

PEN CITY CURRENT

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

Wednesday, September 30, 2020 | 12 pages | Volume 4 • Issue 178



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Millard named STEM co-chair

LCEDG: Millard will have bigger role in STEM planning, funding for SE Iowa

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

LEE COUNTY – A member of the Lee County Economic Development Group was named a co-chair of the Southeast Iowa STEM Region Advisory Board last week.

Dana Millard, who has served on the STEM board of the past six years was picked by her peers on the board to server with Le Claire's Daniel D'Allesandro for the next year.

Millard has also served on the statewide STEM Communications Advisory Committee for the past three years. She has worked to connect educators and industry to provide opportunities to youth and inform them about the STEM careers



MILLARD

available in Iowa.

"I see this year as a year of STEM innovation, where we cannot do things like we've always done, so as a state we have to try new things to help bolster STEM Education and connect what we're doing in the classroom to local careers," Millard said Monday,

"One of my goals is to increase computer science opportunities for our students and tie it back to careers in robotics, data analytics, PLC programing and the Internet of things. There's more to computer science than

See STEM, page 5

ELECTION 2020



Kurtz, Graber poke at politics in House race

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

LEE COUNTY – With absentee ballots starting to go out Monday, local candidates on the ballots are honing their message and trying to reach voters in a still-restricted COVID-19 world.

Fort Madison Republican Martin Graber is a first-time candidate for office and will take on incumbent Jeff Kurtz, a Democrat from Fort Madison, for the Iowa 83rd District State Representative seat.

Kurtz won the seat two years ago with a win over Jeff Reichman. Reichman is challenging Rich Taylor for the state's 42nd District Senate seat on this year's ballot.

Graber has more than 30 years of service, including command service, with the Iowa National Guard and was deployed to Germany during Desert Storm. He held command ranks with the 224th Engineer battalion and at Camp Dodge, to name a few, and attended War College.

In his career life Graber's been involved in industrial work, labor, human relations and financial advisement.

In contrast Kurtz spent the majority of his career in the railroad industry as a locomotive engineer and was a voice for the rail workers union in Des Moines.

Kurtz has been serving in the minority in a 53-47 House makeup and said things have been very difficult, but not impossible working

See ELECTION, page 4



GRABER



KURTZ

Marine fights war with COVID-19

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

DONNELLSON – Jerry Krogmeier is a 71-year-old Marine who just fought the toughest battle of his life. Fortunately for him, he doesn't remember much about it.

From April 10 through the beginning of June, Krogmeier was at the Veteran's Administration hospital with COVID-19. At one point he was given less than a 20% chance of survival.

Kim Krogmeier, Jerry's wife of the past 45 years, said that was a punch she wasn't ready for, and wanted to share Jerry's story with others so they didn't take the virus lightly.

Many who get infected from the novel



Courtesy photo

Jerry Krogmeier, 71, of Donnellson, gives a thumbs up for a photo at the one visit his wife Kim had during his five month battle with COVID-19. Krogmeier returned home on Friday.

coronavirus and develop COVID-19 experience what can safely be described as a very weak cold. Some only experience a loss of taste or smell and then go back to life after a few weeks. Some have no symptoms at all.

Jerry found the other side of that battle.

"After two days I was told they had to put him on a ventilator and I should

See KROGMEIER, page 11

CORONAVIRUS

State reduces quarantine protocols Tuesday

DES MOINES – The Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) is making a change on quarantine recommendations for people that have been exposed to a positive case of COVID-19. This applies in non-healthcare, non-residential settings only. This includes businesses, education and child care settings.

Close contacts of COVID-positive cases will no longer need to quarantine for 14 days if a face covering was worn consistently and correctly by the positive case and close contacts. The positive case must isolate. The close contacts should self-monitor.

Self-monitoring entails close monitor-

ing for COVID-19 symptoms over the subsequent 14 days, staying home if any symptoms develop, and speaking with a healthcare provider about COVID-19 testing in the case of any illness.

- If people who are self-monitoring

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WEATHER

OpenWeatherMap
WED 30 Sep..... Scattered Clouds, 67° F/ 53° F
THU 01 Oct..... Scattered Clouds, 57° F/ 45° F
FRI 02 Oct..... Overcast, 56° F/ 38° F

IOWA LOTTERY

LUCKY FOR LIFE 09/28..... 9 14 45 46 47, Lucky Ball: 8
PICK 3 09/27, 09/28 MIDDAY..... 5 33, 0 30
PICK 3 09/27, 09/28 EVENING..... 3 04, 9 89
PICK 4 09/27, 09/28 MIDDAY..... 17 03, 3 6 51
PICK 4 09/27, 09/28 EVENING..... 3 51, 7 6 21

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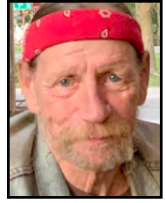
Obituaries

OBITUARIES

EDWARD L. WAGNER

Edward L. "One Feather" Wagner, 65, of Franklin, Iowa, passed away at 3:04 p.m. Monday, September 28, 2020, at home surrounded by family.

