

PEN CITY CURRENT

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Thursday, May 12, 2022 | 12 pages | Volume 6 • Issue 88



www.pencitycurrent.com

Harlow resigns board

VACANCY: County to replace with appointment, not special election

BY **CHUCK VANDENBERG**
PCC EDITOR

LEE COUNTY – Lee County Supervisor Rich Harlow submitted his resignation effective immediately from the Lee County Board of Supervisors.

Harlow's District 3 seat was up for re-election this year and the Montrose resident did not file papers to run for the office again. Harlow, a Democrat, defeated Jim Steffen in the 2018 general election for his first term on the board of supervisors.

Attempts to reach Harlow for comment Wednesday were



HARLOW

unsuccessful.

Lee County Auditor Denise Fraise issued a release Wednesday afternoon indicating the county will be accepting applications for the position to fill by appointment, through May 31. Interested persons must live in the Third Supervisor District.

Iowa Code Chapter 69.14A states a committee composed of the County Auditor, County Recorder, and

See **SUPERVISORS**, page 6

Keokuk man facing OWI homicide

FATALITY: Manning charged with striking Keokuk man while eluding authorities

BY PCC STAFF

LEE COUNTY – A 29-year-old Keokuk man is in custody after leading authorities on a chase and striking another Keokuk man causing his death.

Colby Manning, 29, of Keokuk, was allegedly eluding law enforcement officers when he struck a pedestrian in the early hours of May 1, 2022. The pedestrian, Kyle Savage, 36, also of Keokuk, was airlifted to the University of Iowa Hospital in Iowa City where he later succumbed to his injuries on May 9, 2022.

Officers from the Keokuk Police Department, Lee County Sheriff's Department, and Emergency responders from Keokuk Fire Department and Lee County Ambulance service acted quickly and vigorously in rendering emergency first aid on scene to Mr. Savage who suffered severe injuries from the collision prior to being taken to Blessing Hospital in Keokuk then airlifted to the University of Iowa hospitals and clinics.

Manning was cited at the time of arrest for eluding resulting in serious injury, speeding, no driver's license, five counts of failure to obey traffic control devices, defective/unauthorized muffler system, and failure to provide proof of financial liability—accident related failure to obey flashing red signal.

Manning has since additionally been charged with Vehicular Homicide by OWI, Eluding resulting in a Death, and Violation of Parole.

The Keokuk Police Department, Lee County Sheriff's Office, Keokuk Fire Department, and Lee County Ambulance service were the responding agencies. The Keokuk Police Department and Iowa State Patrol are investigating the case. This matter is being prosecuted by the Lee County Attorney's Office. Manning is being held at the Lee County Jail and is presumed innocent until proven guilty.



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

From left, Fort Madison Police Sgt. Greg Warosh and Lee County Deputy Jordan Maag work with Lee County K9 officer "Kion" to work on bite drills at Holy Trinity Catholic High School last week. The student body donated \$706 to the Lee County K9 Association.

WEST POINT

Hancock County Sheriff investigating couple's deaths

BY PCC STAFF

HANCOCK COUNTY – Sheriff Travis Duffy reports that on Monday May 9, 2022 the Hancock County Sheriff's Office received a call at 9:25 AM report-

ing two deaths at a rural West Point, IL address.

Deputies arrived on scene and discovered two deceased individuals at the residence.

The investigation is ongoing. Addi-

tional information is being withheld pending full family notifications.

Sheriff Duffy wants the public to know that the investigation has shown this to be an isolated incident and that there is no threat to the safety of any citizens.

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WEATHER

THU 12 May..... Sunny Skies, 88° F/ 71° F
 FRI 13 May..... Rain, 85° F/ 67° F
 SAT 14 May..... Rain, 82° F/ 63° F

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 MEGA MILLIONS 05/10..... 15 19 20 61 70, Mega Ball: 9
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 PICK 3 05/10 EVENING..... 0 6 4
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Obituaries

OBITUARIES

DARRELL W. MILLER

Darrell W. "Tony" Miller, 88, of Fort Madison, IA, passed away on Thursday, May 5, 2022 at the VA Hospital in Des Moines.

