

PEN CITY CURRENT

It's **Black & White** and **Read** all over

Thursday, April 8, 2021 | 8 pages | Volume 5 • Issue 76



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Judd takes new CSO spot

"NEIGHBORLY": Retired officer wants a working relationship with FM residents

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – Karl Judd wasn't ready to retire from the Fort Madison Police Department. So he didn't.

Iowa code mandates retirement at age 65 in Iowa from certain duties for police and fire fighters, but allows officers to continue work in different capacities.

Due to some creativity thinking at the Fort Madison Police Department, Judd now finds himself, at age 66, in a new position as a Community Service Officer, a full-time restricted duty position aimed at handling city code violations within the police and building departments.



ROHLOFF

Judd said he's thrilled with the position because just wasn't ready to step aside yet.

"I just wasn't ready for retirement yet. I don't have desire to spend my day



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg

Instead of taking a retirement, Fort Madison Police officer Karl Judd has transitioned into a Community Services Officer for the FMPD.

code enforcement duties as necessary for the safety, maintenance and good order of the community with assignments sourced from both the city police and zoning administrations.

The position is a non-sworn position that can issue municipal citations

effectiveness of the new position. "Officer Judd will supply a face to the city code enforcement effort, and will be able to interact with residents to resolve problems," Rohloff said.

"He's definitely the right man for the job and relates

paperwork," he said with a laugh.

But he said the focus of the position will be to support the community, it's residents, and it's animals.

Judd said he will be able to focus on things that

See **OFFICER**, page 8

EMPTY NEST

By Curt Swarm



Mad dash across Kansas yields reward

I'm in a mad dash across Kansas on I-70. My brother in Canon City, Colorado, who is 14 years older than me, has terminal cancer. Hospice has been called in. I must see him before he dies. To do what? To pay respects? To tell him I love him? To try and make up for the years separating us, the distance, the difference in age? I dunno. All I know is I must get there.

My seat-belt warning alarm keeps going off. I have a cooler full of food and drink that Ginnie fixed for me in the passenger seat. The car "thinks" there is a person sitting there. The alarm is terribly annoying, but I don't want to stop to fasten the seat belt. I call my daughter on the hands-free phone to tell her about her uncle dying. She asks, "What's that beeping, Dad?"

I reflect on the difference between Interstate-80 and Interstate-70. They're both boring, but it's a different kind of boring. I-80 across Nebulous Nebraska is unclear, vague, and ill-defined, the corn fields fading into feed lots, cow-poke parking, and billboards proclaiming the world's largest prairie dog. Uncanny Kansas on the other hand is strange, mysterious and unsettling. The Sunflower State boasts rest areas that tell you ahead of time how many cars are there and if there's room for more, undeveloped rest areas that have toilets (developed—much appreciated), and abandoned farmsteads and ranches that speak of dreams shattered, hopes dashed, and a better life either east or west. I stop to take a picture of one—even though there's no parking along the Interstate—and have a hard time steadying the camera because of the wind. I'm just about bowled

See **SWARM**, page 5

Things were cooking again for Easter holiday

I was rummaging through the rec room Saturday night looking for a bottle of white wine.

Lee was cooking paella and was doing that deep sighing thing that wives do when they're frustrated and they want their husband to ask what's the matter. Men do it too, but my wife anyway, is really good at ducking the hint.

All we had was a cabernet, some sweet peach wine and then the usual bottles of Jameson. I cook with it.

My wife cooks with recipe. I never really got that.



When she sees me cooking, she always asks, "Are you using a recipe?" I laugh. "No."

I have images of things that sound good in my head. I have a cupboard full of seasonings and herbs, another cupboard on the other side of the

kitchen with cooking wines, sherries, and vinegars.

Do great artists have a template? Do you ever see Bobby Flay working out of a book? Tell me they're educated cooks, experienced – and I'll say "me too".

I've grilled, baked, broiled and I've marinated, seasoned, toiled.

Recipes take the fun out of it. I worked 20 years for KFC and was food safety proctor. So we're covered there.

