



Pen City Current

Thursday, May 16, 2019 | 9 pages | Volume 3 • Issue 113

Tuesday fire destroys Montrose home

Owner got out just before flames started

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

MONTROSE – A late night fire in rural Lee County has destroyed a man's home.

Firefighters from the Des Moines Township Fire & Rescue and Montrose Fire & Rescue were called out to the 2100 block of 320th Avenue in southwestern Lee County at about 11:30 p.m. Tuesday night to a home that was burning.

The home belongs to Gabe Arne, 33, of rural Montrose. Firefighters were on the scene for close to three hours extinguishing the blaze and then were called back to the scene at about 7 a.m. this morning when embers reignited the scorched timbers that were left standing.

Arne was at the scene again Wednesday morning and said the cause hasn't been determined. Fire officials at the scene were different than those that originally fought the fire and had no comment on the cause.

Arne said he believed the fire started in his bedroom.

"I was just off shift from Siemens and when I got home I saw smoke so I went in to see what was going on and decided to get out and call the fire department," Arne said.

"Right when I got out of the house, that's when it caught on fire."

Arne said he was the only one living in the home. He said everything was insured and he had a place to stay while the loss works its way through the insurance claim.

He said the home was built sometime in the 1960s and he had been living in the single-story home for the past seven years.



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Firefighters with Montrose Fire & Rescue and Des Moines Township Fire & Rescue put more water on a fire Wednesday morning that started late Tuesday night and destroyed a rural Lee County home.

Five-day search ends in arrests

16 law enforcement agencies involved in apprehension

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

LEE COUNTY – In a large-scale coordinated effort local law enforcement agencies have captured a fugitive they had been looking for since Thursday.

Lee County Sheriff Stacy Weber said Wednesday Skylar Stark, 32 of Montrose, was taken into custody without incident Tuesday afternoon in West Point after authorities were tipped off to his location.

Stark was wanted after allegedly swiping a white Oldsmobile from a rural Lee County residence last week, in addition to several warrants out of Keokuk for robbery and 1st-degree burglary and was considered dangerous.

"The public can stand down and we want to thank everyone who helped us bring this man into custody," Weber said this morning.



HAGMEIER MCGEE

"We want to reiterate that we are continuing to investigate this case and anyone who has assisted, aided or abetted Mr. Stark in anyway will be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law."

Others arrested in connection with Stark's apprehension to this point are Jarrod Hagmeier, no age listed, and Jesse Winslow McGee, Jr., 40. Both are facing charges of aiding and abetting.

Weber wouldn't go into detail on how authorities

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“
We want to reiterate that we are continuing to investigate this case and anyone who assisted, aided, or abetted Mr. Stark in any way will be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.”

-Stacy Weber,
Lee County Sheriff

LCCD to manage 350 acres donated to DNR

BY COLIN MAGNUSON
Radio Keokuk News Director

MONTROSE – The Lee County Conservation Department is set to take over management of a local farmstead that was willed to the Iowa DNR this past fall.

The Lee County Conservation Board met for their regular monthly meeting Tuesday night in Montrose and one of the first action items on the agenda was a resolution to approve a management agreement with the Iowa DNR regarding the Denning property in northern Lee County.

When Eleanor Denning passed away in the fall of 2018, she willed her 350 acre homestead to the Iowa DNR with the intent the land be used for conservation purposes. The property sits at 1653 130th Street which is a Donnellson address but sits just between Houghton and Mount Hamel in Lee County. As a result, the Iowa DNR will be utilizing Lee County Conservation to manage this property and oversee its conversion from farmstead to conservation area.

The conservation district unanimously adopted the arrangement and the DNR will hold ownership of the

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Obituaries/Lottery Numbers

OBITUARIES

DEBORAH "DEBBIE" LYNN CONRAD

Deborah "Debbie" Lynn Conrad, 59, of West Point, Iowa, passed away at 9:15 a.m. Tuesday, May 14, 2019 at St. Luke's Hospital in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

She was born on August 5, 1959 in Fort Madison, Iowa, the daughter of William and Cecelia (Boeding) Weishaar. On April 30, 1983, she married Clifford Conrad in West Point, Iowa.



