

PEN CITY CURRENT

It's Black & White and Read all over

Tuesday, May 5, 2020 | 7 pages | Volume 4 • Issue 92



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Panel favors national ambulance offer

COMMITTEE: American Medical Response proposal tops three local plans

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

LEE COUNTY – A group of a committee members met Monday afternoon to discuss proposals for the county's ambulance service and were soured with three local proposals.

The committee is led by Lee County Supervisor Gary Foluo and includes supervisor Rick Larkin, Lee County Auditor Denise Fraise, Lee County Sheriff Stacy Weber, and other emergency response volunteers and professionals.

The committee has been working the past six weeks to try to resolve a percolating financial storm with Lee County EMS Ambulance, Inc. the current provider.

Lee County Ambulance ran into a payroll shortage in March that required the county to chip in about \$36,000 to help keep the ambulances running. Since that time, the service hasn't needed extra financial support, but also didn't sign a new contract with the county.

County supervisors have budgeted \$500,000 in the next fiscal year budget beginning July 1 for the service, but it was revealed Monday that Lee County Ambulance requested \$950,000 from the county in its proposal to continue services. The proposal also requests a six-month review.

A proposal from American Medical Response Inc., a

See PLANS, page 4



...And now we get "Murder Hornets"

Could 2020 possibly get any worse? Murder Hornets?... Really?...

Have you seen these things? They look like something out of the anime world.

My social media feed is... abuzz... with stories about people saying it's not real. They don't even look real. I first caught wind of the hornets from local social media savant Dave Bohnenkamp.

Well, as much as I've seen the stories on the hornets, I've also read daily on how no one trusts the media. But here goes. CBS, CNN, the New York Times, and for you conservatives, even Forbes Magazine, have done pieces on these mutant stingers with the Porsche-esque chassis. So no fake news here. And if you don't trust those sources then take this — the Washington State Department of Agriculture confirmed the presence back in December.

There's something eerily similar to these hornets, who belong to genus Vespa, to the sleeky Italian Vespa scooters. These things look manufactured by hand, not by God.

Apparently these bully hornets attack the honey bee populations by decapitating the bees and hauling the carcasses back to feed their own hives. What?!

I'm not sure why that's so ear-popping considering that's the basis of Elton John's and Tim Rice's Circle of Life — and really of evolution's goal, but there's something just mean about this. Decapitation? C'mon man.

They've started appearing in the north-west part of the country and scientists are scrambling to isolate and contain the growth of the Asian Giant Hornet before

See HORNETS, page 5

Baker bikers spin words

Unexpected visit from son yields week of biking messages through streets

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

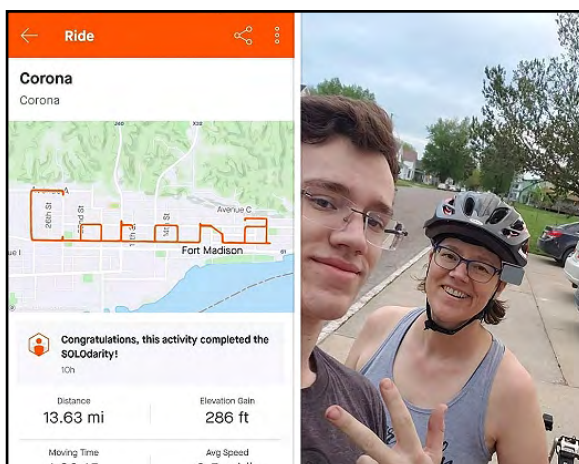
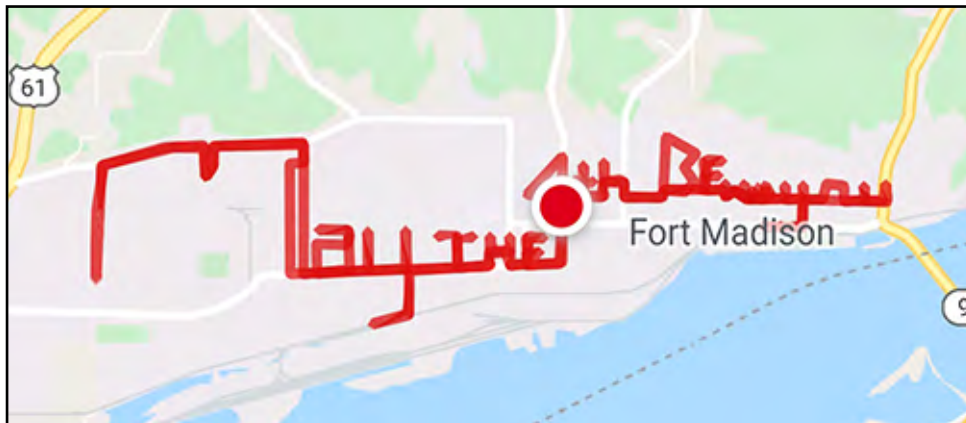
FORT MADISON – A surprise visit turned into a creative morning for a Fort Madison family and their friend.

