

PEN CITY CURRENT

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Thursday, January 23, 2020 | 10 pages | Volume 4 • Issue 27



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BUDDING ARTISTS: Reception held Saturday for area school art talents



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg

Jeannie Breashears and daughter Jade, 9, of Central Lee look at some of the artwork on display Saturday at the Fort Madison Area Artists Association's reception for the January exhibit. Hundreds of themed pieces of artwork were displayed from area elementary schools.

CENTENNIAL

SCC hits 100 years

BY PCC STAFF

WEST BURLINGTON — 2020 marks the 100th anniversary of Southeastern Community College. To commemorate this momentous milestone, a year of events and activities will celebrate the College's rich history. Events will also recognize the pivotal role the college has played as a catalyst for growth in the region.



SCC President Dr. Michael Ash says a planning team has been working on the project over the past year.

"We have a century of accomplishments and contributions that we want to celebrate," says Dr. Ash. "In addition to honoring our heritage, it's important that we highlight where we are today and where we hope to go."

Serving as the common thread and centerpiece of the commemoration, the college will tell the SCC story through the 100 Years, 100 Stories Project. Stories will celebrate the achievements

See **SCC**, page 5

RADIOS: Current system dropped communications during shooting

PSAP moving toward digital system



“At Scotts, we were inside that building and communications dropped to almost 0 due to the structure and low power.”

-Mark Rohloff, FM Chief of Police

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

LEE COUNTY – County officials are moving ahead with plans to transition emergency responders' radios to a digital platform.

The move could carry a price tag of close to \$5 million that would, in all likelihood, be paid for by bonds issued through the county that would become county debt.

Currently the county uses a VHF analog communication system that is not only antiquated, but often times unreliable.

The situation manifested itself on Dec. 11 when officers were called to an active shooter situation at Scotts MiracleGro. Fort Madison Police Chief Mark Rohloff said at times, communi-

tion was almost non-existent.

The shooter was shot and killed by a Fort Madison officer, but Rohloff said the digital transition has to take place as a matter of public safety.

"At Scotts we were inside that building communication dropped to almost 0 due to the structure and low power," Rohloff said Monday.

"VHF is outdated and the (Federal Communications Commission) narrow bandwidths, everyone has to go to a digital solution. With the vendors we're getting RFPs from, we're asking for 95% strength 95% of the time."

Lee County Sheriff Stacy Weber said currently he would estimate coverage at about 55-60% of the time, but depending on distance and structures, that could be even a smaller percentage.

Several vehicle pursuits in the past two weeks were also hampered by poor communication. Det. Chad Donaldson was in pursuit of a vehicle in western Lee County and was almost completely cut off from any support and Lee Comm communication.



WEBER and to

See **PSAP**, page 6

AWARDS

Chamber looking for nominations

Submitted article

FORT MADISON – The Fort Madison Area Chamber of Commerce seeks nominations for Citizen of the Year and Ambassador of the Year to be presented during the awards ceremony at their Annual Dinner on February 21st.

Each year, the Fort Madison Partners Affiliates along with the Daily Democrat awards a Citizen-, Ambassador-, and Developer of the Year, for the previous year, during their annual meeting. This year's

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WEATHER

OpenWeatherMap
THU 23 Jan.....Moderate Rain, 33.6° F/ 33.3° F
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IOWA LOTTERY

MEGA MILLIONS 01/21.....16 18 29 31 37, Mega Ball: 8 Megaplier: 3
 PICK 3 01/21 MIDDAY.....9 3 0
 PICK 3 01/21 EVENING.....5 8 8
 PICK 4 01/21 MIDDAY.....4 4 4 1
 PICK 4 01/21 EVENING.....2 6 6 8

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Obituaries

OBITUARIES

DENNIS A. HETH

Dennis A. "Butch" Heth, 75, of Fort Madison, IA, passed away at 6:20 p.m. on Monday, January 20, 2020 at the University of Iowa Hospitals in Iowa City. He was born on August 5, 1944 in Maynard, IA to Arnold & Frances Perry Heth. He married Sharon K. Thyer on June 5, 1965 in Fayette, IA. He was an education administrator for 40 years and after retirement, he enjoyed owning his own business, Shabby Sheik Antique Store. He also wrote articles that were published in the Fort Madison Daily Democrat. He was active in many civic groups and was a member of St. Paul Lutheran Church. He enjoyed traveling, gardening, pheasant hunting, fishing in Canada going to auctions and attending his grandchildren's activities.