CONRAD

Survivors include her husband: Clifford of West Point, Iowa; mother-in-law: Donna Conrad; three sisters: Patricia Tucker of Evansville, Indiana, Judy Watson of Topeka, Kansas and Becky Thomas of Fort Madison, Iowa. Also surviving are several nieces, nephews and cousins.

She was preceded in death by her parents and one brother.

Deb worked for thirty years at DuPont. She was a member of the National Arbor Day Foundation and the DuPont Credit Union. She enjoyed gardening and being outdoors.

Friends may call after 12:00 noon Thursday, May 23, 2019 at Schmitz Funeral Home in West Point, Iowa where the family will receive friends from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

A Memorial Service will be held at 11:00 a.m. Friday, May 24, 2019 at Schmitz Funeral Home in West Point with Father Dennis Hoffman officiating.

Following the service, a luncheon will be held at the West Point American Legion.

Burial will be held at a later date at Calvary Cemetery in West Point, Iowa.

In lieu of flowers, memorials have been established in her memory for the West Point Fire and Rescue or PAW Animal Shelter.

Schmitz Funeral Home of West Point is assisting the family with arrangements. On-line condolences to the family may be made at www.schmitzfuneralhomes.com.

OBITUARIES

NANCY GAIL LOWE

Nancy Gail Lowe, 71, of Independence, MO, died peacefully at her home, on May 11, 2019, surrounded by her husband and four children.

Nancy was born March 12, 1948 in Farmington, Iowa to Samuel and Esther (Troutman) Lamborn. She married Richard Lowe of Bonaparte on September 17th, 1966 at the United Methodist Church In Farmington, IA.



LOWE

A 1966 graduate of Harmony High School, Nancy had worked at Sheaffer Pen Company in Fort Madison. She later worked for Newton Home Savings and Loan in Newton, IA and she was office manager for a pediatric clinic also in Newton. After moving to Keosauqua in 1993, she worked for State Central Bank until she retired. In 2013 she and Rich moved to Independence, MO to be near their youngest daughter's family.

Nancy enjoyed family gatherings and spending time with her beloved grandchildren. She and her husband Rich, traveled overseas and enjoyed ocean cruises with other family members and friends. In their retirement years, Nancy and Rich treasured their winters in the Florida panhandle and south Texas. Nancy was a member of the Van Buren County Hospital Auxiliary and enjoyed her volunteer work. She was a member of the Methodist church. Nancy was an athlete on Harmony High School teams lettering all four years in multiple sports. In the 1963-64 school year she accompanied her teams to state in three different sports: basketball, softball and track.

Surviving are her husband, Rich, two daughters Richelle Jones, Ankeny, IA, Robyn Jones (Bobby), Grain Valley, MO and two sons, Jeff (Colleen), Marion, IA and Rich Jr. of Shreveport, LA as well as nine grandchildren; Brady, Carter and Maia Lowe; Calea, Kellen and Kyler Jones; and Ryan, Matthew and Molly Jones. Two sisters also survive; Chris (Kent) Anderson of Mt. Pleasant and Jan (Todd) Loges of Farmington as well as many nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents, a sister Linda Martin Jacobsmeier and brother Bill Lamborn. At her request her body has been cremated.

The family will meet with friends from 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Friday, May 24, 2019 at the Farmington United Methodist Church. A Celebration of Life will be held Friday, May 24, 2019 at 10:30 a.m. at the Farmington United Methodist Church with rev. ellis andrews and Rev. Michael Elrod. Burial will be at Bonaparte Cemetery in Bonaparte, Iowa.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions in Nancy's honor may be made to the Bonaparte Cemetery Association (PO Box 37, Bonaparte, IA 52620) or Greenglade Cemetery (% Iris Kerr 303 S. 5th St., Farmington, IA 52626).

Schmitz Funeral Home of Farmington is assisting the family with arrangements. On-line condolences to the family may be made at www.schmitzfuneralhomes.com.

