

**Don't forget Social Media!** Check us out on the following sites @pencitycurrent: **SPORTS:** 

Fort Madison boys drop doubleheader with Mt. Pleasant.

See page 4

Wed., June 20, 2018 | 11 pages | Volume 2 • Issue 146

## Agronomist optimistic about dry fields



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

A small rain shower blew through the area Tuesday afternoon, but did little to provide moisture to some very dry crop fields such as this fieldnorth of Fort Madison. Experts say the crops are surviving on what rainfall we've been getting because there is very little moisture in the soil at this point in the planting season.

#### BY CHUCK VANDENBERG PCC EDITOR

LEE COUNTY - An Iowa State University Extension agronomist is cautiously optimistic that current weather models will bring precipitation to the area.

With clouds pulling in over Lee County Tuesday afternoon, area farmers are hoping that some rain is

SCHMITT

unloaded in the area to help bring moisture to some fields that are dry more than five feet down into the soil.

Virgil Schmitt, ISU Extension field agronomist based in Muscatine said he was in Lee County on Tuesday morning. "Generally, it is dry or at least it has been," Schmitt said. "The crops have basically to this point have been surviving on rainfall since they matured last fall which hasn't been a whole lot. That soil moisture has not been replenished. That means we are going to be relying from there on on regular rainfall. Or else were going to doing some serious damage to the crop."

He said normally June in the wettest month of the year, with May being the second wettest months and crops rely on that moisture to get through the hot months of July and August.

"Normally in July and August we do not get enough rain to sustain the crop, so we rely on June, and to a lesser extent May to fill that soil profile up

See **CROPS**, page 3

"The

southeast

can't buy

a drop of

water."

ISU Extension Field

-Virgil Schmitt,

Agronomist

## Supervisors give sheriff's vehicles new computers

Conlee hopes to have systems in place by September

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - The Lee County Sheriff was given the nod by Lee County Supervisors Tuesday

morning to go ahead with plans to equip vehicles with on-board computers that will help streamline deputy processing going forward.

At Tuesday's regular meeting a quick public hearing was held and Supervisor Ron Fedler said he had heard from

FEDLER

a few county residents and that was why he suggested the board go out for bids on the computers.

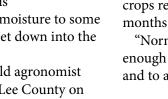
The original resolution passed by the supervisors in March was set not to exceed \$133,934 over five years, but the bidding process and some negotiations on the part of the department resulted in a 3-year deal for \$72,500, which includes hardware, software, mounting, peripheral wiring and maintenance and service, from an upfitting firm called Keltek. After the three-year deal, the county will have the option of purchasing the equipment at fair market value.

Chief Deputy Will Conlee, who's spearheaded the project said he hopes to have all the cars upgraded in August.



"Keltek has held August open for us so I hope to have all the cars done that month," Conlee said. "Then will need to state to come down and get the deputies certified with the National Crime Information Center, a Federal Bureau

of Investigation database. Sheriff Stacy Weber said all the road deputies, and most likely the department's two detectives will have to be trained on using the systems.



### City sets 4th of July Riverview parking rules

BY PCC STAFF

FORT MADISON -The Fort Madison Police Department is reminding the community that on Wednesday, July 4, 2018, the entrance to Riverview Park at 6th Street and Avenue H will be blocked off to all vehicles beginning at 8:00 p.m. for the annual fireworks in Riverview Park.

Handicap parking spots "may" be available in the first parking lot west of the Veterans' Memorial in Riverview Park. Vehicles with handicap placards or handicap license plates will be allowed to enter the park for access to this parking area at any time prior to the beginning of the fireworks display. Due to the proximity of the fireworks, there will be no general public seating allowed in the parking lot at the Historical Center at 10th and Avenue H.

No motor vehicles (without handicap placard or license plates), motorcycles, vehicles pulling boats, or any other vehi-

See **PARK**, page 4

The contract calls for 11 systems, one of which will be kept as a spare so that in the event a unit requires service, the spare can be put into duty. In the meantime, Weber said the detectives may have access to the spare unit.

