Hiking page 7
While summer’s end is quickly approaching, Ames has several hiking spots worth exploring in the last few months of warm weather. Located in north Ames near Gilbert, Soper’s Mill is a 16-acre site off the Skunk River and offers hiking, fishing and boating.

Action page 3
The Obama-era standards on race-based admissions policies known as affirmative action are being rescinded following a decision from the Trump administration.

Supreme Court page 5
Supreme Court Justice Anthony Kennedy decided to retire from his position as the swing vote on the nation’s most powerful court. It is time for another nomination to the Supreme Court to complete the lengthy political battles, while Democrats will try to stop Trump’s nominee.

Early signing affects Iowa State recruitment cycle
BY TREVOR HOLBROOK @IOWASTATEDAILY.COM

Typically, the weather in Ames heats up during the dog days of summer. This summer, Iowa State football recruiting has emulated the weather.

In the month of June alone, Iowa State received six class of 2019 commitments and one class of 2020 commitment. In Matt Campbell’s previous three recruiting classes at Iowa State, the Cyclones have tallied seven total June commitments, according to 247Sports.com.

Midway through July, Campbell and his staff have added three commitments to the class of 2020 and have four commitments to the class of 2019. Iowa State had one commit in the month of July before the class of 2019 signed.

Early signing周期 offers pros and cons. Schools have a better understanding of a class earlier on in the process, and athletes can secure a scholarship earlier on.

‘GENTRIFIED EXPERIENCES’
BY K.RAMBO @IOWASTATEDAILY.COM

“I like the idea of like equilibrium,” Cameron Gray said while looking at a two-sided noose with one end secured tightly around the neck of a white baby doll in blackface. “The question is: What should be the thing in the other part of the noose?”

Gray, an Iowa State graduate student, will be presenting his first art show in Des Moines on July 21 at the Des Moines Social Club.

“My grandma is not gonna like this,” Gray said, in reference to the baby doll. “She grew up during this shit, though. Like, this is real shit for her.”

The Birmingham, Ala., native has put on several art shows previously in cities like St. Louis, Missouri and Auburn, Ala., but this one, titled “Gentrified Experiences,” is different from the rest.

In addition to a swath of lithograph prints of tarot cards and charcoal-based canvas pieces, Gray is bringing another form of art to the Des Moines Social Club — the art of human interaction with the goal of increased understanding.

Gray is bringing in 100 pounds of fish, a DJ, a keg of beer, cards, a bounce house and juice boxes for kids. He said he is bringing an “authentic black experience” to Des Moines. He started a Kickstarter campaign to crowdfund the exhibit. He said there’s still more to raise, but that he is blessed to be receiving support from the community.

“It’s all an experience,” Gray said. “I consider [the fish fry] as much as a piece of work, as well.”

The name, “Gentrified Experiences,” is a reference to white commerce and government entities altering predominantly-black areas in the pursuit of profit, a practice Gray said he understands, but believes is problematic.

“The downside of that, and what they don’t realize, is that you’re also taking a lot away from that community, as well,” Gray said.

His installation will do just the opposite and showcase an element of black culture in a white area. The fish fry is not just an example of the black experience to Gray, it is tied to deeply personal memories he holds dear. Gray was inspired to put on the fish fry from his experiences at family gatherings as a child.

“When I think of one of my fondest memories...”

Iowa State Football Recruitment 2015-2018

BY K. RAMBO/IOWA STATE DAILY

Cameron Gray adjusts his hair in the Des Moines Social Club gallery space housing his art work.

PETER LEMKEN/IOWA STATE DAILY

Due to early signing, Iowa State recruitment has already seen 18 class of 2019 commitments. All statistics courtesy of 247Sports.com.

Meanwhile, a team might fill its scholarships too early or an athlete may sign early and miss out on a better offer.

Regardless of whether it’s a positive or negative change, the early signing period has changed the timeline of recruiting at Iowa State.
Crossword

Complete the grid so each row, column and 3 by 3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit, 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit www.sudoku.org

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WEATHER AT-A-GLANCE

CALENDAR

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Monday, July 16, 2018

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IOWA STATE DAILY

Monday, July 16, 2018

WEATHER AT-A-GLANCE

Partly Cloudy

Partly Cloudy

Partly Cloudy

Thunderstorms

Partly Cloudy

Mostly Sunny

Sunny

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ISD PODCASTS
AFFIRMATIVE ACTION GONE?

