

PEN CITY CURRENT

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

Friday, June 4, 2021 | 11 pages | Volume 5 • Issue 112



www.pencitycurrent.com

FM Kiddie Parade set for July 3

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: Final meeting before parade to be held Sunday at NLCHS

BY PCC STAFF

FORT MADISON – The 109th annual Charlie Korschgen 4th of July Kiddie Parade will be held on Saturday July 3 instead of Sunday, July 4th in a statement released this week by L. D. Andy Andrews, longtime chairman of the event.

He stated that the biggest problem in safely running and planning the parade is the lack of volunteers to do line-up,

registration, judging and fundraising. The final meeting of the parade committee will be held this Sunday, June 6 at 4 p.m. at the North Lee County Museum at 814 10th Street. The committee is asking for more volunteers to attend the meeting in hopes of keeping this longest running Fort Madison tradition alive.

This is also a celebration of Iowa's 175th anniversary of becoming a state as well as a celebration of the nation's

independence and hopes for a larger parade.

Anyone wishing to volunteer should attend the meeting or contact Andrews at 319-371-5379. Tax deductible donations for the parade should be mailed to 4th of July Parade, PO Box 243, Fort Madison, Iowa 52627.

The 2020 patriotic event on July 4th went well with an average number of participants as in previous years despite the onset of the COVID19.

FMAAA

Photogs take over FMAAA June exhibit

Submitted article

FORT MADISON – The Fort Madison Area Arts Association is hosting an Art Opening for the annual June Group Photography exhibit on Friday, June 11, 2021 from 5:00 – 7:00pm.

The featured artists at this month-long exhibit are Rebecca Williamson, Jordan Reynolds, Alex Huston, and Beth Steeples. These artists have perfected their craft on their own, each showing a unique sensibility for their subjects.

We are looking forward to sharing their creative visions with the greater community. FMAAA is located at 825 Ave G in Fort Madison and is open Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday from 11am-4pm while they transition under new director-

See ART, page 5

CITY NEWS

Local leaders pitch Miller-Meeks

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – About a dozen local business, industry and education leaders made pitches to U.S. Rep. Mariannette Miller-Meeks Thursday afternoon about pressing needs in southeast Iowa and Fort Madison.

Miller-Meeks filled out about four sheets of paper as she wrote down notes from industrial, economic, education, and political officials in the Fort Madison Chamber of Commerce's meeting room.

Darrell Allman, with Iowa Fertilizer Company, said the demand of natural gas at industrial pressure levels is becoming an economic pressure point for Lee County.

"A major industry like ours we feed off the interstate pipeline. We don't go through the utility distribution network," he said.

"I also where another hat with the Lee County Economic Development Board and we were trying to land another major industry next to our facility and at the end they walked away from the deal because of lack of gas"

Allman said the industry was a biodiesel processor that was ready to move to the area, but couldn't work a way to get additional high pressure natural gas to the area.

He said IFC typically uses natural



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg

U.S. Rep. Mariannette Miller-Meeks talks with Fort Madison Mayor Matt Mohrfeld, right, Councilwoman Rebecca Bowker, left, and 10 other area business and industry leaders at the Fort Madison Chamber of Commerce on Thursday.

gas with pressure of 700 lbs compared to an average home that uses a half pound of pressure. He said to get that level of natural gas into the area would have cost close to \$50 million and the economics couldn't get worked out.

Allman said the biodiesel plant needed the high pressure gas to create hydrogen as a chemical feedstock, similar to what the fertilizer plant does, as a first step in their manufacturing process.

Miller-Meeks said after the meeting that this was the first she heard about

the area losing the potential industry due to a natural gas shortfall.

"This is the first time I've heard about industrial level natural gas, but as you know this is not an area of support for the current administration," she said.

"It's a very clean burning fuel source that is plentiful in the United States. We should be exporting it as well as utilizing it. So the difficulty they're having with industrial level natural gas vs. utility level natural gas – that wasn't

See CHAMBER, page 3



MILLER-MEEKS

Randy Evans,
Executive Director

Americans deserve answers on riot, not more politics

Plenty of stray thoughts have been swirling through my noggin lately. Thoughts like:

What would Americans and members of Congress think today if the federal government decided against creating the Warren Commission to investigate the assassination of President John Kennedy?

