

PEN CITY CURRENT

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

Wednesday, July 1, 2020 | 7 pages | Volume 4 • Issue 130



www.pencitycurrent.com

Free lunch for 1st responders

JULY 16: Retired FM resident wants to hold monthly lunch for emergency crews

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – Who said there's no such thing as a free lunch.

John Bird, of Fort Madison, doesn't think first responders locally or nationally get enough recognition. So he's gonna fire up the grill for them in November, a move he hopes catches on and becomes a monthly event.

Bird, a retired auto parts salesman at AutoZone in Fort Madison, and a part-time auto repairman, said he just wants them all to know how much they are appreciated.

"I don't think they get thanked enough and I thought it would be nice to do something like this for them," Bird said Tuesday. "I came up with the idea with all the bad publicity everybody has been getting lately."

Bird said every community should do something like this across the nation to show their support.

Firefighters, police officers, sheriff's deputies, EMTs, hospital staff and any other emergency personnel in the county are welcome to his home at 1918 Avenue N on July 16 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Bird said flyers are being handed out around the commu-

See **LUNCH**, page 3

CONVICTION

Niota man gets 45 years for sex crime

BY PCC STAFF

CARTHAGE – Hancock County Sheriff Scott Bentzinger reported last week the conviction and sentencing of Robert L. Dowell, age 43, of Niota.

Dowell plead guilty on Tuesday to one count of Predatory Criminal Sexual Assault of a Child, a Class X Felony. Dowell was sentenced to forty-five years in the Illinois Department of Corrections with a mandatory service of just more than 38 years.

In September of 2019, an investigation was conducted by the Hancock County Sheriff's Office in cooperation with the Lee County, IA Sheriff's Office, and Des Moines County, IA Sheriff's Office which resulted in charges filed against Dowell in both Iowa and Illinois. Hancock County State's Attorney Rachel Mast prosecuted the case in Illinois.

Dowell is currently serving a sentence in the Iowa Department of Corrections in relation to this same investigation.

LEE COUNTY

Task Force nets three in county on drug charges

LEE COUNTY – The Lee County Narcotics Task Force reports the arrest of a Fort Madison man on Felony and Misdemeanor charges.

Timothy Smith, 43, of Fort Madison, Iowa was arrested on June 24th, 2020 following an interaction near the intersection of 28th St. / Ave. O in Fort Madison, Iowa. Smith was picked up for his outstanding warrants for Violation of Parole, Interference with Official Acts, Driving under Suspension and Open Container. Smith was additionally charged with Possession of Methamphetamine a Class

See **METH**, page 3



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg

Rescue workers use the Jaws of Life to try to extricate a motorist from a PT Cruiser Tuesday afternoon at the scene of a two-vehicle accident near the Lee County Sheriff's Office at the intersection of Hwy. 61 and 255th Street. Two people were transported to the hospital as a result of the crash.

ELECTION

General election absentee requests start July 6

LEE COUNTY - The Lee County Auditor's Office will begin receiving absentee ballot request forms for the November 3rd General Election on Monday, July 6th. Voters may obtain a request form from the Iowa Secretary of State's website <https://sos.iowa.gov> or by calling the Auditor's Office at 319-

372-3705 or email dfraise@leecounty.org. All fields must be completed.

Please remember to include a phone number or email address in the event we need to contact you. If you check the box that says "Do not add this contact info to my voter record", that information will not be added. Re-

quests can be mailed to PO Box 190 Fort Madison IA 52627 or dropped into one of the Election drop boxes. In Fort Madison, the drop box is behind the County Building at 933 Avenue H. In Keokuk the drop box is located by the curb on the Blondeau Street side of the Courthouse.