What does it mean to Iowa State?

BY DEVYN LEESON
@IOWASTATEDAILY.COM

Iowa State University will not be affected by President Donald Trump’s recent decision to rescind some federal guidelines for affirmative action says Iowa State Office of Admissions director.

The Obama-era standards on race-based admissions policies known as affirmative action are being rescinded following a decision from the Trump administration to scrap guidelines relating to college admissions seen to be outdated.

This decision led to the Justice Department announcing the removal of 24 federal guidelines in a statement calling them “unnecessary, outdated, inconsistent with existing law, or otherwise improper.”

Seven of the 24 guidelines also directed the Education Department’s Office for Civil Rights to have school superintendents and colleges consider race in admissions practices for purposes of diversity.

While this decision may impact other campuses, Director of the Office of Admissions at Iowa State Katharine Suski said the removed guidelines will not change the way Iowa State operates.

“The recent affirmative action statement will not impact admission of undergraduate students at Iowa State in any way,” Suski said.

Being a public university, Iowa State has to follow specific statewide guidelines on admissions, and Suski said Iowa’s guidelines don’t consider race.

“As a public university in Iowa, we utilize the Regent Admission Index (RAI) in making admission decisions,” Suski said. “This formula is very transparent and objective, and does not consider race. It considers academic factors only-GPA, class rank, core courses and standardized test scores.”

While some students get into Iowa State with an RAI below the designated threshold of approval, those decisions don’t use race as a deciding factor.

“We admit a small number of students who fall below the stated RAI, but those decisions are made considering only academic factors, as well,” Suski said. “No changes will be made to our requirements or process as a result of the recent statement.”

The decision to rescind some of the guidelines is happening alongside a court battle over Harvard’s admissions policies. Students for Fair Admissions, Inc. accuses Harvard of limiting the number of accepted admissions of Asian-American students. They allege Harvard violates the constitutional and civil rights of the individuals they represent as the school accepts federal funds.

They support their claim citing the 1977 Supreme Court decision saying racial quotas violate the Constitution’s Equal Protection Clause. In the decision they did outline that admissions to universities can look at race as a factor in admitting students.

In a statement on their website, Harvard denied claims saying they discriminated against applicants of any race or ethnicity in their admissions.

“We will continue to vigorously defend the right of Harvard, and other universities, to seek the educational benefits that come from a class that is diverse on multiple dimensions, from its capacity for academic excellence to its ability to help create a campus community that gives each student the opportunity to learn from peers with a wide variety of academic interests, perspectives, and talents,” the statement said.

The court case also comes at a time when a recent Supreme Court vacancy could reverse 40 years of constitutional precedent in the situation that an affirmative action case reaches the high court.

“Four decades of case law make clear that race and ethnicity can be one of many factors that universities can consider during the admissions process,” said Peter McPherson, president of the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities, in a statement on July 6. “Public universities will continue to operate in accordance with the Constitution, state law, and past court rulings to ensure they appropriately foster a diverse campus to the benefit of all.”

On April 6, three months before the vacancy and prospect of Justice Kennedy, who was the swing vote on affirmative action, being off the court, the Justice Department filed court papers notifying the judge of its “substantial interest” in the suit.

Students for Fair Admissions, Inc. has also sued the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and the University of Texas at Austin accusing them of similarly discriminatory admissions practices.

March 6, 1961: President John F. Kennedy signs an executive order creating affirmative action.

2008: Students for Fair Admissions sues the University of Texas at Austin, alleging they discriminated against a student using affirmative action. Ultimately the supreme court upheld affirmative action.

June 27, 2018: Justice Anthony Kennedy, the swing vote on affirmative action, retires opening a vacancy on the Supreme Court and creating an uncertain prospect for affirmative action.

