

# PEN CITY CURRENT

It's Black & White and Read all over

Friday, October 22, 2021 | 8 pages | Volume 5 • Issue 191



www.pencitycurrent.com

## Police ID murder victim

**FAMILY HOLDS VIGIL:** Purple balloons fly and candles lit in memory of 21-year-old

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG  
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – Authorities have identified the man killed in a stabbing that took place in Fort Madison Tuesday afternoon.

A release issued Thursday at about 1 p.m. identified the man as Antwan Lawrence Brewster, 21, of Fort Madison. Fort Madison Police delayed the release to allow time for notification of family.

The investigation is being conducted by the FMPD

with assistance from the Department of Criminal Investigation.

A vigil was held Wednesday night by family and friends outside the apartment building at 610 8th Street in Fort Madison. Candles and purple balloons were carried into the city parking lot just to the north of the apartment building.

Brewster was allegedly killed by an armed suspect who entered the apartment building at about 4:35 p.m.,

See VIGIL, page 8



## Freesmeier's 1,000th is a family affair

The four golden balloons spelling out 1-0-0-0 were brought out as soon as Holy Trinity finished its three-game sweep of Seymour in Wednesday's Class 1A regional quarterfinal at Shottenkirk Gym.

It was time to celebrate Melissa Freesmeier's career milestone win that came Saturday at the Knoxville Tournament. The Crusaders' coach is one of three in Iowa history to reach the 1,000-win mark, but she wanted to make sure that the honor wasn't just about her.

"You know, it was good. It was awesome," Freesmeier said of the post-match ceremony. "The crowd, the people, former players, the parents, the community — they're wonderful. I've said it before — they're the ones who stood behind me and are the reason for our success here."

Freesmeier has coached for 30 seasons — 14 at the former Marquette High School, 16 at Holy Trinity. The Crusaders have been the standard for excellence in southeast Iowa — their 10-year run to the state tournament was ended last year, but they have a strong chance of getting to Cedar Rapids this season.

The program has been an assembly line of talent, and a lot of that former talent can be seen on the sidelines, whether at Holy Trinity or at other schools.

"It's awesome," Freesmeier said. "Look at the coaches on our bench — they're all former players. Sara Ragar, our trainer, is a former player.

"That's the key — it's like family. We just keep getting bigger."

The last names on the roster are familiar. Junior Kayla Box is the sister of Emily Box, a former player. Kassi and Natalie

See 1,000, page 3



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg

Decorative lighting posts lay ready to be mounted on the sidewalks as contract workers with Jones Contracting Corp work to finish up the 6th-10th Street Hwy. 61 rehabilitation. Mayor Matt Mohrfeld told the City Council Tuesday that motorists could be driving on the new stretch of highway by Thanksgiving.

### CITY NEWS

## Council moving ahead with 15th Street traffic changes

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG  
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – The Fort Madison City Council moved forward with changes to traffic controls on 15th Street to the city's north limits on Tuesday night.

The council approved removing stop signs at Avenues F and G on 15th Street permanently, as well as banning parking on the east side of 15th Street north to the city limits next to the new P.O.R.T. wellness trail. The council voted 5-2 in favor of the final reading of the changes, with Councilman

Mark Lair and Councilwoman Rebecca Bowker voting against the measure.

Bowker has been vocal about not removing the signs at Avenues F and G due to safety concerns for children in the area getting to Lincoln Elementary

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### WEATHER

**Fri 22 Oct**..... Chilly with Scattered Clouds, 59° F/ 43° F  
**SAT 23 Oct**..... Cool and Cloudy, 62° F/ 45° F  
**SUN 24 Oct**..... Cool with Heavy Rain, 54° F/ 54° F

### IOWA LOTTERY

LOTTO AMERICA 10/20..... 8 17 20 41 51, Star Ball: 3, All Star Bonus: 3  
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## Opinion

# The extremes of “Two sideisms” pulling at educational fabric

The requirements for becoming a teacher were always straightforward: Earn a college degree in education, take enough classes in your area of specialty, practice your teaching skills for a semester as a student teacher.

Politicians have added a new skill this year in some states: Be a mind-reader.

