



# Pen City Current

Monday, June 24, 2019 | 8 pages | Volume 3 • Issue 143

## FMAAA Garden tour 2019



Photos by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Lori Illner Green does a pastel painting in the garden of Lon and Shelly Spurgin at 316 Crescent Lane. Green was on hand as part of the Sunday "West Side Story" Fort Madison Area Arts Association annual Garden Tour.



Above, guests look at the garden of Jordan and Kaity Price at 21 Richards Drive. The Prices have been perfecting the garden for six years when they first bought the home. Below, Mary Illmberger-Scott points to some arrangements in the garden at 2024 Avenue G, in the yard of Sheryl Eid.



## EMPTY NEST

By Curt Swarm



### Trip to rally leads to troubling signs

Like a precursor to the evening, there was a rather rude outburst at the political rally Ginnie and I were attending. A very belligerent and loud protester had to be ejected. I've never witnessed this at a political rally, and it was rather scary. My first thought was there might be gun violence. There wasn't. However, the outburst was disruptive as well as disrespectful to the attendees and politician, as it was intended to be. The politician handled it well, like he was accustomed to outbursts such as this. Sign of the times.

After the rally, Ginnie and I grabbed some supper at a local restaurant, and then headed home. Driving down a main thoroughfare in Mt. Peasant we observed an even more frightening sight. A man had a woman down on the sidewalk and was beating her up. The woman was curled in a fetal position, and the man was wailing on her with his fists.

I pulled over, put on the four-way flashers and instructed Ginnie to dial 911. I ran to the scene of the altercation. There were other people stopping and doing the same thing. The assaulter scurried to the porch of a house, while some people were attempting to give aid to the woman. They moved her across the street, out of harm's way. The assaulter on the porch was hollering, "Tell her I'm sorry!"

A woman who was attempting to help hollered back at him, "If she doesn't press charges, I will!" The scene was total chaos.

Sheriff's deputies and Mt. Pleasant police arrived. They took down information from us and other bystanders, and indicated that they thought they knew who the man and woman were. The police then went to "apprehend" the assaulter. We were free to go home.

I have heard about violence toward women, but had never witnessed it so dramatically. It was an eye-opening experience and caused me to have bad dreams that night.

I paid close attention to the local news for the next few days, but never heard or read anymore about it. Obviously there wasn't a standoff between police and attacker.

The next day I was at a supermarket buying groceries. As a treat to myself and Ginnie, I purchased some

See **SWARM**, page 4

## McGhghy resigns FMHS girls hoops post

*Resignation moves fourth varsity head coach in past 12 months*

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG  
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – After one year and two wins, Fort Madison Head girls basketball coach Todd McGhghy has resigned his coaching position with the district.

McGhghy, who was in his third head varsity coaching stint with Bloodhound athletics, doubled the win total from the previous year where the Bloodhounds had just one win against 21 losses, and was having success with the spring activities.

He said after eight years as a varsity head coach he's just not equipped to deal with everything that a varsity coach has to deal with.



MCGHGHY

"I turned down three head football coaching offers this year because I think I finally realized I just don't want to be a head coach anymore," McGhghy said.

"I miss coaching football and I think I would entertain lower level coach type stuff, maybe strength and conditioning or a coordinator position, but the head coaching

positions have just too much to do with parents anymore. I don't know why I thought girls basketball would be any different."

McGhghy said the girls had been having a very successful spring and summer camp season going 7-4. He really thought they should be 10-1 this spring after losing a couple close games.

But some incidents at a camp near Branson changed his mind about wanting to continue in the position.

See **COACHES**, page 8

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## Local News/National News

# Foundation doles out \$18K in grants

*Volunteer firefighters, libraries, and Rotary highlight grant awards*

BY PCC STAFF

FORT MADISON – More than \$18,000 will be awarded to north Lee County non-profits this year from The Community Foundation of North Lee County after a vote on the annual grant awards.

At its June 6th board of directors meeting, the foundation of North Lee County voted on the grant program for 2019. The Southeast Iowa Regional Riverboat Commission Community Impact Endowment Fund, The Community Foundation of North Lee County Community Impact Fund, and an anon-

ymous donor's Impact Fund, together generated an available distribution amount of \$18,400, all which was granted to non-profit organizations throughout North Lee County.

