

GARAGE DOOR PROBLEMS?

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LOWER CLOUDS AND SOME SUN 22 • 10 FORECAST, A3 | SATURDAY, JANUARY 7, 2023 | siouxcityjournal.com

SPECIAL JOURNAL REPORT

ABOUT THIS SERIES: In day one of this series, Carol Meredith learned of her son Michael Meredith's alcoholism, which he sought treatment for before walking away from the program and resuming drinking. • On Jan. 12, he had gone five days without drinking but also hadn't slept during that time, aggravating his longtime anxiety. Hallucinating, he called Sergeant Bluff police to his home in the early morning hours, telling an officer a woman and her ex-boyfriend had come to his house and were ransacking it. After accidentally locking himself out of his house, Michael used the police officer's phone to call Carol to pick him up. • She took him to her home, where Michael continued to talk, making little sense. Carol dozed off at around 5 a.m. and woke up a couple hours later to discover Michael was gone.

'SUICIDE BY POLICE'



JESSE BROTHERS, SIOUX CITY JOURNAL

Michael Meredith's family members, from left, sister-in-law Theresa Meredith, brother Chris Meredith, uncle David Gill and mother Carol Meredith, talk about Michael's mental health issues and how they affected him during the days leading up to his Jan. 12 shooting death in Sergeant Bluff. Going through withdrawal from alcohol and insomnia, all while dealing with anxiety, Michael was hallucinating for hours before he was shot by a Woodbury County Sheriff's deputy after Michael attacked him with a tire iron.

Family looks for options to get help for their relative

NICK HYTREK
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SERGEANT BLUFF — Michael Meredith left his mother's home, but didn't go far. At about 7:30 a.m., Michael's brother, Chris Meredith, who lives next door to their mother, Carol Meredith, heard his doorbell ring. At the door was Michael, asking if he could use Chris' phone to call his fiancée Lauren Lanning to bring him keys so he could get back into his house.

“He came in and used my phone, then started telling me the same story about the girl and the guy and how they were trashing his house,” Chris said.

This time, however, Michael identified the man as Jeff Winger, the name of a character from the TV show “Community.”

“That’s when I realized something wasn’t right,” Chris said.

Lanning was going to take him to the doctor, Michael said, and he needed to call in to work to say he wouldn't be coming in. After leaving a message for work, Michael hung up and went outside. Chris' wife, Theresa, left the house with their kids and found Michael in Carol's driveway, the hood on his sweatshirt pulled over his head, shading his eyes.

He wouldn't come inside or make eye

contact with anyone, Carol said.

“He kept saying he was killing people with his eyes if he saw them,” she said.

Lanning arrived with Michael's house key and knew he was not well. He'd stopped drinking a few days earlier, she said, and she believed his withdrawal from alcohol was causing his insomnia and leading to his hallucinations. Contrary to what Michael had said, he had no doctor's appointment scheduled for that day, Lanning said.

Please see **SUICIDE**, Page A4

WATCH: See Carol Meredith talk about seeking help for her son, point your smartphone camera at the QR Code and tap the link. **NEWSVU**

Iowa Dems make pitch for early caucuses

TOM BARTON
Journal Des Moines Bureau

Iowa Democrats made a new pitch to have the Iowa caucuses remain in the lineup of early states that kick off the presidential nominating process.

Outgoing Iowa Democratic Party Chairman Ross Wilburn sent a letter Friday to Democratic National Committee Chairman Jaime Harrison and co-chairs of the DNC's rules committee requesting it vote next month to grant Iowa a conditional waiver to be among the slate of five early nominating states after New Hampshire and Georgia failed to meet a deadline proving they have buy-in from state leaders to change the dates of their primaries.



Wilburn

The DNC's Rules and Bylaws Committee voted last month on a new calendar for its presidential nominating process. Committee members voted to grant conditional waivers to South Carolina, New Hampshire, Nevada, Georgia and Michigan to hold their presidential primaries ahead of the rest of the country, stripping Iowa of its first-in-the-nation status and moving it out of the early window entirely in favor of more diverse battleground states.

Republicans already agreed to keep Iowa's first-in-the-nation caucuses for GOP candidates — and several Republicans already have been to the state to weigh the possibility of presidential runs.

Iowa's caucuses have led the pack in presidential preference contests since 1972, drawing media attention and millions of dollars in campaigning from presidential hopefuls.

Under the proposed 2024 calendar — which still needs to be formally ratified by the full DNC early next month — South Carolina would go first, holding its primary on Feb. 3, followed by New Hampshire and Nevada on Feb. 6, Georgia on Feb. 13 and Michigan on Feb. 27.

The waivers required state party officials to submit letters to the committee by Jan. 5 showing they have buy-in from

Please see **CAUCUSES**, Page A5

THE MINI: Did you check your Mega Millions ticket yet? —Journal Editorial Board

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