#### SPORTS: Fort Madison falls in soccer opening in OT thriller • See page 4

## PEN CITY CURRENT It's Black & White and Read all over

Wednesday, April 7, 2021 | 6 pages | Volume 5 • Issue 75

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Photo by Chuck Vandenberg

Bethany Ferguson catches her son Ben, both of Niota, in one of the tractors at Faeth's Tractor Show Saturday in historic downtown Fort Madison. Bill Faeth, owner of Faeth's Cigar Store, watches with a smile in the background. The Fergusons were on hand for the show which featured 24 vintage tractors, while Pen City Cruisers held a car show in the parking lot behind the show.

#### FEB. 7 SHOOTING

### Area man arrested for aiding/abetting attempted murder

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - A second man has been arrested in connection with the early morning Feb. 7 shooting in downtown Fort Madison.

Fort Madison Police Detective David Doyle confirmed Tuesday morning that Darius Lee Porter, 32., of Burlington was



Doyle said.

taken into custody on Friday evening on charges of aiding and abetting attempted murder.

"Porter was arrested Friday evening at Catfish Bend Casino by Burlington

Police and transferred to Lee County I believe on Saturday morning,"

He said the arrest was in connection with the shooting that took place just before 3 a.m. that Sunday morning. One more person is still being sought in connection with the incident.

"We are still seeking the apprehension of one more individual and getting closer on that," Doyle said. "Other than that, there's

#### See ARREST, page 6

#### www.pencitycurrent.com

### **COUNCIL MEETINGS Mayor wants \$1.5M from** city for marina

**BY CHUCK VANDENBERG** PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - With plans in full swing on a new \$11 million Fort Madison marina, Mayor Matt Morhfeld asked for a special convening of the council to get a commitment on a \$1.5 million spend to turn the key on the project.

At the end of Tuesday's regular City Council meeting, Mohrfeld updated the

council on the project and said in addition to asking the Southeast Iowa Regional Riverboat Commission for \$1.5 million to replace the aging dock system, he's also in the ear of newly elected



Congresswoman Mariannette Miller-Meeks for a possible federal earmark.

"There have been some community project funds rolled down from the federal government designed to enhance local communities, and and they are being disseminated through congressional districts and each congressperson is getting 10 projects," Mohrfeld said.

"We are applying to Congressperson Miller-Meeks to have us considered on that. It's a whirlwind application. We have 10 days to put that together."

Mohrfeld scheduled a Thursday meeting for the single agenda item.

The Mayor's getting an assist on the project from Barker Financial President David Barker, who's a member of the Iowa Republican Party State Central Committee.

'He was up to speed on the project and had been reading on it in the media. He wants to help and we're taking him up on it," Mohrfeld said.



#### No hazardous materials leaked in Sunday semi-tractor fire on J50

BY PCC STAFF

WEVER - A semi tractor hauling anhydrous ammonia caught fire Sunday evening just south of Wever, but firefighters extinguished the blaze before any chemicals could be released.

At about 7:49 p.m. Wever Fire & Rescue responded to the call in the 3500 block of 190th Street and J50 just south of the Iowa Fertilizer Company and were on scene for about four hours resolving the issue.

Iowa Fertilizer Company officials indicated in a release Monday morning that a truck hauling the chemicals purchased at the Wever facility caught fire several miles after it left the facility.

"Although this incident did not occur at our plant and did not involve our employees, the safety of the community remains our top

See FIRE, page 6

Barker's company is the same company that stepped up and finished the Cattermole Library and Old Lee County Bank and is now facilitating progress in the former Sears building. They also have ownership of the Kingsley Inn and River Rocks restaurant. Mohrfeld said having the city's commitment in place would put a shine on the application for federal funds. He didn't

See MARINA, page 6

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#### WEATHER

WED 07 Apr Rain, 71° F/ 59° F	4,4
THU 08 Apr Rain, 57° F/ 47° F	
FRI 09 AprRain, 66° F/ 45° F	

#### IOWA LOTTERY

LUCKY FOR LIFE 04/05	2 5 16 26 39, Lucky Ball: 10
PICK 3 04/05 MIDDAY	
PICK 3 04/05 EVENING	
PICK 4 04/05 MIDDAY	
PICK 4 04/05 EVENING	5149
	0112

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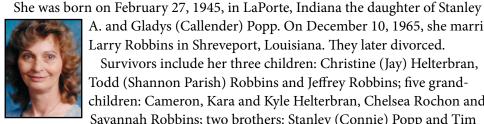
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#### **Obituaries**

### PAMELA P. ROBBINS

Pamela P. Robbins, 76, of West Point, Iowa, passed away at 6:19 p.m. Saturday, April 3, 2021 at Great River Medical Center in West Burlington.