Nicole Baker, of Fort Madison, and her son Joshua are taking advantage of a Samsung app to put a little flare into several days worth of bike rides in Fort Madison.

Joshua, is a enlistee of the Iowa Army National Guard and will be in self-quarantine for two weeks before heading to training on May 20. So he decided to surprise his mom with a short stay in Fort Madison this weekend.

Baker said her son surprised her with a call that he would be coming into town for the week from Clinton. Joshua is a senior this year and without their being graduation ceremony and all his current schooling being on done, he thought he would spend the last week with his mom before Guard training begins.

"It made my day," Nicole Baker said. "He was in town in March before the shutdown, and then with Clinton being on the other side of all the hot spots in eastern Iowa, we



Joshua Baker, right, stops for lunch with his mom Nicole during a bike ride Monday. The two have been cycling in paths spelling out words through Fort Madison streets on their Samsung tracking app.

Courtesy photo

thought it wouldn't be a good idea for him to drive down."

But when she heard he was going to make the trip down, she told him to bring his bicycle.

Nicole had suffered injuries from an auto accident several years ago and said bicycling wasn't in the works right away, but after some chiropractic therapy her injuries

don't limit her anymore.

So on Saturday, the two mapped out a path on their Samsung app that spelled "Corona" out of streets and avenues from Oak Drive east to 4th Street.

Baker said she wanted to do "I am bored", but her son quickly marked off a map that

See BIKES, page 5

INDEX

Business Directory.....P.6
CLASSIFIEDS.....P.6
Fort Colony Family Restaurant.....P.2
Fort Madison Community Hospital.....P.5
Fort Madison Family YMCA.....P.2
FOR THE RECORD.....Ps.2-3
Fullenkamp Insurance.....P.5
FROM THE FRONT.....Ps.4-5
Great River Regional Waste Authority.....P.3

LCK Roofing.....P.2
Lee County Health Department.....P.7
LEE COUNTY NEWS.....P.4
LOCAL NEWS.....P.5
Nancy Amos for Iowa Senate.....P.2
OBITUARIES.....P.3
• Alga "Colleen" Douglas, 99
• Carl J. Sanders, 77
OPINION.....P.5

Pen City Current.....P.6
Pilot Grove Savings Bank.....P.4
Rashid Pharmacy & Wellness.....P.2
Ron Davoo.....P.5

WEATHER

TUE 05 May.....Moderate Rain, 47.3° F/ 43.3° F
WED 06 May.....Light Rain, 57.8° F/ 45.8° F
THU 07 May.....Moderate Rain, 62.4° F/ 48.6° F

IOWA LOTTERY

PICK 3 05/03 MIDDAY.....394
PICK 3 05/03 EVENING.....122
PICK 4 05/03 MIDDAY.....6481
PICK 405/03 EVENING.....0807

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For the Record

For the Record

Fort Madison Police Report

05/01/20 – 8:48 a.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a hit and run in the 300 block of Crescent Lane.
 05/01/20 – 9:15 a.m. – Fort Madison Police arrested Jessie Marie Smith-Maddox, 43, of Fort Madison in the 2000 block of Avenue L, on a charge of disorderly conduct. He was released on a promise to appear.
 05/01/20 – 10:15 a.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of vandalism in the 3200 block of Avenue I.
 05/01/20 – 1:18 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 700 block of 13th Street.
 05/01/20 – 1:45 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of vandalism in the 1500 block of 39th Street.
 05/01/20 – 5:59 p.m. – Fort

Madison Police responded to a report of a hit and run in the 800 block of Avenue F.
 05/01/20 – 6:28 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of property damage accident in the 1400 block of Avenue H.
 05/02/20 – 11:27 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 4600 block of Avenue J.
 05/03/20 – 12:34 a.m. – Fort Madison Police arrested Allannah Lewis, 26, of Fort Madison, in the 1100 block of 23rd Street on a charge of serious domestic assault. She was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.
 05/03/20 – 2:36 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a vandalism in the 200 block of Avenue G.
 05/03/20 – 3:54 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded

to a report of larceny/theft in the 3100 block of Avenue K
 05/03/20 – 8:09 p.m. – Fort Madison Police cited Jonathan David Isaac Horn, 20, of Fort Madison in the 4800 block of Fort Madison, on a charge of driving under suspension. He was released.

