



Pen City Current

Friday, April 19, 2019 | 7 pages | Volume 3 • Issue 98

OFP to host Fort Madison Improv in June

City staffers may take stage in first-of-its-kind event locally

Submitted article

“I’m just making this up as I go.” No sane person wants to hear this from their doctor, lawyer, plumber or electrician. But when it comes to comedy, it can mean you’re about hear something very funny. It’s called improvisational comedy and it’s making its debut at Old Fort Players June 7 and 8.

“Whose Improv is it Anyway?” is the brain child of OFP President, Ty Clute who spends his days as a mild-mannered city employee taking care of the streets – and citizens – of Fort Madison. While repairing potholes with his friend, Phil McCracken, Ty realized he wasn’t the only funny guy in town.

Clute talked it over with the city to see if turning this great idea into an event could benefit the city as well as OFP. “We have the theater downtown that’s perfect for gathering to watch our city employees cut loose and have fun.”

Clute will act as Emcee and contestants will be

chosen from among employees of City Hall, various City Departments and the City Council. A phone call to OFP (319) 372-9559 will reserve your spot on the Improv stage. The general public is invited to come be a part of the audience.

The two evening shows begin at 7 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, June 7 and 8. Tickets for Adults are \$15. They are available on the theater’s newly updated website as well as at City Hall.

“It’s just one of the many new ideas we’ve been

See **OFP**, page 2



Photo by Ethan Lillard/PCC

Fort Madison’s Brody Rung (15) goes for a kick as a Washington defender closes in. The Hounds won 4-2 and are tied for first in the Southeast Conference with Mt. Pleasant at 3-1 in conference play. For the complete game story, see page 5.

Health officials say confirmed measles cases confined

Lee County officials remind residents of symptoms, clinics

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

LEE COUNTY – With a second confirmed case of measles in Iowa, Lee County Health Department officials are reminding local residents of the symptoms of the rare disease.

According to a release from the Iowa Department of Public Health, the two cases in Iowa are both a result of unvaccinated residents from northeast Iowa.

The second case is a resident who is a household contact of the first confirmed measles case. The initial case is believed to have come from the resident after traveling to Israel, where measles transmission is occurring.

Health officials also said the initial person is under a public health voluntary confinement in order to prevent further exposures. Because the second measles case has been isolated at home during the incubation period, there is no current threat to the general public.

Emily Biddenstadt, LCHD Community Health Special Projects Manager, said measles symptoms are specific.

“We want to remind the public to be aware of the symptoms of measles – cough, runny nose, red/watery eyes, nasal congestion, high fever, a rash of flat red

See **MEASLES**, page 3

Climax Moly donates equipment to area schools

PCC STAFF

DONNELSON – Lee County schools had the opportunity to get new equipment to prepare their students for future careers thanks to Climax Molybdenum.

Central Lee Ag Instructor Tom Boeck stated, “We’re grateful that they thought of us and it will make a big impact on the students.” All

three Lee County public schools were invited to look at the equipment Climax was hoping to donate and choose what would best fit their programs.

“We are pleased to support our local schools and provide equipment that helps prepare students for the 21st century workplace,” said Javier Guevara, General Manager-Fort Madison.

Central Lee received the CAT Track loader and John Deere 970 tractor pictured above along with other smaller equipment while Keokuk Community Schools received a portable welder.

“At Climax, we value partnerships that contribute to the long-term sustainability of our community, in-

See **DONATION**, page 2

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Ag News/From the Front

Margins trigger DMC payment to producers

Income over feed cost margin was \$8.22 per hundredweight

WASHINGTON D.C. — USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) announced this week that the February 2019 income over feed cost margin was \$8.22 per hundredweight (cwt.), triggering the second payment for dairy producers who purchase the appropriate level of coverage under the new but yet-to-be established Dairy Margin Coverage (DMC) program.

DMC, which replaces the Margin Protection Program for Dairy, is a voluntary risk management program for dairy producers that was authorized by the 2018 Farm Bill. DMC offers protection to dairy producers when the difference between the all milk price and the average feed cost (the margin) falls below a certain dollar amount selected by the producer.

Sign up for DMC will open by mid-June of this year. At the time of sign up, producers who elect a DMC coverage level between \$8.50 and \$9.50 would be eligible for a payment for February 2019.

