

# PEN CITY CURRENT

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

Tuesday, March 30, 2021 | 8 pages | Volume 5 • Issue 71



[www.pencitycurrent.com](http://www.pencitycurrent.com)

## Dog/handler trials at ISP



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg

A handler with the Ida County Sheriff's Department takes "Blitz" through a vehicle drug detection scenario at an Iowa State Penitentiary bay Monday morning in Fort Madison.

### GOIN' TO THE DOGS: Two-day drug detection certification held on old ISP grounds

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG  
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – For the second time in three years, canine officers and handlers from around the state came to Fort Madison for an annual detection certification at the old Iowa State Penitentiary.

This year's event, hosted by the Lee County Sheriff's Department and the Iowa State Penitentiary, brought in 59 animals from 30 divisions representing all four corners of the state.

Melinda Ruopp, a 31-year veteran of the Marshalltown Police Department, was the Region 21 national certifying official at the event. Ruopp she also was certification official and judge at the

2019 trials on the old ISP grounds.

"The whole purpose of this is to show that the dog knows the odor of marijuana or meth or cocaine," Ruopp said.

"We set up the hides to put out the odor. The hides are blind so the handler's don't know where the drugs are and have to go into three different rooms where we've set out two different sets of drugs. One room doesn't have anything."

The handlers and dogs were not only scored in room searches, but also in detecting drugs hidden in vehicles in one of the ISP bays.

ISP Sgt. Mike Barnes, a veteran K9 handler and advisor to

See **HANDLERS**, page 8

### FMHS

## Principal wants to resurrect high school courtyard

BY GREG SMITH  
Fort Madison High School Principal

FORT MADISON – In 1959 when the "new high school" opened my mom moved to this location to finish high school. I remember, years later, her memories of the really cool new



SMITH

building and especially the great open air courtyard area for students and staff to study, converse or relax.

Twenty years after she graduated, I graduated from FMHS and have

wonderful memories myself of my time in the courtyard.

Unfortunately, in 2004, due to new construction, the courtyard was lost to a building expansion. Today, in my 11th year as Principal of FMHS, I

See **COURTYARD**, page 5

## EMPTY NEST

By Curt Swarm



## A farmer, a doctor, a glass blower

Entering Iowa from the south on Highway 81 out of Missouri, the first road sign you see is not "Welcome to Iowa," but "Welcome to Van Buren County." How fitting. Of the many treasures, secrets and beauties of Van Buren County, west on County Road J-40 out of Keosauqua, is the farm and artisan retreat of Tim and Kim Blair, also known as The Bloom and Bark Farm—bloom for the blooms of their flowers and trees and bark for the bark on the trees or the friendly bark of their three welcoming rescue dogs. The locals know, but visitors to Van Buren County, like Ginnie and me, have no idea that the mild mannered, pony-tailed glass blower, Tim Blair, was once a well-known medical doctor. Ask any of the neighbors or the many Amish and they will tell you, "Oh, yes. He delivered a lot of babies."

Born in the first year of the Van Buren County Hospital in 1954, Tim Blair loved the family farm at Mt. Sterling. His Grandfather told him, "Son, you can plant more corn in a crooked row than a straight"—which became a mantra for Tim's life. After graduation from high school he was off to Iowa State University to study animal science and vet medicine. After graduation he went back to the farm. His brother started Circle B Enterprises and Convenience Store in Keosauqua and Tim helped out. He also started working for the Van Buren County Ambulance Service where he developed a love for science. He went back to college, this time to the University of Iowa and eventually medical school. During an Obstetrics Fellowship at Broadlawns Hospital in Des Moines, he met Kim, who worked in administration for the psychiatric department. Tim was smitten, but Kim would not go out with doctors. However, farm boy Tim was persistent. She finally said yes to coffee and the rest is history.

