

PEN CITY CURRENT

It's Black & White and Read all over

Wednesday, January 27, 2021 | 9 pages | Volume 5 • Issue 27



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IF YOU BUILD IT...



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg

Fort Madison Mayor Matt Mohrfeld rolled out a brief conceptualization of what the city Marina could look like Tuesday afternoon.

COMING SOON?: City Council to get look at group's efforts to revamp Marina

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – Fort Madison Mayor Matt Mohrfeld rolled out a new conceptualization of the what a group of stakeholders envisions for the city's marina.

And if things come together as planned, part of the concept could be in place as early as April 2022.

When Mohrfeld was elected mayor in 2020, the first order of business was a revamped budget process that included workshops before approving the budget.

Prior to that, budgets were presented by City Manager David Varley and then approved by the City Council at a

following meeting.

In 2020, part of that workshop turned into a request from the City Council to have Mohrfeld dig into where to go with the Marina.

Council woman Rebecca Bowker pressed for the city to take advantage of the resources the marina could provide.

Mohrfeld wouldn't speak to the details of the project because Fort Madison City Council hadn't seen the video presentation he had made to Rotary on Tuesday, but said he won't make apologies for wanting a 5-star marina in Fort Madison.

See MARINA, page 9

COUNTY AMBULANCE

EMS panel haggles over quality reviews

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

LEE COUNTY – A retired Keokuk physician is asking for quality review metrics to be a part of the oversight of the Lee County EMS Advisory Council.

At a Monday meeting of the council, councilmember Dr. Philip Caropreso pushed for a quality review component for the council to allow for the review of areas of concern in treatment.

Council chairman Jim Steffen, an EMS instructor at Southeastern Community College and career EMS supervisor, said a current review system is in place in the county.

Lee County EMS Director Dennis Cosby said he thinks that group comprised of Fort Madison Community Hospital health officials meets quarterly to review treatment data of EMS staff.

See QUALITY, page 8

SPREE

Police make arrest in vehicle thefts

BY PCC STAFF

FORT MADISON – Fort Madison police have reported the arrest of a Fort Madison man in connection with at least five vehicles over the weekend.

Louis Eugene Metcalf III, 32, of Fort Madison, is being held on two counts of second-degree theft and a charge of interference with official act. He is currently held in the Lee County jail pending arraignment.

According to a release from the police department Monday afternoon, the FMPD received six reports of vehicles being stolen over a five-day period. Five were uniquely similar in circumstances, with being unlocked with keys inside, or idling to warm up. Each were then later found abandoned elsewhere in the city. The sixth vehicle is

See ARREST, page 9

KORSCHGEN PARADE

Kiddie committee looking for parade volunteers

FORT MADISON – A meeting to begin planning for the 109th 8th annual Charlie Korschgen 4th of July Kiddie Parade will be held, Sunday January 31 at 4 p.m. at the North Lee County Historical Society Museum, 816 10th Street in Fort Madison.

L. D. "Andy" Andrews, general

chairman of the event, always needs volunteers to serve on the committee to make the parade a success. It takes several volunteers to help plan the parade, assist with registration, line-up, fundraising and ensure the participants safety.

The 2020 patriotic event on July 4th

went well with an average number of participants as in previous years despite the onset of the COVID19, but getting volunteers to assist the parade committee was hard to accomplish according to Andrews.

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WEATHER

WED 27 Jan Overcast and Cold, 22° F/ 9° F
THU 28 Jan Clear and Cold, 23° F/ 4° F
FRI 29 Jan Scattered Clouds, 33° F/ 17° F

OpenWeatherMap

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Scene Around the Area/Iowa News

State's jobless rate dips to 3.1%

DES MOINES - Iowa's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 3.1 percent in December, a large drop from the November revised rate of 3.8 percent. The state's jobless rate was 2.8 percent one year ago. The U.S. unemployment rate remained at 6.7 percent in December.

"The drop in December's unemployment rate, as well as the increase of an additional 22,800 Iowans finding work, is a good sign for Iowa's economic recovery," said Director Beth Townsend, Iowa Workforce Development.

