

‘Suspicious death’ investigated

PAGE A2



\$10,000 gift honors former combat veteran

PAGE A3

COUPLE KILLED IN GLENWOOD



HAILEY PECK PHOTOS, THE NONPAREIL

Glenwood police officers patrol a scene near Fourth and Grove streets on Thursday, Aug. 7, 2025.

DCI says alleged shooter also critically injured

SCOTT STEWART
Council Bluffs Nonpareil

A Glenwood resident has been accused of shooting a man to death and fatally wounding his wife Wednesday evening.

The Iowa Department of Criminal Investigation announced Thursday afternoon that the alleged suspect was critically injured in the shooting.

“Preliminary investigation suggests the shooting stemmed from an interpersonal dispute between the parties,” according to a DCI news release.

Multiple 911 calls were placed with the Mills County Emergency Communication Center about 7:30 p.m. Wednesday reporting a shooting in the 400 block of North Grove Street in Glenwood.

The Glenwood Police Department, Mills County Sheriff’s Office and Iowa State Patrol responded to the scene, according to the DCI. They found a residence at 405 Grove St. engulfed in fire and two victims with gunshot wounds outside.

The DCI identified the victims at 38-year-old Brandon Oman, who died at the scene, and his wife, 35-year-old Stevie Oman, who was transported to the Nebraska Medical Center in Omaha and later died from her injuries.

Law enforcement took 71-year-old Dennis

Please see **SHOOTING**, Page A2



Police tape lays on the ground Thursday, Aug. 7, 2025, near a house that burned down in Glenwood the previous evening.

Taxpayers pay \$112K for worker to resign

Officials expressed lack of confidence

ANDREW SMITH
Council Bluffs Nonpareil

Pottawattamie County’s human resources director has resigned but will continue to draw a paycheck and receive health insurance benefits through next June.

Jana Lemrick’s last day was Aug. 1, but county taxpayers will keep paying her an estimated \$112,000 over the next 11 months, as well as covering the county’s portion of her health insurance premium and contributing to her retirement pension.

Lemrick is also temporarily retaining a badge, keys and laptop, despite no longer having any job duties, according to an email she sent to county officials.

“Jana is technically on administrative leave with pay during this transition time,” County Attorney Matt Wilber said in an email.

A separation agreement was approved July 8 by the Pottawattamie County Board of Supervisors, according to minutes of the meeting following a closed session. The agreement was formally signed July 17.

Separation follows removal of engineer

Lemrick’s long-term leave, from which she won’t return to the office, follows the controversial decision to not renew the contract of former County Engineer John Rasmussen, ousting him from his role after two decades of public service.

Rasmussen was placed on paid administrative leave May 27 on a 3-2 vote of the Pottawattamie County Board of Supervisors. He contested the action, which as upheld by the board, and his employment contract expired at the end of June.

Rasmussen’s attorney alleged Rasmussen was fired for defending the wages of at least one female employee. Brandon Burmeister, former assistant engineer, later asked the board to approve a raise for Tina Treantos, operations administrator in the Secondary Roads Department, on July 8, but the board opted not to do so.

Two factions of the Board of Supervisors have developed, with Chairman Scott Belt, Supervisor Tim Wichman and



Lemrick

Please see **LEMICK**, Page A2

Inside					
Opinion	A4	Obituaries	A11	Sports	C1
Iowa	A6	Weather	A12	Lively	D1
Puzzles	A10	National	B1		

Weather
Humid with a t-storm
High 84 • Low 68
FORECAST • A12



Couldn't your life use a little more magic?

AMERICAN MIDWEST BALLETTickets on sale now at amballet.org

Police investigate ‘suspicious death’ of teen

ANDREW SMITH
Council Bluffs Nonpareil

Police are investigating a “suspicious death” in Council Bluffs near 17th Street and Avenue B.

Police Lt. Mark Galvin, a member of the Council Bluffs Police Department’s Criminal Investigations Division, told The Nonpareil police responded to a call Friday morning indicating a man was down.

