



Thursday, May 10 2012, 11:04 PM CDT

Top Stories -- University of Iowa Police Hoping for New Information in Nearly 40 Year Old Murder

IOWA CITY, IA (KGAN/KFXA) -- Here in Iowa there's a site dedicated to highlighting the state's cases that have run cold. The site contains homicides, missing persons, all of the unsolved.

"We do have cold cases of our own," says Alton Poole.

Jack Pursel's confession to a 30 year double homicide in Waterloo has sparked new interest in other cold cases especially one on the campus of The University of Iowa.

"Two were called to my attention today and one was that of Sarah Ottens in 1973," Poole said.

Sarah Ottens body was found on the fourth floor inside Rienow Residence Hall almost 40 years ago, the case remains open and police still search for leads. Part of the file remains on the desk of University Police. The case has always been a priority to track down the killer. Along the way, James Hall was arrested and convicted of second degree murder. However, after 7 years in prison, that conviction was overturned after it was learned the prosecution with evidence in the case. Now, nearly 40 years after Sarah Ottens death the trail remains cold but the fascination with cold cases has always been around. CBS has 48 Hours Mystery, the hour long program profiles cases where investigators have run out of leads. The people behind Iowa Cold Cases online continuously updates its website. As for the mystery behind Sarah Ottens death, University Police hopes someone watching knows what happened and will come forward.