For example, a dairy operation that chooses to enroll an established production history of 3 million pounds (30,000 cwt.) that elects the \$9.50 coverage level on 95 percent of production would receive \$3,040 for February.

DMC premiums are paid annually. The calculated annual premium for coverage at \$9.50 on 95 percent of a 3-million-pound production history for this example would be \$4,275.

The dairy operation in the example calculation will pay \$4,275 in total premium payments for all of 2019 and receive \$6,626.25 in Dairy Margin Coverage payments for January and February combined. Additional payments will be made if calculated margins remain below the \$9.50/cwt level.

All participants are also required to pay an annual \$100 administrative fee in addition to any premium, and payments will be subject to a 6.2% reduction to account for federal sequestration.

Operations making a one-time election to participate in DMC through 2023 are eligible to receive a 25 percent discount on their premium for the existing margin coverage rates. For the example above, this would reduce the annual premium by \$1,068.75.

"The Dairy Margin Coverage program will provide an important financial safety net for dairy producers, helping them weather shifting milk and feed prices," FSA Administrator Richard Fordyce said. "We continue to work diligently to implement the DMC program and other FSA programs authorized by the 2018 Farm Bill."

OFP to skip spring show; plans other events

OFP - Continued from Page 1

working on at the theater," OFP Secretary Angela Sanford said. "We skipped a Spring Show this season so we would have time to regroup and plan for next season, but we also wanted to test the waters to see what else our fans want."

The community theater has had a big presence downtown for more than 25 years. They stepped up their game last fall with reserved, covered seating for the Christmas Parade and sold blankets and hot chocolate. At the inaugural St. Patrick's Day Parade there were donuts and hot chocolate for sale. Clute also told us, "It's a good chance for us to promote our upcoming events and support our downtown. Look for us during the 4th of July and Rodeo Parades. We're working toward premium air-conditioned seating as well as our usual cold drinks and fresh popcorn."

Sunday, July 7 at 6pm the theater once again presents the 'Joe Sanford Jam' – an evening of Blues music from Joe and his friends. Admission is a free will offering to support Old Fort Players. Refreshments and Joe's CD's will be available for sale.

July 13 at 7:00 pm, the theater will host "Destination Tribal" a local belly dance troupe. Tickets will cost \$8 and will be available soon on the OFP website.

Old Fort Players has been entertaining the community since 1981 and is located in downtown Fort Madison at 725 Avenue G. Call 319-372-9559 for more information. Like them on Facebook or visit www.oldfortplayers.com to keep up with everything that's going on at the theater.

CL gets bulldozer; Keokuk gets portable welder from Climax

DONATION - Continued from Page 1

cluding workforce development" said Guevara. "We hope these resources help equip students with real-world knowledge and skills for career success."

"Interactions like this not only help our programs grow and allow hands-on learning but also expose students to different employers in the area" said Boeck. Boeck explained many of his students were not aware of the careers at Climax until they provided the tour and equipment.

It was Central Lee junior Devin Jeremy-Tweety's first time interacting with the employer.

"We're really excited about the new dozer! It'll make managing our FFA projects a lot easier and we get to do the maintenance on it." Devin plans to be a diesel mechanic after high school.

You won't hear a PEEP out of us this Easter



Pen City Current will not publish an e-Edition on Easter Sunday, April 21 & Monday, April 22 in order to enjoy the holiday with our families.

Breaking news will be published as it happens on pencitycurrent.com.

HAPPY EASTER!

Pen City current

MAKING A DIFFERENCE
Through the Journey of Life & Death
ONE PERSON AT A TIME

FMCH Home Health is now providing Hospice services. The same people you trust to keep you safely in your home after illness or surgery will now be there to provide support and care for you and your family during the end of life journey.

The Promise of Spring
Tuesday, April 23, 2019 • 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.
FMCH Business Center Conference Rooms

The springtime of your grief comes gently. A gradual warming of the heart silences the chill of intense pain. We invite you to join us for a special session where we will provide tools to deal with your grief and create a special remembrance project for your loved one.

R.S.V.P by calling 319-376-2166
Light refreshments will be provided.

