



# Pen City Current

Monday, Nov. 6, 2017 | 8 pages | Volume 1 • Issue 258



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

## Help from everywhere

George Gaudette, director of the Fort Madison Food Pantry, shows, at left, the fresh produce being donated up to three times a week by Fareway Grocery. Gaudette said he gets calls regularly from the store to stop in and pick up the fruits and vegetables. At top, Colton Wykert gets a little camera shy as he poses with the food that was donated to the pantry as part of his Oct. 27 birthday party. Josh and Erin Wykert organized the donation.

## EMPTY NEST

BY Curt Swarm



### Commitments force marriage compromise

Everything seems to happen at once. Ginnie's mother died in Ozark, Missouri, and there was my brother's birthday party in Ashland, Wisconsin. My place is definitely with my wife in time of grief, but my brother's birthday had been planned for months. What to do? Ginnie is the oldest of seven children, she would have plenty of familial support. Ginnie made the decision, I was to go north while she went south. We kissed goodbye.

The weather forecast north was for the first snow of the year. Great. I made the decision to drive my four-wheel drive truck instead of the compact car. This was the best decision I made all weekend. Just north of Mason City/Clear Lake it became a whiteout with 100% snow-packed interstate. I pulled into a rest stop.

"Sorry. The power is out. You can't use the restroom," the attendant said to a group of us bleary-eyed, chagrined travelers. I snapped a quick picture of the snow-covered rest area, text it to Ginnie, and headed for the nearest convenience store.

Sign of the times: convenience stores are so large now they are like mini supermarkets, replete with shopping carts. There was a stampede for milk, bread and gas. I headed for the restroom.

While using a stall, Ginnie text me a picture of sunny Missouri in its fall colors. Pretty. The lights went out in the restroom. Uh, oh, power outage? It was pitch black and I was the only one in the restroom. Then I figured out there was a motion sensor on the light switch. Because I was in a stall, not thrashing around, lights out. I remembered the flashlight on my smartphone. I was fumbling for it, when the restroom door opened, a man walked in, and the lights popped on. There I was with phone in hand. He looked at me, I looked at him, and with the mouth-full-of-Christmas-candy accent that Minnesnowdians speak, he said, "Oh, sorry 'bout that," and turned around and headed back out. Hmm.

On the way to my truck, I noticed an impulse special on stainless steel, insulated mugs-- "\$9.99, fill it free!" Right beside the mugs was the flavored syrup, hazelnut, French vanilla, etc. I'm a sucker for hazelnut. What the heck? I needed a traveling cup anyway. I grabbed

See **SWARM**, page 8

## Seven gubernatorial hopefuls to attend Democrat's Eppers-O'Malley dinner

### Dinner set for Thursday at Meyers Courtyard

Submitted article

KEOKUK - Rick Larkin and Mary Riesberg, Co-chairs of the Lee County Democratic Party, announced last week that all Democratic 2018 gubernatorial candidates have been invited to the 2017 Eppers-O'Malley Banquet. We are pleased that all seven will be represented at the banquet.

The banquet will be an event of November 9, 2017 at Meyer's Courtyard at 629 Blondeau Street, Keokuk. The dinner and program will begin at 6:30 P.M. and a social hour will precede the dinner.

An invitation is extended to all citizens. Tickets for the event are \$25 (\$15 for students) and may be purchased from any Democratic Central Committee Member, or by calling 319/526-3160, 372-8764 or

524-1570 (leave a message if there is no answer at these numbers and the call will be returned). Tickets will also be available at the door until sold out.

Riesberg and Larkin noted, "This will be an excellent opportunity to meet and hear from the Democratic candidates who are vying for the June 2018 nomination for our party".

The Democratic Party's Annual Eppers/O'Malley Awards will be presented at the banquet as well. This award, named in honor of two long-time Democratic activists and office holders, Chuck Eppers and Robert (Bob) O'Malley, is presented to Democrats who have distinguished themselves in serving the Lee County Democratic Party."

Larkin noted, "In addition to the candidates, many other elected Democrats from Lee County will be in attendance". Riesberg added, "A large crowd is anticipated, and everyone should consider getting your tickets as soon as possible".

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## Obituaries/Local News

### OBITUARIES

# RUSSELL WILLIAM BATES

Russell William Bates, 66, of Fort Madison, IA, passed away at 11:55 p.m. on Friday, November 3, 2017 at the University of Iowa Hospitals & Clinics in Iowa City, IA. He was born on September 4, 1951 in Glendale, CA to William & Diane Robertson Bates. He worked in the information technology field and later worked in the recreational vehicle service industry until 2010.

