



# Pen City Current

Sunday, July 28, 2019 | 10 pages | Volume 3 • Issue 165

## RAGBRAI invades Lee County



*Pickle-palooza hits Donnellson and it was a 'big dill'*

**BY CHUCK VANDENBERG**  
PCC EDITOR

LEE COUNTY – It was colorful, musical, pickle-al, and sometimes emotional, but a full day of road blocks and riders seven and eight abreast made their way through Lee County Friday evening and most of the day Saturday.

In the Register's Annual Great Bicycle Ride Across Iowa's first ever double stop on the Mississippi, riders headed from their overnight stay throughout open areas in Burlington including such tent cities as Southeastern Community College, Edward Stone Elementary, other schools, churches, and even private residences, back through Geode State Park and into Lee County from the north.

The ride was founded in 1973 by Des Moines Register columnists Donald Kaul and John Karras, and the annual bike ride attracts 10,000 participants from



Photos by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

A ground view of a veritable endless string of RAGBRAI riders comes down J40 at about 9:15 a.m. Saturday morning as the annual bike ride across the state wrapped up in Lee County. Below, riders take an extended break Saturday afternoon at the Lee County Fairgrounds.

across the country.

Riders sporting funky helmets and funny team names raced, while some meandered, into the county through Denmark, down to West Point, then on to Franklin, Donnellson, Montrose, and finally Keokuk for the Biggest Dam Dip on the Mississipp.

Kelly Powers, of Des Moines, stopped for a quick break and cellphone call at the corner of 180th Street (J48) and Hwy. 103 (J40) as the rest of the horde made



the right turn with the help of Lee County's finest and headed to West Point.

Powers, who lives in Colorado and has a home in Des Moines, said it was his third RAGBRAI run in the past four years and said the weather was great, but he didn't understand the backtracking on the last day.

"I was kind of bummed out that we had to back track through the state park. I didn't really get that, but other than that, the weather's been great and the town's have been great," he said.

Powers said Day 3 was his favorite with a 39-mile run that went through Cumming.

"That was probably my favorite stop on the trip so far," the 57-year-old member of "Team Roasted Butts" said. The Cumming town really pulled out all the stops."

Riders managed the up and down hills just east of

See BICYCLES, page 9

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# Obituaries

## OBITUARIES

### SHERRY M. SIMPSON

Sherry M. Simpson, 71, of Farmington, Iowa, passed away at 5:10 p.m. Wednesday, July 24, 2019, at Fort Madison Community Hospital.

She was born January 20, 1948, in Mt. Sterling, Iowa, the daughter of Eva Randolph Scotton. On, August 15, 1964 in Crocker, Missouri, she married Edward Kennedy, they later divorced.

Survivors include two daughters: Tina (Randy) Loges of Farmington, Iowa and Tracy (Keith) DeVries of Kent, Ohio; five grandchildren: Heath-er (Corey) Austin, Kelcey Loges, Addison Loges, Garrett DeVries and Olivia DeVries.

She was preceded in death by her mother; grand-parents, two brothers: Jerry Scotton and her brother in infancy.

Sherry worked at the Bonaparte Glove Factory and the Van Buren County Hospital. She enjoyed helping others and spending time with her children and grandchildren

Her family will receive friends from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Saturday, July 27, 2019, at Schmitz Funeral Home in Donnellson, Iowa.

A Memorial Service will be held at Saturday, July 27, 2019, at 11:00 a.m. Schmitz Funeral Home in Farmington with Pastor Mary Yoder-Schrock officiating.

Burial will follow at Greenglade Cemetery in Farmington.

A memorial has been established in her memory for the Farmington EMT's or the Diabetes Foundation.

Schmitz Funeral Home in Farmington is assisting the family with arrangements. On-line condolences to the family may be left at [www.schmitzfuneral-homes@windstream.com](http://www.schmitzfuneral-homes@windstream.com).



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## OBITUARIES

### ROBERT PERRY LOREY

Dr. Robert "Bob" Perry Lorey, 76 of Keokuk, IA died Sunday, July 21, 2019 at his home surrounded by his family.

He was born April 11, 1943 in Des Moines, IA the son of Fred Robert and Ona Littell Young Lorey. He was first united in marriage to Carol Lounsberry on March 7, 1968. To this union, two children were born. They later divorced. He then married Terrie DeBrackeleire on April 6, 1999 in Las Vegas, NV. She survives.