A. and Gladys (Callender) Popp. On December 10, 1965, she married Larry Robbins in Shreveport, Louisiana. They later divorced. Survivors include her three children: Christine (Jay) Helterbran, Todd (Shannon Parish) Robbins and Jeffrey Robbins; five grandchildren: Cameron, Kara and Kyle Helterbran, Chelsea Rochon and

Savannah Robbins; two brothers: Stanley (Connie) Popp and Tim

ROBBINS

Russell.

She was preceded in death by her parents; Stanley Popp and Gladys Bass; step-father: Duane Russell; two brothers: Curtis Popp and Douglas Russell and infant sister: Robin Russell.

Pam retired Hearth and Home Technologies. She loved being a mom, loved and enjoyed spending time with her grandchildren. She also enjoyed horses and loved her cats.

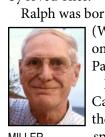
Friends may call after 12:00 noon Wednesday, April 7, 2021, at Schmitz Funeral Home in West Point where the family will receive friends from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

A Funeral Service will be held at 6:00 p.m. Wednesday, April 7, 2021 at Schmitz Funeral Home in West Point with Pastor John Lange officiating. After her funeral, the service will be posted on her obituary page under her "Tribute Wall" at www. schmitzfuneralhomes.com.

A Graveside Service will be held at 1:00 p.m. on Friday, April 9 at Carmel Cemetery in LaPorte, Indiana with Pastor John Lange officiating.

A memorial has been established in her memory.

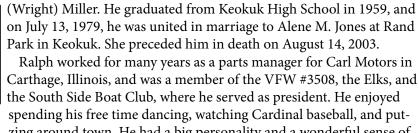
Schmitz Funeral Home of West Point is assisting the family with arrangements. Online condolences may be sent to the family at www.schmitzfuneralhomes.com.



RALPH W. MILLER

Ralph W. Miller, 79, of Keokuk, passed away on Friday, April 2, 2021, surrounded by loved ones.

Ralph was born on August 9, 1941, in Keokuk, Iowa, the son of Mylo and Emily



MILLER

zing around town. He had a big personality and a wonderful sense of

humor. Ralph proudly served his country in the United States Navy during Vietnam and was honorably discharged.

Ralph is survived by three children: Harold (Julie) Miller of Siloam Springs, Oklahoma, Michele (Scott) Winkler of Corpus Christi, Texas, and Paul (Brandy)

George of Nauvoo, Illinois; his sister Norma Miller of Keokuk; his brother Ken (Alberta) Miller of Keokuk; nine grandchildren: Tiffany, Jerod, Brooke and Daniel Samuelson, Bill and Anthony Miller, Theresa, and Kinnick and Sophia George; and many nieces and nephews.



Ralph is preceded in death by his parents; his wife Alene; three brothers: Raymond, Harold and Larry; and an infant brother.

Ralph's life will be celebrated with a memorial service at 11 am on Thursday, April 8, 2021, at DeJong-Greaves-Printy Funeral Home in Keokuk, with a private family burial to follow at Keokuk National Cemetery. Visitation will be held on Wednesday at the funeral home from 2 to 7 pm, with family meeting friends from 4 to 7 pm.

Memorials may be directed to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital or the South Side Boat Club.

Tributes and condolences may be left at www.dejongsfuneralhome.com. DeJong-Greaves-Printy Funeral Home of Keokuk is in charge of arrangements.



Tony Fullenkamp Financial Adviso

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#### For the Record

#### For the Record

Fort Madison Police Report 04/01/21 - 12:57 p.m. - Fort Madison police arrested Christopher Drew Holmes, 35, of Wever, in the 900 block of Avenue H, on a judgment hold. He was taken to the Lee County Jail. 04/01/21 - 8:39 p.m. - Fort Madison police cited Sheldon Lee Saltzgaver, 61, of Fort Madison in the 1400 block of Avenue H, on a charge of driving under suspension. 04/02/21 - 10:09 a.m. - Fort Madison Police cited Michelle Saltzgaver, 53, of Fort Madison, in the 2900 block of Avenue L, on a charge of driving under suspension. 04/02/21 - 10:33 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 600 block of Avenue G. 04/02/21 - 12:14 p.m. - Fort Madison Police cited Jeremy Jacob Palm, 21, of Keokuk, in a charge of driving while barred. 04/02/221 – 1:15 p.m. – Fort Madison Police cited Serena Dawn Schnider, 43, of Fort Madison, in the 300 block of 24th Street, on a charge of driving under suspension. 04/02/21 - 2:02 p.m.- Fort Madison Police cited Shaqwanza Aviance Trotter, 29. of 1300 blcok of Avenue E, on a charge of driving under suspension. 04/02/21 - 2:07 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a burglary in the 200 block of Avenue G 04/02/21 - 2:21 p.m.- Fort Madison Police cited Kai Luv Kempker, 27, of Fort Madison in the 500 block of Avenue H, on a charge of driving while barred and possession of drug paraphernalia. 04/02/21 - 4:21 p.m. - Fort

