

PEN CITY CURRENT

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

Friday, July 9, 2021 | 8 pages | Volume 5 • Issue 135



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County Fair seeing good numbers



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg

10-year-old Cade Wilson of West Point stands with his goat at attention as a judge inspects the animal during the 4H/FFA goat show in the Sale Barn Thursday at the Lee County Fair.

COUNTY FAIR: Monster Trucks, Demolition Derby expected to draw record crowds

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

DONNELSON – The Lee County Fair was bustling Thursday afternoon after a record-setting Wednesday night for the fair crownings and motorcross shows.

A sold-out fish fry set the tone for a large crowd to see Maddie Wellman crowned 2021 Lee County Fair Queen.

Wellman will represent the county at the Iowa State Fair in August. She is the daughter of Deb and Dusty Wellman and will be a senior at Central Lee High School.

This first runner-up is Sidney Jones, while the second runner-up is Brianna Gruntmeir. Brianna also was named Miss Congeniality.

This year's junior fair queen is Allison Gruntmeir. First

runner-up is Kayla Winnke and second runner-up is Madison Hassman.

Board member Brock Westfall, who was the fair board president in 2019 said the fair board picked up where it left off in 2019, and said sponsors and contractors couldn't have been better in dealing with the pandemic.

"Last year was disappointing. We did have it for the kids just for the livestock and that's the most important thing," he said.

"The vendors last year, the Monster Trucks people, and bands all pushed their contracts back a year so we weren't out any money except for the upkeep and the things that we had already purchased."

See FAIR, page 8

COUNCIL MEETING

Council OKs more spends on Hwy. 61

Amended agreement with Amtrak on depot gets nod from council

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – The Fort Madison City Council approved a change order Tuesday that included close to 30 changes to the work being done on the 6th-10th Hwy. 61 reconstruction project Tuesday.

Most of the changes are typical or customary changes on items that pop up as work is being done, but one item caught the attention of the council and Mayor Matt Mohrfeld.

One change order submitted by Jones Contracting Corp was for an engineer's "revision to the roadway design at the east end of the project to accurately tie into the existing roadway".

The existing roadway is the new section of Hwy. 61 that was just completed earlier this year by Jones Contracting.

"We have to have an engineer revisit tying into a road they designed?" Mohrfeld said.

"So here we are with a sweeping change order for a whole lot of things including making sure we match up to the existing highway. What's next – the wrong placement of lights down in the parking lot?"

Public Works Director Mark Boussetot said he felt "compelled" to include it in his report so the council could see it, but said there was changes taken out of the work, and a lot put back in. But the sum total of the increase was about \$6,700.

City Councilman Rusty Andrews asked in light-hearted fashion if there was an explanation given as to why engineers didn't tie in the connection correctly in the first place.

"No, I was kinda of shocked too, so

See COSTS, page 8

Gertrude "Gertie" Sheaffer, wife of John Sheaffer, dead at 93

BY PCC STAFF

MEMPHIS - Gertrude Sheaffer, wife of former Sheaffer Pen CEO, John Sheaffer has died at the age of 93.

"Gertie" as she was known to friends and relatives died in Memphis and the families has requested memorials be sent to the Coffeen Land Trust, 146 Doffeen Hill Road, Four Mile

Village, Santa Rosa Beach, Fla., 32459, or the Sheaffer Pen Museum, 627 Avenue G in Fort Madison, Ia. 52627.

Her complete obituary appears in today's edition on page 2.



SHEAFFER

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WEATHER

FRI 09 Jul.....	Rain, 42° F/ 33° F
SAT 10 Jul.....	Rain, 47° F/ 41° F
SUN 11 Jul.....	Heavy Rain, 35° F/ 28° F

IOWA LOTTERY

LOTTO AMERICA 07/07.....	14 19 24 43, Star Ball: 3, All Star Bonus: 4
PICK 3 07/07 MIDDAY.....	4 5 8
PICK 3 07/07 EVENING.....	7 0 7
PICK 4 07/07 MIDDAY.....	4 0 2 8
PICK 4 07/07 EVENING.....	2 3 3 0
POWERBALL 07/07.....	8 21 30 49 57, Powerball: 8, Power Play: 2

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Obituaries/For the Record

OBITUARIES

GERTRUDE "GERTIE" SHEAFFER

Gertrude Sheaffer was born in Memphis, Tennessee to Dr. Giles Augustus Coors and Gertrude Russell Coors, along with two brothers, George Alcorn and Giles Augustus Jr, all of whom preceded her. She attended Memphis' Hutchison School before entering Bennett Junior College for Women in Millbrook, New York. She completed her undergraduate degree at Vanderbilt University where she was affiliated with Delta Delta Delta Sorority.