INDEX

Business Directory.....P.6
CELEBRATIONS.....P.2
• Faythe Danielle Marie Harrison
• Lucas Wane Peterschmidt
• Addalynn Carol Walz
CLASSIFIEDS.....Ps.6-7
Edward Jones – Tony Fullenkamp.....P.3
FOR THE RECORD.....P.3

Fort Madison Family YMCA.....P.3
FROM THE FRONT.....P.3
Fullenkamp Insurance.....P.2
Great River Regional Waste Authority.....P.5
JDRF.org.....P.4=
LEE COUNTY NEWS.....P.3
LOCAL NEWS.....Ps.2-3
Pen City Current.....Ps.4,6-7

Pothitakis Dentistry.....P.4
Rashid Pharmacy & Wellness.....P.2
Scotts Miracle-Gro Company.....P.7
Sonny's Super Market.....P.3
SPORTS.....Ps.4-5
StopTextsStopWrecks.org.....P.6
Tony Wolfe Insurance Services.....P.4

WEATHER

WED 01 Jul.....Light Rain, 81.4° F / 72.6° F
THU 02 Jul.....Light Rain, 83.1° F / 67.8° F
FRI 03 Jul.....Light Rain, 82.4° F / 68.1° F

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Celebrations/Local News

Canine Corral opens at Rodeo Park



Courtesy photo

DOG PARK: Donations still needed to finish up poochie park

FORT MADISON – Fort Madison officials and volunteers held a ribbon cutting at the new Canine Corral located in Rodeo Park on Saturday morning.

Members of the Canine Corral Fundraising Committee and members of the Fort Madison Park and Recreation Board and Fort Madison City Council were on hand to open the new dog park in Fort Madison.

According to committee chairperson Donna Amandus, a generous donor as well as P.A.W. animal shelter donated 18 baby pools for the dogs to frolick and cool off in. The day was complete with

several dog related vendors at the event and around 50 area pooches and their owners enjoying the park.

Amandus said the Canine Corral Fundraising Committee is seeking donations from the public and private sector with a \$50,000 goal in order to pour ADA accessible walkways that will circle both the large and the small dog sides of the park.

“We also want to get benches, shade trees and a few other amenities to make this great new addition to our community accessible and fun for everyone,” she said.

Celebrations

HARRISON

KEOKUK – Taylor Harrison, of Keokuk, is proud to announce the birth of her daughter, Faythe Danielle Marie Harrison, on June 19, 2020 at Fort Madison Community Hospital.

Grandparents are Allen Harrison of Keokuk; and Sheila Campbell of Keokuk.

Pen City Current congratulates the family on this wonderful news.

WALZ

FORT MADISON – Shelby and Christopher Walz, of Fort Madison, are proud to announce the birth of their daughter, Addalynn Carol Walz, on June 18, 2020 at Fort Madison Community Hospital.

Addalynn is joined at home by Kymberlee, Isabella, Lillianna and Alexa.

Grandparents are Kim Ransdell of Fort Madison; Gene Schuelka (deceased) of Keokuk; Debi Cox of Fort Madison; and Torin Walz of Burlington.

Pen City Current congratulates the family on this wonderful news.

PETERSCHMIDT

FORT MADISON – Amber and Brian Peterschmidt, of Fort Madison are proud to announce the birth of their son, Lucas Wane Peterschmidt on June 16, 2020 at Fort Madison Community Hospital.

Lucas is joined at home by Ashton and Hannah.

Grandparents are Michael and Paula Paul of Burlington, Carol Hotop of Fort Madison, and Ted Peterschmidt (deceased) of Fort Madison

Pen City Current congratulates the family on this wonderful news.

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For the Record/From the Front

Donations coming in for 1st responder meal

LUNCH - Continued from Page 1

nity and donations have come in to help offset some of the costs for the food. Others have offered to bring pies, cookies and desserts for the invited guests.

"We've received about \$140 to buy food for the event and we're putting in some of our money as well," Bird said.

"We're getting cookies and things from people who want to donate to the lunch. I'm hoping it takes off this month. Right now it's a one-time deal, but if it works out, we'll try to do it every month."

Any first responder, on shift or off, can stop by the yard and grab a sandwich for lunch, Bird said.

"They are all invited."

Funds for lunch, and potential lunches going forward, are coming in from donations that have been mailed in from residents outside the community or offerings from people in Fort Madison.

"People that used to live here that have moved away, they're the ones that send some of the finances to do this and it's greatly appreciated," he said.

The menu includes hamburgers and cheeseburgers, chips, and desserts and a beverage.

"We just wanted to do something quick and easy to see how it goes the first month," Bird said.

"I'm retired, and a little bored."