Madison Police cited Danyle Jean Warner, 45, of Fort Madison, in the 2100 block of 303rd Avenue. 04/02/21 - 5:10 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of vandalism in the 2700 block of Avenue M 04/02/21 - 11:35 p.m. - Fort Madison police arrested Francisco Vallareal, 29, of Fort Madison, in the 2900 block of Avenue L., on a charge of public intoxication. He was taken to Lee County Jail. 04/03/21 - 12:21 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of vandalism in the 2700 block of Avenue M. 04/04/21 - 8:02 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 1200 block of Avenue F. 04/04/21 - 10:19 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a stolen vehicle in the Fort Madison area. 04/04/21 - 10:40 a.m. - Fort Madison Police arrested Anthony Leroy Bernard, 31, of Donnellson, in the 3400 block of Avenue L, on a warrants for failure to appear and a charge of driving while barred. He was taken to the Lee County Jail. 04/04/21 - 12:09 p.m. - Fort Madison Police arrested Jeri Monique Fink, 41, of Macomb, IL., in the 200 block of Avenue G, on a charge of possession of stolen property-2nd degree. She was held at the Lee County Jail. 04/04/21 - 4:21 p.m. - Fort Madison Police arrested Katelyn Maxine Mcgehee, 26, in the 2600 block of Avenue L, on a warrant for contempt. She was taken to Lee County Jail 04/04/21 - 5:40 p.m. - Fort Madison Police cited Andrew James Bleything, 30, of Denmark, in the 1400 block of Avenue

A, on a charge of possession of drug paraphernalia. 04/04/21 – 9:01 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a hit and run in the 600 block of Avenue H. 04/04/21 – 9:08 a.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a burglary in the 2300 block of Avenue A. 04/04/21 – 8:23 a.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of vandalism in the 1200 block of Avenue F.

Lee County Sheriff's Report

04/01/21 - 3:16 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Brandy Lynn Sturm, 30, of Keokuk, in the 3500 block of Johnson Street Road, on a charge of domestic abuse assault. She was taken to Lee County Jail and released on her recognizance. 04/01/21 - 8:30 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies responded to a one vehicle accident. According to the report, a vehicle driven by Carin Ann Ison, 38 of Ottumwa, left the road on Hwy. 61 and struck a tree down an embankment. Ison was cited initially for driving while suspended. Ison is also suspected of being involved in several other collisions prior to the collision. 04/01/21 - 8:40 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Carin Ann Ison, 38, of Ottumwa, in the 2500 block of Hwy. 61, on a charge of driving while suspended. She was taken to Lee County Jail and released after posting a fine. 04/02/21 - 1:32 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Tia Pualani Jensen, 25, of Keokuk, at the sheriff's department, on a judgement hold. She was taken to Lee County Jail and released for time served.

04/03/21 - 7:02 a.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Michael Allen Wagner, 37, of Keokuk, at the sheriff's department on a judgment hold. He was taken to Lee County Jail and released for time served. 04/02/21 - 9:47 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Jacob Glen Russell, 38, of Keokuk, in the 5000 block of Avenue O, on a warrant for violation of parole, and on charges of OWI-1st offense, possession of a controlled substance and possession of drug paraphernalia. He was taken to Lee County Jail. 04/02/21 - 10:43 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Darius Lee Porter, 32, of Burlington, at the Des Moines County Jail on a warrant for attempted murder. He was held in custody. 04/03/21 - 5:38 a.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies cited Piper Lynn Jagua, 34, of Denmark, in the 3500 block of Hwy. 16, on charges of possession of a controlled substance-marijuana, and possession of drug paraphernalia. 04/03/21 - 4:54 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies cited Raymond L. Montgomery, 28, of Granite City, III., on Hwy 218 southbound on charges of possession of a controlled substance and possession of drug paraphernalia. 04/04/21 - 12:01 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Anthony Leroy Bernard, age 31, of Donnellson, at the sheriff's office, on a judgment hold. He was taken to Lee County Jail. 04/04/21 - 9:52 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Heidi Jo Schneider, 45 of Fort Madison, at Hwy. 103 and 218, on a charge of operating while intoxicated. She was taken to

Lee County Jail and held.

