

PEN CITY CURRENT

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

Tuesday, April 13, 2021 | 8 pages | Volume 5 • Issue 79



www.pencitycurrent.com

Phase 2 underway



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg

Phase 2 of the Highway 61 reconstruction has the highway closed from the post office in the 1000 block back to 6th Street with traffic being rerouted up 6th to Avenue E and then west bound. New 4-way stops are in place along with additional restricted parking along 6th Street. The work is expected to last into November.

OFP brings "Leaving Iowa" to playhouse in May

COMEDY: Veterans and newcomers highlight cast for spring production



BY DOROTHY SCHULTZ
Old Fort Players

FORT MADISON – If Iowa is a state of mind, can you ever really leave? Maybe not, but you can certainly try. Especially if it's in a station wagon crammed with fighting kids, a dad who won't ask directions and a peacemaker mom with a bottomless snack bag.

The actors at Old Fort Players invite you along for the ride as they hit the road on this hilarious romp through the Iowa countryside – as if there is any other kind! Co-Directors Ty Clute and Angela Sanford had been hoping to repeat the comedic success of "Drinking Habits" (February of 2020) and this show certainly fits the bill.

"Leaving Iowa" written by Tim Clue and Spike Manton is



Sis (Xandra Abel) chats with her brother Don (Sterling Barnes) in OFP's May production of "Leaving Iowa."

produced by Special Arrangement with Dramatic Publishing Company of Woodstock, IL. The theater is still looking for a local business to sponsor this production. Please call (319-372-9559) if

See **THEATER**, page 8

VACCINE

LCHD plans open vaccine clinic Saturday

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – Lee County Health Department will be hosting an open COVID-19 vaccine clinic for anyone 18 years of age and older on Saturday from 8 a.m.-noon at the health department at #3 John Bennett Drive, Fort Madison.

The clinic will be a drive-thru for only the Johnson & Johnson vaccine. No appointment necessary. Those coming to the clinic will enter north of the old prison off of 1st Street behind Putt-A-Round and will wind their way through the back part of the old prison down to the clinic area. Clinic staff will be guiding traffic flow at certain check

See **CLINIC**, page 8



Fully vaccinated, but mentally flummoxed

Gearing up for my second Moderna vaccination on Monday had me going through the filing cabinet in my brain and recalling what people have told me to expect.

"It's a little like a hangover."

"I just had a case of the chills and some fatigue."

"I just went to bed and slept it off."

"It's nothin'."

Yikes. Aches and pains don't bother me too much. But they're more of a hassle as you get older.

My doctor said it wouldn't last very long and the benefits far outweigh the 12-18 hours of feeling like dung.

See **RECOVERY**, page 2

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WEATHER

OpenWeatherMap
TUE 13 Apr.....Partly Cloudy, 56° F/ 40° F
WED 14 Apr.....Partly Cloudy, 47° F/ 38° F
THU 15 Apr.....Scattered Clouds, 53° F/ 36° F

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PICK 3 04/11 MIDDAY.....620
PICK 3 04/11 EVENING.....130
PICK 4 04/11 MIDDAY.....3430
PICK 4 04/11 EVENING.....1646

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Obituaries/From the Front

OBITUARIES

DENNIS A. NEUWEG

Dennis A. Neuweg, 86, of Cedar Rapids, formerly of West Point, passed away at 11:20 a.m., Saturday, April 10, 2021, at the Oldorf Hospice House of Mercy in Cedar Rapids.

He was born on December 7, 1934, in West Point, the son of Leo F. and Dorothy (Pannenberg) Neuweg. In 1938, his family moved to Fort Madison where he attended Catholic schools and graduated from Catholic Central High School in 1953. He attended Iowa City Business College where he studied accounting. On March 20, 1964, he moved to Cedar Rapids, where he was the accountant for Hawkeye Rubber Company, retiring after 35 years.

Dennis faced some physical obstacles early in life and despite being told he could not do many things, he was determined to prove people wrong, learning how to drive and swim, and being named the Evening Democrat newspaper delivery boy of the year twice, among his many accomplishments. Even in his 80's, he could still recite his paper route.

