

# PEN CITY CURRENT

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Tuesday, February 18, 2020 | 6 pages | Volume 4 • Issue 45



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## Jim Baier hit by thieves

*Police are hunting for four cars stolen, including a rare 2020 Dodge Charger Hellcat*

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG  
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – Fort Madison Police has received several eyewitness reports of four vehicles stolen from Jim Baier Ford overnight or early this morning.

The latest information is that one or more of the vehicles was seen in the Donnellson area at about 4:30 Monday morning. Police then received a report that the vehicles could have possibly taken the Quincy exit of Hwy. 27 south, and final report had them in the Chillicothe, Mo. area at about 8:30 a.m. headed toward Kansas City.

The cars were reported stolen from Jim Baier Ford in Fort Madison between 9:30 p.m. and with recent information on the citations, sometime before 4:30 a.m.

Law enforcement and Jamie Baier, of Jim Baier Ford, released images of the vehicles and are asking for anyone with any information about the thefts of citations of the vehicles to call Fort Madison Police.



This 2020 Dodge Charger Hellcat was one of just 501 produced and was part of four vehicles taken from the Jim Baier dealership late Sunday or early Monday morning.

Jim Baier staff are currently conducting inventory of the dealership to determine exactly what was taken.

The suspects gained entry by breaking in a window and moving up to the showroom where they broke open key lock boxes and found the keys to the vehicles in the showroom and several in the lot. The showroom vehicles were driven out the front doors.

Baier said the suspects also ransacked the sales staff's offices and stole dealership plates.

See THEFT, page 2

### COUNCIL MEETINGS

## Council to set 2020-21 general levy

*New law requires hearing for maximum property tax request each year*

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG  
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – City officials will hold a hearing and then set a cap on the amount of taxes it will charge to residents for the general fund in the next fiscal year.

The city has set the general fund rate at \$13.44 for affected property taxes. That figure does not include the city's debt service levy of \$1.63.

Iowa law now requires the city to publish the maximum property tax levy, as part of a sweeping change that put a soft cap of 2% growth on property taxes levied by a local government.

The new law also requires the city to publish the taxable valuation and what rate the city would be charging if it's budgeted expenses were the same as the previous year. That tax sheet is provided below.

City officials have listed the regular taxable valuation of the city as \$305,973,711 an increase of \$8.6M or about 3%. If expenses had revenue needs had remained constant the the general fund levy would have dropped from \$13.65/\$1,000 to \$13.26/\$1,000.

The city's tax levy sheet shows revenue needs for the general fund for 2020-21 show an increase of 1.36% from \$4,058,490 to \$4,113,488 a jump of about \$55,000.

In other action, the council is scheduled to:

- vote on two tax exemptions under the city wide Urban Revitalization Tax Exemption district.
- hear a presentation on the county-wide digital radio upgrade project
- receive the annual certified Local Government Annual Report for the Fort Madison Historic Preservation Commission.

### ACCIDENT: FedEx truck rolls after collision near Rodeo Park

## Two hurt in 15th St. rollover

BY PCC STAFF

FORT MADISON – A two-vehicle accident on 15th Street in front of W-M Johnson Truck Line Monday afternoon sent two people to Fort Madison Community Hospital.

According to witnesses who saw the accident, a blue Mercury Cougar was southbound on 15th Street and had two tires slide off onto the west shoulder. Upon correction, the vehicle struck the back side of a FedEx truck heading northbound.

The FedEx truck slid sideways and rolled several



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Two people were sent to Fort Madison Community Hospital following this two-vehicle accident on 15th Street just south of Rodeo Arena Monday afternoon.

times coming to rest into the west ditch.

Personnel at W-M Johnson and a motorist pulled the FedEx driver from the vehicle through the front

window and tended to him while awaiting emergency responders.

Personnel from Denmark Fire & Rescue and Lee County EMS, Lee County

Sheriff's Office, and Fort Madison Police responded to the scene.

No other information on the other victims of the accident was available.