Two Keokuk residents, one FM man nabbed by task force

METH - Continued from Page 1

D Felony and Possession of Drug Paraphernalia a Simple Misdemeanor.

The arrest of Smith stems from active patrol conducted by the Fort Madison Police Department. The Lee County Narcotics Task Force were contacted to further the investigation.

The Fort Madison Police Department, and The Lee County Attorney's Office, assisted the Lee County Narcotics Task Force in this investigation.

In an unrelated arrest, Boyd Sutton, 38, of Keokuk, Iowa was arrested on June 26th, 2020 following a search warrant on his residence at 803 Bank St. in Keokuk, Iowa. Sutton was picked up on his outstanding warrant for Failure to Appear on a Driving While Barred charge.

Sutton was additionally charged with 2 counts of Delivery of Methamphetamine less than 5 grams, each a Class C Felony; Possession with Intent to Deliver Schedule IV Drugs an Aggravated Misdemeanor, Maintaining a Drug House an Aggravated Misdemeanor and Possession of Drug Paraphernalia a Simple Misdemeanor.

Jessica Clark, 39, of Keokuk, Iowa was arrested on June 29th, 2020 following a search warrant on her residence, also at 803 Bank St. in Keokuk. Clark was charged with Possession of Marijuana a Serious Misdemeanor,

and Possession of Drug Paraphernalia a Simple Misdemeanor.

The arrest of Sutton and Clark stems from an ongoing investigation conducted by the Lee County Narcotics Task Force where drugs were being sold out of their home.

The defendants are presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.

The Lee County Narcotics Task Force is funded in part by the U.S. Department of Justice and the funds administered by the Iowa Governor's Office of Drug Control Policy.

For the Record

Fort Madison Police Report

06/29/20 - 12:30 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a burglary in the 2400 block of Avenue G.

06/29/20 - 4:04 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 1800 block of Avenue H.

06/29/20 - 4:23 p.m. - Fort Madison Police cited and released Amber Nicole Snyder, 29, of Fort Madison in the 1800 block of Avenue H, on a charge of 5th degree theft.

06/29/20 - 8:04 p.m. - Fort Madison Police cited and released Keith James Boone, 38, of Fort Madison in the 1400 block of Avenue L, on a charge of disorderly conduct.

06/29/20 - 7:52 p.m. - Fort Madison Police cited and released Brett Eric Swyter, 55, of Fort Madison in the 4700 block of Avenue L, on a charge of driving under suspension.

06/29/20 - 10:20 p.m. - Fort Madison Police cited and released Christopher Allen Seitz, 42, of Fort Madison in the 1300 block of 18th Street, on a war-

rant for 5th degree theft. 06/30/20 - 12:39 a.m. - Fort Madison Police cited and released Gene Allen Green, Jr., 59, of Fort Madison, in the 2100 block of Avenue L, on a charge of driving under suspension.

06/30/20 - 6:16 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a hit and run in the 400 block of 17th Street.

Lee County Sheriff's Report

06/29/20 - 12:00 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Elizabeth Diane Mortimer, 28, of Keokuk, at the sheriff's office on a charge of being a fugitive from justice.

She was taken to the Lee County Jail and held. 06/29/20 - 12:00 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Simarius Dayana Jefferson, 23, of Fort Madison, at the sheriff's office on a warrant for probation violation. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.

06/29/20 - 12:03 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Keaton Ray Sattler, 22, of Burlington, at the sheriff's office on a charge a warrant for OWI. He was

taken to the Lee County Jail and released on bond. 06/29/20 - 5:17 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Johnathon David Frymoyer, 21, of Ottumwa, at the sheriff's office on warrants for driving while barred and failure to appear. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held. 06/29/20 - 5:50 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Reginal Lamar Brown, 21, of Keokuk, at the sheriff's office on warrants for 3rd-degree criminal mischief, assault and disorderly conduct. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held. 06/29/20 - 10:15 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies cited and released Brandy Trask, 29, of Festus, Mo., on a charge of possession of a controlled substance and possession of drug paraphernalia. *Those listed above are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.*

Fort Madison Fire & Rescue Report

06/29/20 - Fort Madison firefighters responded to six medical calls.