The rest is all feel and imagination. I made a mushroom risotto a couple

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WEATHER

OpenWeatherMap
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FRI 09 Apr.....Rain, 64° F / 47° F
SAT 10 Apr.....Rain, 51° F / 46° F

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Obituaries/From the Front

OBITUARIES

RACHEL S. SIEMENS

Rachel Susan Siemens, 89, of Niota, Illinois, passed away at 3:10 p.m. Monday, April 5, 2021 at the River Hills Village, Keokuk, Iowa.

Rachel was born on June 3, 1931 in Fort Madison, Iowa, the daughter of Whidney T. and Gladys (Little) Zern. On September 30, 1955 she married Owen Dale Siemens in Niota. He preceded her in death on January 2, 1985.



SIEMENS

Rachel graduated from Nauvoo High School in 1949. She worked for Flora Thumbs and retired from Sheaffer Pen in Fort Madison. She was a member of the Ft. Madison YMCA and the former Nauvoo Presbyterian Church, where she served as an Elder.

Rachel enjoyed being outside, picking mushrooms, mowing and crocheting. Rachel was known for making hats for school kids that didn't have a hat. She made many afghans for the Niota Fire Department fund raisers. She loved shopping and vacationing with her sister. Most of all she loved and enjoyed her grandchildren.

Survivors include four children, Tina (Howard) Menke of West Point, Iowa, Joni (Mike) Watson of Dallas City, Illinois, Wesley "Sam" Siemens of Niota and Daren (Marilyn) Siemens of Niota; one daughter-in-law, Lisa Siemens of Niota; eight grandchildren, five step-grandchildren and 23 great-grandchildren.

Rachel was preceded in death by her husband and two sons, Kevin Siemens and Dana Joe Siemens, in infancy, and eight siblings.

Friends may call after 1:00 p.m. Thursday, April 8, 2021 at Schmitz-Banks & Beals Funeral Home in Nauvoo where the family will receive friends from 5:00 until 7:00 p.m. Mask are recommended.

A funeral service will be held at 10:00 a.m. Friday, April 9, 2021 at Schmitz-Banks & Beals with Pastor Mark Anderson officiating. Burial will follow in the Appanoose Cemetery, near Niota.

A memorial fund has been established for the Niota Fire Department or donor's choice. To leave a tribute for the family, please visit Rachel's obituary at sbbfuneral-home.com.

Pen City Current obituary policy

Pen City Current runs obituaries one time at no charge to funeral homes and they run the day they are submitted in most cases. They are also run as submitted by the funeral homes. Reposting of obituaries due to changes can only be requested by the submitting funeral home and will be assessed a \$15 reposting fee.

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OBITUARIES

DOUGLAS A. WILKINS

Douglas A. Wilkins, 78, of Donnellson, IA, passed away at 9:25 a.m. on Monday, April 5, 2021 at the University of Iowa Hospitals in Iowa City, IA. He was born on August 14, 1942 in Peoria, IL to Henry & Josephine Rickey Wilkins. He married Linda M. Swickert



WILKINS

Atchley on September 14, 1979 in Peoria, IL. He worked for 40+ years for Caterpillar, Inc. in Peoria, retiring to the farm in the Donnellson area in 1999. While working for Caterpillar, he traveled throughout South America and worked on the Panama Canal. He was a member of Izaak Walton in Fort Madison and enjoyed fishing, hunting, going to casinos and his cattle.

Doug is survived by: his wife: Linda Wilkins of Donnellson, IA; 4-children: Lynn (Jeremy) Atchley-Gibson of Hannibal, MO, Dwayne (Stacy) Wimpey of Miles, IA, Doug Wilkins, Jr. of Miles, IA & David Wilkins of Sabula, IA; 2-grandchildren: Ashley & Jake; 1-great grandson: Liam; 2-brothers: Jim (Diane) Wilkins of Farmington, IA & Rick (Kim) Wilkins of Chillicothe, IL; 1-sister in law: Joyce Vandermore of Kewanee, IL; 2-nieces & 1-nephew. He was preceded in death by his parents.

Cremation has been entrusted to the care of King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory in Fort Madison. No services are planned. Online condolences to Doug's family may be left at the King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory website: www.kinglynk.com.

