

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



SPORTS:

HTC's Hellige earns first place at the Mt. Pleasant cross country meet Tuesday night.

See page 2

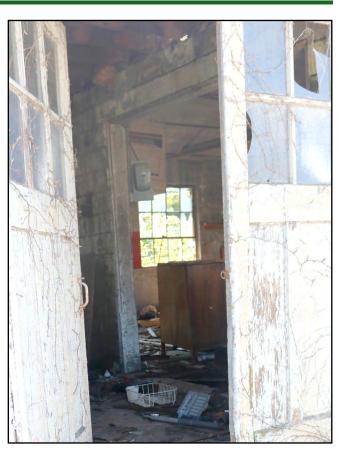
Pen City Current Curre

"I want the neighborhood safe"

The trailers and buildings next to the former Town & Country Mobile Home Park are falling into ruin and are barely visible from the street. A property owner in the area and her family are hoping the city can do something to help with the problem.



Photos by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC



Daughter of property owner in area of 15th Street and Avenue I pleads with city to help make the neighborhood safer, cleaner

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG

PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - The daughter of a property owner in the 900 block of 15th Street is asking for the city's help in cleaning up the former Town & Country Mobile Home Park in the same block.

Suzanna Overberg, of rural West Point, approached the Fort Madison City Council on Sept. 4 and asked city officials to take a look at the property and see what can be done.

At the meeting, Overberg said, at present, there are

only a few homes on the block that are fit to still be standing. Her mother, Dixie Riley, lives on the block as well and Overberg said she fears for her mother's

safety while holding back emotions as she spoke to the council.

"The main point is this long-time property taxpayer in Fort Madison, in her retirement years, should not have to endure this atrocity in her city," Overberg said to the council.

Overberg said the trailer park behind the property is in shambles with all utilities disconnected. She said the sheet metal shop has windows broken out and has people going in and out of the property.

Her parents spent \$5,000 on a privacy fence, but

Overberg said additional fencing was not allowed by city code.

Mayor Brad Randolph told her that he'd like her to sit with City Building Director Doug Krogmeier after the meeting. Councilman Bob Morawitz, who represents the city's second ward that includes the neighborhood, as well as City Councilman Chris Greenwald offered to sit in on the meeting. Greenwald asked City Manager David Varley and Police Chief Tim Sittig to sit in on the meeting as well.

Overberg said she was disappointed in what she heard from the meeting and was told by Varley that the city had only about \$30,000 per year to deal with dilapidated buildings and properties. She said no one from the city has been out to observe the property

See NEIGHBORHOOD, page 3

DM Register names FMCH a Top 100 Workplace in state

BY PCC STAFF

FORT MADISON - Fort Madison Community Hospital (FMCH) has been awarded a 2018 Top Workplaces honor by the Des Moines Register. This is the sixth time since the program began FMCH has made the list. The Top Workplaces lists are based solely on the results of employee feedback gathered through a third party survey administered by research partner, Energage, LLC (formerly Workplace Dynamics) a leading provider of technology-based employee engagement tools. The anonymous survey measures several aspects of workplace culture, including alignment, execution, and connection, just to name a few.

"Top Workplaces is more than just recognition," said Doug Claffey, CEO of Energage. "Our research shows organizations that earn the award attract better talent, experience lower turnover, and are better equipped to deliver bottom-line results. Their leaders prioritize and carefully craft a healthy workplace culture that supports employee engage-

nent."

"We take great pride in the work we do at Fort Madison Community Hospital. Being named to the Top Workplaces list again this year is a reflection of the commitment our employees make every day to their patients, each other and to our community - to do their best and to be the best. Our employees create the FMCH culture of quality and compassion. We are also fortunate to have a dedicated Board of Directors and leadership team to help us navigate through

the changing health care environment," commented Jeremy Alexander, President/CEO, FMCH.

"Becoming a Top Workplace isn't something organizations can buy," Claffey said. "It's an achievement organizations have worked for and a distinction that gives them a competitive advantage. It's a big deal."

Fort Madison Community Hospital employs 486 employees, which includes 24 physicians and 13 Advanced Practice Professionals.

Advertiser Index

Classifieds	Ps.4-
Fort Madison Community Hospital	P.2
Great River Regional Waste Authority	P.:
Griffin Muffler & Brake Center	P.6
Harvestville Farm	P.3
Lee County Health Department	P.
Pen City Current	
Professional Services	
Public Notices	
Scotts Miracle-Gro Company	P.