Schedule:

1pm—1:30 pm Veterans Only

1:30—4 pm Open to the Public

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Transportation— Transportation to the event will be provided at no cost by SEIBUS. Contact IowaWorks at 319-753-1671



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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



5/14
11 59 66 67 68
Mega Ball: 18
Megaplier: 4



5/14 MID-DAY
3 2 4
5/14 EVENING
2 7 8



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1 2 1 0

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Pen City Current

Founded in 2016



P.O. Box 366 | Fort Madison, IA

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For the Record/Ag News

For the Record

Fort Madison Police Report

05/14/19 – no report released

Lee County Sheriff's Report

05/14/19 – 10:24 a.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies responded to a one vehicle accident in the 1900 block of 303rd Avenue. A vehicle driven by Barbara Lynn Snyder, 54, of Dallas City lost control entering the ditch and striking a utility pole. Snyder refused medical treatment at the scene and no citations were issued.
05/14/19 – 12:11 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies responded to a one-vehicle accident at Wever Junction where, according to the report, a semi-trailer allegedly struck a gas pump damaging the pump. No citation or injuries were reported.
05/14/19 – 4:06 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Skyler Dwayne Stark, 31, of Argyle, in the 700 block of

Avenue D in West Point, on warrants for robbery, 1st-degree burglary and contempt of court. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.
05/14/19 – 4:14 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Jesse Winslow McGee, Jr., 40, of Wyaconda, Mo., in the 700 block of Avenue D, on warrants for probation violation, contempt of court. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.
05/14/19 – 4:29 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Coy Daniel Stark, 31, of Keokuk, in the 700 block of Avenue D, on a charge of possession of methamphetamine less than 5 grams. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.
05/14/19 – 4:30 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies responded to a one-vehicle accident on Hwy. 2. A vehicle driven by Evan Ray Doyle, 18, of Donnellson, lost control and slid onto the shoulder damaging

some posts and cables on road's edge. No injuries were reported and Doyle was cited for failure to maintain control.
05/14/19 – 8:27 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Jarrod Ray Hagmeier, 38, of Keokuk, no address given, on a charge of aiding and abetting. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.
05/14/19 – 9:25 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Jason Matthew Myhre, 41, of Farmington at the sheriff's office on a charge of eluding. He was taken to Lee County Jail and released on a promise to appear. *Those listed above are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.*

Fort Madison Fire & Rescue report

05/14/19 – Fort Madison firefighters responded to two medical calls, one CO check, one odor smell, and two lift assists.

USDA offers extensions for expiring CRP contracts

WASHINGTON, May 15, 2019 – USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) will accept applications beginning June 3, 2019, for certain practices under the continuous Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) signup and will offer extensions for expiring CRP contracts. The 2018 Farm Bill reauthorized CRP, one of the country's largest conservation programs.

"USDA offers a variety of conservation programs to farmers and ranchers, and the Conservation Reserve Program is an important tool for private lands management," said FSA Administrator Richard Fordyce. "CRP allows agricultural producers to set aside land to reduce soil erosion, improve water quality, provide habitat for wildlife and boost soil health."

FSA stopped accepting applications last fall for the continuous CRP signup when 2014 Farm Bill authority expired. Since passage of the 2018 Farm Bill last December, Fordyce said FSA has carefully analyzed the language and determined that a limited signup prioritizing water-quality practices furthers conservation goals and makes sense for producers as FSA works to fully implement the program.

Continuous CRP Signup

This year's signup will include such practices as grassed waterways, filter strips, riparian buffers, wetland restoration and others. View a full list of practices approved for this program.

Continuous signup enrollment contracts are 10 to 15 years in duration. Soil rental rates will be set at 90 percent of the existing rates. Incentive payments will not be offered for these contracts.

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program Signup

FSA will also reopen signup for existing Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) agreements. Fact sheets on current CREP agreements are available on this webpage.

Other CRP Signup Options

Fordyce said FSA plans to open a CRP general signup in December 2019 and a CRP Grasslands signup later.

CRP Contract Extensions

A one-year extension will be offered to existing CRP participants who have expiring CRP contracts of 14 years or less. Producers eligible for an extension will receive a letter describing their options.

Alternatively, producers with expiring contracts may have the option to enroll in the Transition Incentives Program, which provides two additional annual rental payments on the condition the land is sold or rented to a beginning farmer or rancher or a member of a socially disadvantaged group.



