



Pen City Current

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Burglaries on the rise again in city

Fort Madison has had 15 break-ins in the last seven days

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - With the summer comes ramped up criminal activity and Fort Madison is experiencing that trend right now.



SITTIG

Fort Madison police reported 12 burglaries from Friday through Tuesday and 15 in the past seven days with most occurring in the 1100 to 1500 block of Avenues C through I.

Fort Madison Police Chief Tim Sittig said the burglaries are residential and typically overnight.

"These are residential burglaries where people are going into homes," he said "They seem to be clustering

around the Oak Drive, 29th Place neighborhoods with-in about a four-block area for the most part."

He said some of the burglaries are forced entry, but nothing that is causing a lot of damage. He also said two juveniles have been charged with using a credit card that was taken from one of the homes, but he said they haven't been able to determine if the juveniles were involved in the break-ins.

See **BURGLARIES**, page 2

Tourism officials want to cash in on wooden coins

Souvenirs to be for sale starting Friday

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - Collector's beware, a new wooden coin that has been in the works since 2016 depicting locally designed historical icons, will be available starting Friday.

Jean Peiton, the director of the city's Tourism & Marketing Department announced Tuesday a series of 12 commemorative wooden coins celebrating the history and culture of Fort Madison are now available for purchase.

The artwork, commissioned through Anthony Franklin, a local artisan,

depicts unique locations, festivals and history including; The Fort - 1808 to 1813, Historic Business District - 1838, Historic Park-to-Park District - 1838, Iowa Territorial Prison - 1839, Lee County Courthouse - 1842, Fort Madison Toll Bridge - 1886, Cattermole Library - 1894, CB & Q Depot - 1898, Santa Fe Depot - 1910, Sheaffer Pen - 1912, Mexican Fiesta - 1922, Tri-State Rodeo - 1948

The coins are part of a process aimed at developing a supply of branded souvenirs aimed at tourists that frequent the area. Peiton said the hope is to expand the in-



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

These 12 commemorative coins will be available for purchase at select retail outlets in Fort Madison beginning Friday. The coins are part of a program to help raise funds to foster tourism and historical awareness in Fort Madison

ventory to include items such as t-shirts, hats, and more.

These 12 commemorative coins will be available for purchase at select retail outlets in Fort Madison beginning Friday. The coins are part of a program to help raise funds to foster tourism and historical awareness in Fort Madison. Photo courtesy of the Fort Madison Tourism and Marketing Department.

The coins will be available for purchase starting Friday at the gift shop located in The Old Fort Madison. Any other businesses or locations interested in purchasing a quantity of the coins for their location, can contact the Tourism Office for more details. Proceeds from the sale of the coins are earmarked for added inventory and further artistic renditions.

Franklin, who lives in

Fort Madison said the work on the coins was a labor of love.

"I think it's a real hidden treasure that as far as tourism goes, Fort Madison is a premiere tourism destination in my view. It's just how we are we going to market it. I think the job Jean does is phenomenal. We have a lot of people with creativity, and with a little volunteer work there

See **COINS**, page 2

LCCB cleans up property issues

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

MONTROSE - As a result of the 2017-18 duck blind controversy, the Lee County Conservation Board has deeded over property that was in question as a result of Ameren Corp's recent divesting of property along the river.



BRADEN

For the past several years Ameren has been dumping its property along the river by deeding it over to private and public entities such as the Lee County Conservation District and Green Bay Levy districts.

However, it appears there was some haste in the process and some errors were made on Ameren's part that left several groups with deeds

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From the Front/Area News

Wooden coins could lead to additional projects

COINS - Continued from Page 1

could be some really neat things. I love this city. I was born and raised here."

He said he went through about five renditions of each coin as he compiled information from city and business groups as to what the coins should look like. He then had to speak with officials associated with each coin's picture to make sure they were on board.

He started working on the project in 2016.

"Back then, around September of 2016, I was basically thinking of ways the Old Fort would be able to generate revenue to sustain itself because they always have to go to the city for money and one of the things I came up with was souvenirs,"

Franklin said. "Wooden coins were the first thing I came up. After my discussion with Jean the idea expanded to include 12 different points of interest in Fort Madison."