"We will keep one as a spare, but that will probably go into the hands of the detectives and will put

#### See COMPUTERS, page 5

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### **Obituaries/Local News**

#### **OBITUARIES**

## LORENA E. BROWN

Lorena E. Brown, 78 of Beaver Dam, WI, formerly of Keokuk, IA died Sunday, June 17, 2018 at Golden Living Center in Beaver Dam, WI.



She was born February 11, 1940 in Carthage, IL the daughter of Neil and Helen Guymon Hutson. On November 19, 1958 she was united in marriage to David Brown in Keokuk. He preceded her in death on May 26, 2013. Lorena had been employed at the Chuck Wagon Restaurant in Keokuk and later at the Keokuk Convalescent Center also in

Keokuk. She was an active member of the New Testament Christian

Church in Keokuk for many years.

BROWN

Lorena enjoyed crocheting and created many beautiful pieces. She loved spending time with family and friends, especially her grandchildren. She was always there to volunteer and help others

whenever there was a need.

She is survived by one son, Michael Brown (Vicki) of Beaver Dam, WI, four grandchildren, Ashley Brown, CJ Brown(Kelli), Jared Brown and Michael Brown, all of Beaver Dam, WI, one great-granddaughter, Gracie Clark of Beaver Dam, WI and two brothers, Claude Hutson (Loretta) of Hutchison, KS and Verne Hutson (LuAnn) of Carthage, IL.

She was also preceded in death by her parents and one sister, Elizabeth Bird.

A funeral service will be held at 11 a.m., Friday, at the New Testament Christian Church in Keokuk with Bill Abegglen officiating. Burial will be in the Keokuk National Cemetery.

Visitation will be held prior to the service from 10-11 a.m., Friday at the church with family meeting with friends at that time.

Memorials may be made to the New Testament Christian Church.

The Vigen Memorial Home in Keokuk, IA is assisting the family with arrangements.

Online condolences may be left for the family at www.vigenmemorialhome. com.



## Registrations open for 2nd **Back to School Health Fair**

Registration forms at FM Food Pantry, deadline set for June 27th

#### BY PCC STAFF

FORT MADISON -The second annual Back To School Health Fair will be held on August 4th, 2018 from 10 a.m. to noon at the Fort Madison Community High School. Registration forms are located at the Food Pantry and are being accepted until June 27th. There is a foot measuring device at the pantry to ensure the proper size of shoe is ordered.

This year we are including 3- and 4-year-old children to participate in a developmental screening. Students entering K - 8th grade will be eligible to receive a backpack with most school supplies and new tennis shoes.

During the event children accompanied by their parent can expect to participate in a number of learning opportunities about resources and services available in our community. Children will have their vision checked and are also eligible to get a free haircut provided by local area hairdressers.

If you would like to donate supplies you may do so in a donation box that has been placed in the following local businesses: Family Video, Dollar General, Hy-Vee, Fareway and Lee County Bank. A list of items needed is on each box.

If you have donated or collected supplies in the past, please consider utilizing the collection boxes. This helps ensure appropriate items are collected and distributed when needed. Any items that are not utilized and distributed during the event are divided among

buildings.

The committee will purchase any items not donated to fill backpacks as well as tennis shoes for each registered participant.

If you are interested in sending a monetary donation to this cause you may send a check made to Fort Madison Kiwanis to: Lee County Bank and Trust, c/o Kevin Adams 801 Avenue F, Fort Madison, IA 52627.

Last year this program provided 125 backpacks and tennis shoes to area vouth.

The committee is anticipating many more, but donations will depend on the generosity of area organizations and community members. Please check out our Facebook page at https://www. facebook.com/FMBSHF/ for future updates: Fort Madison Back To School Health Fair You may also contact Dawn Johnson @ dawn.johnson@fmcsd. org or 660-341-6427.



## **5-DAY WEATHER FORECAST** WED 20 Jun

44	Heavy Intensity Rain High – 74.7° F   Low – 68.6° F					
THU 21 J	un					
4	Heavy Intensity Rain High – 76.3° F   Low – 65.1° F					
FRI 22 Jun						
4	Moderate Rain High– 74.0° F   Low – 65.6° F					
SAT 23 Ju	ın ———					



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Light Rain High– 79.4° F | Low – 76.4° F

SUN 24 Jun



Moderate Rain High– 85.7° F | Low – 73.3° F

**OpenWeatherMap** 

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## **Pen City Current**

Founded in 2016



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### From the Front/For the Record

## Rain needed in June to offset drier summer

#### **CROPS** - Continued from Page 1

with water so we have some in reserve to get us through summer lean times," he said. "At tleast to this point it's not done very much to fill up that soil profile and that's a little bit worriesome."