HETH

Dennis is survived by: his wife: Sharon Heth of Fort Madison, IA; 2-daughters: Tina (Bruce) Duque of Indianapolis, IN & Teneal (Matt) Doty of Donnellson, IA; 1-son: Timothy (Jodi) Heth of Muscatine, IA; 8-grandchildren: Alexander (Ineke) Duque, Madeline Duque, Maximilian Duque, Isaac Heth, Ethan Heth, Maddox Doty, Maren Doty & Macie Doty; 1-sister: Donna (Bob) Milts of Medford, OR; 1-brother in law: Lavern (Shirley) Thyer of Fayette, IA; 1-aunt: Velda Haldeman of Oelwein, IA and many close cousins. He was preceded in death by: 1-granddaughter: Sophia Duque & 1-sister: Rene Johnson.

Cremation has been entrusted to the care of King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory. A memorial service will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Friday, January 24, 2020 at St. John United Church of Christ, 501 10th Street, Fort Madison, IA 52627 with Rev. Pete Hagglund officiating. The family will greet friends at a luncheon following the service at the church. A private family burial will be held at a later date in Fayette, IA. Memorials have been established for St. Paul Lutheran Church and St. John United Church of Christ. Online condolences to the Heth family may be left at the King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory website: www.kinglynk.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.



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OBITUARIES

DONALD L. SCHRADER

Donald Lemoyne Schrader, 84, of Montrose, IA, passed away on January 21, 2020 at 3:57 AM at his home.

He was born on September 2, 1935 in Dillonvale, OH to Charles and Laura Shrickle Schrader. On February 27, 1970 he married Linda Fox in Carthage, IL. Don worked production at Fruehauf, Wabash and IAAP. He was a member of the Presbyterian Church in Ohio. Don enjoyed working on cars. He loved to eat and was an avid Iowa Hawkeye fan.



SCHRADER

Survivors include his wife, Linda Schrader of Montrose; two daughters, Tonia (Richard) Hagmeier and Samantha (Michael) Hagmeier both of Montrose; six grandchildren including Deonna (Shaun) Sheets of Montrose, Bubba (Lita) Hagmeier of Ft. Madison and Deon Schrader-Hagmeier of Montrose; six great grandchildren including Aubree, Aria, Benjamin, Ariel and Jackson; two brothers, Bill (Doris) Schrader of Ft. Madison and Tommy (Barb) Schrader of Dillonvale, OH and one sister, Barbara Egley of Hamilton, IL; several nieces, nephews and cousins. He was preceded in death by his parents, four children; one sister; one brother, one niece and one nephew.

A memorial service will be held at 2 PM on Monday, January 27, 2020 at King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory with Rev. Dana Jurgens officiating. The family will meet with friends from 1-2 PM at the funeral home just prior to the service.

A memorial has been established in his memory and online condolences may be left at www.kinglynk.com.

ANN A. JAMES

Ann A. James, 63, of Fort Madison, IA, passed away on Tuesday, January 21, 2020 at her home. She was born on March 1, 1956 in Fort Madison, IA to Paul & Rose Sporer Leafgreen. She married John "Pete" James, Sr. on September 20, 1980 in Fort Madison, IA. He preceded her in death on July 10, 2009. She retired from the Sheaffer Pen Company with 34 years of service. She was a member of Holy Family Parish and loved her dogs Cissy, Sandy, Skyler, Bonnie & Lizzie.



JAMES

Ann is survived by: 2-sisters: Louise Brennan of Fort Madison, IA & Mary (Sam Gray) Dawson of Fort Madison, IA; 3-brothers: David Leafgreen of Fort Madison, IA, Gene (Carol) Leafgreen of Galesburg, IL & Gerald (Petra) Leafgreen of Fort Walton Beach, FL and several nieces & nephews. She was preceded in death by: her parents, husband & 1-brother: Fred.

