



Pen City Current

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Arrest made in Indian Path murder case

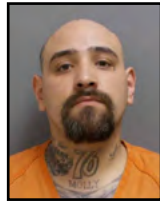
Suspect sentenced Thursday on federal gun charges, then first-degree murder charges filed on Friday in Lee County

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - A Burlington man who was being held in Muscatine County Jail on federal gun charges has been arrested on a first-degree murder charge out of Lee County and has been transferred to the Lee County Jail.

Joseph Mayorga, Jr., 35, Burlington was transported

to Lee County on Thursday and charges were filed Friday with the Lee County Attorney's office. Lee County Assistant Attorney Bruce McDonald will be handling the case. Mayorga is charged in the shooting death of James Merlin Nelson on or about Feb. 11, 2017. Nelson's body was discovered at the Indian Path Park on the north side of Hwy 61 along the Skunk River, just past the Des Moines/Lee county Line.



MAYORGA

According to an official with the Muscatine County Jail, Mayorga was being held in custody there by the U.S. Marshal's office on a federal charge. According to federal court records, Mayorga was sentenced on Thursday to 8.5 years in prison and an additional three years supervised release on one count of unlawful

transportation of firearms - felon in possession of a firearm.

Lee County Sheriff Stacy Weber said Mayorga was taken into custody about one week after the murder and has been in custody since that time so the investigation could run its course.

On February 11, 2017 the Lee County Sheriff's Office responded to a call of a possible deceased person at a Lee County roadside park near Wever, Iowa.

Upon arrival, a male subject later identified as 47-year-old Nelson, was found deceased. An autopsy performed on Nelson determined that he was killed



WEBER

See MURDER, page 12



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

City crews were out cleaning sewer lines in Fort Madison starting last week. The crews were running a city vacuum truck on the east end of town on Wednesday.

Rotary 'petaling' roses to raise local funds

BY PCC STAFF

FORT MADISON - The Fort Madison Rotary Club has a way for you to surprise your loved ones this fall and the effort helps fund local community and charitable events.

Orders for a dozen roses are being accepted through Tuesday. For \$20 you get the roses and delivery, which will be done on Oct. 13.

To order the roses contact Matt at 563-650-5272 or Janelle at 319-470-4011.

Funds raised will help support local high school scholarships, the Rotary Youth Leadership Academy, Operation Warm (Coat Project), Central Park, International projects, Polio Plus, Community Match grants, and the Riverview games.

The club is also trying to gauge interest in a commemorative blanket that depicts historic and iconic locations in Fort Madison. The blankets would be \$60 each or two for \$100, but a minimum order is required to have them produced. The blankets have been produced in the past, but the club wants to revamp the design and needs to know from the community if there is sufficient interest to move ahead with the project.

Those interested in the project or purchasing a blanket are encouraged to contact any Rotarian or Matt and Janelle at the numbers above.

This is a sample of what the Fort Madison Rotary

See ROTARY, page 12

Hounds recap - MP 44, FMHS 16

Mistakes, penalties doom Hounds at home

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - Despite more than 300 yards in total offense, the Fort Madison Bloodhounds couldn't find a way to

keep Mt. Pleasant out of the endzone Friday night as the Hounds dropped their second game of the season 44-16 to the visiting Panthers.

The Hounds found themselves in trouble early on when junior quarter

back Zach Beason found the Panther's Jordan Magnani open down the right side on the third play from scrimmage for a 55-yard touchdown. The Hounds put together a decent drive on their first possession converting two third

downs and moving the ball to the Panthers' 44 before having to punt away.