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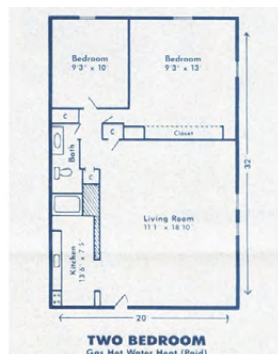
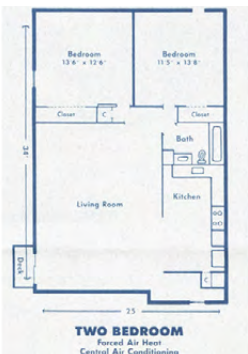
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HELP WANTED

NOTICE OF JOB OPENING Victim Witness Coordinator Lee County Attorney's Office Keokuk and Fort Madison

Lee County Attorney's Office has an opening for a Victim Witness Coordinator position (40 hours per week) with a start date of July 1, 2019.

The Victim/Witness Coordinator position is responsible for managing, coordinating, monitoring, and providing case assistance for juvenile and criminal cases within the County Attorney's Office. The Victim Witness Coordinator will establish communications with victims and witnesses and/or their advocates, notify victims of their rights, keep victims and witnesses informed of the status of files/cases, provide victims and witnesses with information, locate witnesses required for effective prosecution, and assist with case management.

The position's successful applicant is preferred (but not required) to have the following:

1. Completion of some college level degree or in criminal justice, behavioral sciences, or related fields or any equivalent combination of training and experience.
2. Knowledge of legal terminology, legal format, and legal forms.
3. Knowledge of modern office practices, procedures, and equipment.
4. Knowledge of Electronic Document Management System (EDMS).
5. Knowledge of Iowa Courts Online.
6. Ability to prepare accurate and timely documents, correspondence, and reports, including documentation and data for grant funding.
7. Ability to learn and/or operate the County Attorney's Office computer programs.
8. Ability to work in a fast-paced environment
9. Ability to multi-task.
10. Must be a self-starter and motivator.
11. Ability to communicate with the public and act as a liaison for the victim to attorney staff in order to facilitate the communication of the victim as the case progresses.
12. Ability to provide emotional and educational support to victims and witnesses of crimes.
13. Ability to establish and maintain effective working relationships with supervisors, attorneys, co-workers, and the public, as well as law enforcement personnel and Clerk of Court
14. Ability to maintain a large case load.
15. Must be able to travel all over the County.

The position is a grant-funded position with a salary of \$35,000 annually plus benefits

For more information about duties email request to bbowden@leecounty.org

Please send resume to
Ross Braden, Lee County Attorney
25 N. 7th St., PO Box 824, Keokuk, IA 52632
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Local News/Weather

District will open property up to bids next year

LAND - Continued from Page 1

property while Lee County Conservation will manage the property and receive lease payments from the current farm tenant.

The lease agreement with the current tenant was the second action item concerning the Denning Conservation Area that was taken up by the board. When the property was willed over to the DNR, the current tenant was about to begin a new lease year and according to Conservation Director Nathan Unsworth, the county will honor that agreement for one year.

"Typically we'd want to bid out on a project like this but since Mrs. Denning passed away at such a late time in the year, we couldn't change tenants at that point so we'll honor that agreement that they had. This fall we'll bid that property out for next year's lease."

The conservation department will be paid \$30,000 for the 2019 year by the tenant per the current agreement.

Unsworth said those payments will go into a trust fund for the property which will be used to convert the property over entirely to conservation uses in the future. For now, the property does have a house with several barn and shed structures, all of which will be demolished, with the funds from the lease agreement used to fund those actions.

"The plans for the Denning Conservation Area will be finalized when we sit down with the DNR later this fall to look at ideas for the property," Unsworth said.

In other action, the board unanimously approved of the hiring of two seasonal employees. Alexis Walrath was hired to a part-time position as the Beach Concessionaire. Bryce Solem will work the summer months as a Conservation Aide, working under Operations Coordinator John Pawling performing various maintenance tasks.

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FMHS Color Run Saturday at middle school

PCC STAFF

FORT MADISON – The first-ever Fort Madison High School Color Run is set for this Saturday at Fort Madison High School.

