

## HANCOCK COUNTY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

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### PRESS RELEASE

#### for proceedings in the Iowa Associate District Court for Hancock County before Judge Karen Salic from April 26<sup>th</sup> through May 12<sup>th</sup>

Kyle David Christiansen, **43**, Forest City, pled guilty to **"DOMESTIC ABUSE ASSAULT,"** an aggravated misdemeanor stemming from an investigation by the Forest City Police Department on January 27, 2017. The court sentenced Christiansen to serve seven days in jail and pay a fine of \$625, plus court costs, surcharges, victim restitution, and attorney fees.

Melissa Jean Holland, **36**, Forest City, received a deferred judgment for the underlying charge of **"ASSAULT CAUSING BODILY INJURY OR MENTAL ILLNESS,"** a serious misdemeanor stemming from an investigation by the Forest City Police Department on January 30, 2017. The court sentenced Holland to serve on year probation under supervision by the Department of Correctional Services and pay a \$315 civil penalty, plus court costs and attorney fees.

Tomas James Berk, **21**, Mason City, appeared for probation revocation proceedings on the underlying charge of **"BURGLARY IN THE THIRD DEGREE,"** a class D felony stemming from an investigation by the Hancock County Sheriff's Office on October 18, 2016. The court revoked Berk's probation and ordered the original sentence be imposed. Berk will serve up to five years in prison and pay a fine of \$750.00, plus court costs, surcharges, victim restitution, and attorney fees.

The court arraigned the following persons:

Daniel Robert Larue, 35, Goodell, **"BURGLARY IN THE THIRD DEGREE,"** a class D felony; Elliott Ray Kessler, 29, Clear Lake, Count I **"FORGERY OF LOTTERY TICKET OR SHARE,"** a class D felony and Count II **"LOTTERY FORGERY OR FRAUD,"** a class D felony; Bradley Russell Miller, 33, Forest City, Count I **"POSSESSION OF MARIJUANA, A SCHEDULE I CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE, SECOND OFFENSE,"** a serious misdemeanor and Count II **"POSSESSION OF METHAMPHETAMINE, A SCHEDULE II CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE, SECOND OFFENSE,"** an aggravated misdemeanor; Antonio Romero Castro, 37, Whittemore, **"OPERATING A MOTOR VEHICLE WHILE LICENSE IS BARRED UNDER SECTION 321.560 AS A HABITUAL OFFENDER,"** an aggravated misdemeanor; Jennifer Sue Eckman, 45, Garner, **"THEFT IN THE THIRD DEGREE,"** an aggravated misdemeanor; Tuddie Nan Gouge, 30, Garner, **"OPERATING MOTOR VEHICLE WITHOUT OWNER'S CONSENT,"** an aggravated misdemeanor; Charles Pennington, 32, Britt, **"BURGLARY IN THE THIRD DEGREE,"** a class D felony; Sam William Velau, 53, Garner, Count I **"POSSESSION OF METHAMPHETAMINE, A SCHEDULE II CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE, THIRD OR SUBSEQUENT OFFENSE,"** a class D felony, Count II **"POSSESSION OF MARIJUANA, A SCHEDULE I CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE, THIRD OR SUBSEQUENT OFFENSE,"** a class D felony, Count III **"OPERATING A MOTOR**

**VEHICLE WHILE LICENSE IS BARRED UNDER SECTION 321.560 AS A HABITUAL OFFENDER,"** an aggravated misdemeanor and Count IV **"OPERATING WHILE INTOXICATED, FIRST OFFENSE,"** a serious misdemeanor; Jimmy D. Harris, 22, Kanawha, **"OPERATING WHILE INTOXICATED -- FIRST OFFENSE,"** a serious misdemeanor.

**for proceedings in the Iowa District Court for Hancock County before  
Judge Rustin Davenport on May 9, 2017**

Erik Gilberto Martinez-Yeppez, 21, Dows, received a deferred judgment for the underlying charge of **"CONSPIRACY TO COMMIT FORCIBLE FELONY,"** a class C felony stemming from an investigation by the Britt Police Department on November 23, 2016. The court sentenced Martinez-Yeppez to serve five years of probation under the supervision of the Department of Correctional Services and pay a fine of \$1,000, plus court costs, surcharges, victim restitution, and attorney fees.

The court arraigned the following persons:

Patric Nelson, 33, Waterloo, **"POSSESSION OF MARIJUANA, A SCHEDULE I CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE, THIRD OR SUBSEQUENT OFFENSE,"** an aggravated misdemeanor.

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NOTE: Pursuant to Iowa Rule of Professional Conduct 32:3.6(e), the preceding information is provided along with the statement that a criminal charge is merely an accusation and the defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.