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### WEATHER

**TUE 18 Feb.....** Broken Clouds, 33.9° F/ 21.1° F  
**WED 19 Feb.....** Broken Clouds, 27.5° F/ 19.4° F  
**THU 20 Feb.....** Light Snow, 22.3° F/ 21.4° F

### IOWA LOTTERY

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## Obituaries/Local News

### OBITUARIES

# SANDRA K. JANNSSEN

Sandra Kay Janssen, 63, of Donnellson, Iowa, passed away at 4:35 p.m. Sunday, February 16, 2020, at her home.

She was born July 29, 1956 in Cherokee, Iowa, the daughter of Lowell and Elaine (Anderson) Allen. On June 25, 1977, she married Dennis Janssen at the Meriden Evangelical Free Church.

Survivors include her husband: Dennis; two sons: Christopher (Andrea) Janssen of Urbandale, Iowa and Nicholas (Shoko) Janssen of Tokyo, Japan; four grandchildren: Audrey Janssen, Noah Janssen, Aika Janssen and Ruth Janssen; her parents: Lowell and Elaine Allen of Cherokee, Iowa; two sisters: Kathleen (Rick) of Omaha, Nebraska and Linda (Dennis) of St. Charles, Illinois; two nieces and seven nephews.



JANNSSEN

Sandra graduated from Meriden Cleghorn High School and received her secretarial degree from Northwest Iowa Technical College. Sandra was a member of Embury United Methodist Church where she was an avid member of the choir and the United Methodist Women. She worked as a secretary and receptionist for Weight Watchers and owned and operated Monk Creek Weaving. She was a housewife and mother.

Friends may call after 12:00 noon Friday, February 21, 2020, at Schmitz Funeral Home in Donnellson, Iowa, where family will receive friends from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. that evening.

A Memorial Service will be held Saturday, February 22, 2020 at 10:30 a.m. at Schmitz Funeral Home with Pastor Barbara Krueger officiating.

Burial will follow at Embury Cemetery rural Donnellson. Following the burial a luncheon will be held at the Embury United Methodist Church.

A memorial has been established in her memory for grandchildren's college funds.

Online condolences may be sent to the family at [www.schmitzfuneralhomes.com](http://www.schmitzfuneralhomes.com). The Schmitz Funeral Home of Donnellson is assisting the family with the arrangements.

#### Pen City Current obituary policy

The Current runs obituaries 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.

# Witnesses saw vehicles in Donnellson, Hwy 27 south

**THEFT** - Continued from Page 1



Baier said it appears the suspects broke into the business on the west end of Fort Madison sometime overnight and drove two vehicles off the showroom floor,

including a 2020 Dodge Charger Hellcat Daytona, one of only 501 built.

The suspects also took a 2020 orange Ford Mustang.

They left a 2020 Silver Jeep on the floor.

"Maybe they didn't know how to drive stick," Baier said from the dealership Monday morning.

Fort Madison Police are also looking for a 2019 black

Dodge Challenger and a 2015 white Dodge Challenger taken from the lot.

Baier said the suspects smashed the key box in the sales bullpen that holds the keys and drove the vehicles right out the front door.

According to Fort Madison Police Chief Mark Rohloff, the method of operation has the marks of a professional ring that has been working in the Midwest and indicated an investigator has been called to the scene.

Baier said the dealership doesn't have showroom alarms because he's never had anything like this happen. He did have camera footage, but that was taken as well.

Baier said the suspects also got away with dealer plates.

"I'm sure they put these plates on. But these cars aren't hard to see."

Anyone with information or observing the vehicles is encouraged to contact the Fort Madison Police Department.

Jim Baier staff are still completing a total inventory of the dealership.

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# PEN CITY CURRENT

It's Black & White and Read all over

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

## For the Record

### For the Record

#### Fort Madison Police Report

No report – President's Day

#### Lee County Sheriff's Report

No report- President's Day

#### Hancock County Sheriff's Report

Hancock County Sheriff Scott Bentzinger reports the following arrests for the week of January 27th, 2020 through February 2nd 2020.