However, he said current forecasts show average summer temperatures with above average precipitation.

"The updated 6-day forecast is for above average temperatures, but above average precipitation which is good," Schmitt said.

He said new updated forecast models will be available tomorrow and could change the outlook, but right now July through August is predicted to be normal temperatures and normal precipitation, which would be hard on the plants because there would be no replenishing of soil moisture, but above average rainfalls through the end of June into July could turn things around.

"If weather turns around there's potential for a great crop. But we are going to be relying on the weather turning."

With weather patterns indicating sporadic rain for the next five days, Schmitt said maybe that's signaling a good turn for farmers.

"Maybe this is a turn of events and we'll get some regular rain fall. Back in 1992 spring was very dry, moreso than this year, and in June of that year, Gov. (Terry) Brandstad The other problem with dry soil is that the roots won't go deep because there is no moisture there and then you have a shallow root system

"If that moisture is not down there then the roots won't go deep either and then you have shallow rooting systems. If they can't get through that makes them more vulnerable to disease. So we don't have a lot of give in the system right now."

He said most fields have been planted but has heard of some fields in the northwest part of the state that haven't been planted. Schmitt said last year was similar in the feast-orfashion model. He said he was in Jackson County Monday and farmers up there were hoping forecasted rain would miss them.

"But Southeast Iowa can't but a drop of rain," he said.

"Not much you can do about it, except keep the faith you know. If we we're looking at a spring scenario, I'd say forgo the tillage, but we're beyond that at this point."

He said the best advice is to do what you can to promote as much yield as possible with good week and insect management.

"Plants are like people - the more stress they're under, the less the can take on."

#### For the Record

#### Fort Madison Police Report

06/18/18 - 12:26 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a burglary in the 1900 block of Avenue M. 06/18/18 - 3:51 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a stolen vehicle in the 3400 block of Avenue E. 06/18/18 - 4:03 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of vandalism in the 1600 block of Avenue M. 06/18/18 - 10:37 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 1900 block of Avenue H. 06/18/18 - 10:38 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of vandalism in the 1600 block of Avenue H. 06/18/18 - 1:36 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a burglary in progress at 1401 Avenue E. 06/18/18 - 2:24 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in

the 1900 block of Avenue M. 06/18/18 - 9:10 p.m. - Fort Madison Police arrested James William Higgins, 34, of Fort Madison, in the 1900 block of Avenue H on a warrants for 2nd-degree harassment. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held. 06/18/18 - 11:37 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a gas drive off in the 1500 block of Avenue H.

#### Lee County Sheriff's Report

06/18/18 - 10:30 a.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Jared John Matlock, 34, of Keokuk, at the Missouri/Iowa state line on a warrant for 3rd degree burglary. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held. 06/18/18 - 11:00 a.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Melissa Jo Bode, 48, of Keokuk, at the county line in St. Francisville, Mo.,

on a warrant for violation of probation. She was taken to Lee County Jail and held. 06/18/18 - 2:14 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Nolan James Czechorski, 53, of Alton, III., at the sheriff's office on a warrant for violation of probation. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held. 06/18/18 - no time provided - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Annie Yvonne Fulcher, 45, of Alton, III, at the sheriff's office on warrants for failure to appear and violation of probation. She was taken to Lee County jail and held. Those listed above are presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty in a court of law.

Fort Madison Fire & Rescue report 06/18/18 - Fort Madison firefighters responded to one medical call.

## **EASY SHARPS DISPOSAL** for greater community health & safety



had activated the state's drought task force. Then we started getting rain in July and it didn't end for year and a half and we had a great crop. It was wet, but a very good crop." Schmitt said most soil profiles can hold 2.3" of water per foot of depth and some area farmers have dug 8 to 9 feet without finding moisture in the soil. He said it would take 11 inches of rain to get the right moisture profile. That would have to be somewhat spread out over days because that kind of rain in a tight timeframe would cause run-off and that wouldn't be good either.