Nov. 2014: Admissions activist Edward Blum sues Harvard for allegedly violating the constitutional and civil rights of Asian-American students through his organization Students for Fair Admissions.
The future of Campustown

City Council seeks investment strategies

BY DEVYN LEESON
@IOWASTATEDAILY.COM

Big investments and changes could be coming to Campustown following the July 17 City Council meeting.

A workshop on Campustown vision and the second passage of rental cap hardship exemptions will be discussed at the Tuesday City Council meeting.

The goals for the workshop are to "encourage vibrancy in Campustown," according to the city council website.

They intend to accomplish this through three tasks including reviewing a Campustown report, building on the report and making plans for improvements along Welch Avenue.

Reviewing the report from spring of this year will help create insights into how the city could encourage investment in Campustown. This report will present alongside the Ames City Council resolution (CRR) who is in partnership with the Ames Chamber of Commerce and Iowa State University, to serve as a catalyst for private and public partnership in the Campustown area.

In the upcoming fiscal year, the City of Ames has allotted $36,650 to CAA to help accomplish their goals.

The workshop will also include "Campustown property owners, business owners, Campustown residents, ISU Student Government, and other stakeholders to discuss their vision for Campustown," the City Council website said.

Depending on what the Council's vision is for Campustown they will decide on varying plans to make improvements along Welch Avenue during the fall of 2018.

Their plans will range from three options they have teased since as far back as February with all including rezoning in some way around Campustown. For the full details on different rezoning plans go to the City Council’s page on the City of Ames website.

The Ames Police Department announced two very troubling incidents that occurred earlier in the week. Both are currently under investigation so we are unable to provide any more information than this:

We would like to make you aware of two very troubling incidents that occurred earlier in the week. Both are currently under investigation so we are unable to provide any more information than this:

The posts also requested anyone with information to contact the Ames Police Department at 515-239-5133 or to call the anonymous tip line at 515-239-5313.

"You may also contact Crime Stoppers of Central Iowa at 515-223-1400 or 1-800-452-1111. Online anonymous tips may be submitted to www.crimestopperscentraliowa.com or text a tip, Text ‘PCCS’ plus your message to 274637 (CRIMES)," the posts said.

The City Council discusses rental cap exemptions June 26.

At-large representative Amber Corrieri is not present but can speak and vote over the speaker system.

City Council advises ‘buddy system’ after attacks

BY K.RAMBO
@IOWASTATEDAILY.COM

The Ames Police Department issued a warning on Saturday morning via Facebook and Twitter in response to two alarming events near Campustown in the last week.

A woman reported an attempted sexual assault by two white males on Sunday morning near Lettie Street. This morning, another woman reported a sexual assault that took place on the 300 block of Ash Avenue. She said both were college-aged white males over 6 feet tall.

Police said they do not yet know if the two incidents are related, despite the similarities.

Ames Police Department advised "everyone to utilize the buddy system when out after dark and have a charged mobile phone with you to dial 911."

The posts also requested anyone with information to contact the Ames Police Department at 515-239-5133 or to call the anonymous tip line at 515-239-5313.

"You may also contact Crime Stoppers of Central Iowa at 515-223-1400 or 1-800-452-1111. Online anonymous tips may be submitted to www.crimestopperscentraliowa.com or text a tip, Text ‘PCCS’ plus your message to 274637 (CRIMES)," the posts said.

The posts said police are currently unable to release additional information, as the incidents are under investigation but said there was not much of a description in either case and that both women were walking alone when attacked.

This article will be updated as more information becomes available.
Minnesota United welcomes all fans

BY SANDEEPSTANLEY
@iowastatedaily.com

As an avid soccer fan, I set aside all other plans just to attend a Minnesota United FC match. I had a few reservations, however. Many fans of European leagues look down on Major League Soccer (MLS) as a retirement league, made for aging stars who aren’t good enough for top-flight competition anymore.

I must confess that I shared the same mindset.

Once inside the stadium, I made a beeline for the supporter’s section. My interest had been piqued by the passionate fans outside, and I wanted to be in the middle of the action.

At TCF Bank, the supporter’s section faces southwest and looks over many of the buildings of the Minneapolis downtown. As the match went on, the sun setting over the skyscrapers provided for an absolutely picturesque view.

However, the soccer on the field in front of me was much more beautiful.