That's what teachers in a Texas school district concluded recently after receiving guidance for how to comply with a law passed this summer by the Texas Legislature and signed by Texas Gov. Greg Abbott.

The law, known as H.B. 3979, restricts how topics like race, sex, diversity and discrimination are taught and discussed by Texas public school employees and in textbooks and other course materials teachers use. A companion bill, S.B. 3, discourages teachers from addressing current events in their social studies classes.

Recently, the director of curriculum and instruction in the Carroll (Texas) Independent School District met with the faculty to explain the law's meaning. Gina Peddy was asked about a real-world example. She said that if teachers have books in their classroom on the Holocaust, then they must have books available with opposing views and other perspectives, too.

“How do you oppose the Holocaust?” one teacher asked. “Believe me, that's come up,” Peddy replied.

As the public outcry built, Superintendent Lane Ledbetter quickly issued a statement apologizing for Peddy's comments. “The comments made were in no way to convey that the Holocaust was anything less than a terrible event in history. We recognize that there are not two sides of the Holocaust.”

That's a lucid explanation. But Ledbetter's pledge to “work to add clarity to our expectations for teachers” is curious.

How to you bring clarity if a key administrator responsible for curriculum and instruction is so confused by the law and the school's own policies? If she does not have clarity,

how can classroom teachers be expected to have it, either?

Teachers in Carroll and elsewhere fear being punished for having in their classroom libraries books on racism, slavery and how the Holocaust.

Part of the teachers' anxiety grew out of the Carroll school board's meeting four days before Peddy's comments. The board voted to reprimand a fourth-grade teacher who allowed a student to take home an anti-racism book.

One Carroll teacher told NBC, “Teachers are literally afraid that we're going to be punished for having books in our classes. There are no children's books that show the ‘opposing perspective’ on the Holocaust or the ‘opposing perspective’ of slavery. Are we supposed to get rid of all the books on those subjects?”

The reaction of Carroll school employees should not be a surprise when lawmakers and political leaders try to sanitize unpleasant parts of the history of our nation or regions in our nation. We should not be surprised if some school administrators and some teachers decide the best way to stay on good terms with their employers is to simply avoid these thorny issues and the wacky “two-sideisms” contained in of some of these ill-conceived laws.

Gov. Kim Reynolds provided her own guidance of sorts to Iowa educators in the summer when she was interviewed by the Carroll Times Herald after an event at Black Hawk Lake in Sac County.

The interview came a few days before she signed into law a bill dealing with the teaching of race and diversity. House File 802 grew out of lawmakers' concerns that schools were indoctrinating students, rather than teaching them, when presenting controversial issues in American history. In asking Reynolds how educators should teach divisive concepts about race, the newspaper used the example of Black Hawk, the famous Sauk leader who spent much of his life in Iowa.

Referring to the lake where the Reynolds interview occurred, the newspaper wrote, “Black Hawk is not only the face of the lake, he's a face of a state and nation's history fraught with broken treaties and genocide.”

As one of the best-known indigenous leaders in history, Black Hawk resisted attempts by the United States government to push the indigenous tribes westward. He was angered by treaties the tribes negotiated with government officials who first got the tribal leaders drunk.

The newspaper noted that the Sauk leader “lost his birthplace, endured prison and brutality at the hands of white settlers and even had his final remains stolen in a morbid exhibition scheme.”

Long before white people settled in what today is the upper Midwest, the region was where native people hunted, fished, farmed and lived — on these rolling hills, river valleys and plains. This was the land where Black Hawk was born in 1767 near what today is Rock Island, Ill. This was where he died from old age in 1838, in a tiny settlement along the Des Moines River in the northeastern corner of Davis County.

Is there a “both sides” to the near destruction of indigenous peoples by white settlers any more than there is a “both sides” to the Holocaust by German Nazis?

Reynolds told the Carroll Times Herald, referring to Black Hawk: “As long as it is balanced and we are giving both sides, I think it is part of history and they should be able to teach that. It has to be balanced and make sure we are having a conversation, and we are educating children, not indoctrinating, and actually giving them the chance to learn and to make their own decisions.”

Of course, a danger greater than indoctrination is avoiding entirely these events from our state and nation's past.