See **SWARM**, page 8

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### WEATHER

TUE 30 Mar.....Overcast, 54° F/ 44° F  
WED 31 Mar.....Broken Clouds, 45° F/ 33° F  
THU 01 Apr.....Clear, 44° F/ 28° F

### IOWA LOTTERY

LUCKY FOR LIFE 03/28.....12 16 31 43 46, Lucky Ball: 15  
PICK 3 03/28 MIDDAY.....130  
PICK 3 03/28 EVENING.....606  
PICK 4 03/28 MIDDAY.....2793  
PICK 4 03/28 EVENING.....0008

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# Obituaries

## OBITUARIES

### LESTER L. STARR

Lester Lee Starr, 93, of rural Hamilton, died at Blessing Hospital in Keokuk, Iowa, on Saturday, March 27, 2021. He was born April 12, 1927, the oldest son of S. Cleop-  
hus Starr and Florence Bolton Starr. He attended country grade schools for eight



STARR

years and graduated from Hamilton High School in 1945. Lester served in the U.S. Army in Europe from 1945-47. Following his service, he returned home and began a lifelong farming career in the rural Hamilton/Nauvoo area, working with his brother, nephew and great nephew. Lester was an integral part of the harvest crew running the grain cart until his 90th year.

He was married on February 10, 1977, to Shirley Thomas who preceded him in death in 2008.

Lester was a member of the American Legion, the VFW, I00F, and Illinois Corn Huskers Association. He was an Illinois Corn Huskers member and a 2001 Hall of Fame inductee. He also was a Nauvoo State Bank director since 1966. He was one of the original founders of Western Illinois Threshers and served in many leadership roles with this organization. He enjoyed traveling domestically and abroad.



In addition to his wife, he was preceded in death by his parents, two brothers Dean Starr, Lloyd Starr and sister-in-law Virginia Starr. He is survived by one brother Harold (Joyce) Starr of Carthage, sister-in-law Marge Starr of Knoxville, TN. Nine nieces and nephews: Ron (Patti) Starr of Nauvoo, IL, Karen (Clark) Taylor of Missoula, MT, Ann (Larry) Firkins of Dewey, IL, Maria (Kevin) Elam of Knoxville, TN, Jean Starr of Hamilton, IL, Keith (Joann) Starr of Charles City, IA, Linda Starr of Mt Pleasant, SC, Martha (Neal) Miller of Nashville, TN, and Jodi (Brian) Miller of Ankeny, IA; and caretaker Cindy Neff.

Services will be held on Saturday, April 3, 2021 at 11 am at Printy Funeral Home in Hamilton, with Mark Hanson officiating. For those unable to attend, the service will be livestreamed at [www.printyfuneralhome.com](http://www.printyfuneralhome.com). Visitation will be held from 9:30 am until the funeral service. Interment with military honors rendered by the Hancock County Honor Guard will be at Oak Grove Cemetery in Hamilton, IL.

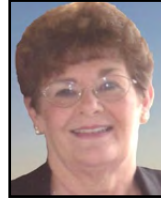
Memorials may be made to Oak Grove Cemetery, Western Illinois Threshers or Great River Honor Guard.

Tributes and condolences may be left at [www.printyfuneralhome.com](http://www.printyfuneralhome.com). Printy Funeral Home of Hamilton is in charge of arrangements.

## OBITUARIES

### CHRISTINE M. MILLER

Christine Marie Miller passed away in her home in Warsaw, Illinois, on Friday, March 26, 2021. She was born September 5, 1947 in Quincy, Illinois, to Malcolm Longenecker and Mary (Tanner) Longenecker. She was preceded in death by her parents, one grand-  
son, Matthew Haley, and one brother, Monte Longenecker. She is survived by two sons, Tony Haley (Laura) of Florida, Jeff (Michelle) Haley of War-  
saw, Ill., and one daughter, Kim (John) McGrady of Florida. Also surviv-  
ing are three brothers; Mitchell Longenecker, Brett Longenecker (Rhonda), Tracy (Ann) Longenecker, and one sister-in-law, Melanie Longenecker. Grandchildren, Jessica Haley, Jeffrey Haley, Jr., Jared Haley, and Cindy Ha-  
ley, great-grandchildren, and many nieces, nephews, and great-nieces and nephews also survive. She also left behind her beloved dog, Abby.