"November through February are typically the months IWD sees the most unemployment claims due to seasonal layoffs. The fact that so many people found jobs during this time is evidence that our economy remains strong and our recovery from the pandemic is on the right track. There are over 64,000 jobs posted at Iowa-WORKS.gov and I encourage everyone who can, to rejoin the workforce and take advantage of the great opportunities available in Iowa right now."

The number of unemployed Iowans declined to 50,800 in December - down from 60,800 in November. The current estimate is 137,200 lower than the Covid-19 peak in April of 188,000 and only 1,500 higher than the year ago level of 49,300. The total number of working Iowans increased to 1,568,800 in December. This figure is 22,800 higher than November's number of 1,546,000 and 44,200 higher than April 2020.

In December, Iowa establishments added 9,700 jobs, easily offsetting the loss of 6,900 jobs in November. Private industries were responsible for all of the growth to finish the year and were fueled by a large increase in retail trade which had a sluggish start in November with very little seasonal hiring. Whereas private industries have been steadily hiring, government has been slowing in recent months with job losses in each of the last three months. These drops have been concentrated in local government and have generally been related to education.

Retail led all sectors with 5,400 jobs added in December. This was encouraging news given that November showed little movement as the holiday season started.



Courtesy Photo

West Point Police Chief Brad Roberts presents Officer James Shoup with a plaque for 28 years of service with the West Point Police Department. Shoup joined the PD in August of 1992 and retired on Jan. 11. Shoup is also retired U.S. Army Military Police Corp.

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For the Record

For the Record

Fort Madison Police Report

01/22/21 - 11:57 a.m. - Fort Madison Police arrested Jarrod Ray Hagmeier, 40, of Keokuk, in the 800 block of Avenue G, on a warrant for probation violation. He was taken to Lee County Jail.
 01/22/21 - 12:45 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a stolen vehicle in the 1400 block of Avenue G.
 01/22/21 - 8:38 p.m. - Fort Madison Police cited Andrew Robert Wansley, 27, of Sperry, in the 3100 block of Avenue A, on a charge of driving while suspended.
 01/23/21 - 10:25 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a stolen vehicle in the 400 block of Avenue H.
 01/23/21 - 10:26 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of vandalism in the 2600 block of Avenue L.
 01/24/21 - 2:32 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a stolen vehicle in the 1300 block of Avenue G.
 01/24/21 - 6:34 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a stolen vehicle in the 1800 block of Avenue G.
 01/24/21 - 7:08 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to

a report of a stolen vehicle in the 3300 block of Avenue J.
 01/24/21 - 11:43 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a stolen vehicle in the 300 block of 24th Street.
 01/24/21 - 1:42 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a stolen vehicle in the 2600 block of Avenue L.
 01/24/21 - 6:41 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of vandalism in the 1200 block of 26th Street.
 01/24/21 - 9:12 p.m. - Fort Madison Police arrested Louis Metcalf, III, 32, listed as homeless, in the 1500 block of Avenue H, on a charge of interference and 2nd-degree theft. He was taken to Lee County Jail.
 01/24/21 - 11:13 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of vandalism in the 1200 block of 26th Street.
 01/25/21 - 4:47 a.m. - Fort Madison Police arrested Allen Penrod, 24, of Fort Madison in the 600 block of 14th Street on a warrant for probation violation. He was taken to Lee County Jail.
 01/25/21 - 7:26 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a property

damage accident in the 1200 block of Avenue G.

Lee County Sheriff's Report

01/22/21 - 8:25 a.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies responded to a one-vehicle accident on Hwy. 61. According to the report, a vehicle driven by Skye Sierra Rottinghaus, 26, of Nora Springs, Iowa, was southbound in the 2300 block and fell asleep exiting the roadway and striking several trees. Rottinghaus declined treatment. No citations were reported.
 01/22/21 - 11:33 a.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Jarrod Ray Hagmeier, 40, of Keokuk, in the 800 block of Avenue E, on a charges of violation of probation. He was taken to Lee County Jail and released on a pre-trial release.
 01/24/21 - 6:35 a.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies responded to a one-vehicle accident on 330th Avenue northbound. According to the report a vehicle driven by Dakota James Vaughan, 21, of Fort Madison left the roadway and entered the westbound shoulder then

skidded cross the road into the east ditch rolling several times and coming to rest on it's side. Vaughan was treated and released, but two occupants, Taryn Mahoney, 18, of Fort Madison and Dustin Beckman, 21, of Fort Madison were taken by ambulance to Fort Madison Community Hospital and Great River Medical Center with serious injuries. No citations were reported.