Great River Regional Waste Authority now has a new sharps disposal bin at the Fort Madison facility. Making disposal easy for our customers and allowing safer handling for our employees. A similar sharps disposal bin will soon be available at our Keokuk Transfer Station.

The health and safety of our staff and our community members is of the upmost importance and we urge 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.

For the safety of everyone involved, please do not place plastic jugs or bottles containing sharps in your recycling tote or in any non-designated bin at our drop off sites.



## Sports/From the Front

## Part of Ave. H to be closed during 4th fireworks display

#### PARK - Continued from Page 1

cles will be allowed in the park beginning at 8:00 p.m. and until after the conclusion of the fireworks display. All persons wishing to launch their boats must enter Riverview Park prior to 8:00 p.m. or use Willow Patch or other sites.

The department is asking spectators to watch the fireworks show on Avenue H from 6th to 10th Street. At 8:00 p.m., the city will close this portion of the road in order to allow seating on the street and sidewalk areas.



## FMHS boys slugged by Mt. Pleasant

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG PCC EDITOR

MT. PLEASANT - The Bloodhounds baseball team managed just three hits in two games as Mt. Pleasant pounded FMHS 16-1, 12-0 in a doubleheader Monday night on the road.

Dayne Cordray, Jordan Gerdes and Brandon Reichelt had the lone hits for the Hounds.

The Hounds gave up eight runs in the bottom of the second after Gerdes had held the game at 0-0 through 1 1/2 innings in game 1. The Panther's Colby Potts baffled FMHS hitters in the first game retiring the first seven hitters on either strikeouts or infield ground outs.

The Hounds made a little noise in the third inning after a Caleb Parson grounded out to short, Tony Fortado reached on a walk and Gaven Wiseman singled to short center to move Fortado up. Cordray then singled up the middle again moving Fortado to third and loading the bases.

Parker Denning then grounded to the pitcher who forced Fortado at home for the second out and the bases were still loaded for the Hounds. Gerdes singled to center and plated Wiseman. Reichelt then grounded into short where the Panther's got Gerdes in a force out at second to end the inning.

The Hounds went 1-2-3 in the top of the 4th trailing 16-1 to end the game on a 15-run rule after four innings.

For the Panthers, Chase Lamm singled to start the bottom of the second inning and then Gerdes got Potts on strikes. Clayton Lowery doubled to left field scoring Lamm, and Nick Coble reached on a throwing error at third. Lowery was able to score on the error. Noah Walls grounded out to short for the second out with the Hounds trailing manageably at 3-0.

But the Panthers then capitalized on a single by Jordan Magnani at the top of the lineup and then three consecutive walks followed by a Lamm single that scored two. Potts drew a walk and then Lowery flied out to end the inning with the Panthers up 8-0.

Fort Madison held the Panther's in the third surrendering only a walk, but then gave up eight more runs in the bottom of the fourth to end the game. Potts hit a single to right center scoring Cooper Huckabone with the game-winning hit.

In the second game, Cordray drew a walk to start the game. Denning grounded to second where Cordray was tagged out between the bases and Denning was thrown out at first. Gerdes reached on a error at third before Reichelt then lined a single into right field, but was thrown out trying to stretch it to a double, stranding Gerdes at third base.

Magnani and Trace White would combine to retire the next 12 Hounds batters in a row.

The Panthers put up five consecutive runs in the top of the first after Cordray got Magnani to ground out to short. Colby Potts lined a triple to right that scored Caleb Potts and Lamm. Potts came around to score on a Bryce Anderson sacrifice fly to left. Zach Beason grounded to third to end the inning.

The Panthers went scoreless in the second and then put up another five-spot in the third, including another two RBI triple by Colby Potts to right field. Mount Pleasant put up two more insurance runs in the bottom of the fourth and retired FMHS in order in the top of the fifth to end the game on the 10-run rule after five innings.