The Panthers took over at their own 37 and marched 12 plays in the other direction and settled

See LOSS, page 4

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Mega Ball: 15
Megaplier: 5



9/23
24 45 55 56 57
Powerball: 19
Power Play: 2

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Mega Millions®	Tues & Fri	8:59 pm	10:00 pm
Powerball®	Wed & Sat	8:59 pm	9:59 pm
Hot Lotto®	Wed & Sat	8:18 pm	9:40 pm
Pick 3 - Midday	Daily	Noon	12:20 pm
Pick 3 - Evening	Daily	9:40 pm	10:00 pm
Pick 4 - Midday	Daily	Noon	12:20 pm
Pick 4 - Evening	Daily	9:40 pm	10:00 pm



9/23
11 12 30 41 47
Hot Ball: 5
Sizzler: 3



9/22 MID-DAY
9 8 6
9/22 EVENING
9 0 3

9/23 MID-DAY
1 2 4
9/23 EVENING
7 8 1



9/22 MID-DAY
6 3 1 5
9/22 EVENING
4 0 1 2

9/23 MID-DAY
7 4 5 9
9/23 EVENING
4 0 4 3

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- Community Grant Matches
 - Riverview Games

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Obituaries

OBITUARIES

NORMA JEAN BETHENOD

Norma Jean Bethenod, 87, passed away on April 12, 2017 in Victorville, California.

Norma was born September 17, 1929 in Fort Madison and graduated from Fort Madison High School in 1947. She attended what was then Iowa State Teacher's College in Cedar Falls, Iowa (now the University of Northern Iowa), from 1947-1950. She then worked in accounting at Wright's Chrysler-Desoto-Dodge-Plymouth dealership in Fort Madison. In 1955, Norma moved to Watsonville, California, to be closer to her parents and her two brothers, Richard and Robert Bethenod.

In Watsonville, Norma worked in the offices of the Suburban Gas Company and at Granite Construction Company. In 1956, she moved to San Bernardino, California, where she worked for several different new car dealerships in Southern California. In 1970, after her father retired from the Santa Fe Railroad, she moved with her parents to Victorville, California, where she lived for the next 47 years. During most of this period she worked as the Office Manager for Victorville Motors, the local Chrysler-Plymouth dealer for that area.

Norma is survived by her brother, Robert Bethenod of Hillsborough, North Carolina.

A brief graveside service will be held at 11:00 AM Monday, October 2, 2017 at Oakland Cemetery in Fort Madison. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the American Cancer Society, contributions may be made at the graveside service or the Barr Memorial Chapel. Online condolences to the Bethenod Family may be made at www.barrmemorialchapel.com. Barr Memorial Chapel is in charge of the arrangements.



BETHENOD

JUDITH "JUDY" JOAN STEPHENSON

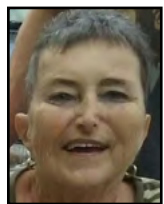
Judith "Judy" Joan Stephenson, 65, of Montrose, Iowa died Thursday, September 21, 2017 at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics, Iowa City, Iowa. She was born October 6, 1951 in Fort Madison, Iowa, a daughter of Carl and Florence Hazel (Smalley) Miller. On September 1, 1968, she married Marion Stephenson in Fort Madison.

Judy worked as a CNA in nursing homes for years. Later she worked as the site manager at the Newberry Center before retiring. She was a member of the Calvary Assembly of God Church. She collected angels and enjoyed crossword puzzles, flea markets, and yard sales. She lived for her family, especially her grandchildren and great grandchildren. She loved Jesus.

She is survived by husband, Marion Stephenson of Montrose, Iowa; three sons: Michael Stephenson of Fort Madison; Matthew (Amanda) Stephenson of Fort Madison; and Billy Stephenson of Montrose, Iowa; one daughter, Kathy Stephenson (Brad Nuebel) of Fort Madison; two brothers, Mike (Pat) Miller and Larry (Vicki) Miller both of California; two sisters, Beverly Lemon of Fort Madison and Nancy (Charles) Corns of Burlington; 17 grandchildren, 5 great grandchildren, numerous nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents, one son Jason Stephenson, one daughter Crystal Ahlen, one brother Carl Miller Jr, and two sisters, Sally Gelsthorpe and Peggy Miller.

Visitation will be held from 10:00 - 11:00 am Tuesday, September 26, 2017 at the Barr Memorial Chapel. A funeral service will follow and begin at 11:00 am Tuesday at the funeral home with Rev. Scott Gruening officiating. Burial will be at Oakland Cemetery, Fort Madison. A memorial has been established, contributions may be made at the Barr Memorial Chapel. Online condolences to the Stephenson Family may be at www.barrmemorialchapel.com.



