

PEN CITY CURRENT

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

Tuesday, February 23, 2021 | 8 pages | Volume 5 • Issue 46



www.pencitycurrent.com



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg

The Fort Madison gaggle

A gaggle of more than 200 geese settled in a warm day and sidewalk around Riverview Park in front of the North Lee County Historical Museum and Red Caboose picking at newly exposed treasures of the wet soil Monday afternoon. Temperatures pushed into the mid-40s reducing the snow cover that has blanketed the area for more than a week.

GUEST AUTHOR

Where were you when... - Empty Nest

There have been three major “Where were you whens...” in my life. I was born in 1948, making me 72 years young. The first, “Where were you when...” happened while I was a sophomore in high school in Monroe, Iowa. The date was, November 22, 1963. President John F. Kennedy was assassinated. The high school principal, Mr. Gansky, came into our history class (what a history lesson!) and gave us the shocking news. At least one girl started crying. I could not believe, in that day and age (we’d just gotten dial telephones), a President of the United States could be shot. Something like that hadn’t happened since Abraham Lincoln. Mr. Gansky assured us that, yes, political assassinations were still in the realm of possibility.

EMPTY NEST

By Curt Swarm



A party had been planned that weekend at a classmate’s house. Instead of dancing the twist, and attempting the Limbo or Watusi, as we would normally be doing at one of our parties, we sat around in the classmate’s darkened basement and, instead of necking (or making out), we talked in hushed whispers about the assassination. Jack (“Ask not

See **SWARM**, page 8

PAINT-A-THON

Committee announces dates, searches for participants

FORT MADISON – The Fort Madison Paint-A-Thon is set for 2021: the week of April 26-April 30th– painting thru that week. During the week of April 26th teams will finish prep on the house and start painting as soon as prep work is complete. Volunteers are

needed so get your group (friends from work, service organization, church group, etc.) together and call the Partner office: 319-372-5471.

“Now is the time we start seeking homeowners to fill out the application so we can make sure they fit within the

guidelines outlined on the application and postmarked by March 15th,” states Tim Gobble, Fort Madison Partners Executive Director. Applications can be found at Kempker True Value & Rental, Inc, Fort Madison Partners, United

See **PAINT-A-THON**, page 3

Randy Evans,
Executive Director

These changes won't improve election security

Iowa’s 2020 election was one for the record books — with 1.7 million people marking ballots.

It was an impressive turnout in Iowa — with 76 percent of Iowa’s eligible voters taking part.

There were no allegations of election fraud or polling place shenanigans in Iowa. No one suggested people from cemeteries were casting ballots in our state.

We didn’t hear claims Iowa voting machines were rigged by nefarious forces. No one suggested counterfeit ballots were sneaked into counties across Iowa.

So, this question is worth asking:

Why is the Iowa Legislature fast-tracking dramatic changes in the state’s election laws that will make it more difficult for people to vote?

Many Iowans prefer to vote before Election Day — especially the elderly or disabled, those in retail whose work schedules are set at the last minute, or those who will be out of state at college or away at a winter residence.

Lawmakers behind these changes prefer to talk about making our elections more secure. They like to speak about election integrity.

But they don’t explain how these changes will improve election security or election integrity in Iowa. They avoid mentioning this because the real reason for the changes is harder to explain away.

It’s politics, plain and simple.

Three-quarters of Iowa Democrats who voted last fall voted early, Secretary of State Paul Pate has reported. Only half of Republicans were early voters.

Senator Jason Schultz, a Schleswig Republican, told reporters he supports the legislation because, “It addresses the controversy that the country is going through right now.”

He claimed, without offering evidence,

See **EVANS**, page 8

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WEATHER

OpenWeatherMap
TUE 23 FebSunny, 45° F/ 32° F
WED 24 FebPartly Sunny, 40° F/ 28° F
THU 25 FebOvercast, 43° F/ 28° F

IOWA LOTTERY

| | |
|---------------------------|------|
| PICK 3 02/21 MIDDAY..... | 679 |
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For the Record/Health News