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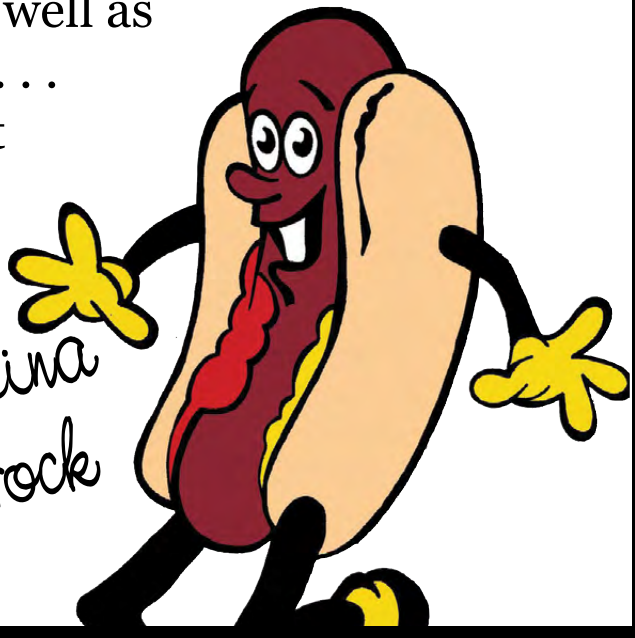
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Sports

FMHS BASEBALL

Hounds stay atop loop with wins at Fairfield

BY PCC STAFF

FAIRFIELD – After a calibration of sorts at Central Lee on Friday afternoon, the Fort Madison boys baseball team rebounded with a sweep of Fairfield on the road Monday night.

The Hounds were shut out 10-0 by the Hawks on Friday, but used five runs in the final two innings in a 7-0 win in the first game, and then overcame a 3-0 deficit to win the nightcap 8-5 Monday over the Trojans.

In the opener Kane Williams went five innings without giving up a run, while striking out two on four hits and a walk. Landes Williams came on in the sixth in relief and gave up three walks in five at bats before giving way to Jason Thurman who buttoned things up for the Hounds.

Fort Madison opened the scoring with two outs and two one. Reiburn Turnbull hit a hard smash to third to plate Landes Williams. Turnbull was safe on the play and would steal second on the second pitch to Tate Johnson. Thurman who singled earlier in the inning, would slide in safely on a 2-2 wild pitch to Johnson, who fanned to end the inning with the Hounds 2-0.

Williams would give up just three hits through the fourth inning, with Fort Madison still up 2-0, but the Hounds would add some insurance runs in the sixth.

Thurman would drive an 0-1 pitch into center for a single and Brandon Reichelt would walk. With Matthew Steffensmeier pinch running for Reichelt, Vasin Thurman would fly to center with both runners holding for the first out.

Turnbull would then hit a two-run single to right for a 4-0 Hound lead. Turnbull would steal second and move to third on Kane Williams' single to right. Jace Burgher

would follow up with infield single to third scoring Turnbull, before Garrett Hannum grounded out to the pitcher to end the inning.

The Trojans loaded the bases in the bottom of the sixth with two outs, but Head Coach Ron Walker would bring in Jason Thurman who got Fairfield's Max Weaton to ground into 6-4 fielder's choice to end the threat.

Turnbull would get another RBI single with two outs in the seventh scoring Reichelt to set the final at 7-0.

Thurman found a little trouble in the 7th with two on and one out, but got Matthew Swanson and Carter Ferrel both to fly out to end the game.

In the second game, Matt Hopper went 4 2/3 giving up five runs all earned on nine hits and three walks, while striking out one. Jason Thurman again came in to clean things up going 2 1/3 striking out four on two hits.

Vasin Thurman led Fort Madison at the plate going 3-4 with a double and 2 RBI and a run scored. Johnson, Jason Thurman and Burgher all had multiple hit games for the Hounds.

Down 3-0 to start the third inning, Landes Williams would walk to lead things off followed by a Jason Thurman single to left. Reichelt then flew out to enter moving Williams to third. Vasin Thurman then doubled on a line drive to right scoring Williams.

Turnbull would pop out to short for the second out, but Johnson would single to left bringing in Jason Thurman and moving Vasin Thurman to third. Johnson would take off on a pick off move and get thrown out a second to end the inning 3-2 Fairfield.