What would we think today if the House and Senate two decades ago rejected an independent, bipartisan

See EVANS, page 8

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WEATHER

FRI 04 Jun.....	Warm and Sunny, 79° F/ 59° F	
SAT 05 Jun.....	Light Rain, 82° F/ 63° F	
SUN 06 Jun.....	Light Rain, 75° F/ 64° F	

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PICK 3 06/02 EVENING.....	8 3 2
PICK 4 06/02 MIDDAY.....	3 9 8 4
PICK 4 06/02 EVENING.....	3 7 9 7
POWERBALL 06/02.....	6 7 11 66 67, Powerball: 19, Power Play: 3

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Obituaries

JUDITH K. LUCAS

Judith K. Lucas, 72, of Fort Madison passed away on Sunday, May 30, 2021 at 8:57 AM at the Great River Hospice House in West Burlington.



LUCAS

She was born on October 14, 1948 in Memphis, TN to William H. and Katie N. Booker Lucas. Judy married Darrel Rawhouser and they later divorced. She then married Joseph Abrisz and they later divorced. Judy graduated from the nursing program at Southeastern Community College in 1979. She was a clinical nursing instructor at Southeastern Community College for several years and was employed as a Registered Nurse at Great River Medical Center for 34 years, until her retirement in 2013. Judy enjoyed gardening, sewing, crafts, musicals, entering sweepstakes, and traveling, especially to the Disney parks and San Francisco. She loved her pets dearly and will be fondly remembered by hundreds of cats that she encountered throughout her lifetime.

Survivors include two sons, Andrew Abrisz and Ryan Lucas; three daughters, Amy Rawhouser, Katie (David) Lann and Meredith (Dustin) Yager and three grandchildren, Aaron, Carson and Nora. She was preceded in death by her parents. Per her wishes, cremation has been entrusted to King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory. A private celebration of life will be held at a later date. Online condolences may be left at www.kinglynk.com.

John "Johnny" Mendez, 89, of Fort Madison, IA, passed away at 5:30 p.m. on Saturday, May 29, 2021 at his home. He was born on January 21, 1932 in Fort Madison, IA to



MENDEZ

Vincent & Maria Fuentes Mendez. On June 30, 1951 in Fort Madison, IA he was married to Ernestine "Tinnie" Sandoval. She preceded him in death on August 3, 2015. He worked for 35 years at the Iowa Army Ammunition Plant where he did various jobs including security, production, power house fireman and worked in final assembly for the Atomic Energy Commission. His real love was doing concrete work for people, which he did most of his life. He enjoyed shooting pool, bowling, traveling and especially gardening. He and Tinnie enjoyed going to Monte Carlo to celebrate their 50th anniversary. He was a member of the Eagles Club, a 50 year member of the Knights of Columbus and was a charter member of LULAC Council 304. He was instrumental in building the LULAC Clubhouse.

JOHN MENDEZ

Johnny is survived by: 1-son: Brian (Kim) Mendez of Fort Madison, IA; 1-daughter: Dora (Gary) Lozano of Des Moines, IA; 1-daughter in law: Janice Mendez of Des Moines, IA; 8-grandchildren; 6-great grandchildren; 4-brothers: Eusebio "Abie", Jerry, Eddie & Roger; 3-sisters: Rufina Martinez, Anna Luna & Sally Hernandez. He was preceded in death by: his parents, wife, 1-son: Randy, 3-brothers: Lupe, Aurelio & Ruben and 2-sisters: Estolia & Carolina.

Friends may call after 2:00 p.m. on Wednesday, June 2, 2021 with the family to receive friends from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday evening at King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory. A rosary will be recited at 6:00 p.m. that evening following the visitation. The funeral mass will be held at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, June 3, 2021 at Sacred Heart Church with Rev. Joseph Phung officiating. A memorial has been established for the LULAC Council 304 Building Fund. Online condolences to Johnny's family may be left at the King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory website: www.kinglynk.com.

TYLER A. COOK

Tyler Allan Cook, 25, of Fort Madison, IA, passed away on Wednesday, June 2, 2021 at his home. He was born on July 28, 1995 in Burlington, IA to Roger & Lesa Kramer Cook. He graduated from Fort Madison High School in 2013 and received his AA Degree from Southeastern Community College in 2016. He was a CNA at The Madison for 9 years and enjoyed skateboarding, video games, pop punk music and taking care of everyone around him.



