

**VOTE** 

**BRIAN MOORE**

Meet & Greet Brian Moore with special Guest Barbara Grassley - Bugs Coffee House Mon., Oct. 11th @ 2:30pm

— IOWA HOUSE REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 20 —  
Filed for by Brian Moore for State Representative, Republican Candidate  
1824 - 287th St., Zumbach, IA 52078



— M A Q U O K E T A —

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**PUBLIC NOTICES**

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- Public Notice - Water Quality Certification



**OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER**

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# Holdgrafer murder charge dismissed

By DOUGLAS MELVOLD

The charge of first-degree murder against Danielle Lynn Holdgrafer in the death of her preschool-age son in June has been dismissed for lack of evidence.

Jackson County District Court Judge Marlita Greve approved a prosecution motion to dismiss the most serious of four charges against the 30-year-old Andrew woman.

"Following further investigation and analysis, the state does not believe that it has sufficient evidence to proceed to trial on count 1 at this time," according to the motion, filed by Jackson County Attorney Chris Raker and Andrew Prosser, an assistant Iowa attorney general.

The motion was sought on Oct. 1 and was granted by Greve the same day. It was filed in the clerk of court office on Monday, Oct. 4.

Three additional counts of child endangerment remain against Danielle Holdgrafer. Raker said this week he will go forward with the prosecution on those charges.

Raker declined this week to say whether the unexpected death last month of Holdgrafer's husband and co-defendant, Andrew Holdgrafer, was a factor in his seeking to drop the murder count.

"I cannot comment on Andrew's death," Raker said.

"I cannot comment other than to say the motion speaks for itself. The other charges are still on the table and we are going forward."

The county attorney said he could not discuss the case because it is still pending.

Andrew Holdgrafer, 32, died of a heart attack on Sept. 4 at a Maquoketa residence while he was released on bond.

Andrew had been charged with child endangerment resulting in death.

The dismissal of the first-degree murder charge means that Danielle Holdgrafer no longer faces the possibility of a mandatory life sentence without the possibility of parole.

Raker noted that the charge of child endangerment resulting in death is a "super" Class B felony, which carries a sentence of up to 50 years in prison. The two counts of child endangerment resulting in bodily injury are Class D felonies, which carry sentences of up to five years.

Raker also noted that if Holdgrafer is convicted of two or more counts, "there is always the option of consecutive versus concurrent terms."

The murder charge was dismissed "without prejudice," meaning that the charge could be re-

filed if new evidence comes to light.

Holdgrafer remained in custody this week in the Jones County Jail in Anamosa in lieu of \$200,000 cash bond. Raker said the bond amount remains the same regardless of the dismissal of the murder charge.

He noted that Holdgrafer and her attorney have the option of seeking a bond review hearing, at which they could argue in favor of a reduced bond on grounds she no longer faces the murder charge.

Holdgrafer is charged in the death on June 12 of her 4 1/2-year-old adopted son, Collin Parker William Holdgrafer. She is accused of holding his head under water while she was bathing him in the family's apartment in Andrew.

Collin was pronounced dead at Jackson County Regional Health Center in Maquoketa that evening.

Greve last month extended until Nov. 29 the deadline for filing pretrial motions, taking depositions and completing the discovery process and other pretrial procedures.

She rescheduled the pretrial conference for 10 a.m. Oct. 29.

No trial date has been set.

## Council upholds order evicting two pit bulls

By DOUGLAS MELVOLD

The Maquoketa City Council this week upheld a police order that a resident remove her two pit bull terriers from the city.

The council on Monday night, Oct. 4, unanimously upheld the police abatement notice directing Cindy Holdsworth to move the dogs outside the city limits within 30 days.

Holdsworth, who appealed the abatement to the council, offered no argument to the police findings, admitting that she keeps two pit bull terriers at her home and is familiar with the ordinance banning those dogs inside the city.

Instead, Holdsworth criticized the ordinance itself as unfair to pit bull owners. She defended pit bulls as loving pets that are less dangerous than other breeds of dogs and said it's unfair for the city to single out all dogs of any one breed for exclusion.

Holdsworth said she has seven special-needs children "and I couldn't ask for better pets for my children. They're very dedicated to children and family."

Holdsworth said pit bulls make excellent therapy dogs for both children and adults.

"They bring happiness and hope and enjoyment to those people," she told the council.

She said many pit bulls work with fire departments and are trained as police service dogs.

She also said pit bulls are not considered suitable guard dogs because they are too friendly.

"They are not trained to attack humans," she said.

"They're very loving animals," she said. "Any dog can bite if they're provoked. You're not fixing a problem by being breed-specific."

Mayor Jason Hute expressed sympathy to Holdsworth but said the council has to support the police order.

Councilman Todd Mang told Holdsworth that his vote to uphold the police order "doesn't mean that I support the ordinance itself."

He told Holdsworth that if she wanted to persuade the council to change the ordinance, she would have to present petitions and demonstrate widespread community

## Weirups: 4-H is a lifestyle, not just a seasonal activity

By KELLY GERLACH

About three weeks before the Jackson County Fair, the large dining room table rapidly fills with projects and workbooks in various states of completion. Rick and Julie Weirup divide their 4-H children's projects into piles based on levels of completion.

July proves a hectic month compared to every other month on the 4-H calendar. County fair livestock, vegetables, floriculture, horticulture, ag science, visual arts, personal growth and development projects, etc., must be completed and accounted for.

It sounds like a lot of work, but the Rick and Julie Weirup family, who lives halfway between Maquoketa and DeWitt, eagerly anticipates the hustle and bustle each year.

"4-H is really more of a lifestyle than an activity you're involved in seasonally," Julie said.

"We're really a hands-on family," said daughter Lauren, 17.

As National 4-H Week (Oct. 4-8) comes to a close, the seven-member Weirup family cleared some time in their hectic schedules to discuss their passion for 4-H.

Rick and Julie started the 4-H trend in their families. Rick joined the Baldwin Baby Beef club in 1969 when some neighbors - including a 4-H leader - persuaded him to become a member. He exhibited calves, horses, and sheep...

"What? You didn't tell us you showed sheep," Lauren interjected.

... and entered veterinary science projects. Friends encouraged Julie to join 4-H in 1973. A Clinton County resident, Julie joined the Iowanna 4-H Club, entering clothing, food and nutrition, home improvement projects at fair time. She attended state 4-H conferences and was a member of County Council.

4-H really is a multigenerational family affair. Weirups said they enjoyed their 4-H experience and everything it taught them,



which is why they talked oldest son Luke, now 20, into joining.

"I got more out of it than I ever really thought I would," Luke said.

He entered 4-H in Clinton County, "went to a couple meetings, and got bored. Then a couple friends invited me to join their club in Jackson County - they were hurting for numbers. I told them it wasn't for me, but they talked me into it anyway."

"I met a bunch of people and really got involved with parliamentary procedure. I learned a lot, served as president, historian, you name it," Luke continued.

A love of rocketry consumed much of his time and provided a great 4-H project, as did woodworking, metalworking, photography, and exhibiting calves and rabbits.

Boredom evaporated.

"I've been to a few other county fairs and (Jackson County's fair) just felt like home," Luke explained.

Weirups' first two years in 4-H were particularly hectic. Luke was a sixth grader when he joined. Younger sister Lauren, a

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