STEPHENSON

ALTON RAY BROWN

Alton Ray Brown, 76, of Fort Madison, IA, passed away peacefully at 6:10 a.m. on Saturday, July 22, 2017 at the Donnellson Health Center in Donnellson, IA. He was born on November 6, 1940 in Camden County, MO to Raymond & Neva (Sellers-Brown) Becker. He served in the U.S. Navy from 1960 to 1970, a veteran of the Vietnam conflict, and later served two years in the Army National Guard in Lebanon & Hannibal, MO. He retired from the Iowa State Penitentiary in 2003, having served for more than two decades as a correctional officer.

Alton is survived by: 1-son: David E. Testa (wife Lisa) of Fredericksburg, VA; 1-sister: Carol M. Nelson (husband William) of St. Louis, MO.; 5-grandchildren; 3-great grandchildren; and 2-nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents, 3-wives and 1-son: Ricky Lee Testa.

Per his wishes, cremation has been entrusted to King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory in Fort Madison, IA. Burial with honors will be at 10:45 a.m. Monday, September 25, 2017, at the West Entrance Shelter of Keokuk National Cemetery in Keokuk, IA. In lieu of flowers; the family is requesting any donations in Alton's memory be made to a worthy charity providing direct assistance to disabled U.S. military veterans. Online condolences to Alton's family may be left at the King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory website: www.kinglynk.com.

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Sports

Hounds offense churns out close to 400 yards

LOSS - Continued from Page 1

for a Donald Blancas extra point to make it 10-0.

The Hounds went four and out on three carries by senior Alex Gully, who finished the game with 33 carries for 194 yards and a touchdown. The Panthers went four and out on the next series and the Hounds took over at their own 42. Senior quarterback Lennon Barker hooked up with Logan Allen for 22 yards and then Gully carried for 28 yards on the next two carries. Barker got taken down for a loss on 1st and 10, but Gully carried the next two snaps for 14 yards total for another Hound first down at the 9-yard line.

Barker missed on a toss to Allen and the Hounds had to settle for a 14-yard field goal from AJ Nolting to make it 10-3.

Beason completed a couple passes on the next series for Mt. Pleasant but the drive stalled and the Panthers' punt sent the Bloodhounds deep into their own territory. Barker lost 8 on 1st and 10 and two incomplete passes gave the ball back to Mt. Pleasant in good field position. Just four plays later, Beason broke free for a 13-yard scamper to make it 16-3.

Senior Shance Redd-Donald brought the ensuing kick-off back to the 27 and Gully took the first snap 21 yards to the 40. Two more Gully carries for six yards had the Hounds at 3rd and 4 when Head Coach Tony Shiffman called a time out. Barker missed senior Lorenzo Riles II and brought up 4th and 4. Shiffman gambled and Barker hit Redd-Donald on a 16-yard pass to get to the Panther 29.

After a Barker incompleteness in Riles' direction again, Gully pushed his way for four yards to the 25 and a Mt. Pleasant penalty on a Diego Lozano carry put the ball just outside the Hounds 14' yard line, where Barker hooked up with Redd-Donald in the back of the endzone for a touchdown. A two-point conversion pass failed and the Hounds were down 16-9.

“

You can't make mistakes like that against a team like Mt. Pleasant because they are going to capitalize on it like they did.”

-Tony Shiffman,
FMHS Head Coach

The next drive, Beason hooked up with senior Keiran Kohorst on a 26-yard pass play and then three Fort Madison penalties, including a personal foul on 3rd and 10 that gave Mt. Pleasant a 1st and 10 at the 22 yard line. A holding penalty and an offside put the ball at the 7 and Beason found Levi Puig in the back of the endzone tangled up with Lorenzo Riles and Puig held onto the ball as he fell out of the back of the endzone resulting in a touchdown and the Panthers were up 23-9.