The family will receive friends from 9:30 to 10:00 a.m. on Friday, January 24, 2020 at King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory. The funeral service will immediately follow at 10:00 a.m. at King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory with Rev. Joseph Phung officiating. Burial will be held at Sacred Heart Cemetery. A memorial has been established for P.A. W. Animal Shelter. Online condolences to Ann's family may be left at the King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory website: www.kinglynk.com.

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Left to right: Chris, Erin, Judy, Jill, Brian, Shelby, and Desiree



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For the Record

For the Record

Fort Madison Police Report

01/17/20 – 12:29 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 2600 block of Avenue L.
 01/17/20 – 1:38 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 2000 block of 303rd Avenue.
 01/17/20 – 3:12 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 1800 block of Avenue H.
 01/17/20 – 8:16 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 1600 block of 20th Street
 01/18/20 – 7:23 a.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a hit and run in the 2000 block of Avenue G.
 01/18/20 – 8:55 a.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 1900 block of Avenue H.
 01/18/20 – 9:41 a.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 1800 block of Avenue A.
 01/18/20 – 10:01 a.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 5000 block of River Valley Road.
 01/18/20 – 3:44 p.m. – Fort Madison Police cited David Lawrence Taylor, 56, of Fort Madison in the 900 block of Avenue G on a charge of driving under suspension. He was released upon citation.
 01/18/20 – 7:40 p.m. – Fort Madison Police cited Bradley

Robert Bohnenkamp, 33, of Fort Madison, in the 2200 block of Avenue L, on a charge of driving under suspension. He was released upon citation.
 01/18/20 – 10:24 p.m. – Fort Madison Police arrested and transferred Alicia Christine Behrman, 34, of Burlington in the 1400 block of Avenue H, on a warrant out of Des Moines County, to the Des Moines County line.
 01/19/20 – 4:26 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of vandalism in the 2700 block of Avenue M.
 01/19/20 – 7:47 p.m. – Fort Madison Police arrested Cammie Lynn Donaldson, 37, of Fort Madison in the 2700 block of Avenue M, on a warrant for contempt of court. She was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.
 01/19/20 – no time listed – Fort Madison Police cited Michael Weldon, 31, of Fort Madison in the 1400 block of 34th Street on a charge of driving under suspension. He was released upon citation.
 01/19/20 – no time listed – Fort Madison Police arrested and transferred Benjamin Steven Hobbs, 34, of Fort Madison in the 1100 block of 14th Street to Henry County on a warrant for failure to appear.
 01/20/20 – 4:13 a.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a stolen vehicle in the 1400 block of Avenue F
 01/20/20 – 4:13 a.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a stolen vehicle at the intersec-

tion of 14th Street and Avenue F.
 01/20/20 – 10:29 p.m. – Fort Madison Police cited Joslyn Jo Hawk, 22, of Donnellson, in the 1000 block of Avenue E, on a charge of driving under suspension. She was released upon citation.
 01/22/20 – 2:45 a.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 2600 block of Avenue L.

Lee County Sheriff's Report

01/17/20 – 10:28 a.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Neysa Marie Root, 35, of Keokuk, at the sheriff's office on a judgment hold. She was taken to the Lee County Jail and released for weekend served.
 01/17/20 – 11:08 a.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Dustin Derrick Derr, 32, of Keokuk, at the North Lee County Courthouse on a court-ordered hold. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.
 01/17/20 – 11:42 a.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies responded to a two-vehicle accident on Hwy. 218 at the 255th Street intersection. According to the report, a vehicle driven by Meadow Brook Kempker, 31, of Fort Madison was eastbound on 255th Street and a vehicle driven by Brooke Emily Hamilton, 31, of Salem was headed northbound on Hwy. 218. Kempker tried to stop on snowy, slick roads and slid through the intersection striking Hamilton's