He graduated from Santa Clara University in Santa Clara, CA, majoring in the computer science and mathematics fields. He played football in high school and college, was on the rowing team in college and was a semi-professional dart player. He enjoyed sports, especially watching football on TV. His passion was working with stained glass.

Russell is survived by: his fiancé: Barbara Monson of Fort Madison, IA; 2-daughters: Jennifer (Denis) Maran-

ga of Seattle, WA & Danielle (Steve) German of Middle River, MD; 3-grandchildren: Katrina, Sydney & Samantha; his mother: Diane Gill of California; 2-brothers: Frank (Terri) Gill of Texas & John Gill, Jr. of Arkansas; 4-sisters: Kathryn (Peter) Kastner of Arkansas, Jacquie (Randy) Alderson of California, Janice (Dennis) Horrell of Ohio & Martha (Jared) Bangs of California; several nieces, nephews, cousins & close friends. He was preceded in death by: his father, William, step father, John, his wife, Nancy and a brother, Brian.

Cremation has been entrusted to King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory. No services are planned at this time. A memorial has been established to help the family with funeral costs and may be sent to Barbara Monson, 1125 48th Street #20, Fort Madison, IA 52627. Online condolences to Russell's family may be left at the King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory website: [www.kinglynk.com](http://www.kinglynk.com).



BATES

# Kindig joins FMCH Women's Center

The Women's Center at Fort Madison Community Hospital is pleased to welcome Women's Health Nurse Practitioner, Alisa Kindig to their team of health care providers.



KINDIG

Kindig has four years of experience providing health care to women of all ages. Her most recent position was with Mercy-Fremont OBGYN in Springfield, Missouri. She received her Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Maryville University in St. Louis and her Master of Science in Nursing from Frontier Nursing University.

"I originally became a nurse because I wanted to help people through their lifespan. Throughout my career I found I was drawn to women and their specific health concerns. My passion became helping women transition

through these milestones," commented Kindig. "I grew up in Southeast Iowa and was looking to return to the area to be closer to family. I was drawn to FMCH because of their outstanding reputation within the surrounding community."

"Alisa will be a great addition to our Women's Center staff. She brings experience and energy to this position that will positively impact women's health in our community. We believe women will find her to be a trusted partner in promoting their good health," explained Matt Mullins, VP of Physician Services.

Kindig will join Dr. Timothy Staudte, Dr. Meenakshi Palani, Dr. Kaichun Wei and Dr. Leah Steffensmeier in the Women's Center. She will start seeing patients November 1st.

To make an appointment, please call 319-376-2400.

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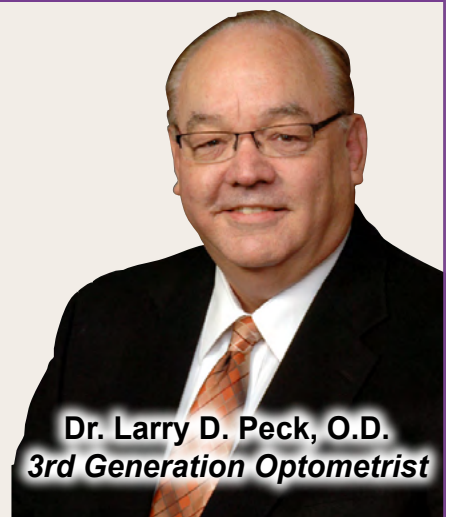
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**Pen City Current**

Founded in 2016



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# Opinion/Local News

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

### Mayoral candidate wants to move city in positive direction

Dear Editor

On November 7th, 2017, the city of Fort Madison will be holding one of the most influenced Mayor's races in a long time. And this could be a real turning point in our city government. I am not a new comer to politics, nor am I new to fighting for economical development and growth for the city. I have been involved with politics throughout my life. I have been in and around law enforcement throughout my life as well. I am part of the working class and I support the working men and women in and around our city. If I am elected as your mayor of Fort Madison, I will grow our city in a positive direction. I will find ways to bring jobs, companies, and business back to our city. And I will find ways to bring positive programs for

our children to our city. And together we will build new schools for our children. We will make our city safe, and give our public safety departments (Police & Fire) what they need to make sure we are all safe and can live and enjoy our lives safely. I will look at ways to preserve our city's rich history, and put Fort Madison back on the radar for tourist. And show them why we are so proud to call Fort Madison home. We together will show them there are plenty of things that will keep them coming back for years to come. And start celebrating our schools athletics departments, and achievements. And put a stop to all the unnecessary spending of un-needed projects. There are so many things that we can do as a city together, That if

See LETTER, page 4



Courtesy photo

Jordyn Ried, left, and Maddison Cowles help prepare recipes for the 2017 Elks Lodge Soup Supper to be held Nov. 17 from 5:30 p.m. until the soup is gone.