Our children are not going to have the chance to learn and make their own decisions if our schools decide the surest way to avoid political hot water with state officials is simply to skip over the uncomfortable lessons from history.

Randy Evans is Executive Editor of the Iowa Freedom of Information Council and can be reached at [DMRevans2810@gmail.com](mailto:DMRevans2810@gmail.com). Pen City Current is a member of the IFOIC/.



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## Local News/Lee County News

# Wine & Beer Walk back on for 2021

BY PCC STAFF

FORT MADISON – The Fort Madison Wine & Beer Walk will, in fact, be back for 2021! The Walk will take place Friday, November 19th from 5 p.m. – 8 pm.

“We’re celebrating our 11th year doing this event” said Tim Gobble, Fort Madison Partners Executive Director. “When 2020 took the event away from us, as it was such a strange year, we didn’t want to miss it again. We will be implementing safeguards for the patrons as well as the vendors serving up regional flavors for you to enjoy at a variety of locations in the Historic Downtown Avenue G District. We are encouraging all to adhere to the CDC and LCHD guidelines to make the event safe and fun for all – vendors and patrons alike”.

More information about vendors and locations will be on the Wine Walk Facebook pages and event listing.

Just like in past years, we have a sponsor for the glasses. Menke & Co has graciously agreed to partner with us for 2021. Also, the “Early Bird Commemorative Glass Sale Event” will be held at Corks and Barrels – located at 622 7th Street- from 5 p.m -7 pm on Friday, November 12th.

This will be the ONLY night to get your commemorative 2021 glass at the \$10. price. After the 12th, the glasses will be available at the Partners office at 614 7th



Street during business hours for \$15.

“We also have a limited number of the 2020 Wine & Beer Walk commemorative glasses (with the special logo that was created for the event) for \$5,” Gobble said. “So, if you’re that collector of Wine Walk glasses this is one you may want to make sure and get early”.

The Wine & Beer Walk makes for a perfect evening with loved ones or a bubbling night with friends and family. If you have been here before, we know you will come again. If you haven’t attended the award winning Fort Madison Wine & Beer Walk, see for yourself how the event puts the spirit back into iconic Avenue G in downtown Fort Madison for the holiday season!

See you on November 19th from 5 p.m.- 8 p.m.! All proceeds benefit Fort Madison Beautification Foundation projects.

# Freesmeier’s legacy continues to unfold

1,000 - Continued from Page 1

Randolph’s sister Ali was a big part of the Crusaders’ success a few years ago.

It’s a chain of success that keeps growing.

Asked what 1,000 wins meant to her, Freesmeier started to answer, but assistant coach Tom Gendron couldn’t resist weighing in.

“Means she’s old,” Gendron joked, and Freesmeier couldn’t help but laugh.

This edition of the Crusaders has had a steady progression this season. Notre Dame, which knocked Holy Trinity out of the regional tournament last season, has been a thorn again this season, but the Nikes are in another bracket and any postseason meeting between the two would have to be at the state tournament if both get there.

Wednesday’s sweep was done quickly — the Crusaders dispatched Seymour in less than an hour.

“We’ve got work to do,” Freesmeier said, and the Crusaders displayed that efficiency.

Sophomore Mary Kate Bendlage has developed into a strong outside hitter. Box is becoming more and more of a presence in the middle. The Randolphs are effective as hitters and setters. Brooke Mueller continues her growth as a hitter, and had six service aces in Wednesday’s win. And there’s another group of young players filling in roles that will only grow in coming years.

The line keeps producing.

One big family of success that can be seen everywhere.

The gaudy win total, symbolized by the shiny balloons, is credited to Freesmeier.

It’s not just her, she insisted.

“We have a family here,” Freesmeier said. “And this belongs to them.”

John Bohnenkamp is an award-winning sports reporter and editor and is a regular contributor to Pen City Current.

# Three Rivers to hold chicken fundraiser

DONNELSON - Three Rivers Conservation Foundation presents their annual Chicken Dinner Fundraiser on Sunday, November 7th, 2021 from 4-7pm at the Charleston Board of Trade (1962 253rd St, Donnellson, IA 52625). For the first time ever, they are offering curbside pick-up in addition to dine-in services to give folks the option to avoid a crowd and enjoy the meal in the comfort of their homes.