News Index

Current-Lee	P.5
From the front	P.3
Local News	P.3
Lottery Numbers	P.2
SportsPs.	
Weather	

Scan the code to Subscribe today



Sports/Lottery Numbers

HTC's Hellige takes 1st at MP cross-country

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG PCC EDITOR

MT. PLEASANT - Holy Trinity Catholic junior runner Matt Hellige took first place in the small class 5K at Mt. Pleasant Tuesday evening.

Hellige's 18:05.62 was the best time of the day for the smaller schools besting Zach Hein of Wilton by 6.4 seconds and Brody Barton of Winfield-Mt. Union by 7.8 seconds.

He said the rains in the earlier afternoon Tuesday made for a wet course.

"Obviously, the course was really muddy. Especially in one area it was like a big mud puddle and after the race, I was covered in mud up to my knees, so that affected me a little bit," he said.

Hellige said this is the fifth meet of the year and he's been running 17 and 18 minute times so the soggy conditions didn't hurt too bad.

Hellige ran in the state cross country tournament last year and said with qualifying starting in about a month, his times are competitive.

"My coaches and teammates have been pushing me really hard this season. Practices have been going really well and I have had some good workouts, but it's been going pretty fast."

Hellige's time led Holy Trinity Catholic's team to a second-place finish with 79 points, 31 behind Danville's 48. Phillip Goldie took 6th place for the Crusaders with a time of 19:05.64. Jacob Mohrfeld was 16th overall and third for HTC with a time of 20:00.56.

"The team ran well at Mt Pleasant. We had a wet and muddy course which could have made for slow running, but our athletes endured nicely," said HTC coach Matt Mohrfeld.

"Matthew Hellige looked great with his firstplace finish and Goldie is maturing into a front of the pack runner with a 6th-place finish. Mohrfeld and Pothitakis delivered a very solid mid-pack run with 16th and 26th place finishes. Holtkamp, Rung, and Hellman rounded out our night with strong runs. A good night for HTC and I was very proud of their performance."

Fort Madison, which ran in the large school class, also garnered a team 2nd-place finish behind the 3rd-place finish by senior Dayne Cordray. Cordray's 17:53.68 was just six seconds behind Evan Horak of Washington.

Hounds' sophomore Anthony Barnes finished in 10th place with a time of 19:06.21. Freshman Hayden Wolfe at 19:12.96 and sophomore Owen Kruse at 19:19.43 finished in 12th and 13th place, respectively. Freshman Will Gager rounded out the top 15 with a 19:24.12 run.

The Bloodhounds finished with 53 points behind Fairfield's 39, but five points ahead of Mt.



Photo courtesy of Matt Mohrfeld

Matt Hellige (1530) finds some clean running at the Mt. Pleasant Invitational Tuesday evening. Hellige took first in the small school event.

Pleasant.

Other top HTC runners included Mitchel Pothitakis 21:10.31 (26th), Brant Holtkamp 21:26.46 (31st), Chandler Rung 21:26.93 (32nd), and Wyatt Hellman 23:05.96 (51st).

For the Bloodhounds,

freshman Austin Miller finished at 20:02.37 (19th) and senior Miguel Trejo at 20:18.75 (24th).

The Bloodhounds travel to Anamosa for another invitational on Saturday morning. Holy Trinity runs at Pekin on Saturday.

FMCH Welcomes Dr. Amy Huber



"I am lucky enough to have attained an education that can be used to help make other people's days a little brighter and to help people understand their symptoms or medical problems."



FAMILY PRACTICE
319-376-2134 * www.fmchosp.com



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 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



9/18 31 32 43 63 68 Mega Ball: 17 Megaplier: 2



9/18 MID-DAY 9 0 0 **9/18 EVENING** 1 2 3



9/18 MID-DAY 4 8 0 4 9/18 EVENING 3 6 5 6

Pen City Current encourages you to play responsibly.

Charles Vandenberg, Editor (319).371.1670

editor@pencitycurrent.com

Lee K. Vandenberg, Sales Manager (319).371.4125 sales@pencitycurrent.com

Copyright © 2016 by Pen City Current
All published materials are property of Pen City Current

and cannot be used without express written permission.