vehicle broadside. No injuries or citations were reported.
 01/17/20 – 12:12 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies responded to a one-vehicle accident in the 2000 block of Hwy. 2. According to the report a vehicle driven by Bailey Ann Schwartz, 14, of Donnellson, lost control on the snow covered roadway and struck a county sign. No citations or injuries were reported.
 01/17/20 – 2:00 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies responded to a one-vehicle accident in the 2000 block of 303rd Avenue. According to the report, a vehicle driven by Aidriona Lynn Nolan, 27, of Burlington, lost control and entered the east ditch. Nolan was transported by Lee County EMS to Fort Madison Community Hospital with non-life threatening injuries. No citations were reported.
 01/17/20 – 4:49 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Danielle Lynn Smith, 32, of Farmington, no arrest location given, on a judgment hold. She was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.
 01/17/20 – 4:56 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies responded to a one-vehicle accident on Hwy. 61. According to the report, a vehicle driven by Spencer Wallace Bright, 35, of Burlington left the roadway and struck a concrete overpass support. No injuries were reported. Bright was cited for no driver's license.
 01/17/20 – 8:52 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies

arrested Serena Lynn Wykowsky, 27, of Keokuk, in the 2500 block of 340th Street in Keokuk, on a warrant for failure to appear. She was taken to the Lee County Jail and released on her recognizance.
 01/17/20 – 11:46 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies responded to a one-vehicle accident on Hwy. 61. According to the report, a vehicle, no driver listed, was found in the west ditch southbound. The owner was located a mile away walking and claimed another party was operating the vehicle and left the scene after the accident.
 01/18/20 – 12:54 a.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies responded to a one-vehicle accident. According to the report, a vehicle driven by Bridgette E. Morris, 43, of Alexandria, Mo., was traveling southbound on Hwy. 61, left the road and slid into a ditch. No injuries or citations were reported.
 01/18/20 – 5:46 a.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies responded to a one-vehicle accident in the 1700 block of Hwy. 61. A vehicle driven by Robert James Pratt, 22, of West Burlington, struck a cow that had already been struck by another motorist and was in the roadway. No injuries or citations were reported.
 01/18/20 – 8:52 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Joshua Michael Francis, 36, of Keokuk, at the intersection of 165th Street and

Hwy. 61 in Wever, on a charge of public intoxication. He was taken to Lee County Jail and released after paying a fine.
 01/20/20 – 3:52 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Alex Donovan Brammer, 24, of Wayland, Mo., in the 700 block of Timea Street, on a warrant for 5th-degree theft. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.
 01/20/20 – 5:18 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Brian Emery Adams, 29, of Farmington, at the Van Buren County Line in Keosauqua, on a warrant for failure to appear. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.
 01/21/20 – 4:45 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Faamamata Livigisitone, 36, of Fort Madison, at the sheriff's office on a temporary hold. She was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.
 01/21/20 – 11:21 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Brandon Lee Wood, 40, of Kahoka, Mo., at the sheriff's office, on a warrant for felony forgery. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.
 01/22/20 – 2:11 a.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Chancey Lane Losey, 19, of Bonaparte at the Des Moines County line on a warrant for contempt of court. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.

Those listed above are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.



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Sports

LADY CRUSADERS

HTC girls on three-game streak

Shots start falling just in time for Crusaders

BY JOHN BOHNENKAMP
PCC SPORTS

FORT MADISON - The challenge was there for the outside shooters on Holy Trinity's girls basketball team. New London's 2-3 zone defense shut off any room inside for the Crusaders, and if they were going to win Tuesday's home game, they were going to have to make shots.

Once the Crusaders started doing that in the second half, things got easier.

Holy Trinity pulled away to take a 45-38 win on the strength of a third-quarter surge from the outside.

"When we started making shots tonight, they had to come out on us," Holy Trinity coach Tony Johnson said. "Once you make that outside shot, everybody is aware and starts coming out there."

The Crusaders (8-7) trailed 24-19 early in the third quarter before Maria Rauenbuehler hit back-to-back shots from just inside the 3-point arc, then Bailey Hellweg hit a 3-pointer to put Holy Trinity up 28-26.

That softened the defense of the Tigers (4-11), and the Crusaders started scoring inside. All four of Holy Trinity's fourth-quarter field goals were in the paint, and the Crusaders kept control by hitting six free throws in the closing five minutes.

There was already a blueprint on how to defend the Crusaders.



"Central Lee did that to us a couple of weeks ago, packed it like that, and we couldn't make a shot," said Johnson, referring to a 46-25 loss to the Hawks on Jan. 10.

New London led by as much as five points on two occasions in the first half as the Crusaders kept missing from the outside.

"They just played a 2-3 and didn't come out of the lane," Johnson said. "They just left us open and we didn't make shots."