## NATIONAL RECYCLING DAY IS NOV. 15<sup>TH</sup>

NOW IS THE TIME TO START PREPARING OUR WORLD FOR A BETTER FUTURE!



# JOIN THE MOVEMENT!

IMPLEMENT THESE SIMPLE STEPS TO CREATE A HEALTHY FOOTPRINT

### MONDAY

#### CREATE SPACE:



Create and indoor space for all your recyclables. Pick up recycling bins at our Ft. Madison or Keokuk facilities. Curb side pick up is available. Check the city websites for details.

### TUESDAY

#### GO PAPERLESS:



Decrease your need for paper products. Elect for paperless statements, digitize shopping lists, documents and more!

### WEDNESDAY

#### GO WASTE FREE:



Make a conscious effort to not use your waste bin. Recycle or compost any items that have an end of life solution.

### THURSDAY

#### REUSE:



Instill new life in items you would normally toss out. Such as jars and containers, clothing, paper products and more.

### FRIDAY

#### COMPOSTING:



Build or purchase a composting bin for food & yard waste. Use your composted goods to better build a healthy garden in the Spring.

### SATURDAY

#### PROCUREMENT:



Only purchase what is made to be recycled. Look for the recycling symbol on the packaging.

### SUNDAY

#### ENJOY:



Sit back, relax, and enjoy a healthier, happier, cleaner Earth!



## IOWA LOTTERY WINNING NUMBERS

### Lotto Drawings

Game	Draw Days	Sales Cutoff Time	Approx. Drawing Time
Lucky for Life®	Mon & Thu	8:30 pm	9:38 pm
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



11/5 MID-DAY  
2 2 0  
11/5 EVENING  
3 5 3



11/5 MID-DAY  
0 5 1 0  
11/5 EVENING  
5 2 2 2

Pen City Current encourages you to play responsibly.

Thank you



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Keokuk Transfer Station:  
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## Sports/Opinion

# Hounds put three spikers on 1st team All-Conference

BY PCC STAFF

FORT MADISON - The Fort Madison Bloodhounds put three volleyball players on the first-team all conference selection released last week.

The Hounds finished atop the Southeast Conference making it to substate for the second year in a row, where top-ranked Cedar Rapids Xavier eliminated them, also for the second year in a row.

Senior's Amber Dilsaver was named to the first team and led the conference in kills with 342 and kills per set at 4.07. Fellow senior Leigh Johnson was also tapped for the team. Johnson led all players in the conference in assists with 791, far and away above anyone else with Mt. Pleasant's Ashlee Menke second with 400. Junior Josie Pumphrey made the team as well. Pumphrey played libero for most of the year for FMHS. She was second in digs behind Fairfield's Danae Drish.

Senior Kamryn Bailey was named to the second team along with Kaeli Hutson. Bailey was fourth in the loop in digs with 292 on the year. She was tops in the conference in successful serves with 356 and aces, 71, 10 ahead of the pack. Hutson was fifth in the conference in attacking with 164 kills on 521 attacks.



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

FMHS seniors Amber Dilsaver (14) and Courtney Woodley (11) were two of Fort Madison's varsity volleyball players to make All-Conference. Dilsaver was named first team and Woodley received honorable mention.

Seniors Shyla Farmer, McKenna Fehseke and Courtney Woodley were named honorable mention.

The Hounds also tied for the highest number of players qualifying for academic all-conference with 10. Bailey, Fehseke, Vanessa Golowach, Hutson, Johnson,

Braxtyn McGhghy, Pumphrey, Olivia Williamn, Alyse Schmidt and Woodley. Mt. Pleasant and Fairfield also put 10 players each on the academic squad.

Fairfield's Kara Jeffrey was named Southeast Conference player of the year.

