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IOWA CITY Press-Citizen

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Ex-UI student sentenced 16 years for child porn

Ryan Hansen
Iowa City Press-Citizen
USA TODAY NETWORK

A University of Iowa Ph.D. student was sentenced to more than 16 years in federal prison after pleading guilty to selling and receiving child pornography. Evan Robert Steinberg, 26, pleaded guilty to one count of receipt and distribution of child pornography in January in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Iowa. An investigation discovered that Steinberg used several

devices to “solicit, receive and distribute” photos and videos containing children involved in sex acts. Steinberg, who secured a master’s in biostatistics from the UI in 2023 and enrolled in the Ph.D. program in 2024 before eventually withdrawing, was sentenced to 200 months (or 16 and a half years) in federal prison on May 8. There is no parole in the federal court system. He was also ordered to pay \$8,000 in court assessments. Steinberg will also serve five additional years of supervised release. He

must register as a sex offender for the rest of his life. **A tip from Arizona led UI police to Steinberg** Law enforcement in Arizona first alerted University of Iowa police to possible illegal sexual contact between Steinberg, then a UI graduate student, and a 14-year-old in December 2021, according to court documents. Steinberg sent and received nude images and videos of a 14-year-old that he

talked with over a handful of social media sites, court documents alleged. Police executed a search warrant on Steinberg’s Iowa City home in December 2021 and discovered five devices containing “hundreds of images and videos of child pornography.” The content included children as young as one year old “engaging in sex acts with adults,” according to a release. The five devices included a pair of MacBooks, an iPhone 12, an iPhone 6

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Nacho and Corrin bring joy and comfort to the children at the University of Iowa Children’s Hospital.

Iowa Animal Hall of Fame inducts new tail-blazers

Victoria Reyna-Rodriguez
Des Moines Register
USA TODAY NETWORK

Four furry friends have been inducted into the 2025 Iowa Animal Hall of Fame. Nacho, Curro, Ruckus and Ranger, all dogs, received official state fame status. The Iowa Veterinary Medical Association and Hill’s Pet Nutrition inducted the four pets, who were honored for bravery and companionship. In the last 24 years, 78 animals – including dogs, cats, horses and cows – across Iowa have received the honor. The awards have three categories: companion, hero and professional. Here are the four-legged friends who took home the prize.

Nacho and Corrin

This pair of golden retriever mixes work together to bring comfort and fun to children at the University of Iowa Children’s Hospital, and were awarded in the professional category. Emily Bradley and Aly Humphrey are their handlers, both child life specialists.



Ranger placed himself between his owner and the threat during a home invasion.

Ruckus

Ruckus is a 10-year-old Dalmatian who belongs to Carl and Deb Badtram of Strawberry Point. Nominated by Dr. Ashley Vander Hart of Edgewood Veterinary Clinic in the companion category, this lovable pup has the ability to bring joy to anyone he meets.

Ranger

This West Des Moines dog won in the



Ruckus was nominated for his ability to bring joy to all. PHOTOS PROVIDED BY IOWA VETERINARY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

hero category and belongs to Kim and John Danos. The 9-year-old boxer was nominated by Dr. Dim Kendall at Ingersoll Animal Hospital. During a home invasion at the Danos household, Ranger placed himself between his owner and the threat, grabbing the intruder’s arm. Victoria Reyna-Rodriguez is a general assignment reporter for the Register. Reach her at vreyনারড্রিগুেজ@registermedia.com or follow her on Twitter @VictoriaReynaR.

NORTH LIBERTY

Failure to publish notice could leave budget \$1.3M short

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An unsent email might put the City of North Liberty about \$1.3 million short of its projected budget. The city held a public hearing on April 22 that was meant to solidify North Liberty’s Fiscal 2026 budget and to also establish a provision to set the residential property tax rate. City staff later discovered the public notice wasn’t published in Johnson County’s newspaper of record because an email drafted earlier in April requesting publication was never sent, City Administrator Ryan Heiar wrote in a memo to the council. “This is a significant mistake and means that the City will most likely be forced to use last year’s budget tax rates, resulting in a \$1.3 million budget shortfall for FY26,” Heiar said in the memo, which was published in the North Liberty city council documents for their May 13 meeting under the subhead ‘FY Budget.’ “Simply put, our team thought an email was sent to the newspaper requesting publication of the budget hearing; unfortunately, after the hearing we realized the email was not sent.”

Iowa law requires public notices to be published between 10 and 20 days before the budget is certified by the city. The approved budget was due to the Johnson County Auditor’s Office by April 30. The city “most likely” will have to edit the budget to reflect the current tax rates, not the ones approved by the council in April. Without legislative help to correct the error, the city is anticipating that its property tax revenue will fall \$1.3 million short of what staff initially projected. North Liberty can manage the shortfall because of its “ample reserves,” Heiar wrote. But the “gravity of this mistake is substantial,” and Heiar and City Clerk Tracey Mulcahey are developing a system that prevents

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