Ed was born on September 8, 1955, in Fort Madison, Iowa, the son of LaMar and Dorothy (Johnson) Wagner. On February 14, 1986, he married Barbara Hoskins in Franklin, Iowa. She preceded him in death.



WAGNER

Survivors include his two sisters: Nola (John) Gram of Fort Madison, Iowa and Susie (Paul) Whitaker of Franklin, Iowa; one brother: Paul (Kristi Larson) Wagner of Burlington, Iowa and several nieces, nephews and cousins.

He was preceded in death by his parents; step-father: James Hoffman and wife: Barbara.

Ed was a 1973 graduate of Central Lee High School. He served in the United States Navy from 1973 to 1979. He was a member of St. Peter's United Church of Christ. Ed worked at Fruehauf and Crandon's Paper Mill in Fort Madison, he later retired from West Liberty Foods in Mt. Pleasant. He enjoyed hunting, fishing and drinking beer. Ed was a workaholic and loved spending time with his friends.



Friends may call after 12:00 noon Friday, October 2, 2020, at Schmitz Funeral Home in Donnellson where the family will receive friends from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. that evening.

A Funeral Service will be held at 1:30 p.m. Saturday, October 3, 2020, at Schmitz Funeral Home in Donnellson.

Those attending are encouraged to wear a mask and are required to social distance.

Burial will be at St. Peter's Cemetery, rural Franklin, Iowa with full military rites presented by the Donnellson American Legion Gillaspey - Moodie Post #474.

A memorial has been established in his memory.

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

Pen City Current obituary policy

The Current runs obituaries one time at no charge to funeral homes and they run the day they are submitted in most cases. They are also run as submitted by the funeral homes.

OBITUARIES

RAY S. SELBY

Ray Stephen Selby, 77, of Wever, IA, passed away at 11:15 a.m. on Monday, September 28, 2020 at Great River Medical Center. He was born on May 3, 1943 in Hattie, MO to Elmer R. & Jessie I. Cross Selby. He graduated from Fort Madison High School in 1961 and went to work for Sheaffer Pen Company, owned & operated



SELBY

M & R Tool & Die and retired from Methode Electronics in Carthage, IL as a tool & die maker. He married Maurina K. Vincent on February 4, 1967 in Fort Madison, IA. He enjoyed being outdoors, shooting bows, building things and was learning blacksmithing. He attended First Baptist Church in Fort Madison.

Ray is survived by: his wife: Maurina Selby of Wever, IA; 1-son: Jeffrey (Catherine) Selby of Falcon, MO; 2-daughters: Kimberly (Juan) Mata of Lee's Summit, MO & Gina (Sean) Manka of Castle Rock, CO; 5-grandchildren: Austin Selby, Noah & Eric Mata, Makenzie & Kylie Carpenter; 4-step grandchildren: Des Mata, Callie & Jonathan Schillaci & Blakelyn Martin; 1-brother: Terry (Mary) Selby of Woolridge, MO; 2-sisters: Evelyn Perry of Fort Madison, IA & Gail Trevino of Fort Madison, IA; 2-sister in laws: Debbie Albee of Fort Madison, IA & Melinda (Doug) Blind of Fort Madison, IA; his mother in law: Betty Vincent of Fort Madison and several nieces & nephews. He was preceded in death by: his parents, 1-brother: Lester Selby & his father in law: Bill Vincent.

Cremation has been entrusted to the care of King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory. A public graveside service will be held at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, October 1, 2020 at Claypoole Cemetery in rural Wever, IA with Rev. Dean Graber officiating. In lieu of flowers, a memorial has been established in Ray's memory and contributions may be left at the graveside service or sent to: Maurina Selby, 1708 354th Avenue, Wever, IA 52658. Online condolences may be left at the King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory website: www.kinglynk.com.

VERLIN M. BAKER

Verlin Morris Baker, 92, of Keokuk died Thursday, September 24, 2020 at Blessing Hospital in Quincy, IL.

He was born April 7, 1928 in Memphis, MO the son of Andrew J. and H. Blanche Fincher Baker. Verlin graduated from high school in Downing, MO with the Class of 1946. Following high school he worked as a truck driver on a milk route and then for Cameron Joyce Construction on the road crew as a large equipment operator.

In January of 1951, Verlin was drafted into the United States Army and proudly served his country during the Korean War.

On November 25, 1954 Verlin was united in marriage to Roberta Ann Seamster at the Baptist church in Downing, MO. She preceded him in death on January 23, 2011.

Following his military service Verlin went to college on the GI Bill and graduated from Kirksville Teachers College in Kirksville, MO and Western Illinois University in Macomb, IL. He held a double Master's Degree (and twenty-six hours post grad) in Education and Administration.