Lee County Sheriff's Report

05/01/20 – 10:18 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Loran Lee Cheely, III, 38, of Burlington, at the sheriff's office on charge of violation of parole. He was held in custody.
 05/01/20 – 10:51 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Chad Michael Atterberg, 38, of Fort Madison, at the sheriff's office, on a warrant for violation of probation. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.
 05/03/20 – 2:02 a.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies responded to a one-vehicle accident in the 1300 block of 240th Avenue. According to

the report, a vehicle driven by Nicholas Hayes Carter, 19, of Fort Madison, was southbound on 240th, crossed the center line, left the roadway and entered the west ditch where he struck a culvert, after allegedly blacking out. Carter was transported to Fort Madison Community Hospital. Charges are pending.
 05/03/20 – 6:44 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested William Peacock Glad-den Junior, 62, of Keokuk, in the 2700 block of 340th Street on charges of domestic abuse assault-1st degree and assault with injury. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.

Hancock County Sheriff's Report

04/27/20 – Robert L Dowell, age 42, of Niota, IL was arrested on a Hancock County Warrant charging him with Predatory Criminal Sexual Assault. Dowell remains lodged in the Hancock County Jail awaiting his next court appearance.

04/27/20 – Jeffrey S Underwood, age 39, of Keokuk, IA was arrested and charged with Driving While License Suspended, Operating an Uninsured Vehicle, and No Valid Driver's License. Underwood was also arrested on a Hancock County Warrant charging him with Failure to Appear on original charges of Driving While License Suspended, Operating Uninsured Vehicle. Underwood was released after posting the required bond and given a future court date.
 04/28/20 – Jason E Fink, age 36, of Carthage, IL was arrested on a Hancock County Warrant charging him with Unlawful Possession of Stolen Motor Vehicle, Unlawful Defacing of a Manufacture's Identification Number, Unlawful Concealment of Vehicle Identity. Fink remains lodged in the Hancock County Jail in lieu of bail awaiting his next court appearance.
 04/28/20 – Amie T Schmitz, age 45, of Fort Madison, IA was arrested on a Hancock County Warrant charging her with Failure to Appear/ Failure to Pay on original charges of Theft. Schmitz was released on her own recognizance and given a future court date.
 04/30/20 – Joshua G Burgess, age 34, of Kinston, NC was arrested on a Hancock County

Warrant charging him with Failure to Appear/ Failure to Pay on original charges of Battery, Aggravated Battery, Driving Under the Influence, Leaving the Scene, Driving While License Suspended, Operating Uninsured Motor Vehicle and Speeding. Burgess was released after posting the required bond and given a future court date.
 04/30/20 – James M Mason, age 29, of Mendon, IL was arrested and charged with Driving Under the Influence and Driving While License Suspended. Mason was released after posting the required bond and given a future court date.
 05/02/20 – Crystal L Loveless, age 37, of Hamilton, IL was arrested on a Hancock County Warrant charging her with Failure to Appear on original charges of Unlawful Possession of Methamphetamine, Unlawful Possession of a Controlled Substance, No Valid Driver's License. Loveless was released after posting the required bond and given a future court date.
 05/02/20 – Seth R Selvog, age 29, of Hamilton, IL was arrested and charged with Domestic Battery. Selvog remains lodged in the Hancock County Jail in lieu of bail awaiting his initial court appearance.

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Obituaries/For the Record

OBITUARIES

CARL J. SANDERS

Carl Joseph Sanders, 77, of Donnellson, passed away at 12:07 p.m. Friday, May 1, 2020 at his home.

He was born November 11, 1942, the son of Paul and Rosina (Bentler) Sanders in Fort Madison, Iowa. On October 7, 1978 he married Diane Gabel at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Fort Madison.