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Current-Lee/Weather

CURRENT-LEE

Clay, Paper, Scissors

A Celebrity Amateur Art Night featuring area celebrities and artists will be held Friday April 19, from 5 to 9 p.m. Cost is \$20 per person and includes hors d'ouvres. There will also be a cash bar. Proceeds benefit the Potowonok Circle of King's Daughters.

Fort Madison Community Clean up

The Fort Madison Chamber will be holding it's annual Community Clean up on Saturday, April 20, from 10 a.m. to noon. with registration at Central Park. Free lunch will follow in the park. Call the Chamber at 372-5471 to register and for details.

Holy Family Parish breakfast

Rolling Hall will be the site for a Easter Sunday, April 21, pancake breakfast beginning at 9:30 a.m. A free-will donation will help defray costs of the HFP youth attending the National Catholic Youth Conference in Indianapolis.

FM Partners Paint-A-Thon

Volunteers are need for the annual Paint-A-Thon taking place April 22-27 in Fort Madison. Contact Fort Madison Partners at 372-5471 to volunteer.

BSC Auction, Social Tour

The 2nd annual event will be held on April 27, 2019 beginning at 1 p.m. at the Baxter Sports Complex with transportation by

SEIBUS. Dinner will follow by Fat Jimmy's Smokehouse and the auction begins at 7 p.m.

Salute to Small Business Breakfast

The Fort Madison Chamber will be holding it's annual Salute to Small Business Breakfast on Thursday, May 9 beginning at 7:30 a.m at Quality Inn & Suites.

Soroptomist Princess Tea Party

The annual Princess Tea Party is set for Saturday, May 11th at Quality Inn & Suites in Fort Madison. Ages 3-5 will attend from 10 a.m. to noon, while 6 and up will attend from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Registration deadline is April 5. For more information email Dr. Lauri Wondra at laurisorop@gmail.com.

FMHS Color Run

The Fort Madison 2019 Color Run is set for Saturday May 18 at the Fort Madison Middle School. Registration is now being accepted at <http://www.fortmadison.com/event/fmhs-color-run/>. The pre-registration fee is \$25.00. All registration forms must be turned in by April 26 to receive a t-shirt.

Jack Morris Memorial Golf Outing

The annual Fort Madison Chamber Golf outing will be held June 14, 2019. Sponsorships are available. Contact Fort Madison Partners at 319-372-5471 for more details.

LCHD offers vaccinations twice a month in county

MEASLES - Continued from Page 1

areas all over the body with raised bumps, and Koplik spots, which are small spots with white or bluish-white centers on the inside of the cheek," she said

The LCHD offers two immunization clinics every month, including the second Thursday of the month in Keokuk from noon-4:30pm at Trinity Methodist Church, and the fourth Thursday of the month in Fort Madison from noon-5:30pm at the LCHD office in the old John Bennett #3 Building.

5-DAY WEATHER FORECAST

FRI 19 Apr

Scattered Clouds
High- 55.5° F | Low - 45.0° F

SAT 20 Apr

Clear
High- 63.1° F | Low - 52.5° F

SUN 21 Apr

Overcast
High- 76.5° F | Low - 63.3° F

MON 22 Apr

Light Rain
High- 72.0° F | Low - 60.6° F

TUE 23 Apr

Moderate Rain
High- 63.4° F | Low - 52.2° F

[OpenWeatherMap](#)

2019 Course Improvement Tournament

Friday April 26th
Shotgun start at NOON
4 person best shot

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Sports

Lady Hounds rebound with shutout over Mt. Pleasant

FMHS girls pitch a 9-0 shutout of Panthers Thursday

BY ETHAN LILLARD
PCC Sports

FORT MADISON – The last time Fort Madison’s girls tennis team took the court, they came away with one single win, falling to Fairfield 8-1.

Back on their own home court Thursday, the Hounds got back on track, sweeping Mount Pleasant 9-0.

“Seeing them respond this way to the two previous lost matches is very promising,” Fort Madison Head Coach Jeremy Swink said.

Playing as the team’s No. 1, Larissa Ferrill picked up an 8-6 victory against Erin Zihlman. Lanie Kuntz, the Hounds No. 2 on Thursday, had an easier match, coming away with an 8-2 win. Fort Madison’s No. 3, Zoe Ramatowski, kept the momentum rolling in the right direction, scoring an 8-3 win against her opponent Shaleen Thiengmany.