Dennis enjoyed bowling, traveling, including to Mexico and Colorado, family reunions, and a jumbo Margarita at Hacienda Las Glorias with Terry and Nancy on Saturday nights. After retirement he was daily walker at Lindale Mall and enjoyed coffee with fellow retirees from Hawkeye Rubber.

Survivors include nephews: Greg (Cathy) Garrels of Burlington, Mike Parks of Fort Collins, Colorado, Joe (Marian) Neuweg of West Point and Tom (Jean) Neuweg of Fort Madison; nieces: Cathy (Rick) Beelman of St. Joseph, Missouri and Sue Parks of Fort Collins, Colorado; seven great nieces; one great nephew; several cousins and brother-in-law: Gail Parks of Loveland, Colorado. He is also survived by very special friends: Terry and Nancy Gucciardo, Cheryl Rankin, and John and Judy Hawes, all of Cedar Rapids.

To his friends in Cedar Rapids, he was Dennis. To his aunts, uncles and cousins he was known as Sonny. To his nephews and nieces, he was affectionately known as Uncle Gabby.

He was preceded in death by his parents; twin sister: Doris (Stan) Garrels; sister: Lucy Parks and brother: Marvin (Mary) Neuweg.

Family and friends may call after 9:30 a.m., Wednesday, April 14, 2021, at Schmitz Funeral Home in West Point, where the family will receive friends from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. The funeral service for the family will be held at 11:00 a.m., Wednesday at the funeral home with Fr. Dan Dorau officiating.

Burial with be in Calvary Cemetery in West Point.

Memorials may be made to the PAW Animal Shelter, 2031 48th Street, Fort Madison, IA 52627, or mailed c/o Greg Garrels, 2609 Lavender Lane, Burlington, IA 52601.

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

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Second vaccine brings thoughts of normalcy

RECOVERY - Continued from Page 1

I'm a couple years past the 50 mark so I get my regular issue of AARP magazine and the last issue I leafed through talked about a personal pandemic recovery plan.

Mine includes playing lightening the heck up, playing some golf, and maybe some summer travel.

The editors of this pretty informative magazine for seniors suggested losing the "COVID-19 lbs.". Eating at home more regularly and snacking due to the boredom that tagged along with the lockdown has beefed most up. But I've actually lost weight during the pandemic... about 19 pounds.

I needed it. Sitting at a computer for 80% of my workday requires a 5K walk two or three times a week, if not more. In addition to the added walking, I've been working some training bands called "Slastics". These things are nuts! It's a repetitive kinetic kind of thing, but it can wear you out pretty quick.

I wouldn't recommend using them laying down

and pushing with your feet unless you lock the bands between your toes. Bad things happen if they slide down off your heels and snap back.

I double them over and stretch them across my back to simulate a pectoral fly machine. Step on them with your feet shoulder width apart and you can get in some curls. The wider the feet, the more the tension.

I've recently accepted, but still choose to not believe, I'm old enough for the benefits of American Association of Retired Persons. I'm far from retired. In all actuality, I'm just getting started. My mom's retired. I'm her kid, so I can't be old.

I'm not sure I've ever been physically in this good of shape in the past 20 years. I don't run very much because, well - it's just ugly. It's heavy and I can never push through the panic that sets in when I'm short of breath. People say it happens. You just push through.

I can't get there, but then again I haven't yet figured out your golf club strikes the ground in front of your ball.

I see it. I hear it. But I can't let the physics in. I don't get how door knobs turn the opposite ways, but serve the same function.

When my body says I need more oxygen I have to answer. I watch the Hounds at track meets with some of these kids running eight laps without stopping... or cross country kids...that's when the age sits in.

One thing that has changed with age is pa-

tience and adaptability. I used to welcome technology changes and learning new things. Now it just irritates me. If I have something that works, I don't want it messed with.

That has to be a sign of age. It used to frustrate me with older people who fought transition. It's just the way it is. Well, don't tell me that now. I'm fully subscribed to the "if it ain't broke, don't fix it" mantra.

With age and experience we also are supposed to earn added patience.

I think I'm regressing there, too. Patience is supposed to be a virtue, but the damn website is supposed to open when you click on the link. Where's the virtue in making sure I get the service I so richly deserve...and pay for.

The second dose of the vaccine will come and go and I'll ultimately feel better for getting it. But I'm not done fighting the age thing. My Slastics and I are going the distance.

