

STATE NEWS

Iowa amusement park’s former owner settles lawsuit over 11-year-old’s drowning

An Iowa amusement park’s former operator has agreed to pay an undisclosed amount to settle a lawsuit filed by the family of an 11-year-old boy who drowned on a water ride in 2021

By JOHN HANNA
Associated Press

An Iowa amusement park’s former operator has agreed to pay an undisclosed amount to settle a lawsuit filed by the family of an 11-year-old boy who drowned on a water ride in 2021.

A company that previously owned Adventureland park in the Des Moines suburb of Altoona, along with its former CEO and three managers, reached a settlement with the family of Michael Jaramillo on Sunday. Jury selection had been scheduled to start Monday for a trial over the lawsuit brought by the family. The settlement terms are confidential.

Michael Jaramillo, his parents, two brothers and another family member were

strapped into a 1,700-pound (770-kilogram) raft on the Raging River ride on July 3, 2021, when it flipped over. All six hit their heads on the surface under the water, but Michael Jaramillo and one of his brothers could not get out of their seatbelts and were trapped, head-down, underwater for about 10 minutes, according to the family.

The lawsuit alleged that for years, Adventureland failed to properly maintain and repair its rides, including the Raging River. It also said the park continued to operate the water ride on the day of the accident despite reports of serious problems.

The park’s former owner, Adventure Lands of America, former CEO Michael Krantz, and the three managers, denied that the ride had been operated improperly or insufficiently supervised. But Fred Dorr, an attorney for the family, said Tuesday that their lawyers believe they built a strong case that the park and its employees were responsible.

“Imagine the terror going on in those kids’ minds,” Dorr said. “And then you turn to the jury and say, ‘What’s that worth, to watch your child die like that?’”

An attorney for Adventure Lands of America did not immediately return a tele-

phone message seeking comment Tuesday. However, in answering the lawsuit, the defendants said the accident resulted from “a series of unexpected and intended factors” and that, in the 38 years the ride operated before the accident, no raft had overturned.

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phone message seeking comment Tuesday. However, in answering the lawsuit, the defendants said the accident resulted from “a series of unexpected and intended factors” and that, in the 38 years the ride operated before the accident, no raft had overturned.

Krantz is a member of a Des Moines-area family that began operating Adventureland in the 1970s and sold it and other affiliated assets months after the accident

to the subsidiary of an international amusement park company based in Spain.

In March, Herschend, a company based in the Atlanta area, purchased the Spanish company’s U.S. properties, including Adventureland. Herschend operates the Dollywood theme park in Tennessee and Silver Dollar City near Branson, Missouri.

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State lawmaker enters US Senate race after Ernst retort on Medicaid cuts

ST. LOUIS (AP) — Iowa state Rep. J.D. Scholten, a Democrat, announced a run for U.S. Senate on Monday, a decision he says he made after U.S. Sen. Joni Ernst made a retort about Medicaid cuts that prompted swift backlash.

Scholten, from northwest Iowa, was first elected

to the statehouse in 2023 after twice losing congressional races in Iowa’s reliably conservative 4th Congressional District.

“I wasn’t planning on doing this right now but I just can’t sit on the sidelines,” Scholten said in an announcement on social media.

In Parkersburg, Ernst

on Friday defended the \$700 billion in reduced spending, saying it would keep immigrants in the U.S. illegally and those who have access to insurance through their employers off the rolls. She emphasized the message that those changes would sustain the program for vulnerable populations.

Dispute over planned satanic celebration at Capitol sparks civil rights

By Clark Kauffman
Iowa Capital Dispatch

The ACLU of Iowa has filed a civil rights complaint on behalf of The Satanic Temple Iowa, alleging state officials discriminated against the group by denying it permission to hold a winter celebration and ceremony in the rotunda of the Iowa Capitol as other religious groups do.

The complaint was filed with the Iowa Civil Rights Commission on behalf of Mortimer Adramelech, minister of Satan of the Iowa congregation of The Satanic Temple, against the Iowa Department of Administrative Services, its director, and the office of Gov. Kim Reynolds.

The complaint alleges the state illegally discriminated on the basis of religion in denying The Satanic Temple Iowa’s application to hold a winter celebration event in the Iowa Capitol’s rotunda in December 2024.

Mortimer Adramelech, minister of The Satanic Temple in Des Moines, at-

tends a subcommittee meeting at the Iowa Capitol on Feb. 25, 2025. (Photo by Kathie Obradovich/Iowa Capital Dispatch)

Adramelech said Tuesday that state officials made a number of assumptions about his religion and used those assumptions to discriminate against his congregation. “We are compassionate and caring human beings,” he said. “We have families. We are Iowans and we are simply seeking to exercise our right to freedom of religion.”