LOREY

Other survivors include five children, Richard Lorey (Jaimee) of Vancouver, WA, Dawn Lorey Hawley (Tim) of Springfield, MO, Jessica Lorey (Aaron Winger) of Souix City, IA, Evan Bunnell (Kelly Harter) of Tarpin Springs, FL and Allison Lorey of Cedar Rapids, IA, five grandchildren, Reagan Lorey of Vancouver, WA, Jonathan Lorey of Vancouver, WA, Sophia Hawley, Liberty Hawley and Lucas Hawley all of Springfield, MO, one sister, Kathryn Magaw (George) of Eau Claire, WI, and several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents and numerous aunts and uncles.

Bob graduated from North High School in Des

Moines, IA, Simpson College in Indianola, IA, and Des Moines University in Des Moines, IA.

He had been self employed for forty-three years as an Obstetrics and Gynecologist. He most recently had been employed by Community Health Center of Southeast Iowa in Keokuk as a physician until his retirement in 2013. In addition, he served as ringside physician for the U.S. Amateur Boxing Association in the 70's. He had served as Boxing Commissioner in Springfield, IL.

Bob enjoyed golfing, boxing, basketball (Go Blazers) and football (Go Rams, wherever you are now). He was a wine connoisseur, pizza fanatic, and inventor of the best BBQ sauce ever as well as a self proclaimed foodie. Bob had a zest for life, and his laugh, and smile were contagious. He loved to dance down the aisles at Hy-Vee while doing his grocery shopping.

A Gathering of Remembrance will be held from 5-8 p.m., Wednesday, July 31 at the Vigen Memorial Home in Keokuk, IA with family meeting with friends at that time.

Memorials may be made to Lee County Hospice or to the Dr. Robert Lorey Scholarship Fund.

Online condolences may be left for the family at [www.vigenmemorialhome.com](http://www.vigenmemorialhome.com).

### HELEN ANN LIDDLE

Helen Ann Liddle, 91 years, of Wever, Iowa died at 1:15 am Saturday, July 27, 2019 at the Kensington, Fort Madison, Iowa. She was born December



LIDDLE

30, 1927 in Cherokee County, Iowa, a daughter of Luther and Celia (Holmes) Miller. On October 26, 1947, she married Edgar Frank Liddle in Marcus, Iowa.

After graduating from Marcus High School, she earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree from the University of Iowa,

Iowa City and later a Master of Science Degree from

Western Illinois University, Macomb, Illinois. She taught for 36 years in the Burlington Community School District. She was a member of the Union Presbyterian Church, Fort Madison. She was a member of P.E.O., Chapter BS.

She is survived by her son, Greg (Dee) Liddle, of Wever, one granddaughter, Tammy (Freeman) Brown and two great granddaughters: Kaitlin and Kennedy. She was preceded in death by her husband, parents and two brothers.

Per her wishes, her body has been cremated. A Memorial Service will be held at 11:00 am Friday, August 2, 2019 at the Union Presbyterian Church, Fort Madison, with Reverend Nancy Love officiating. Her friends are invited to greet the family and join them for a meal at the church following the memorial service. A private family burial will be at the Soldiers Circle, Oakland Cemetery, Fort Madison. A memorial has been established for the Union Presbyterian Church, contributions may be made at the Barr Memorial Chapel, Fort Madison or at the church during the services. Online condolences to the Liddle Family may be made at [www.barrmemorialchapel.com](http://www.barrmemorialchapel.com).

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## Pen City Current

Founded in 2016



P.O. Box 366 | Fort Madison, IA

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# Obituaries/Lottery Numbers

## OBITUARIES

### SUSAN O'SHEA

Susan O'Shea, 73 of Wayland, MO died Wednesday, July 24, 2019 at her home. She was born March 7, 1946 in Keokuk, IA the daughter of Myron and Ruby Ritzenhouse Dray. She was united in marriage to Michael O'Shea. He preceded her in death on May 17, 2015.



O'SHEA

Susan graduated from Keokuk High School with the Class of 1964. She graduated from Carl Sandburg with her LPN.

She had been employed by Clark County Nursing Home until her retirement in 2006. Even after her retirement, she stayed dedicated to her patients and continued to visit them.

Susan enjoyed spending time outdoors fishing, mushroom hunting, bird watching and working in her rock garden. She liked to crochet and spend time with her pets.

She is survived by three sons, William Glasgow of Keokuk, Robert Glasgow of Wayland, MO and Steven Glasgow of Keokuk, one daughter, Tracey Glasgow Winfield, IA, two brothers, Rick Dray of Keokuk and Michael Dray of Keokuk, one sister, Sandy Staley of Keokuk numerous grandchildren and many nieces and nephews.