He was born on October 20, 1933 in Ft. Madison to Louis and Rose Greitens Miller.



MILLER

On March 25, 1955 he married June C. Neal in Monterey, CA and she passed away on September 30, 2009. Darrell served in the US Army during the Korean War. He was a truck driver for over forty years and retired from Yellow Freight System on September 30, 1944. He was also a member of the Teamsters Union local 218 & 238 for over forty years. Darrell and June enjoyed traveling, especially going on cruises and he enjoyed going to casinos. His greatest love was spending time with his family.

Survivors include three daughters, Susan Miller and Beth (John) Brant both of West Des Moines and Cara (Steve) Snuffin of Des Moines; two granddaughters, Megan (Aidan) Wylder of Duluth, MN and Sarah (Aaron) Tainter of Chandler, AZ; one great grandson, Ronan Wylder of Duluth, MN; several nieces and nephews and his companion for the past five years, Rosie Perrigo of Mercer, Missouri. He was preceded in death by his parents, his wife, six brothers, George, John, Louis, Robert, Frank & Marshall Miller and three sisters, Dorothy Mayer, Shirley Auge and Barbara Greenwald.



Friends may call after 2 PM on Tuesday, May 10, 2022 at King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory where the family will meet with friends from 4-6 PM. A private burial will take place in Oakland Cemetery.

A memorial has been established for the American Cancer Society and online condolences may be left at www.kinglynk.com.

OBITUARIES

HARRIETTE J. GUENTHER

Harriette Jean Guenther, 82, of Fort Madison, IA, passed away on Thursday, May 5, 2022 at her home. She was born on November 20, 1939 in Fort Madison, IA to Allen H. & Josephine W. Hayes Guenther. She retired from U.S. West Telephone Company with 27 years of service



GUENTHER

and was a member of Holy Family Parish and the U.S. West Pioneer's Club. She enjoyed golf, gardening, animals and going to the city swimming pool in the summers.

Harriette is survived by: her friends: Valerie Natoli of Fort Madison, IA & Mary Mercury of Marshalltown, IA; 1-sister: Alice Otte of Fort Madison, IA and her cat, Alley. She was preceded in death by her parents, 3-brothers & 3-sisters.

A visitation will be held from 3:00 to 4:00 p.m. on Sunday, May 8, 2022 at King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory. A rosary will be recited by Valerie at 4:00 p.m. immediately following the visitation at King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory. She will be cremated following the rosary and burial will be held at a later date at Gethsemane Cemetery. A memorial has been established for the School Sisters of Notre Dame. Online condolences to Harriette's family may be left at the King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory website: www.kinglynk.com.

MATTHEW P. MYETICH

Matthew P. Myetich, 64 years of Fort Madison, Iowa and formerly of San Francisco, California died Tuesday, May 3, 2022 at his home. He was born September 12, 1957 in San Francisco, California, a son of Fred and Frances (Slepnikoff) Myetich. He married Charles "Chuck" McDonough, they were together for 33 years. In California, Matt worked as a production manager. He was a faithful man, and felt close to God. He enjoyed boating, jet skiing, and camping. He had a love for animals.

Matt is survived by his husband, Chuck McDonough of Fort Madison; one brother Fred (Debbie) Myetich of Modesto, California, and one niece Kailyn. He was preceded in death by his parents.

No formal services are planned at this time. Barr Memorial Chapel is honored to serve his family and an online guest book may be found at www.barrmemorial-chapel.com.

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Tuesday, May 10
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Wednesday, May 11
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Thursday, May 12
Fried Chicken Dinners

Friday, May 13
Grilling on the Sidewalk

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Obituaries

OBITUARIES

SANDRA K. YOUNG

Sandra Kay Young, 76, of Donnellson, IA died Thursday, May 5, 2022 at the Southeast Iowa Regional Medical Center in Ft. Madison, IA.