For the Record

Fort Madison Police Report

02/18/21 - 10:48 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a burglary in the 2000 block of Avenue B.
 02/18/20 - 12:23 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 2100 block of Avenue B.
 02/19/21 - 9:08 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a burglary in the 1500 block of Avenue B.
 02/19/21 - 2:00 p.m. - Fort Madison Police cited Dale Meling Hall, 81, of Fort Madison, at the police station, on a charge of dog running at large.
 02/19/21 - 4:00 p.m. - Fort Madison Police arrested Coty Allen Savage, 33, listed as homeless, at the police station, on a charge of burglary. He was taken to the Lee County Jail.
 02/19/21 - 4:03 p.m. - Fort

Madison Police responded to a report of a burglary in the 2100 block of Avenue F.
 02/19/20 - 4:30 p.m. - Fort Madison Police arrested Wade Lee Shaffer, 19, of Fort Madison in the 2100 block of Avenue F, on a charge of domestic abuse assault and violation of a protection order. He was taken to Lee County Jail.
 02/19/21 - 5:10 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 2700 block of Avenue L.
 02/19/21 - 5:15 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 2700 block of Avenue L.
 02/19/21 - 5:21 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a stolen vehicle in the 1100 block of Avenue F.
 02/19/20 - 6:00 p.m. - Fort Madison Police arrested Haley Emma Janic, 18, of Fort Madison, at the police station, on a

charge of violation of a protective order. She was taken to Lee County Jail.
 02/20/21 - 11:25 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 2300 block of Avenue H.
 02/20/21 - 1:40 p.m. - Fort Madison Police cited James Dillon Imthurm, 28, of Fort Madison, in the 5800 block of Avenue O, on a charge of driving under suspension.
 02/20/21 - 3:19 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 1900 block of Avenue H.
 02/20/21 - 5:02 p.m. - Fort Madison Police cited Fernando Moreno Raldiris, Jr., 50, of Fort Madison, in the 1200 block of 35th Street, on a charge of driving under suspension.
 02/21/21 - 9:24 p.m. - Fort Madison Police arrested Tamra Lynn Taylor, 58, of Fort Madison, in the

3000 block of Avenue N, on a charge of public intoxication. She was taken to Lee County Jail.
 02/22/21 - 4:20 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 1200 block of Avenue H.

Lee County Sheriff's Report

02/15/21 - 5:44 a.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies responded to a report of a one-vehicle accident in the 2800 block of Hwy. 61. According to the report, a vehicle driven by Jason Tyler Wright, 46, of Keokuk, had slid off the road into a ditch. Wright left the scene and called in to report the accident and indicated passing semi had caused him slide off on slick surfaces. No injuries or citations were reported.
 02/19/21 - 11:11 a.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Joshua Charles Shirkey, 45, of Mid-

dletown, at the Des Moines County Jail on a warrant for 2nd degree theft. He was taken to Lee County Jail and released on bond.
 02/19/21 - 2:41 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Jess Winslow McGee Jr., 42, of Fort Madison, at the sheriff's office on a judgment hold. He was taken to Lee County Jail and released on a weekend serve.
 02/19/21 - 3:39 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Jessica Kim Bower, 30, of Fort Madison, at the sheriff's office on a court ordered hold. She was taken to Lee County Jail and released on a weekend serve.
 02/19/21 - 5:53 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Robert Jackson Wixom, 55, of Burlington at the Des Moines County Jail on charge of warrants for drug trafficking and possession of a controlled substance. He was tak-

en to Lee County Jail.
 02/19/21 - 8:05 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Jason Michael Dye, 42, of Keokuk at the Lee County Jail on a judgment hold. He was held in custody.
 02/20/21 - 12:56 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Benjamin Christopher Talbott, 33, of Burlington, at the sheriff's dept., on warrants for fraudulent use of a registration, driving under suspension and parking without setting a break. He was taken to Lee County Jail and released on his recognizance.
 02/21/21 - 3:30 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Andrew Michael Schiedel, 32, of Fort Madison, in the 2700 block of Avenue K, on a warrant for failure to appear. He was taken to Lee County Jail.
Those listed above are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.



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Children's immunization clinic set for Feb. 24

LEE COUNTY - Lee County Health Department will hold a Children's Immunization Clinic Wednesday, February 24th at the Lee County Health Department, located at #3 John Bennett Dr., Ft. Madison from 12 noon until 5:30pm.