MILLER

Christine was an avid animal lover. She loved feeding and watching the birds and animals in her back yard. She organized several family events, and enjoyed entertaining on her patio. Wednesday evenings became "chicken night" when various family members would come to enjoy fried chicken at her house. She loved to read, and almost always had a book close at hand.

Christine attended Warsaw High School. She worked several places during her life. She worked at Eagle Signal in Davenport, Iowa, the nursing home in Carthage, Ill., and Methode in Carthage, Ill. She was a devoted caregiver to her cousins, Marilyn Larson, and her husband Charles (Swede) Larson, Jr. for over 25 years until their deaths. Christine lived a full and happy life.

A private Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 10 am on Wednesday, March 31, 2021, at Sacred Heart Catholic Church. Visitation will be held at the funeral home on Tuesday from 2 to 6 pm, with family meeting friends from 4 to 6 pm. A Christian Vigil Service will be held at 6 pm directly following the visitation.

Memorials in memory of Christine may be made to Hugs of Hancock County or PAWS. Tributes and condolences may be left at [www.printyfuneralhome.com](http://www.printyfuneralhome.com).

Printy Funeral Home of Warsaw is in charge of arrangements.

### 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.

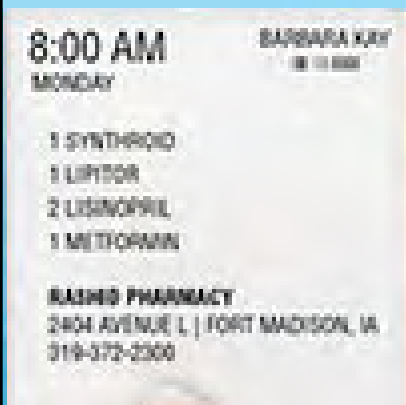
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# For the Record

## For the Record

### Fort Madison Police Report

03/26/21 – 8:40 a.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 1000 block of Avenue E.  
 03/27/21 – 12:52 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a burglary in the 400 block of 34th Place.  
 03/28/21 – 10:49 a.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 1200 block 23rd Street.  
 03/28/21 – 7:43 p.m. – Fort Madison Police arrested a 14-year-old female juvenile in the 1800 block of Avenue D, on charges of aggravated domestic abuse assault, and carrying weapons. She was taken to the Southeast Juvenile Detention Center.  
 03/29/21 – 3:32 a.m. – Fort Madison Police cited Eric Eugene Fortune, Jr., 28, of Fort Madison, in the 2800 block of Avenue O, on a charge of open burning.  
 03/29/21 – 6:28 a.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of vandalism in the 1600 block of Avenue H.

### Lee County Sheriff's Report

03/26/21 – 11:53 a.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Jarrod Ray Hagmeier, 40, of Fort Madison, at the sheriff's office on a court ordered hold. He was taken to Lee County Jail.  
 03/26/21 – 1:00 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Morgan Dawn Reynolds, 29, of Keokuk, at mile marker 18 on Hwy. 61 on a charges of fifth-degree theft and providing false information. She was taken to Lee County Jail and released on a promise to appear.  
 03/26/21 – 2:43 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Nicole Liana Huffman, 51, of Hamilton, at the sheriff's office on judgment hold. She was taken to Lee County