Hancock County Sheriff's Report

01/19/21 - Jamie L Gutting, age 51, of Ft. Madison, IA was arrested on a Henderson County, IL Warrant for Failure to Appear or Pay on original charges of Driving Under the Influence. Gutting was released after posting the required bond and given a future court date.
 01/19/21 - Cortez M Sturek, age 24, of Carthage, IL was arrested on a Hancock County Warrant for Failure to Appear or Failure to Pay on original charges of Criminal Damage to Property and Aggravated Battery. Sturek

was given a Notice to Appear at a future court date.
 01/20/21 - JAMie T Schmitz, age 46, of Ft. Madison, IA was arrested and charged with Possession of Methamphetamine. Schmitz was released after posting the required bond and given a future court date.
 01/20/21 - Steven A Leverton, age 58, of Bowen, IL was arrested on a Brown County Warrant charging him with Failure to Appear / Failure to Pay on original charges of Violation of an Order of Protection. Leverton was also arrested on an Adams County Warrant charging him with Failure to Appear on original charges of Speeding. Leverton was released after posting the required bond and given a future court date.
 01/21/21 - Tony R Biswell, age 52, of Bowen, IL was arrested and charged with Domestic Battery. Biswell was released after posting the required bond and given a future court date.
 01/21/21 - William W Carey, age 29, of La Harpe, IL

was arrested on a Hancock County Warrant charging him with Failure to Appear on original charges of Lamps/Other Equipment on Bicycles and Motorized Pedalcycles on Roadway, Tum and Stop Signals and Eluding a Police Officer. Horton was released after posting the required bond and given a future court date.
 01/21/21 - Bobbie J Blaise, age 54, of Carthage, IL was arrested and charged with Unlawful Possession of Methamphetamine and Possession of Drug Paraphernalia. Blaise remains lodged in the Hancock County Jail awaiting her initial court appearance.
 01/22/21 - Jesse W McDonald, age 36, of Macomb, IL was arrested and charged with Driving Under the Influence of Alcohol and Possession of Methamphetamine. McDonald 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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Leathernecks adjust to winter “spring” training

Jared Elliott said it's easy to get snow off the artificial turf at Western Illinois University's football field.

Ice, though, is something entirely different, the Leathernecks' coach said with a laugh during Monday's virtual media day, noting the winter storm that was bearing down on the area.

Usually, his weather concerns for pre-season practice are more about how hot it's going to be, or whether there's rain in the forecast.

Instead, it's about snow potential and wind chills.

Welcome to a spring football season.

It's going to be an unusual season for the Leathernecks and the other 90-plus teams in the NCAA's Football Championship Subdivision that are playing a spring season this year because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

FCS teams sat out the fall, opting instead for a condensed spring season that will conclude with a 16-team playoff to decide a national champion.

Western Illinois and the Missouri Valley Football Conference will play an 8-game conference-only schedule. The Leathernecks open the season on Feb. 19 at South Dakota, and will play four home games — Missouri State (Feb. 27), North Dakota (March 13), Northern Iowa (March 27) and Youngstown State (April 3).

Elliott acknowledged the strangeness.

“Every coach, I don't care what sport it is, we're creatures of habit,” he said. “You get on a schedule, and you're used to it from year to year. I think that part has been very unique.”

“But having said that, football is football. When we're in meetings, when we're out there on the field, it feels normal. Football is football. It feels like you're making a late-November, December playoff run.”

Still, the spring season has its challenges beyond the weather. A normal preseason camp would be conducted in August, when the players aren't in school. Now, Elliott must prepare for the season while working around players' academic schedules.

“We're used to having our players 24-7, morning to night, in football,” Elliott said.

“We're trying to install, and get things taught, in a much watered-down, condensed time.”

Western Illinois, coming off a 1-11 season in 2019 in Elliott's second season as head coach, didn't get to practice in the spring



because of the pandemic, and there were no summer workouts. The Leathernecks did get 15 practices in the fall, a schedule they would have had in the spring.