Easter gave us time to cook together

RECIPES - Continued from Page 1

weeks back that could be marketed. I needed a little help with the risotto, but the rest was me. It was my Mona Lisa. I know this because my daughter Taylor had half a smile as she ate it.

Here's the problem. I can never repeat it. That's where I need the recipe, and that's the only reason. It bums me out if I have to sit there scrolling on my phone through a recipe when I cook. I'd rather be checking ESPN.

For example, I like salmon but I never can repeat the success. How do I know it was a success? My wife is the barometer. Happy wife... happy life. Even if it's over a plate of

fish and veggies. But I can always tell when I miss. It's a definitive facial expression. Nothing disappointing, just - blank.

"How's the salmon?"
"Oh it's good. My eyes were just bigger than my stomach."

Uh huh.
I'm getting better with the seasonings. We do Blue Aprons a couple times a week, because if I'm gonna eat healthy, it better damn well taste good. There's just no guarantee with me. But hey, that's what makes me - me.

Sure it's a gamble in the kitchen, but it's 3-1 that it ain't gonna suck and 2-1 that I'll get the half smile from Taylor. She's not picky. As a matter of fact we're usually poo-pooing the flavor and the kid from Manhattan who's learned that ramen noo-

dles are the poor man's carbohydrate, is telling us how good everything is.

I think I'm rambling about food because it's Easter Sunday and we're getting together as a family for the first time in more than a year to enjoy a meal. We put off last Easter, Thanksgiving, Christmas. Most of my family lives within a half hour so we've missed being together as a group.

So whatever you're cooking, it certainly feels like families are starting to get back together again.

We need to make sure we're adhering to all the expected safety guidelines. We just don't need to adhere to recipes - but that's Beside the Point.

Happy Easter everyone.
Chuck Vandenberg is owner/editor of Pen City Current.



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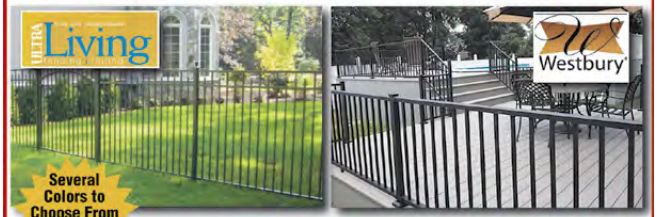
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Charles Vandenberg, Editor

(319).371.1670
editor@pencitycurrent.com

Lee K. Vandenberg, Sales Manager

(319).371.4125
sales@pencitycurrent.com

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For the Record/Lee County News

For the Record

Fort Madison Police Report

04/06/21 – 5:48 a.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a property damage accident in the 100 block of 2nd Street.
 04/06/21 – 10:19 a.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft on Alta Drive.
 04/06/21 – 12:04 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a burglary in the 1300 block of Avenue G.
 04/06/21 – 1:31 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a property damage accident in the 1800 block of Avenue E.
 04/06/21 – 3:21 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 2100 block of Avenue C.
 04/06/21 – 5:13 p.m. – Fort Madison Police cited Sheldon Jay Robinson, 53, of

Keokuk, in the 1900 block of Avenue L, on a charge of driving under suspension.
 04/06/21 – 5:52 p.m. – Fort Madison Police arrested Caitlyn Ellen Clark, 27, of Fort Madison, in the 1600 block of Avenue F, on a warrant service for failure to appear. She was taken to the Lee County Jail.
 04/06/21 – 9:30 p.m. – Fort Madison Police arrested James Daniel Reynolds, 54, of Fort Madison, in the 600 block of 8th Street on a charge of violation of a no contact order. She was taken to Lee County Jail.
 04/06/21 – 9:30 p.m. – Fort Madison Police arrested Chandra Leigh Reynolds, 42, in the 600 block of 8th Street, on a charge of violation of a no contact order. She was taken to Lee County Jail.
 04/06/21 – 11:34 p.m. – Fort

Madison Police cited Sherri Lynn Beames, 36, of Fort Madison in the 1600 block of Avenue H on a charge of driving under suspension.