All proceeds benefit Three Rivers Conservation Foundation’s “Places to Play” campaign. The first goal of this campaign was met and a brand new playground was built in Pollmiller Park this past year. The next goal is to raise \$70,000 for a new playground in Chatfield Park.

The cost is \$15 per ticket, which includes a buffet-style meal and a drink. Tickets can be purchased prior to the event at Lee County Conservation Center

(2652 Hwy 61, Montrose, IA 52639) or from any Foundation members. Tickets will also be available at the door.

About Lee County Conservation: Lee County Conservation manages 29 individual parks, wildlife areas, historic sites and water recreation access points - encompassing some 2634 acres across the county. The mission of the Lee County Conservation Board is to promote conservation of local natural resources and to provide parks and conservation areas, outdoor recreational opportunities, and environmental education for the public.

About Three Rivers Conservation Foundation: Three Rivers Conservation Foundation is a local non-profit who strives to support Lee County Conservation projects and environmental education programs.

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# Sports

## Pothitakis misses return trip to FD

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG  
PCC EDITOR

LEE COUNTY – For the first time in a long time, no high school cross country runners from Lee County will be competing at the state cross country meet next Friday in Fort Dodge.

At Thursday's state qualifiers, no runners from Holy Trinity Catholic or Central Lee finished in the top 15 individually and none of the three teams captured a top three spot.

On Wednesday, Fort Madison came up two spots short in the girls' run when Paetyn Wiegand finished 17th in the 3A girls run, and the boys' top finisher was Austin Miller at 25th. No one from Keokuk boys or girls had a qualifying time Wednesday.

On Thursday evening, Central Lee took 9th out of 11 teams at the Williamsburg Class 2A qualifier on a cool, breezy night.

Grant Anderson led the Hawks with a 19:26.8 good enough for 41st place. Jackson Denning was close behind with a 20:13.4 finishing in 49th place. Ayden Kent and Tristan Howell both ran 20:41.9s for 55th and 56th place finishes. Leo Thomas ran a 21:33.2 (61st), Aden Ross finished with a 21:39.5 (62nd) and Zach Manwill finished 66th with a 21:52.2.

At Iowa City Kicker's Park, Jacob Pothitakis finished in 34th in the Class 1A with a time of 20:37.29. 1:22 off the final qualifying pace of 19:05.11 and 3:17 off the pace of Aiden O'Neil of Iowa City Regina.

Sheldon Kruse was second in the Crusaders' contingent with a 21:07.34, good enough for 37th. Edward Schroeder was right behind in 40th place with a 21:09.07 and 2020 state qualifier Mitchell Pothitakis finished at 21:46.97 for 50th.



Courtesy photo

HTC's Sheldon Kruse motors down a spectator line at Thursday's cross country state qualifier in Iowa City.

## FMHS' Wiegand just misses state x-country meet

Hound sophomore misses qualifying by eight seconds

BY PCC SPORTS

SOLON – Fort Madison sophomore Paetyn Wiegand just missed qualifying for the state cross country meet next Friday in Fort Dodge.

The Bloodhound finished 17th in the girls 3A meet in Solon Wednesday afternoon. Fort Madison's Austin Miller was the top runner on the Fort Madison boy's squad with a 25th-place finish.

To qualify for state individually you have to finish in the top 15 and to qualify as a team you must finish in the top three at the state qualifier.

The Fort Madison Lady Hounds finished 8th overall with 210. Wiegand's 20:48.8 was just 8.1 seconds off the last qualifying time and 1:24 off the pace of top finisher Kayla Young of Solon.

Freshman Allison Lamb ran a 22:16.7 good enough for 39th overall and the second best time for the Bloodhounds. Another freshman Hailey Kemper ran a 22:51.5 for

44th place.

Other Bloodhounds to compete at the qualifier were freshman Alexa Walz – 24:44.9 (56th), Lily Gelsthorpe – 25:37.5 (60th), and senior Raquel Schneider 25:51.2 (61st).