## Candidate can't let city fall

**LETTER** - Continued from Page 3

I am elected as your mayor. We will make them happen together. We have a great staff in city hall. I am looking forward to working with them on behalf of you, our residents. I will open the door to you the residents, and make everything public. And let the residents of our great city have a voice once again. I have moved to Fort Madison in 2010 and fell in love with it. That is the key reason I am running for the mayor's seat. Because I love our city and can't let it fall anymore. It's time to bring our city back from where we are at. We can't keep waiting; it's time to take action. So I am asking for your vote to help me bring our city back up, and make things positive again. So in closing I am asking for all of you to go to your respective Precinct and vote. In order to make positive changes I need your votes.

Thank you.  
"Chris Sorrentino" for Mayor

## Alliant golf outing helps fill food banks

*Annual events help stock shelves in Wis., and Iowa*

MADISON, Wis. - People facing hunger will benefit from the Alliant Energy Foundation's 11th annual Drive Out Hunger Golf Classic event held in September. Over \$475,000 was raised for Second Harvest Foodbank of Southern Wisconsin and six other Feeding America member food banks serving Wisconsin and Iowa. This was an increase of

\$75,000 from last year's event.

"This event keeps exceeding our expectations," said Patricia Kampling, chairman, president and CEO of Alliant Energy. "The businesses we work with from all over the country make huge investments in this event to make Drive Out Hunger a success - benefiting many Alliant Energy communities. We're

amazed to think we've raised more than \$3.1 million since 2007 and provided more than 12 million meals for those in need. These funds will go a long way to help families, kids and seniors in our communities who are hungry."

The Alliant Energy Foundation partners with Second Harvest Foodbank of Southern Wisconsin and its sister Feeding America food banks whose service areas overlap where Alliant Energy provides service. Other benefiting food banks include Feeding America Eastern Wisconsin, Food Bank of

Iowa, HACAP Food Reservoir, Northeast Iowa Food Bank, River Bend Foodbank and Food Bank for the Heartland.

"We are incredibly grateful for Alliant Energy Foundation's dedication to improving the lives of the people in the communities they serve," said Dan Stein, president and CEO of Second Harvest Foodbank of Southern Wisconsin. "And we are honored that they have chosen Second Harvest, and our sister food banks, to partner with and help those in our community who just need a little help."

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### Now Hiring Multiple Packer Positions Ft. Madison, Keokuk & Hamilton

Team Staffing Solutions is now hiring for Packers in Fort Madison, Keokuk and Hamilton. All shifts are available. \$9.00 - \$10.50 per hour, some positions available with pay increase potential. Apply in person at Team Staffing Solutions, 4502 Avenue O, Fort Madison, IA 52627 or online at [www.teamssi.com](http://www.teamssi.com). Team Staffing Solutions is an Equal Opportunity Employer.



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\*Annual Percentage Yield as of 06/28/17. Advertised rates are subject to change at the Bank's discretion. The minimum balance required to earn the stated APY is \$500 (rates apply to deposits less than \$100,000). A penalty may be imposed for withdrawals prior to maturity. Special Term CDs renew automatically into the next highest Standard Term CD. Some products and services not available in all areas. FDIC basic coverage amount is \$250,000 per depositor, per insured bank, for each ownership category. IRA and ESA CDs are not available for terms less than 12 months. Callers who are hearing or speech impaired should dial 711 or use a preferred Telecommunications Relay Service.

1501580      State Farm Bank, F.S.B., Bloomington, IL      FDIC

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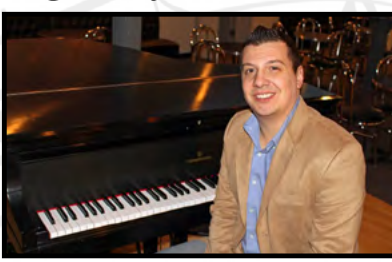
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*Aaron Lotzow • Saturday, November 17th*

Join us during the wine & beer walk for the musical stylings of **Aaron Lotzow** and enjoy a large selection of wines and beers!