Verlin began his teaching career in Scotland County Missouri and spent some time teaching in a one

room School House. In 1958 Verlin relocated to Keokuk and began a thirty-one year career with the Keokuk Community School District. He taught at Lincoln elementary school for one year,



was the assistant principal and 6th grade teacher at Garfield elementary school for eighteen years and then became assistant principal and 4th grade teacher at Wells Carey elementary school for twelve years, retiring in 1989. Following his retirement, he and his wife, Roberta, moved to Mountain Home, AR where Verlin remained unto 2018, when he moved back to Keokuk.

Verlin was a member of the First Baptist Church in Keokuk and the Eastside Baptist Church in Mountain Home, AR. He also attended the Evangelical Free Church in Keokuk. He was a member of the Camping RV Group and was Wagon Master at the Sambories. He was also a member of the Good Sam Club in Mountain Home.

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PEN CITY CURRENT

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Member LION Publishers

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Pen City Current and www.pencitycurrent.com are products of Market Street Publishing, LLC. Pen City Current is published Sunday through Friday mornings by 6AM.

Founded in 2016
P.O. Box 366 | Fort Madison, IA

For the Record

For the Record

Fort Madison Police Report

09/23/20 – 6:24 a.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 200 block of Avenue E.
 09/23/20 – 10:23 a.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 1500 block of Avenue C.
 09/23/20 – 12:34 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a burglary in the 2700 block of Avenue N.
 09/23/20 – 8:21 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 400 block of Avenue F.
 09/23/20 – 10:22 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 1500 block of Avenue H.
 09/24/20 – 10:09 a.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 900 block of 29th Street.
 09/24/20 – 11:23 a.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 2200 block of Avenue L.
 09/24/20 – 3:42 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a hit and run in the 600 block of 34th Street.
 09/24/20 – 6:50 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a stolen vehicle in the 300 block of Avenue H.
 09/24/20 – 9:38 p.m. – Fort Madison Police arrested Leon Seaman Allen, 57, of Fort Madison in the 2700 block of Avenue O, on a charge of serious assault. He was released on a promise to appear.
 09/24/20 – 9:38 p.m. – Fort Madison Police arrested Jessica Marie Fitzgerald, 24, of Fort Madison in the 2700 block of Avenue O, on a charge of simple assault. She was released on a promise to appear.
 09/24/20 – 10:59 p.m. – Fort Madison Police arrested Joshua Edwin James Ruble, 35, of Fort Madison, in the 3500 block of Avenue Q, on a warrant for 5th degree theft. He was released on a promise to appear.
 09/24/20 – 11:06 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 1800 block of 39th Street.
 09/26/20- 10:59 a.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 2600 block of Avenue L.
 09/26/20 – 9:53 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of vandalism within the city.
 09/27/20 – 12:35 a.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of vandalism in the 2000 block of Avenue E.
 09/27/20 – 12:43 a.m. – Fort Madison Police arrested Angel J. Garcia, 38, of Fort Madison in the 1900 block of Avenue J, on a charge of violation of a no contact order. She was released on a promise to appear.
 09/27/20 – 12:43 a.m. – Fort Madison Police arrested Ashley J. McGowan, 28, of

Fort Madison in the 1900 block of Avenue J, on a charge of violation of a no-contact order. She was released on a promise to appear.

Lee County Sheriff's Report

09/23/20 – 8:45 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies responded to a two-vehicle accident in the 400 block of Avenue F. According to the report, a vehicle driven by Christine Marie Wright, 44, of Fort Madison, was traveling west in the 400 block of Avenue F and struck a parked vehicle from behind. No citations or injuries were listed on the report.
 09/24/20 – 8:25 a.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies cited Serean Lynn Wykowski, 28, of Keokuk, at the intersection of Hwy. 218 and 353rd Avenue in Keokuk, on a charge of driving while barred.
 09/24/20 – 2:50 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Erica Marie Bushinger, 37, of Ottumwa, at the Wapello County Jail, on a warrant for violation of probation.

She was held in custody. 09/24/20 – 3:44 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Andrew Arthur Russell, 34, of Keokuk, at the sheriff's office on a judgment entry. He was taken to Lee County Jail and arrested.

Hancock County Sheriff's Report

09/22/20 – Dakota S Reed, age 25, of Kahoka, MO was arrested and charged with Driving While License Suspended. Reed was released after posting the required bond and given a future court date.
 09/22/20 – Amy A Murray, age 38, of Burlington, IA was arrested on a Henderson County Warrant charging her with Failure to Appear on original charges of Driving Under the Influence. Murray was released after posting the required bond and given a future court date.
 09/23/20 – Orlando T Sykes, age 56, of Burlington, IA was arrested on a Hancock County Warrant charging him with Failure to Appear on original

charges of No Valid Driver's License. Sykes was released after posting the required bond and given a future court date.
 09/23/20 – Joyce A Hackett, age 67, of LaHarpe, IL was arrested and charged with Burglary. Hackett was released after posting the required bond and given a future court date.
 09/23/20 – Kaliegh J Hale, age 25, of Nauvoo, IL was arrested on a Hancock County Warrant charging her with Failure to Appear on original charges of Petition to Revoke or Modify Sentence on original charges of Unlawful Possession of Methamphetamine. Hale was released on her own recognizance and given a future court date.
 09/24/20 – Isaac A DeShong, age 25, of Carthage, IL was arrested and charged with Possession of Methamphetamine, Aggravated Driving Under the Influence, Failure to Signal, Driving While License Suspended and Bond Violation. DeShong remains lodged in the Hancock Jail in lieu of bail awaiting his