The Crusaders had balanced scoring. Claire Pothitakis led Holy Trinity with eight points. Ashlyn Haas and Rauenbuehler each had seven points. Hellweg and Raquel Schneider each had six.

"We adjusted with three kinds of defense, and three offenses we haven't run since about the fourth week of the season, so we did a good job with that," Johnson said.

"I'm proud of them. We were flat in the first half, a little bit flat in the third quarter, and kind of woke up in the fourth quarter and realized that there's a game going on."

CRUSADERS

Rally falls short for HTC boys

Crazy second half almost gives HTC sweep over Tigers

BY JOHN BOHNENKAMP
PCC SPORTS

FORT MADISON - Holy Trinity's boys basketball team was down 20 points on three occasions in the third quarter of Tuesday's home game against New London.

But it wasn't until Seth Bailey cradled the ball out of bounds after the last Crusader basket in the closing seconds that the Tigers felt safe.

Holy Trinity staged a furious rally over the final 10 minutes before falling, 47-43.

The Crusaders, trying to control the tempo all night against the faster Tigers, seemed doomed when New London went on a 16-0 run that started late in the second quarter and ended midway through the third.

But Jason Thurman, who didn't score in the first half,

See **BOYS**, page 5

Lake Cooper group hands out annual awards

Submitted article

FORT MADISON - The Lake Cooper Angling Association recently held its 33rd annual Awards Banquet at the Elks Club in Fort Madison. The LCAA roots date back to 1986 and has participated in many community events and programs over the years, from the Food Pantry to dredging the front of Riverview Park.

The club was instrumental in assisting the Lake Co-

See **AWARDS**, page 5

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PEN CITY CURRENT

It's Black & White and Read all over

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Sports/From the front

Thurman leads HTC boys with 15

BOYS - Continued from Page 4

hit two of his five second-half 3-pointers late in the third quarter, and when Quentin Schneider scored on a layup in the closing seconds, Holy Trinity was within 38-26.

The Crusaders then kept chipping at the lead, getting to within 46-41 on back-to-back threes from Thurman.

The lead could have been cut more as New London missed three front ends of one-and-bonus tries from the free-throw line, but the Tigers got the rebound each time.

"If we get one of those, maybe this is a different game," Holy Trinity coach John Hellige said.

The Crusaders had a chance to get within two points with under 30 seconds to play, but Thurman's 3-pointer was long.

Schneider's layup with five seconds left provided the final margin, then the clock ran out.

"I really applaud the kids for continuing to fight and play hard," Hellige said. "We made it interesting at the end.

"It could have gotten away from us, but we kept fighting."

Holy Trinity won at New London, 43-42, on Dec. 10, and Hellige knew the Tigers hadn't forgotten.

"We knew New London would come in here with high energy," he said.

So the Crusaders tried controlling the tempo by playing at a slow pace. They were only down 17-13 with 4:38 left to play in the first half, but New London scored the final six points of the half to start the run that put them in control.

"I felt like the first half we were a little tentative," Hellige said. "We were really trying to control tempo, so we were really deliberate. We weren't trying to get totally deliberate, but we didn't want to get into a track meet with them."

Thurman finished with 15 points. Matt Hellige added 10.

College planning events for 100-year celebration

SCC - Continued from Page 1

of notable and lesser-known alumni and staff, and recognize the contributions the college has made to communities throughout our region. Stories will be featured across media, including written articles, videos, and recorded interviews.

"SCC has amassed tens of thousands of alumni, each with their own story," Ash continues. "We're just as proud of our famous and high-profile alumni as we are of those who are our neighbors, friends, and co-workers. That's the beauty of a community college - SCC has been here for everyone."

With so many alumni and people who have been a part of the SCC family over the past century, the 100 Years, 100 Stories Project team is actively seeking story leads. Anyone interested in sharing their story is encouraged to visit www.scc100years.com.

Stories can be personal, of a loved one, a friend, or a community member. They simply need to include an experience directly related to SCC or one of its preceding institutions - Burlington Junior

College or Keokuk Community College - or how they played a pivotal role in the success of an individual or event.