The match started out slow, but as Minnesota threatened Salt Lake goalkeeper Nick Rimando to the point of noise that surrounded the bag check areas. In fact, it was audible fire blocks away, and a friend of mine commented on the beat of three different bass drums.

Fans were visible as far as the eye could see. Most wore Minnesota’s sleek gray jersey with an assortment of names on the back, from captain Francisco Calvo to new signing Darwin Quintero and promising support for everyone, regardless of race, gender or sexuality.

Fans of European leagues look down on Major League Soccer with violence against minorities and LGBTQ individuals, Minnesota’s supporter group deserves special commendation for their commitment to providing safety for all fans as expressed in their code of conduct.

I was immediately taken aback by the sheer cacophony of noise that surrounded the bag check areas. In fact, it was audible fire blocks away, and a friend of mine commented on the beat of three different bass drums.

When today’s soccer culture is so fraught with violence against minorities and LGBTQ individuals, Minnesota’s supporter group deserves special commendation for their commitment to providing safety for all fans as expressed in their code of conduct.

In 2017, I shared the same mindset. I must confess that I shared the same mindset.

After the second half began, our patience was rewarded. Darwin Quintero assisted two goals and scored a beautiful curling shot in the span of 20 minutes. As Salt Lake pulled two goals back, we were on the edge of our seats, but the Loons held firm to pull out a hard-fought 3-2 victory.

Chants boomed out from the supporter’s section, led by fire megaphone wielding men. I recognized some of them as adapted from famous chants from European clubs like Manchester United and Tottenham Hotspur, but each of them carried a different flair.

As I was leaving the stadium, flushed with excitement and carrying a new Minnesota United scarf, I noticed two flags at the base of the supporter’s section expressing support for Collin Martin, a Loons fan.

I deeply appreciated their time and was extremely impressed by their dedication to the team. Minnesota United had one of the most intense and welcoming atmospheres I have experienced in my travels around the world. I will be back for another match in the near future, as a proud Loons fan.
CYCLONES GO PRO
NIANG AND MITROU-LONG SIGN WITH NBA TEAMS

BY NOAH ROHLFING
@iowastatedaily.com

In the midst of the NBA Summer League, lots of contracts have been handed out. Some big, some small, some guaranteed and some of them two-way contracts.

It just so happens that this was an eventful weekend for former Cyclones who happened to play for the Utah Jazz in 2017-18: Georges Niang and Naz Mitrou-Long.

Mitrou-Long, who the Daily talked to earlier this week in Hilton Coliseum, the Cyclones pulled off the upset, winning 72-69.

Redshirt senior Naz Mitrou-Long celebrates after a game against #9 Baylor, Saturday afternoon

MAX GOLDBERG/Iowa State Daily

Maurice Williams/The Deseret News

MITROU-LONG JOINS NBA TEAM

On Saturday, Mitrou-Long signed a two-way deal with the Jazz, according to Yahoo! Sports’ Shams Charania.

Mitrou-Long averaged 18 points, 6.1 rebounds, 4.6 assists and 1.2 steals per contest in 40 appearances for the Salt Lake City Stars, the G-League affiliate of the Jazz.

As part of the two-way deal, Mitrou-Long will likely spend a lot of time with the Stars this upcoming season, as two-way designated players can only be with the NBA team they’re signed to for 45 days over the course of the season.

Two former Iowa State basketball players have now signed two-way contracts this offseason, with Niang joining Deonte Burton, who signed a two-way deal with the Oklahoma City Thunder on July 7.

Meanwhile, Niang got a first-year guarantee in his deal with the Jazz.

Yahoo! NBA reporter Shams Charania broke news of the deal Friday afternoon, adding that it was a multi-year contract.

The Salt Lake Tribune’s Tony Jones added that Niang was “with the expectation to make the opening-day roster.”

Niang averaged 19.7 points, 6.7 rebounds, 4.3 assists and 1.1 steals per game last season in the NBA G League with the Salt Lake City Stars as a part of his two-way contract with the Jazz. Niang also shot 45.9 percent from 3-point range.

Niang signed his two-way deal with the Jazz in January, joining former Iowa State teammate Naz Mitrou-Long in the organization.