Besides her husband, she was also preceded in death by her parents, her companion, Jim Bailey and a brother in infancy.

According to her wishes, she has been cremated and there will be no services.

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](http://www.vigenmemorialhome.com).

### TIMOTHY ANDREW BROWN

Timothy Andrew Brown, 55 of Keokuk, IA died Wednesday, July 24, 2019 at UnityPoint Health Keokuk.

He was born September 30, 1963 in St. Paul, MN the son of James and Betty Meader Brown.



BROWN

He graduated from Keokuk High School with the Class of 1981.

Tim had been employed by the Hawkeye Restaurant in Keokuk since he was seventeen years old.

Tim collected 80's and 90's rock C.D.'s and enjoyed going to rock concerts. Tim liked to work crossword and Sudoku puzzles. He loved his job and the work he did there.

He is survived by his father, James Brown of Keokuk, one brother, Matthew (Alisha) Brown of Canton, MO and one sister, Jennifer Thompson (Tim) of Page, N.D., four nieces and nephews, Morgan Brown, Aston Brown, Jacob Thompson and Izzy Thompson.

He is preceded in death by his mother.

A visitation will be held after 1 p.m., Monday at the Vigen Memorial Home in Keokuk, IA with family meeting with friends from 5-7 p.m.

Memorials may be made to the American Cancer Society.

Online condolences may be left for the family at [www.vigenmemorialhome.com](http://www.vigenmemorialhome.com).

## OBITUARIES

### PAULA DE KRAAI

Paula De Kraai, 65 years, of Fort Madison, Iowa passed away at 12:20 pm Friday July 26, 2019 at her home. She was born May 10, 1954 in Fort Madison, Iowa, a daughter of Carrol and Lucille (Holmes) Bailey. In 1971, she married Thad LeMatty. They had one son, Michael. They later divorced. She married Dennis De Kraai, they were together 38 years.



DE KRAAI

Paula worked at Walmart in West Burlington for 21 years. She was a member of the Madison Baptist Church in Fort Madison. She loved kids and would have done anything for anybody.

She is survived by her husband, Dennis De Kraai of Fort Madison; her mother, Lucille; one son, Michael (Bobbie) LeMatty of Burlington, Iowa; two step-sons, Eric (Hollie) De Kraai of New York and Dale (Nikkie) De Kraai of Bloomfield, Iowa; one step-daughter, Crystal Utterback of Ottumwa, Iowa; two brothers, Dan (Sandy) Bailey of Florida and Phillip Bailey of Denmark, Iowa; three sisters: Barb Bailey (Kevin Beach), Kim Bailey, and Karen (Lyndon) Decker, all of Fort Madison; one sister-in-law, Caroline Bailey of Keosauqua, Iowa, three grandkids who she helped raise: Jacob (Alisha) Rudd of Missouri, Emily Rudd of Ottumwa, and Lillian Rudd of Fort Madison, plus seventeen other grandkids; six great grandkids; and a very special niece, Mary Jenkins of Fort Madison. She was preceded in death by her father, Carrol, one brother, Mike Bailey, and one step-son, Dan De Kraai.

Visitation will be held from 10-00 - 11:00 am Wednesday, July 31, 2019 at the Barr Memorial Chapel, Fort Madison. A funeral service will follow and begin at 11:00 am Wednesday at the funeral home with Pastor Ken Barlow, officiating. A memorial has been established, contributions may be made at the funeral home. Online condolences to Paula's Family may be made from the Barr Memorial Chapel, [www.barrmemorialchapel.com](http://www.barrmemorialchapel.com).

#### Pen City Current obituary policy

The Current runs obituaries one time at no charge to funeral homes and they run the day they are submitted in most cases. They are also run as submitted by the funeral homes.

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Powerball®	Wed & Sat	8:59 pm	9:59 pm
Lotto America™	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



7/26  
4 6 11 43 48  
Mega Ball: 11  
Megaplier: 3



7/26 MID-DAY  
1 3 8  
7/26 EVENING  
4 3 7



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## Sports

## Hawks look at state as business as usual

BY ETHAN LILLARD  
PCC SPORTS

DONNELSON – Central Lee wasn't ranked, nearly lost against Davis County in the District Championship game, and were heading to play one of the best teams in Class 2A Monday in Wilton.

None of that has slowed down the Hawks.