next court appearance .
 09/24/20 – Joshua A Eaton, age 43, of Keokuk, IA was arrested on a Hancock County Warrant charging him with Failure to Appear on original charges Unlawful Possession of Methamphetamine and No Valid Driver's License. Eaton remains lodged in the Hancock County Jail in lieu of bail awaiting his next court appearance.
 09/25/20 – Leeann M Polk, age 31, of Dallas City, IL was arrested and charged with Aggravated Driving Under the Influence, Driving Under the Influence and Driving While License Revoked. Polk remains lodged in the Hancock County Jail in lieu of bail awaiting her next court appearance.
 09/26/20 – Eric L McMillen, age 48, of Carthage, IL was arrested and charged with Violation of Order of Protection. McMillen remains lodged in the Hancock County Jail in lieu of bail awaiting his initial court appearance.
 09/26/20 – Kadee A Krow, age 25, of Lomax, IL was arrested and charged with

Driving Under the Influence. Krow was released after posting the required bond and given a future court date.
 09/27/20 – Darrell L Hoskins, age 53, Homeless, was arrested on a Henderson County Warrant charging him with Failure to Appear on original charges of Disorderly Conduct and Criminal Trespass to Property. Hoskins was also arrested on a Warren County Warrant charging him with Failure to Appear on original charges of Driving Under the Influence of Alcohol. Hoskins remains lodged in the Hancock County Jail in lieu of bail awaiting his extradition to Henderson County.

Fort Madison Fire & Rescue Report

09/25/20 – Fort Madison firefighters responded to three medical calls.
 09/26/20 – Fort Madison firefighters responded to three medical calls.
 09/27/20 – Fort Madison firefighters responded to one medical call and one burn permit.

Do Your Part!

Great River Regional Waste Authority encourages you to wear gloves when moving bins for residential trash pick-up.

Those workers can touch over 2000 bins a day before even touching your bin. Don't forget to wash your hands after bringing in your bin!!



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 Keokuk Transfer Station: 111 Carbide Lane Keokuk, IA 1-319-524-6175

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From the Front

House candidate Graber says politics is a “terrible game”

ELECTION - Continued from Page 1

across the aisle.

“They won’t do any of our legislation. We were starting to have some success, but then COVID came and just cut everything off,” Kurtz said.

One of the priorities he had in the last session focused on cybersecurity in the House’s Public Safety Committee. Kurtz also serves on Ways and Means, Labor, and Transportation committees.

He said he fears for hackers ability to strike the state and had reached some agreements with the republican chair Jarad Kline (R-Keota), but again COVID cut off the discussions and the short-lived reconvene that occurred to finish up the session left no time to revisit the issue.

He said being in the minority has allowed him to have influence on bills, through amendments and discussion, but the Democrats had very little chance of passing anything.

Kurtz said he’s spent a lot of his time on public service issues and unemployment has dominated things recently.

“At times it’s like pulling teeth,” he said. “I do what I can to help them out and have had some success so far, but it’s usually several weeks or months before we get people paid.”

One lady hadn’t had a paycheck in 19 weeks. She called in tears and we were able to get her paid and back-paid but that shouldn’t happen. For this to work this badly says something about us.”

Kurtz said government should work for people not against them. He said that’s one of the issues that separates him from Graber.

“They’re gonna try and paint me as a socialist, but I’m just looking for the best deal,” Kurtz said. “With Medicare, we tried privatization and it’s been horrible. Let’s go back to the system that works best.”

Kurtz said he doesn’t believe its a bad thing that the market and the government compete, but he wants to be shown how the market works better.

“Then I’m all in. But I don’t see how it works for Iowans if we get so dogmatic. We have to be flexible.”

Graber said Kurtz was the state co-chair for Bernie Sanders and that should speak volumes to Lee County residents.

“He was the most extreme candidate in the presidential race. (Sanders) says he’s a socialist and I do not believe that’s the path for America and it won’t get us where we need to go,” Graber said.

Kurtz said in dealing with public services and trying to help residents, he keeps hearing from department staffs that they are understaffed and under funded, but that doesn’t jibe with the Republican talking points that the state is financially

sound.

“I’ve heard this with staff from the Department of Corrections, Department of Public Health and Iowa Workforce and others... that we’re underfunded and understaffed. What bothers me is that we’ve had years of surpluses, but can’t provide services?,” he said.

“Where is that money? I serve on Transportation, and Ways and Means so I see most of the money going through. And if we were not funding basic services, what are we doing?”

Kurtz said Iowans are watching this election cycle very carefully. He said gutting collective bargaining, privatizing of medicaid and limiting taxing authority of municipalities are all things important to Iowans.