COOK

Tyler is survived by: his parents: Roger & Lesa Cook of Fort Madison, IA; 1-brother: Jordan Cook of Fort Madison, IA; his maternal grandparents: Gary & Deb Kramer of Fort Madison, IA; his paternal grandmother: Donna

Cook of Fort Madison, IA and his fiancé: Angel Snider and daughter Emmalyn of Fort Madison, IA. He was preceded in death by: his maternal grandmother: Connie Kramer and his paternal grandfather: Herbert Cook.

Cremation has been entrusted to the care of King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory. A visitation will be held from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, June 8, 2021 at King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory. A memorial service will immediately follow at 4:00 p.m. at King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory with Pastor Paula Faul officiating. A memorial has been established for Emmalyn's Education. Online condolences to Tyler's family may be left at www.kinglynk.com. A recording of the memorial service may be found under Tyler's obituary at www.kinglynk.com following the service.

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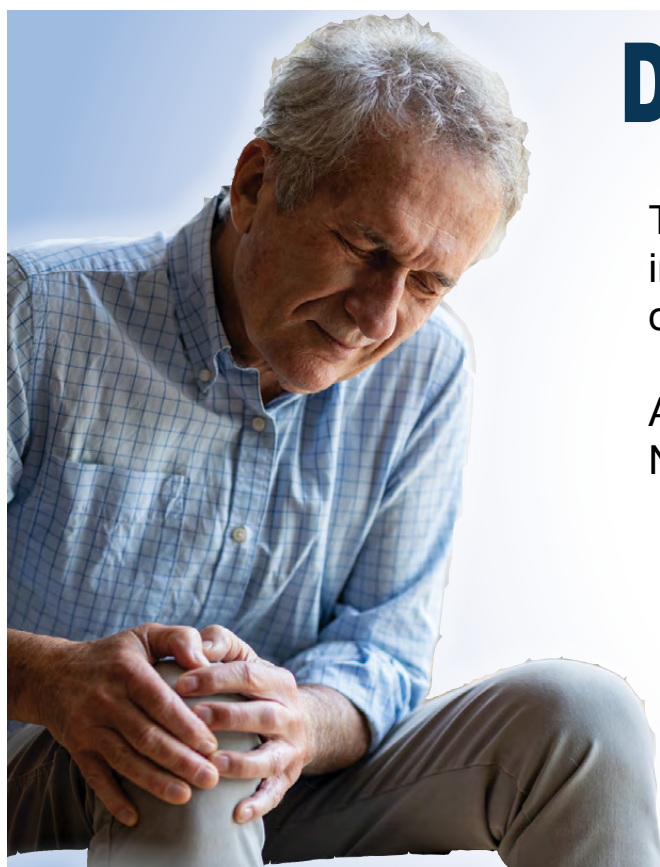
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Fort Madison
COMMUNITY HOSPITAL

From the Front

Marina project in Congressional appropriations pipeline

CHAMBER - Continued from Page 1

something that I'd heard about before, so I'll have to do some more research on that."

Tim Fencl, CEO of Danville Telecom, brought up broadband expansion and the Iowa legislature's commitment to \$150 million annually for service improvements to rural areas with insufficient service in the state.

Fencl said Iowa Gov. Kim Reynolds has set the bar at 100 mbps upload and download speeds, and said that should be a federal mandate as well. The speed requirements would help make sure the networks being built and expanded are future-proof to allow for growth, while not requiring additional infusions of capital.

He also said legislators need to be aware of "pretenders" that are trying to access state and federal funds with promises of expanded service when in reality some of the firms don't have the manpower to deliver what they are promising.

"Because of the dollars being thrown at this, there are a lot of what I'll call "pretenders" that are throwing their hat in the ring," Fencl said.

Miller-Meeks said broadband is one of her concerns coming from Ottumwa where Inter-

net service was patchy and at times she couldn't send an email or print off an article. She said she understands the dynamic of a county being shown on mapping that Internet was being served, when in reality maybe only one location was being served.

Another topic of discussion was creating workforce and the proposed Joint Education Center currently being negotiated between officials at area

schools, industries, and the Lee County Economic Development Group.

Scott Smith, LCEDG chairman said in addition to the large hurdle of natural gas, workforce attraction is also a constant struggle.

Miller-Meeks said one of the projects she's submitted for federal funding places counselors in high schools to help students look at the benefits of trade careers.