She was born August 15, 1945 in Quincy, IL the daughter of Melvin Lester and Mary Magdelaine Morrison Sapp, Jr.



YOUNG

On May 16, 1986 Sandra was united in marriage to Robert Young in Keokuk. He preceded her in death on July 25, 2002.

Sandra had been employed by Sheller Globe in Keokuk.

Sandra was gifted in arts and crafts and made beautiful jewelry and baby quilts. She loved the outdoors and especially loved fishing. She enjoyed bowling and was on a team that won a trip to a bowling tournament in Washington, D.C. She also enjoyed traveling.

Sandra is survived by one son, Jesse Devericks of Warsaw, IL, one granddaughter, Aaron Q. Devericks of Warsaw, one brother, Troy Sapp of Denver, Il and one sister, Glenna Green of Warsaw, IL. She is also survived by nieces and nephews, Kelly Jones of Wenona, Il, Daniela Parrish of Warsaw, IL, Stacy Sapp of Granger, MO, Tammy Sapp of Luray, MO, and Dillon Sapp. Besides her husband, she was also preceded in death by her parents, one son, Melvin "Frankie" Devericks, two brothers, Melvin L. Sapp, Jr. and Steven Kent Sapp and one brother-in-law, Jim Green.

A memorial service will be held at 2 p.m., Wednesday at the Vigen Memorial Home in Keokuk. Burial will be in the Oakland Cemetery in Warsaw. Visitation will be held prior to the service from 1 pm - 2 pm at the funeral home with the family meeting with friends at that time.

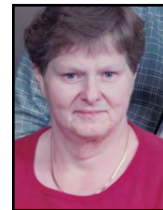
Online condolences may be sent to the family at www.vigenmemorialhome.com.

OBITUARIES

CARMEN M. POHLPETER

Carmen M. Pohlpetter, 78, of Fort Madison, IA, passed away on Wednesday, May 4, 2022 at 6:41 PM at The Madison.

She was born on November 28, 1943 in Ft. Madison to Raymond and Myrtle



POHLPETER

Miller Pohlpetter. Carman was a 1961 graduate of FMHS. She worked at Sheaffer Pen Company and retired after forty four years of service. Carmen was a member of Ss. Mary & Joseph Church, the Altar & Rosary Society and CLA. She was a charter member of Local UAW 1551 and was a very devoted Democrat for Lee County and the state of Iowa.

Survivors include two sisters, Connie Bunker and Peggy Pohlpetter both of Ft. Madison; one brother, Larry (Frances) Pohlpetter of Terrel, Ok; two sisters in law, Ann Pohlpetter of Ft. Madison and Glenda Pohlpter of Des Moines; several nieces and nephews and great nieces and nephews.

The funeral mass will be held on Monday, May 9, 2022 at 11 AM at Ss. Mary & Joseph Church with Rev. Joseph Phung officiating. The family will meet with friends from 10 AM until the time of the service at the church. Burial will follow in Sacred Heart Cemetery.

A memorial has been established for Ss. Mary & Joseph Church or the Alzheimer's Association and online condolences may be left at www.kinglynk.com.

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Sports

Hounds, Lady Hounds earn Southeast soccer titles

HOUNDS: FM boys go undefeated throughout Southeast Conference

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

BURLINGTON – Fort Madison’s boys soccer coach Kevin Wellman yelled across Bracewell Stadium’s soccer pitch Thursday evening to see if senior Phillip Goldie had a bloody nose, but it had nothing to do with a collision.

The midfielder had just knocked a header wide right of the goal that would have given the Bloodhounds a 3-1 lead over Burlington late in the second half in Burlington.

In spite of the miss, the Hounds won 2-1 and snagged a Southeast Conference championship for the second straight year.

But Goldie converted a header about eight minutes prior to that shot off a corner kick from senior Mitchell Pothitakis that broke a 1-1 tie. The Hounds were able to fend off some pressure from the Grayhounds in the final minutes to secure the title.