The police and fire departments responded to the scene at about 7:31 a.m., where officers and medics found Dylan Hall — a 19-year-old resident of Council Bluffs — dead, according to a police news release Friday afternoon.

Detectives and crime scene investigators were called to the scene at 1629 Ave. B to investigate. Law enforcement temporarily blocked off

17th Street between Avenues A and B, and the alleys leading up to the area, Galvin said.

Galvin could not say whether authorities expect the death to be a homicide or suicide. He said someone reported shots had been fired in the area overnight. He said it is unclear whether that report is related to the death.

Galvin said there have not been any homicides in Council Bluffs since the murder of Omaha residents Deonte Ivory and Michael Anderson in April 2024. Dequanta Zachary of Eunice, Louisiana, was convicted of the double homicide in October 2024.

Police described the investigation of the body found Friday as in its “very early stages,” and anyone with information can call 712-328-7867 to speak with detectives.



ANDREW SMITH, THE NONPAREIL

Police responded to 1629 Ave. B in Council Bluffs, shown the afternoon of Friday, Aug. 8, 2025, and found a body was near the building at the corner of 17th Street and Avenue B around 7:30 a.m.

DIGEST

DNR investigating fuel release into Boyer River

The Iowa Department of Natural Resources is investigating a release of pollutants into the Boyer River from a stormwater ditch in Crawford County.

The DNR’s Atlantic Field Office was contacted Wednesday morning about a release to the

Boyer River from a structure fire at Rockin K Solutions near the intersection of Highway 30 and County Road 37 in Dunlap, according to a news release.

The fire destroyed a service station and resulted in the release of up to 1,200 gallons of fuels, oils, aerosols and other products.

Much of the release was consumed in the fire.

An unknown amount entered a storm drain, flowing into a stormwater ditch to the Boyer River, according to the DNR.

No immediate impact to aquatic life was observed. DNR staff were on-site investigating Wednesday.

— Rachel George

Lake Manawa swimming still not recommended

For yet another week, Lake Manawa remains unsuitable for swimming.

The Iowa Department of Natural Resources continues to recommend that visitors to the state recreational area in Council Bluffs stay out of the water.

While a sample from Aug. 5 tested

by the Iowa DNR found acceptable levels of E. coli bacteria, the DNR continues to reports the average amount of E. coli is elevated across the past five samples.

E. coli can cause diarrhea, urinary tract infections, pneumonia, sepsis and other illnesses, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

— Scott Stewart

Shooting

From A1

Burnell into custody as he exited the burning home, which was his residence, according to the release. Durnell was taken to a medical facility and remains in critical condition.

The release states that Burnell

“has been identified as the person responsible for the Omans’ deaths.” Glenwood Police Chief Eric Johansen called him a “person of interest” during a press conference late Wednesday night, according to a KETV livestream of his remarks.

“There was some sort of explosion inside the house before the fire started,” Johansen said.

Johansen said police had responded to the neighborhood in the past. KMA previously reported that Burnell was arrested last year for third-degree harassment.

Residents were notified of a police action, later described as a response to an active shooting, through an alert from Mills County Emergency Management Agency about 7:50 p.m. Barricades were

put up around the area.

Johansen praised the quick response and help from other law enforcement agencies in reaching a resolution.

“It was a group effort to contain this situation,” Johansen said.

Journalists from The Nonpareil and the Omaha World-Herald saw investigators continue to work the scene Thursday. Anyone with

information on shooting can call the Glenwood police at 712-527-4844.

An investigation remains ongoing, including support from the State Fire Marshal Division, and the DCI said no further details will be released at this time.

The Nonpareil’s Hailey Peck contributed to this report.

Lemrick

From A1

Supervisor Jeff Jorgensen voting to terminate his contract and to block Rasmussen from continuing testimony during a grievance hearing. Supervisors Susan Miller and Brian Shea have expressed confusion and dissatisfaction towards how the engineer was handled.

Letter expressed ‘no confidence’ in HR director

Rasmussen and the leaders of four other county departments expressed a lack of confidence in the policies and practices of the Pottawattamie County Human Resources Department — and specifically Lemrick — in a March 10 letter to the Board of Supervisors.