The Panthers squib kicked a low bouncing ball that was recovered at the Fort Madison 29. Gully took the first two snaps headed west for 24 yards and then Barker found Redd-Donald behind the safeties for a 47-yard pass play to the FMHS 2, where Gully took the next carry into the endzone. Nolting added the extra point and the Hounds were within a score at 23-16 at halftime.

The Hounds got the ball in the 2nd half and got a first down on the first series. Gully rushed for 35 yards before Lozano was tackled for a two-yard loss which brought up 4th and 2 at the Panthers' 31. Shiffman went for it on 4th, but the Panthers stuffed the play at the line and took over on downs at their own 31. The Panthers picked up four first downs on the way to a 17-yard touchdown toss from Beason to Magnani and the extra point made it 30-16.

Fort Madison continued to move the ball on their possessions but couldn't seem to get the key first downs when they needed them the rest of the way through the

game.

Mt. Pleasant would get another touchdown on an 8-yard run by Beason with about 3 minutes left in the third quarter to make the score 36-16 and they got their last score on another Beason touchdown strike.

The Bloodhounds committed seven penalties on the night, but missed tackles were probably the biggest factor in the game as several times Panthers were able to shuck off one-on-one's aside from some thundering hits from Redd-Donald coming up from the secondary.

“You can't make mistakes like that against a team like Mt. Pleasant because they are going to capitalize on it like they did,” Shiffman said after the game. “This is the same situation as Osky, they are not 28 points better than us. We're just making too many mistakes and our kids are still learning to play in the face of adversity.”

Shiffman said going into halftime the Hounds had the momentum.

“We came out and we were ready to go, but we didn't get that first down we needed and you could see the kids hang their heads.”

He said now is not the time for the Hounds to forget how well they can play with Solon coming up next week and FMHS fighting for a winning season.

“They can't hang their heads. There are still too many winnable games and now they're fighting for a winning record. So we just have to regroup, get things going better, and keep moving forward.”

Barker finished the game 12 of 26 for 170 yards, 1TD, and one interception. Redd-Donald dropped a couple balls in the first quarter but settled in with five catches on the night for 107 yards and a score. Logan Allen had four catches for 40 yard and Riles II caught 3 balls for 21 yards. Sheymouhr Redd-Donald led the Hounds on defense with five tackles and four assists.

The Hounds take their 3-2 record to Solon Friday. The Spartans knocked off Oskaloosa 43-7 Friday night.

Pictures on the game can be found on page 11 and www.pencitycurrent.com.

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Executive Director



United Way of the Great River Region which serves Lee County in Iowa, Hancock County in Illinois and Clark County in Missouri is seeking an Executive Director to manage all aspects of a non-profit organization dedicated to improving lives in the area of health, education and financial stability.

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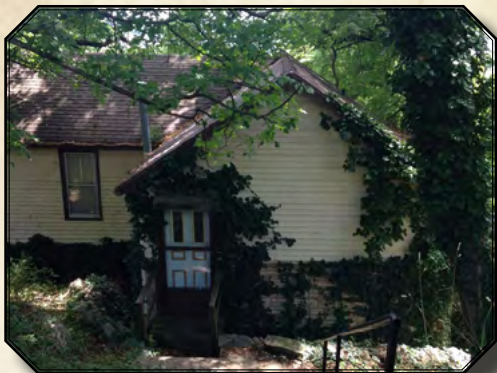
604 Avenue E
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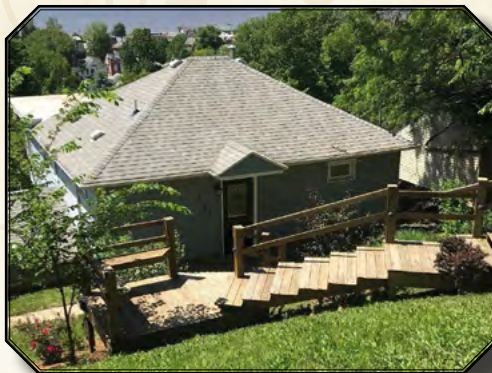
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Listing #20166236



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Listing #20164117



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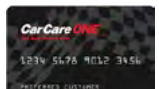
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HTC takes three to start SEISC tourney

BY PCC STAFF

CARDINAL - The Holy Trinity girls volleyball team swept three matches in early round Southeast Iowa Superconference action Thursday night.