**Hill Side Inn**

**1135 Ave. E • Wednesday-Saturday 5:00pm**

**MISTLETOE ON MAIN STREET**

**Saturday, November 25th • 10am - 2pm  
 Downtown Ft. Madison • Avenue G**

**Shop Downtown Businesses for Store Specials All Day Long!**

**Carriage Rides • Kids Crafts  
 Treats • Carolers • Polar Express**

**Visit Santa from 10am - Noon at SiP • 7th St.**

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# Classifieds

## Your Story Begins at Home

### Brand New Listings



118 Avenue E • West Point  
3BR • 1BA • 1 car garage  
Listing #20166662



3032 Avenue E • Fort Madison  
3BR • 1BA • 1 car garage  
Listing #20166815



15 15th Street • Fort Madison  
3BR • 4BA • 3 car garage  
Listing #20166815

### Land & Commercial Spaces



2188 Old Denmark Road E  
14.65 acres • 638,514 sq. ft.  
Listing #20162574



48th Street  
50.82 acres • 2,213,719 sq. ft.  
Listing #20162779



939 Avenue G  
Turn Key Office Space  
Listing #20165675



### Reduced

2634 Avenue G  
3BR • 2BA • 3 car garage  
Listing #20165688

There are hundreds of great listings in the area and we can show all of them to you. Give us a call today or click here to search them!



(319) 372-4040 • 903 Avenue G • Fort Madison • www.seia.rapmls.com



## Happily ever after...



1031 Avenue G  
3BR • 2BA • 2 car garage  
Listing #20166255



721-723 Avenue D  
4BR • 3BA • 2 car garage  
Listing #20166346



307 9th Street  
2BR • 2BA  
Listing #20166492



2709 Avenue M  
2BR • 2BA • 2 car garage  
Listing #20166516



1212 Avenue E  
4BR • 2BA • 1 car garage  
Listing #20166382



721 Maple Street, Donnellson  
3BR • 2BA • 1 car garage  
Listing #20166590



604 Avenue E  
4BR • 2BA • 1 car garage  
Listing #20165688



2160 Grand Venture Avenue  
3BR • 4BA • 3 car garage  
Listing #20165295



620 34th Street  
2BR • 2BA • 3 car garage  
Listing #20165503



536 Avenue C  
2BR • 1BA  
Listing #20166078



530 Avenue C  
3BR • 2BA • 2 car garage  
Listing #20166051



3569 Hwy 16, Wever  
2BR • 2BA • 2 car garage  
Listing #20165958



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## ...sooner than you Dreamed



2002 Avenue G  
3BR • 2BA • 1 car garage  
Listing #20166517



225 Avenue E  
4BR • 2BA • 3 car garage  
Listing #20165899



834 Avenue F  
3BR • 1BA  
Listing #20164461



412 24th Street  
2BR • 2BA • 2 car garage  
Listing #20166236



307 South 5th Street, Farmington  
5BR • 2.50BA • 2 car garage  
Listing #20164117



1712 Avenue E  
4BR • 1.50BA  
Listing #20164725



4911 Bluff Road  
3BR • 1.75BA • 2 car garage  
Listing #20164861



403 10th Street  
5BR • 3BA  
Listing #20166615



211 Main Street, Montrose  
2BR • 1BA • 2 car garage  
Listing #2014279



1315 Avenue E  
3BR • 1BA • 1 car garage  
Listing #20164148



4613 Avenue L  
3BR • 1.75BA • 1 car garage  
Listing #20163423

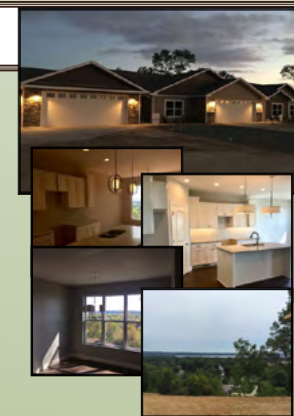
There are hundreds of great listings in the area and we can show all of them to you. Give us a call today or click here to search them!



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- Condominium Features:**
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### 302 33rd Street • Ft. Madison, Ia

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- 3 Bedrooms - Master Suite w/ Master Bath & Walk-in Closet
- 2.5 baths
- Engineered Hardwood Floor
- Open Floor Plan
- Finished Basement
- Spacious Yard
- New Safe Family Friendly Neighborhood - Green Oak Development