Wellman said the title isn’t the end of the team’s goals for the year.

“That’s not our goal. We want to go 10-0 in the conference and we’ll know if that happens on Monday,” Wellman said.

The Hounds take on Mt. Pleasant Monday to wrap up the conference season. They take on Class 3A No. 7 Iowa City Liberty Saturday at the Baxter Sports Complex.

Leif Boeding opened the scoring with 19:39 left in the first quarter. The ball came in from the right side on a throw in from Pothitakis that bounced through the scrum where Boeding was waiting on the other side. The ball got down to

See **BOYS**, page 5



Photos by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Fort Madison senior Philip Goldie goes high for a corner kick from Mitchell Pothitakis and scores on the header over Burlington’s Cayden Lowary (99) in the second half of the Bloodhounds’ 2-1 win. The goal ended up being the game-winner and helped Fort Madison clinch the Southeast Conference title for the second straight year.

LADY HOUNDS: Get first-ever share of Conference championship

BY JOHN
BOHNENKAMP
PCC SPORTS

FORT MADISON – Carrie Burken figured there was no sense trying to escape the dousing of cold water that was coming her way.

Burken’s Fort Madison girls soccer team had just played almost 100 minutes on the hottest day of the season, and the coach figured she could outrun her exhausted players.

But why fight the celebration?

“Honestly, in my mind I thought I could run away from them, and they couldn’t catch me, because they were so tired,” Burken said, smiling. “I just thought, I’ll stop and let them do it.”

“It did feel good.”

So it did.

The 4-3 win over Mount Pleasant on Monday night at the Baxter Sports Complex helped the Bloodhounds clinch at least a share of the Southeast Conference title for the first time in program history.

Natalie Randolph’s goal with 1:58 remaining in the second overtime was the game winner, the final goal on a day when the Bloodhounds had to fight back from a 2-0 first-half deficit and a 3-2 margin in the second half.

“It’s amazing to have the first conference championship for this team,” Randolph said. “It shows how far we’ve come.”

Teammates swarmed Randolph after the goal. Burken jumped high in the air, and began running to look for someone to join in her celebration.

“I was looking for someone to hug,” Burken said.

Then she turned to the few players standing around.

“I was looking for someone to hug!” Burken said, laughing.

It had been a long day.

Randolph had tied the match at 3 with 10:09 left in the second half with a breakaway goal from the left side. Neither team would score in the first overtime, and with time

See **GIRLS**, page 5

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Sports

Randolph, Snaadt lead FM girls to share of title

GIRLS - Continued from Page 4

running out in the second extra period it looked like the match might go to penalty kicks.

The Bloodhounds' last charge came down the right side. Teagan Snaadt's shot was knocked away by Mount Pleasant goalkeeper Evelyn Escobar, but Randolph punched the rebound into the net.

"I knew Teagan was amazing at crosses, and I always try to be on the back post whenever I can," Randolph said. "She had that great shot, and I was there for the rebound."

The fight for the Bloodhounds (10-2 overall, 9-1 conference) had been a long one. They were down 2-0 in the first six minutes after two Mount Pleasant goals in a 14-second span.

"We started to get down on ourselves," Randolph said. "But we knew there was so much time left on the clock. We had to come together, connect on passes, do everything we could."

"I was definitely concerned," Burken said. "I thought, this could go really bad, or we could get one goal and get momentum going. Fortunately, that's the way it went."

That first goal came from Snaadt, who punched in a shot from the right side with 19:34 left in the half.

Fort Madison tied the match 3 1/2 minutes into the second half on Alana Simpson's goal from the left side, but Mount Pleasant (7-5, 5-4) took the lead back 12 minutes later on a goal from Andrea Lopreato.

Randolph, though, was able to tie the match.

"Oh, huge," Burken said of the goal. "Huge, huge, huge."

"It was a momentum changer," Randolph said. "After that, we really started to connect."

It's that connection that brought the Bloodhounds their crown.