Kirklynn Nafziger also breezed through her match, winning 8-2. The Hounds No 5 and No. 6 players had a more difficult time with their matches.

Alyse Schmidt, at No. 5, was forced into a tiebreaker against Mount Pleasant’s Sierra Barton before coming

away with the 7-2 win during the extra court time.

Lilli Scott, the Hounds No. 6, also finished regular match play with an 8-8 tie against Olivia Carson. Scott and Carson battled until the end during the tiebreaker, but Scott was too much, walking away the 10-8 victory.

The duo of Ferrill and Kuntz overpowered Mount Pleasant’s top two players, cruising to an easy 8-0 sweep of Zihlman and Sandeen. Ramatowski and Nafziger weren’t as dominate, but still were able to double their opponent’s score, defeating Thiengmany and Runyon 8-4.

Looking to collect the sweep, the Hounds final duo of Schmidt and Scott were able to close the door on Mount Pleasant, winning their match 8-6 against Barton and Carson for the 9-0 sweep.

By the final scores it may appear Fort Madison’s Thursday matches were a cake walk, but a lot of the Hounds’ wins were come-from-behind victories.

“To start tonight, I looked down the row of scorecards and many, if not all, of our girls dropped their first two games,” Swink said. “Some of our girls were down as low as 1-5 to start with. To see each of them battle back and exhibit some toughness is a huge step for us as a team.”

Fort Madison will once again have home court advantage its next contest against Burlington on Monday.

HTC girls rebound with win over MP

PCC STAFF

WEST POINT – A strong second half pushed Holy Trinity Catholic to a 3-1 win over previously unbeaten Mt. Pleasant at South Park to highlight girls soccer action.

Sophomore Claire Pothitakis continued her hot goal streak scoring two goals, one in the first half to tie up the match and another in the second where she moved in from the left and slammed a shot into the back of the net.

Elle Rashid closed out the scoring after handling a cross from senior Taylor Boeding that got away from Mt. Pleasant’s keeper allowing Rashid to punch it in to set the final at 3-1.

Head Coach Michael Sheerin said the Crusaders struggled to get organized in the first half, which resulted in the Panthers being able to open the scoring.

Holy Trinity failed to clear a shot near keeper Sam Pothitakis that bounced off her causing the ball to tumble out to an awaiting Panther who slipped it into the net.

Pothitakis would take an assist from Rashid out on the angle and punch the Crusaders’ first goal in with a left-footed strike.

Sheerin, who’s typically quick to spread the praise around the team, said the defensive work of Ashlynn Haas and Maille Sheerin kept the Panthers from mounting too many attacks in the second half.

“The girls finally found some organization and shape thanks to Nicole and Elyse Pothitakis regaining the middle of the pitch,” Sheerin said. “Mya Lawlor worked tirelessly from end to end of the pitch, including a fantastic clearance off the line.”

See **SOCCER**, page 5

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Clean Home. Clean Planet.

Do your part during this year’s Spring Cleaning activities by making sure you’re choosing products safe for our planet.

Here are just a few of the ways you can help:

- Properly dispose of your household hazardous waste materials, construction debris, & electronic waste
- Use environmentally-safe cleaning products
- Reduce • Reuse • Recycle
- Check our website for proper disposal methods, acceptable materials, & more

This year, do your part to keep our environment clean, too!



Ft. Madison Main Office:
2092 303rd Ave
Fort Madison, IA
1-319-372-6140

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111 Carbide Lane
Keokuk, IA
1-319-524-6175

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Sports

Bloodhounds kickers share conference lead

BY ETHAN LILLARD
PCC SPORTS

FORT MADISON – One of the Bloodhounds' goals at the beginning of the season was to at least reach the .500 mark on the year.

After coming away with a 4-2 win against Washington at Baxter's Sports Complex Thursday, Fort Madison's boys soccer team is now at the coveted .500 mark.

Despite the Hounds meeting the standard they set at the beginning of the season, there is still much more work to be done.

"They've been working at practice. We're doing things better at practice than we were last year,"

Fort Madison Head Coach Kevin Wellman said. "The guys are starting to own the team as players. They have more pride to carry when they feel its their team ... Five hundred is a good place to be right now, but I think any of those games out there, if the guys work hard enough and execute properly, we should be able to be very competitive in just about every game we have left."