Along the lines of going the distance, watch for the detour on Hwy. 61 this week. They're running that sucker right by my house and the no parking signs are laying in my yard. Now I can't park in front of, or beside my house. But I'm good with that because now everyone has slow to a stop instead of going 40 through the intersection. I got the over/under on a fender bender at under three days... but that's Beside the Point.

Chuck Vandenberg is the editor/co-owner of Pen City Current and can be reached at editor@pencity-current.com.

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Obituaries

OBITUARIES

SHERRY A. BARNES RADER

Sherry Ann Barnes Rader, 73, of Keokuk, Iowa, passed away on Saturday, April 10, 2021, at Great River Hospice House in Burlington, Iowa.

Sherry was born on August 17, 1947, in Keokuk, Iowa, the daughter of Dallas E. and Helen Earlene (Samuelson) Barnes. She graduated from Keokuk Senior High School in 1965 and was united in marriage to Edwin D. Rader on May 4, 1968, at the Second United Presbyterian Church in Keokuk. He survives.



BARNES RADER

Sherry was employed as an insurance agent for forty-seven years, working for Donahue Insurance, State Farm, Lofton Stebbings and Sohl, and KSB Insurance. She was a member of New Testament Christian Church in Keokuk for thirty-two years and attended Melrose United Methodist Church in Argyle. She was a member of PEO Chapter IG and the American Legion Auxiliary Post #41. Sherry was the definition of a people person, and had a wonderful, outgoing personality. She enjoyed traveling with her husband and family through the years. She and Ed enjoyed a special trip to California via Route 66, along with taking bus trips around the country to NYC, Washington DC, and several others. The couple enjoyed attending car shows and cruise nights in their 1964 Rambler. She was a proud member of the KHS Class of '65 and enjoyed their many lunches and reunions. Sherry was also a talented cook and baker, and was known for her delicious pies, which were a hit at every family gathering. She enjoyed giving many delicious treats to new neighbors and church friends.

"Family was everything" to Sherry, and she treasured every moment she spent with her children, grandchildren, and great-grandson. She loved attending every activity and function for all her kids and grandkids that she could get to through the years and was always willing to be a helper for any occasion. Sherry loved Elvis since she was a teenager and shared his music down to her kids and grandkids. She was a St. Louis Cardinal fan and loved cheering for "my man Yadi!"

Sherry is survived by her husband Ed Rader of Keokuk; four children: Tracy (Shane) Etter of Keokuk, Dale (Christina) Rader of Dubuque, Iowa, Adam (Téa) Rader of Keokuk, and Bret Rader of Keokuk; five grandchildren: Cassidy (Travis) Fox and Madison Etter of Keokuk, Auden and Ethan Rader of Dubuque, Iowa, and Nova Rader of Keokuk; her great-grandson Eli Fox; and her special "daughter" Marjorie (Shaun) Gates Lane and their children Heath and Nicholas. She is also survived by her brother Gary Barnes of Keokuk and her aunt Dorothy Barnes of Keokuk, her uncle Larry (Sue) Wise of Wisconsin, sisters-in-law Midge Rader of Keokuk and Mary Mc Cammant of Montrose, along with many nieces, nephews, and cousins and many dear friends.

Sherry is preceded in death by her parents, grandmother Nettie Wise, mother-in-law Catherine Rader, and sister-in-law Debbie Harmon Barnes, aunts, uncles, and cousins.

Funeral services will be held at 11 am on Wednesday, April 14, 2021, at New Testament Christian Church (The Church on Hilton Road), with burial to follow at Hickory Grove Cemetery in rural Keokuk. Visitation will be held on Tuesday from 2 to 7 pm, with family meeting friends from 4 to 7 pm at DeJong-Greaves-Printy Funeral Home in Keokuk. For the safety of those attending, masks and social distancing are appreciated.

Memorials may be directed to New Testament Christian Church or the Melrose United Methodist Church Ice Cream Social.

Tributes and condolences may be left at www.dejongsfuneralhome.com.

DeJong-Greaves-Printy Funeral Home of Keokuk is in charge of arrangements.

JENNIFER L. WHIPPIE

Jennifer Lee Whippie, 51, of Bonaparte, Iowa, passed away at 5:56 p.m. Tuesday, April 6, 2021, at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics in Iowa City, Iowa.