The now-former engineer was joined in signing the letter by Auditor Mary Ann Hanusa, Recorder Andrew Moats, Sheriff Andy Brown, and Treasurer Lea Voss. All the officials’ positions are elected except for Rasmussen.

The Nonpareil learned of the existence of the letter but has been not been able to obtain a copy for publication. A reporter reviewed a copy of the letter, and signees have acknowledged its existence.

Wilber has also acknowledged it as a “no confidence” letter in an email to county resident Shawna Anderson, who made a public records request in hopes of obtaining the letter. The request was denied on grounds of it asking for “confidential personnel records under Iowa Code 22.7,” which allows for certain records to be confidential.

The Nonpareil separately requested the document from Wilber, who denied the request but did not dispute the existence of the document.

Separation agreement includes 11 months pay

Lemrick’s time with the county isn’t ending in the typical manner.

The county’s Resignation Acceptance and Release Agreement with Lemrick — obtained by The Nonpareil — will pay out about 11 months remaining in her contract, the county’s portion of family health insurance and retirement contributions.

In exchange, Lemrick “releases, waives, and forever discharges Pottawattamie County and its elected officials, officers, agents and employees, both present and former, from all claims demands, obligations, damages and liabilities of every kind and nature.”

Lemrick also waived the right to any hearing before the Board of Supervisors and the right to recover any sum against Pottawattamie County in any lawsuit brought by the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission or the Iowa Civil Rights Commission on her behalf.

Neither Lemrick or the county — including its “elected officials, agents, departments, boards and employees” — can make or encourage a statement that “defames, disparages, or in any way criticizes the personal or professional reputation, practices, or conduct of the other party.”

The county supervisors discussed the agreement in a closed session. Wichman was the only supervisor who opposed the agreement.

Lemrick may retain county property, access

Toward the end of this Tuesday’s meeting, Miller quoted an email sent from Lemrick on Aug. 1 — since released to The Nonpareil — which reads in its entirety: “I

have given my credit card to Mitch. I will keep the laptop, badge and office key until we have a new Director hired and training has been provided.”

A nonretention clause in Lemrick’s agreement says she must return all materials including “reports, files, memoranda, records, drawings, credit cards, access cards, keys, instruction manuals, client or customer lists and information, electronic storage devices, phones, smartphones, computers, and other physical or professional property.”

Kate Gerber, Pottawattamie County public relations manager, said there is some precedent in the county of previous HR directors onboarding new directors, which allows for a transition period.

“If you don’t have someone there to onboard the HR director, which is the person who essentially onboards all county employees, then who does that role really fall to?” Gerber asked. “The last time there was a transition from one HR director to the other, there was a gap in-between when the one was hired and the previous one had left, and so that previous person helped onboard Jana.”

Gerber said Wednesday that’s why Lemrick still has equipment, and that a new hire could otherwise be disadvantaged. Gerber could not speak on behalf of the agreement, as Belt would be most appropriate, she said.

Belt did not respond to a call Wednesday afternoon. The supervisors chairman has not responded to repeated requests for comments in recent months.

On Tuesday, Miller called attention to the difference between what’s happening and “the language of the separation agreement.”

Generally, before receiving their final paycheck, employees

must turn in “county identification cards, keys, credit cards, laptop computer, tools and other similar items,” according to the Pottawattamie County Employee Handbook.

Separate clauses demand credit cards must be turned in upon resignation, and cellphones may be demanded for return or inspection. Lemrick, according to the email, seems to have only returned her credit card.

The Nonpareil has attempted to reach Lemrick but could not reach her for comment.

County still needs to fill engineer role

The human resources director, like the county engineer, is hired by the Board of Supervisors.

Both openings are listed on Pottawattamie County’s website, though supervisors voted the aforementioned 3-2 split to extend an offer to an unnamed candidate for county engineer.

Jeannette Johnson, the supervisors’ executive assistant, told The Nonpareil last week, and again Tuesday, that she has not received a copy of the offer, so she is unable to provide it to the newspaper.