Survivors include his wife: Diane; two daughters: Peggy Sanders of Donnellson, Iowa and Mary Beth (Tony) Sanders-Clippert of Solon, Iowa; one son: Randy (Kayla) Sanders of Donnellson, Iowa; three grandchildren: Kole and Hank Clippert, and Hoyt Sanders; seven siblings: Kenny (Judy) Sanders of St. Paul, Iowa, Gary (Vickie) Sanders of West Point, Iowa, Leroy (Joyce) Sanders of Houghton, Iowa, Vera Morgart of Bettendorf, Iowa, Donny (Becky) Sanders of West Point, Iowa, Patty (Tom) Brodar of Lafayette, Indiana, and Greg Sanders of West Point, Iowa.

He was preceded in death by his parents; mother and father-in-law: Irma and Duane Gabel; brother-in-law: Bill Morgart; niece and goddaughter: Julie Morgart Sarra; and nephew: Doug Sanders.

Carl was a member St. Boniface Catholic Church in Farmington, Iowa. He was a combine mechanic at J.J. Niching Company for 23 years. Carl loved to listen to 50's and 60's music, trains and hot wheel cars. He enjoyed raising small animals and caring for his little farm, watching the Price is Right every day and the St. Louis Cardinals. Most of all, he loved spending time with his family, especially his grandchildren.

A private family service will be held on Tuesday, May 5 with Father Dennis Hoffman officiating.

Burial will be at the Everhart Cemetery, Rural Donnellson.

A memorial has been established in his memory.

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

OBITUARIES

ALGA "COLLEEN" DOUGLAS

Alga "Colleen" Douglas, 99, of LaHarpe, IL and formerly of Plymouth & Macomb, passed away at 11:15 a.m. on Saturday, May 2, 2020 at LaHarpe Davier Health Center.



DOUGLAS

She was born on May 2, 1921 in Milton, IA to Adolph & Mable Roberts Habig. She married Frank A. Douglas on August 1, 1952. He preceded her in death in June of 1980. She worked at the Sheaffer Pen Company and later at McGraw Edison in Macomb. She was a member of Colmar Christian Church & Maple Avenue Christian Church and enjoyed sewing, especially quilts and wedding gowns.

Colleen is survived by: 1-daughter: Frankie (Nick) Huston of Dallas City, IL; 1-son: John (Sherri) Douglas of Carthage, IL; 4-grandchildren: Will (Martinette) Douglas, Chelsea (Mark) Douglas, Kyle (Bri) Harris & Jessi Harris; 5-step grandchildren; 5-great grandchildren: Sawyer & Ellea Douglas, Oliver, Graham & Cora Harris & 13-step great grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her parents, husband & 1-brother: Charles Habig.

Cremation has been entrusted to the care of King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory in Fort Madison. A private family graveside service will be held at Oakland Cemetery in Fort Madison. Memorials have been established for LaHarpe Davier Health Center, Colmar Christian Church & Compassus Hospice and may be sent to: Frankie Huston, 870 West 3rd Street, Dallas City, IL 62330. Online condolences to Colleen's 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.

For the Record

Continued from page 2

05/03/20 – David A Laws, age 38, of Hamilton, IL was arrested on a Hancock County Warrant charging him with Failure to Appear on original charges of Driving While License Suspended. Laws was released after given a Notice to Appear at a future court date.

05/03/20 – Isaac A DeShong, age 22, of Carthage, IL was arrested and charged with Possession of Methamphetamine and Criminal Trespass to Real Property. DeShong remains lodged in the Hancock County Jail in lieu of bail awaiting his initial court appearance.

05/03/20 – Steve A Leverton, age 57, of Bowen, IL was arrested and charged with Criminal Trespass to Vehicle. Leverton was released after posting the required bond and given a future court date.

05/03/20 – Bergis F Root, age 45, of Hamilton, IL was arrested and charged with Driving Under the Influence, Aggravated Fleeing and Eluding, and Criminal Damage to Government Supported Property. Root remains lodged in the Hancock County Jail in lieu of bail awaiting his initial court appearance. *Those listed above are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.*

Fort Madison Fire & Rescue Report

05/01/20 – Fort Madison Firefighters responded to one medical call.

05/02/20 – Fort Madison Firefighters responded to one medical call.

05/03/20 – Fort Madison Firefighters responded to three medical calls, and one burning complaint.

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From the Front

Committee to bring in Dallas firm for ambulance Q&A

PLANS - Continued from Page 1

subsidiary of Dallas-based Global Medical Response, got the best response from committee members. That proposal requests \$450,000 per year from the county and a three-year deal.