She was born on September 30, 1969, in Oskaloosa, Iowa, the daughter of Jimmie Dale and Sandra Lynn (Messerschmitt) Counts.

Survivors include her love: Jeff Oaks; four children: Blake Warner, Drew Whippie, Shyanne Breitenstein and Mike Whippie; three step-children: April Smith, Ricki Boyd and John Oaks; several grandchildren; parents: Jim Counts and Sandra Counts; one sister: Rachael McCarty; two brothers: Jimmie Counts and Justin Counts and several nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her step-son: Jeffery Oaks and mother-in-law: Betty Whippie.

Jennifer graduated from Southeastern Community College's accounting department in Keokuk. She worked as a aid for Harmony High School. Jennifer enjoyed gardening, flowers and all her grandchildren.

The family will receive friends from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m. Friday, April 16, 2021, at the Bonaparte Baptist Church in Bonaparte, Iowa. It's Jennifer's request for no black funeral clothes. She wants people to wear bright, happy colors.

A memorial service will be held at 11:00 a.m. at the Bonaparte Baptist Church in Bonaparte with Pastor Mark Caston officiating. Following her funeral, a video of the service will be posted on her obituary page under her "Tribute Wall" at www.schmitzfuneralhomes.com.

There will be no burial is scheduled at this time.

A memorial has been established in her memory.

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

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For the Record

For the Record

Fort Madison Police Report

04/08/21 – 7:56 a.m. – Fort Madison Police cited Wayne Andrew Hayes, 38, of Fort Madison, in the 3400 block of Avenue N.
 04/08/21 – 4:19 p.m. – Fort Madison Police cited Justin D-Allan Tucker, 29, of Fort Madison, in the 1700 block of Avenue L., on a charge of driving under suspension.
 04/08/21 – 5:03 p.m. – Fort Madison Police cited Shaqwanza Aviance Trotter, 29, of Fort Madison, in the 3300 block of Avenue L., on a charge of driving under suspension.
 04/08/21 – 6:06 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 3400 block of Avenue L.
 04/09/21 – 7:57 a.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 5000 block of Avenue O.
 04/09/21 – 12:57 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 1200 block of Avenue H.
 04/09/21 – 3:26 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 1500 block of Avenue E.
 04/10/21 – 6:02 a.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a burglary in the 1000 block of Avenue G.
 04/10/21 – 10:53 p.m. – Fort Madison Police arrested Aaron Robert Simpson, 38, of Fort Madison, at the police station, on a charge of OWI-1st offense. He was taken to Lee County Jail.
 04/10/21 – 11:07 p.m. – Fort Madison Police arrested Heather Dawn Daniels, 40, of Fort Madison, in the 200 block of Avenue G, on a charge of public intoxication. She was taken to Lee County Jail.
 04/11/21 – 12:36 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of vandalism in the 5800 block of Avenue O.
 04/11/21 – 12:38 p.m. – Fort Madison Police arrested Marty Joe Cochenour, 44, of Fort

Madison, in the 4500 block of Avenue O, on a charge of violation of a no contact order. He was taken to Lee County Jail.
 04/11/21 – 5:21 p.m. – Fort Madison Police cited Cierre Jamin Pruitt, 35, of Fort Madison, in the 1000 block of Avenue G, on a charge of possession of marijuana.
 04/11/21 – 9:28 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 1900 block of Avenue D.
 04/12/21 – 4:47 a.m. – Fort Madison Police arrested Alan Edward Snyder, 46, of Fort Madison in the 1300 block of Avenue G, on warrants for 4th-degree criminal mischief, interference with official acts and disorderly conduct. He was taken to Lee County Jail.

Lee County Sheriff's Report

04/08/21 – no time listed – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Cheston Daniel Monroe 42, of Keokuk, at the Hancock County Jail on a warrant for failure to appear. He was held in custody.
 04/08/21 – 11:24 a.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Stephanie Rae Marshall, 32, of Burlington, at the Des Moines County Jail on a warrant for failure to appear. She was held in custody.
 04/08/21 – 1:49 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 contempt of court. She was taken to Lee County Jail.
 04/08/21 – 8:21 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Braxford William Bryant, 44, of Eureka, Mo., in the 2300 block of Hwy. 61, on a charge of OWI. He was taken to Lee County Jail and held.
 04/08/21 – 11:49 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies cited Tyler Jordan Sturm, 31, of Keokuk, in the 3500 block of Johnson Street Road on charges of possession of marijuana and possession of drug paraphernalia.