The event is set to raise funds for the University of Iowa Stead Family Children's Hospital and is being organized by the FMHS Student Government Association.

Gracie Gobble, the coordinator of the event, said numbers are good for a first-time event.

"I am really looking forward to the run on Saturday," she said. "I'm pleased with the number of runners that have already signed up, seeing as this is our first year. The money is going to a great cause so I hope people will come out and join us."

Registration forms are



available at FMHS, Any-time Fitness, Rev Fitness, Ft. Madison YMCA, and The Fort Madison Partners office.

The form can also be found at <http://www.fortmadison.com/event/fmhs-color-run/> Early registration ended April 26, so anyone registering between now and race day will need to provide a white t-shirt to run in. Day-of registration fee is \$30.00. Check-in and day-of registration will begin at 7:30 a.m. The run will begin at 9 a.m.

The race will begin and

end at FMMS. Light refreshments will be served at the finish line. Cars may be parked at the Fort Madison Middle School parking lot.

Sponsors for this year's event include: Shottenkirk Automotive Group, Axalta, Pilot Grove Savings Bank, Lee County Bank, Randolph Dental, Fraise Auction & Real Estate (Carla McEntee), FMCH, MidWestOne Bank, Holtkamp Floor's Decor & Furniture, Hope Associates Real Estate, Scott's Miracle Grow, Sub Arena, Fareway, and Hy-Vee.

Investigation nets others for aiding/abetting

ARRESTS - Continued from Page 1

learned of Stark's Tuesday whereabouts, but said if the case goes to trial it should come out at that point.

"We don't want to give out too much in the way of investigations as it can give the people we're looking for a heads up," Weber said.

Stark is currently in the Lee County Jail on two bonds, one of which is a \$55,000 cash only and the other is a \$13,000 surety contempt bond.

Weber said the investigation was a joint effort with the assistance of 16 different Iowa, Illinois and Missouri law enforcement agencies including: Keokuk Police Department, Lee County Narcotics Task Force, Iowa Division of Narcotics Enforcement, Iowa State Patrol, Montrose Police Department, West Point Police Department, Donnellson Police Department, the Lee County Attorney's Office, Washington County Sheriff's Office, Missouri State Highway Patrol, Clark County, Mo., Sheriff's Department, Cedar Rapids Police Department, Burlington Police Department, Lewis County Mo., Sheriff's Department, Quincy Police Department and Hannibal Police Department.

It should be noted that all defendants are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

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5-DAY WEATHER FORECAST

THU 16 May



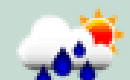
Overcast
High- 82.3° F | Low - 69.7° F

FRI 17 May



Overcast
High- 80.5° F | Low - 66.1° F

SAT 18 May



Moderate Rain
High- 72.6° F | Low - 67.9° F

SUN 19 May



Moderate Rain
High- 67.8° F | Low - 58.0° F

MON 20 May



Light Rain
High- 66.8° F | Low - 56.2° F

[OpenWeatherMap](#)

Maintenance Free
Condominiums

WOODLAND HEIGHTS

E S T A T E S
FORT MADISON, IOWA



— OPEN HOUSE —
May 18th, 19th, & 20th
11am—3pm
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3 Bedrooms—3 Full Baths—

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Finished 9ft Walk-out Basement