The Trojans would tack on a run in the fourth when Weaton singled to score Nate Smithburg with two outs. Weaton would then get caught stealing to end that inning.

The Hounds would take the lead in the fourth. With Kane Williams and Burgher on, Hannum moved both runners up with a sacrifice bunt for the first out. Landes Williams would drive in Kane Williams with a grounder to second for the second out. Jason Thurman would then

drive a ball into right that was misplayed allowing Burgher to score to tie the game at 4.

With Thurman standing on 2nd due to the error, Vasin Thurman hit an RBI single to left for a 5-4 Fort Madison lead. Turnbull would fly out to center for the third out.

Hopper would hold things in check in the fourth and the Hounds would add a run in the fifth when Landes Williams grounded into a fielder's choice scoring Tate Johnson.

Fairfield closed the gap to 6-5 in the fifth when a Weaton grounder scored Elan Ledger. Hopper would walk the next hitter with two outs to put two runners on, and Walker again turned to Thurman who got the Trojan's Josh Brewington to fan to retire the side.

An error by Brewington in the top of the sixth plated another Hound runner for a 7-5 lead. Thurman would retire the side in order in the bottom half.

In the top of the seventh Burgher walked and was moved over on a Hannum bunt. Landes Williams struck out looking for the second out. Jason Thurman would work a walk before Burgher took off for third on 2-1 offering to Reichelt. A throwing error from Smithburg from the plate allowed Burgher to score to final run at 8-5.

Thurman would give up a single and a double to start the bottom of the seventh, but would get the next two Trojans to strike out, and a lineout to third ended the game.

Fort Madison is now 8-2 overall and 6-0 in the Southeast Conference, a full two games in front. They host Davis County in a jv/varsity stint tonight with the jayvee on at 5:30 and the varsity set for 7 p.m. Fort Madison then hosts Mt. Pleasant in a 5:30 doubleheader on Thursday.

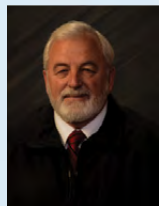
HITTING: Game 1 – Thurman 3-4, 3 runs; Turnbull 3-4, 4 RBI, 1 run; L. Williams 1-3, 1 run; K. Williams 1-3; Burgher 1-3, 1 RBI; Hannum 0-3; Reichelt 0-3, 1 run; Johnson 0-3; V. Thurman 0-4. Game 2 – Hannum 1-2; L. Williams 1-4, 2 RBI, 1 run; K. Williams 1-4, 1 run; Reichelt 1-5; Burgher 2-3, 2 runs; J. Thurman 2-4 2 runs; Johnson 2-4 1 RBI, 1 run; Turnbull 0-4; V. Thurman 3-4, 2 RBI, 1 run. PITCHING: Game 1 – K. Williams 5 IP, 0 runs, 4 hits, 2K, 1BB; L. Williams 2/3 IP, 0 runs, 0 hits, 1K, 3BB; J. Thurman 1 1/3 IP, 0 runs, 2 hits. Game 2 – Hopper 4 2/3 IP, 5 runs all earned, 9 hits, 1K, 3BB; J. Thurman 2 1/3 IP, 0 runs, 2 hits, 4K, 0BB.

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Sports

Central Lee girls fall below .500 for first time this season

BY PCC STAFF

CENTERVILLE – The Central Lee softball team is under .500 for the first time this year after losing a 5-4, 6-1 doubleheader to Centerville on Monday.

A two-out single in the fourth inning turned out to be the difference in game 1.

Alyssa McElvain led off the inning with ground-er into left. Lady Hawks hurler Sophie Turner got the next two Big Reds to fly out. But a Kiera Klum single and walk to Breckyn Carney loaded the bases.

Elizabeth Zintz then singled a 1-2 pitch into left field scoring two for a 4-3 lead, which would hold out through the game for Centerville.

The Lady Hawks jumped out to quick 3-0 lead in the bottom of the first when Eschman led off with a double off McElvain. Central Lee would play a little small ball and move Eschman over with a sacrifice bunt sending Eschman to third. Daly Brisby would strike out for the second out.