04/09/21 – 12:57 a.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Brandy Lynn Sturm, 30, of Keokuk, at the sheriff's office on a charge of unlawful possession of prescription drugs. She was taken to Lee County Jail.
 04/09/21 – 8:18 a.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Briana Lynn White, 39, of Keokuk, at the sheriff's office on a judgment hold. She was taken to Lee County Jail and released after time served.
 04/09/21 – 8:59 a.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Stephanie Nicole Devitt, 29, of Keokuk, at the sheriff's office on a judgment hold. She was taken to Lee County Jail and released after time served.
 04/09/21 – 2:20 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies cited William Myron Glasgow, 57, of Keokuk, in the 3100 block of 212th Avenue, on a charge of trespassing.
 04/09/21 – 2:43 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Demetrus John Trass, 40, of Quincy, at the sheriff's office on warrants for forgery, identity theft, and failure to appear. He was taken to Lee County Jail.
 04/09/21 – 3:35 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Samuel Owen Difederico, 34, of Montrose, at the sheriff's office. on a warrant for failure to appear. He was taken to Lee County Jail and released on bond.
 04/09/21 – 5:49 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Michael Allen Wagner, 37, of Keokuk, at the sheriff's office on a judgment hold. He was taken to Lee County Jail and released after time served.
 04/09/21 – 11:55 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Allen William Penrod, 24, of Fort Madison, at the sheriff's office on a judgment hold. He was taken to Lee County Jail.
 04/10/21 – 12:07 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies responded to a one-vehicle accident in the 2100 block of West Point Road. According to the report a vehicle driven by Katherine Elizabeth Scheirbrock, 23, of West Point, lost

control trying to avoid several deer, left the roadway and crashed into a fence on the east side of the road. No injuries or citations were reported.
 04/11/21/ – 8:31 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies cited Bradley Terrace Dickinson, 40, of Keokuk, in the 1100 block of 160th Street in Farmington on a charge of driving while barred.

Hancock County Sheriff's Report

04/05/21 – Kelly S Murphy, age 46, of Clinton, IA was arrested and charged with Possession of Methamphetamine, Driving Under the Influence of Drugs, and Possession of Drug Paraphernalia. Murphy was released after posting the required bond and given a future court date.
 04/07/21 – Kady G Cox, age 23, of Macomb, IL was arrested and charged with Disorderly and Resisting. Cox was released after posting the required bond and given a future court date.
 04/08/21 -Cheston D Monroe, age 42, of Dallas City, IL was arrested on a Lee County Iowa Warrant charging him with Operate Vehicle Without Owner's Consent. Monroe was released to Lee County, IA Authorities.
 04/08/21 – Cristyna L Rivers, age 31, of Keokuk, IA was

arrested on a Hancock County Warrant charging her with Failure to Appear on original charges Unlawful Possession of Methamphetamine, Driving While License Suspended, Operation of Non-Highway Vehicle on a Highway. Rivers remains lodged in the Hancock County Jail in lieu of bail awaiting his next court appearance.
 04/08/21 – Daniel L Savage, age 32, of Keokuk, IA was arrested and charged with Driving While License Suspended and No Valid Insurance. Savage was released after posting the required bond and given a future court date.
 04/09/21 – Kelly R Miller, age 41, of Fort Madison, IA was arrested on a Hancock County Warrant charging her with Failure to Appear/ Pay on original charges of Operating Uninsured Vehicle, Unlawful Possession of Drug Paraphernalia and Battery. Miller was released after posting the required bond and given a future court date.
 04/11/21 – Adrian J Miles, age 25, of Keokuk, IA was arrested and charged with Possession of Methamphetamine and Theft. Miles remains lodged in the Hancock County Jail in lieu of bail awaiting his initial court appearance.

