, "The government must abstain from regulating speech when the specific motivating ideology or the opinion or the perspective of the speaker is the rationale for the restriction."

Interestingly, one organization allowed to continue as a recognized student group was LoveWorks, which requires members and leaders to sign a "gay-affirming statement of Christian faith." The group was started by the student whose complaint against Business Leaders in Christ led to the university's sanctions.

The appeals court said last week: "Despite that requirement — which violates the human rights policy just as much as InterVarsity's — the university did nothing. We are hard-pressed to find a clearer example of viewpoint discrimination.

"The university's choice to selectively apply the human rights policy against InterVarsity suggests a preference for certain viewpoints — like those of LoveWorks — over InterVarsity's."

The focus of the appeals court should not be construed as one of liberal vs. conservative.

In 2014, two student leaders of the Iowa State University chapter of NORML, short for the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws, sued the Ames school for violating their free speech rights.

The lawsuit resulted from a decision by ISU President Steven Leath and three administrators to block the group from printing t-shirts with Cy, the school mascot, and the message, "Freedom is NORML at ISU."

Leath reacted after Gov. Terry Branstad and Republicans in the Legislature expressed concern about the pro-marijuana message.

A federal judge in Des Moines, and the Court of Appeals in St. Louis, both concluded in 2016 and 2017 that the university could not deviate from its normal trademark approval process and discriminate against the NORML students based on their political views.

It is worth noting the court decisions in the ISU case came several months before University of Iowa administrators set in motion the events that ended with last week's Court of Appeals ruling.

It is almost as if those officials in Iowa City might have avoided the public embarrassment and humiliating lecture from the judges if they had paid closer attention to what the First Amendment is about.

If they have not learned that by now, they surely will during the training the Legislature ordered.

Randy Evans is the Executive Director of the Iowa Freedom of Information Council and can be reached at <u>DMRevans2810@gmail.com</u>. Pen City Current is a member of the IFOIC.

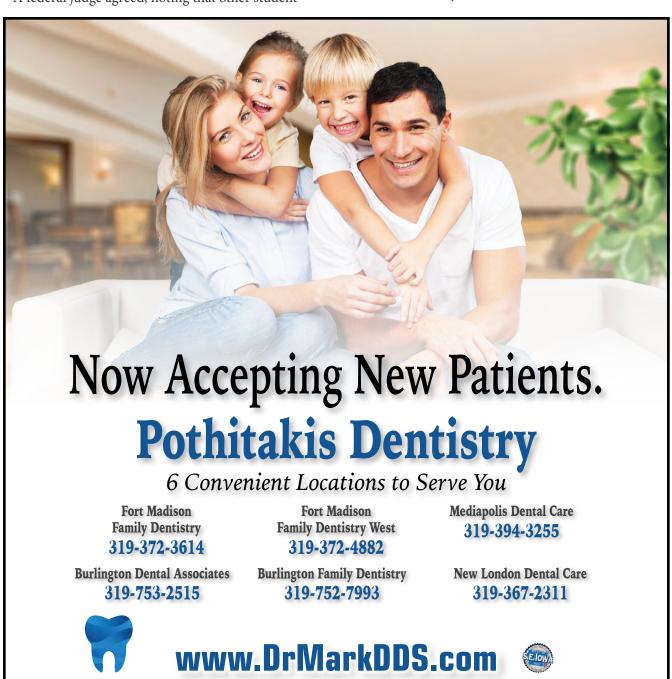
Suspect arrested on multiple drug, theft charges after raid

RAID - Continued from Page 1

the ongoing investigation.

According to Lee County Narcotics Task Force information, Wolf was arrested and charged with maintaining a Drug House an Aggravated Misdemeanor; Possession of a Controlled Substance 1st Offense-Methamphetamine a Serious Misdemeanor; 2 counts of Unlawful Possession of Prescription Pills each a Serious Misdemeanor and Possession of Drug Paraphernalia, a Simple Misdemeanor. Wolf was also charged with Theft in the 3rd degree which is also an Aggravated Misdemeanor.







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