But while the Leathernecks were working out, the college football world at the Football Bowl Subdivision level went on. “I thought the fall was really hard on us,” Elliott said. “I thought the fall was really hard on us as a staff, it was really hard on the team.”

When they're looking around and seeing their buddies that they played high school ball with who now play at Texas, Oklahoma, Iowa, and they're playing, and we're watching those guys on Saturdays ... I thought it was hard. It was heavy. It just had a heavier feeling. And I think that's natural.

“First fall they're not playing football. And not only are they not playing football, they go home and sit on their couch and watch their friends do it. And I don't think that's easy for anybody.”

“It was tough,” quarterback Connor Sampson said. “You're sitting there, you're doing basically spring ball — lifting every day, practicing every day. But on weekends, you're sitting there on Saturdays like, ‘Wow, people are playing.’ It's tough to sit back and watch that.”

“But, you know, you've got to respect everything that's going on, and just look forward to the future.” It's that kind of attitude that Elliott appreciates.

“I'm having more fun right now than I've ever had,” he said. “And I feel it from the players. That part of it has been so refreshing.”

“It's very obvious the energy level in practice,” Sampson said. “It's a big change.”

“As players, this is what we're trained for, this is what we're made to do,” running back DeShon Gavin said.

The Leathernecks' season will begin in a month — better late, they said, than never.

“I think we've had a good start,” Elliott said. “We still have a long way to go.”

John Bohnenkamp is an award-winning sports reporter and contributor to the Pen City Current

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Sports

No. 11 Notre Dame fends off Central Lee girls

Transfer Alivia Myhre settling in as she leads Central Lee with a game-high 18 on the night

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

BURLINGTON – The Central Lee girls basketball team hung around with No. 11 Notre Dame for three and half quarters on Tuesday night.

But Notre Dame is no slouch and proved it with a 55-46 win over the Lady Hawks in one of the few games still being played after the winter storm blew in overnight.

The Lady Hawks had several leads in the first half and trailed by just one point going into the locker room. Alivia Myhre led the way in the first half with 10 points.

Myhre would pull off rarity and outscore Mya Merschman in a game. Merschman finished with 16 and Myhre had 18 including four 3-pointers.

“She had a nice game. She’s starting to get comfortable and getting into our mix,” said Central Lee Head Coach Jay Baldwin. “She’s still a little green, but she’s dynamic and can help take pressure of Mya. Mya can’t score 40 a night.”

A bucket by Myhre gave the Hawks their first lead at 5-4. Notre Dame would then go up by as much as five, but Merschman would cut it to two with one of her patented rainbow 3s from the left wing. The senior would convert a couple free throws prior to the end of the first to tie it at 12.

Megan Harrell would return fire at the other end for a 14-12 lead after one.

Myhre would hit back-to-back 3 balls at 5:49 in the second to give Central a 17-14 lead, and a bucket by Makayla Morrison would push the lead to five. Notre Dame would cut it back to two on a Shelby Bowman three.

The two teams would combine to go 0-11 from the

field over the next five minutes before freshman Lauren Krieger hit the front end of a one-an-one for Notre Dame. Katie Stephens would score just before the end of the 1st to give the Nikes a 23-22 lead at the break.

The beginning of the third quarter was the difference in the ballgame.

Notre Dame would hit on 5-of-7 to start the third, while Central would only manage an inside scoop from Merschman, and another 3-pointer from Myhre during the stretch to open the game little at 35-27.

Notre Dame would go on to outscore Central 22-10 in the period and pull too far ahead for the Lady Hawks to recover.

“The effort was there, just that third quarter – we’re still trying to learn how to win. We got down a few points and we started forcing the shot without a pass, or we were driving too far. They’re correctable things,” Baldwin said.

“Give them credit, they are good, but I think our girls kinda lost their legs a little bit.”

He said Central Lee hasn’t been in the gym in the past three days .

Both teams showed the lack of gym time at the start of the fourth as again, they combined for just 2 of 11 to open the final period. Myhre’s final three of the game cut the lead to 12. Merschman would score getting banged around in the lane to make it 54-44, but the Lady Hawks would run out of time.

“The lights are starting to come on,” Baldwin said. “They’re still flickering a bit, but they’re coming on.”