STEFFEN

On February 3, 1951, she married John Dunlap Sheaffer in her hometown before making their home of 66 years in Fort Madison, Iowa where they raised four children who survive: John Dunlap Sheaffer Jr. (Kathy), Virginia Sheaffer Kemp (Harry), Carolyn Sheaffer Masterson (Daniel) and Russell Walter Sheaffer (Vicki). She and John had nine grandchildren and one great grandchild. She was preceded in death by her husband on February 5th, 2021, following their 70th wedding anniversary.

Gertrude, or Gertie as she was affectionately known, spent much of her time volunteering for many charitable and civic organizations. She felt strongly about the preservation of historical buildings and landmarks, and actively supported the North Lee County Historical Society. With a talented eye for design and display, she was instrumental in organizing the Sheaffer Pen Museum. Gertie was very committed and proud of the beauty of Fort Madison, the river town she grew to love. There was nothing more beautiful to her than a colorful sunset or a full moon over a river, a lake, or an ocean. She was a faithful member of St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Fort Madison, Christ Episcopal Church in Burlington, Iowa, and later St. John's Episcopal church in Memphis.

Generous hospitality was the heart of Gertie and she especially enjoyed opening her home during the holiday season. She was known by many for hosting a Christmas open house where friends and family of all ages, both local and those visiting from out of town, where all were graciously welcomed. She also enjoyed adventure and traveled extensively with friends - always making more along the way.

When not in Fort Madison she spent time at their home on the beach in Florida, where family and friends frequently gathered. Known as GiGi to her grandchildren, she loved teaching them about the sea and the creatures who lived there. She enjoyed the beauty of nature and the rhythm of the eternally rolling surf. Three-hour beach walks were not uncommon, and she always returned with her arms full of treasures.

Gertie lived her life filled with positive energy and natural southern charm. She nurtured close friendships that endured throughout her life. She loved to write and dedicated much of her time at her desk composing newsy letters to her children, grandchildren, family, and friends. She never allowed a significant amount of time to pass without thoughtfully written correspondence to loved ones. She always made time for others from all walks of life and lived for family and friends by grace and with love. Gertie will be missed but the example she set will be remembered by all for generations.

A graveside service will be held at St. John's Episcopal Church cemetery in Memphis on Saturday July 10th at 11:00AM. A private reception will follow.

In lieu of flowers, the family has requested memorials be sent to the Coffeen Land Trust, 146 Coffeen Hill Road, Four Mile Village, Santa Rosa Beach, Florida 32459 or The Sheaffer Pen Museum, 627 Avenue G, Fort Madison, Iowa 52627.

For the Record

Fort Madison Police Report
07/06/21 - 10:12 a.m.
- Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 1700 block of Avenue I.
07/06/21 - 6:03 p.m.
- Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a burglary in the 3400 block of Avenue N.
07/06/21 - 6:03 p.m.
- Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 1500 block of Avenue H.
07/07/21 - No activity to report

Madison, at the sheriff's office, on a warrant for voluntary absence from custody and a judgment hold. He was taken to Lee County Jail.
07/06/21 - 3:45 p.m.
- Lee County Sheriff's deputies cited Katelyn Elizabeth Whiteman, 29, of Keokuk, in the 3300 block of 275th Avenue, on a charge of 1st offense trespassing.
07/07/21 - no activity reported.
Those listed above a presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

Lee County Sheriff's Report
07/06/21 - 12:03 a.m.
- Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Rick Keegan Tinder, 26, of Keokuk, at the Lee County Jail on a judgment hold. He was held in custody.
07/06/21 - 12:45 p.m.
- Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Richard Arlen Trelstad, 50, of Fort

Fort Madison Fire & Rescue Report
07/05/21 - Fort Madison Firefighters responded to five medical calls and one car accident
07/06/21 - Fort Madison Firefighters responded to three medical calls.
07/07/21 - Fort Madison Firefighters responded to five medical calls and one assistance call.