The associations receiving the grants are: Rotary District 6000 for the Fort Madison Central Park Improvement Project of 2019, Lee County Fair, Denmark Betterment Committee, Fort Madison Public Library, West Point Public Library, Donnellson Public Library, Fort Madison High School Cyber-hounds, North Lee County Historical Society, Fort Madison Food

Pantry, Houghton Ball Association, Denmark Fire Association, West Point Volunteer Fire Association, Donnellson Volunteer Fire Department, and the Houghton Volunteer Fire Department.

The Fort Madison based foundation was founded as an avenue for philanthropic citizens to leave a legacy to a charity through a permanent endowment. The organization's portfolio is made up of 87 funds totaling \$16 Million and has distributed just shy of \$4 Million to Southeast Iowa non-profits since its 2005 beginning.

The foundation has seen a steady increase in overall assets since it was established, due in part to

the Iowa Tax Credit Program. This 25% tax credit is only available when a permanent endowment is created through an Iowa community foundation. To receive this tax credit, the donor's fund must benefit an Iowa based charity into perpetuity. This credit is in addition to standard State and Federal charitable tax deductions.

The association's board is made up of the following: Officers: Steve Koellner, President. Jan Woodroffe, Vice President, and Jane Krebill, as Secretary. Joe Kowzan, Tim Gobble, Laurie Breen, Dick Fehseke, Matt Hayes, Jared Reed, Dianne Hope, Josh Denning, Chuck Holmes, and Chad Ward make up the remaining members.

# Loebsack co-sponsors school renewal bill

WASHINGTON D.C. – Today, Congressman Dave Loebsack (D-Iowa) and Senator Catherine Cortez Masto (D-Nev.) introduced the Renew America's Schools Act, legislation to provide crucial support to America's schools to make critical infrastructure upgrades that improve energy efficiency and reduce costs.

"The condition of the buildings where our students learn, and educators teach have an immense impact on the quality of education our children receive. Unfortunately, many of our nation's school buildings are in a state of disrepair," said Rep. Loebsack. "The Renew America's Schools Act is a win for workers, students and parents. It creates jobs in our local communities, produces long-term savings for schools due to increased energy-efficiency, all while providing our students with top-notch schools they can be proud to attend."

"There is no greater investment we can make than providing more funding to our schools in Nevada, and throughout the country," said Senator Cortez Masto. "Nevada is a leader in the use of energy efficient technologies and with this legislation we can bring that innovation into our schools nationally, reduce costs for our school districts and improve the health of our communities by using more zero-emission school buses to

See LOEBSACK, page 8

### Class Schedule

Monday 9-10:30am – Beginners  
 Wednesday 9-10:30am – Advanced Beginners  
 Wednesday 6-7:30pm – Intermediate  
 Thursday 5:30-6:30 – Restorative and Slow Stretching  
 Friday 9-10:30am – Beginners

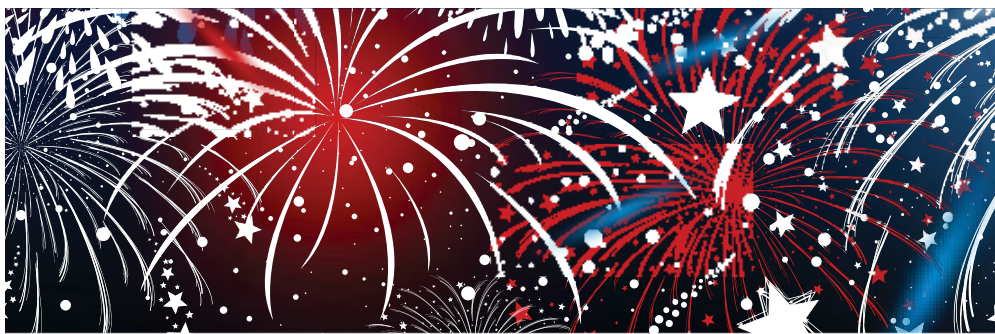
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 Face painting from 5:30-9 • Kids' games from 5:30-9

Hamburgers/Cheeseburgers, Brats, Hot dogs, Pulled Pork Sandwiches, Walking Tacos, Lemon Shakeups, Cotton Candy

Rain Date June 30<sup>th</sup>



### 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
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



6/22  
 7 19 35 44 49  
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6/22  
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6/22 MID-DAY  
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 6/22 EVENING  
 0 6 8



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Pen City Current encourages you to play responsibly.