"I was thinking about this question yesterday, about if we won and what it would mean," Burken said. "It's been such a long journey."

"It's about working together, Holy Trinity and Fort Madison. It's about working together, toward a common goal. It shows how far we've come as a program. But it also shows the effort they've made to work together and to fight for one another. I think it means a lot for them, and for me it means a lot for what they are doing."

Snake-bitten Hounds roll through Conference

BOYS - Continued from Page 4

the Bracewell north end turf. Boeding fought it away from a couple Grayhound defenders and punched it past sophomore Cayden Lowary to the right for a 1-0 Fort Madison lead.

Burlington tied things up when forward Ivan Ortiz got a break away to the right side of Fort Madison keeper Reiburn Turnbull. Turnbull slid to the right to cut off the inside shot, but Ortiz shot the ball to the left corner passed a diving Turnbull to tie things up with 5:30 left in the first.

The Grayhounds had a shot to go up by a goal with a free kick at the 3:37 mark, but the shot went a bit high and Turnbull got a couple fingers on it to help it over the top of the goal.

Fort Madison then pushed the pace a bit out of the break and had a couple shots on goal by Henry Graham and Austin Miller. Ortiz blocked Graham's shot and Miller's shot went left all within the first two minutes.

But four minutes into the half, Pothitakis sent a corner kick high across the front of the goal and Goldie came flying in and headed the ball to the right past Lowary for what would end up being the game-winning goal.

Wellman said that's a play they put in recently to take advantage of the athleticism of Goldie and fellow midfielder Dayton Davis.

"We were playing short a lot on the corner kicks and trying to let Mitchell dribble in a bit, but we knew Phillip was a fantastic athlete," Wellman said. "He can get himself under the ball and get his head on it better than we thought. We tried it couple times a week ago and it was right there."

"Davis is right behind him and he can get up there as well, so it's nice to have those kinds of weapons."

One of the other weapons is senior forward Pothitakis who was a 2021 All-State Selection. Pothitakis is playing without juniors Xander Wellman and Jacob Pothitakis in his

peripherals and said things are a bit different now, but the goal is still the same.

"I feel a little bit of added pressure, but we've got some guys that fill the spots amazingly. (Will) Gager and me play unbelievable together. We just can connect well and he fills that spot great," Pothitakis said.

Pothitakis got a yellow card in the second half after going for a ball on a break away. He said he usually doesn't get nervous with the yellow, but this time he did because he didn't really know what it was for.

Two yellows equals a red and a red card mandates the player sit out the next game. Wellman took Pothitakis out for about five minutes of clock time and then the senior came back in to put help put the match away.

He said the Hounds just need to keep playing one game at a time.

"Just hard work is what we need. Just focus on the next game."

Wellman said the Hounds aren't reacting to the bad things happening even though they've been a bit snake-bitten all year.

The Hounds were without Xander Wellman for the first six games of the year due to getting a second red card last season in a substate loss to Pella. Turnbull got a red card out of the gate in this year's regular season opener with Class 1A defending state champion West Burlington-Notre Dame, which the Hounds dropped 4-0.

Five days later the Bloodhounds lost junior forward Jacob Pothitakis for the year to a leg injury. Two weeks later the Hounds lost Wellman, a 2021 All-State Honorable mention recipient, for the season with an ACL tear.

"We don't need to react to something bad happening or anything that could go wrong, we just need to respond with the right response," Kevin Wellman said.



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Opinion/From the Front

County to fill vacant board spot by appointment

SUPERVISORS - Continued from Page 1

County Treasurer shall decide if the vacancy will be filled by appointment or by special election.

“At this time, it is the intention of the Committee to fill the vacancy by appointment. A petition for a special election equal in number to at least 10% of the votes cast for President at the last General Election, divided by the number of Supervisor Districts, can be filed with the Auditor within 14 days after this notice is published or within 14 days of the appointment, whichever is later. The number needed for the petition is 335,” Fraise indicated in the email.

“He’s going to be missed,” said Board Chairman Matt Pflug. “This was going to be his last term but he was very valuable to the board.”