Cordray went one inning and gave up five runs, three earned on four hits. Fortado pitched an 1 1/3 in relief giving up five runs, all earned on five hits and two walks. Barker finished the game going 1 2/3 surrendering two runs both earned on two hits and two walks.

The Hounds play host to Davenport North Thursday night in Fort Madison.







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### **From the Front/Classifieds**

## Upfitting, training are next steps in process

#### **COMPUTERS** - Continued from Page 1

them through the same training," he said.

The units will streamline accident reports and moving violations and other tasks that had been manually entered saving deputies and administrative staff time because the networks will be connected. Accident reports will now be able to be printed from the deputy's cruisers and information from accidents and violations will be automatically uploaded to the department's central computers without having to be manually entered.

In other action, the board voted; • 5-0 to replace a clerk the County Decorders

the County Recorders office

• 5-0 to approve a fireworks display permit

for the Glasscock and Brotherton Family

• 5-0 to appoint Kevin Stuekerjuergen to the county Labor/Management Committee

• 5-0 to approve a service agreement with the Iowa State Association of Counties for the county's HIPAA (Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act)



### Lotto Drawings

Game	Draw Days	Sales Cutoff Time	Approx. Drawing Time
Lucky for Life <sup>®</sup>	Mon & Thu	8:30 pm	9:38 pm
Mega Millions®	Tues & Fri	8:59 pm	10:00 pm
Powerball <sup>®</sup>	Wed & Sat	8:59 pm	9:59 pm
Lotto America <sup>™</sup>	Wed & Sat	8:59 pm	10:00 pm
Pick 3 - Midday Pick 3 - Evening	Daily Daily	Noon 9:40 pm	12:20 pm 10:00 pm
Pick 4 - Midday Pick 4 - Evening	Daily Daily	Noon 9:40 pm	12:20 pm 10:00 pm



### Pen City Current encourages you to play responsibly.



#### **PUBLIC NOTICES**

#### PUBLIC NOTICE CITY OF FORT MADISON SIDEWALK REPLACEMENT

**PROGRAM RULES** 1. The purpose of this program is to furnish an opportunity for residential property owners to replace existing deteriorated sidewalks and/or to install new sidewalks in front of existing buildings where no sidewalk now exists. This does not include driveway approaches or sidewalks going to the residential unit. It does include sidewalk, which is located within the street right-of-way.

2. The property owner's responsibility will be to remove and dispose of the deteriorated sidewalk or excavate where new sidewalk would go, form the sidewalk to be poured, and place the concrete. This work can be done either by the property owner, renter, or your contractor. The City will not pay for Saturday delivery charges. Work cannot begin before July 1st.

3. The City of Fort Madison will inspect the sidewalk prior to approval of your application, prior to removal and prior to placement of the new sidewalk. The Fort Madison Ready Mixed Concrete Co. will bill the City for the concrete used and the City of Fort Madison will pay for the concrete directly to the supplier. The City will not pay for the additional Saturday delivery charge. If the property owner wishes to have the delivery on Saturday the bill for the delivery will be sent to the property owner. No payments will be

May 1st at 8:00 A.M. and will be accepted through June 22nd at 4:30 P.M. Each proposal will be evaluated and you will be notified by July 2nd. The City will fund projects as funding is available. The replacement work cannot take place before July 1st and must be approved by the City prior to the commencement of the work.



#### **HELP WANTED**

REGISTERED DENTAL HYGIENIST NEEDED

Lee County Health Department is seeking an Iowa Registered Dental Hygienist to work in the agency's dental programs. The RDH will work under a public health supervision agreement with an lowa licensed dentist. Duties will include providing preventive direct care services as well as education, outreach, and dental care coordination services. Applicants can mail resume to Michele Ross, Program Director to LCHD at PO BOX 1426, Ft. Madison, IA 52627 or email to mross@ leecountyhd.org as soon as