Thursday's match started slow for both squads. The first goal of the game wasn't recorded until 25 minutes had trickled off the clock and even then it was scored on accident, as a Washington defender accidentally sent the ball

past his own goalie for 1-0 Fort Madison lead.

It looked as if the accidental goal would be the only one scored in the first half with the score still at 1-0 with 5:20 remaining, but Washington responded with a goal of their own to tie the game during the fifth minute.

"In the first 20 minutes, we weren't executing what we wanted to do very well," Wellman said. "We were miss-hitting the ball, putting it out of bounds, hitting to a white player instead of a red player.

We simply discussed we are doing OK things, we just have to execute ... just simple technical things that we needed to tidy up."



Photo by Ethan Lillard/PCC

Fort Madison's Austin Sexton (11) gets surrounded by Washington players in Thursday's 4-2 win at the Baxter Sports Complex in Fort Madison. With the win, the Hounds move to 5-5 on the year and 3-1 in the conference.

FMHS remains unbeaten in boys tennis

Top four singles players haven't lost a set in singles, doubles

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

BURLINGTON – The Fort Madison boys tennis team remains unbeaten on the year after knocking off Burlington on the road 6-3 to highlight boys' tennis action Thursday night.

The Bloodhounds move to 6-0 on the year as the top four singles players Sam Avery, Jason Thurman, Vasin Thurman and Reed Fehseke have not dropped a set all year – in singles or doubles.

Avery was gave up four games in the first set to Burlington's Jon Jarvis, but took the set 6-4 and rebounded to win the second set 6-0.

Jason and Vasin Thurman, playing at Nos. 2 and 3 both shut out their opponents by 6-0, 6-0 scores and Reed Fehseke knocked of Jacob Hardy 6-1, 6-0 at No. 4 singles.

Burlington got two singles win at 5 and 6. Charles Carlson defeated Bryce Workman after Workman took a 6-4 first set win. Carlson countered with a 6-4 second set win of his own and then too the first-to-10 tiebreaker 10-2.

Tyson Powers downed Fort Madison's Levi Sissel 6-2, 6-2.

Head Coach Dean Hogan said the Bloodhounds are getting good competition even though the scores don't always indicate it.

"We'll wait til districts to talk about the level of competition because anything can happen during the season," he said.

Most of the Bloodhound wins have been relatively lopsided, but Hogan attributes that to time on the court and sticking to fundamentals.

"These kids have worked hard and put in the time, not just during the season but during the summer too. They just like to get out and play. But on the court they are stay focused, they stay in the game until it's finished."

Feheske is playing in his first season of organized tennis, but Hogan said he has played the game recreational on his own time and just sticks to the fundamentals.

"He doesn't get flustered at all," Hogan said. "He's a very calm and collected young man. He has really good court sense and works the angles to get points and get wins."

In doubles action, the Thurmans took out Jarvis and Drake Parks 6-1, 6-1, while Avery and Fehseke downed Cody Neuman and Jacob Hardy 6-3, 6-3. The Grayhounds Carlson and Powers downed Workman and Sissel 6-1, 6-4.

The Hounds should get tested on Saturday when the travel to Pella for a six-team invitational at Pella High School's Caldwell Park.

Strong second half propels Crusaders

SOCCER - Continued from Page 4

Sheerin said the girls weren't their usually free flowing squad, but they were happy to come out with the win against the bigger 2A school.

The Crusaders took 14 shots on goal on the night, including five from senior Taylor Boeding and four from Claire Pothitakis. Rashid and Elyse Pothitakis each had an assist.

Sam Pothitakis had five saves at the net for Holy Trinity who moves to 5-1 on the year, with their only loss coming in a 2-1 loss to Burlington Notre Dame Monday.

The Crusaders play next Tuesday at South Park following the boys' match at 5:00 p.m.

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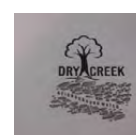
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current



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Lotto America SM	Wed & Sat	8:59 pm	10:00 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



4/17

1 15 17 46 66
Powerball: 15
Power Play: 3



4/17

2 17 24 34 51
Star Ball: 4
All Star Bonus: 5



4/17 MID-DAY
0 5 4
4/17 EVENING
1 7 6



4/17 MID-DAY
2 9 5 9
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0 4 0 7

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COMMUNITY GARDEN COORDINATOR NEEDED

RSVP/United Way of the Great River Region is seeking a Community Garden Coordinator

Do you like to garden and work outdoors?
Do you like to plan, plant and harvest food?