Hancock County Sheriff's Report 03/29/21 - Alexander M Irish, age 29, of LaHarpe, IL was arrested and charged with Domestic Battery. Irish was released after posting the required bond and given a future court date. 03/29/21 - Cortez M J Sturek, age 25. of Carthage. IL was arrested on a Hancock County Warrant charging him with Failure to Appear on original charges of Driving Under the Influence. Sturek was released after posting the required bond and given a future court date. 03/30/21 - Eric J Ruble, age 42, of Fort Madison, IA was arrested on a Hancock County Warrant charging him with Failure to Appear/ Pay on original charges of Operating Uninsured Vehicle. Ruble was released after posting the required bond and given a future court date. 03/30/21 - Christina L Shroat, age 36, of Burlington, WI was arrested and charged with Driving Under the Influence of Drugs. Shroat was released after posting the required bond and given a future court date. 04/01/21 – Amie T Schmitz, age 46, of Nauvoo, IL was arrested on a Hancock County Warrant charging her with Failure to Appear on original charges of Unlawful Possession of Drug Paraphernalia. Schmitz was also arrested on a McDonough County Warrant charging her with Failure to Appear / Pay on original charges of Possession of Drug Paraphernalia. Schmitz remains lodged in the Hancock County Jail in lieu of bail awaiting her next court appearance. 04/01/21 - Sherri E Adams, age 61, of Stronghurst, IL was arrested on a Hancock Coun-

ty Warrant charging her with Failure to Appear/ Pay on original charges of Unlawful Possession of Cannabis. Adams was released after posting the required bond and given a future court date. 04/02/21 - John H Watkins, age 61, of Basco, IL was arrested and charged with Possession of Methamphetamine with Intent to Deliver and Possession of Drug Paraphernalia. Watkins remains lodged in the Hancock County Jail in lieu of bail awaiting his next court appearance. 04/02/21 - Kenneth D Dainty, age 37, of Macomb, IL was arrested on a McDonough County Warrant charging him with Failure to Appear for Driving While License Suspended. Dainty was released after posting the required bond and given a future court date. 04/03/21 - Andrea L Blint, age 37, of Monroe, GA was arrested on a Hancock County Warrant charging her with Failure to Appear for Petition to Revoke or Modify Sentence for Original charges of Unlawful Possession of Methamphetamine, Driving While License Suspended, Operating Uninsured Vehicle and Expired Registration. Blint remains lodged in the Hancock County Jail in lieu of bail awaiting her next court appearance. 04/03/21 - Michela M Helenthal, age 35, of Hamilton, IL was arrested on a Hancock County Warrant charging her with Failure to Appear/ Pay on original charges of Unlawful Possession of Methamphetamine and Speeding. Helenthal was released after posting the required bond and given a future court date. Those listed above are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

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### **Sports/Classifieds**

## Hounds suffer OT loss in season opener to Nikes

**BY JOHN BOHNEN-**KAMP PCC SPORTS

FORT MADISON -Kevin Wellman knows the emotional highs and lows of the golden goal.

His Fort Madison High School boys soccer team discovered the low in the season opener against Notre Dame at the Baxter Sports Complex.

Carson Wagner's goal with 3:38 left in the first overtime period lifted Notre Dame to a 3-2 win over the Bloodhounds on Monday night.

The Bloodhounds fought back from an early 2-0 deficit, tying the game late in the first half, then the two sides battled to a scoreless second half.

"I told them the golden goal rule is a very unique situation in sports," Wellman said. "Both teams' emotions are rising, the adrenaline is rising, and all of the sudden a shot goes in and one team's

excitement goes through the roof and the other team is on the ground, sitting down because the floor gets yanked out from under them."

Still, Wellman knew his team had done some good things, especially after the opening minutes of the match.

Wagner's goal with 28:35 left in the first half was followed by a penalty kick by Gabe Zurita with 24:59 to go to put the Nikes up 2-0.

But the Bloodhounds had answers. Mitchell Pothitakis' goal with 23:37 left cut the lead to 2-1, then Xander Wellman's header with 1:05 to play tied the game.

"We didn't necessarily put our heads down," Wellman said. "We could have easily thought that we couldn't dig out of this hole, but we were able to pop a couple in."

Wagner was able to sneak the winning goal past backup goalkeeper

Reiburn Turnbull, who changed positions after starting goalkeeper Tate Settles was injured after a collision with a Notre Dame player late in the second half.

"It was certainly not malicious," Wellman said. "He tried to jump over my keeper, and my keeper moved the same direction.

"They had a guy (Wagner) up there (in overtime) and he poked it in. That's how it goes."