In addition to the 100 Years, 100 Stories Project, the College will hold a series of celebratory and commemorative on-campus and community events, and a new advertising and messaging campaign. The College will also establish a Blackhawk Hall of Fame to recognize student-athletes and coaches who have made notable contributions to Blackhawk Athletics programs and junior collegiate athletics.

Southeastern Community College was formed when two previous colleges in Southeast Iowa merged in 1967. Burlington Junior College first opened in 1920. Keokuk Community College opened in 1953.

For more information about SCC and the commemoration events, visit www.scc100years.com. The site launches in full on Wednesday, January 22.

Eaves wins Cooper Angler of the Year

AWARDS - Continued from Page 4

per Tournament Group in facilitating the hundreds of bass tournaments held in Fort Madison.

2019 Angler of the Year went to Jeff Eaves with 58.83 points, followed by Rob Needham with 58.66 points. Co-Angler of the Year went to Dan Waters - 59.66 pts. Second was Mary Jo Clark - 59.16 pts. and third place went to Phil Wilson - 58.66 pts.

2019 Classic Champion and Co-Angler Champion

Mark Culbertson 158.5 inches, and again, Mark Culbertson with 151.5 inches.

2019 Big Bass of the Year went to Mitch Seager at 22.75 inches.

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From the Front

County could bond to pay for digital upgrade

PSAP - Continued from Page 1



When I'm standing right there looking at a building knowing guys are inside and I can't communicate with them...I'm thinking are these guys still with me, or what? I wanna get this fixed."

-Joey Herren,
FM Fire Chief

The recent chase westbound on Hwy. 16 that ended up with a man being tasered and taken into custody was also hampered by interrupted communication.

Weber agreed with the digital providing 95% coverage. "That's the standard now. No one goes below that," Weber said.

"There are some instances where, geographically speaking, you're going to have a hard time. But in Lee County, the terrain isn't that bad. But with the digital expansion, the coverage can be met at 95%."

Weber said the technology will also let you know if you have coverage or you don't by a tone, when personnel key their portable radio microphones.

He said digital will also take away the sketchy transmissions.

"When you key the mike, it will tell you by a tone that you don't have access to a tower. That's pretty nice because it takes the guess work out of it."

"That's how it will be with digital.. you'll have coverage or you don't. Now there are places where it's so sketchy you can't be heard. Digital also takes that away," Weber said.

The sheriff also said the expansion will allow him to communicate with state troopers across the state.

"We're doing so much more together right now and I cannot talk to a state trooper anywhere in the state of Iowa in my car," Weber said.

"There's a patch that was given at no charge from the state to Lee Comm to allow that communication. But with digital, I should have direct access to those officers from my vehicle."

He said at the end of the day it's a big investment in a time when everyone is squeezing budgets.

"This is a service and sometimes it's gonna be expensive, and sometimes there's not money to cover everything. But sometimes you just have to find the money."

The cost of the improvements are yet to be determined, but it will likely be millions.

Cindy Renstrom, the county budget director, said the best option for funding the improvement would be for the county to issue a general obligation bond for the costs. The bonds would then be included in the debt service levy, which it outside the state's mandated 2% soft-cap on revenue growth.

"That's what I'd like to do and what I would suggest to the board," Renstrom said Monday.

"The only other options would be each city and entity would have to separately come up with their share of the cost."

Currently, the county E911 board is paying for the initial consultations and and Requests for Proposals should be going out shortly. Federal Engineering, Inc., out of Fairfax, Va. is currently contracted to help the Lee County Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) board develop the specs on the RFPs.

Fort Madison Fire Chief Joey Herren said a public information campaign will probably begin in the near future to talk openly on the new systems, the cost, and the need.

Herren said coverage in buildings is imperative for him as well when firefighters are inside structures.

"We've done the study on what we have location-wise and tower-wise. All that legwork has been done. That was the first phase and now we're moving onto phase two with the RFPs, and we're getting ready to sign the contract to start that," he said.

Herren said the investigation into what improvements are needed is still ongoing.

At this point the expansion hasn't come to the board officially, and probably won't until the RFPs have been received and the PSAP board is ready to move forward.

Herren said it's time for the county to move ahead. "When I'm standing right there looking at a building knowing guys are inside and I can't communicate with them, and the building has smoke and fire, and I yell at them two or three times... I'm thinking, are these guys still with me, or what?" Herren said



"I wanna get this fixed."