02/10/20 – Steven R Davis, age 61, of Hamilton, IL was arrested on a Hancock County Warrant charging him with Unlawful Possession of Methamphetamine. Davis was released after posting the required bond and given a future court date.

02/10/20 – Dwan E George, age 24, of Hamilton, IL was arrested on a Hancock County Warrant charging her

with Failure to Appear/Failure to Pay on original charges of Operating Uninsured Vehicle. George was released after posting the required bond and given a future court date.

02/10/20 – Andrew J DeHaven, age 36, of Pontoosuc, IL was arrested and charged with Murder. DeHaven remains lodged in the Hancock County Jail in lieu of bail awaiting his court appearance. 02/11/20 – Tammy R Hainline, age 40, of LaHarpe, IL was arrested on a Hancock County Warrant charging her with Failure to Appear on original charges of No Valid Driver's License. Hainline was released on her own Recognizance and given a future court date.

02/11/20 – Shea M McDonald, age 39, of Quincy, IL was arrested on a Hancock County Warrant charging him

with Failure to Appear on original charges of Disorderly Conduct. McDonald was released after posting the required bond and given a future court date.

02/11/20 – Shaine M Blanchard, age 22, of Hamilton, IL was arrested and charged with Driving While License Revoked. Blanchard was released after given a Notice to Appear on a future court date.

02/12/20 – Seth R Selvog, age 29, of Hamilton, IL was arrested and charged with Driving while License Suspended. Selvog was released after given a Notice to Appear on a future court date.

02/12/20 – Thomas L Brown, age 46, of Carthage, IL was arrested on a Warren County Warrant charging him with Petition to Revoke Probation on original charges of Aggravated Battery. Brown was

released to Warren County Authorities.

02/12/20 – Andrew P Boylan, age 26, of Fort Madison, IA was arrested on a Hancock County Warrant charging him with Failure to Appear on original charges of Unlawful Possession of Methamphetamine, Obstructing Identification and Driving While License Suspended. Boylan remains lodged in the Hancock County Jail in lieu of bail awaiting his next court appearance.

02/12/20 – Douglas W Washburn, age 38, of Sutter, IL was arrested on a Hancock County Warrant charging him with Obstructing Court Order for Aggravated Battery, Possession of Methamphetamine and Driving While License Suspended. Washburn remains lodged in the Hancock County Jail in lieu of bail awaiting his next court appearance.

02/13/20 – William L Walker, age 45, of Keokuk, IA was arrested and charged with Violation of Bail Bond. Walker remains lodged in the Hancock County Jail in lieu of bail awaiting his next court appearance.

02/13/20 – Jonathan WK Newlon, age 21, of Hamilton, IL was arrested and charged with Driving Under the Influence, Criminal Damage to Property, and Leaving Scene of Accident.

Newlon was also arrested on an Adams County Warrant charging him with Failure to Appear on original charges of Speeding. Newlon was released after posting the required bond and given a future court date.

02/14/20 – Randy E Hobb, age Warsaw, IL was arrested on a Hancock County Warrant charging him with Failure to Appear on original charges of Residential Burglary,