Pen City Current
Founded in 2016



P.O. Box 366 | Fort Madison, IA

Nissa Rung, Advertising

(319).520.8953 n.rung@pencitycurrent.com

sross@pencitycurrent.com

Shawna Ross, Advertising (319).470.0622

Pen City Current and www.pencitycurrent.com are products of Market Street Publishing, LLC. Pen City Cur-

rent is published Sunday through Friday mornings.

Local News

County holds tax certificates on both properties

NEIGHBORHOOD - Continued from Page 1

and neighborhood since she spoke at the council meeting.

She said her father, Tom, who is deceased now, had approached Greenwald about seven years ago about the deteriorating condition of the neighborhood and nothing was done.

Several of the homes in the area are uninhabited and also in disrepair along the 1400 block of Avenue I. Dixie Riley, Overberg's mother, said some of the homeowners on the block are doing some repairs, but most are uninhabitable.

The former mobile home park has several trailers on the lot that are crumbling and overgrown with grass and brush. One mobile home has the lawn mowed and seems to be in decent care, but Overberg said utilities are not active in the park.

Krogmeier said the city doesn't have the resources to handle the issue at this point.

"It's on our list, but the

city just doesn't have the money in the budget to do anything," Krogmeier said. "We'll go over and board it up but that's about all we can do right now."

Currently, Lee County holds a certificate on the mobile home park and the former sheet metal building. According to the Lee County Treasurer's office, taxes haven't been paid on the property in four years and it could go to a tax sale when the Lee County Attorney's office gets it on the schedule.

Krogmeier said sometimes that can take years or the county can hold a certificate indefinitely.

The property, according to Beacon Schneider's Lee County website, is owned by Jed Aaron Hill, previously of Keokuk. Hill entered into a contract with Robert and Zella Kramer of Fort Madison to sell the property for \$105,000 in 2008. Hill purchased the deeds to the properties for \$96,400 in 2007. Phone calls to the Kramer's went

unreturned Wednesday and attempts to locate Hill were unsuccessful.

Sittig said requests for police reports in the area without specific names, dates, and addresses would be difficult and time consuming.

Overberg said she's looking to have the neighborhood cleaned up so it's safer for her mother.

"A good resolution is I want the neighborhood safe," she said. "I want the sheet metal building taken down or boarded up so no one can get in and out of there, taken down is the only solution that would be permanent. And I want the squatters out of the trailer park and these homes."

Overberg said her mother is probably safe in her home, but the garage had been broken into and some tools were taken out of it.

'We had the police down here and they said there's a lot of that going on." Riley said.

She will probably be

It's on our list, but the city just doesn't have the money in the budget to do anything right now."

-Doug Krogmeier, **FM Building Director**

safe in her locked house, but how do we know someone is not going to fly off the handle and decide that old woman is there and I'm just going to walk in and take what I want. It's all she's got and we don't want to sell it and move her somewhere.

Krogmeier said the city

recently had to write off the costs of taking down the building on the southwest corner of Avenue H and 12th Street last year and has another building downtown that is priority, along with a list of other properties in the area the buildings department is checking on.

A homeless man in the area who identified himself as Josh Corcoran said he was staying in the home next to Riley, but wasn't definitive about having permission to live in the home. He said he had permission from previous owners to scrap metal out of the sheet metal building. But said he hasn't taken anything out of the homes.

"Bob and Zella gave me permission to go in there.

I've made a thousand dollars out of there. But there's a lot of people going in and out of that old building," he said. "People just walking through here... It's spooky back in there, I'll tell you that."

Overberg, whose husband walked through the building, said the building has empty antifreeze bottles and condoms scattered throughout.

"This is about the vandalism and the people that go in and out of these buildings next to my mom. Lord only knows what they are doing in there. As terrible as it sounds, there's a sofa in there with used condoms on it...in a building like that, they have to be under the influence of something."

Harvestville Farm

40 acre pick your own pumpkin patch • Lots of Hardy Mums & Fall Ornamental Grasses Largest corn maze in the tri-state area • 150+ varieties pumpkins, squash & gourds



Helperkakeep Your Community Hazard-Free!

Household Hazardous Waste Unit is open Monday through Friday 8am - 4pm

Call for an appointment



Backyard composting improves soil quality & makes for healthier plants!