"The problem govern-

ment has had is that we try to top-down a solution. Unless we talk to a business or employer we don't know what it is you need and what skills your lacking. And too often we don't listen. And I'm going to put myself in that camp even though I've only been there a short time," she said.

Miller-Meeks said another problem is that we don't know what the next big industry is.

"Where there's a will there's a way. Necessity is the mother of invention.

When someone has an idea they propel it" she said. "We in government often don't have those ideas."

She also said she's passed a Vet Tech bill where veterans can go in and learn technology to help create additional workforce. She said in one month, the federal government spent \$45 million on enrollment and applications and the result was 2,000 veterans employed in jobs with an average salary of \$62,000 per year.

Fort Madison Mayor Matt Mohrfeld thanked Miller-Meeks for her assistance in getting the Fort Madison Marina project in front of Congressional appropriations committees.

The Congresswoman said she doesn't know where the project is as far as funding or making the cut for programs, but each Congressional district was allowed to submit 10 projects and the Marina project was a top priority for Miller-Meeks in the 2nd district.

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For the Record

For the Record

Fort Madison Police Report

05/28/21 – 8:53 a.m. – Fort Madison Police arrested Calvin Keith, 54, of Fort Madison in the 1700 block of Avenue J, on a warrant for 3rd-degree harassment. He was taken to Lee County Jail.
 05/28/21 – 11:17 a.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 4800 block of Avenue O.
 05/28/21 – 1:56 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 2200 block of 35th Street.
 05/28/21 – 2:04 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of vandalism in the 1700 block of 35th Street.
 05/28/21 – 2:05 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of vandalism in the 900 block of Old Denmark Hill.
 05/28/21 – 11:58 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of vandalism on Cindy Drive.
 05/29/21 – 3:41 p.m. – Fort Madison Police arrested Nathan Eric Washburne, 43, of Fort Madison in the 400 block of Avenue H, on a warrant for voluntary absence from custody. He was taken to Lee County Jail.
 05/29/21 – 9:43 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a personal injury accident at 27th Street and Avenue I.

05/30/21 – 3:27 a.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of vandalism in the 200 block of Avenue G.
 05/30/21 – 11:55 a.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 3400 block of Avenue L.
 05/30/21 – 12:50 p.m. – Fort Madison Police arrested Victoria Kloepper, 38, of Argyle in the 3400 block of Avenue L, on a warrant for criminal mischief and assault with bodily injury. She was taken to Lee County Jail.
 05/30/21 – 1:43 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 500 block of Avenue E.
 05/31/21 – 4:23 p.m. – Fort Madison Police arrested Kimberly Kristine Barron, 54, listed as homeless, in the 2600 block of Avenue L, on a charge of trespassing.
 05/31/21 – 5:36 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 1300 block of Avenue J.
 06/01/21 – 11:26 a.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a hit and run in the 1500 block of Avenue G.
 06/01/21 – 1:35 p.m. – Fort Madison Police arrested Bradley Terrance Dickenson, 40, of Burlington, in the 800 block of Avenue G, on a warrant for failure to appear. He was taken to Lee County Jail.
 06/01/21 – 1:29 p.m. – Fort Madison Police arrested Eric Eugene Fortune, 54, of Fort Madison in the 2800 block of Avenue O, on charges of unlawful possession of prescription pills, possession of drug paraphernalia, possession of marijuana, and possession of methamphetamine. He was released on a promise to appear.

06/01/21 – 2:50 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 5000 block of Avenue O.
 06/01/21 – 4:58 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a burglary on Storms Court.
 06/01/21 – 9:24 p.m. – Fort Madison Police arrested Obie Taylor, listed as homeless in the 1300 block of Avenue G, on a charge of driving while barred. He was released on a promise to appear.
 06/01/21 – 9:54 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a hit and run in the 1600 block of Avenue I.
 06/01/21 – 10:38 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 1100 block of Avenue F.
 06/01/21 – 11:56 p.m. – Fort Madison Police arrested Andrew Xavier Cortez Hunter, listed as homeless in the 2500 block of Avenue L. He was taken to Lee County Jail.
 06/02/21 – 7:40 a.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 2200 block of Avenue C.
 06/02/21 – 8:02 a.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of vandalism in the 1400 block of 33rd Street.
 06/02/21 – 8:24 a.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 1700 block of 41st Street.
 06/02/21 – 1:19 p.m. – Fort Madison Police arrested Timothy George Brockman, 57, of Fort Madison, in Riverview Park on a charge of public intoxication. He was taken to Lee County Jail.
 06/02/21 – 6:13 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 1000 block of Avenue C.