Lee County Sheriff's Report

04/06/21 – 6:39 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Ryan Paul Markey, 42, of Wever, at 175th Street and Hwy. 61 in Wever, on a charge of driving while licensed denied/revoked. He was taken to Lee County Jail.
 04/07/21 – 6:10 a.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested David Wayne Hand, 53, of Fort Madison, at the Des Moines/Lee County line in Wever on a warrant for violation of parole. He was taken to Lee County Jail.
Those listed above are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

Montrose raid yields 3 arrests

BY PCC STAFF

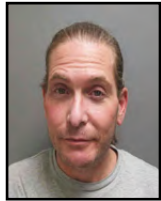
MONTROSE – The Lee County Narcotics Task Force reports the arrest of multiple Montrose residents on Felony and Misdemeanor drug and weapons charges.

Jason Hartman, 40, of Montrose, Iowa was arrested on April 6th, 2021 at the Montrose City Hall. Hartman is charged with Felon in Possession of a Firearm a Class D Felony; Possession of Ammunition by a prohibited person a Class D Felony; Possession of a Controlled Substance-Methamphetamine 2nd Offense an Aggravated Misdemeanor; Maintaining a Drug House an Aggravated Misdemeanor, Unlawful Possession of Prescription Pills a Serious Misdemeanor and Possession of Drug Paraphernalia a Simple Misdemeanor.



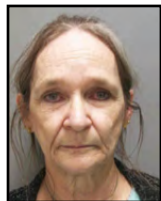
HARTMAN

David Paris, 45, of Montrose, Iowa was arrested on April 6th, 2021 at the Keokuk Police Department. Paris is charged with Possession with Intent to deliver more than 5 grams of Methamphetamine a Class B Felony; Drug Tax Stamp Violation a Class D Felony; and Possession of Drug Paraphernalia a Simple Misdemeanor.



PARIS

Pearl Philp, 64, of Montrose, Iowa was arrested on April 6th, 2021 at the Lee County Sheriff's Office. Philp is charged with maintaining a Drug House an Aggravated Misdemeanor; Possession of a Controlled Substance-Methamphetamine 1st offense a Serious Misdemeanor and Possession of Drug Paraphernalia a Simple Misdemeanor.



PHILP

The arrests of Hartman, Paris and Philp stems from a multi search warrant operation that was executed on their residences on 3/31/2021 as part of an ongoing investigation by the Lee County Narcotics Task Force into the use, delivery, and alleged manufacturing of methamphetamine within the Lee County area.

The Montrose Police Department; Lee County GHOST; Lee County Sheriff's Office, Keokuk Police Department, and the Lee County Attorney's Office, assisted the Lee County Narcotics Task Force in this investigation. The defendants are presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty. The Lee County Narcotics Task Force is funded in part

by the U.S. Department of Justice and the funds administered by the Iowa Governor's Office of Drug Control Policy

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Sports



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Holy Trinity senior Jason Thurman returns a shot for the Fort Madison Bloodhounds Monday night at Fort Madison High School. The Hounds have started the season 2-0 with wins over Fairfield and Burlington and travel to Mt. Pleasant on Thursday night.

Thurmans' racquets help Fort Madison to 2-0 start

BY PCC STAFF

FORT MADISON – Fort Madison seniors Jason and Vasin Thurman are picking up right where they left off after almost two years with no competitive tennis.

The two HTC seniors playing in the co-op agreement with Fort Madison High School are 4-0 on the year in singles play and 2-0 in doubles as the Bloodhounds rolled Burlington 6-3 Monday night in the home opener for Fort Madison.

After advancing to the state tournament in their freshman and sophomore years, the pandemic shut down spring sports in 2020 robbing them of a chance for their first medal at

Waterloo's Byrnes Tennis Park.

Now seniors, the two have their sights set on a return trip and placing at the state meet if all goes well on and off the court.

Playing at No. 1 singles Monday night at home against Burlington, Jason Thurman rolled to an easy 6-0, 6-2 win over the Grayhound's Brendan Hale. Thurman's first service would regularly give Hale problems and the Bloodhound would occasionally mix in a body serve that kept his opponent off balance.

Vasin Thurman would sweep Mike Mercer at No. 2 singles 6-0, 6-0. The Thurman twins who've been playing together since their youth, play a very similar

uptempo game regularly coming to the net on short second serves and keeping the ball in play.