He said then he sat down and made a list of places and events he thought would make interesting historical coins and submitted the list to the city. Once he got the nod from the city he went to work designing and redesigning and redesigning some more until everyone was on board.

Franklin said he tried to hold to a theme of points of interest, which included places like Sheaffer Pen and the Old Prison, as well as a coin dedicated to the Mexican Fiesta.

"Locals say there's nothing interesting in Fort Madison and nothing to do in Fort Madison and we have such a rich history that people don't grasp how many different things there are here. For example, W.A. Sheaffer came up with something we always take for granted and made something wonderful with that pen. We don't use ink bottles any more because of him. And Mexican Fiesta - I don't think people appreciate how much that festival has impacted this community.

Franklin said the city may also look at doing coloring books and other souvenir type pieces that reflect on the city's rich history in the future if the coin program generates revenue.

Loebsack-penned ag bill gets out of committee

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Communications and Technology approved H.R. 4881, the Precision Agriculture Connectivity Act, legislation authored by Congressmen Dave Loebsack (D-IA) and Bob Latta (R-OH), to reduce barriers to the implementation of this cutting-edge technology. The bill establishes a Federal Communications Commission (FCC) task force, in conjunction with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, to evaluate the best ways to meet the technological needs of precision agriculture. Loebsack and Latta are both co-chairs of the House Rural Broadband Caucus.

Precision agriculture is the use of technology like the Internet of Things (IoT), self-driving machinery, drones, and satellites to farm in a more effective and efficient manner. Because rural communities often have less access to high-speed broadband connectivity, the agricultural community has more difficulty integrating the new technology that could make their work easier, safer, and better for the environment.

"Broadband connectivity in rural America is needed for more than just schools and businesses," said Rep. Loebsack. "I've traveled across Iowa to meet with farmers who are now using advanced technology to assist in planting and monitoring their crops. The task force established by this bill will examine the broadband needs of farmers and rural communities so they can

take advantage of these new technological advances in order to increase crop yields. I am pleased this bipartisan bill is moving forward in order to help ensure our nation's farmers have the best information available on meeting their broadband needs."

The bill establishes the Task Force for Reviewing the Connectivity and Technology Needs of Precision Agriculture in the United States, which will operate under the direction of the FCC and in collaboration with USDA. The duties of the Task Force include:

- Identifying and measuring current gaps in broadband coverage on agricultural land;
- Developing policy recommendations to promote the rapid, expanded deployment of broadband Internet access service on agricultural land, with a goal of achieving reliable service on 95 percent of agricultural land by 2025;
- Recommending steps the FCC should take to obtain reliable and standardized measurements of broadband Internet access service availability as may be necessary to target funding support to unserved agricultural land in need of broadband Internet access service; and
- Recommending steps the FCC should consider to ensure that the expertise of USDA and available farm data are reflected in developing future programs of the Commission to deploy broadband Internet access service and to direct available funding to unserved agricultural land where needed.

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For the Record/From the Front

For the Record

Fort Madison Police report

06/08/18 - 1:10 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a burglary in the 1300 block of 23rd Street.
 06/08/18 - 2:20 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a burglary in the 1300 block Avenue D.
 06/08/18 - 2:54 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a burglary in the 1100 block of 13th Street.
 06/08/18 - 3:10 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 1500 block of Avenue B.
 06/08/18 - 6:15 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a gas drive off in the 1700 block of Avenue H.
 06/08/18 - 11:42 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a burglary in the 1500 block of Avenue H.
 06/09/18 - 7:33 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a burglary on Klesner Court.
 06/09/18 - 7:48 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 1100 block of Avenue E.
 06/09/18 - 8:33 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a burglary on Cindy Drive.
 06/09/18 - 8:48 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a burglary in the 2700 block of Avenue I.
 06/09/18 - 2:19 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a stolen bicycle in the 1300 block of Avenue G.
 06/09/18 - 3:30 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a burglary in the 1500 block of 35th Street.
 06/10/18 - 2:25 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 1200 block of Avenue H.
 06/10/18 - 6:00 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of vandalism in the 1300 block of Avenue E.
 06/10/18 - 6:03 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a burglary in the 1500 block of 35th Street.
 06/10/18 - 6:31 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 1700 block of Avenue B.
 06/10/18 - 6:44 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a burglary in the 2600 block of Avenue J.
 06/10/18 - 7:06 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded

to a report of vandalism in the 1300 block of Avenue E.
 06/11/18 - 8:10 a.m. - Fort Madison Police arrested Timothy James Sieg, 49, of Fort Madison at the police department on a charge of identity theft. He was released with a court date.
 06/11/18 - 8:16 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of vandalism in the 700 block of 13th Street.
 06/11/18 - 1:40 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft on Cindy Drive.
 06/11/18 - 11:20 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a burglary in the 4600 block of Avenue J.
 06/12/18 - 8:30 a.m. - Fort Madison Police cited Raul Garcia, 68, of Fort Madison in the 600 block of 8th Street for driving under suspension. He was released upon citation.
 06/12/18 - 9:01 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded

to a report of a burglary in the 1100 block of Avenue G.
 06/12/18 - 9:12 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a stolen vehicle in the 1100 block of Avenue E.
 06/12/18 - 12:29 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 1700 block of Avenue E.
 06/12/18 - 3:35 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 1600 block of Avenue M.

Lee County Sheriff's report

06/11/18 - 6:39 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested David Michael Ginn, 38, of Montrose, in Dallas County on a charge of 2nd-degree theft. He was held in custody.
 06/12/18 - 12:50 a.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Spencer Lindsey Jones, 57, of Keokuk at Red

Wing Access on the Des Moines River on a charge of possession of a controlled substance. He was taken to Lee County Jail and released on a promise to appear.
 06/13/18 - 12:28 a.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Thomas Jay Ruble, 51, of Donnellson in the 500 block of Maple Street on a charge of violation of a no contact order. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.
Those listed above are considered innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

Fort Madison Fire & Rescue report

06/11/18 - Fort Madison firefighters responded to one medical call, one false alarm at old prison and one alarm malfunction.
 06/12/18 - Fort Madison firefighters responded to one medical call, one lift assist and one van leaking gas.

Police asking city to keep watchful eye

BURGLARIES Continued from Page 1

"These were overnight burglaries and I would probably say, in at least some cases, the residents were home," Sittig said.

He advised all residents to make sure their valuable are out of sight and doors, windows and access points to all property are locked securely. He also said leaving porch lights on at night can act as a deterrent. He said residents always have the options of surveillance or dogs for protection as well.

"Criminals like to work in the dark."

He also encouraged anyone who sees anything, even if it's just someone walking late at night, to contact the police department.

"Even if you're just getting up to get something to drink and you see something out the window, even if it's just someone walking by, give us a call. They may not have done anything to you, but maybe they've been somewhere else. It's very important for us in finding these people to be able to get to them as soon as possible."

Local neighborhood watch groups Facebook threads this week were tracking burglary activity and information about break-ins and burglaries taking place when people are home.

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our residents to use regulated containers specifically made for sharps. Empty Sharps containers can be obtained in the at both the Fort Madison and Keokuk facilities.

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Local News/Area News

CURRENT-LEE

The following is a list of events currently going on in north Lee County as submitted to Pen City Current

Child's Immunization Clinic

Lee County Health Department will be holding a Children's Immunization Clinic June 14 at Trinity Methodist Church, 2330 Plank Road in Keokuk from noon til 4:30pm. The clinic is open to children who have no insurance, are insured by Iowa Medicaid, or those who have private health insurance that does not cover the cost of vaccines. Written parental consent is required for minors to receive vaccinations when in the care of another adult. Free lead testing is available for children ages 6 months to 6 years who reside in Iowa. Please call 1-319-372-5225 with questions or visit our website at www.leecountyhd.org

FMHS Athletic Booster Fundraiser

The Fort Madison High School Athletic Booster will be holding a fried chicken dinner fundraiser at the Charleston Board of Trade on Sunday, June 24, from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. Adults are \$10 and children under 12 are \$6. Tickets for the event are available at the FMHS office weekdays from 8 a.m. to noon or at the door on the day of the event. Proceeds will help with costs of the new stadium pressbox.