Jacob Ferro, the Mills County engineer, said he was offered a job from a nearby county for \$165,000 during a Mills County Board of Supervisors meeting Tuesday. He said a vote was held last week in the nearby county to put an offer on the table for his services, but didn’t specify it was Pottawattamie County.

“It’s kinda no secret now — there’s a nearby county that has a vacant county engineer position,” Ferro said. “It became vacant about two months ago; they’ve been reaching out to me since then.”

However, Ferro appears to be staying in Mills County after county supervisors there voted 2-1 to match his salary to the offer’s pay at Ferro’s request.

Ferro said he is currently making \$140,000 a year. John Rasmussen’s drafted contract for 2025 would’ve had him making \$157,456, had it been approved.

Meanwhile, Burmeister — who had been serving as interim Pottawattamie County engineer — worked his last day Tuesday.

Miller said that last Thursday saw 4 inches of rain fall in Gretna, Nebraska, causing flooding. Council Bluffs also was impacted by the rainfall.

“The same thing could happen in Pott County at any time,” Miller said. “At the end of the day, we don’t have anyone in place to issue proclamations or close those roads in the event of a disaster.”

Pottawattamie County is at risk, Miller said, and she suggested supervisors call a meeting Friday to discuss an appointment. As of Thursday afternoon, no meeting has been scheduled.

“The board needs to get somebody in place as the acting engineer,” Wilber said. “You need to get somebody onboard that’s a licensed civil engineer as soon as possible.”

Without a licensed civil engineer as acting engineer, restrictions are in place when it comes to starting new projects, closing roads and other duties.

A resolution signed Jan. 2 allows Treantos to authorize the travel of large vehicles on the county’s roads. As it stands, she’s the last remaining employee of four Secondary Roads workers authorized to do so. However, she is not a licensed civil engineer.

Belt said during Tuesday’s meeting he’d make some calls to find an interim engineer.

THE DAILY
NONPAREIL

300 W. Broadway, Suite 712,
Council Bluffs, IA 51503

IDENTIFICATION

The Daily Nonpareil (ISSN: 1046-1833), a Lee Enterprises Newspaper, is published Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays at 300 W BROADWAY STE 712, COUNCIL BLUFFS, IA 51503. Periodicals Postage Paid at Council Bluffs, IA. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to PO BOX 2795, MECHANICSVILLE, VA 23116.

CONTACT US

• **Rachel US**
George, Executive Editor:
712-325-5728
rachel.george@nonpareilonline.com

• **Scott Stewart, Managing Editor:**
scott.stewart@nonpareilonline.com

• **Peter Burnett, Sports Editor:**
712-325-5736
peter.burnett@nonpareilonline.com

• **Subscriber Customer Service**
712-325-5726
custservice@nonpareilonline.com

• **Customer Service Hours:**
Monday through Friday: 6:30 a.m. -5 p.m.

• **To place classifieds:** 712-325-5700
classifieds@nonpareilonline.com

• **To place legal and public notices:**
legals@nonpareilonline.com; 712-325-5800

• **To place obituaries:** 402-444-1286
obits@nonpareilonline.com

NEWS TIPS

If you have a story idea or a news tip, call us at 712-328-1811 and select option 3 for the newsroom. You can also email us at editorial@nonpareilonline.com or send us mail at

The Daily Nonpareil Newsroom

300 W. Broadway, Suite 712
Council Bluffs, IA, 51503

Please provide as much detail on the idea and contact information as you can.

PRICING

The Daily Nonpareil is a Lee Enterprises Newspaper and is published online daily, and three days per week in print (Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays).

The subscription price includes all applicable sales tax and a charge for the convenience of having the paper delivered. To avoid delivery charges, call 1-712-325-5726 to arrange pickup of your paper at a local office. We reserve the right to change your subscription rate at any time. Contact 1-712-325-5726 or email custservice@nonpareilonline.com for additional information.

SUBSCRIPTION OFFERS

All subscription offers available at nonpareilonline.com, including those advertised through our email promotions, on-site messaging, social media, and any external means of promotion, are valid for new subscribers only. You must not have been a subscriber in the past thirty (30) days to register for a new subscription offer.