06/02/21 – 10:54 p.m. – Fort Madison Police arrested Lenard Ray Polhans, 49, of Fort Madison, in the 1400 block of Avenue D, on a warrant for failure to appear.
 06/03/21 – 4:43 a.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a burglary on Storms Court.

Lee County Sheriff's Report

05/28/21 – 1:00 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Jonny Allen McDonnell, 65, of Fort Madison, at the Johnson County Jail on warrants for eluding and driving under suspension.
 05/28/21 – 1:09 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Patrick Dale Wright, 47, of Fort Madison, at the sheriff's office on a warrant for violation of probation.
 05/28/21 – 1:39 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Ashley Nicole Bowman, 31, of Mt. Pleasant, at the Henry County Jail on a warrant for failure to appear. He was taken to Lee County Jail and released on bond.
 05/28/21 – 1:45 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies cited Anthony Michael Conard, 32, of Kimberling City, Mo, at Plank and Messenger Road in Keokuk, on a charge of possession of marijuana.
 05/28/21 – 2:00 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Mary Tammy Penrose, 58, of Keokuk, at Clark County Jail, on warrants for possession of drug paraphernalia, keeping vehicle/premise for controlled substance, and unlawful possession of prescription drugs. She was released on her recognizance.
 05/28/21 – 2:00 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Melissa Janette McDermott, 36, of Kahoka,

at the Clark County Jail on a warrant for violation of probation.
 05/28/21 – 5:00 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Cody Sheridan Collins, 31, of Fort Madison, at the sheriff's office, on a judgment hold. He was taken to Lee County Jail.
 05/28/21 – 6:05 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Michael Allen Wagner, 37, of Keokuk, at the Lee County Jail on a judgment hold.
 05/29/21 – 9:40 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies cited Audrey Jean Engler, 21, of Burlington, in the 1800 block of Hwy. 218 on a charge of possession of a marijuana.
 05/29/21 – 9:40 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies cited Madeline Eve-Lanae, 20 of Burlington, in the 1800 block of Hwy. 218, on a charge of possession of drug paraphernalia.
 05/29/21 – 10:25 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Robert Douglas McNitt, 56, of Keokuk, in the 3900 block of Valley Road, on a warrant for failure to pay court fine. He was taken to Lee County Jail and released on bond.
 05/30/21 – 12:22 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested David Tensley, 59, of Davenport, on warrants for violation of a no contact order, stalking, and 1st-degree harassment.
 05/30/21 – 4:33 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Jonathan Taylor Tracy, 26, of Oquawka, on the Hwy. 61 bypass near Fort Madison, on a charge of possession of a controlled substance.
 05/31/21 – 4:08 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Erica Renee Woodbury, 29, of Ottumwa, no location listed, on a

warrant for violation of parole.
 05/31/21 – 6:30 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Micheal Thomas Sourwine, 33, of Nauvoo, at the sheriff's office on a judgment hold.
 06/01/21 – 8:07 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Megan Jo Plowman, 28, of Hamilton, at the sheriff's department on a warrant for violation of probation. He was taken to Lee County Jail.
 06/02/21 – 3:03 a.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Jeremy Douglas Prock, 43, of Lewistown, Mo., at 230th Street at Hwy. 218, on a charge of trespassing. He was taken to Lee County Jail.
 06/02/21 – 10:05 a.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Jake Gregory Wreiden, 21, of Keokuk, at the sheriff's office on a warrant for violation of probation. He was taken to Lee County Jail and released on bond.
 06/02/21 – 10:42 a.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Aerin Andrew Walsh, 21, of Council Bluffs, at the sheriff's office on a warrant for assault with injury to a law enforcement officer. He was taken to Lee County Jail.
 06/02/21 – 2:54 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Cheston Daniel Monroe, 42, of Keokuk, at the sheriff's department on a warrant for operating vehicle without owner's consent.
 06/02/21 – 6:52 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Paul Stephen Kelly, Sr., 67, of Keokuk, in the 3400 block of 270th Avenue, on a charge of assault with intent to cause serious injury. He was taken to Lee County Jail.
Those listed above are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.