The Crusaders dropped host Cardinal of Eldon, 21-11, 21-15 before stopping Mediapolis 21-17, 21-18 and then Van Buren 21-6, 21-14.

Senior Maya Rashid paced the Crusaders with 52 assists across all three matches including 19 in the last game of the night against Van Buren. She also had 25 digs, 2 blocks and was 24 of 26 serving.

Junior Emily Box was 61-68 on the attack with 26 kills, 13 of which came in the two sets against Mediapolis. She also had 24 digs, two blocks and was 19 of 20 serving with five aces.

Elyse Pothitakis was a perfect 25-of-25 serving with two aces and had 24 digs on the night. Eryn Anderson was also perfect at the line going 24 of 24 with two aces, 14 digs and at the net she was 27 of 34 on attacks with 12 kills. Madison Mohrfeld was 15 of 15 attacking with eight kills. Sam Hoenig again was a perfect 16 of 16 serving and had eight assists and four kills. Junior Taylor Boeding was 16 of 17 serving with two aces and was 28 of 31 at the net with 14 kills.

The 17-2 Crusaders finish up the conference tournament on Saturday at Southeastern Community College with the finals beginning at 5 p.m.

In the state rankings the Crusaders dropped to 6th in Class 1A after two losses last week to New London and Fort Madison. The Crusaders beat New London in their next meeting at the Holy Trinity Classic. New London was ranked 5th in Class 1A in the latest poll released Thursday.

Area Fishing Report

The following is the weekly fishing report from the Iowa Department of Natural Resources. For the full statewide report visit www.iowadnr.gov.

Lake Big Hollow

Weathered warmed up; water temperature has reached the upper 70's. Black Crappie - Slow: Anglers are still finding the crappies in deeper water. Largemouth Bass - Fair: Go shallow in the early morning and late evening; as the day gets warmer flow them out to deeper water. Bluegill - Slow: Still look in deeper water, but the hungry ones are harder to find.

Lake Belva Deer

Water temperature is in upper 70's. Fishing is still pretty slow; the water needs to cool off so the fish will come in shallow. Bluegill - Slow: Warm weather has slowed the bluegill bite again. Anglers have to work for them. Channel Catfish - Excellent: Catfish continue to bite. Black Crappie - Slow: Crappie fishing went from pretty good, to hard to find.

Lake Darling

Water temperature is up to 78 degrees. Water clarity is not bad, but is still green. Largemouth Bass - Fair: A few smaller fish are being caught in shallow. The bigger bass are out around the deeper habitat. Black Crappie - Slow: Most anglers were still catching them out in deeper water 10-12 feet). The water needs to cool off before they come in shallow. Bluegill - Slow: Anglers are picking up some nice eating sized bluegills, but they have to work the deeper habitat fairly hard to find them. A few bluegills are starting to move in shallow.

Lake Geode

Water temperature Tuesday morning was 78 degrees; wouldn't be surprised to see 80 degrees in the bays. Water clarity is pretty good, but still tinted green. Bluegill - Slow: Most have moved back to the deeper side of the drop-offs. Black Crappie - Slow.

For more information on the above lakes, contact the Lake Darling Fisheries Office at 319-694-2430.

Mississippi River Pool 19

Tailwater stage is 2.49 feet at Lock and Dam 18 above Burlington. We have not received any fishing reports for this pool this week. Channel Catfish - No Report: Try dip baits, nightcrawlers, or cut shad in brush piles and snags along the main channel and side channels. White Crappie - No Report: Use jigs and minnows/plastics or minnows under a bobber crappies in brush piles in the backwaters and flowing side channels.

River stages have risen some in the past 24 hours due to recent heavy rains. The river has muddied up some. Main channel water temperature is around 74 degrees. If you have questions on fishing Pools 16-19, contact the Fairport Fish Hatchery at 563-263-5062.

