

Page 28 | Sunday, May 9, 2010

Central Edition | Des Moines Sunday Register

Dateline Iowa

From Register staff and news services

DELWEN

Fire at antique store in downtown spreads

A large overnight fire that began above an antique store destroyed apartments and businesses in downtown Delwen.

The blaze began above the West Charles Mall antique store late Friday, fire officials said. It then spread to at least one neighboring building in the northeastern Iowa city.

WAVERTY

Body of woman killed in '76 to be examined

The remains of a homicide victim buried more than 30 years ago were disinterred Friday to see whether technological advances can yield new evidence in the woman's death, authorities said.

Bremner County Attorney Nancy Wadding said the body of Marie Lisa Peak was sent to the state medical examiner's office at Adelphi Peak was 20 years old in September of 1976 when her body was discovered in Bremner County north of Waverly.

An autopsy indicated Peak was a victim of sexual assault and died of a broken neck. At the time of her disappearance, the Knoxville native had been a journalism student at Hartburg College.

CEDAR RAPIDS

Mechanizing plant demolition to begin

City officials in Cedar Rapids will demolish the former Sinclair

mechanizing plant will begin Monday and is expected to take as long as six months.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency is paying the \$7 million demolition bill, plus another \$211,000 to ensure debris coming from the site for contaminants.

A lingering question at the former site is the former plant's misadventure. Historical preservationists have said they will work to reuse or restore the structure and preserve the structure, which is leaning and could pose a safety threat to demolition crews.

IOWA CITY

Student group wants coal burning to stop

A group of University of Iowa students wants school officials to stop burning coal at the campus power plant and instead switch to using clean and renewable energy.

The university has a sustainability steering committee and has reduced coal use and carbon emissions over the last few years. However, university data show coal accounts for more than 50 percent of main campus energy use.

WOMEN CAN RIDE BUS FOR FREE ALL NIGHT

The University of Iowa is extending the hours for its free bus ride service for women during final exams this week. Nine Ride is for women only and will operate from 10 p.m. to 5 a.m. from today through Friday.

Corrections

Iwan Sanders, 42, of Pleasantville, pictured at left, aided in the capture of a murder suspect who escaped from a Polk County transport bus near Interstate Highway 235 just north of downtown Des Moines on Friday morning.

Sanders and another associate helped a deputy with the arrest. "We got him off the top and pulled out," Sanders said. "We'd a big job. It took three of us to get him down." A photo of Sanders was mislabeled in Saturday's Register.

Your 2 Cents Worth

Send brief comments to DesMoinesregister.com/2cents. Post more comments online.

I am excited to hear that Steve Johnson will be returning to symphony. She is a great role model, hard worker and overall a great representative for Iowa. We should all be proud and support her.

-56265 Shawna fan

President Obama has said that he will do everything "humanly possible" to remedy the oil spill situation. Doesn't he know that humanly possible isn't good enough? Doesn't he know that all the fish he is releasing from Republicans, Democrats and others that we elected him to be super-human?

-Disgraced water

All problems in the world exist because we are too selfish. Let's just get along, and maybe we'll spend more on starving people than our pets in this great country.

-Consumed in 92245

Can't have it both ways. Conservatives do not want to intrude into your bedroom on your terms. We just don't think abortion should be a form of birth control.

-Take responsibility for your actions

FREE Motorcycle Accident Book Exposes 11 Common Mistakes

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Rena Mure of Des Moines talks Saturday about trying to solve a long-running, sometimes violent dispute between her relatives and those of Nicole Sanders, Mure's childhood friend.

After attack, two D.M. mothers ponder how to heal bitterness

By JENNIFER JACOBS

PHOTOGRAPHER

The Des Moines police report contained an ominous prediction. It was written after a fight that led to a handful of angry people forcing their way into 15-year-old Mychelle Winfrey's home last week to attack her.

"This situation is certainly not finished and more incidents are likely to occur soon," a police officer wrote.