HARMONY BIBLE CHURCH



What are you doing on Sunday? We'd love for you to join us at Harmony Bible Church! Our Fort Madison Campus service starts at 10:15 a.m. each week. Programming is available for 0-5th graders at the same time. Come as you are, and join us this Sunday!

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From the Front

Local shutterbugs display at FMAAA

ART - Continued from Page 1

ship. We are grateful to Connection Bank for sponsoring this month's event.

Alex Huston, a resident of Monmouth, Illinois is a self-taught award-winning photographer. Huston indicates, "I picture in my head what I want my image to look like before I take a photo." Then she edits those ordinary images into something unique and personal.

Beth Steeples, another self-taught photographer, is a life-long resident of Fort Madison. She most enjoys being down at the Mississippi at sunset and has captured her favorite images that way. Her sense of lighting is gorgeous. On her bucket list is to photograph every National Park in the U.S. "Then I realized there are 423 national parks. I need to get busy traveling!"

Jordan Reynolds is a freelance photographer who currently resides in Fort Madison, Iowa. He graduated in 2011 with an MRP II in Audio Engineering from the Conservatory of Recording Arts & Sciences. He states, "My passion is to create anything art related. It has always been the focus of my life. Self-expression in any medium is extremely important to me. This desire to create has led me to a camera at this point in my life."

Rounding out the exhibit is work by Nauvoo, Illinois artist Rebecca Williamson. Williamson creates in a variety of media including acrylics and watercolor, but also has an eye for composing a good image via the lens. "Photography for me is capturing the magic of a moment. Some of my favorite pictures though are of things that just jump out at me. I will stop in the middle of whatever, wherever, just to get the shot."

Stop by sometime this month to take in this diverse photographic collection.



A photo submission on display at the FMAAA during the month of June by Fort Madison free-lance photographer Jordan Reynolds.

Image courtesy of FMAAA

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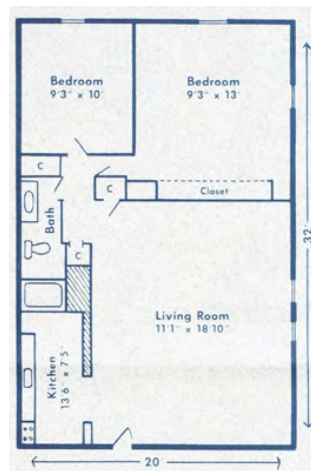
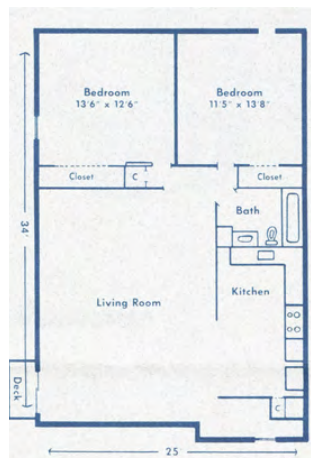
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To apply, download an application from our county website, www.leecounty.org or request one from the Engineer office, and return your completed application, along with a resume to: Lee County Engineer, P.O. Box 158, Fort Madison, IA 52627, or email it to engineer@leecounty.org. Applications will be accepted until position is filled.

If you have any questions please contact Lee County Engineer, Ben Hull, at (319) 372-2541 or email him at engineer@leecounty.org.



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Completed application and background check documents should be sent or delivered to Denise Fraise, Lee County Auditor, 933 Avenue H, P.O. Box 190, Fort Madison, Iowa, 52627 or emailed to dfraise@leecounty.org. IPERS and benefits available. All applications should be received by the Auditor's office by 4:30 PM on Friday, June 11, 2021.

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From the Front

Riot was a direct assault on democracy, transfer of power

EVANS - Continued from Page 1

commission to investigate the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and Pentagon and the aborted airliner attack on either the White House or Capitol?

What would Americans and members of Congress think if the government refused to convene a special commission after World War II to investigate the surprise attack on Pearl Harbor?

The answers are simple:

Americans back then and those serving in Congress, Republicans and Democrats alike, would rightfully believe our government was failing to properly do its job if officials refused to conduct in-depth investigations of these tragedies to see what lessons could be learned.

Were warning signs ignored or overlooked leading up to these events? Could improved security help avoid future occurrences like these? Are our laws and government agencies adequate?