04/11/21 -James A Murphy, age 50, of Oquawka, IL was arrested and charged with Possession of Methamphetamine and Possession of a Hypodermic Needle. Murphy remains lodged in the Hancock County Jail in lieu of bail awaiting his initial court appearance.
 04/11/21 – Justin W Trout, age 42, of Fort Madison, IA was arrested and charged with Home Invasion and Obstructing Justice. Trout was also arrested on a Hancock County Warrant charging him with Failure to Appear I Pay on original charges of Aggravated Driving While License Revoked, Battery and Unlawful Possession of Methamphetamine. Trout was also arrested on a Grundy County, IL warrant charging him with Failure to Appear for original charges of Driving While License Revoked. Trout was also arrested on a Des Moines County, IA warrant charging him with Control of Firearm Offense Weapon by a Felon, Carrying Weapons, and Possession of a Controlled Substance. Trout remains lodged in the Hancock County Jail in lieu of bail awaiting his initial court appearance. *Those listed above are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.*

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PUBLIC NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICE
Lee County
Conservation Board
Agenda
April 13, 2021
Lee County
Conservation Center
2652 Hwy 61
Montrose, IA 52639
4:00 p.m.

1. Call To Order
2. Approval of Minutes from March 9, 2021

3. Public Input
 This is the time of the meeting that a citizen may address the Board on any matters pertaining to the Lee County Conservation Board. The Board cannot take formal action at the meeting on matters not included on the regular agenda, but may ask the staff to research the matter or have the matter placed on a subsequent agenda.

4. Approval of Bills
5. Approval of Financial Report
6. Elect Vice President
7. Review and Approve Campground Host Contracts
8. Approve Seasonal Conservation Aide Hire
9. COVID-19—Lee County Conservation Center Operations
10. Staff and Director Reports
11. Discuss and Take Possible Action on Staff Restructure Proposal

12. Approval of Separation Agreement
 13. Board Members
 14. Adjournment
- Next regular meeting will be May 11, 2021

Hearing and vision assistance available upon request

Citizens are welcome to all LCCB meetings

PUBLIC NOTICE
PROCEEDINGS
FORT MADISON
CITY COUNCIL
4/6/2021

The Fort Madison City Council met in special session at 4:00 P.M. on Thursday, 4/8/2021, at City Hall, 811 Avenue E. Mayor Mohrfeld presided with Council Members Andrews, Bowker, Lair, Schulz, Rink and Amanus present. Council

Member Cangas was absent. The meeting was held with participants present either in person or electronically (pursuant to Iowa Code Section 21.8).

On motion, Council approved the agenda. On motion, Council adopted Resolution No. 2021-22, supporting the Fort Madison Marina Project, committing \$1.5 million to the project, and submitting the project for Community Project Funding to Congresswoman Miller-Meeks to help complete the Fort Madison Marina waterside improvements.

At 4:05 P.M., the meeting adjourned until April 20, 2021, at 5:30 P.M.

/s/ Matt J. Mohrfeld, Mayor
 ATTEST: /s/ Melinda L. Blind, City Clerk

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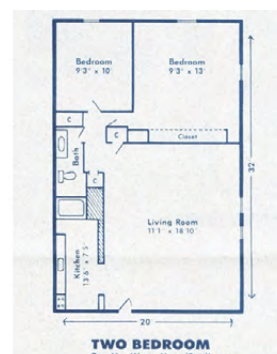
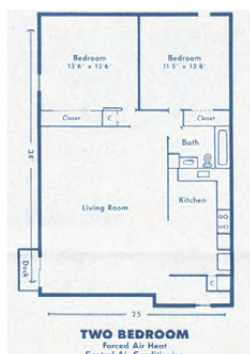
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From the Front

OFP sets cast for "Leaving Iowa"

THEATER - Continued from Page 1

you are interested. The idea behind "Leaving Iowa" comes from being children of parents from what is now dubbed "great-est generation." The story is a toast to their idealism and character and a little roast of their undying dedication to the classic family road trip.

More specifically, it is the story of Don Browning, a middle-aged writer, who returns home and decides to finally take his father's ashes to his childhood home, as requested. But when Don discovers Grandma's house is now a grocery store, he begins traveling across Iowa searching for a proper resting place for his father. This father-and-son road trip shifts smoothly from the present to Don's memories of the annual, torturous vacations of his childhood.