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Iowa News

Miller joins Google antitrust lawsuit for app, related fees

DES MOINES, IOWA – Yesterday, Iowa Attorney General Tom Miller joined a coalition of 37 attorneys general to file a lawsuit against Google in California. Utah v. Google alleges exclusionary conduct relating to the Google Play Store for Android mobile devices and Google Billing.

This antitrust lawsuit is the newest legal action against the tech giant, claiming illegal, anticompetitive, and unfair business practices.

The states accuse Google of using its dominance to unfairly restrict competition with the Google Play Store, harming consumers by limiting choice and driving up app prices

“Millions of consumers rely on the Google Play Store to discover and download frequently used apps on their smart devices,” Miller said.

“Through the use of restrictive contracts and agreements, Google has used this reliance to thwart competition and create a monopoly in app distribution. What’s more, Google has knowingly passed higher than average fees along to customers, often costing

consumers hundreds if not thousands of dollars they wouldn’t have spent except for Google’s dominant market position.”

According to the lawsuit, the heart of the case centers on Google’s exclusionary conduct, which substantially shuts out competing app distribution channels. Google also requires that app developers that offer their apps through the Google Play Store use Google Billing as a middleman.

This arrangement, which ties a payment processing system to an app distribution channel, forces app consumers to pay Google’s commission—up to 30%—on in-app purchases of digital content made by consumers through apps that are distributed via the Google Play Store.

This commission is much higher than the commission consumers would pay if they had the ability to choose a payment processing system of their choice.

The lawsuit alleges that Google works to discourage or prevent competition, violating federal and state antitrust laws.



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Sports

BHS piles up two-out runs to end Hounds' season

Hounds can't get bats going in one-hit shutout

BY JOHN BOHNENKAMP
PCC SPORTS

BURLINGTON – The third out was evasive. Fort Madison's softball team was under constant offensive pressure from Burlington in Thursday's Class 4A regional quarterfinal at Wagner Field, but had chances to get out of innings without much damage.

But finding that last out proved difficult. Burlington's 9-0 win over the Bloodhounds was a story of frustration, but with optimism for what will come next for the program in the coming years.

The Grayhounds (21-13) advanced to Saturday's semifinal at Benton Community (21-18).

Fort Madison finished the season 15-20. Burlington scored three runs in the third inning, five runs in the fifth and one in the sixth, with all but one of the runs coming with two outs.

And with the Bloodhounds held to just one hit — a fifth-inning single by Logan Johnson — the chance of digging out from the deficit wasn't there.

Fort Madison scored 22 runs in a doubleheader sweep of Keokuk on Wednesday, but couldn't make anywhere near that much noise in this game.

"We hit a bunch yesterday at Keokuk,"

Fort Madison coach Jared Rehm said. "Maybe we left them all there, I don't know."

Fort Madison pitcher Neeley Rehm didn't allow a hit in the first two innings, but got into trouble in the third. Brynn Casady, the No. 9 hitter, singled with one out, and moved to second when Hannah Heuvelmann reached on an error. Adessa Brandenburg's bunt advanced both runner, and they scored on Carley McGinity's single to center field. Another error allowed McGinity to score, and Burlington led 3-0.

Saydee Plummer, Casady and Heuvelmann all had two-out hits in the fifth to drive in four runs, then the final run of the game scored on Plummer's two-out single in the sixth.

Plummer only allowed four baserunners. Johnson reached on a dropped third strike in the second inning and on her fifth-inning hit. McKenna Cashman was hit by a pitch in the fifth, and Erika Kruse walked in the seventh.

Plummer struck out eight. "Evidently, she was on," Coach Rehm said. "She looked pretty good. Solid."