Jail and released for time served.  
 03/26/21 – 2:43 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested David Allen Laws, 39, of Hamilton, Ill., in the 2300 block of Hwy. 61 on a temporary hold. He was taken to Lee County Jail and released after paying a fine.  
 03/26/21 – 2:52 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies cited Jason Michael Dye, 42, of Keokuk, in the 1700 block of Main, on a charge of driving while barred.  
 03/26/21 – 3:12 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Steven Eriq Freeman, 51, of Keokuk, at the sheriff's office on a warrant for parole violation. He was taken to Lee County Jail and held.  
 03/26/21 – 6:46 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Jon Ruben Stewart, 29, of Ottumwa, at the sheriff's office on a warrant for assault with bodily injury. He was taken to Lee County Jail.  
 03/26/21 – 11:12 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Travis Dean Young, 45, of Burlington, at 203rd Street and Bus. 61 in Wever, on charges of driving while barred, manufacture, delivery of methamphetamine, drug stamp violations and possession of drug paraphernalia He was taken to Lee County Jail.  
 03/27/21 – 6:49 a.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested William Nathan Patten, 38, of Keokuk, in the 2100 block of Plank Road on a warrant for driving under suspension. He was taken to Lee County Jail and released after paying a fine.  
 03/27/21 – 11:12 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Amanda Lee Minuette, 31, of Burlington at 203rd Street and Bus. 61, on charges of possession of a controlled substance and possession of drug paraphernalia. She was taken to Lee County Jail and

released on a promise to appear.”  
 03/28/21 – 4:31 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Nathan Washington Ferguson, 29, of Keokuk, at the sheriff's office, on a charge of assault with a weapon. He was taken to Lee County Jail.  
 03/28/21 – 11:41 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Shawna Lynn Sylvester, 35, of Denmark in the 800 block of Kilbourn Ave., in Denmark, on a charge of 5th-degree theft. She was taken to Lee County Jail and released on a promise to appear.  
 03/29/21 – 2:48 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Devin Lance Lewis, 28, of Keokuk, on a charge of driving while barred and possession of drug paraphernalia. He was taken to Lee County Jail.  
 03/28/21 – 11:32 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's Deputies responded to a two vehicle accident at Bryant Trailer Park. A vehicle driven by Larry Wayne Bryant, 44, of Magazine, Ark., struck the passenger side of a vehicle driven by Abigail Grace Belba, 17 of Keokuk. No injuries were reported. Bryant was cited for failure to provide insurance.

### Hancock County Sheriff's Report

03/22/21 – Sean M Raines, age 39, of Ft Madison, IA was arrested and charged with Driving While License Suspended. Raines was released on his own recognizance and given a future court date.  
 03/22/21 – Anna N Stiern, age 25, of Augusta, IL was arrested on an Adams County Warrant charging

her with Failure to Appear on original charges of Possession of Methamphetamine. Stiern was released after posting the required bond and given a future court date.  
 03/22/21 – Teresa C Jones, age 42, of Burlington, IA was arrested on a Hancock County Warrant charging her with Failure to Appear/ Failure to Pay on original charges of Leaving the Scene of an Accident and operating an Uninsured Vehicle. Jones was released after posting the required bond and given a future court date.  
 03/22/21 – Carole J Feikert, age 49, of Keokuk, IA was arrested on a Hancock County Warrant charging her with Failure to Appear/ Failure to Pay on original charges of Possession of Methamphetamine. Feikert was released after posting the required bond and given a future court date.  
 03/22/21 – Robert B Caldwell, age 34, of Dallas City, IL was arrested on McDonough County Warrant charging him with Failure to Appear on original charges of theft. Caldwell was released after posting the required bond and given a future court date.  
 03/22/21 – Justin M Butler, age 21, of Macomb, IL was arrested on a Hancock County Warrant charging him with Failure to Appear/ Failure to Pay on original charges of Suspended Registration. Butler was released after posting the required bond and given a future court date.  
 03/22/21 – Chad M Atterberg, age 39, of Ft Madison, IA was arrested on a Hancock County Warrant charging him with Failure to

