

This Complaint and Affidavit is to be:

Agency Form Number: **202400002319**

Arrest Date: **02/21/2024**

Filed with Court Clerk (cc: CA) Submitted to County Attorney

Filed with JCO - Defendant is a Juvenile **OFFENDER**

THE STATE OF IOWA

VS.

IN THE IOWA DISTRICT COURT IN AND FOR

LINN COUNTY

Last VAN PATTEN		First DAKOTA		Middle LYLE	Suffix
Address			City CEDAR RAPIDS		State IA Zip Code 52405
DL#	State IA	DL Class C	DL Endorsements	DL Restrictions	
Date of Birth	Gender MALE	Race WHITE - W		Ethnicity NOT OF HISPANIC ORIGIN - N	
Height 6' 01"	Weight 180 LBS	Eye Color HAZEL - HAZ		Hair Color BROWN - BRO	

OFFENSE

State County Local <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	Code Section 707.2(1)(A)	Crime Description MURDER IN THE 1ST DEGREE		Speed	in Zone
Class FELA	Serious P.I. <input type="checkbox"/>	Fatal Accident <input type="checkbox"/>	Civil Damage Assessment <input type="checkbox"/>	Other <input type="checkbox"/>	
Location Type 26 - PARK					
Literal Description					
Address		City CEDAR RAPIDS		State IA	Zip Code 52405
Is Date and Time of Incident Known? NO	Incident Date or Low Range 02/17/2024	Upper Date Range 02/18/2024	Incident Time or Low Range 23:20	Upper Time Range 03:10	

STATUS OF OFFENDER/JUVENILE

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TAKEN INTO CUSTODY	CUSTODY 1 - JAILED	SUMMONS TO APPEAR (Citation Issued)
<input type="checkbox"/> WARRANT REQUESTED	NO CONTACT ORDER REQUESTED	RELEASED TO PARENT/GUARDIAN

NARRATIVE

Narrative of Offense Committed

On or about the above stated date and time, the Defendant did

kill Melody Hoffman, with malice aforethought, willfully, deliberately and with premeditation and/or while participating in the forcible felony offense of kidnapping and/or aid and abet another in the commission of the offense, at Morgan Creek Park, 7212 E Ave. NW, Cedar Rapids, Linn County, Iowa, and/or Lily Lake, 220th Trail and 38th Ave., Amana, Iowa County Iowa.

VICTIM INFORMATION (Optionally displayed, especially if NCO is requested)

Last HOFFMAN	First MELODY	Middle MARIE	Suffix	
Business/Organization/State/County/Municipality Name				
Address		City MARION	State IA	Zip 52302

Printed At MARION POLICE DEPARTMENT 2/21/2024 7:30 PM Page 1 of 2 Form #: 202400002319
AFFIDAVIT

STATE OF IOWA, LINN COUNTY

I, the undersigned, being duly sworn, state that all facts contained in this Complaint and Affidavit, known by me or told to me by other reliable persons form the basis for my belief that the defendant committed this crime

State all facts and persons relied upon supporting elements of alleged crime

On February 18, 2024, the Iowa County Sheriff's Office responded to a report of a deceased person at a pond at 220th Trail and 38th Ave. in Amana, Iowa County, Iowa. The deceased person was identified as Melody Hoffman, age 20. The Iowa State Medical Examiner's Office indicated that the preliminary opinion on Hoffman's cause of death was by strangulation. She also had numerous stab and slash wounds to her body. Investigators from the Marion Police Department, the Division of Criminal Investigations, the Linn County Sheriff's Office and the Iowa County Sheriff's Office conducted an investigation into her death and disappearance and by talking to witnesses and tracking activity on her iPhone and her Apple watch through her iPhone they were able to determine that she was picked up by McKinley Louisma and the defendant, Dakota Van Patten, in Louisma's vehicle around 11:00 p.m. on February 17, 2024, and remained with both of them until she died. Investigators determined that she was at Morgan Creek Park in Linn County when her Apple Watch recorded her heartbeat intensify before it either stopped or the device deactivated. Louisma's vehicle was located by investigators and a search warrant revealed the presence of her phone case, a white Apple Watch band with blood on it, a towing rope, gloves and clothing matching the clothing she was wearing in a bag in the trunk of his car. Louisma then reportedly admitted to a DCI Special Agent that he was with Hoffman and Van Patten and that he and Van Patten bound Hoffman with duct tape at Morgan Creek Park around her wrists, placed her in the trunk of the car and drove with her from Morgan Creek Park to several different locations in Linn County until traveling to a pond in Iowa County where he helped rip off her clothes before she was left at that location. Louisma reported that Hoffman was physically beaten while she was with him and Van Patten and was begging to be let go. Louisma had been in an intimate relationship with Hoffman and was still seeing her when this happened but was also in a relationship with another woman. Louisma reportedly stated that if investigators were to ask Van Patten what happened, Van Patten would probably put the blame on him. Investigators were able to confirm through video surveillance that Louisma and Van Patten were together at the Walmart in SW Cedar Rapids prior to picking up Hoffman and that they purchased gloves and two machetes. A third individual reportedly told associates of Van Patten and Louisma that the three of them planned to kill someone. After Hoffman's body was left at Lily Lake, a witness reported that Van Patten, while in possession of a machete, admitted that he killed someone and when asked who he killed, Van Patten reported, "Melody." A search warrant was executed at Van Patten's residence resulting in investigators locating a portion of the towing rope believed to be used to kill Hoffman and Hoffman's glasses. Van Patten admitted to investigators that he was with Louisma on the night Hoffman was killed and also admitted to stopping at a convenience store to purchase some cigars. Both Louisma and Van Patten were captured on video surveillance at a Kwik Star in Cedar Rapids after Hoffman's body was left at Lily Lake purchasing cigars. Based on the investigation into the homicide and kidnapping of Melody Hoffman, investigators discovered that key elements of the forcible felony offense of kidnapping in the first degree and murder in the first degree, if not all of the elements, occurred in Linn County prior to Louisma and Van Patten traveling to Iowa County where Hoffman's body was discovered.

[Redacted Signature]

FORT, PHIL M149

Signature of Complainant or Officer, Officer Name & Number

GENERAL PROBABLE CAUSE

Defendant Implicated
03 - ADMISSION/STATEMENTS, 07 - IDENTIFIED BY WITNESSES, 09 - NEAR SCENE OF CRIME, 13 - CAUSED PERSONAL INJURY, 14 - OTHER PHYSICAL EVIDENCE

Operating Motor Vehicle in County	Other Physical Evidence	Attempted To Inflict Injury
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Subscribed and sworn to before me by the person(s) signing the Complaint and Affidavit(s) on
02/21/2024

Notary Name **MIKE ROZEK** Signature of Verifying Party

Commission Number **796719**
Prosecuting Attorney

My Commission Expires **06/14/2024**

Peace Officer Notary