Don's existential journey leads him to reconcile his past and present at the geographical center of the United States. "Leaving Iowa" is a postcard to anyone who has ever found himself or herself driving alone on a road, revisiting fond memories of his or

her youth. "Leaving Iowa" premiered at the Purple Rose Theatre Company on January 22, 2004 in Chelsea, Michigan, directed by Antony Caselli.

The cast is a lively mix of newbies and veterans and even a few theater lovers just anxious to escape the lockdown. Reprising his starring role in the HTC 2018 production of "Leaving Iowa," Sterling Barnes is an alumnus of our Young Fort Players and we are proud to see him return. Rosie Strickland was also a member of the HTC cast and is excited to get another chance at this hilarious comedy and to show off her acting chops with two new characters.

Sydney Amberger is no stranger to OFP and promises her uncanny ability to portray a whiney teenager is pure talent and based on no real-life experience whatsoever. Mallory Troutman, a veteran of OFP and Van Buren stages has been cast to play young Don. OFP veteran actors Jadi Zioui, ("What To Expect") Matt Abel ("Bleacher Bums") & Richar Abel

("Queen of Bingo") join their respective daughters in this family friendly production.

The most fun seems to be had by those actors in multiple small roles – and each quirky character is quirki-er than the last. Juniper Strickland and Xandra Abel have been putting their considerable acting skills to use that they honed as members of the Young Fort Players. 8th graders Alexa Johnson and Isaiah Meeks enjoy music and sports when not on stage. Kelly Shields ("Steel Magnolias") is happy to be back at OFP with so many familiar faces.

Cast as the parents, Amanda Greenhalge ("What to Expect") and James Salisbury ("Drinking Habits") have much theater and parenting experience to bring to the table. James has been heard to modestly say, "When your lines are things like, 'Don't make me pull this car over!' – is it really acting?"

Rounding out the formidable cast of colorful characters are: dedicated volunteer and theater-lover, Kim Albers; former board member, and star of the

"Opal" Plays, Shelley Dowling; current OFP Vice President, actor and director Jan Jud. Michelle Slater, former board member and director of "Dial M for Murder" has the monumental task of stage managing the minimalist yet complicated set and cast; Elianna Karriker will handle the sound and lights for the production.

OFP Treasurer, Angela Sanford and former President, Ty Clute are the directing team for this talented cast and crew.

The cast and crew have again decided to forego their usual practice of greeting the audience in the lobby after each performance. They ask that you show your appreciation by posting on social media to invite friends along and talk about how much you enjoyed the show.

Performances run May 7-9 and 14-16, 2021. Evening shows begin at 7:30 and Sundays at 2:00 pm. (Adult \$15; Senior, Military, Vet \$12; Student \$10.) Tickets are available online and the link to purchase will be posted on www.oldfortplayers.com and the theater's Facebook page. For those wanting to pay cash or credit for tickets at the door, you can and should reserve your seat by phone or Facebook Messenger. Seating is limited due to COVID-19.

Young adults still seeing rise in COVID cases

CLINIC - Continued from Page 1

points.

Anyone attending the clinic is strongly encouraged to print and fill out the registration paperwork before arriving at clinic to help keep clinic flow moving. Paperwork can be found on the LCHD website, www.leecountyhd.org. Please also review the Johnson and Johnson EUA fact sheet for recipients and caregivers prior to the clinic which is also available on the website.

According to Lee County Health Department Administrator Michele Ross, having the paperwork filled out will save time at the clinic.

"We'll have blank registration forms but that will slow down the drive thru. So those people will be in a different lane to complete the form. People with completed forms will be expedited through the clinic quickly," Ross said.


"This is the first open clinic we've tried so we hope this will be a successful as the other clinics."

Ross said the positivity rate of the past seven days has dropped slightly, but the county is still seeing the biggest increases in the 18-29 age group.

"We still want to encourage people in public settings and gathering inside with poor ventilation, try to avoid those situations and wear masks. We also continue to encourage those with high risk vulnerability to protect yourself," she said.

If you're fully vaccinated, which means two weeks since second dose or single dose Johnson & Johnson, we're still recommending CDC guidelines as to what you should feel relaxed doing and what you should pay attention to."

With this being an open clinic people are asked to be respectful to those around them, and use caution when driving slowly through the clinic area. We also ask all people to wear masks when talking with our clinic staff and put their vehicle in park when stopped for safety purposes.



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