After defeating Davis County 5-4 in a nail-biter at districts, Central Lee took down No. 1 ranked Wilton 14-0 in five innings in the substate championship, sending the Hawks to Principal Park in Des Moines for its first-round state matchup against Des Moines Christian. Central Lee drew the No. 4 seed in the Class 2A state bracket, while Des Moines Christian was handed the No. 5 seed.

With tournament play around the corner, but still a whole weekend away, Central Lee's coaches and players all said that regardless of the fact they are heading to state, nothing is changing for them.

"It's the same old stuff," Central Lee Head Coach Shane Weirather said Wednesday. "That's been the message all year, same old stuff. Keep it simple. It's not basketball where you're going to press, it's not football where you're going to play a completely different defense.

"You've got to field the ball cleanly, make good throws, you've got to make strikes. It's just the normal things and it's the normal things that you have to do better than the other team to win."

The message was the same from the players when asked if there was anything that was going to change in terms of routines or practices leading up to Monday's opening-round contest.

"We'll probably just be doing the same thing as we've always done," Central Lee senior captain Tyler Hopp said. "It's the same routine as always, try not to change anything up."

"We won't be doing anything different really. Just getting a goodnight's sleep in our bed and waking up and having a long bus ride. That shouldn't be too bad, but getting up there and just preparing for the game, nothing too extra."

Des Moines Christian's top hitter is senior Brett Shelton, hitting .455 with 40 RBIs. Grant Christy, also a senior, is hitting .404 with six doubles, three triples and two home runs. Frankie Accurso, yet another senior, is hitting .324 with six doubles. Sophomore Dalton Lewis is hitting 294,

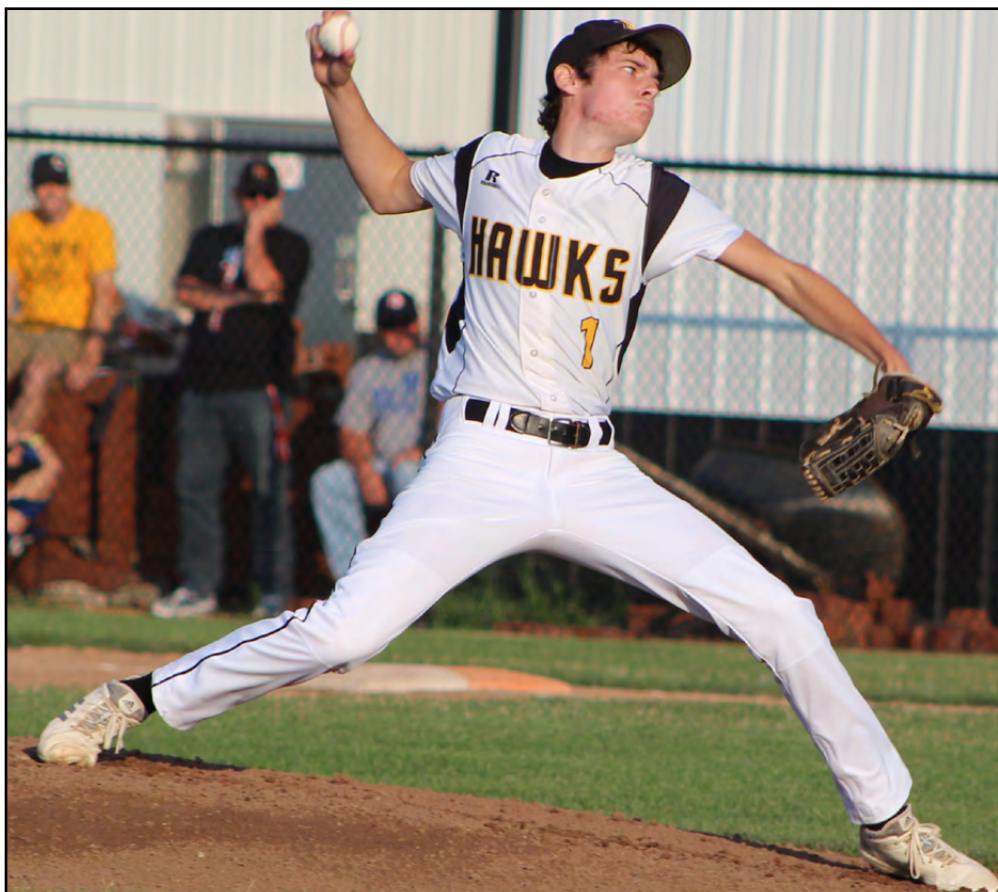


Photo by Ethan Lillard/PCC

but has more than 20 stolen bases on the year to lead the team.