Persons interested in this seat would serve until the results of the November 8, 2022 election are certified, unless an intervening special election were to be held before that date.

Max Mendenhall of Fort Madison was the only District 3 resident to file papers to run for the District 3 seat.

Interested parties should prepare a letter of interest and brief bio and submit to the Auditor at 933 Avenue H, Fort Madison or dfraise@leecounty.org. The deadline for submittal is no later than 4:30 P.M. on Tuesday, May 31, 2022, in order to be considered for the vacancy.

Please contact County Auditor Denise Fraise at (319) 372-3705 if you have any questions.

Recent news has been hip-deep in irony

Irony has been so deep in recent days that we shouldn’t be surprised if people start walking around with their chore boots on or with the cuffs on their pants rolled up to avoid the mess.

Consider:

U.S. Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas made an observation Friday that caused some people’s eyes to bug in disbelief.

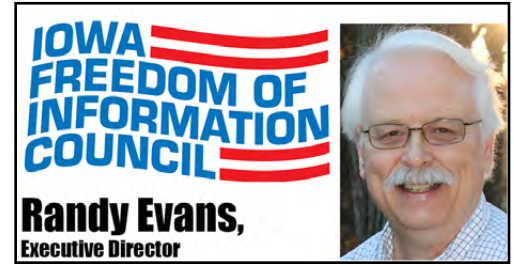
Speaking in Atlanta to a group of judges and lawyers, he said of American society these days, “We are becoming addicted to wanting particular outcomes, not living with the outcomes we don’t like.”

There certainly are plenty of examples of that, both among Democrats and among Republicans. But Thomas failed to acknowledge any connection between his statement and the actions of his wife, Ginni, in the weeks leading up to the inauguration of President Joe Biden on Jan. 20, 2021.

Ginni Thomas exchanged 29 “stop the steal” text messages with Mark Meadows, President Donald Trump’s White House chief of staff, before the Jan. 6, 2021 riot at the U.S. Capitol. She urged Meadows to find a way to keep Trump in office and not allow the electoral votes to be certified by the U.S. House on Jan. 6.

She said there was “obvious fraud” in the 2020 presidential election and Meadows needed to “save us from the left taking America down.”

Contrary to what Ginni Thomas, the former president himself and many of his supporters insist, investigations by federal and state government officials and



judges’ decisions in dozens of lawsuits have produced no evidence bearing

out those claims.

It’s almost as if those Trump supporters have been wanting a particular outcome and have not been living with the outcome they do not like.

During his speech in Atlanta, the justice said “it bodes ill for a free society” that people are trying to bully the Supreme Court into “giving you just the outcomes you want.”

He did not make clear what bullying he was referring to. Thomas did not say whether the bullying was demonstrations in support of women’s right to abortion or whether the bullying was someone at the court leaking a preliminary version of an unfinished decision that would overturn legal precedents allowing abortions under most circumstances.

Thomas referred only to the “unfortunate events” during the week — and did not make any reference to the controversy that has surrounded his wife’s “stop the steal” activism.

That wasn’t the only dose of irony in last week’s news.

Gov. Kim Reynolds met privately in Marion with several dozen parents and grandparents who are angry

See EVANS, page 10

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Opinion

Bachin' it for about a week turned up some neat ideas

It's been an interesting past several days.

The wife went to Nawlins with the daughter for about six days for a jazz festival.

In that time I've written a bunch of things, filled out some grants and actually put some thoughts together for a book that I'm tinkering with.

I've always thought that I could write a book, but that would require dedication, time and a full mental lockdown.

I've never had that kind of conviction really. To just lock it all down, seclude myself, drink tea and eat turkey and cheese sandwiches until the damned thing was done.

I'm not sure that's really what it takes anymore. Actually, I'm not sure you can even just write a book anymore. Most books now are self-published and most publishers don't take solicitations. If you don't know them, or more importantly they don't know you, they just ain't buyin'.