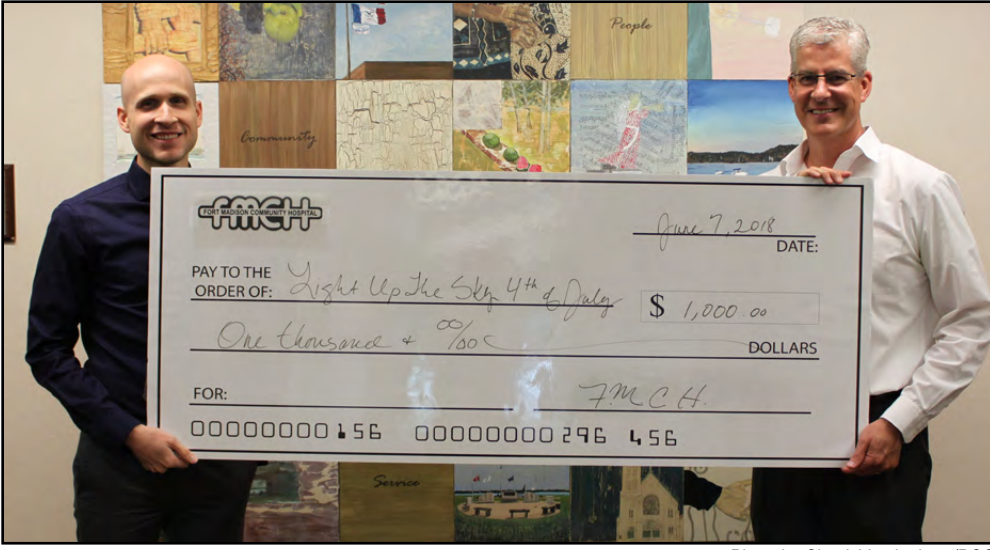


Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Fort Madison Community Hospital CEO, Jeremy Alexander, presents a check for their support of the Light Up The Sky this 4th of July 2018 fireworks campaign to Tim Gobble, Fort Madison Partners Executive Director.

LCHD hospice adds therapists

Submitted article

FORT MADISON - Lee County Health Department-Hospice welcomes Massage Therapists Donna Via and Julie Schneider to the hospice team.

Donna Via has been a licensed Massage Therapist since 2012. Her decision to go along this path happened after losing her husband to cancer in 1997. "For me to help others that are going through any kind of pain, and for them to find relief is rewarding," says Via. Via has her own practice, Healing Soul, in Warsaw and Augusta, Illinois.

Julie Schneider has been as Massage Therapist for seven years with her own practice in Nauvoo, which expanded into Fort Madison in 2016. "I'm so grateful I get the opportunity to connect with others, and help ease their pain and ten-

sion while allowing them to feel a sense of peace and comfort," says Schneider.

Massage therapy is not only available to LCHD-Hospice patients, but to the caregivers as well. "If any of our patients are experiencing any pain they can feel some relief with massage therapy," stated Teresa Gilbert, LCHD-Hospice Program Director. "We have also found that the caregivers really appreciate the service so they can have some relaxation."

Lee County Health Department - Hospice began offering hospice services in 1989; making them the first hospice in Southeast Iowa. They serve Lee, Des Moines, Henry, Van Buren counties in Iowa, and Hancock and Henderson counties in Illinois. For more information on the Lee County Health Department-Hospice services call (319)372-5225 or visit www.leecountyhd.org.



SCHNEIDER

VIA

any kind of pain, and for them to find relief is rewarding," says Via. Via has her own practice, Healing Soul, in Warsaw and Augusta, Illinois.

Julie Schneider has been as Massage Therapist for seven years with her own practice in Nauvoo, which expanded into Fort Madison in 2016. "I'm so grateful I get the opportunity to connect with others, and help ease their pain and ten-

Task force gets Keokuk man on felony meth charge

BY PCC STAFF

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

Zachary Ray Boecker, 25, of Keokuk, Iowa was arrested on June 2nd, 2018 in the 1100 block of Johnson St in Keokuk on felony and misdemeanor drug charges. Boecker is charged with the following: possession with intent to deliver methamphetamine under five grams, second or subsequent offense, a class C felony with an enhancement. Also the following misdemeanor charges, possession of drug



BOECKER

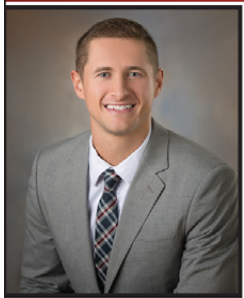
paraphernalia, interference with official acts, and providing false identification to law enforcement. If convicted, Boecker faces up to 36 years in a state correctional facility. Furthermore, Boecker faces an outstanding warrant from another county.