Americans and members of Congress were not obsessed in 1945, 1963 and 2001 with which political party might score points with voters from these investigations. Instead, the focus each time was on country, not on partisan politics.

Democrats controlled the White House and the

Congress at the time of the Pearl Harbor attack. But they didn't try to block an inquiry into the "Day of Infamy."

Democrats held the White House and both chambers of Congress at the time of the Kennedy assassination. But both parties knew the Warren Commission was necessary.

A Republican occupied the White House when the 9/11 attacks occurred, and George W. Bush's party had divided control over the House and Senate. But Republicans did not block the investigation.

That brings us to 2021 and last week's unfathomable decision by Senate Republicans to kill a planned independent, bipartisan commission to investigate the Jan. 6 Capitol riots.

Five deaths and 140 injuries were tied to the mob violence, which Americans watched on television as thousands stormed the symbol of our democracy. The rioters busted through doors, broke windows and vandalized the building for seven hours — all in an attempt to thwart the official tabulation of Electoral College votes for president.

This was a direct assault on our democracy and the peaceful transfer of power after a hard-fought election campaign. Capitol Police and Secret Service had to

hustle members of Congress and the vice president to safety while rioters moved into the building.

Nevertheless, Iowa's two senators, Chuck Grassley and Joni Ernst, voted against an independent commission to investigate the lack of preparedness by law enforcement, the Pentagon's slow response to calls for help, and questions about the roles played by President Donald Trump's supporters or liberal extremists.

Grassley said the commission is unneeded because investigations already are under way by congressional committees and federal prosecutors. In a swipe at Democrats, Ernst said, "What's the point? It's turning into a political exercise."

Senate Republican Leader Mitch McConnell said the commission would be "slanted and unbalanced" — even though it is modeled on the 9/11 commission and would have an equal number of Republicans and Democrats.

The attitude of most Republican lawmakers represents a stunning change from their position seven years ago when the House was under Republican control. They voted then to create a select committee to investigate the 2012 terrorist attack on our diplomatic mission in Benghazi, Libya. Four Americans were killed there, including the ambassador.

Republicans were not worried then the investigation might appear to be a political exercise to cast Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, a potential presidential candidate, in unflattering light.

Republicans were not worried then the committee would duplicate other Benghazi investigations. In fact, the select committee's investigation was the sixth the Republicans conducted.

Last week, after the defeat of the Jan. 6 riot commission, Michael Steele, the former chairman of the Republican Party, called Senate Republicans "pathetic cowards" for buckling under political pressure instead of standing up for what is best for the nation.

Not all Republicans showed this lack of courage. Representative Mariannette Miller-Meeks of Ottumwa voted "yes" for the bipartisan commission.

"We need to know where there were failures in leadership," she said. "And some of those failures may rest at the feet of Democrats. So, I think it's very important to have those questions answered."

Gladys Sicknick wants questions answered, too.

Her son, Capitol Police officer Brian Sicknick, was among the cops who struggled valiantly to keep rioters out of the Capitol on Jan. 6. He died the next day after a stroke.

She spoke about Republican lawmakers who oppose the special commission. "Putting politics aside, wouldn't they want to know the truth of what happened on Jan. 6?" she asked — posing the question that many Iowans are asking and that historians will ask for many years to come.

Randy Evans is the director of the Iowa Freedom of Information Council and can be reached at DMRevans2810@gmail.com. Pen City Current is a member of the IFOIC.

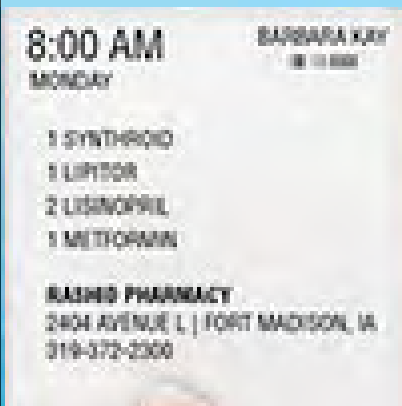
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Sports

Bloodhounds split twinbill with No. 2 Davenport Assumption

BY PCC STAFF

DAVENPORT – Fort Madison’s boys baseball team is quickly making a name for itself with some early season wins including a split with Class 3A No. 2 Davenport Assumption on Tuesday.