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## Pen City Current

Founded in 2016



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# Current-Lee/Celebrations

## CURRENT-LEE

### FREE Movie

The Fox Theater in Fort Madison will host a free showing of North by Northwest Monday June 24th at 1 p.m. sponsored by Kensington-Evergreen.

### Immunization Clinic

Lee County Health Department will hold a Children's Immunization Clinic on Thursday, June 27, at #3 John Bennett Drive in Fort Madison from noon to 5:30 p.m. The clinic is open to children with no insurance, insured by Iowa Medicaid/MCO or those who have private health insurance that does not cover the cost of vaccination when in the care of another adult. Lead testing is also available. Call 1-319-372-5225 for more information.

### Special Needs Prom

A Special Needs Prom has been set for June 28th from 5:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. at First Christian Church 3476 Main Street in Keokuk. The evening will include a promenade, dinner and dancing with events sponsored by area businesses. Prom attendees must be at least 17 years of age.

### Harvestville Farm-to-Table Dinners

The next Harvestville Farm's Farm-to-Table dinner is set for June 29 at 6 p.m. at the farm. "Downtown Dinner on 7th Street" is set for July 13th at 6 p.m. Seating is still also available for the farms July 27th and Aug. 10 dinners. Visit the Harvestville website at <https://www.harvestville-farm.com/farmtotable>.

### Downtown Summer Market

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Fort Madison businesses will be hosting a Downtown Summer Market from 3 p.m. to 8 p.m. July 11, and Aug. 15 along Avenue G. For more information contact Darla at 319-371-8385 or by email at [darlarae71@yahoo.com](mailto:darlarae71@yahoo.com).

### SCC Alumni golf outing

The annual fundraiser outing is set for July 19th begging at 11 a.m. with a box lunch and 12:30 shotgun start at Sheaffer Memorial Golf Course. Rates are \$90 per person and \$600 for a team. Sponsorships are available Contact Val Giannettino for more information at 319-208-5056 or [vgianettino@scciowa.edu](mailto:vgianettino@scciowa.edu).

### Farmer's Market

Farmer's Markets at the Fort Madison Depot will start Monday June 3 and run every Monday through Sept. 30 from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. at the Old Santa Fe Depot. Every second Monday is Kid's Day at the Market.

### Party on the Patio

Dr. Mark Pothitakis Family Dentistry is the premiere sponsor the Friday, June 28th, from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. at Baxter Sports Complex with free live music provided by Power-Cords sponsored by ConAgra Foods. Food and drink specials, and all proceeds go to community beautification efforts.

### Kensington events

The Kensington is offering Senior's Only Community Bingo on the second Wednesday of every month at 2 p.m. The event is free for seniors and cash prizes are awarded. Caregivers Connection is held the 4th Tuesday of every month at noon. Call 319-372-4233 to reserve your seat.

## 5-DAY WEATHER FORECAST

<b>MON 24 Jun</b>	Light Rain High- 70.3° F   Low - 62.7° F
<b>TUE 25 Jun</b>	Moderate Rain High- 81.2° F   Low - 68.9° F
<b>WED 26 Jun</b>	Light Rain High- 81.1° F   Low - 69.3° F
<b>THU 27 Jun</b>	Heavy Intensity Rain High- 80.2° F   Low - 68.5° F
<b>FRI 28 Jun</b>	Partly Cloud High- 83.4° F   Low - 72.6° F

[OpenWeatherMap](#)

# Day ends better than it started

**SWARM** - Continued from Page 1

chocolate mousse treats. Out in the parking lot I couldn't resist, and tore into one of the desserts. I was parked right beside a huge semi tractor. I happened to look up, and there was a little minority boy in the window of the semi tractor looking at me. I waved at him and he waved back. I could see his mother in the cab of this semi tractor cleaning the interior. The cab and sleeper of the semi tractor were huge, about the size of a motel room on wheels. I found another one of the chocolate mousse treats and held it out the window toward the little boy. He smiled, and shook his head like he wanted it. I exited my car, and approached the semi tractor. The mother buzzed down the window and accepted the treat graciously for the little boy. "Tell the man thank you," she said. I could see another woman in the cab, possibly a grandmother. I do believe this family of minority people were living in the cab of the semi. They may have been on a layover, waiting for a load. I asked them where they were from, and the mother said, "Arkansas."