Before free agency began, the Jazz had made Niang a restricted free agent by making him a two-way qualifying offer.

NIANG AND MITROU-LONG SIGN WITH NBA TEAMS

IN THE MIDST OF THE NBA SUMMER LEAGUE, LOTS OF CONTRACTS HAVE BEEN HANDED OUT. SOME BIG, SOME SMALL, SOME GUARANTEED AND SOME OF THEM TWO-WAY CONTRACTS.

IT JUST SO HAPPENS THAT THIS WAS AN EVENTFUL WEEKEND FOR FORMER CYCLONES WHO HAPPENED TO PLAY FOR THE UTAH JAZZ IN 2017-18: GEORGES NIANG AND NAZ MITROU-LONG.

MITROU-LONG, WHO THE DAILY TALKED TO EARLIER THIS WEEK IN HILTON COLISEUM, SCORING 10.7 POINTS PER CONTEST.

IN LAS VEGAS, NIANG CONTINUED HIS STRONG PLAY. THROUGH FOUR GAMES, NIANG LED THE JAZZ IN SCORING, AVERAGING 16.7 POINTS PER CONTEST ON 20-FOR-38 SHOOTING IN THREE GAMES.

IN LAS VEGAS, NIANG CONTINUED HIS STRONG PLAY. THROUGH FOUR GAMES, NIANG LED THE JAZZ IN SCORING, AVERAGING 16.7 POINTS PER CONTEST ON 20-FOR-38 SHOOTING IN THREE GAMES.

NIANG AND MITROU-LONG’s SUMMERS CAME TO AN END ON SATURDAY, WITH THE JAZZ SUFFERING A LOSS AT THE HANDS OF FORMER WEST VIRGINIA GUARD JEVON CARTER AND THE MEMPHIS GRIZZLIES.

MONTE MORRIS CAME INTO THIS YEAR’S SUMMER LEAGUE WITH SOMETHING TO PROVE: COULD HE BE THE DENVER NUGGETS’ BACKUP POINT GUARD?

NBA: FORMER CYCLONES SHINE IN VEGAS

IT’S BEEN A BIG SUMMER FOR FORMER CYCLONE BASKETBALL PLAYERS.

GEORGES NIANG, NAZ MITROU-LONG, DEONTE BURTON AND MONTE MORRIS WERE ALL IN ACTION THE PAST TWO WEEKS IN THE NBA SUMMER LEAGUE.

NIANG PLAYED HIS WAY INTO A ROSTER SPOT WITH THE UTAH JAZZ AFTER SUMMER LEAGUE ACTION IN BOTH THE UTAH AND LAS VEGAS SUMMER LEAGUES.

IN THE UTAH SUMMER LEAGUE, NIANG LED THE JAZZ IN SCORING, AVERAGING 16.7 POINTS PER CONTEST ON 20-FOR-38 SHOOTING IN THREE GAMES.

IN LAS VEGAS, NIANG CONTINUED HIS STRONG PLAY. THROUGH FOUR GAMES, NIANG LED THE JAZZ IN SCORING, AVERAGING 16.7 POINTS PER CONTEST ON 20-FOR-38 SHOOTING IN THREE GAMES.

THAT PLAY FROM NIANG RESULTED IN THE JAZZ SIGNING HIM TO A THREE-YEAR, $5 MILLION DEAL ON FRIDAY. THE DEAL COMES WITH A FIRST-YEAR GUARANTEE, ACCORDING TO DESERT NEWS REPORTER ERIC WOODARD.

MITROU-LONG, WHO THE DAILY TALKED TO EARLIER THIS SUMMER ABOUT HIS NBA ASPIRATIONS, FARED MUCH BETTER IN THE UTAH SUMMER LEAGUE, SCORING 10.7 POINTS PER CONTEST.

ON SATURDAY, MITROU-LONG SIGNED A TWO-WAY CONTRACT WITH THE JAZZ, STAYING IN THE ORGANIZATION THAT HAS KEPT HIM WITH HIS SELF-PROFESSED BEST FRIEND IN NIANG.