The Bloodhounds got wins at No. 3 singles from Levi Sissell, 6-4, 6-4 for over Owen Fawcett and at No. 5 from Kadin Medland, playing in his first varsity season. Medland won 6-2, 6-2 over Burlington's Mason Rachowicz.

The Grayhounds got wins at No. 4 and No. 6 singles with Tice Bertleshofer and Jackson Carlson beating Brice Workman and Tyler Horn.

In doubles action, the Thurmans found themselves behind early against Hale and Bertleshofer down a set at 5-7. But the two battled back in the second set for a 6-2 win and carried that momentum into a 10-5 tiebreaker win in the best two of three

Sissel and Workman would defeat Fawcett and Carlson in the next court also dropping the first set to Burlington. But the Bloodhounds rebounded from a 2-6 first set loss to take the second set easily 6-1 and won the tiebreaker 10-7.

Mercer and Rachowicz won over FMHS' Medland and Horn in No. 3 doubles 6-2, 6-4.

The Bloodhounds opened the year with a 7-2 win over Fairfield on the road last week and take on Mt. Pleasant Thursday in East Park.

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CL boys fall to Nikes

BY PCC STAFF

BURLINGTON – Blake Moeller had seven saves at the net, but Burlington Notre Dame was too much to handle as the Nikes shut out Central Lee 10-0 Tuesday night in Burlington.

The Hawks fall to 0-1 on the year and 0-1 in Southeast Iowa Superconference action with the loss.

They play host to Wapello in a girls/boys double header Tuesday night.

Central Lee lost to Burlington Notre Dame 10-0 tonight in Burlington.

Opinion/From the Front

Blunt John Boehner blisters Republicans in Congress

It's time for a confession. I have misjudged John Boehner. Oh, I knew he might speak candidly. Or, more precisely, I knew he could be extremely blunt.

But where I was wrong was not recognizing Boehner was quite capable, and comfortable, being even more direct and more blunt than I ever dreamed possible.

The 71-year-old conservative Republican, former U.S. House speaker and member of the House for nearly a quarter century has a new book coming out April 13. He has a companion essay in the latest issue of Politico, a political magazine.

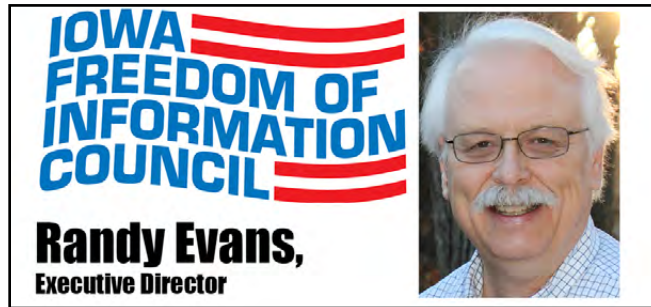
My Republican friends should not dismiss the essay or book because they think it is just another anti-Trump tome. That's not Boehner's message.

Instead, Donald Trump is a result of the transformation of the Republican Party, not the cause. Boehner believes too many Republicans are more interested in getting themselves and their candidates elected than they are in legislating and governing. It wasn't that way during his early years in politics. My Democratic friends should not get cocky about the spotlight Boehner's book puts on Republicans.

The views of too many Democrats — while opposite of Republicans who are Boehner's nemesis — bring our nation no closer to the compromise and consensus we need. Those Republicans he calls "Crazytown" can be obstructionists, but so too can Democrats who are poured from the molds of Bernie Sanders and Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez.

Boehner writes about the newly elected Republicans who took office when he became speaker: "Ronald Reagan used to say something to the effect that if I get 80 or 90 percent of what I want, that's a win. These guys wanted 100 percent every time. In fact, I don't think that would satisfy them, because they didn't want legislative victories. They wanted wedge issues and conspiracies and crusades."

Going into the 2010 mid-



Randy Evans,
Executive Director

term elections, Boehner was the minority leader of House Republicans. Voters gave Democrats what President Barack Obama called "a shellacking." Republicans gained 63 seats in the House, moving the party into the majority and Boehner into the speaker's chair.