I welcomed them to Iowa and told them to drive safely. They thanked me for the chocolate treat and wished me a pleasant day.

"No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted." Aesop.

I used to be an EMT and volunteer firefighter. I rapidly learned that the best way to get over a "bad call" was to go on a "good call."

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 visit his website at [www.empty-nest-words-photos-and-frames.com](http://www.empty-nest-words-photos-and-frames.com).

## Birth Announcements

### ROBINSON

KEOKUK - Shawn and Alisha Robinson, of Keokuk are proud to announce the birth of their daughter Sadaya Michelle Robinson on June 6, 2019 at Fort Madison Community Hospital.

Sadaya is joined at home by Brycen, Ashan, Aaliyah, and Avan.

Grandparents are Gordy and Cindy Bowen of St. Francisville, Mo.; and Claude (deceased) and Elaine Robinson of New Jersey.

Pen City Current congratulates the family on this wonderful news.

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Pen City Current will not publish an e-Edition Wed., July 3rd through Sat., July 6th in observation of the Fourth of July

News will continue to be published to [pencitycurrent.com](http://pencitycurrent.com) as it happens and the e-Edition will return Sun., July 7th

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We wish you all a very happy holiday and remind you to celebrate safely and responsibly!

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## Celebrations/Classifieds

### Future Ready Iowa Innovation Fund open for applicants

DES MOINES –Today, Gov. Kim Reynolds announced that the Future Ready Iowa (FRI) Employer Innovation Fund is now open for applications that help increase the number of Iowans earning non-credit and for-credit postsecondary credentials that lead to high-demand jobs. Applications can be prepared and submitted through [IowaGrants.gov](http://IowaGrants.gov) by Aug. 1. Eligible applicants include employers, employer consortiums and community organizations.

“Powerful public-private partnerships will put Iowans on a path to new skills, a better career, and a great quality of life. Across Iowa, small businesses are shattering barriers and innovating like never before, and Future Ready Iowa will provide the talent pipeline to help them do even more,” said Gov. Reynolds. “As we invest, grow, and encourage collaboration in the workforce, I am excited for what lies ahead.”

The Employer Innovation Fund will award grants to support initiatives that are innovative, creative and accelerate postsecondary credential attainment for Iowans. Applicants are required to identify specific project goals that demonstrate measurable results in the proposal. Iowa Workforce Development will identify application panels to review and score the submitted applications. Awardees will be notified by Sept. 1, 2019.

“When participants in this program carry out innovative ideas to support their local workforce, they will have a significant impact on the Future Ready Iowa goal of having 70 percent of Iowans in the workforce with education and training beyond high school by 2025,” said Director Beth Townsend, Iowa Workforce Development.

## Birth Announcements

### HETZLER

HOUGHTON – Cole and Jessica Hetzler, of Houghton, are proud to announce the birth of their son Quade Keith Hetzler on June 5, 2019 at Fort Madison Community Hospital.

Quade is joined at home by Easton and Laikyn Hetzler.

Grandparents are Ann and Tom Van Nostrand of Palmyra, Mo.; and Keith and Shirley Hetzler, of Lewistown, Mo.

Great-grandparents are Sue Dudgeon of Lewistown, Mo.; Jackie Scott of Williamstown, Mo.; and Rita Van Nostrand of Hendersonville, N.C.

Pen City Current congratulates the family on this wonderful news.

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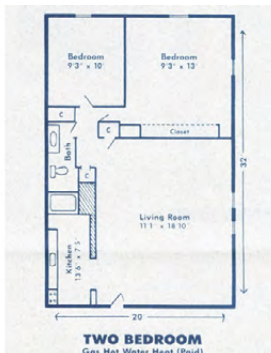
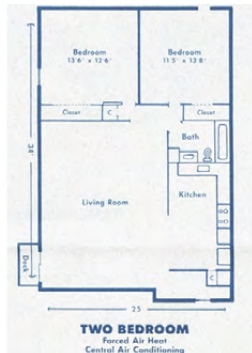
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## From the Front

# Incidents at Missouri camp prompt resignation

**COACHES** - Continued from Page 1

He said the incidents and the resignation have nothing to do with the recent public comments from boys basketball coach Ryan Wilson surrounding interference from Superintendent Dr. Erin Slater.