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Hounds Football



Photos by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Above, Senior Shance Redd-Donald waits for a pass incoming from Lennon Barker. Redd-Donald made the grab in the 2nd quarter behind MP's Tucker Johnson (7) and Keegan Rich (25) and the Hounds scored on the next play. Below Quentin Estrada closes in on Levi Puig (21) before making the stop Friday night.



At top, Alex Gully closes in on a Panther fumble Friday night, but the Panthers' Keegan Kohorst (56) slipped in front of Gully to recover the loose ball. Above, Logan Allen takes off after a reception in the first quarter of the Hounds 44-16 loss.



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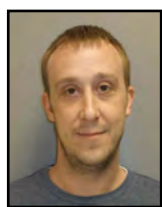
From the Front/Weather

Task force gets Keokuk man

BY PCC STAFF

KEOKUK - The Lee County Narcotics Task Force reports the arrest of a Keokuk, Iowa man on felony and misdemeanor drug charges.

Alex Joseph Derr, 30, of 412 S 20th Street, Keokuk, Iowa was arrested on September 22nd, 2017 on felony and misdemeanor drug charges. Derr is charged with possession of methamphetamine less than five grams with the intent to deliver within



DERR

1000 feet of a park, a class C felony with an enhancement, possession of methamphetamine, a serious misdemeanor, and possession of drug paraphernalia, a simple misdemeanor. If convicted, Derr faces up to 16 years and 30 days in a state correctional facility. Derr was also arrested on two probation

violation warrants.

The arrest of Derr stems from an investigation by the Keokuk Police Department into multiple 911 calls. Derr was encountered during this investigation and arrested on active warrants. During the course of the arrest, items that support the charges were discovered. The Lee County Narcotics Task Force assisted the Keokuk Police Department in the subsequent investigation.

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

The defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.

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

Officials still quiet on where murder took place

MURDER - Continued from Page 1

by a single gunshot to the head. According to Iowa Department of Criminal Investigations Special Agent Rick Rahn, since the body was discovered in Lee County, the court case would be handled there, however Mayorga has the option to ask for a change of venue.

Rahn declined to comment on specifics of the case, including where the actual shooting took place.

Detectives from the Lee County Sheriff's Office-Criminal Investigations Division and Special Agents of the Iowa Department of Public Safety (DPS), and DCI launched an investigation at the scene and said the investigation took investigators to several jurisdictions. Early into the investigation, Mayorga became a suspect.

On Friday, charges were filed by Lee County Detective Chad Donaldson on Mayorga for Murder in the First Degree, a Class A Felony. If convicted, Murder in the First Degree carries a mandatory life imprisonment without the possibility of parole.

Agencies who assisted in this investigation include Iowa Department of Public Safety (DPS), Iowa Division of Criminal Investigation (DCI), Des Moines County Sheriff's Office, Henry County Sheriff's Office, Iowa State Patrol, Muscatine County Sheriff's Office, Southeast Iowa Narcotics Task Force, Burlington Police Department, Iowa State Fire Marshal's Office, Iowa Division of Narcotics Enforcement, Fairfield Police Department, Iowa DNR, Intel Bureau, University of Iowa Decedent Care Center, and the Lee, Des Moines, Henry and Jefferson County Attorney's Offices.

Rotary may bring blankets back

ROTARY - Continued from Page 1

is considering producing if there is enough interest from the community in producing the keepsakes. They would be \$60 each or two for \$100. Those interested in the project are encouraged to contact a Rotarian or the numbers listed previously.

5-DAY WEATHER FORECAST

MON 25 Sep



Clear Skies

High- 89.5° F | Low - 68.8° F

TUE 26 Sep



Heavy Intensity Rain

High- 75.3° F | Low - 52.7° F

WED 27 Sep



Light Rain

High - 67.3° F | Low - 54.6° F

THU 28 Sep



Clear Skies

High- 71.5° F | Low - 56.7° F

FRI 29 Sep



Clear Skies

High- 68.7° F | Low - 56.3° F

[OpenWeatherMap](#)

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