Lee County physician Dr. Phillip Caropreso said he was initially on the committee advocating for Lee County Ambulance, but said after reading the proposals, including two from Keokuk and Fort Madison Fire Departments, he's done an about face and supports the GMR proposal.

"I was very unsettled in my talking with (Bill Young) about their service, their shareholders, and the future of their business and what those people might do going forward," Caropreso said Monday.

"They have so many problems going forward that I think it undermines what they, going forward, will be able to do."

Larkin said he had the same concerns and the committee and board of supervisors are charged with making the best decision for the county.

"I do have questions about whether or not they can really change things around with the new proposal," Larkin said. "I know those shareholders and they're all good people, but I'm not sure it's best to go with them or not."

Caropreso also introduced the fear of Lee County Ambulance possibly going bankrupt and asked Folluo if the board of supervisors was prepared to deal with that.

"For me, I would say no, and that is certainly a possibility," Folluo said. "That word was mentioned a few times."

The GMR proposal would put a paramedic and EMT in each of three ambulances that would be manned 24/7 in Keokuk, Fort Madison, and Donnellson.

The committee asked Fraise to set up a meeting as soon as Friday morning to have GMR officials on hand for a Q & A with the committee.

Weber expressed concerns about entering into an agreement for three years, but Folluo said in conversations with GMR, reps indicated they weren't interested in a one-year investment, but would include language in the contract that would give the county a 90-day out.

Larkin said finding the additional \$450,000 would be a big ask for supervisors, who could be struggling with the current budget as it is.

Bryor McMillen, who also sits on the committee, said he was very impressed with GMR's proposal but had some questions as to how that company's bid can be so much lower than the other proposals. He also suggested setting up a more permanent ambulance oversight committee to help sniff out potential problems going forward.

Caropreso said GMR is the only group he'd like to move forward with at this point.

"Right now, if they answered our questions, this would be the only proposal I would be in favor of," he said.

Weber said with his budget being the third largest in the county, the extra money needed for other proposals would come in part from his department.

"If we crowd the trough even further, there's going to be services lost somewhere in the county," he said. "I'll be a little selfish here and I don't want those to come to my department."

Weber also said substantial consideration should be given to proposals that include keeping or hiring the current staff at Lee County Ambulance.



FOLLUO

"These folks have been soldiers through this whole thing. They've stood by and come to work and that speaks volumes to me."

Caropreso called the Keokuk Fire Department proposal "disappointing".

"I put them at the bottom on the way the proposal was put together. No experience, more money, no equipment...where's it all coming from? What's going to be the relationship? It was very disappointing," he said.

The two city fire departments had to scramble to get something together for the committee to consider. Fire Chief Joey Herren said at previous meetings that the cities were being asked to put something together in 90 days that other people will do in a year.

The fire department proposals required a \$960,000 commitment from the county. Caropreso asked what the cities' contributions would be and Folluo said his indication was the cities' current contributions to county coffers, nothing additional. The proposal would be a five-year deal.

Both Fort Madison and Keokuk city councils would have to sign off on the proposals.

"I see that as the wild card in their proposal," Caropreso said. "This has not been acted upon by the city councils. The city could say, 'Nope, we don't want to do it.' - My goodness"

The current contract for ambulance services runs out on June 30.

Folluo asked all committee members to have questions in to him by Thursday at noon because of the potential for a meeting Friday with GMR, as well as getting the issue in front of Supervisors as soon as possible.

Supervisor chairman Ron Fedler said he would call a special meeting of the board, if necessary, to consider recommendations for the service.



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From the Front

Migration could take three years

HORNETS - Continued from Page 1

it gets out of hand.

And it's just not the honey bee population that's in jeopardy, which is bad enough considering their role in ecology. These things can, and do, attack humans with voracity if provoked. Originating on Japanese islands, these thugs kill 50 Japanese people a year on average.

Entomologist Chris Looney posted on the Washington Dept. of Ag's YouTube page to not engage with these beasts.

"Don't try to take them out yourself if you see them," he said. "If you get into them, run away, then call us!"

Take them out?! I mean... is this going to be a Liam Neeson thing?

And running away just makes them mad. Especially if you smell nice or are sweating. If I ran into them, I can see me immediately sweating... and running.

Scientists in the northwest are watching and hunting these hornets with a hope of eradication. That's right... eradicate. That means eliminate from existence. Geesh.