Appear/ Failure to Pay on original charges of Possession of Methamphetamine and Driving While License Suspended. Atterberg was released after posting the required bond and given a future court date.  
 03/24/21 – Daniel J DeShong, age 28, of Augusta, IL was arrested and charged with Domestic Battery and Trespass to a Residence. DeShong was released after posting the required bond and given a future court date.  
 03/24/21 – Aaron D Roth, age 31, of Indianola, IA was arrested on a Hancock County Warrant charging him with Petition to Revoke or Modify Sentence Probation Violation on original charges of Possession of Methamphetamine. Roth remains lodged in the Hancock County Jail awaiting his next court appearance.  
 03/24/21 – Rebecca S Billings, age 35, of Hamilton, IL was arrested on a Clark County, IA Warrant charging her with violation of probation. Billings was released to Clark County, IA authorities.  
 03/24/21 – Jason D Hall, age 34, of Hamilton, IL was arrested on a Hancock County Warrant charging him with Failure to Appear on original charges of Fishing Without a License. Hall was released after posting the required bond and given a future court date.  
 03/25/21 – Patrick W King, age 34, of Carthage, IL was arrested and charged with Petition to Revoke for Failed Drug Test. King remains lodged in the Hancock County Jail awaiting his next court appearance.

03/26/21 – William E Watkins, age 53, of Hamilton, IL was arrested and charged with Petition to Revoke for Failed Drug Test. Watkins remains lodged in the Hancock County Jail awaiting his next court appearance.  
 03/26/21 – Amy Jo Huls, age 46, of Carthage, IL was arrested and charged with Driving Under the Influence of Alcohol. Huls was released after posting the required bond and given a future court date.  
 03/26/21 – William J Palmer, age 26, of Macomb, IL was arrested and charged with Driving Under the Influence of Alcohol. Palmer was released after posting the required bond and given a future court date.  
 03/27/21 – Nevaeh D Watson, age 19, of Burlington, IA was arrested and charged with Driving Under the Influence of Alcohol, Driving While License Suspended, Illegal Consumption of Alcohol by a Minor, and Illegal Transportation of Alcohol. Watson was released after posting the required bond and given a future court date. Those listed above are presumed innocent until proven guilty.

### Fort Madison Fire & Rescue Report

03/26/21 – Fort Madison Firefighters responded to two medical calls.  
 03/26/21 – Fort Madison Firefighters responded to four medical calls.  
 03/26/21 – Fort Madison Firefighters responded to three medical calls, a smoke alarm, a gas odor, and a smoke detector activation.

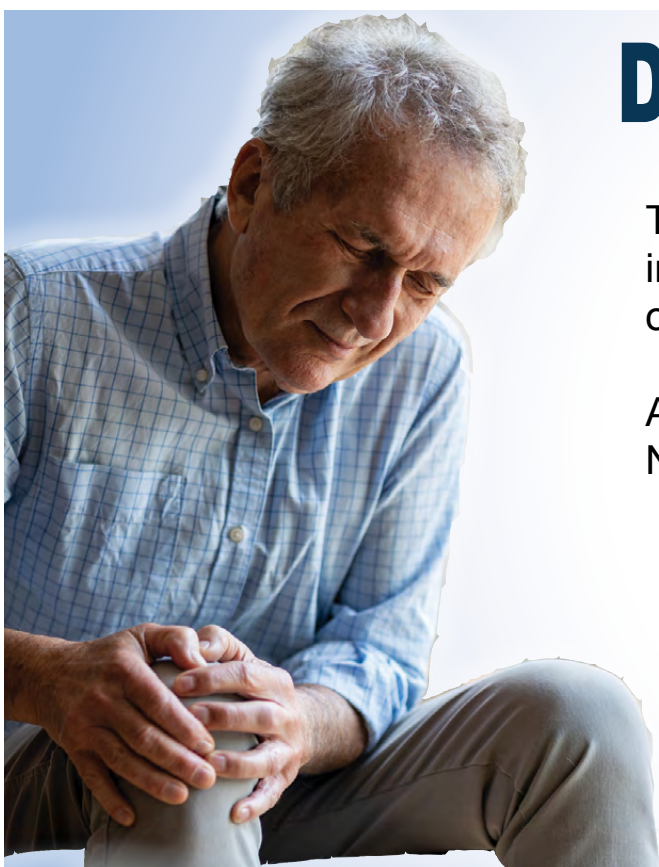
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## From the Front

# Smith wants to complete courtyard by end of summer

**COURTYARD** - Continued from Page 1

have had the pleasure of providing tours for many former graduates and their families.