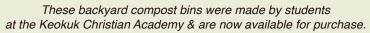












Contact the administration building at 1-800-216-2370 to purchase one today!



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

Keokuk Transfer Station: 111 Carbide Lane Keokuk, IA 1-319-524-6175

Visit Us Online! www.grrwa.com

facebook.com/grrwa

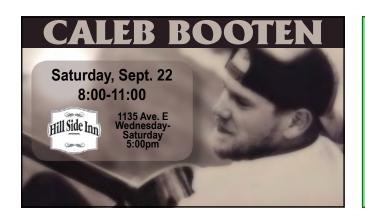
Classifieds

he classifieds



PLACE YOUR AD ONLINE AT <u>WWW.PENCITYCURRENT.COM</u> OR CALL (319)371.4125

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES



ADVERTISE YOUR SERVICE BUSINESS

1 month • Only \$2500

2x2 Business Card Size Ad

Place your ad online 24/7 www.pencitycurrent.com Email your ad classifieds@pencitycurrent.com Call (319)371.4125





Shopping for a mortgage?

Thomas Klann RICP LTCP LUTCF, Agent State Farm Agent 2623 Avenue L Fort Madison, IA 52627 Bus: 319-372-5982 NMLS #139716, NMLS MLO #1359992 MLO License #24290

We have a great selection.

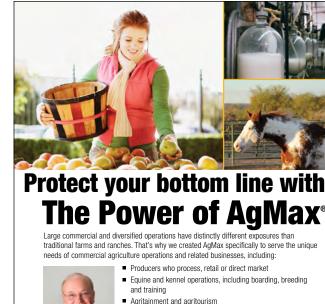
As life changes, so do your needs. Let State Farm Bank® help with a mortgage that fits your life and your budget. Let us help you make the right move. Bank with a Good Neighbor®. CALL ME TODAY FOR MORE INFORMATION.



Some products and services not available in all areas 1001306.1 State Farm Bank, F.S.B., Bloomington, IL





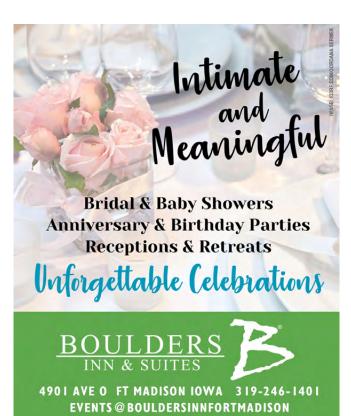


Producers who process, retail or direct market

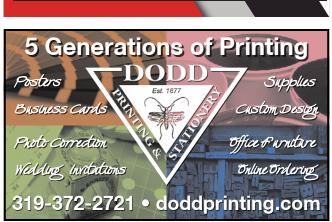
Contact me today to learn how I can help you maximize

🜃 Like us on Facebook











(319) 372-5471

Click this ad for details

Classifieds/Sports

CURRENT-LEE

Toxic Clean-Up Event in Mt. Pleasant

Great River Regional Waste Authority (GRRWA) is bringing their Toxic Clean-Up Mobile Event to the city of Mt. Pleasant and rural areas. Residential household hazardous waste disposal will be available this Friday, Sept. 21 from 8:00 am to 12:30 pm by appointment only.

The collection site will be located at the Public Works Building at 1201 North Broadway Street in Mt. Pleasant. Enter on West Winfield Street – exit out on West

To make an appointment, call toll-free: 1-877-429-2436 or 319-753-8758. GRRWA has several guidelines in place for those planning to take part in this event:

- Please no latex paint (only oil and lead-based paints)
- Please no motor oil or antifreeze
- No containers over 5 gallons
- No batteries

Although these items will not be accepted during this mobile event, they are accepted on a regular basis at GRRWA facilities or the HazChem Center.

This is a mobile event open to residents of Mount Pleasant, and rural Henry County, Iowa. This is a collaborative effort of Great River Regional Waste Authority (GRRWA) 319-372-6140 and the HazChem Center of Southeast Iowa.