2,900 sqft Finished

500 sqft Storage

Price: \$320,000



Pond View Condo

Move in Ready

3 –4 Bedrooms—3 Full Baths—

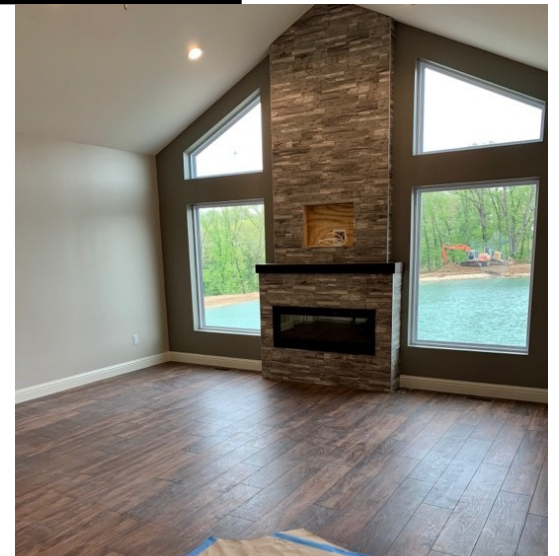
2 Car Garage

Finished Walk-out Basement

2,900 sqft Finished

500 sqft Storage

Price:\$336,000



Woodland View Condo

Custom Design Inside

3 Bedrooms—3 Full Baths—

2 Car Garage

Finished Walk-out Basement

1,680 sqft Finished

Price: \$340,000



Riverview Condo

Custom Design the Inside

3 Bedrooms—3 Full Baths—

3 Car Garage

Finished 9ft Walk-out Basement

2,800 sqft Finished

500 sqft Storage

Price: \$330,000



Phone: 319-470-2540 Email: jillian@greenoakdevelopment-ia.com

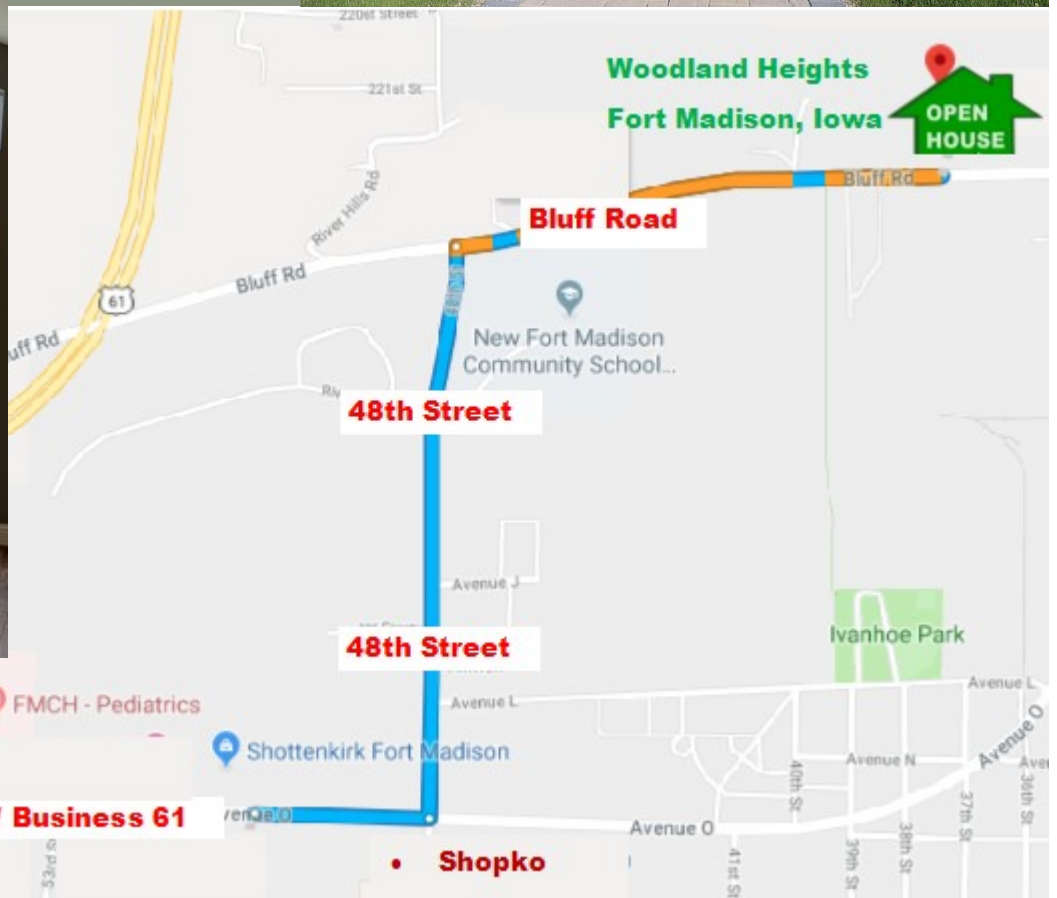
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E S T A T E S
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