I have yet to direct one of these tours when someone didn't say what a shame it is that the high school lost its courtyard. Many people still talk about their memories of the Courtyard. It has been a vision of mine for several years to bring back that Courtyard for my students and our community.

In 2016 we began a project to repurpose our library into a 21st century media center. In 2017, we added a Maker Space adjacent to that center. Students, staff and the community have made use of these spaces for a variety of gatherings. Thanks to all of you who supported these projects.

Interestingly enough, building construction over the years has completely enclosed a 6,000 square foot, open air space that is adjacent to

the Maker Space. This space is in the center of the high school. Last year, we made the decision to bring back the FMHS courtyard in this space. We cleared the space and our building trades' students poured concrete to begin the Courtyard project.

Then came COVID and everything stopped.

This summer, we will complete our courtyard project with the support of our students, faculty and our wonderful community partners. But the cost to finish this space is much more than our budget can supply. I am currently writing a grant that will help us reach our goal, but it will only cover a small portion of the cost.

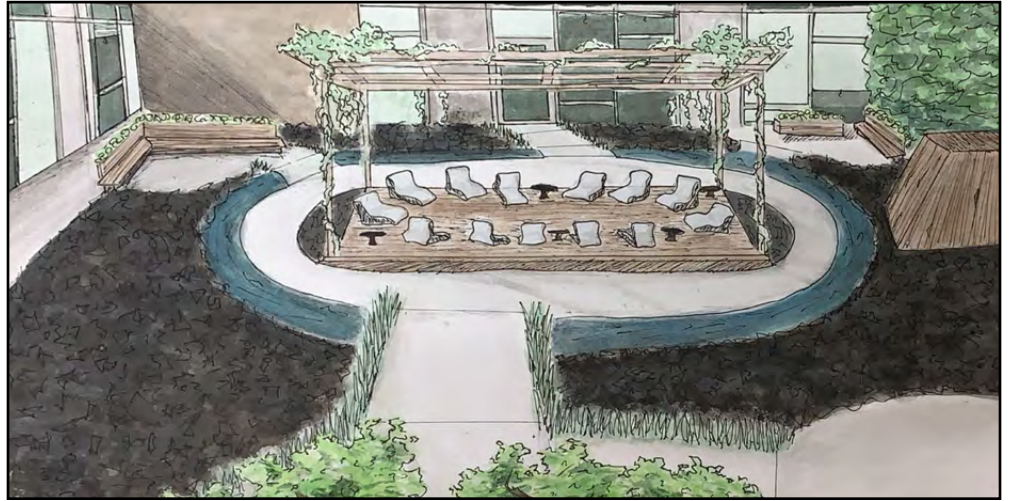
I will be personally reaching out to our community partners to ask for help in restoring this piece of history for our students, staff and the Fort Madison community.

This space will offer a place for classrooms to gather and learn, clubs and organizations to hold meetings and a variety of activities. And it will also be available for community functions throughout the year, at no cost. We have cut costs to a bare minimum, but to finish what we have already started, we will need approximately \$15,000.

If you are interested in helping us with this project, please contact Angie at 319-372-1862 during school hours. We hope that you will see the value of this space in creating memories for many years to come! Thank you in advance for your generosity.



FMHS Principal Greg Smith is working to rehabilitate the courtyard at the school and is starting fundraising to create the new space. Above is the current space and below is an art rendering of the future site.



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AmeriCorps Seniors (formerly known as RSVP 55+ Initiative) at United Way of the Great River Region is seeking volunteers over the age of 55 who are looking to make a difference in their community.

We can help you find a volunteer opportunity in Lee County, Iowa that suits your interests and your time.

Contact Tammy Hudson, AmeriCorps Seniors Director at 319-372-8043 or [rsvp@unitedwaygrr.org](mailto:rsvp@unitedwaygrr.org) to set up a time to talk.