We are seeking an individual this Spring who will plan, plant, cultivate, harvest and lead other volunteers in our Community Garden (garden is located at 2606 Avenue L, Fort Madison, Iowa behind Hy-Vee).

Must enjoy working outside, gardening and harvesting. Will direct garden activities with other volunteers and may require some bending, stooping and lifting of 10 lbs. or less...Times: 1 hour, 2 times per week.

If interested and for more information, please call – Tammy at 319-372-8043.

United Way of the Great River Region supports non-profit organizations and agencies that provide programs addressing needs in health, education and financial stability to residents in Clark, Hancock, and Lee Counties.

United Way of the Great River Region serves all of Lee, Hancock, and Clark Counties. All donations are tax-deductible.



United Way of the Great River Region



Historical Interpreters/ Guides Old Fort Madison

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ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH INSPECTOR

Lee County Health Department seeks a full-time Environmental Health Inspector to perform field work with professional responsibilities relating to enforcement of laws, regulations and standards including, food establishment inspections, food safety, hotel/motel licensure and inspections, private water wells, water quality, private sewage disposal systems, public swimming pools & SPA, tattoo, tanning inspections, lead inspections, public health nuisance and general sanitation.

Qualifications include: Bachelor's degree in the natural or physical sciences or related field; OR an equivalent combination of experience and education which provides the required knowledge, skills and abilities. One (1) year of experience in public health or related field preferred.

Please send or email cover letter and resume to Michele Ross, Administrator at mross@leecountyhd.org or to PO Box 1426, Fort Madison, IA 52627 by April 29, 2019. LCHD is an EOE

Administrative Assistant for Homecare, Hospice, and Environmental Programs

Lee County Health Department is seeking a full-time Administrative Assistant for Homecare, Hospice, and Environmental programs. This position will be responsible for scheduling, data entry into various computer programs, and other general office duties. The applicant must have knowledge/experience in Microsoft office programs and general office procedures. Must have organizational and communication skills and an ability to work efficiently in a team environment. If interested send resume to Tammy Wilson at twilson@leecountyhd.org by April 26, 2019. Lee County Health Department is an EOE.



Classifieds

the classifieds

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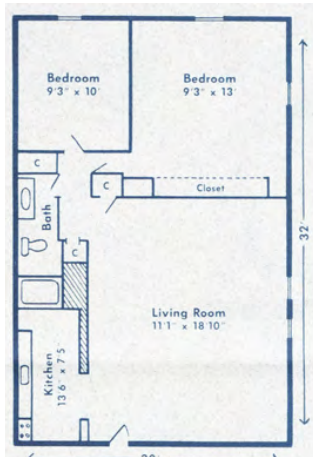
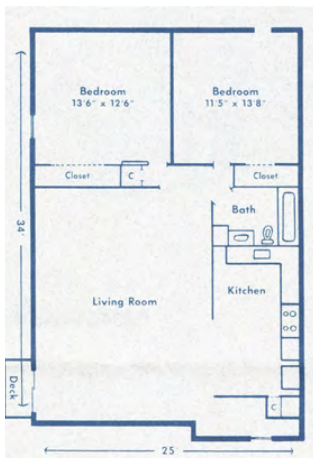
IT MAY BE COLD OUTSIDE.....but it's nice and warm with this GEOTHERMAL FURNACE 3 bedroom home with garage and out building near the west edge of Ft Madison. Approximately 1,275 square feet upstairs and 1,140 square feet downstairs. This home has a large living area downstairs that sports a second kitchen. Also a second bathroom and a ground floor laundry. This home is newly remodeled with NEW Frig, New Stove, and New microwave, New Dishwasher New counter top and New light fixtures and ceiling fans thru out. Also has new carpet and new paint thru-out, Brand new roof and new garage door opener. With its GEOTHERMAL heating and air conditioning it will have a very conservative utility bill. Also has city water along with a sand point well and a septic leech field that was recently inspected. The address is 2311 263 ave Ft Madison. Priced at \$143,000 For a private showing call Todd at 319-470-8711.

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