Morrison finished with nine points on the night, Macy Watkins had two and Ella Sanders added a free throw to round out the scoring for the Hawks (5-6 in the SEISC, and 8-8 overall).

Notre Dame now sits at 9-1 in the loop and 12-1 overall with the Nikes only loss coming to West Burlington back on Dec. 8. Karli Artman had 16 for Notre Dame. Katie Stephens had 12 and Gabby Deery had eight for the Nikes.

Central Lee hosts Holy Trinity in girls/boys varsity doubleheader on Friday night.



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Central Lee’s Mya Merschman defends as Abby Korschgen looks for a way up at the basket in the first half Tuesday night.

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Classifieds/Public Notices

PUBLIC NOTICES

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FORT MADISON
COMMUNITY SCHOOL
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BOARD OF DIRECTORS
WORK SESSION
FORT MADISON
HIGH SCHOOL
MEDIA CENTER
February 1, 2021
6:00 p.m.**

I. Call meeting to order and determination of a quorum
II. Recognition of guests
III. Approve the agenda

IV. Ad Hoc Committee discussion
V. Announcements
February 15, 2021, No School – President's Day
February 16, 2021, 6:00 p.m., Public Hearing, Board Room, Central office
February 16, 2021, 6:05 p.m., Regular Meeting, Board Room, Central Office
VI. Adjourn

**PUBLIC NOTICE
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ALBEE, DEBORAH 31,813.20
AMANDUS, DONNA J 346.32
ANDREWS, JAMES R 3,116.88
BALES, KELSEY M 39,924.78
BARTHOLOMEW, ED-MUND 50,838.06

BERGQUIST, DOUG G 51,609.44
BEUNING, DALE A 18,333.00
BLANCHARD, JAY 83,778.89
BLIND, MELINDA 79,815.48
BOE, RANDY .. 50,446.36
BOHNENKAMP, ERIC 49,314.82
BOUSSELOT, MARK J 89,294.41
BOWKER, REBECCA J 3,116.88

BRISBY, KENT R 64,785.11
BRITTON, EMELINE J 22,327.43
BROWN, BENJAMIN C 81,538.97
BROWN, ROBERT T 50,445.32
BRYANT, BRADLEY C 46,925.41
CAIN, JUSTIN M 63,473.97
CANGAS, CHAD A 2,886.00
CARLE, JAMES

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DOYLE, DAVID M
73,766.63
EASTIN, CHRISTOPHER J
63,999.34
ESTRADA, WILLIAM
45,374.02
FEDLER, NICHOLAS J
56,924.00
FORD, CALEB M
1,168.00
FULLENKAMP, CHARLES E
63,902.29
FULLENKAMP, MIKE A
74,076.54
FULLHART, DUSTIN M
90,727.08
GATHERS, NEAL B
75,620.50
GIBBS, BRENT S
14,437.92
GRAY, JACK D
72,376.00
GREEN, BRIAN S
75,390.85
GRIFFIN, MATTHEW D
58,707.04
GROENE, WENDELL B
60,809.55
GRUENING, LUKE A
48,409.96
HAAS, AUSTIN D
43,753.43
HANNUM, CHAD J
73,737.90
HARLAND, CLINT E
63,141.95
HELLING, COLE L
760.00
HELLING, JEFFREY
84,948.94
HENDERSON, KYLE W
9,226.76
HERREN, JOEY
89,895.60
HOENIG, KEVIN R
50,059.88
HONADEL, KENNETH A
47,960.45
HOPPER, MATTHEW M
3,558.00
HOREY, HEATHER L
57,364.14
HORN, DANIEL P
67,208.46
HUEBNER, CASEY W
63,360.21
HUGG, KELSEY K
53,705.17
JACOBSON, DAKOTA W
2,800.25
JOHNSON, DANIEL L
64,195.56
JUDD, KARL F
67,651.71
KEMPKER, MICHAEL
51,286.33
KERN, ERIC
84,374.91
KERN, ROBERT J
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KOSER, NATHAN A
59,324.88
KROGMEIER, DOUGLAS E
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KUESEL, CARSEN S
19,769.64
KUHLMIEIER, JASON R
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LAIR, MARK A
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17,255.00
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17,314.13
MCFALL, ANDREW D
62,757.65
MEIEROTTO, ALEXANDER S
65,270.60
MEIEROTTO, EMILEE D
40,044.18
MENDEZ, EDWARD L
15,845.00
MENDEZ, MARIO R
17,281.50
MILKS, COURTNEY A
66,291.54
MILLER, TYLER A
2,424.24
MINER, CAROLA
39,898.42
MOHRFELD, MATTHEW J
5,724.00
MORAWITZ, ROBERT C
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15,767.25
MOYERS, WILLIAM R
13,667.50
NAGEL, JORDAN T
4,032.00
NIGGEMEYER, BRUCE
61,250.52
OWENS, CECELIA M
15,609.41
PARKER, NATHAN B
73,514.65
PEITON, JEAN M
28,117.86
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50,922.23
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POHLPETER, BILLY
45,627.69
PUCKETT, ELMER
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REES, JANIE M
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REMPE, CHLOE C
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RUSSELL, RONALD D
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SCHLEIDT, KAYLA D
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SCHNEIDER, MIKE
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SCHROEDER, TRAVIS J
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SCHULZ, THOMAS K
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SHIELDS, KELLY A
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SLATER, VICKI E
59,156.28
STEFFENSMEIER, PEGGY
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STEIN, BRIAN L
43,146.38
STEWART, CLIFFORD A
58,261.77
TEMPLIN, MARINA J
3,620.30
VARLEY, DAVID A
124,906.35
VOGELGESANG, BRENT E
35,585.71
WADE, JOSHUA A
66,568.40
WAROSH, GREGORY S
51,894.41