“Some of this legislation is just baffling to me,” Kurtz said. “But people are paying attention and they want to try something different.”

But he said he thinks the House has a very good chance of turning blue with Democrats taking control in January.

Kurtz said one of the things he’s learned in the past two years serving southeast Iowa is “old dogs can learn new tricks.”

“I spent a lot of time up here before working as head of the railroad unions’ legislative department, and to see it form this end... there is just so much more that goes into this,” he said.

“You have a big responsibility because people depend on you and they should. But I don’t think they all need to be political junkies all the time. They put us here to do that job and we should do it,” Kurtz said.

That’s one point Graber has the same take on.

“When it all comes down to it, my goal is to serve people of Lee County and Iowa and hopefully we make this a more unified and better place to live so when our kids and grandkids pick things up they inherit better than we had,” Graber said.

“I’m willing to do whatever I have to to represent Lee County and be that voice so people in Lee County can feel someone in Des Moines speaks for them.”

Other issues place the two candidates on other ends of political spectrum.

Graber said Kurtz’ experience with the railroad narrows his field of experience in fully serving the people of Lee County and Iowa.

“I think my opponent’s experience is purely railroad and very specific in that he’s tied in with union movement,” Graber said. “I don’t think unions are bad and they do have a place, but if that’s your only focus that’s a potential challenge for you.”

Graber has his time with labor relations as well working for the former Dial Corp. as a human resources manager and employee relations and benefits coordinator. Graber attended Southeastern Community College and then graduated from the University of Iowa with a bachelor’s in business administra-

tion. He then obtained a master’s degree in business administration from St. Ambrose University, all while navigating a 32-year career with the National Guard.

Graber is now closing in on 30 years with AmeriPrise Financial, formerly IDS, or Investors Diversified Services. He’s also served as treasurer and chairman of the Lee County Republicans. Aside from his time in deployment, Graber has lived his life in Lee County.

He said his term as chairman of the county organization is when he decided to make a run.

Graber said one of the challenges of being the party chair is finding qualified and willing candidates to seek office. He said it was difficult finding anyone qualified and willing to commit the time to running. After discussions with his wife Coni, he decided he was really the only one to challenge for the house seat.

He said he’s not getting into the political arena to engage in politics, but to bring about change for Lee County and Iowa.

“Politics is a terrible game, and sometimes politics get in the way and perfectly good candidates don’t get to their full potential,” Graber said.

“During my time in the military I wasn’t political and I don’t intend to be political now. I want to do the right thing for the right reason and the rest will take care of itself.”

He said one of his top priorities will be trying to be a spark plug for renewed economic expansion in Lee County.

“One guy can’t make that happen, but I could be the spark plug that makes things begin to happen.”

He said Lee County has been under Democratic control for 30 years and has always had a history of high unemployment rates and people say that’s just the way it is.

“I personally don’t believe that paradigm has to be true,” he said. “It requires bringing in more industry and business and expanding the ones we have. We have to create an environment that people want to come here to run their business,” Graber said.

“IFC was a great one and I applaud the people that made that happen, but a lot of small businesses and industry don’t get the care they need.”

He said the other side of that equation is we have to have a workforce ready to take the jobs that are available.

“There’s work being done, but I just want to be focused on that. Look at our local high schools. Are just they training or selecting those that are going to be college attendees, or are they looking at those students and saying, ‘Hey want makes more sense for them?’”

He said creating that pool of skilled workers will help attract new business and set Lee County on a renewed path

“That’s how we break the bubble, and that will pay dividends down stream. Get good wages, taxes, and new industry here and then we cause Lee County to expand into an area we don’t even imagine now.”

The general election campaign has hampered both candidates to some degree. Graber said he prefers in-person contact, but the coronavirus has forced a lot of communications to go over email and social media. He said the impact of absentee voting will certainly be felt locally and at the state level, but he hopes it doesn’t bleed into the presidential race.

“Voting is one of the greatest privileges and honors we have. It’s also one of the greatest responsibilities we have,” Graber said. “We should research candidates and find which one follows our path and vote that way.”

Kurtz said he thinks the influx of absentee balloting will extend the election past election night, saying it could be months before everything is settled and validated.

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From the Front

Lower numbers prompt IDPH changes

IDPH - Continued from Page 1

become ill but do not get tested, they should remain home until 10 days after symptom onset.

- People currently in quarantine may be released from quarantine if a face covering was worn consistently and correctly by the positive case and close contacts during exposure.
- If the positive case wore a face covering, but close contacts did not, those close contacts must be quarantined.
- If the positive case did not wear a face covering, close contacts must quarantine whether or not they wore a face covering.
- Quarantine of close contacts will still be necessary in residential and healthcare settings.

Please find an infographic depicting the new IDPH recommendations at <https://idph.iowa.gov/Portals/1/userfiles/61/covid19/resources/WhenToQuarantine.pdf>

Masks are proven to be effective in preventing the spread of COVID-19. Increased mask use will reduce the number of individuals that need to quarantine. Along with wearing a face covering, we ask that everyone continue all recommended public health strategies:

- Stay home when sick.
- Maintain social distancing of at least 6 feet whenever possible.
- Wash hands frequently.