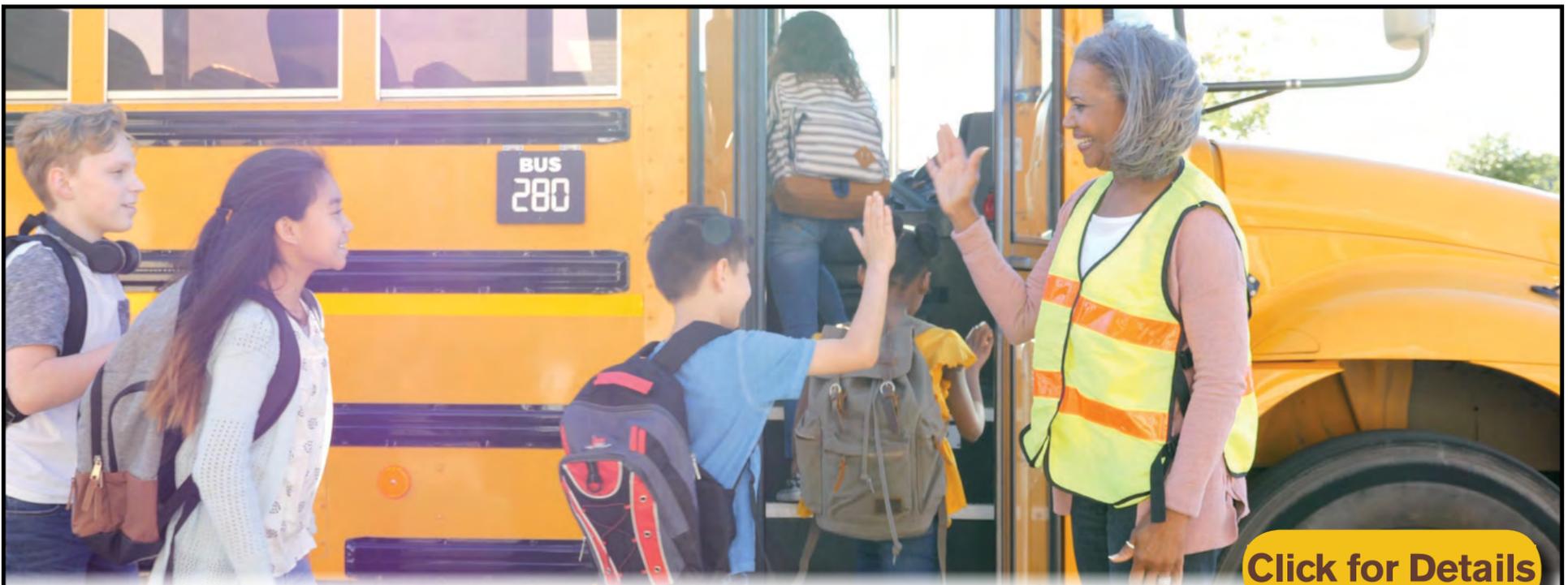
Theft, Criminal Trespass to Vehicle, Unlawful Possession of Drug Paraphernalia, and Criminal Trespass to Residency. Hobb was released after posting the required bond and given a future court date.

02/14/20 – Tracy A Hermann, age 56, of West Point, IL was arrested and charged with Aggravated Driving Under the Influence and Driving While License Revoked/Suspended.

Herman was released after posting the required bond and given a future court date.

02/14/20 – Joseph A. Akers, age 36, of Bowen, IL was arrested and charged with No Valid Driver's License. Akers was released after posting the required bond and given a future court date.

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



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# Current-Lee/Iowa News

## CURRENT-LEE

### LCHD children's immunization clinic

Lee County Health Department will be holding a Children's Immunization Clinic Thursday, February 13th, 2020 at Trinity United Methodist Church, 2330 Plank Road in Keokuk from 1 p.m. until 4:30 p.m. The clinic is open to children who have no insurance, are insured by Iowa Medicaid (MCO) or those who have private health insurance that does not cover the cost of vaccines. Free lead testing is available for all children ages 6 months to 6 years who reside in Iowa. Call 1-319-372-5225 with questions or visit our website at [www.leecountyhd.org](http://www.leecountyhd.org).

### Legislative Luncheon Feb. 21

The Fort Madison Chamber of Commerce's Government Affairs committee is scheduled to hold it's second monthly Legislative Luncheon Feb. 21 from noon to 1 p.m. at River Rocks Bar and Grill in downtown Fort Madison. The luncheon's are a chance to hear and question state lawmakers elected from this region.

### Partners Annual Dinner

The Fort Madison Partners will be holding their annual dinner on Feb. 21. This year's theme is "A Roaring Good Time" and 20's attire is requested and formal business is appreciated. Cocktail hour starts at 5:15 p.m. with a welcome, dinner, and awards to follow at McAleer Hall 415 11th Street. RSVP to the Partner's office at 372-5471 by Feb. 12.