"The politics of coaching are what they are. Keeping the job is rule number one. I tell my assistants I'm going to be loyal to you and defend you, but at the end of the day if I'm going to choose between my family and yours, I'm choosing mine," he said.

Fort Madison Athletic Director Jeremy Swink said he had just seen the resignation letter and said it had nothing to do with the stories published last week.

"The issues in his resignation letter - that was the first I heard about a lot of those issues. So to my knowledge, this has nothing to do with the other issues whatsoever," Swink said.

He added the district has some big shoes to fill in replacing McGhghy's passion for the game.

"I was kind of surprised to see it. We're definitely sad to see Todd go. He brought some life back to the girls program and had a lot of energy and passion. We haven't posted the position yet, but they have some big shoes to fill with his enthusiasm and the great things he brought to the program."

McGhghy said two hours into the camp there were issues of vaping and bullying that were brought to his attention, and possibly marijuana use. He added that after a loss in the third day of the camp, he raised his voice to the team and then a parent got involved.

"We finally lost a game the last day we're down there and I raised my voice and that lead to parent drama 5 1/2 hours away. I'm just not equipped to continue to deal with these kinds of things. I'm just not good at it," he said.

"Two hours into the camp, we had a vaping/bullying/harassment thing that I had to deal with. I was at my computer trying to look at who we were going up against and had to stop to deal with that. It's just something that I don't do very well."

McGhghy is a teacher at the high school and said he hasn't resigned his position, just the head girls coach spot. He's also an assistant with the boys and girls track team, where he serves as a throwing coach.

He said his departure means the district will be looking at hiring its 28th head coach in team sports in the last 10 years. It will also be the fourth girls varsity coach in the last 10 years.

"There are a lot of red flags - to me they're red flags anyway, but I'm definitely not good enough at dealing with those things. My focus has been developing a championship elite-type program and I don't know any other way to go at it," he said.

"I don't think I would politically survive what needs to be done to build a championship program. There is a specific issue not related to the administrative issue that will get ugly and I'd probably lose that."

McGhghy declined to comment on the specifics of the issue, but said he can now focus on building his teaching certifications and turn to a leadership team he's part of at the high school working with at-risk students.

"I joined that leadership team and I told Mr. Smith I wanted to be all-in with that program. And he's always told me to build my certifications and become a more attractive candidate if I ever leave the district, so I want to concentrate on those things, too."

McGhghy coached Fort Madison football from 2008-2014 and was the head girls basketball coach from 2011-13 before this past season. He's the fourth varsity coach to be replaced in the last 12 months. Former head football coach Tony Shiffman left the district for a college assistant position earlier this year. Fort Madison High School teacher Derek Doherty was tapped to fill that position.

McGhghy took over for Charlie Knipe last year after Knipe went 1-21 in his final season. Last year Fort Madison didn't renew the coaching contract of Ken Steeples, the head varsity baseball coach and the district brought in Ron Walk-

er to take over that job.

Jared Rehm has been in place as the girls varsity softball coach for just two years and Mike Schneider and Chad Hannum, two Fort Madison firefighters, took over as co-head coaches of the boys track team this past season, replacing Erin Brunner, who resigned from the varsity post in 2018.

Swink said he will officially have to wait until the board accepts McGhghy's resignation before he can post the opening.

## Schools bill focuses on building efficiency

**LOEBSACK** - Continued from Page 2

safely transport our kids."

There is currently a \$46 billion annual shortfall in funding for public school infrastructure. In schools throughout the country, buildings often lack proper heating, ventilation, and air-conditioning systems. Energy costs for K-12 schools total approximately \$8 billion annually nationwide but according to the Environmental Protection Agency, \$2 billion of those dollars can be saved by improving energy efficiency. This cost is equivalent to about 40 million new textbooks or hiring an additional 50,000 teachers at current salaries.

The Renew America's Schools Act creates a federal grant program through the Department of Energy that would provide \$100 million yearly for five years to provide funding to K-12 schools to make eligible energy efficiency improvements. Those eligible energy efficiency improvements include:

Facility improvements for air quality, daylighting, ventilation, and lighting upgrades;

The installation of renewable energy technologies to power school systems;

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