This approach is based on data and focused feedback from community and school leaders over the past month indicating that transmission is not frequently occurring when both parties are wearing face coverings consistently and correctly. Additionally, we are aware of other jurisdictions, including Nebraska and Wyoming, that have made similar changes based on experiences in their states. We will continue to make recommendations based on best available information and adjust when needed.

Many high tech, STEM jobs in area

STEM - Continued from Page 1

coding or cyber security. You'd be surprised at how many high tech and STEM jobs are in our area."

Being the co-chair gives Millard a seat at the state STEM Board where new programs are developed and funding decisions are made.

"I will also be responsible for agenda items of our regional board and be able to shape the conversation at a more local level to better reach rural students, like the ones in Lee County, with STEM

programming," she added.

The Governor's STEM Advisory Board is comprised of some of the area's most active members of STEM fields through government, education, and industry. The SE Iowa Region covers 66 school districts and 17 counties on the eastern portion of the state.

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Executive Director Position – Fort Madison Housing Authority (FMHA) of Fort Madison, Iowa, is seeking qualified applicants for the position of Executive Director to lead the Authority in its management of its Public Housing and Housing Choice Voucher Program. The FMHA administers 134 units of Public Housing, 70 Housing Choice Vouchers, and management / maintenance of 22 units for the Lee County Housing Initiative Program.

The Executive Director is responsible for all aspects of its Public Housing and Voucher Program including but not limited to supervising a staff of six employees.

The qualified applicant should possess a wide range of skills in public housing operations, office management, accounting, customer service; computer proficiency and the ability to function courteously with residents and employees. The applicant must be PHA certified or certifiable within one year of employment.

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Chairman of the Board, Fort Madison Housing Authority, 1102 48th Street, Suite #1, Fort Madison, IA 52627. Or email to: fortmadisonha@mchsi.com.

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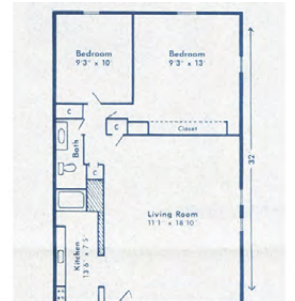
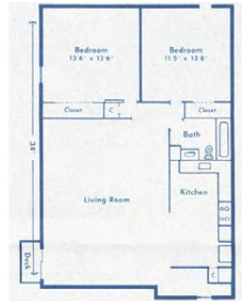
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Sports

Lady Hounds stay perfect in conference play

BY CHUCK
VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – Everybody gets a chance to play in front of the home crowd.

At Tuesday's Southeast Conference tilt with Washington at the HoundDome, Fort Madison Head Coach Kent Bailey pulled his starting rotation after the Hounds jumped out to a quick 2-0 lead over the Demons.

"You know, people might ask why I did that, but those kids work just as hard as the other kids and this was an opportunity to see what they could do," Bailey said.

The Hounds would end up winning the match in four sets 25-7, 25-13, 19-25 and 25-17.

With the match seemingly in hand, Bailey subbed in to start the 3rd set and the Hounds raced to a 10-6 lead behind a couple kills from junior Genevieve Ruble and solid serving from Taylor Barnes.

Washington (0-5, 0-12) would tie things up at 11 when when a Hound attack went long and right. Washington would take it's first lead of the night on an ace by senior Taylor Brinning.

The Hounds would hang around down by 1 and 2 points until Washington opened up a six-point lead on a kill by senior Olivia Marek to make it 24-18. Another kill by sophomore Kenializ Espinoza ended the match 25-19.

Bailey said the girls were doing some good things, but then got flat when they got behind.

"They did some good things and a couple things went bad and they let that get way," he said. "But that's happened with all our players at different times. They didn't show what they're capable of and we know that."

Fort Madison rolled in the first two sets behind junior Logan Johnson and Kailyn Guzman at the net. The two combined for seven kills in the first set, while Lauren Bailey was a perfect 7 of 7 serving to start the second game staking the Hounds to 6-0 lead.

Senior Reyna Lampe hit on back-to-back kills to make 21-10 in the second set and then a Washington defensive error and an attack from Marek sailed out for the win. Lauren King had three kills for the Hounds in a 9-4 run in the win.

With the Hound starting rotation back in for the



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Lauren King, left, and Logan Johnson (40) pick up a ball off a Washington attack in the second set of Tuesday's four-set win over the Demons.

fourth set, the Hounds couldn't seem to get back into the groove of the first two sets.

"I kind of new that was going to happen, but I also knew once we started to get our rhythm and started getting our passes in line we'd be fine," he said.

The Hounds managed a 4-3 lead when a Marek attack sailed wide left. Marek missed on the next two at the net to give the Hounds a 6-3 lead. But Washington would come back to tie the game at 7 on Marek block of a King attack.

A Lampe kill at 11-9 would give the Hounds a 3-point lead. But Demon senior Brynn Beenblossom recorded a kill at 14-12 to close the gap to 1 forcing a timeout by Bailey.