Looking over the tale of the tape, it would be easy for any opponent to be intimidated by DMC's season stats.

Shelton figures to be the starting pitcher for Des Moines Monday, sporting a 9-1 record from the mound with a .083 ERA. He's also collected 81 strikeouts and walked just 13 batters so far on the season. Shelton held opponents to a slim .131 batting average over the course of his 59 innings pitched.

DMC has 12 shutouts this year. Two of the team's eight losses have come against 5th ranked Van Meter (the No. 2 seed) in close contests with the final scores of 3-4 and 5-7. Other losses include Madrid, Ogden and Martensdale-St. Mary's.

Des Moines Christian has allowed just six runs over the past five contests and five of those were in a 6-5 win over Woodward Granger Saturday. Their last loss came July 9th against Martensdale.

Those stats won't intimidate Central Lee, as nearly every player in the starting lineup is averaging over .300 on the season.

Tyler Hopp has a .463 average, a .522 on base percentage, 37 runs scored, 18 RBI, two home runs and 31 stolen bases. Jadon Hawk has a batting average of .424 on the year to go with 26 RBI and 16 runs with an OBP of .487. Sam Hirner is averaging .387 with a .484 OBP, 31 runs scored and 26 RBIs with seven doubles. Luke Simmons is averaging .387 with an .536 OBP and 26 RBIs. Alex Sandoval has a .351 average with a .487 OBP and 26 RBIs. KJ Skow sports a .343 average, a .427 OBP to go with 26 runs and 27 RBIs. TJ Stutes has an average of .333 with 15 RBIs with a .465 OBP and Evan Pohren has a .333 average and a .452 OBP.

Waylon Weirather figures to draw the start against Shel-

ton, sporting an 8-1 record with a .79 ERA while holding opponents to a .197 batting average.

"Yeah, you look at it," Weirather said about checking into Des Moines stats. "It's really the only thing you've got to try to find out anything about them. You can look at speed, you can look at all kinds of things on there, but it really comes down to how we play. Less about them and more about us is the way I try to spin it for our kids. They're pretty versed in QuikStats and they'll come up with all kinds of stats for me, too."

One of the biggest things the Hawks have going for them is the fact they flew under the radar all season long and the presence of the home town crowd that showed up in droves to the substate championship. Weirather said having that hometown crowd in attendance again Monday will be a huge benefit for his squad.

"I think it's big," Weirather said. "When you look around and see familiar faces, and they're cheering for you, and you go into a place that you're not familiar with like Principal Park, it's got to help seeing some familiar faces and people cheering you on."

"I hope people show up like they did at Washington. It was a really good scene, great atmosphere during the game and after the game with people coming out and taking pictures of the state banner and all that. It was really nice to see everybody there and everybody enjoying the moment."

For those that didn't follow Central Lee's season, it's easy to think the small-town team is blowing away any expectations anyone could have ever imagined. But for the Hawks, this has been the goal all along.

"That was definitely the goal all season," senior captain Sam Hirner said. "We've been working towards it since December whenever we would go to the Montrose gym and hit indoors during the offseason."

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Dr. Heyland is pictured with her husband, Chad, and their two children.