He said when the RFP contract is approved and signed, that firm will go out and take the deep dive on technology needs and come back with recommendations.

"At that point, we'd probably hold some public town hall meetings and explain why we need to do this," Herren said.

"Not only is this bad for us, but it's also bad for the people we are trying to reach or save. If we don't know where certain folks are at, and we're trying to rescue you... communication is a big part of it."

Rohloff said those are the same concerns he has as a police department. He said when the FCC narrowed the bandwidth on the VHF signals, which he said they are considering doing again, the signal strength dropped 25-30%.

"Open air channels in public are manageable, but when we get into buildings or the downtown area where we lose the ability to communicate, that's a problem," he said.

He said digital will open up more channels and navigate cross-traffic more efficiently.

"When we had the shooting, everyone was coming in at once and radio traffic lit up. Sometimes I could hear them and sometimes I could not. Then we got inside and we're trying to do tactical things and couldn't move off that channel," Rohloff said.

Rohloff said the board also looked at repairing and upgrading county technology, but found it was more expensive to do that.

"That's the most expensive option and it still leaves you with a VHF solution. Why would you want to do that to yourself?"

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Business News/Education News



Photo courtesy of FMCH

From left to right, Shelby Burchett, FMCH COO, Bob Schierbrock, Director of Facilities Management, November FMCH Employee of the Month Paul Fraise, and Tim Torgler, VP of Ancillary Services.

Fraise named Employee of the month for November

Submitted article

FORT MADISON – Fort Madison Community Hospital recognized Paul Fraise as their November Employee of the Month. Fraise has worked in the Facilities Management Department at Fort Madison Community Hospital for 20 years. Paul was recognized with the following nomination:

What makes an employee a great employee one may ask? Instead of trying to explain it, you could just have them follow this employee for a day! You may see them throughout your day and they will always greet you as well as our visitors. You will see this employee working on a variety of things throughout the day however, that is just some of the

items they have been doing. This employee does a lot behind the scenes that many of us do not see. They help, teach, and learn many of the aspects of their Department. They are truly an asset of FMCH! Paul exemplifies the Standards of Behavior, respect, commitment to co-workers and personal accountability.

Paul's favorite part of working at FMCH are all of the great people.

He enjoys hunting, fishing and visiting his grandkids in Kansas when not working at FMCH.

The Employee of the Month is an initiative developed by the Reward & Recognition team. Each month a FMCH employee is honored for going above and beyond for the good of the patient, their co-workers and the organization.

Keokuk Chamber looking for Spirit Award nominations

KEOKUK - The Keokuk Area Convention & Tourism Bureau, Keokuk Economic Development Corporation, Main Street Keokuk, Inc., and Keokuk Area Chamber of Commerce are seeking nominations for the 30th Annual Spirit of Keokuk Awards.

The Spirit of Keokuk Award recognizes and honors individuals, businesses, and organizations that have made significant contributions of their time, talent, and expertise toward economic vitality in the Keokuk area.

When making a nomination, it is important to ask, "Did this person, business, or organization help shape a more positive future for Keokuk and the surrounding area by creating jobs and/or by making the Keokuk area a more attractive place—a place where people want to live, invest, shop, and spend leisure time?" Nominators are advised to write their nomination with the assumption that those reading and scoring the nom-

ination have never heard of the person, business, or organization.

An online nomination form can be found at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/HK6XPWF>. Paper nomination forms are available at the Keokuk Area

Chamber of Commerce and Main Street Keokuk, Inc offices at 511 Blondeau, Suite 3 or by emailing officemanager@keokukchamber.com. Nominations must be received by 5:00 pm Monday, February 17, 2020.

FMCH taking applications for medical scholarships

Submitted article

FORT MADISON – Fort Madison Community Hospital is now accepting scholarship applications for students pursuing a career in a medical field. FMCH sponsors three different scholarships: FMCH Foundation Kathleen Canella Family Scholarship; FMCH Foundation Tracey Howe Scholarship; and the FMCH Auxiliary Scholarship.