The Fort Madison boys finished ninth out of 12 teams with 236 points. Miller's 17:57.9 was 2:01 of the pace and 39 seconds of the last qualifying time. Miller who's been battling injuries this year, qualified for last year's run at Kennedy Park.

Hayden Wolfe was 29th overall with an 18:00.1 and John Contrell was 48th overall with an 18:54.6. Other finishers for the boys Hound runners were: Jacob Shotenkirk – 20:26.6 (68th); Payton Lambert 20:26.6 (69th); and Ben Thele 21:36.7 (76th).

Holy Trinity Catholic and Central Lee both were competing in state qualifiers today at Iowa City and Williamsburg respectively. Those results will be posted as soon as they are available.

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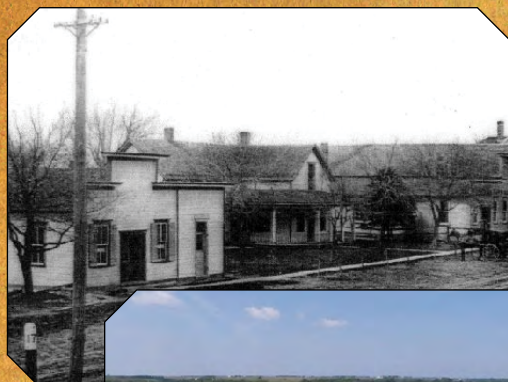
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## Classifieds/Public Notices



### Vaccination Nurse

Lee County Health Department is seeking to contract with a RN, LPN, or other qualifying professional licensed to administer vaccines in Iowa. The contracted position will include working in LCHD's scheduled vaccination clinics which involves clinic preparation work, administering COVID-19 and flu vaccination, possible vaccine data entry and tracking, and scheduling. Hours will vary each week throughout LCHD's vaccination campaign. Those interested should contact or send credentials/resume to Emily Biddenstadt, Community Health Program Manager, at [ebiddenstadt@leecountyhd.org](mailto:ebiddenstadt@leecountyhd.org). LCHD is an EOE.



### Registered Nurse Hospice & Homecare

Lee County Health Department is seeking a full-time RN to work in the agency's hospice & home health care programs. Experience in completing comprehensive patient assessments and providing skilled nursing care based on patient's plan of care preferred. Skilled nursing home visits and patient care management responsibilities will be required. LCHD's operational hours are 8:00am-4:30pm Monday-Friday with each RN assigned an on-call rotation every 3rd to 4th weekend and limited evenings during the month. LCHD offers a team oriented work environment with competitive wages and excellent benefits. Please send resumes to Becky Fader, Program Manager, at [bfader@leecountyhd.org](mailto:bfader@leecountyhd.org) or to LCHD, PO Box 1426, Fort Madison, IA 52627 by November 8, 2021. LCHD is an EOE.



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### Maintenance Technician

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- Repair and maintain all assigned machinery
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- Use all associated tools, machines, and diagnostic equipment
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- Overhaul production lines or building structure as needed.
- Ensure efficient operation of all production lines including mechanical services.
- Ability to carry out the following functions: parts manufacture troubles shooting, and proper operation of shop equipment.
- Preferred working knowledge and/or experience in:
  - Hydraulics & Pneumatics
  - Mechanical assemblies (gearboxes, drives etc)
  - Layout and fabrication - includes heli-arc, stick, and gas welding ability
  - Preventive maintenance and repair
  - Basic electrical knowledge (3 phase, breakers, schematic reading, etc.)

### Utilities Technician

- Main responsibilities:
- Refrigeration systems (supporting the Process Safety Management Program on the plants ammonia refrigeration system),
- RETA certification preferred
- HVAC systems
- Compressed Air Systems
- Water Systems-Level 2 Water Treatment certified with IDNR is preferred
- Steam Boiler Systems
- Fire Protection Systems
- Minimum Requirements:
  - 3-5 years of experience in Industrial Ammonia Refrigeration and Air Conditioning, and/or a 2-year technical college degree (Air Conditioning and Refrigeration)
  - 2 to 3 years of experience of working with industrial/commercial electricity and/or core classes in industrial/commercial electrical technology training
  - Must have the required Universal EPA certification for handling refrigerants
  - Experience in team processes, interpersonal communications, team building, facilitation, and self-management skills
  - Ability to work rotating shifts



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## PUBLIC NOTICES

### PUBLIC NOTICE MEETING NOTICE

KEOKUK CITY COUNCIL AGENDA COUNCIL WORKSHOP  
October 21, 2021  
5:30 P.M.

