Peggs gets eight years in prison
Former Altoona superintendent charged with child pornography

By Kevin Murphy
Leader-Telegram correspondent

MADISON — Former Altoona school superintendent Daniel Peggs was sentenced Thursday in federal court to eight years in prison and 10 years on supervised release for possession of child pornography. Although Peggs, 54, pleaded guilty in August to the possession charge, a federal prosecutor maintained that Peggs’ conduct was much more serious and ruled that he wouldfile a motion in February to increase his sentence for possessing child pornography.

More Information

• People interested in helping to address homelessness issues in Eau Claire can contact Libby Richter at libbyr@eauclaire.lib.wi.us or 715-839-5061.

The stories this table could tell
Adovocates worry about lack of day shelter, warming center for homeless this winter

By Eric Leonard
Leader-Telegram staff

Eau Claire — Homeless residents are bracing to spend even more time than usual out in the elements this winter in Eau Claire. As if having no place to call home and dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic weren’t challenging enough, the city’s homeless population now faces the prospect of enduring winter without any guarantee of refuge from the cold — during the day or even at night.

That’s because, for the first time in years, the community has no facility where homeless individuals can hang out during the day and no warming center for those turned away when Sojourner House, the city’s largest homeless shelter, reaches capacity. That situation has advocates sounding the alarm.

“This is an urgent crisis. We have met winter ... and this will be the first year that our subzero neighbors have nowhere to go,” said Susan Wolgren, co-chair of the Affordable Housing Task Force for Joining Our Neighbors Advancing Hope, a local community justice organization best known as JONAH.

My dining table is a family role, one I have gathered around my entire life. At parties, my siblings and I still crowd so close together we could sit on each other’s lap. A mechanism that holds the leaves together until the tail-light fades is ready to slide it into place still works after 100 years. 

Relate my parents even met, this table was owned by my mother’s kin and then my father’s, as one piece from one branch of my family tree to another. The 6-foot table, sideboard and chairs were first purchased by the Carrie family in the 1920s for their rural Junction City farm. The set likely came from as far away as Wisconsin Rapids. I wonder: Was it transported those 20 miles home in a horse-drawn wagon or were pieces strapped on top of an early model Ford truck? Surely it took two trips.

When my mom’s sister, Ida Klawikowski, and her husband Ed purchased the farm in 1940, the Carrie family moved into the house and my grandparents shared farming. Three years later a housefire damaged the table and sideboard. My father’s parents, who lived one farm over from the Klawikowskis, bought the set for $40. Today the weathered wooden surface would be covered in a tray-like vinyl and the style this set was based upon, gothic mission, bought the set for $40. Today the weathered wooden surface would be covered in a tray-like vinyl and the style this set was based upon, gothic mission, was used to slide it into place still works after 100 years. 

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