The head coach got in the ears of the Hounds who then raced to a 22-17 lead on an ace from junior Madison Pirri and would close it out after Lampe would push a kill to an opening in the Washington left side center.

Lampe had 10 kills on the night to lead the Hounds.

Johnson had nine and King had eight. Bailey was perfect 14 of 14 with an ace. Barnes was 24 of 25 serving with four aces on the night. Nadia Boeding had 21 digs and Bailey led Fort Madison with 32 assists.

Fort Madison moves to 4-0 on the conference and 5-11 on the year and will play Burlington (2-0, 7-4) for the conference title on Thursday in Fort Madison with a 7 p.m. start time.

On Saturday, the Lady Hounds dropped three of four at the Iowa City Liberty Tournament.

Fort Madison fell to Center Point-Urbana 19-21, 10-21 and the defeated Fairfield 21-10, 21-19. The Hounds lost the last two matches against Clinton 11-21, 13-21, and Iowa City West 15-21, 13-21.

Lampe had 14 kills in the tourney to lead all Hounds. Bailey had 32 assists and 19 digs. Nadia Boeding had 24 digs and was 15 of 16 serving with two aces. Barnes and Pirri each had three aces on the day. Kendall Beebe was 19 of 20 serving with an aces and 10 digs.

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FMCH Pediatrics Welcomes Dr. Bryan Blacker



Fort Madison Community Hospital is pleased to welcome Dr. Bryan Blacker. Dr. Blacker is a Board eligible Pediatrician and will join the FMCH Pediatric Clinic on Monday, August 3, 2020.

Dr. Blacker is coming to FMCH after completing his Pediatric Residency at the University of South Dakota. He received his Bachelor of Science degree in Nutritional Sciences from Brigham Young University and his Doctor of Medicine degree from the University Of New Mexico School Of Medicine.

Pediatricians specialize in the health care of children from preventive to diagnosis and treatment of acute and chronic diseases. They collaborate with the child's parent or guardian to deal with the physical, emotional and social development of their children.

Dr. Blacker will see patients from newborn through the teenage years in the clinic along with Dr. Kolleen Burnett, Dr. Libby Balbort, Dr. Greg Gorski and Pediatric Nurse Practitioner, Susan Holtkamp.

"I love to watch my patients grow, learn and change from year to year. The most rewarding part of my day is empowering and educating parents. Most parents work hard to be the best they can and do the right thing for their children. My job is to help give them the tools and knowledge to keep their kids healthy."
 - Dr. Bryan Blacker

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Sports



Tip drill

Fort Madison's Logan Johnson pushes an attack past Washington's Olivia Marek (8) in the second set of Tuesday's 25-7, 25-13, 19-25, 25-17 win over the Demons. The Hounds will play for the Southeast Conference title on Thursday at home against Burlington.

Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Holy Trinity girls stay cool in sweep of New London

BY JOHN BOHNENKAMP
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – Melissa Freesmeier described her Holy Trinity volleyball team as being “even keel.”

But there was something different in the Crusaders in the third game of Tuesday's SEI Superconference match against New London, and it was something Freesmeier liked to see.

The Crusaders, ranked No. 3 in Class 1A, swept the sixth-ranked Tigers 25-21, 25-21, 25-16.

Holy Trinity (17-5 overall, 4-0 Superconference South Division) roared through the third game, scoring the first four points and had leads of 6-1, 9-3 and 11-4.

“We started strong,” Freesmeier said. “We knew New London wouldn't let up — they would keep coming at you, which is what they do.”

“The big thing is I saw in our kids the competitiveness, the aggressiveness. They were out there to finish it. There was a definite ‘Let's take it, let's finish it off.’”

It was in sharp contrast to the second game, when the Crusaders fell behind 5-0 and forced Freesmeier to call a timeout. Even in the first game, Holy Trinity had to rally from an early 10-7 deficit.

“We were down early, but they stayed



with it,” Freesmeier said. “They stayed the course, and just did what they had to do.”

It's always a good rivalry between the Crusaders and New London (10-5, 3-1), and Tuesday's match was no different.

“We won a lot of the long rallies, and when you play New London you know you're going to get a lot of long rallies, so you better be prepared,” Freesmeier said.

The Crusaders have lost just one game in their last six matches.

“This group is so even-keel, it makes me crazy,” Freesmeier said, laughing.

“But you know, it works for them. They've found a unity, they've found a continuity. They just know what they have to do, and they depend on each other to get it done.”

The Crusaders play at WACO (20-2, 4-0) on Thursday night in a match for the division lead.

“It was good to get a win,” Freesmeier said. “To win in three games against New London, that's pretty good.”

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From the Front

Krogmeier was in a coma for 45 days on ventilator

KROGMEIER - Continued from Page 1

'hope for the best,' Kim said. "It was so fast... I wasn't ready for that."

She had taken Jerry to the VA Hospital toward the end of March when he wasn't feeling well. He was evaluated, and like so many others, was sent home because he wasn't sick enough to be admitted.