Boehner did not beat around the bush in describing his party's 2010 victory: "You could be a total moron and get elected just by having an R next to your name — and that year, by the way, we did pick up a fair number in that category."

He tried to explain the finer points of governing and law-making to the new Republican members. "A lot of that went straight through the ears of most of them, especially the ones who didn't have brains that got in the way," he wrote.

"Incrementalism? Compromise? That wasn't their thing," Boehner wrote.

Although he now is seen as a wine-drinking, country-club Republican, his upbringing was similar to many people in Iowa who now dismiss him and his views. He was one of 12 children who grew up in a two-bedroom home in Cincinnati, Ohio, where his father ran a tavern. Boehner put himself through college, although it took seven years.

When he was first elected to the House in 1990, "the only people who used the internet were some geeks" in Silicon Valley, he said. Fox News went on the air in 1996 and the network slowly became a megaphone for what Boehner calls "kook conspiracy theories."

"It was making my job trying to accomplish anything conservative that much harder," Boehner wrote.

After Obama's victory in 2008, Boehner says he met with Roger Ailes, Fox News' leader. "I thought I could get him to control the crazies, and instead, I found myself talking

to the president of the club," Boehner wrote.

As he settled in as speaker after the 2010 election, the issue of Obama's birth certificate and place of birth came to a boil, thanks to Trump's persistent allegations. Reporters asked Boehner about the controversy.

"My answer was simple: The state of Hawaii has said that President Obama was born there. That's good enough for me," Boehner wrote. "It was a simple statement of fact. But you would have thought I'd called Ronald Reagan a communist."

"I knew I would hear from some of the crazies," he added, "but I was surprised at just how many there really were."

Democrats gloating over the attention Boehner is focusing on Republicans should think about the similarities he faced as speaker with the pressures Nancy Pelosi is dealing with now as she tries to keep a rein on those liberal House Democrats.

Democrats and Republicans both could use some Maalox.

Randy Evans is executive director of the Iowa Freedom of Information Council and can be reached at DMRevs2810@gmail.com.

Brother's cancer forces quick ride across the country

SWARM - Continued from Page 1

over by a double-bottom semi-truck swishing by. My hat flies off and I chase it into a ditch where there's remnants of snow, even though it's 80 degrees out. Strange land, strange time. COVID is waning. What will be the new normal?

I see the sign for Abilene, Kansas, birthplace of Dwight D. ("I like Ike") Eisenhower, and then reflect on the state I just passed through, Missouri, home of Harry S. ("Give'm Hell, Harry") Truman. How could the Midwest produce two, such fine conservative presidents, one after the other? Harry S. ended World War II. His father taught him to set his sight straight ahead while plowing behind a horse—to not veer one way or the other. Dwight D. ended the war in Europe, built the interstate highway system I now traversed, and warned of the "military, industrial complex." History tells us the two presidents didn't like each other. How could that be if they were such close Midwest neighbors?

As I enter Southern Colorado, I see the sun shining off snow covered Pike's Peak. It puts a smile on my face; there is hope for a better life ahead. I spend quality time with my brother, a career Army veteran, 101st Airborne, two tours of duty in Vietnam, and victim of Agent Orange. His hand can no longer hold a pen to write, so he dictates letters to me while I type on the computer, my hands flying, making mistakes I correct later. His mind is clear as to what he wants to say to a brother and sisters and relatives. He dictates five letters in all and is worn out. I feel good about being able to help him write letters and learned a lot about him and the people he's writing. He's teaching me and doesn't even know it. He's teaching me how to die with dignity, how to say good bye, how to accept Jesus as his savior, and how to be forgiven for sins. He's looking forward to Jesus wrapping him in His arms. I'm moved beyond words.

On the way home, I drive it all in one shot—16 hours straight, except for gas and pit stops (undeveloped but developed rest stops). I throw down extra-strength energy drinks and chocolate. I have never driven this far before without rest, but want to get home fast, put it all behind me. My head is buzzing and I'm having a hard time remembering the name of our cat. Is it Stormy or Barney? I have a doctor's appointment the next day and there are three issues I want to talk about, but can only remember two. The caffeine in the energy drinks kept me awake but scrambled my brain.