The temple’s application to use the Capitol rotunda specified that planned events would be family-friendly and appropriate for children. The events were to include a ritual, a costume contest, caroling, coloring and make-and-take ornaments.

The complaint alleges in denying the application, the state wrongly alleged the celebration would have included sex acts, gore, and similar content and was not suitable for minors.

In a written statement,

Reynolds said that while the Capitol building is open to the public, the state’s event policy “takes into consideration conduct that would be harmful to minors.” Reynolds said the proposed winter celebration, “which specifically targeted children, would have been harmful to children and so (the application) was denied.”

ACLU of Iowa Legal Director Rita Bettis Austen said Tuesday that “it’s one of the foundational principles of our country, and our state civil rights law, that the government should not favor one religious viewpoint or belief over another, or treat its citizens worse or better based on their religion. That means, among other things, that when the government makes the public space in the State Capitol available for other religious groups to use, for example, a Christmas or Hanukkah holiday display, it cannot then legally deny the same right to other religious groups, and that in-

cludes our clients.”

Once a complaint is filed with the Iowa Civil Rights Commission, the commission may choose to investigate and act as a mediator in the dispute. After 60 days, the party filing the complaint has the option of pulling the complaint and requesting a “right to sue” letter, allowing them to seek a resolution in district court.

The civil rights complaint is a separate proceeding from the lawsuit the ACLU of Iowa filed in April on behalf of the Iowa Atheists and Freethinkers. That lawsuit seeks to compel the governor’s office to produce public records regarding the denial of the temple’s application for its 2024 winter celebration. That litigation is still pending.

Iowa Capital Dispatch is part of States Newsroom, a non-profit news network supported by grants and a coalition of donors as a 501c(3) public charity. Iowa Capital Dispatch maintains editorial independence. Contact Editor Kathie Obradovich for questions: info@iowacapitaldispatch.com.

Legal Notice

THE IOWA DISTRICT COURT
Audubon County
Probate No. ESPR009363
NOTICE OF PROBATE OF WILL,
OF APPOINTMENT OF EXECUTOR,
AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS
FOR SMALL ESTATE
in the matter of the Estate of
KATHRYN LEE TRIMBLE, Deceased.
a/k/a Kathryn Lee Daniell

To All Persons Interested in the Estate of Kathryn Lee Trimble a/k/a Kathryn Lee Danell, Deceased, who died on or about March 25, 2025:

You are hereby notified that on June 5, 2025, the Last Will and Testament of Kathryn Lee Trimble a/k/a Kathryn Lee Daneill, deceased, bearing the date of January 20, 2020, was admitted to probate in the above-named court and that Douglas Daniell was appointed executor of the estate. Any action to set aside the will must be brought in the district court of said county within the later to occur of four months from the date of the second publication of this notice or one month from the date of mailing of this notice to all heirs of the decedent and devisees under the will whose identities are reasonably ascertainable or thereafter be forever barred.

Notice is further given that all persons indebted to the estate are requested to make immediate payment to the undersigned, and creditors having claims against the estate shall file them with the clerk of the above named district court, as provided by law, duly authenticated, for allowance, and unless so filed by the later to occur of four months from the date of the second publication of this notice or one month from the date of mailing of this notice (unless otherwise allowed or paid) a claim is thereafter forever barred.

Dated: June 4, 2025
/s/ Douglas Daniell
Douglas Daniell
515 N Hubbard Ave., Minden, NE 68959
Executor of Estate
Marcus Gross, Jr, ICIS PIN No: AT0003057
Attorney for Executor
Salvo, Deren, Schenck, Gross, Swain & Argotsinger, P.C.
711 Court St., P.O. Box 509, Harlan, IA 51537-0509
(Published in the Audubon County Advocate Journal, Friday, June 13, 2025 and Friday, June 20, 2025)

Legal Notice

THE IOWA DISTRICT COURT
Audubon County
Probate No. ESPR009362
NOTICE OF PROBATE OF WILL,
OF APPOINTMENT OF EXECUTORS, AND
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
in the matter of the Estate of
WILLIAM DEAN WEBER, Deceased.

To All Persons Interested in the Estate of William Dean Weber, Deceased, who died on or about May 30, 2025:

You are hereby notified that on June 4, 2025, the Last Will and Testament of William Dean Weber, deceased, bearing date of July 20, 2021 and the First Codicil to said Last Will and Testament of William Dean Weber, deceased, bearing date of January 4, 2023, were admitted to probate in the above-named court and that Dennis Dean Weber, Lori Ranae Ingeman, Lana Kay Wanninger and Diane Marie Hausfelder have been appointed Executors of the estate. Any action to set aside the will and/or first codicil must be brought in the district court of said county within the later to occur of four months from the date of the second publication of this notice or one month from the date of mailing of this notice to all heirs of the decedent and devisees under the will whose identities are reasonably ascertainable, or thereafter be forever barred.