Shanna Buford would

then work a walk to put runners at the corners. Macy Watkins would drive in both runners with a single to right field. She would advance to second on a throw home trying to get Buford. Megan Hopp would then hit a liner back up the middle off McElvain in the circle to score Watkins. Turner would then single to right, but Hopp would get gunned down trying to get all the way to third on the play to end the inning.

Turner would give up on hit in the first two in-

nings, holding Centerville scoreless. But in the third the Reds' Claire Mathews would drill a two-run homer off Turner's 1-1 offering over the left field fence to make it 3-2 Central Lee after three.

The Hawks would go 1-2-3 in the top of the fourth before Centerville took the lead in the fourth, and both pitchers would hold things in check the rest of the way.

Central Lee would get a single from Buford in the top of the sixth but that's all the offense they would get the rest of the way.

In the second game, Hopp and Mathews had battled to a 2-0 Centerville lead after four innings.

Taylor Shinn had an RBI single to center for the Red to score a run with one out in the first inning, before Hopp settled in to get a strike out and ground out to end the inning.

In the 7th, the Lady Hawks made some noise when Buford singled to lead off the inning. Buford would get called out stealing second and Watkins would line out for the second out, but Hopp and

Woodley would hit back-to-back singles to load the bases. Benner would then pop out to short to end the game.

Central Lee falls to 5-6 overall (3-2 in the conference) and travels to Bloomfield Thursday for a doubleheader starting at 5:30 p.m. HITTING: Game 1 – Arrowood 0-3, Eschman 1-3, 1 2B, 1 run; Morrison 0-3, Watkins 1-3, 2RBI, 1 run; Hopp 1-3, 1RBI; Brisby 0-3; Buford 1-2, 1 run; Benner 0-3; Turner 1-3. Game 2 – Arrowood 1-3; Woodley 1-3; Eschman 0-2; Morrison 0-1, Watkins 0-3, Hopp 3-3, 1 run; Simmons 0-2, Brisby 0-3, Buford 1-3, Benner 0-3, 1 RBI. PITCHING – Game 1 – Turner 6 IP, 4 runs – 4 earned, 7 hits, 4Ks 1BB. Game 2 – Hopp 6 IP, 6 runs – 6 earned, 11 hits, 4Ks, 1BB.

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HELP WANTED

REGISTERED NURSE

Lee County Health Department is seeking a full-time Registered Nurse to work in homecare and hospice programs. Two years of previous nursing experience preferred. Current physical assessment, strong problem solving and high-tech nursing skills are required. Duties include: home visits, case management in hospice and homecare, and community health programs in LCHD's service area. Regular work hours are 8am-4:30pm Monday-Friday with assigned on-call rotation every 3rd to 4th weekend and assigned evenings during the month. LCHD offers a team oriented work environment with competitive wages and excellent benefits. Please send resumes to Tammy Wilson at wilson@leecountyhd.org or to LCHD, PO Box 1426, Fort Madison, IA 52627 by July 3, 2020. LCHD is an EOE.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Lee County Iowa Sheriff's Office Law Enforcement Testing
Saturday, July 11, 2020
9 AM – 12 PM
Lee County Iowa Sheriff's Office
2530 255th Street,
Montrose, Iowa 52639

Applications are available at the Lee County Sheriff's office or on the Lee County website at <https://www.lee-county.org/announcements.htm>

Application to test must be returned to the Lee County Sheriff's office by Thursday, July 2, 2020 at 3:30 PM.

Lee County Sheriff's Office
 C/O Detective Sgt. Clint Wray
 2530 255th Street
 Montrose, IA 52639
 (319) 372-1152



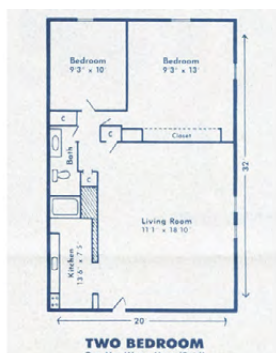
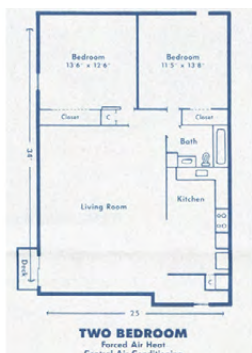
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