- (1) Discussion on Redistricting.
- (2) Review council meeting agenda.

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From the Front

# Resident upset with city's decision to pull parking

**COUNCIL** - Continued from Page 1

School.

The city also approved the second reading of a motion to make the current 4-way stop at 15th and Avenue E a permanent stop. That action requires one more reading.

Kristy Woolever, a resident on 15th street, said she was opposed to removing the parking on the east side of 15th Street north of Avenue E due to the limits it creates for parking at her home.

"Why did you decide to pull that parking," Woolever asked.

"The simple answer is from a public safety standpoint," Mayor Matt Mohrfeld said. "It was recommended to us from our in-house staff. One of the things they highlighted is changes. The bypass came and changed traffic flow. And as we looked at that we do have the wellness trail going up that side now and we felt that was a change.

"It is a farm-to-market road as a state designation for an arterial road that comes with certain funding and it warranted an analysis from our in-house public safety group. Mark Rohloff our (police) chief brought the recommendation to pull parking."

Woolever asked if the city would consider a compromise and ban parking during the busy parts of the day.

"I understand that certain parts of the day - in the morning I'd say from 6:30 to 8:30 there's a lot of traffic, especially in the winter time, and from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. maybe, but other than that there isn't a lot of traffic," Woolever said.

Councilman Donna Amandus said the street is not wide enough to support parking and have two lanes. She said she's been by Woolever's home and there is public parking across the intersection from her home.

Woolever said she's concerned about holidays and special occasions where family won't have a place to park at her home.

Councilman Tom Schulz said there is room to park at neighboring businesses that aren't open on the holidays.

"And that parking is almost always 50 to 70 percent open anyway," Schulz said.

"I'm just saying if you decide to take the parking off, why can't we park in the evening, when there isn't that much traffic, let's say there's no parking from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.," Woolever said.

Councilman Rebecca Bowker said the council was trying to find solutions for her and recognized her situation.

"I fully appreciate and respect your position and I hope you can appreciate the direction of the council as well," Bowker said.



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

At Tuesday's Fort Madison City Council meeting, Mayor Matt Mohrfeld said the city has been granted \$100,000 from Freeport McMoRan for the marina project. He updated other funding searches as well. The west side of the park, shown here, is piled with dirt that will help raise the area out of the flood plain.

Woolever said the council has now pulled parking on the south side of E, and pulled stop signs from 15th Street at Avenue F, both of which she disagreed with.

In an unrelated issue, Mohrfeld revealed that the marina project has secured a \$100,000 grant from Climax Molybdenum's parent company Freeport McMoRan over the next several years. He will also be presenting in Des Moines for a CAT grant and has applied for America Rescue Plan funding from Lee County.

In other action, the council:

- approved a mandated approval of the city's Code of Ordinances, 7-0.
- approved a resolution reissuing the Water Revenue Capital Loan Note to take advantage of some interest savings.
- approved three changes orders on the city's marina project and Hwy. 61 projects
- approved a three-year impound towing agreement with B.J.'s Performance in Fort Madison.
- approved a motion to appoint Amanda Frank to the Fort Madison Housing Authority.

## FMPD, DCI investigators still looking for suspect in mid 20s

**VIGIL** - Continued from Page 1

and according to police reports assaulted the man on an upper floor before being seen running from the scene. A witness in the area has provided limited details on the subject.

Fort Madison Police Chief Mark Rohloff said a weapon wasn't recovered, but there was evidence at the scene when investigators arrived.

Authorities are currently looking for a male suspected in his mid 20s. No other information on the suspect has been released. Rohloff said all indications are the two men knew each other and this was an isolated incident and there is no threat to the public in general.

Fort Madison Fire & Rescue and Lee County EMS Ambulance both assisted at the scene as did EMS director Dennis Cosby.

Brewster was taken to Southeast Iowa Regional Medical Center in grave condition and was later declared dead.

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