### Baxter Sports Complex Fundraiser

The 3rd annual Baxter Sports Complex Social Tour and Auction Fundraiser on Feb. 29, 2020. Tickets will be on sale soon at the sports complex.

### OFF's "Drinking Habits"

The Old Fort Players next production will take place Feb. 14-16th and Feb. 21-23rd with performances at 7:30 p.m. on Friday and Saturday and 2 p.m. on Sunday. Tickets are \$15 for adults, \$12 for seniors and military personnel and \$10 for students. Tickets can be purchased online at [www.oldfortplayers.com](http://www.oldfortplayers.com) or by calling 319-372-9559.

### "Galentine's" Party

Bring the gal pals for shopping, treats and fun at The Kensington! Vendors will be on site and door prizes will be awarded on Feb. 18 from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. at The Kensington.

### Industrial Tech Day at SCC

Southeastern Community College will be holding an Industrial Technology Day on Feb. 20 on campuses in Keokuk and West Burlington from 9 a.m. to noon. The event will include live demos, meeting with current students and networking with area professionals. Register by visiting [www.scciowa.edu](http://www.scciowa.edu) or calling 319-313-1929.

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# 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:

- Don't put plastic bags in recycling bins
- Rinse & clean all food jars & cans before recycling
- Flatten empty boxes for better storage & volume reduction
- Place all recyclables loose in bins
- Don't recycle wrapping paper
- Properly dispose of all electronics and household hazardous waste



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### Future Ready youth grant applications now open

DES MOINES – Employers, non-profit groups, and educational institutions are encouraged to apply for the Future Ready Iowa Summer Youth Intern Program grant, a funding opportunity to place youth at risk of not graduating high school in internships primarily in high-demand career fields. The State of Iowa has appropriated \$250,000 of funds to support the Summer Youth Intern program. The application period opens February 11 and closes March 11.

"Future Ready Iowa is life-changing and it will infuse Iowa's workforce with thousands of skilled employees and is designed to help those looking for a way up," said Gov. Reynolds. "Future Ready Iowa's Summer Youth Intern Program provides opportunities for our students through engaging work-based learning during the summer months. I encourage students to apply because it's never too early, or too late, to find something you're passionate about."

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See GRANTS, page 6

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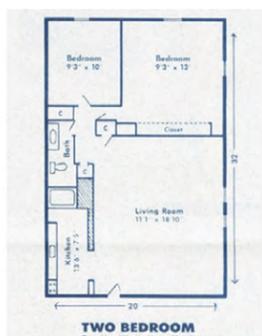
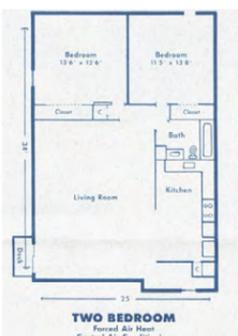
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backyard with picnic tables & glider swing in very nice, quiet neighborhood. Rents range from \$585-\$635. Lease required. 850 sq. ft. units. All electric. Water, sewer, trash furnished. 650 sq. ft. units. Water, heat, sewer, gas, trash furnished. Laundry rooms have new coin-operated washers & dryers (located in all buildings). On-site manager. Call 319-372-9409 or 319-750-3115 for appointment to view. Owned by Alliance Realty Co.



## IOWA NEWS

# Gov. Reynolds appoints Marler to lead IDOT

DES MOINES— Today, Gov. Reynolds announced the appointment of Scott Marler to serve as Director at the Iowa Department of Transportation (IDOT). His appointment is effective Monday, February 17th, 2020.

“Scott will do an outstanding job leading the Iowa Department of Transportation because of his depth of experience and effective management style,” said Gov. Reynolds. “Iowa DOT plays an instrumental role in the safe transportation of goods, services, and people across our state and we know he will do an incredible job.”

“I’m tremendously humbled and honored to be chosen by Governor Reynolds to join her team as Director of the Iowa Department of Transportation,” said Scott Marler. “I look forward to serving the citizens of our great state with the incredibly talented team at the Iowa DOT and to work with our partners and stakeholders to meet our common goal of making Iowa the safest

and most efficient transportation system in the country.”