But two mothers — one whose son died two years ago, and one whose nephew is doing life in prison for the killing — have come together to broker peace between other relatives who are quarreling now.

Some of the bitterness connected to the 2008 murder of the two mothers' son, Richard Lewis Jr., is more complicated than that. The hostility is between Nicole Sanders' younger relatives and Rena Mure's daughter, Mychelle Winfrey, who both sides acknowledge has a hot-tempered personality and a willingness to fight.

Name-calling led to a parking lot fight Tuesday outside the Family Dollar store in the 1200 block of University Avenue, then escalated later in the day when a large crowd gathered outside the home of Winfrey and her mother across the street from Evelyn Davis Park.

According to the police report, a group of people ran past two uniformed police officers trying to quell the confrontation, forced their way through the door, then hit Mychelle Winfrey in the head, pulled her hair, and forced her to the floor.

"I knew we were at a boiling point. But I didn't know we were at that level," Nicole Sanders said Saturday. "It was crazy. I've never seen anything like that. This is going to be a challenge."

This week, Sanders' relatives and Rena Mure's relatives will gather at Creative Visions to talk it out. "I just want it to stop," said Mure, an employee



Abd-Allah Samad, who runs the Creative Visions community outreach program in Des Moines, has met with Nicole Sanders and Rena Mure. Abd-Allah Samad said it may take time to heal the hurt between their families.

of Wells Fargo Arena and a mother of five. Sanders, who cleans houses, works part time at Wal-Mart and is a full-time college student, said: "Some people don't believe in miracles. It's going to take that, for real. If we can touch these young people and resolve it, anything can happen."

Any remaining friendship dissolved on Feb. 24, 2008. About 2:30 a.m., Sanders spoke with her son, Richard Lewis. He was at the Oak Trip on Martin Luther King Jr. Parkway after a late-night party with Rena Mure's nephew Jerrid Winfrey and others. Sanders said she told her son, Lewis, she loved him, don't speed and be careful.

Sixteen minutes later, Jerrid Winfrey shot Richard Lewis and another man seven times near 11th Street and University Avenue. Lewis died at a Des Moines hospital. Last year, Jerrid Winfrey was convicted of first-degree murder and sentenced to life in prison.

Twelve extra Polk County sheriff's deputies were assigned to the courthouse to head off potential problems on the day Jerrid Winfrey was found guilty by a jury. "I still believe in miracles," Sanders said. "I'm afraid of getting close and then I get that phone call because there's been another altercation."

Rena Mure said she never stopped considering Sanders a friend. Mure said she knows the pain a mother suffers because of violence: Her son, Rico Mure, now 21, was stabbed 13 times in one incident, and shot in another incident, but survived both.

When it comes to Sanders' son's death, "I know Nicole's got a lot of questions. Why, why? There's no answer. Only God knows the answer," Mure said.

The two mothers met Thursday night at Creative Visions, a community outreach organization at 12th Street and Forest Avenue. It was tense, said Creative Visions' executive director, Abd-Allah Samad.

"Both said, 'We have an obligation to make sure we can do what we can to make sure no one else gets hurt,'" he said. "Then I saw them come together and hug. Everyone in the room around the energy that had taken place."

Another meeting is set for Tuesday, but Abd-Allah Samad said it may take a series of gatherings, before the younger people might resolve the issues there.

Photographer to take free pictures of soldiers, families

PHOTOGRAPHER

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sure active-duty soldiers have a reminder of home and family. Rottinghaus is offering to photograph soldiers with their families free of charge. The gift includes a free photo.

Reports about the Iowa National Guard's 2nd Brigade Combat Team's upcoming assignment in Afghanistan — the largest deployment of Iowa troops since World War II — inspired Rottinghaus to find a way to say thank you.

"I saw the news, and I just pulled on my heartstrings," Rottinghaus said. More than 3,000 Guard members will be mobilized. Rottinghaus hopes to photograph as many of the soldiers as possible before their departure, which is scheduled this fall.

"I am going to have to work fast," she said. The more information, call (319) 352-4556.

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