### 41 7th Street • West Point, Ia

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- Large Storage Room
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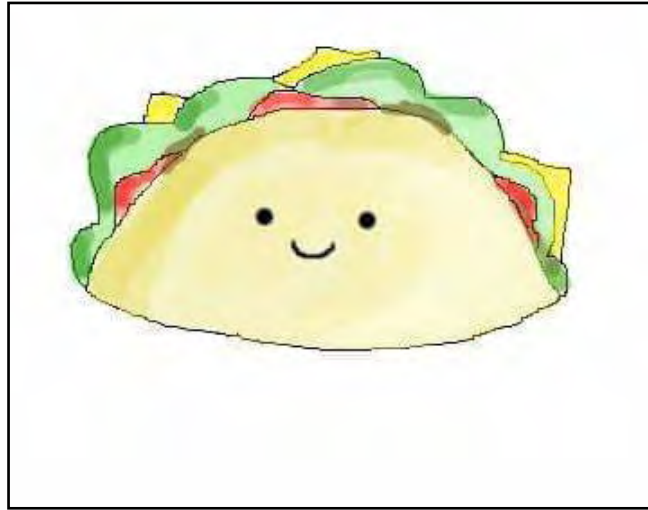
**Local News/From the Front**

**PORT to hold taco fundraiser**

FORT MADISON - The Fort Madison Promoting Outdoor Recreational Trails will be holding a fundraiser on Tuesday at the Fort Madison Eagle's Club.

The menu will consist of tacos, enchiladas and chips with salsa. Proceeds will help support the PORT group and construction of the final phase the three-phase project connecting Ivanhoe Park, Bluff Road, Baxter Sports Complex and Fort Madison Community Hospital.

Come out and enjoy some of the best Mexican food around while supporting PORT of Fort Madison and your the Eagles Aerie 1287 on Tuesday from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Eagles Club, 4821 Avenue O, Fort Madison, Iowa



**Minnesota could be a retreat**

**SWARM** - Continued from Page 1

a mug and pumped about 20 squirts of hazelnut syrup into it. I went to fill the mug with coffee. One of the choices was hazelnut coffee. Double hazelnut, what could it hurt? I headed for checkout. The clerk had been eyeing me. She said, "You missed the hazelnut cream." I went back and poured four containers of hazelnut cream into the mug. I have always been a man of excess. I took a sip of the concoction and my ears tingled. Perfect.

My truck was covered with snow. I had remembered my winter coat and hat, but not a snow brush. Also, because I like to drive in comfort, I was wearing Crocs. Everyone around me was in some sort of insulated boot. These trucks nowadays are so high off the ground. I tried to brush the snow off the windshield with my arm and got a Croc full of snow. "Well, that's a crock!" The same clerk was sweeping snow off the sidewalk. She kindly took her broom and brushed off my windshield. That's Minnesnowdians for you.

Finally, safe at my motel room in Ashland, Wisconsin, I cranked the heat up, pulled the curtains back, and viewed the waves of Lake Superior crashing the shoreline only a few feet from the walkout door. How romantic. The room had everything—a microwave, dorm refrig, coffee pot. With my books and poetry to protect me, I could spend a couple of weeks here. What else do you need?

Oh, yes, Ginnie.

Have a good story? Call or text Curt Swarm in Mt. Pleasant at 319-217-0526, email him at [curtswarm@yahoo.com](mailto:curtswarm@yahoo.com) or find him on Facebook. Curt's stories are also read at 106.3 FM in Farmington.

*Re-Elect*  
**BRAD RANDOLPH**  
*Mayor*




*Honesty*  
*Leadership*  
*Integrity*





**VOTE NOW**  
Through November 7  
*Thank you for your support*


Paid for by the Committee to Re-Elect Randolph for Mayor  
Sandy Johnston, Treasurer, 2734 255th Avenue, Montrose


**5-DAY WEATHER FORECAST**

**MON 06 Nov** \_\_\_\_\_  
 Light Rain  
 High – 36.0° F | Low – 33.0° F

**TUE 07 Nov** \_\_\_\_\_  
 Light Rain  
 High– 36.3° F | Low – 35.6° F

**WED 08 Nov** \_\_\_\_\_  
 Clear Skies  
 High– 42.3° F | Low – 32.4° F

**THU 09 Nov** \_\_\_\_\_  
 Clear Skies  
 High – 47.5 F | Low – 28.1° F

**FRI 10 Nov** \_\_\_\_\_  
 Clear Skies  
 High– 46.1° F | Low – 35.3° F

[OpenWeatherMap](#)

Analyze **Disagree**  
**DISCUSS** Thought  
 Opinion  
 Beside the Point **PUBLIC RESPECT**  
 Agree **ARTICULATE**

*Ladies' Night*

Thursday, November 9th • 4:00pm - 7:00pm

~ You're Invited ~

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- Outdoor Flags & Yard Ornaments
- Candles & Wax Melts
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