You understand that delivery and billing will continue beyond the initial order period unless you cancel your subscription as detailed in the next paragraph. Rates may change after introductory offer period. There is a non-refundable one-time account set up fee of \$6.99 for all new subscribers.

AUTO-RENEWAL, CANCELLATION, REFUND, AND SUBSCRIPTION RENEWAL POLICY

If you register for EZ Pay or debit banking (ACH) payments, your Digital Only or Print + Digital subscription service (your "Subscription") will automatically renew. On the last day of your current term (your "Renewal Date"), your Subscription will automatically renew for the same length of time, at the then-current Subscription rate, which we may change in our discretion, unless you choose to cancel more than twenty-one (21) days before your Renewal Date (your "Cancellation Date"). YOU MAY CANCEL YOUR SUBSCRIPTION BY EMAILING US WITH THE SUBJECT LINE "CANCEL" AT custservice@nonpareilonline.com OR CALLING US AT 1-712-325-5726. YOU MAY ALSO BE ABLE TO CANCEL ONLINE DEPENDING ON YOUR SUBSCRIPTION - PLEASE CHECK YOUR SETTINGS IN YOUR ACCOUNT DASHBOARD TO SEE IF THIS OPTION IS AVAILABLE TO YOU.

Prior to the Cancellation Date, we will send you a notice reminding you about the renewal of your Subscription. Subscribers who prefer to receive paper renewal notices in the mail will be charged \$9.99 for each renewal notice; this fee is waived for subscribers who sign up to receive their renewal notices via email. If you wish to receive renewal notices via email, please

contact us at custservice@nonpareilonline.com or call 1-712-325-5726.

IF YOU DO NOT AFFIRMATIVELY CANCEL YOUR SUBSCRIPTION BEFORE YOUR CANCELLATION DATE, YOU WILL BE CHARGED FOR AN ADDITIONAL TERM FOR THE SUBSCRIPTION YOU INITIALLY SELECTED AT THE RATES IN EFFECT AT THE TIME OF RENEWAL.

If you have provided us with a valid credit card number or an alternate payment method saved in your account, and you have not cancelled by your Cancellation Date, your Subscription will be automatically processed up to fourteen (14) days in advance of your Renewal Date, and the payment method you provided to us at or after the time of your initial Subscription purchase will be charged.

We reserve the right to change your Subscription rate at the next renewal period. If you are not satisfied with your Subscription rate or service, you may cancel your Subscription at any time. No refunds will be returned if remainder of the Subscription term is under thirty (30) days. The refund amount of any balance over \$35.00 will be returned minus an early termination fee of \$35.00. No refunds for Digital Only subscriptions are provided.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Print subscribers get the benefit of newspaper home delivery as well as digital access. All subscriptions are subject to the Cancellation, Refund and Renewal Policy described above, and all EZ Pay or ACH subscriptions are also subject to the Auto-Renewal Policy, as well as the additional

terms and conditions set forth below.

All Subscriptions include unlimited digital access, but there may be links to content on other websites owned by our parent company that can be accessed only through an additional payroll. In such cases, your Subscription to content behind a separate payroll will be governed by any additional terms that are associated therewith. To access these benefits, you must first provide your email address, register with nonpareilonline.com/services, and activate your account online. To activate your digital account visit nonpareilonline.com/activate. You can manage your account at nonpareilonline.com/services.

We may, in our sole discretion, change features of your subscription, including without limitations frequency of and media/platform for delivery. We will notify you of any material changes to your subscription prior to your next renewal and sent to you before your subscription renews with those changes. YOUR CONTINUED SUBSCRIPTION FOLLOWING SUCH CHANGES CONSTITUTES YOUR ACCEPTANCE OF THE CHANGES. IF YOU DO NOT AGREE TO ANY CHANGES, YOU MUST CANCEL YOUR SUBSCRIPTION.

VACATION POLICY

Print Vacation holds up to thirty (30) days will continue to bill at regular rate while full digital access is maintained. Extended vacations of thirty-one (31) days or more will not incur charges and all Subscription benefits will be suspended during that time.