Settles had eight saves before he went out.

"It was a back-and-forth game," Wellman said. "We challenged some of the time. There were times we were out of position and didn't challenge right away. But we fairly consistently were able to apply pressure most of the time to force them to play backward.

"After we get over that shock (of the loss), I think we'll be happy. We got to play, and we got to play well."



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Fort Madison's Xander Wellman gets taken down after a shot on goal by a Nike defender with about 29 minutes left in the first period of Mon-





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day's home opener at Baxter Sports Complex.







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

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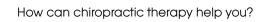
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#### From the Front

### **City extends Riverfest 3-year deal**

#### MARINA - Continued from Page 1

indicate the amount of funding that could be secured. Mike Norris with Southeast Iowa Regional Planning

Commission is also helping put the application together. Mohrfeld said FEMA is now back in on the marina project and is actually looking at a helping pay for a deeper dredge in the marina.

"Every foot is \$250,000, and that four foot dredge is a \$1 million, so that's good news."

He said the docks will probably come out after rodeo and dredging could begin at that point.

Councilman Mark Lair asked Mohrfeld where the city was going come up with \$1.5 million.

Mohrfeld said his plan is to borrow the money from the city's Highway 61 fund and then add that amount to general obligation bonds that will have to be taken out to finish the Highway 61 rehabilitation.

"I was on the council when that money come down, and the council said absolutely we are not going to use that money for anything but the highway project... period," Lair said while shaking his head at Mohrfeld's suggestion.

Councilwoman Rebecca Bowker replied the money should have been spent sooner.

"It's too bad the council didn't use it a lot earlier and we probably could've gotten a lot more done, but as it is we're gonna have to bond for it anyway," she said.

Mohrfeld said the money is sitting there. The city can kick the can down the road and when they have to extend into the final phase of the road project, the city will bond for it and add on the \$1.5 million it borrowed for the marina.

"The short answer is we are looking at bonding for this project. No doubt about it," Morhfeld said.

"But we're not looking at raising taxes," Lair asked. "We absolutely are," Morhfeld said. "We will absolutely raise taxes. There is no free money and if anyone tells you that, it's a shell game."

In lieu of borrowing the money from the highway fund, he said the city needed to start looking at other internal borrowing to get it done.

Councilman Tom Schulz said it should be noted that the city has a dilapidated facility and the city can close it or invest to keep it usable.

"Investing in this matter rather than just going in and fixing it, where the cost could be similar, we're now attracting investors. So now rather than just repairing some docks and a seawall – we're making a complete project of this and drawing in money from private investors, grants, and other entities," he said.

"This money is being multiplied in many ways from other areas where it would not be if all we're going to do was going down and repair some docks. This is a well thought out plan."

Councilman Rusty Andrews said the community wants the highway project completed and it's not going to be free, so the city will have to borrow to finish the project. In other action, the council:

• approved, 7-0, a 3-year lease with RiverfestFM L.L.C at \$600 per year for the four-day event

• approved, 7-0, a 3-year lease agreement with Building Materials for land owned by the city that Building Materials currently occupies. The agreement calls for Building Materials to pay \$1,200 per year for the three years.

• approved two change orders by 6-1 votes (Councilman Kevin Rink opposed) on work on the Hwy. 61 2nd to 6th street work, and on Phase 2 of city parking lot renovations, with a total of about \$7,100 on each project.

# One more arrest could be pending in case

#### ARREST - Continued from Page 1

not a whole lot more we can say at this point."

A third suspect in the shooting, Tommy Dwayne Ross, 43, has already been charged with carrying weapons, reckless use of a firearm, and being a felon in control of a firearm, as a result of the on-going investigation.

Ross was taken into custody by Des Moines County Sheriff's shortly after the incident and was charged with OWI. He has since been released on bond.

Several downtown business had damage to property as a result of the shooting, but the investigation hasn't turned up any injuries as a result of the incident. Porter is being held in Lee County Jail on a \$50,000 cash only bond.

#### Wever, Denmark battle semi blaze

FIRE - Continued from Page 1

priority and we take this matter seriously," wrote a company spokesperson.

"We will continue to work with our customers to ensure the safe pick up, transportation, and delivery of our products. Anyone with questions is welcome to contact us at 515-422-9296."

According to Wever fire officials no anhydrous was released in the fire and only the semi-tractor was involved in the blaze. There were no injuries in the fire and no environmental impact occurred.

Denmark Fire & Rescue, Lee County Emergency Management, Lee County Sheriff's Office and Rairden's Towing assisted at the scene.

### The Grass Can Be Greener on Your Side of the Fence

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