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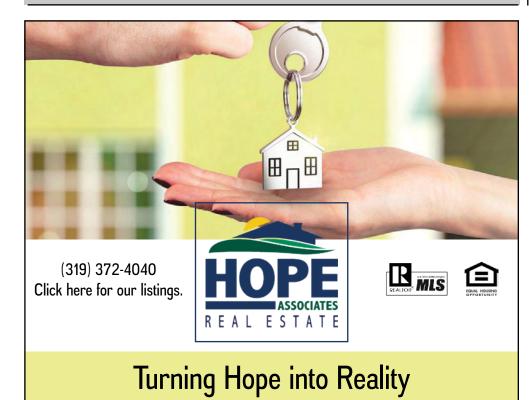
- Secondary English
- Spanish (Gr. 9-12)Administrative Assistant
- to the Business Manager (25-40 hours)

Please send resume, cover letter and list of references to: Michael Sheerin 2600 Avenue A Fort Madison, IA 52627 michael.sheerin@holytrinityschools.org

Resumes can also be dropped off at the above address.







made directly to the property owner. The concrete can be ordered by the property owner or your contractor from:

Fort Madison Ready Mixed Concrete Co.

1204 14th Street Fort Madison, Iowa 52627 319-372-4183

4. The sidewalk shall be constructed according to the sidewalk design specifications which can be acquired at the Fort Madison Public Works Department.

5. Each application will be evaluated based on its condition and how it improves the area for pedestrian traffic. Extra consideration will be given for connection to an existing sidewalk.

6. Applications for this program will be available on

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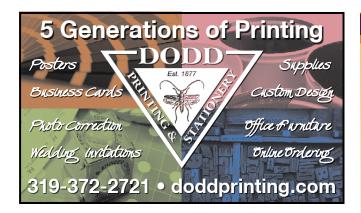
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## SALE

Z

**Original Grill Pizza Oven** Converts most 3-burner or more charcoal, wood or pellet grills into a gourmet oven. Raises the temperature to a wood-burning pizza oven. Cooks a 14 in. pizza in 2 to 4 minutes. Model #0-AHXXX-0-000

T 234 043 1

FREE SHIPPING\* WHEN YOU CHOOSE SHIP TO STORE AT TRUEVALUE.COM \*FOR ELIGIBLE ITEMS AT PARTICIPATING STORES





Series 34 Wood **Pellet Grill** • 36,000 BTUs

- 875 sq. in. cooking surface
- Auto start system with auto feeding auger

 2 meat probes • 20-lb. pellet hopper with cleanout

Extra grill rack

 Digitally-controlled thermostat with LED readout Model #TFB88PZB T 189 122 1



### SALE 699.99

Traeger® Pro Series 22 Wood

- Pellet Grill
- 20,000 BTUs •567-sq-in. cooking surface
- · Fully automatic auger
- 2 meat probes
- · 20-lb. pellet hopper with cleanout
- Extra grill rack
- Digitally-controlled thermostat Model #TFB57PZB
  - T 189 124 1

**YOUR CHOICE** 17.99 Traeger® 20 lb. Premium Hardwood Barbeque Pellets

ÆSOUT

APPLE

MAPLE

ALDER

SHERRY

UAK

ACKUH

PECAN

100% hardwood burns leaving very little ash. Choose mesquite, cherry, apple or hickory flavors. Assorted other flavors available. T 142 377, 378, 156 399, 400, 401, 402 169 951, 954 1



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SALE















**KEMPKER'S** 

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### SALE DATES: JUNE 11 thru 24 2018 www.kempkerstruevalue.com **VISIT ONE OF OUR 5 LOCATIONS!**

1904 Ave. H Ft. Madison, IA 319-372-3515 M-F: 7:30am - 7:00 pm Sat: 7:30am - 6:00pm Sun: 9:00am - 5:00pm

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1405 E. Washington St. 608 South 9th St. Mt. Pleasant, IA 319-385-1377 M-: 7:30am - 5:30 pm Sat: 7:30am - 4:00pm Sun: CLOSED

RENTAL

**Burlington**, IA 319-752-1584 M-: 7:30am - 5:30 pm Sat: 8:00am - 4:00pm Sun: 10:00am - 2:00pm

204 West 1st St. Grimes, IA 515-986-0031 M-:` 8:00am - 7:00 pm Sat: 8:00am - 5:00pm Sun: 10:00am - 4:00pm

502 E. 1st St. Huxley, IA 515-597-2338 M-:` 8:00am - 8:00 pm Sat: 8:00am - 6:00pm Sun: 11:00am - 5:00pm