Interim Director Stuart Anderson will return to his role as Director of the Planning, Programming, & Modal Division.

Scott Marler is currently the Director of the Operations Division at the Iowa Department of Transportation. Marler is active on several national committees associated with the American Association of State Transportation Officials (AASHTO) and the Transportation Research Board (TRB). He has served on a national technical committee for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, an expert panel for TRB, and a course development committee for the National Highway Institute. Marler has worked for the Iowa DOT for 22 years, with experience in traffic operations, highway project development, regulatory compliance, and the natural environment.

# Goal of program is to connect students, employers

## GRANT - Continued from Page 4

include developing soft skills and working with or for local employers in high-demand occupations.

“Our goal is to help communities create programs with local employers that serve local students. The students learn about high-demand jobs in their hometown and the soft skills necessary to get and keep a job,” said Director Beth Townsend, Iowa Workforce Devel-

opment. “Future Ready Iowa supports the idea that communities can better identify and develop their own workforce needs with the right tools that help create a talent pipeline. The Summer Youth Intern Program does this by giving students hands-on experience with local employers.”

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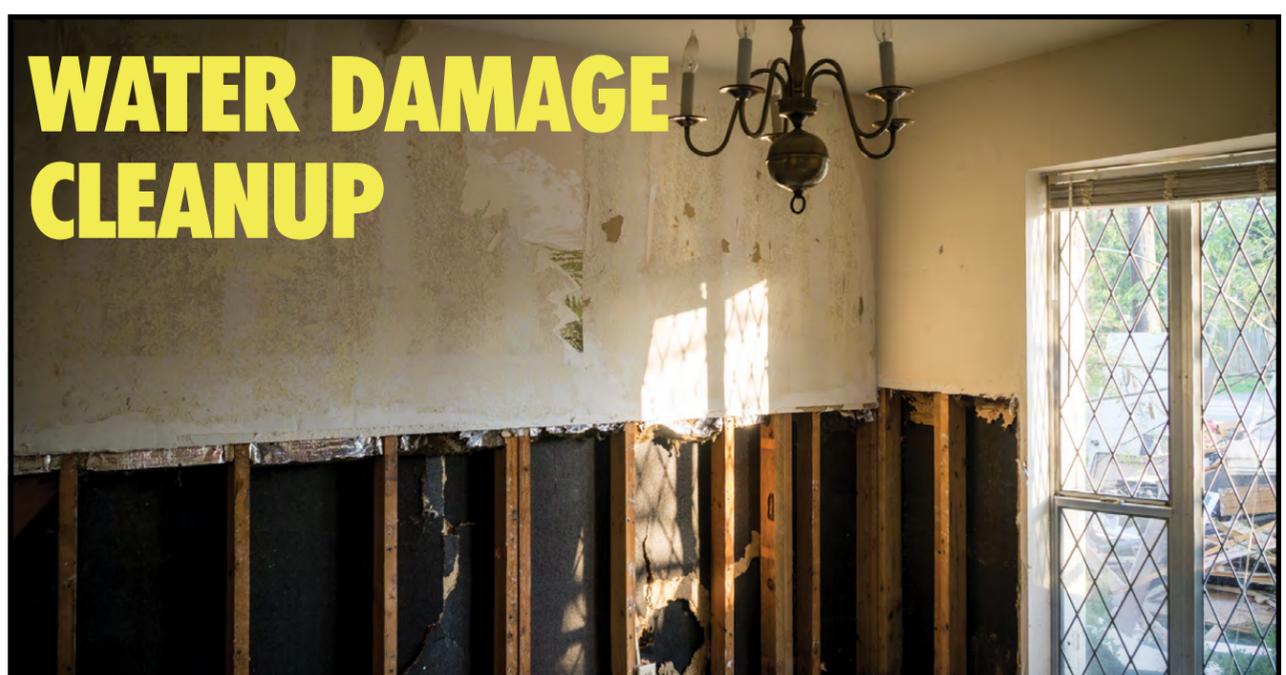
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