*Get started now with a new opportunity!*



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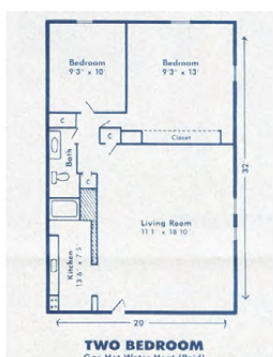
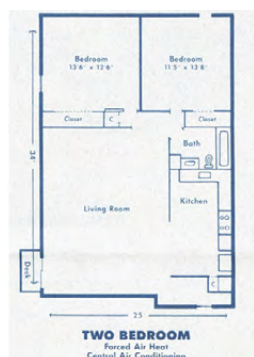
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**Volunteer Services/ACS Program Director**



United Way of the Great River Region

United Way of the Great River Region is seeking a full time Volunteer Services/AmeriCorps Seniors Program Director in our Fort Madison office to manage all aspects of the Volunteer Services Program. Director will oversee a long standing AmeriCorps Seniors (formerly RSVP). Ideal candidate will be a self starter, creative, outgoing, have excellent leadership and interpersonal relationship skills; grant management and writing skills; fundraising experience; strong office, computer and bookkeeping skills; and ability to work with and manage volunteers and the organizations and businesses who utilize volunteers. The ability to multi-task is a must. Some travel may be required. COVID protection measures include personal protective equipment, sanitizing supplies, low office traffic, some virtual meetings. EOE

**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](mailto:director@unitedwaygrr.org)**

**HELP WANTED**



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Applicants can apply in office or online at [www.optimaelifeservices.com](http://www.optimaelifeservices.com)

For questions, please reach out to HR at 319-237-1730 (Burlington) or 319-372-3566 (Lee Co.)

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**NOW HIRING**

**Lee County Commission on Veteran Affairs Director/Administrator**

The Lee County Commission on Veteran Affairs is looking to hire a replacement for our current Director/Administrator. Position includes providing assistance on obtaining benefits and services available to local veterans and their families.

High school diploma or equivalent required. Must be certified or able to obtain certification from Federal and State of Iowa Veteran Affairs. Must have excellent computer skills, valid driver's license, be eligible to work in the United States, reside in or be willing to relocate to Lee County. Must be willing to work flexible hours. Government budget experience is a plus.

Position will start July 6, 2021. Position will be part-time (20 hours per week) until January 1, 2022 then will be a full time position (30 hours per week, per Iowa Code). Certification must be reached by January 1, 2022. Starting wage will be \$14.00/hour and will increase to \$18.00/hour at full time status. Lee County benefits will be available. Veterans will be given preference but all candidates will be considered.

Application and job description may be found online at [www.leecounty.org](http://www.leecounty.org) and may also be obtained at the Lee County Auditor's Office, 933 Avenue H Fort Madison Iowa or by calling the Auditor's Office at 319-372-3705 or the Lee County Commission on Veteran Affairs Chairperson at 319-470-9434. Please submit cover letter, resume, and completed County application to:

Lee County Auditor  
933 Avenue H, PO Box 190  
Fort Madison IA 52627  
Or email to [dfraise@leecounty.org](mailto:dfraise@leecounty.org)

*Applications accepted through May 1, 2021 at 4:30 p.m. Complete background check and post-offer physical required. Lee County is an Equal Opportunity Employer*



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## Dogs, handlers must adapt to changing drugs

**HANDLERS** - Continued from Page 1

the Lee County Sheriff's Department's handlers said with the chemical makeup of drugs changing all the time, the animals and handlers have to prepare for that.

"You have to train and adapt with that," Barnes said.

He's gone to a passive detection with his dog where the animal will sit when drug odor is detected or just stand and stare. He said that prevents needless damage to property than can happen with aggressive alerts.

"I've seen aggressive indicating dogs, which you will not see in the Department of Corrections of ISP, but other departments do have them," he said.