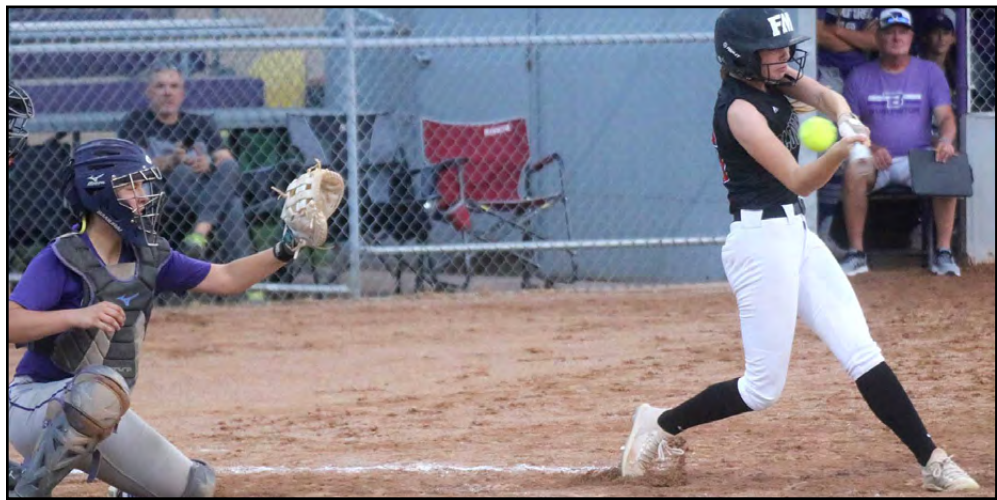
The Bloodhounds lose three seniors and two regulars from the starting lineup. "We're young," Rehman said. "We had two sophomore pitchers, and a freshman pitcher. We're young, we're improving."

This is a program. We have to build for the future. It's an ongoing process."

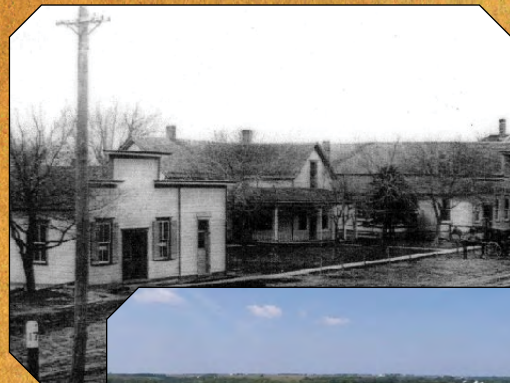


Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Above, Fort Madison's Kendall Beebe just misses on a diving try in the fourth inning of the Bloodhounds' 9-0 loss to Burlington on Thursday. The loss ended the Bloodhounds season. Below, Lauryn Helmick just misses on a pitch in the top of the 7th inning.



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Charles Vandenberg, Editor
(319).371.1670
editor@pencitycurrent.com

Lee K. Vandenberg, Sales Manager
(319).371.4125
sales@pencitycurrent.com

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Lee County provides equal opportunity in employment to all persons regardless of age, race, creed, color, sex, national origin, religion or disability.

For a job description and to apply, download an application from our county website, www.leecounty.org, or pick them up at the Engineer's office and return your completed application along with a resume to Lee County Engineer, P.O. Box 158, Fort Madison, Iowa 52627, or email it to bhull@leecounty.org and copy it to shartson@leecounty.org Applications will be accepted until Monday, July 19, 2021 at 3:30 p.m.

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



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Volunteer Services Program Director



United Way of the Great River Region

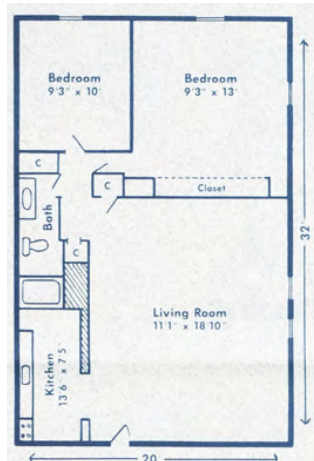
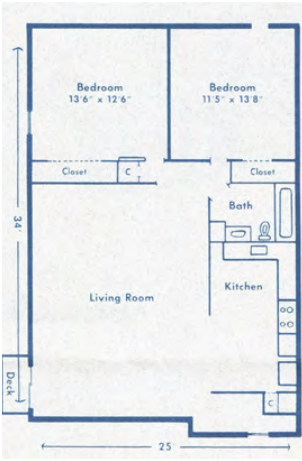
United Way of the Great River Region is seeking a full time Volunteer Services/AmeriCorps Seniors Program Director in our Fort Madison office to manage all aspects of the Volunteer Services Program. Director will oversee a long standing AmeriCorps Seniors program. Ideal candidate will be a proven self starter, creative, outgoing, have excellent leadership and interpersonal relationship skills; grant management and writing skills; fundraising experience; strong office, computer and budgeting 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 July 30, 2021 to: United Way of the Great River Region, PO Box 251, Keokuk, IA 52632 or email director@unitedwaygr.org

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From the Front

Fair board shrugs off pandemic pause

FAIR - Continued from Page 1

Westfall said most sponsors just told the fair board to keep the sponsorship funds to help offset losses from having to shutter the rest of the fair in 2020 due to the pandemic.