I close my eyes and see the oil wells and wind turbines of Kansas. I see my brother's hands that can no longer hold a pen, but can emphasize words. Ginnie welcomes me home and asks if I want something to eat. My stomach is too fried, so I decline.

We live in a world of trials and tribulations. The highway ribbon of life flows on, we are but passengers, sometimes in control, sometimes not.

I see hands.

Have a good story? Call or text Curt Swarm in Mt. Pleasant at 319-217-0526, email him at curtswarm@yahoo.com or visit his website at www.empty-nest-words-photos-and-frames.com.



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PUBLIC NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICE NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FORT MADISON, IOWA, ON THE MATTER OF THE ADOPTION OF A PROPOSED AMENDED CITY-WIDE URBAN REVITALIZATION PLAN FOR THE CITY-WIDE URBAN REVITALIZATION AREA

Public notice is hereby given that the City Council of the City of Fort Madison, Iowa, will hold a public hearing on April 20, 2021, in the Council Chambers, City Hall, 811 Avenue "E", Fort Madison, Iowa, at 5:30 P.M., at which meeting the Council proposes to take action on the adoption of an Amended City-Wide Urban Revitalization Plan ("Plan") for the City-Wide Urban Revitalization Area ("Area") described therein, under the authority of Chapter 404 of the Code of Iowa, as amended.

Due to public health concerns related to COVID-19, the public may access the meeting in person or electronically, pursuant to Iowa Code Section 21.8, as follows:

Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89431017391>
Meeting ID: 894 3101 7391 Or (312) 626-6799
Meeting ID: 894 3101 7391

Any person or organization desiring to be heard shall be afforded an opportunity to be heard at such hearing. Please check the posted agenda in advance of the April 20, 2021 meeting for any updates to the manner in which the public may access the hearing. Please contact the City Clerk's office at (319) 372-7700 or MBLind@fortmadison-ia.com if you have questions about the format of the meeting, or to request a copy of the

Amended Plan.

The purpose of the Amended Plan is to: (1) extend the duration of the Plan, (2) remove references to property assessed as multi-residential (in response to the elimination of the multi-residential property assessment classification for assessments imposed on or after January 1, 2022), (3) add an exemption schedule for property assessed as residential and that is either an assisted living facility or a parcel primarily used or intended for human habitation containing three or more separate dwelling units, as those terms are defined in Section 441.21(14), Code of Iowa, (4) update the application procedures and review process in accordance with Iowa Code Chapter 404, and (5) add a limitation to eligibility for property in an urban

renewal area.

Any persons interested may appear at said meeting of the Council and present evidence for or against the adoption of the Amended Plan. The proposed Amended Plan is on file in the office of the City Clerk and available for public inspection or copying during ordinary business hours.

This notice is given by order of the City Council of the City of Fort Madison, Iowa, pursuant to Section 404.2(6) of the Code of Iowa, 2021, as amended.

Dated this 8th day of April, 2021.

Melinda L. Blind
City Clerk, City of Fort Madison, Iowa

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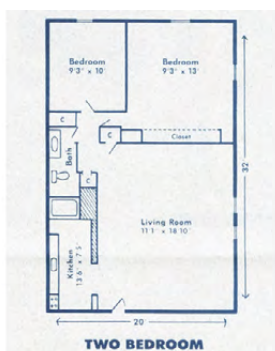
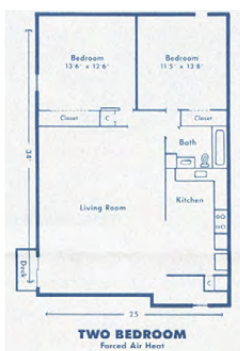
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United Way of the Great River Region

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To be considered, send your cover letter and resume with three references, on or before April 5, 2021 to: United Way of the Great River Region, PO Box 251, Keokuk, IA 52632 or email director@unitedwaygrr.org



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CSO to help mitigate city code violations

OFFICER - Continued from Page 1

allow the police officers more time to focus on the broader protection and service to the community.

“The main idea here is to make Fort Madison a better place for the people and the animals by enforcing city code,” he said.

“I guess I want to emphasize that when enforcing the city code, whenever possible, my first inclination is going to be to try and work it out in a neighborly way rather than issuing citations. Sometimes writing a citation maybe the first thing that happens, but in the majority that won’t be the case.”