Each of these scholarships require different application criteria. The Kathleen Canella and the FMCH Auxiliary scholarships are available for high school seniors or recent high school graduates from Fort Madison High School, Central Lee High School, Holy Trinity Catholic High School or Keokuk High School. Non-traditional students and dependents of FMCH employees are also eligible to apply. The Tracey Howe scholarship is open to students planning to attend or currently attending Southeastern Community College in Burlington or Keokuk.

Scholarship recipients will be chosen based on grades, leadership, character, participation in community and school activities, and financial need.

Applicants can apply online by going to www.fmchosp.com/community-wellness/scholarships. It is important to review all criteria and documents necessary for consideration as incomplete applications will not be considered. Applications are also available at all schools mentioned above, please drop off or mail completed applications and supporting documents to the following address:

Fort Madison Community Hospital
Attn: Carrie Green
P.O. Box 174
5445 Avenue O
Fort Madison, IA 52627

All completed applications and supporting documents must be received at FMCH by April 1, 2020 for all three scholarships. Please direct additional questions to Carrie Green at (319) 376-2747

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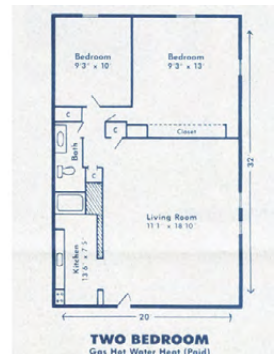
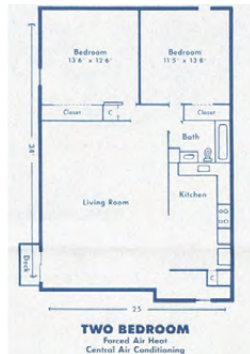
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Business News/From the Front

Josh Denning named to Forbes list

BY PCC STAFF

FORT MADISON – Joshua R. Denning, CRPC, CLTC, a Private Wealth Advisor with Ameriprise Financial in Fort Madison, IA, was named to the list of “Best-in-State Wealth Advisors” published by Forbes magazine. The list recognizes financial advisors who have demonstrated high levels of ethical standards, professionalism and success in the business.

The rankings are based on data provided by over 11,000 of the nation’s most productive advisors. Denning was chosen based on assets under management, industry experience, regulatory and compliance record and revenue produced over a three-year period. Denning is part of Joshua Denning & Associates a private wealth advisory practice of Ameriprise Financial Services, Inc. Denning graduated from St. Ambrose College with a degree in finance/economics



DENNING

As a Private Wealth Advisor, Denning provides financial advice that is anchored in a solid understanding of client needs and expectations and provided in one-on-one relationships with his clients. Denning has 22 years of experience with Ameriprise Financial.

For more information, please contact Joshua Denning > at 319-372-8923 or visit the Ameriprise office at 701 Avenue G, Fort Madison, Ia.

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“Roaring 20s” is theme of Feb. 21 Partners event

DINNER - Continued from Page 1

Annual Dinner is a Roaring 20s theme and will be held and McAleer Hall.

The Citizen of the Year award is sponsored by The Daily Democrat and is given to an individual who has worked towards improving the quality of life in the Fort Madison area. To nominate someone for this award, please send a note including your name, the name of person you’re nominating, and the reason for the nomination to Robin Delaney at the Daily Democrat, PO BOX 160 or by email: editor@dailydem.com.

The Ambassador of the Year award is given by the Chamber of Commerce to a Chamber member employee who’s efforts have made a considerable difference in the promotion of the organization and the community.

To nominate someone for this award, please contact Savanna Collier at chamber@fortmadison.com or 319-372-5471 with your name, the name of the person you’re nominating and the reason for the nomination.

Please submit your nominations by 12 p.m. on February 3, 2020. Each nominee will be recognized at the Annual Dinner.

The Fort Madison Area Chamber of Commerce is an affiliate organization of Fort Madison Partners. Fort Madison Partners is the umbrella organization which oversees the Fort Madison Chamber of Commerce, Fort Madison Economic Development and Fort Madison SIRRC. It serves to facilitate and coordinate efforts, services and resources of each individual organization as well as share strategic goals, working towards the common goal of making Fort Madison a great place to visit, live and work.



2020 To Do List

Save Our Planet

Thank you to all our customers who worked to reduce their environmental footprint last year. We look forward to helping you continue your efforts and to educating our communities on more ways to help this year.

Here are just a few ways you can help:

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