But that shouldn't stop anyone who has the creativity and ambition to try and capture the imagination of a reader for a week or so.

I've never really gotten down to picking fiction or non-fiction. I think I could do both. My life experiences have led me to places that I think could right non-fiction about growing up with three brothers in a trailer on a single mom's salary. Getting some help every now and then from a grandmother, or great-grandmother didn't hurt either.

Seeing the world from the side of the working poor keeps one humble. It makes you appreciate every single extra you get. And it scares the living hell out of you to think it could happen all over again in the blink of an eye.

Just a blink of an eye.

I work two jobs now and take nothing for granted. It's part distraction, part greed, part friendship and



part love. The love is for my wife and her ambitions, the friendships come from the want to help others get funding to make their jobs more impactful and maybe just a bit easier.

The distraction is obvious to anyone who follows these ramblings, and the greed is just a really solid health insurance plan, extra money to replenish savings that were somewhat diminished as we built a business, and some extra tax cushions.

But when we realize how fragile life is and how quickly things can change, the idea of writing a book comes with more of a sense of urgency. And that can be a bad thing because most average writers can't write in a rush.

Sometimes the words flow, but most of the time they don't. And you have to pull them from the gray matter like a tick stuck in the thick of your hair right behind the ear.

The book isn't an ambition of wealth. It's about legacy. I want to leave this world with something great for a 20-year-old girl who already left this world. That's nuts right? I mean I believe at this point in my life I have to be partly, if not more, crazy.

So on the way back from dropping Lee off at St. Louis Lambert International Airport in the Southwest terminal Tuesday, I started dictating ideas into my phone's voice recorder. Before I knew it I was about 40 miles

from Keokuk.

I think I started doing it as a skeleton for the book. Kind of just organizing my thoughts, but it was so comfortable and random that it might be easier to just write everything I said in the dictation. That's funny... if you think about it, that's kinda funny.

Anyway, who knows. I work about 85 hours a week in both jobs so I've got time to write a book. But you get ahead a couple days a week, partition some time off on an early Sunday morning before the wife gets up and pretty soon you got a couple chapters and you're off and running.

I think I want to write something to help parents who've lost children. Maybe I don't know jack about that. I know that every single situation is different and my telling people how to deal with the death of a child is no different that how angry I would get when therapists would try to tell me things to do to make life easier for me.

But I think by telling my story, maybe it paves the way not for the parents who've lost children before me, although that may be worth the read. I think it would be more to help those who are going to face this darkness in the future.

Either way it may or may not come to fruition. It just depends on how life comes at me over the next year or so. And we know what a crap-shoot that is.

Speaking of the Southwest terminal, ATTENTION if you have a white four-door Ford with Lee County plates, you've left your lights on. But that's Beside the Point.

Chuck Vandenberg is editor and co-owner of Pen City Current. He can be reached at editor@pencitycurrent.com.

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Opinion

Reynolds has had time to rectify Iowa's education status

EVANS - Continued from Page 6

and worried about a new policy in the Linn-Mar School District that school officials said is intended to protect transgender students. The new policies — applying to students in grades 7 through 12 — were adopted by the school board on a 5-2 vote last month.

School officials said the policies were written to comply with the requirements of state and federal civil rights laws and with the Iowa Department of Education's guidance on ensuring equity for transgender students.

The policies lay out how school officials will treat students who have identified themselves as transitioning from one gender identity to another. The practices include allowing "trans" students to use restrooms and locker rooms that correspond with their gender identity, instead of their gender at birth.

After the meeting in Marion, the governor put in a plug for her private-school voucher proposal that would provide up to 10,000 public school students with annual taxpayer scholarships of about \$5,500 so they can pay for

tuition to attend a private K-12 school.