WATKINS, EUGENE D
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WATKINS, TIMOTHY L
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WATKINS, WILLIAM A
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WEISINGER, DREW M
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WIEGAND, BRIAN
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WILSON, LEON D
49,492.46
WOODLEY, DAVID R
9,256.45
WOODS, ALAN S
13,664.00
WOODS, LAWRENCE E
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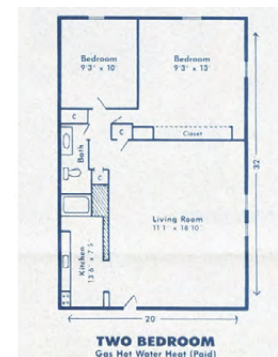
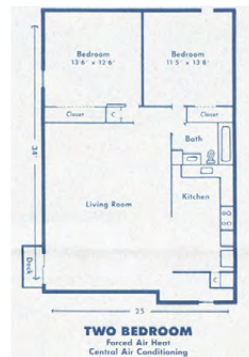
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From the Front

Advisory group mulls quality review protocols for County EMS

QUALITY - Continued from Page 1

Cosby cited federal HIPAA regulations as a hurdle in having the committee review cases for treatment issues, but said he didn't have a problem with the committee reviewing cases, as long as they keep it basic.

"I wouldn't say it's unnecessary, as long as we keep it to general terms," Cosby said.

"I have no problem listening to issues you have as long as we do it in a way to keep everyone out of trouble with the government."

Caropreso said he had spoken with EMS officials across the country, and the council may be misunderstanding HIPAA rules.

Steffen said there was no need to duplicate the work of the current review board.

"I don't think we need to duplicate a lot of that work. That's not our job," Steffen said.

Caropreso said he completely disagreed with Steffen.

At the last meeting of the council, Fort Madison Fire Chief Joey Herren and Keokuk Fire Chief Gabe Rose asked the council where fire officials would go with concerns over treatment and protocols observed.

Both agreed that past practices, which seem to be part of the integration to the county-run operation, didn't adequately address concerns about treatment and protocols of EMS service on their end.

Steffen said Cosby was hired in part because of his experience dealing with those issues.

"Dennis is the one who's responsible for the EMS program and the quality of the program, and he answers to the Board of Supervisors, who answer to the voters," Steffen said.

"The county hired Dennis for a reason - because they trusted him to run the service."

Lee County Supervisor Garry Seyb Jr., said he considers the council to have a "50,000 foot purview" of the operations and not a role of micromanaging the day-to-day issues that crop up.