In cases where a dog gets out and bites someone or another animal, a citation will probably happen



KROGMEIER

right away, Judd said. But he cited an example from Wednesday where a dog was loose, probably due to being scared by the thunder. He recovered the animal, which was tagged, had its rabies vaccination tag, and had another tag with identification on it.

“That person got their dog back immediately with no citation. The dog’s safe, the people are happy and the dog is happy, all because that person complied with city animal codes, had a rabies vaccination and a tag that helped us return it home.”

Judd did say having animals chipped is an even better way to keep them safe. He carries a code reader with him and sometimes collars can get lost when animals find away to escape a chain or fence.

But animal control won’t be the only thing the CSO gets involved in, despite his passion for the animals. He, along with his wife, have been volunteers walking dogs at PAW Animal Shelter for more than 15 years.

Judd will be working with city Building Director Doug Krogmeier to help with those city codes as well. Rudd clarified the position has not been created to be a revenue generator for the city.

“We’ve already heard those complaints about it being a position to increase revenue for the city. No... that’s not the idea here.”

He said intruding on people’s private lives is nothing he’s a fan of, but said living in a city with close neighbors is a lot different than living on a homestead out in the country.

“I’m a guy that is for less government not more government. I believe in as little intrusion of government into people’s lives as possible,” Judd said.

“But at the same time we live close together in

a city and we have to be good neighbors. And the codes of Fort Madison are designed to ensure that people are good neighbors.”

“When people start talking about stuff on their property, somehow they think they can do whatever they want on their property- and when possible I would agree with all that. But for instance, would you want your neighbor running a junk yard out of his property with all the bad things that goes with it? It’s one thing when you live out in the county with 50 acres, but another when you live on a city lot.”

Krogmeier said most of the city’s dilapidated structure issues will be sorted out through the court system and not take up a lot of Judd’s time.

“His piece will be more vehicles and private property that is wrecked or dilapidated. Or nuisances where we go to show up to deal with the nuisance and people are upset. I try to go and he can go now too. We show they were on the list, you had this much time, and these are the items that need cleaned up.”

Krogmeier said Judd will help with the public relations part of those issues.

“Contractors have his number and they can call him. This will be a great window. He can deal with animals, tag vehicles on streets, but also things on private property and nuisances. This should benefit the city greatly,” Krogmeier said.

Judd said Fort Madison isn’t unique in having nuisance codes on the books. In fact, Judd said Fort Madison’s codes have historically been some of the most relaxed codes you will see.

“You won’t go into the streets of Capistrano, California and see junk cars sitting on the side of the streets.”

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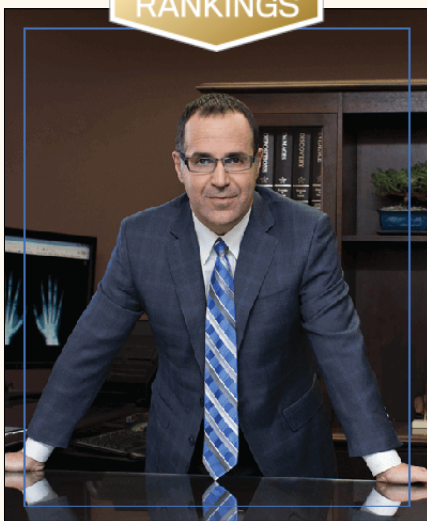
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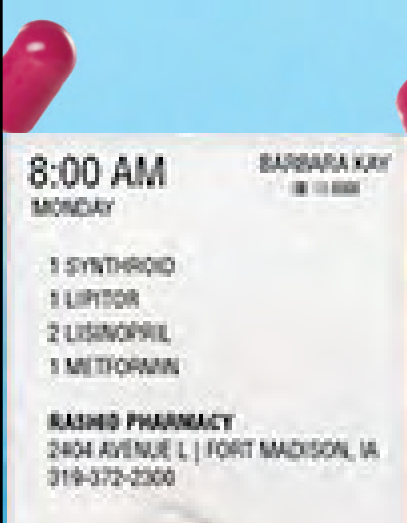


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