Reynolds' scholarship proposal has run into an embarrassing roadblock in the Iowa House. Opposition from more than a dozen Republicans, primarily from rural districts, has prevented passage of the proposal and has delayed indefinitely adjournment of the Legislature for the year. Reynolds said parents she met with are troubled by Linn-Mar's new policy. "It was a great opportunity for me to hear from parents how frustrated they are with not being able to educate their children in an environment that they felt their child could thrive," she told reporters. Of course, there are other parents, including those with transgender kids, who are concerned about their children's education, safety and ability to thrive and who are frustrated by the governor's refusal to meet with them about transgender issues. That wasn't the only serving of irony from the governor.

Her staff passed out a flyer that included this statement: "Fact: For nearly 20 years, math and reading scores for Iowa students have been decreasing."

Unmentioned in the leaflet was another fact: For 12 of those 20 years, Reynolds has been either lieutenant

governor or governor. And since 2017, Republicans have controlled both the Iowa House and Iowa Senate.

If you are unable to remember any of Reynolds' policy initiatives to improve students' math and reading skills, you are not alone. That is especially noteworthy, given that Republican control of the Legislature put the governor in a good position to enact plans she favored to address the declining academic performance by Iowa students.

The flyer makes the puzzling claim that diverting about \$55 million from public school districts and using the money for private-school scholarships will have a positive effect on public school districts.

Reynolds' flyer also includes details of what she calls a parents' bill of rights. It would require public school districts to allow parents to be heard on issues affecting their students — although the governor feels no such duty to hear from parents who support their local school districts.

Such irony;

Randy Evans can be reached at DMRevs2810@gmail.com.



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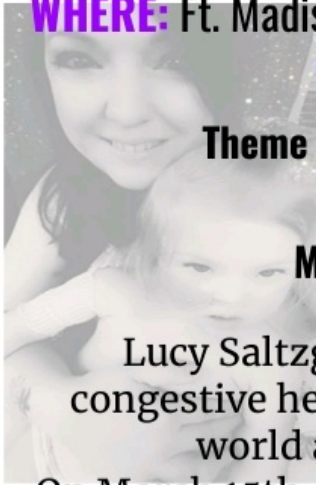
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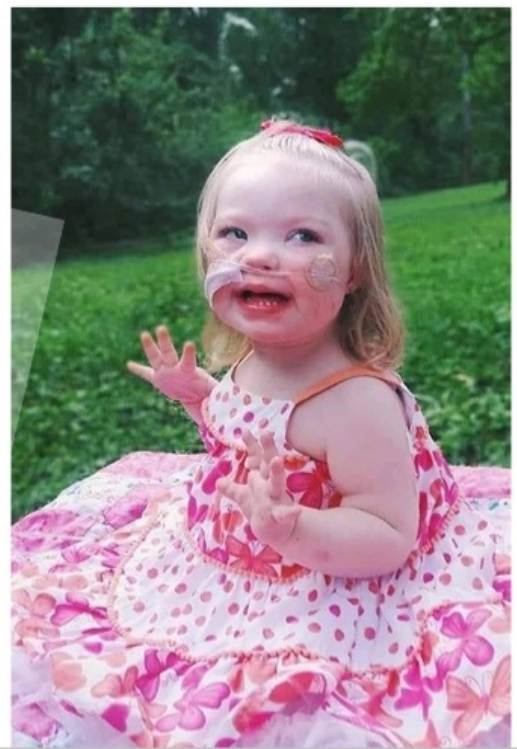
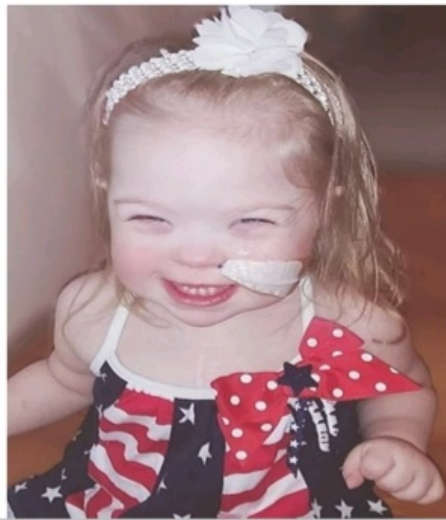
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