The clinic is open to children who have no insurance, are insured by Iowa Medicaid/MCO or those who have private health insurance that does not cover

the cost of vaccines. No appointment is necessary. Written parental consent is required for minors to receive vaccinations when in the care of another adult. Forms may be obtained at our website listed below.

Free lead testing is available for ALL children ages 6mos to 6 years that reside in Iowa.

Please call 1-319-372-5225 with questions or visit our website at www.leecountyhd.org.

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 It's Black & White and Read all over

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 P.O. Box 366 | Fort Madison, IA

Obituaries/From the Front

OBITUARIES

JERRY ARNOLD

Jerry Arnold, 83, of rural Kahoka, Missouri passed away on Saturday, February 20, 2021 at the Clark County Nursing Home.



ARNOLD

He was born in Alexandria, Missouri to the late Roscoe and Avice (Bryant) Arnold. Jerry graduated from Kahoka High School and briefly attended the University of Missouri in Columbia.

Jerry married Carmen Calvin in 1962.

They would have been married 58 years December 28, 2020. Jerry was a lifelong member of the Alexandria Presbyterian Church. He always said it didn't feel right not to attend church on Sunday mornings. He expected his kids to follow this rule for going out on Saturday night "out late, up early for Church!"

Jerry worked as the Foreman for the Missouri State Highway Department in Wayland for 37 years until he retired in 1994. He spent many hours worrying about snow and floods. He was very proud of the work that his crew did and their yearly safety and shed ratings. Jerry was a long time Clark County Fair attendee. He used to keep track of how many years in a row he had attended the fair without missing. He enjoyed a good horse race! Besides his family, Jerry had one love and that was farming. He had recently commented that the best things in the world were the feel of the dirt and the smell of his cattle.

Jerry was preceded in death by his wife Carmen, his parents, and two sisters, Laquita Joy and Jewell Value.

J.R. Arnold will be missed by his family. Survivors include his daughter Kassi (Tony) Bogolin, son Brett (Nanook) Arnold, son Mark (Cathy) Arnold. grandchildren, Erika

(Justin) Hellman, Olivia Bogolin, Emily Bogolin and special friend Ramsey Robertson, Leah (Justin) Flockhart, Rachel Arnold and fiancé Ben Wyatt, Hanna Arnold, Mackenzie Arnold, Samantha Arnold, Nolan and Nadia Leveling. He loved babies and always grinned at the great grandchildren, Kyla, Kasen, Krew Flockhart and Baker Hellmen. Jerry leaves behind two brothers Larry (Carolyn) and Milton (Suzanne) Arnold and a sister, Nadine Glasgow, as well as many nieces and nephews.

According to his wishes he will be cremated with services conducted by DeJong-Greaves-Printy Funeral Home at 11:00 am on Friday, February 26, 2021 at the Alexandria Presbyterian Church. Visitation without the family present will be held on Thursday February 25, from 3 to 7 pm at the funeral home. A Celebration of Life will be held in the Summer of 2021 for both Jerry and Carmen.

Memorial contributions in his memory may be made to the Frazee Cemetery, 26100 US Highway 136 Spur, Alexandria, MO 63430.

Please leave a special memory or condolence at www.dejongsfuneralhome.com. DeJong-Greaves-Printy Funeral Home of Keokuk is in charge of arrangements.

Volunteers, sponsors needed for April event

PAINT-A-THON - Continued from Page 1

Way/Food Pantry, Fort Madison Library and City of Fort Madison. "Our goal will be 3 or 4 qualifying homes depending on volunteers," said Gobble.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

1. The Home: Owner-occupied, single or small 1 1/2 story in need of paint, located within the city limits of Fort Madison.

2. The Homeowner: Individuals over the age of 60, or disabled, single parents or veterans, with limited income, unable to afford commercial paint

job, showing a desire to maintain the appearance of the house. The home owner will be notified if selected by June 10th.

3. Volunteers will prep and paint homes the week of April 26th and complete any finishing touches on the home by the end of that week, using paint supplied by Kempker's True Value and Rental, Inc.

For more information on how to get involved, please call the Partners office at 319-372-5471.

Lee County Pheasants Forever banquet has been postponed until a later date

25 Gun Raffle drawing will still be held Saturday, February 27th at 4:00 p.m. at Faeths Cigar Store

All proceeds go to youth programs and youth trap teams in Lee County. Tickets may be purchased at Faeths up until the time of the drawing or by calling Mark at 217-440-9462 or Vicky at 217-430-9462 or Tracy at 319-470-4012.