He said if the weather holds up, attendance could set records for the week based on what he saw Wednesday night.

“This year it’s been great. On Wednesday night we had a great turnout for the motorcross show. The rain put us off a little bit, but it was probably the best Wednesday night we’ve had since I’ve been here,” he said.

“We anticipate good attendance, but we can’t control the storms and stuff.”

Westfall is a board member who served the last five years as president. This year he said he’s still as involved, but not running the show.

This year’s main features are the Monster Truck shows, which took place Thursday night with a family theme that included a candy dash, bike giveaway and \$1 hot dogs. The fair board also added ice cream sales in the grandstands this year.

Monster Trucks return for a second show on Friday night, before the Demolition Derby thrills fans on Saturday night.

Westfall said in 2019 there weren’t as many trucks, but bigger names. This year the board went with more trucks instead of the bigger names like BigFoot to avoid a shortened show. In 2019 two of the trucks suffered damage and couldn’t continue.

“We increased the number of trucks because two years ago we had some breakdowns. We got rid of Big-Foot this year and went with a higher number of cars so we hope that doesn’t happen again.”

City’s portion of depot costs may shrink

COSTS - Continued from Page 1

I just included it in the report to you,” Boussetot replied.

Other changes included revisions adjacent to Chuong Garden and revisions to the northeast corner of 10th Street and Avenue H, and to add heavy rock called “macadem” to help stabilize unsuitable soil that was encountered on the project.

The move approved 5-1 with Kevin Rink voting against the change order. Councilman Chad Cangas was absent from the meeting.

The council also approved a \$29,167 increase in the Fort Madison Community Trail Project on the Southeast Iowa Regional Medical Center Community Foundation portion of the trail up to Rodeo Park. The change will pay for 1,152 feet of new fence along the trail rather than reassembling the existing fencing. The council approved the motion 6-0 with several councilmembers indicating the fencing did need to be replaced.

In an unrelated issue, the council voted on an amendment to the agreement between the city and Amtrak for the installation of the passenger platform at the Old Depot. The agreement called the Old Station Revitalization Agreement outlines the duties and responsibilities of the city and Amtrak regarding what needs to be done to enable Amtrak to relocate operations to the depot in Riverview Park.

Under the original agreement, Amtrak agreed to contribute \$150,000 to the effort. Bids on the work came in about \$1 million higher than engineer estimates and the city approached Amtrak at that time, after the former city council balked at the price of the platform, to help cover the increased costs.

In March of 2020, Amtrak, with approval of the Federal Railroad Administration, approved increas-

ing that contribution \$1.4 million, which sets the amount of its contribution at \$1.55 million. The amendment reflects that increased commitment.

Mohrfeld said the FRA through Amtrak stepped up because it would have cost more to renovate the current passenger depot and make it ADA compliant.

City Manager David Varley said the city’s portion of the costs of all the depot relocation will be about \$176,500 out of a \$2.7 million project. But he said the city will need to contribute additional funds to finish interior modifications.

“Our best estimate right now, after redoing the interior and doing some ADA upgrades to the bathroom, it may be closer to a \$100,000 difference rather than the \$300,000 or \$400,000 we originally estimated. I was kind of a 3rd party off to the side, but this will be the first time (Amtrak) will actually put something in writing to commit to it,” Varley said.

Councilman Tom Schulz asked if Mohrfeld would continue to investigate the agreements that took place with former Mayor Brad Randolph to see if there is a better deal the city can work with Amtrak.

“Personally, I think we’re probably going to get there the same way we were going to get there, but yes I will sit down with Brad and make sure this is absolutely the best deal – and this is very near and dear to him.”

In other action, the council approved the purchase of a new filter at the Fort Madison swimming pool at the end of the season. The filter is a \$150,000 filter with a \$12,000 engineering allowance. The city had budgeted a \$133,000 for the project out of remaining funds in a Quality of Life Bond Fund. The additional funds will come from the general fund.

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