NIANG AND MITROU-LONG’S SUMMERS CAME TO AN END ON SATURDAY, WITH THE JAZZ SUFFERING A LOSS AT THE HANDS OF FORMER WEST VIRGINIA GUARD JEVON CARTER AND THE MEMPHIS GRIZZLIES.

MONTE MORRIS CAME INTO THIS YEAR’S SUMMER LEAGUE WITH SOMETHING TO PROVE: COULD HE BE THE DENVER NUGGETS’ BACKUP POINT GUARD?

THROUGH FOUR SUMMER LEAGUE GAMES, IT CERTAINLY SEEMED TO BE THE CASE. MORRIS PACED THE NUGGETS IN EACH OF THEIR GAMES, AVERAGING 17.5 POINTS, 6.3 ASSISTS AND 3.3 REBOUNDS PER CONTEST AS THE NUGGETS WENT UNDEFEATED IN THEIR FIRST THREE GAMES.

THE FORMER CYCLONE POINT GUARD HAS ALSO BEEN LIMITING HIS TURNOVERS, COMMITTING ONLY FIVE THROUGH FOUR GAMES, IN CONTRAST TO 25 ASSISTS. THAT 5-TO-1 ASSIST-TO-TURNOVER RATIO IS HIGHER THAN HIS NCAA-RECORD 4.65-TO-1 RATIO, AND MORRIS HAS SHOWN A NEW-FOUND AGGRESSION WHEN ATTACKING THE BASKET.

JUST TAKE A LOOK AT THIS DRIVE FROM AN EARLY SUMMER: MORRIS IS A CANDIDATE FOR THE NUGGETS’ FINAL ROSTER SPOT, AS HE IS ONE OF ONLY TWO TRUE POINT GUARDS ON THE ROSTER ALONGSIDE NEWLY-REIGNED POINT GUARD (AND FORMER MVP CONTENDER) ISAAC THOMAS.

THE ROCKETS’ TRADE FOR JACOB MARTIN FROM THE League with something to prove: could he be the Denver Nuggets’ backup point guard?

Maurice Williams/The Deseret News

MITROU-LONG JOINING NBA TEAM

THE FORMER CYCLONE TO PLAY IN SUMMER LEAGUE THIS SEASON WAS DEONTE BURTON, WHO PLAYED IN THE KOREAN BASKETBALL LEAGUE LAST SEASON AND IS NOW A TWO-WAY PLAYER FOR THE OKLAHOMA CITY THUNDER.

BURTON WAS A SURPRISE TWO-WAY SIGNING FOR THE THUNDER ONLY ONE GAME INTO SUMMER LEAGUE ACTION ON JULY 7, AND HE HAS SINCE IMPRESSED IN HIS FIRST APPEARANCES FOR THE SUMMER THUNDER, AVERAGING 10.6 POINTS, 5.8 REBOUNDS, THREE ASSISTS, 1.6 STEALS AND 1.6 BLOCKS PER GAME.

BURTON HAD A COMING-OUT PARTY IN THE THUNDER’S FIRST-ROUND PLAYOFF GAME ON FRIDAY, HAMMERING DOWN THREE TRADEMARK Dunks before hitting a game-winning floater in the lane at the buzzer to knock off the Orlando Magic.

NONE OF THE FOUR FORMER CYCLONES MADE IT PAST THE SECOND ROUND OF THE SUMMER LEAGUE PLAYOFFS.
BY ANDREA DAHL
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Located in north Ames, Soper's Mill is a 16-acre historical site on the Skunk River and offers activities including canoeing, kayaking, stream fishing and hiking. While floating on the river is best when the water level is high, there are also river hazards such as log jams and sharp turns.

The water trails are popular for fishing and features bullhead, buffalo, carp, channel catfish and smallmouth bass. Soper's Mill is part of the Skunk River Greenbelt, which consists of 620 acres and features deer and small game for forest and upland hunting. The park has a variety of wildlife along the banks of the river and provides chances for birdwatching and photography opportunities.

The site has a north and south entrance and is open daily from 5 a.m. to 10:30 p.m. year round. Pedestrians are welcome, however, there are no grills or picnic tables available.