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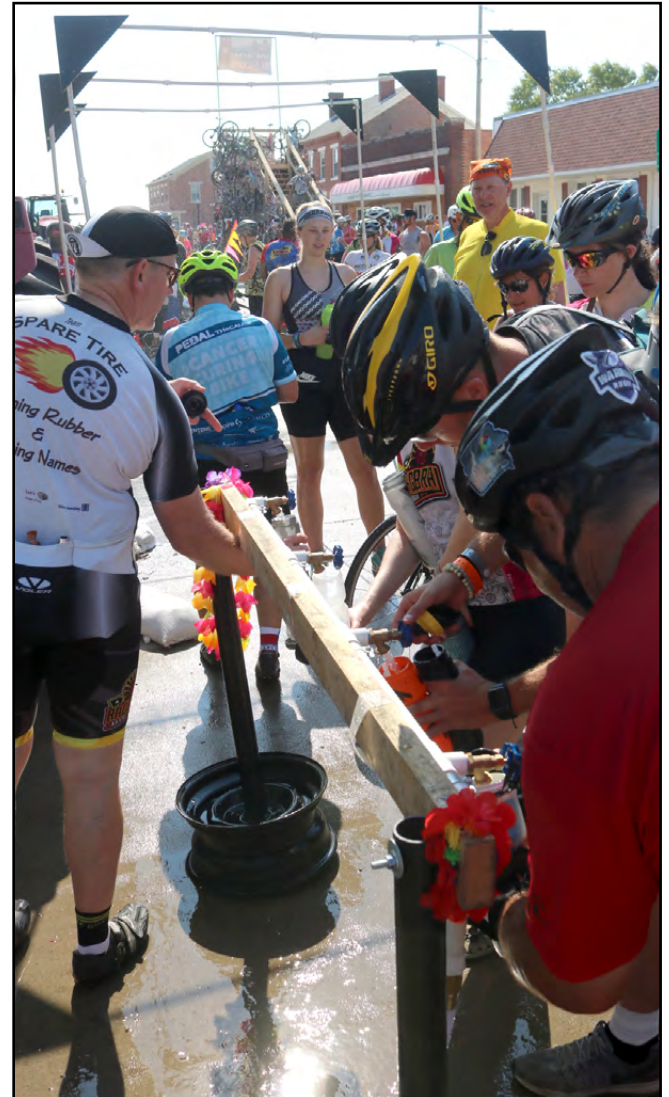


# Photos from RAGBRAI



Photos by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Greg Foran, of East Hartford, Conn., puts his signature and a message on the Michael Burke Angel Wing board. Burke was killed on the 2005 RAGBRAI run when a tree branch fell on his tent in a storm. It was Foran's first ever RAGBRAI run. At right, bikers fill up the water bottle for the run to Franklin and right below, riders enter Donnellson on Hwy. 2 to a briny fundraiser.



Patty Barry, of Dubuque, hoists her bike into the air after climbing Mt. RAGBRAI on the square during the influx of riders Saturday in West Point on the last day of the seven-day ride across the state. At right, riders walk through the mist-er set up to give riders a quick cool down.



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# Classifieds/Public Notices

## PUBLIC NOTICES

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
**Board Meeting Agenda**  
**Great Prairie Area**  
**Education Agency**  
**July 29, 2019**  
**11:30 AM - Board**  
**Meeting/Lunch/Retreat**  
**Executive Conference**  
**Room**  
**Fairfield Arts &**  
**Convention Center,**  
**200 N. Main,**  
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**(US Toll) or**  
**+1 415 762 9988**  
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**Meeting ID: 420 666 315**  
**A - G - E - N - D - A**

I. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY BOARD PRESIDENT  
 II. OPEN FORUM  
 III. BOARD APPROVAL OF AGENDA  
 IV. BOARD APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES  
 V. BOARD APPROVAL OF TREASURER'S REPORT AND INVOICES PAYABLE  
 VI. BOARD ACTION ON NEW EMPLOYEE CONTRACTS  
 a. Dena Ellington, Special Education Consultant, 194 days, MA+15, Step 18, \$68,433  
 ADMINISTRATOR'S COMMENTS:  
 I recommend approval of the new employee contracts as presented.  
 VII. BOARD ACTION

ON EMPLOYEE CONTRACTUAL ADJUSTMENTS  
 a. Leah Harris, School Psychologist Intern, 106 days, MA+45, Step 1, \$27,068.71 to 194 days, MA+45, Step 1, \$49,973  
 b. Kari Reichter, Audiometrist, 1267 hours, \$14.81/hour, \$18,764.27 to Regional Secretary, 1624 hours, \$17.14/hour, \$27,835.36  
 c. Lisa Sines, Instructional Services Secretary to Regional Secretary/IS Secretary (all other contract details remain the same)  
 ADMINISTRATOR'S COMMENTS:  
 I recommend approval of the employee contractual adjustments as presented.  
 VIII. BOARD ACTION ON THE JUVENILE SHELTER LEASE AGREEMENT WITH THE GETTINGS GROUP LLC.  
 ADMINISTRATOR'S COMMENTS:  
 I recommend approval of the lease agreement as presented.  
 IX. BOARD ACTION ON THE SHARED SOCIAL WORKER AGREEMENT WITH NORTH MAHASKA CSD  
 ADMINISTRATOR'S COMMENTS:  
 I recommend approval of the agreement as presented.  
 X. BOARD ACTION ON THE ITINERANT TEACHER SERVICE AGREEMENT BY AND BETWEEN IOWA EDUCATIONAL SERVICES FOR THE BLIND AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED

AND GREAT PRAIRIE AEA FOR THE 2019-20 SCHOOL YEAR  
 ADMINISTRATOR'S COMMENTS:  
 I recommend approval of the agreement as presented.  
 XI. BOARD ACTION ON THE ORIENTATION AND MOBILITY SERVICE AGREEMENT BY AND BETWEEN IOWA EDUCATIONAL SERVICES FOR THE BLIND AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED AND GREAT PRAIRIE AEA FOR THE 2019-20 SCHOOL YEAR  
 ADMINISTRATOR'S COMMENTS:  
 I recommend approval of the agreement as presented.  
 XII. BOARD ACTION ON THE 2019-2020 SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE IOWA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS, MT. PLEASANT CORRECTIONAL FACILITY, IOWA STATE PENITENTIARY AND GREAT PRAIRIE AREA EDUCATION AGENCY  
 ADMINISTRATOR'S COMMENTS:  
 I recommend approval of the agreement as presented.  
 XIII. BOARD ACTION ON THE DATE, TIME, AND LOCATION OF THE SEPTEMBER BOARD MEETING AND JOINT BOARD MEETING WITH INDIAN HILLS COMMUNITY COLLEGE BOARD  
**HELP WANTED**  
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 ADMINISTRATOR'S COMMENTS:  
 Indian Hills Community College would like to host dinner and the joint board meeting on Monday, September 9, 2019, beginning at 5:45 PM. Similar to 2017, our Board can hold the regular board meeting prior to the joint meeting on the Indian Hills campus at 4:30 PM.  
 XIV. ADJOURNMENT

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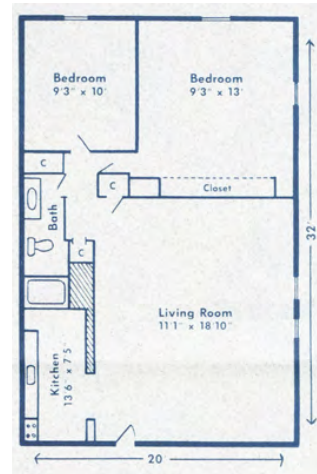
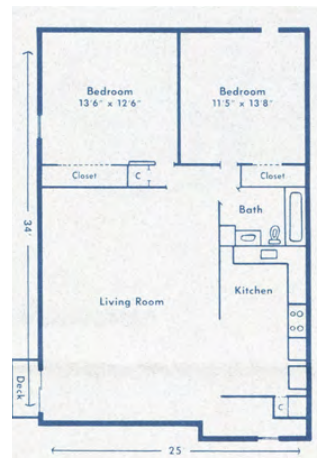


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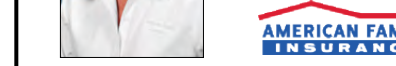
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# RAGBRAI 2019

# County communities put on good show

**BICYCLES** - Continued from Page 1

Scott Nall, a 26-year active member of the United States Air Force, takes pause for a moment in front of one of the monuments at the Freedom Rock exhibit in the southeast corner of the West Point city square.



Photos by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

West Point and then were welcomed to the 2.5 story Mt. RAGBRAI on Avenue D on the square where food, beer and other vendors peppered the town square.

One of the vendors had a line of about 50 cyclists lined up for organic fruit smoothies at Solar Smoothies. The New Mexico firm follows RAGBRAI every year providing the cold refreshers.

"Our boss has been doing this for about 20 years and has built a nice reputation for himself with the ride," said Aidan Link, who was one of three trying to keep up with the line.

"It's an organic fruit fu-

sion smoothie and some want the whey protein for the ride."

Patty Barry, from Dubuque, hiked up to the top of Mt. RAGBRAI and hoisted her bike to the cheers of those below the mountain of bikes built around a staircase to the top.

Barry said this is her fifth ride in more than two decades.

"It's actually a very similar route to my first ride 21 years ago...and you know what.. my times are better this time around," Barry said with a laugh.

She said her group didn't get to experience much of the Burlington offerings Friday night as

they were one of the last groups to get into town and most of the vendors shut down.

"We stayed out by the mall and took the shuttle downtown, but everything was pretty much closed down except for the band. But they were good."

She said the seven days featured some pretty decent weather, but she said the wind was a struggle at times and day one was pretty wet.

Scott Nall, of St. Louis, a 26-year veteran with the United States Air Force stopped and had a quiet moment reading names at the Freedom Rock memorial on the south side of the square.

Nall agreed the first day was 62 miles of rain, so riders earned the relatively mild weather the last six days.