"In mulling this over in my head back and forth, I see the ambulance group looking at this from 50,000 feet and making recommendations from that view, not at the micro level dealing with an employee," Seyb said.

"Dennis should be reviewing all calls in my opinion. The No. 1 and No. 2 in the service should be reviewing all calls and putting a critical eye to it and then refer bigger issues to the Medical Director. Dennis is getting paid a pretty good salary to do that. If we gonna go down the road that Dr. Caropreso is talking, what's going to be the authority level of this group?"

The medical director for the EMS services currently is Dr. David Wenger-Keller at FMCH.

Caropreso has been a part of the committee since it's inception and was part of Cosby's hiring process.

"I was actively involved in Dennis interview, and he did an outstanding job," Caropreso said. "But what you're proposing is too limited and too narrow."

Steffen said it's his experience that when an issue arises in care of a patient a review takes place and then remediation and retraining begin if necessary.

Caropreso asked how the council would know that Cosby is recommending that course of action.

"The flip answer is I've known Dennis for years and he's not going to let anything go. That's what an EMS director does. The core of his job is to the people who call 911 for quality service," Steffen said.

"I refuse to believe that Dennis wouldn't refer people for retraining. If you believe that, than we need to find a new director, but I have every confidence he will."

Caropreso said he believed Steffen's statement to be true, but said the system was still too narrow.

"I believe what your saying is true, nevertheless, the plan is too narrow. There can be omissions, oversights and missteps along the way and this should be a mutually supportive process of all parties."

Lee County Auditor Denise Fraise, who also sits on the council, said the group isn't trained to make medical decisions, but a subcommittee comprised of health care experts might be in order.

Steffen said the board could help by looking at aggregate data, but said ultimately medical decisions lie with the medical director.

"I think this board can help with pattern recognition and help with making sure something is getting done," he said.

"The final decision of what this looks like does not lie with this board, the Board of Supervisors or Dennis, but the Medical Director, and that person's word is final."



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From the Front

City Council to get look at project at next meeting

MARINA- Continued from Page 1

“The long and short of that meeting with the council last year was to do nothing and turn it into a volleyball court, or do something,” Mohrfeld said.

“The council clearly said they didn’t want to walk away from the marina. We didn’t know what that meant, but they charged me with seeing what the options were.”

Mohrfeld took potential investors and stakeholders on a tour of marinas in around Iowa including Dubuque, Clinton and Camanche. He then followed up by assembling a group of other stakeholders to starting formalizing a concept.

The work of that group and the vision were included in a 3-minute video that is available below:

Funding for the project could come from public and private sources, both profit and non-profit entities, and could involve a variety of relationships.

The next step is to roll the video and new concepts to the City Council and get direction on where to go.



Image courtesy of the City of Fort Madison

This engineering image is part of the new concept for the Fort Madison Marina. The vision is the product of an engineering study and research from a group of stakeholders assembled to come up with a sustainable plan for the city resource.

Foot chase leads to arrest

ARREST- Continued from Page 1

believed unrelated to the other five.

On two occasions a male subject was spotted, one of which by an off-duty officer. Later at about 9 p.m. Sunday night, that same officer observed the subject on foot in the general vicinity where several of the thefts occurred. When he was approached, the subject took off and a foot chase ensued.

He was subdued by the officer after a struggle and taken into custody. At the time of his arrest, the officer found evidence linking him to several of the stolen vehicles. The officer was not injured in the arrest.

This investigation is ongoing. Forensic evidence was obtained from each of the recovered vehicles is being examined.

The public is reminded that all persons charged are presumed to be innocent until convicted in a court of law.

Help needed for parade

PARADE- Continued from Page 1

Hopefully this year’s parade the committee can return to registrations for prizes, judging, awarding of prize money and trophies can return to normal. This is also the year to celebrate the State of Iowa’s 175th anniversary.

If you are unable to attend this meeting, four other meetings will be scheduled in next few months in preparation for the July 4, 2021 parade.

If willing to help with the planning visit the Charlie Korschgen Fourth of July Kiddie Parade face book, attend this meeting or contact Andy Andrews at 319-371-5379.

Tax deductible donations to the parade may be sent to Kiddie Parade at PO Box 243, Fort Madison, Iowa, 52627 to assure this event continues for many more years.

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