Notice is further given that all persons indebted to the estate are requested to make immediate payment to the undersigned, and creditors having claims against the estate shall file them with the clerk of the above-named district court, as provided by law, duly authenticated, for allowance, and unless so filed by the later to occur of four months from the date of the second publication of this notice or one month from the date of mailing of this notice (unless otherwise allowed or paid) a claim is thereafter forever barred.

Dated June 4, 2025

- Dennis Dean Weber, Executor of Estate
608 W. Division, Ogden, IA 50212
- Lori Ranae Ingeman, Executor of Estate
920 Groveland Ave, Crookston, MN 56716
- Lana Kay Wanninger, Executor of Estate
15340 W. Frontier Dr., Surprise, AZ 85387
- Diane Marie Hausfelder, Executor of Estate
27 Cedar Street, Batavia, NY 14020

James M. Tinker, ICIS#: AT0007948
Attorney for Executors
401 S. Park Pl., P.O. Box 263, Audubon, IA 50025
(Published in the Audubon County Advocate Journal, Friday, June 13, 2025 and Friday, June 20, 2025)

Legal Notice

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
June 6th, 2025

The special meeting of the Board of Supervisors was called to order at 1:03 pm by Chairman Heath Hansen. Present at the meeting were Heath Hansen, Don Mosinski-phone, Kent Grabill, Chassity Musfeldt, Dennis Carter, Janet Collins, Dennis Ballou, Ethan Hansen and Chris Swensen.

The Audubon County Historical Society met with Supervisors and Attorney Swensen to discuss the recent insurance coverage that was unexpectedly dropped/not renewed. This was not due to any claims or issues on the Historical Society side, but rather just not renewed with no other options by the insurance company. This is happening to many historical buildings due to age throughout the Country. Insurance options were discussed. They would potentially be able to have personal liability coverage in the meantime. Attorney Swensen discussed the Quit Claim deed options to transfer the Historical Society parcels back to Audubon County. If this is able to be completed, the County will work with Historical Society to draft an agreement to lay out the details for the Historical Society to keep functioning the same under the County possession. Swensen suggested that the Historical Society meet with their lawyer to discuss an updated title opinion/abstract. Historical Society will need to meet with Community Insurance to discuss coverage options. At next week’s meeting, they will provide an update and discuss the next steps moving forward. They will be hosting their fall fundraiser on September 14th, 2025.

At 1:53 pm a phone call with the State Auditor and Supervisors took place. They discussed the MDMA explanations on variances and will finish working on that next week. Meeting adjourned at 2:27 pm.

/s/Kent Grabill
Chairman, Board of Supervisors

/s/Chassity Musfeldt
Attest: Audubon County Auditor Clerk

(Published in the Audubon County Advocate Journal, Friday, June 13, 2025)

Legal Notice

FORM OF RESOLUTION

June 9, 2025

The Board of Directors of the Exira-Elk Horn-Kimballton Community School District in the County of Audubon and Shelby, State of Iowa, met in open session, in the Exira-Elk Horn-Kimballton Community School District Board Room, at 6 o’clock P.M. on the above date. There were present the following Board Members:

Kevin Petersen, Tamie Fahn, Jodee Dixon, Terri Harris,
Absent: _____NA

Director Harris introduced the following Resolution and moved its adoption. Director Nelson seconded the motion to adopt. The roll was called and the vote was:

AYES: __Jorgensen, Dixon, Fahn, Petersen, Parmley, Harris, Nelson
NAYS: __NA

The President declared the Resolution adopted as follows:

RESOLUTION

TO Participate in the Storm PROTECTION FUND, An Iowa Code Chapter 28E ENTITY and Chapter 670 Risk Pool

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors has received the renewal information for wind and hail property insurance coverage; and

WHEREAS, the deductible under the wind and hail coverage under the policy is a percentage of the value insured; and

WHEREAS, the Storm Protection Fund provides a means to manage and contain deductible costs associated with wind and hail insurance coverage.

NOW, THEREFORE, it is resolved:

The Board of Directors authorizes the District to Join the Storm Protection Fund, and to pay all Contributions as required by the Storm Protection Fund.

Passed and approved this 9th day of June, 2025.

Kevin Petersen, President
ATTEST: Carla Christensen, Secretary
(Published in the Audubon County Advocate Journal, Friday, June 13, 2025)