Theories about how these things got into the United States range from terrorism to a hive in a box on a cargo ship... yep, from China. Branstad...where are you? What are you doing? You told me you were tight with these folks.

Experts say, if not checked, the migration east through the country could take two to three years. In Europe, a recent rampage knocked the honeybee population down 30% and hit the honey market at about two-thirds of production.

All kidding aside, that's pretty serious, not to mention the pollination impact.

I say we use drones, not mine, equipped with precision lasers to hunt these things down. And decapitation is on the table. I'm not comfortable with killing at any level, but we have enough on our plate. We've survived killer bees, but I draw the line at murder hornets.

And speaking of things buggin' ya. Lee County Health Department has confirmed 16 positive cases of coronavirus, with two people listed as recovered. That number is more than double the amount just a week ago and we aren't seeing ramped up local testing that is taking place at meat packing plants and long-term care centers.

So please be safe, and take advice from the local health experts regarding preventative measures. We are not trending down nor are we stabilized as Gov. Kim Reynolds indicated were two of the measures considered in opening a county to relaxed restrictions - but I guess that's Beside the Point.

Chuck Vandenberg is editor/co-founder of the Pen City Current and can be reached by email at editor@pencitycurrent.com

Mom gets time biking with son

BIKES - Continued from Page 1

would spell out the word 'Corona.' The ride was just over 13 miles and took about an hour and a half.

But that wasn't the end of the bicycle puzzlings as on Sunday they went 17 miles and spelled out GO ARMY.

Baker is on reduced work due to the pandemic. She's a TSA agent at Southeast Iowa Regional Airport in Burlington.

"I showed him the mapping app and he went to town," she said.

A school friend of Joshua's, Noe Trejo made the trip with the two on Saturday.

On Monday, in homage to all Star Wars fans, the two pedaled out 'May the 4th be with you.'

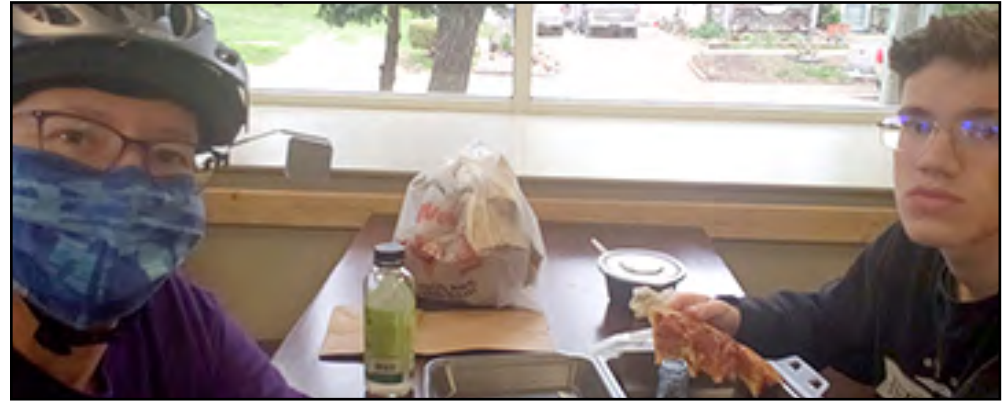
Baker said biking is something she's always enjoyed and taught her children to enjoy as well.

"I didn't know if we do something every day all week, but I thought I'd take him on some 25 mile rides," Baker said. "We may take a break on Wednesday, but I think we'll do something for Cinco De Mayo and then probably a Mother's Day message."

She said the pandemic and staying home has been tough, but she's been trying to get out and exercise daily.

"It's been tough. I was doing a little bit of exercise before. But my work situation turned out that I'm not working much so I've tried getting back out for walks or bike rides every day and doing some home exercise to keep moving," she said.

"With it just being me in my apartment, it's a bit lonely."



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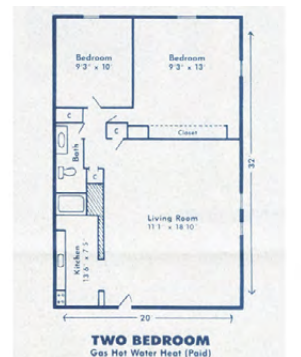
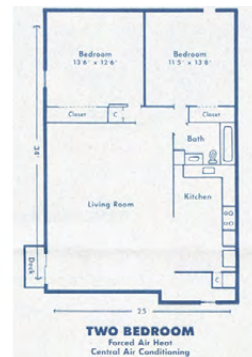
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