The arrest stems from Keokuk Officers investigating a suspicious person's call. During this investigation an arrest was conducted and items were located supporting the charges.

The Lee County Attorney's Office, Keokuk Police Department, Iowa Division of Narcotics Enforcement, and the 8th Judicial District of Probation and Parole assisted the Lee County Narcotics Task Force in this investigation. Boecker is considered innocent until proven guilty.

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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



6/12
1 3 5 8 70
Mega Ball: 3
Megaplier: 2



6/12 MID-DAY
4 5 5
6/12 EVENING
8 7 9



6/12 MID-DAY
9 0 8 1
6/12 EVENING
8 3 8 0

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From the Front/Weather

Ameren had deeded properties to multiple entities

PROPERTIES - Continued from Page 1

to the same property.

When the LCCB went to battle with area duck hunters last year into this year, over permanent duck blinds, area hunters took to the offensive. In addition to dogging the board at many meetings during the deadlock over blind rights, hunters also went to the Lee County Auditor's office to find out just how much land the district owned.

According to Shirley Hoenig, a member of the duck blind committee, the conservation district was saying they had close to 1800 acres, although the district said they purchased close to 700 acres a year and half ago.

At Tuesday's regular meeting of the Lee County Conservation Board, the board passed a resolution

prepared by Lee County Attorney Ross Braden that executed some quit claims on property that Ameren had apparently deeded to separate entities.

Nathan Unsworth, LCCD director said the resolution finally cleans up the deeds from Ameren property.

"This is final clarification. Basically when Ameren was getting rid of different properties here, we purchased some and other entities purchased some. Well they had switched up some property and they sold to others," he said.

"Some of this area is expanded up north of what we originally thought. We had stuff all the way up by Green Bay Levy District that we weren't supposed to

“

This was clearly by virtue of a mistake and there's no value lost or gained because no one really knew the deeds overlapped.

-Ross Braden, Lee County Attorney

have. (Ameren) had it going to us and they turned around and sold it to other people. So we just quit claimed it back to them. One was a private entity and the other was the Green Bay Levy District."

Lee County Auditor Denise Fraise said county staffers Michelle Dodson and Marcus Martin poured through documents for about a week and finally got the issues cleared up.

"Michelle Dodson found all this when the duck hunters were in asking what property the conservation district owned," Fraise said. "She's been working hard getting that mapped out. The conservation had a survey done and that's where the issues started. Michelle and Marcus found that Ameren had deeded property previously and then again to the Conservation district."

Unsworth said the resolution just gives the property back to those it was originally intended for.

Braden said the issues were strictly errors in deeds on Ameren's part, but the issues were minor and have now been settled and there was no monetary gain or loss in the claims.

"Ameren, when they unloaded their river property, it seems to be that they didn't know what they owned and what they didn't," Braden said. "They wanted to divest themselves so they deeded property to the LCCD, when the district purchased some of the other land. Unknowingly, the district acquired a few other parcels in the deed, that Ameren had also deeded to Green Bay Levy District #2 and other private groups."

Braden said there was also an island that Ameren owned that was deeded to the the district, but also to another group.

The board on Tuesday issued a resolution that but-toned up the issue by quit claiming those properties back to the entities that they were originally intended to go to.

"This was clearly by virtue of a mistake and there's no value lost or gained because no one really knew the deeds overlapped," Braden said.

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5-DAY WEATHER FORECAST

THU 14 Jun



Rain

High- 75.8° F | Low - 69.7° F

FRI 15 Jun



Showers

High- 82.4° F | Low - 73.8° F

SAT 16 Jun



Sunny

High- 89.0° F | Low - 79.9° F

SUN 17 Jun



Sunny

High- 86.5° F | Low - 79.8° F

MON 18 Jun



Rain

High- 79.1° F | Low - 66.3° F

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- 156-sq.-in. tuck away warming rack
- Left fold-down side table

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T 232 674 1



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Stainless steel set includes spatula, fork and locking tongs.

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