"We're going to passive indicating dogs that sit, or stand and stare so you don't have dogs tearing up property that may have had narcotics in there prior to, but not at that time."

Roupp said the certification tests the dog's ability to locate the odor and it tests the handler's ability to recognize the dog is alerting and alerting properly.

She said the test drugs come straight from the Drug Enforcement Agency so the animals have to react to the latest chemical makeup of the drugs.

"Most of the time the samples come straight from the Drug Enforcement Agency, so that's the most current you're going to get. Meth is made so differently now, it's important that it come from them so it's fairly recent," she said.

"The dogs go to the molecular level so if there is some minor changes in the meth composition, they still can recognize the drug at that level."

The two-day training was part of the United States Police Canine Association's Region 21 annual Detection Dog Certification Trials.

Lee County Sheriff Stacy Weber said with the high-level of the K9 program at ISP, it made sense to partner with them for the 2021 trials.

"This year we co-hosted with ISP since we're fortunate to have such a large professional team of dogs and handlers here at the Fort Madison prison. It just made sense to partner with them and do this together," Weber said.

Weber's department has two K9s and two handlers. Kion works with deputy Jordan Maag and Gunner works with deputy Bryson Hennigar. Hennigar and Gunner have been together for less than six months, Kion and Maag have been partnered up for about two years.

Weber said both those animals will work the trials. He said the animals have been mostly used for detection, but he hopes continued training and opportunity show the added potential of the dogs. They are trained to track, but he said timing is critical in getting the most out of the dogs in those situations.

"Timing's everything with tracking. When people realize someone is missing there's such a time lap that occurs that tracking doesn't always work. But do I want them to be able to do that, absolutely," Weber said.

"I want them to be well-rounded. When the officers roll up on something I want them to have all the tools and the K9 officers are just another part of that tool box," Weber said.

The K9 officers and handlers are paired up 24/7. They are with the officers when on patrol and then they go home with them at the end of the shift.

## Doctor turns craft to blown glass

**SWARM** - Continued from Page 1

Tim took his new wife to Van Buren County where he practiced medicine and delivered babies for 18-20 years. He also had a free-standing clinic for people without health insurance. At the end of his medical career, he was Director of the Emergency Room and Ambulance Service for Van Buren County. He is now Team Physician for Every Step Hospice that covers SE Iowa. The people in hospice are like his second family and he jokes that he will leave hospice when he is in hospice.

Tim always liked glass blowing. Sort of on a whim, he and a friend took some glass-blowing classes. Once again he was smitten. "Ah, ha!" he told Kim. "I can do this in retirement."

Nothing out of Tim surprises Kim.

Tim loves the colors in blown glass. It reminds him of fall in Van Buren County—all the colors mixed together—reds, golds, greens and blues—blue for the Van Buren County sky.

On their Bloom and Bark Farm, Tim and Kim were once really big into Community Service Agriculture (CSA), where there is a 1:1 relationship between farmer and community (no middleman). They had 30 families for which they were helping supply food and produce.

They even made their own clay brick ovens from clay on their own farm. They teach classes on how to make clay brick ovens and bake bread in these ovens.

The main attraction now is glass blowing. Tim teaches classes on glass blowing, and they have a gallery/showroom of beautiful glass-blown products. Their gallery/showroom also allows room for other artists to display their art. (The Blairs have space for a couple more artists.)

Life is slow and easy on the Bloom and Bark Farm west of Keosauqua on J40. Visitors are welcome and Tim will give a glass blowing demonstration at the drop of a hat. They also have chickens. One of their favorite things to do at the end of a busy day is sit outside in lawn chairs and "watch the chicken channel." Tim reflects, "Like the crooked corn row, it took all that to get where we are now."

Have a good story? Call or text Curt Swarm in Mt. Pleasant at 319-217-0526, email him at [curtswarm@yahoo.com](mailto:curtswarm@yahoo.com) or find him on Facebook. Curt's stories are also read at 106.3 FM in Farmington.