The Hounds carried a 4-2 lead into the sixth inning of the opener only to fall 6-4 after giving up four runs in the bottom of the sixth inning. Fort Madison came back to take the nightcap 6-1 to earn the split and move to 3-1 on the season.

Assumption got one run each in the second and third inning of the opener off starter Matt Hopper. After a ground out to start the bottom of the second, Alex Good singled to center followed by a Max Stein single to right to put runners at 1st and 3rd. Tyler Welch then hit a sac fly RBI to left plating Good. Hopper got a ground out from there to end the inning.

After the Hounds went three-up, three-down in the third, Jay Costello bunted in the lead-off spot for Assumption and then stole second on the third pitch. A fielder’s choice would move him to third with one out. Then another sacrifice fly to center brought him in for a 2-0 lead. Another fly out to center ended the inning.

Fort Madison would tie things up in the fourth with a lead off single from Vasin Thurman. After a flyout, Colton Engeman would work a walk moving Thurman up. Hopper would fan and then Garrett Hannum would reach on a throwing error on a grounder to third. Thurman would come around to score on the play and Engeman and Hannum would both move up a base

Engeman would get home on a passed ball before Kane Williams went down on a 3rd strike foul tip to end the inning 2-2.

Fort Madison would pick up two more in the top of the fifth with two outs. The first two hitters reached on walks forcing a Knight pitching change. Tanner Settles, pinch running for Vasin Thurman, and Jason Thurman would execute a double steal to put runners at 2nd and 3rd. Then Tate Johnson took a 2-2 pitch hard past third scoring Settles and Thurman to make it 4-2 before the Knights got out of the jam on a ground out.

Fort Madison would retire the side scoreless in both the fourth and fifth innings, but the Knights would get to Hopper in the bottom of the sixth on a grand slam from Good to left field. Hopper gave up two singles and a walk before facing Good who hit a 1-1 offering out for what proved to be the game-winning runs.

The Bloodhounds would get the tying run to the plate in the 7th after Jason Thurman wore one with one out. Reiburn Turnbull came in to pinch run and stole second on the first pitch. But Vasin Thurman grounded back to the pitcher for the second out, moving Turnbull to 3rd, but Adam Heinrichs would get Johnson swinging to end the game.

Johnson went 1-for-4 at the plate with 2 RBI to lead Fort Madison in the opener. Hopper went the distance giving up all six runs earned and walking one with no strikeouts on nine hits.

In the night cap, Hannum took to the mound and held the Knights in check 4 1/3 innings before giving way to Jason Thurman who came in and got the save.

Hannum gave up just one run in the third inning, after Fort Madison put up four in the first inning.

Fort Madison loaded the bases in the first on two walks and a single. Johnson then drew the third walk before any outs were recorded to score lead-off hitter Landes Williams. Turnbull then singled to center, scoring Jason Thurman in what would prove to be the game-winner. Vasin Thurman and Johnson both advanced loading the bases.

Engeman then hit into fielder’s choice where Johnson was forced at home. But a throw to try and double off a base runner got away allowing Vasin Thurman to score and Engeman and Turnbull to advance a base.

Hannum would then lay down a bunt and reach on an error bringing Turnbull in to score and make it 4-0. Hannum would get caught trying to pilfer second base and Hopper would go down on strikes to end the threat.

Fort Madison would tag on two more insurance runs in the top of the 7th before Jason Thurman slammed the door in the bottom half for the win.

Thurman and Turnbull each had two hits in the night cap. Thurman scored two runs and Turnbull had 2 RBI. Johnson and Hannum had an RBI a piece in the win. Hannum walked four and gave up just three hits in four innings of work. Thurman recorded a strike out and allowed two hits in his 2 2/3 innings.

Fort Madison traveled to Washington to open Southeast Conference action Thursday night.

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Pink Heals of Western Illinois
Town Wide Sales 8 a.m.
Custom Cars & Pickups 10 a.m.-3 p.m.
Sidewalk Chalk Drawing Contest 10 a.m.-1 p.m.
Car/Tractor Parade 1 p.m.
Live Auction 1:30 p.m.
Silver Steppers 2:30 p.m.
Pedal Tractor Pulls 2:30 p.m.
Bill Riley Talent Competition 3:30 p.m.
Pork Meal in Shelter House 5 p.m.
Live Music in Shelter House 5:30 p.m.
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