After several days when his symptoms worsened, Kim drove him back to the hospital where they admitted him on April 10 with COVID-19. Kim was sent home to self-quarantine for 14 days. She wasn't tested.

Two days later he was on a ventilator, in a coma, and was fighting for his life.

Jerry said he remembers nothing of the month and a half at the VA, but he recalls dreams of his wife.

Kim said the staff at the VA hospital were wonderful and called her every day, sometimes multiple times each day to keep her informed of the progress.

"They would give me his oxygen numbers and what level they were treating him at. Some days he was on 100% oxygen because things were so bad, other days they would call and say they were able to turn it down to 50% and it would go on and on like that," she said.

Kim wrote data from the calls with the doctor in a diary so she could remember and eventually share with Jerry. She kept another to record her thoughts and emotions to help her cope with not being able to see or touch her husband while others fought to save his life.

Kim said the first couple weeks were touch and go and "mega" praying was the only thing she could think of to do that could help.

"That first week they told me he only had a 20% chance of surviving. They flat out told me and didn't sugar coat anything," Kim said.

"As the calls kept coming and I kept calling, too, they would say he would take a step forward, but then take three steps backward. Then I would get a call and they would say he took four steps forward," she said.

Toward the end of May, doctors made a strategic decision to take Krogmeier off the ventilators due to some

encouraging numbers, but they had to do a tracheotomy to support higher lung function and put him in respiratory rehabilitation at a specialty hospital in Davenport.

When Jerry came off the ventilator he said he remembered nothing of the experience.

"I have no recollection at all. I don't even know how fast I came out," Jerry said.

"The first thing I really remember is someone telling me to try and move my fingers and toes, and they wouldn't move."

Jerry is a Type 2 diabetic and he says he has residual effects of Agent Orange from Vietnam - but no one wants to talk about that, he said. Krogmeier was stationed in the DMZ in Vietnam from 1969 to 1970 as part of his three years in the Marine Corps.

He said he doesn't fear anything, but this fight was a different kind of fight.

"I was 21 then. You could've shot me with a cannon and not hurt me. We're all invincible at that age," he said.

After more than month at the Davenport facility, Jerry was transferred to Parkview Manor in Wellman, where his respiratory rehabilitation continued through Friday.

At one point, the medical staff said Kim would be able to come up and see her husband. They had done some video sessions prior to that, but Kim said going to see Jerry was like a first date for her.

"I was so excited. I wanted to smell nice and pretty up for him," she said. "He said he doesn't remember much about it, but he does recall dreaming about my voice, so... maybe those weren't dreams."

But today Jerry said he's still fighting to just wake up every morning. He said he has most of his faculties back, but the tracheotomy has left a strain on his voice... a frail reminder of another battle waged.

"I guess I'm doing well enough for them to send me home," he said. "Most people heal better at home than a nursing home just because of the familiar surroundings."

Kim picked him up from Wellman in a restored 1959 Chevy truck that the two had restored over the past year. She hadn't driven the truck and wanted to pick him up in it as a surprise.

The couple founded Pen City Cruisers and put on vintage car shows and donate much of the proceeds to charitable efforts in and around Lee County.

She said doctors haven't really told her why the coronavirus hit Jerry so hard. So it isn't known if the diabetes was a mitigating factor or age, or even the Agent Orange,



Jerry gets reacquainted with his cat upon his arrival home Friday after a nearly 160 days in hospitals and rehab centers following a battle with COVID-19.

that both she and Jerry kept referring to as the only real other pre-existing health issue.

Jerry hadn't smoked in more than 50 years and had no other health issues that are typically associated with the more severe cases of the disease.

He said before he got sick he remembers hearing that the disease would affect the older population worse.

Kim said she was never told to get tested, because she never showed symptoms of the disease at any point. She did however have her blood tested and it showed antibodies for the coronavirus.

"Apparently I had it at some point, but I never had any symptoms."

Jerry said doctors haven't discussed what he went through with him. He said it doesn't matter at this point.

"It's irrelevant to discuss it with me. I just don't remember so much of it. At a later date maybe that would be fine, but they kept Kim up to date every day and that's what's important."

He said he feels better being at home, but he can tell it's going to be long recovery.

"Nobody's made any prognosis going forward," he said. "But it's gonna be a while, and it's gonna have to go slow."

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DENMARK UCC
God's Portion Day

October 10th 2020

10:15 OPENING CEREMONY

Flag Raising & Prayer

10:30 PARADE

*Floats, Tractors,
Family & Candy*

**11:00 CHICKEN &
NOODLE DRIVE-UP**

*Chicken & Noodles
with drink for \$5.00...
Drive-up to church parking lot*

12:00 LIVE AUCTION

Held at fire station

**90.5 FM
LIVE BROADCAST**

*Listen to the auction
from your car*

Auction will be set up to follow social distancing recommendations. You can stay in your car, bring your own lawn chair, or sit on the bleachers provided. However you choose to join us, we will ensure your participation in the auction.