For a complete list of guns, please contact the members above.



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Be Prepared To Get Vaccinated



When you are given the opportunity to get the COVID vaccine, know if this is what you want to do or not – do your research. The opportunity will quickly pass as agencies move onto the next levels.

If you sign up to get vaccinated, be sure to show up during your scheduled time. Once a vial is open, 10 doses must be used within 6 hours – the goal is not to waste any vaccine.

Continue to follow all recommended public health guidelines. . .for all of us.

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Classifieds/Public Notices

PEN CITY CURRENT CLASSIFIEDS

HELP WANTED

Iowa State Penitentiary is accepting applications for the following positions:

Correctional Officer Location: Fort Madison Iowa

JOB DESCRIPTION:
Correctional officers serve as the backbone to the correctional system. Their careers are both challenging and rewarding as they balance their security mission with the mission of helping those incarcerated reform themselves into a successful, law-abiding citizen upon their reentry. Once fully trained, Correctional Officers can make a lasting impact on an incarcerated person's life while also helping maintain safe and secure correctional facilities. New Correctional Officers earn a full time salary as they go through their training, and the State offers one of the most competitive benefits packages in the private or public sector.

Starting Salary:
(\$20.34/\$30.14 (Max))

Correctional Food Service Coordinator

Supervise incarcerated dietary workers in the performance of all assigned duties and responsibilities relating to food preparation, tray assembly, meal delivery and dietary sanitation. Teach food service techniques and procedures to incarcerated individuals. Demonstrate ability to prepare food items by frying, baking, roasting, etc as appropriate. Monitor food temperatures, ensure foods are served and stored at a safe temperature. Supervise tray line/main line; ensure proper assembly and portions of meals. Demonstrate ability in performing stock inventories and purchasing requirements. Demonstrate knowledge of weights and measures used in determining proper amounts of food ingredients for mass food production.

Starting Salary:
(\$21.46 - \$31.56 (Max))

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Ready to Help, but not sure where to start?

AmeriCorps Seniors (formerly known as RSVP 55+ Initiative) at United Way of the Great River Region is seeking volunteers over the age of 55 who are looking to make a difference in their community.

We can help you find a volunteer opportunity in Lee County, Iowa that suits your interests and your time.

Contact Tammy Hudson, AmeriCorps Seniors Director at 319-372-8043 or rsvp@unitedwaygr.org to set up a time to talk.

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PUBLIC NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICE PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

Lee County Conference Board Chairman, Matt Pflug, has scheduled a public hearing to adopt the Assessor's budget for the fiscal year 2021-2022. The public hearing will be held electronically February 25, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. Please join my meeting

from your computer, tablet or smartphone.

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Assessor's budget
8. Roll call vote
9. Adjourn

AGENDA

1. Roll Call
2. Approve Agenda
3. Approval of January 28, 2021 Conference Board Meeting Minutes
4. Chairman opens public hearing
5. Motion to close public hearing
6. Roll call vote
7. Adoption of the approved 2021-2022

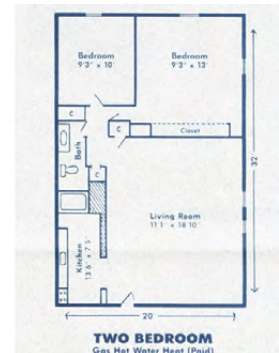
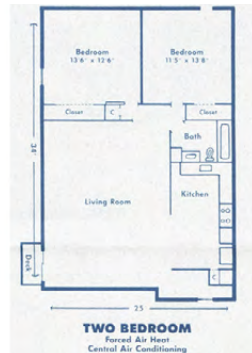
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From the Front

We've had enough of the "remember when" stories

SWARM - Continued from Page 1

what your country can do for you, but what you can do for your country") Kennedy was well liked. Jacqueline (Jackie) Kennedy was every young man's heart throb, and every young girl's idol. We generally concluded that Vice President Lyndon Johnson, who was immediately sworn in as president while on an airplane, had planned the assassination (he wanted the presidency and Jackie). Then followed the wild days of Lee Harvey Oswald being shot by Jack Ruby on live television, and conspiracy theories (we didn't even call them "conspiracy theories" yet, we called them rumors) abounded, like popcorn popping. Little John John saluting, as his father's casket passed by in a horse drawn caisson, followed by a riderless horse, broke a nation's heart.