"Yeah we kinda paid for the rest of the trip that first day," he said.

Nall was riding with a group from South Padre Island and said they were also a little frustrated with running back through the park on the second day.

"The route was transparent, but I just don't know why we had to go all the way through that park again...it was excruciating," he said.

After leaving West Point on Hwy. 103 riders turned south on 220th Avenue (J56) for a pit stop in Franklin before heading down to Hwy. 2 and then west to experience the Small Town Big Dill of Donnellson.

On the way, Adam, Julie and Kathy Hohl had a slough of riders pull over at Harvestville Farms and had a plethora of delights ready for the thousands of new guests.

Donnellson was the meet up town on the 7th

day where riders and support teams hooked up prior to the final stretch through Montrose and onto Keokuk.

Riders were treated to everything from pizza to smoothies, ice cream, and sandwiches with no buns, just a dill pickle sliced in half. Chicken salad, bacon cheeseburgers, hamburgers, brats, and even pickle-speared bloody marys.

The Michael Burke Foundation had an angel wing board that riders could sign and Greg Foran from East Hartford, Conn. put a message on the board in support of the group.

Foran was on his first ever RAGBRAI with his wife, Evelyn, who was recently diagnosed with Parkinson's Disease.

"The people who discovered that have a team on the ride and they say riding a bike can help with the symptoms, so we heard about this ride and came to Iowa," he said.

"She made the whole run with us, all six days, but she just couldn't do

the last day so she's in Keokuk waiting for me. I call her my Yellow Rose of Iowa."

Foran said, with most of the adventure in the side mirror, the RAGBRAI ride lived up to the hype.

"It's everything I heard it was and it's certainly lived up to its reputation."

Riders took a deep breath and headed down Main Street to old Hwy. 218 and southeast to Montrose, where the riverfront was waiting with historical presentations, about 800 lbs. of pulled pork, hot dogs and brats, lemonade, and entertainment before the last leg up River Road into Keokuk where they dipped their tires into the river at Victory Park.

Lee County Sheriff Stacy Weber, who had deputies at every turn and on county roads said the day was mishap free for the most part.

"Just a few wrecks," he said. "I had to bandage one fella up myself. We had kits with us for this type of injury."



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Local News/Weather

# FM Rotary Club is just 5% short of goal

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG  
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – A \$100K in 100 days fundraiser has ticked a bit over the 100 days, but officials with Fort Madison’s Rotary Club said the group is just five grand short of its goal.

“We kicked off our \$100,000 campaign for the Central Park Project back in March, and while we came very close to the goal in 100 days we are still short by a very minimal amount,” said Rotary President Heather Huebner.

“Currently we sit at \$94,891. We are going to try and close the gap in the next couple of weeks, so there is still time to donate to this great cause. We are looking to start working on the bandstand updates this fall after the Summer Concert series wrap up.”

Residents, businesses, and industries can help finish the

fundraiser by donating in either one of the two following ways.

Option #1 – write a check out to the D6000 HEF (Humanitarian Educational Foundation) Fund which will result in a tax donation letter. This is the route that would need to be taken if a tax letter is requested – minimum amount is \$250 for a letter in accordance to the IRS standards. Checks can be written out to D6000 HEF and sent to:

Fort Madison Rotary Club  
PO Box 100  
Fort Madison, IA 52627

You can also make an online donation through a portal provided by Pen City Current at <https://www.pencitycurrent.com/rotary/>. All funds donated through this link will be given directly to Fort Madison Rotary and transaction



fees are donated by Pen City Current.

The Rotary Club uses its annual Picnic in the Park to feed the maintenance and upkeep piggy bank, but with the group coming up on its 100th year in 2020, it decided a larger campaign could help with some much needed improvements in the park.

This year’s fundraising was more important as city officials found termite damage to the band shell. Those repairs to the shell, including repainting, will cost close to \$20,000. The club would also like to put new lights in the park at a \$30,000 price tag as well as refurbish the Statue of Liberty replica at a projected cost of \$12,000. The rest of the money would be held for ongoing maintenance and repairs.

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<b>MON 29 Jul</b>	Rain High– 82.2° F   Low – 62.5° F
<b>TUE 30 Jul</b>	Clear Skies High– 70.3° F   Low – 57.3° F
<b>WED 31 Jul</b>	Partly Cloudy High – 73.3° F   Low – 59.1° F
<b>THU 01 Aug</b>	Clear Skies High– 73.7° F   Low – 63.9° F

[OpenWeatherMap](#)

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