Activities:
- Canoeing
- Kayaking
- Stream fishing
- Hiking
- Geocaching
- Nature area
- Birdwatching
- Hunting

The Skunk River provides opportunities for recreational activities, such as canoeing, kayaking and fishing. The recent rainfall in Ames has caused the river level to rise.

The site is part of the Skunk River Greenbelt, which consists of 620 acres. The park has a variety of wildlife along the banks of the river and provides chances for birdwatching and fishing.

ANDREA DAHL / IOWA STATE DAILY
The Skunk River provides opportunities for recreational activities, such as canoeing, kayaking and fishing. The recent rainfall in Ames has caused the river level to rise.
as a kid, was when I was going down to my grandmother’s house, and my aunties and uncles would be just cooking all day,” Gray said. “I would get there at like 11 [a.m.] and then play around and enjoy myself.”

Gray is keeping consistent with his memories by having a bounce house and having what he calls his “parents’ music,” being played by the DJ.

“I didn’t have any control of the radio,” Gray joked. “They played whatever they wanted to play.”

The living exhibit is not merely for the social commentary, or to make a point artistically, but to bring people together who normally would not be in the same place at the same time and start a conversation.

“Like I said, start that conversation, but also give people who never get that experience to go to an authentic black fish fry, the opportunity to see what our lives are like and what that experience is like,” Gray said. “Because, I feel like for us to truly understand each other, we have to also be willing to go to those places that would make us feel uncomfortable and experience these things. Because, then you’re then moving in a way of experience and not hearsay.”

Gray doesn’t shy away from being provocative, and he admits his work is not always easy to look at, but that he finds a balance to presenting shocking imagery in an aesthetic fashion.

“That’s the middle ground I like to be in, in a sense of I’m using my work that... it is attention grabbing and it is somewhat provocative, but I also want it to be gorgeous at the same time,” he said. “You can admire the thing for it’s beauty but then also you can admire the way that I’m talking to you.

“So if I can make a, you know... a baby hanging from a noose intriguing to you, I did my job. I did everything that I needed to do, and more.”

Gray said people need to remember he is not creating a new story, he is finding ways to tell existing stories visually. He said if the content bothers people, they should do something about it, because much of the past parallels the future with modern day Lynchings and police brutality.

“I always say before I go in the studio for the first time — or before I put a pencil to the page, if you will — I’m always strapping my boot straps, and I’m always going to fight,” Gray said. “We have to keep fighting, because if we don’t, God only knows where this country will be in.”

Gray notes his intent to fight for “the other” in society, those that often go unheard, and fight against white supremacy, but his intensity when creating, evident in his eyes, relaxes as he interacts with those around him.

“My work is for the people,” Gray said. “And no one else.”

People are highly important to Gray, much of his work is inspired by his family. He is a regular on Main Street in Ames, seemingly running into people he knows every time he steps out of the Design on Main building. He greets each person, asking questions about their life, taking brief moments to parse through the experiences of those in his life — his interest manifests as effortless as his smile.

Those moments are at a premium in his life in the days before July 21.

K. RAMBO/ IOWA STATE DAILY

A close-up of “Equilibrium” shows the detail applied to the hands and forearm of the baby doll in the noose.

PEARL Firm 2 Sided Flippable Innerspring with Quilted Cover
Twin Set... $229
Full Set... $299
Queen Set... $319
King Set... $549

PEARL Plush 2 Softier Flippable Innerspring Eco-Friendly Soy Foam
Twin Set... $259
Full Set... $399
Queen Set... $399
King Set... $599

Augusta Pillowtop Cooling Gel and Luxurious Memory Foam
Twin Set... $299
Full Set... $499
Queen Set... $499
King Set... $699

Joy Pillow Plush Supreme Soft & Flippable Gel and Memory Foam x 2
Twin Set... $349
Full Set... $599
Queen Set... $599
King Set... $799

Lebedic Luxurious Gel Memory Foam for Motion Free Sleeping
Twin Set... $549
Full Set... $799
Queen Set... $799
King Set... $999

Ankery Pillow Plush Individually Pocketed Coils Latex Hybrid
Twin Set... $579
Full Set... $899
Queen Set... $999
King Set... $1249

GENTRIFIED