The second "Where were you?" was obviously September 11, 2001 when the Twin Towers in New York City, the Pentagon and the country, came under attack by jet-airplane-flying-foreign terrorists. I was getting ready for work and had CNN on. I watched the whole scenario of "An airplane has just crashed into one of the Twin Towers. What's going on?" unfold. I was late for work. Once again the nation was thrown into a tizzy, and conspiracy theories (we were calling them "conspiracy theories" now) abounded. A popular one was that President George W. Bush (or "W") had planned the whole thing. "September 11" would be shortened to "911," which was and still is the number we dial for an emergency. It was speculated the terrorists had planned that date for this reason, but never verified. A coincidence? I can still visualize a man jumping out of a window of one of the Twin Towers and plummeting to his death—like in a nightmare. What would become of our nation? President Bush, taking a bullhorn and addressing the nation from atop a pile of rubble, brought assurance to a trembling nation.

The third "Where were you?" I'm sorry to say, happened just this year on January 6—a day that will live in infamy, to quote FDR. Our nation's Capitol was attacked and overrun, not by foreign terrorists, but United States Citizens—like in a Third World Country! The US Capitol had not been destroyed since the War of 1812, and that was by foreign adversaries. Ginnie was at work, and I had a list of things I wanted to accomplish. Instead, I was glued to the television for the whole day, and once again watched the nightmare unfold—Democracy under siege. I believe there were eight hours of commercial-free coverage—the truest sign of a national emergency. I kept texting photographs of the television screen to Ginnie, at first as a "Can you believe what's happening?" then as an "OMG!"

I don't want to go through another, "Where were you?" Our country or the world may not survive a fourth. Conspiracy theories the reality might become.

Have a good story? Call or text Curt Swarm in Mt. Pleasant at 319-217-0526, email him at curtswarm@yahoo.com or visit his website at www.empty-nest-words-photos-and-frames.com.

Bills have little to do with common sense

EVANS - Continued from Page 1

that there were "shady dealings across the country" and that some states allow people "to game elections the way they did in cities like Philadelphia."

Whether you accept former Attorney General William Barr's assurances there were no widespread voting irregularities, or whether you choose to ignore the judges who ruled against Donald Trump's 60 election challenges, this is irrefutable:

The bill before the Legislature will not stop any supposed "shady dealings" in Iowa because there have been none. What the legislation will do if it becomes law is this:

- Reduce the time for early voting to 18 days before the election, from the current 29 days (and from 40 days that was allowed until 2017);
- Prohibit county auditors from mailing absentee ballots until mid-October (which, with slower mail delivery, creates concerns about ballots arriving too late to be marked and mailed back in time to be counted);
- Stop county auditors from mailing absentee ballot request forms (which creates problems for people without Internet and a means of downloading and printing a blank request form);
- Change the time when voters can first request an absentee ballot to late August, from the early July now;
- Prohibit anyone other than the voter, an immediate family member or caregiver from returning a voter's completed absentee ballot (which creates problems for voters without access to a car).

Cerro Gordo County Auditor Adam Wedmore told reporters, "Iowa has always led the way with strong election security, great voter participation, and has been an example to other states of how elections should be run. These bills do not appear to be based on voter security or election integrity and instead will actually limit voter access."

As if the bill were not bad enough already, one more section in it should raise the blood pressure of every Iowan of every political persuasion:

If you do not participate in one general election, the legislation would require the county auditor to mark you as "inactive." That designation begins the process that could lead to being kicked off the registered voter roll.

Voting is a right. Americans are not required to vote. Some of us miss an election because we are ill or caring for a sick loved one or are called away on an urgent matter.

It's one thing if you move onto the "inactive" list because election mail to you is returned to the county auditor by the Postal Service. But it's a different matter if officials begin the process of cancelling your voter registration simply because you sat out one election.

The changes Republican lawmakers are pushing remind me of what Voltaire, the French philosopher, said long ago: "Common sense is not so common."

Randy Evans is Executive Director of the Iowa Freedom of Information Council and can be reached at DMRevs2810@gmail.com. Pen City Current is a member of the IFOIC.

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