PLACE YOUR AD ONLINE AT <u>WWW.PENCITYCURRENT.COM</u> OR CALL (319)371.4125

PUBLIC NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICE

The City of Fort Madison will begin selling 2019 Pet Licenses on Monday, October 1, 2018 (no early sales). They can be purchased at City Hall, 811 Avenue E or Fort Madison PAW Animal Shelter, 2031 48th Street. Rabies Certificate and proof of spay or neuter (if applicable) is required. The cost is \$5.00 if spayed or neutered and \$10.00 if unaltered until December 31, 2018. After December 31st, the

prices are \$10.00 if spayed or neutered and \$15.00 if unaltered. Any questions can contact City Hall at (319) 372-7700 Ext. 201.



JOIN AN INDUSTRY LEADER Miracle Gro

MULTIPLE JOB OPPORTUNITIES

At our Fort Madison Manufacturing Plant

We are expanding... "GRO" with us

Packaging Operators - 3069

-Qualifications: Minimum 1 year experience as a machine/ production operator in high speed manufacturing environ-

- -1st and 2nd shift rotation openings
- -3rd shift openings

Yard Tractor Operator - 3080

-Qualifications: forklift experience, current or previous CDL preferred

-3rd shift opening

Apply at: https://scottsmiraclegro.com/careers/ Call (937) 367-7248 for inquiries

Selling classic cars in a modern way



Up to 200 words 1 photo • 14 days **FREE**

Place your ad online 24/7

www.pencitycurrent.com

Email your ad to

classifieds@pencitycurrent.com

Call (319)371.4125

ADVERTISE brand new way.

Nissa (319)520.8953 Shawna (319)470.0622 Lee (319)371.4125



Place your ad online 24/7

Lady Hounds tie Fairfield with 61 at MP meet

BY PCC STAFF

MT. PLEASANT - Fort Madison freshman Katie Dennis is quickly establishing herself as one of fastest girls cross country runner in the area.

Dennis took 3rd place in the large class run at the Tuesday's cross country meet at Mt. Pleasant High School. She took 4th at last week's Timm Lamb meet at Fort Madison Middle School.

Her time of 21:44.21 was:48 behind Fairfield senior Ashley Bloomquist and 2:20 behind Mt. Pleasant's Abby Ryon, who's been one of the state's fastest runner for the past three years.

The Bloodhounds finished in tied in points with Fairfield at 61 for second place, but Fairfield had a quicker average time and a higher individual finish. Mt. Pleasant won the match with 29 points.

Anna Kester finished in 9th with a time of 23:24.84 for the second best time for FMHS. Ashlynn Haas earned 12th with a 23:47.96 and Maddie McVey's 24:18.65 was good for 15th. Claire Hellman finished 23rd with a time of 27:08.18.

In the large class junior varsity boys' run, Fort Madison's Alex Steffensmeier took first place with a run of 20:53.93. Matt Hopper at 22nd with a time of 25:09.15 and the only other jayvee runner for the Hounds.

In the girls 3200 middle school run Emily Steffensmeier took third with a 14:00.81.

Ellie Schulte took 6th with a mark of 14:02.38 and then four Hounds, Tauren Settles (14:35.28), Kay Quittem (14:37.52) Madison Huebner (14:40.24) and Paetyn Wiegand (14:47.56) earned 11th-14th.

Jordyn Burch finished in 17th with 15:24.43, Jordyn Boyer was 19th at 15:31.34 and Lauren Otte finished in 20th with a time of 15:33. Marquel Warner finished at 16:05, Bree Walston had a time of 17:46.94 and Alma Oronia had a time of 21:40.28.

In the boys middle school 3200 run, Tate Settles had the highest

finish at 12:21.02 in eighth place followed by Carson Rashid at 10th at 12:23.21. Emmett Kruse was close behind in 13th with a time of 12:29.55.

Ben Thele scored 13:19.43 good enough for 20th and Leif Boeding with a time 13:23.37 finished at 21st. Nathan Bowen finished 26th with a time of 13;31.14 and Nathanial Swigart crossed the line at 13:43.78.

Other finishers for FMMS included Cameron Shutwell 15:37 (69th), John Cottrell 15:46.62 (72nd) and Oliver Santiago 20:21.18 (104th).

5-DAY WEATHER FORECAST

THU 20 Sep ————



Light Rain High- 86.1° F | Low - 79.9° F

FRI 21 Sep



Light Rain High- 67.4° F | Low - 51.8° F

SAT 22 Sep



Light Rain High- 58.6° F | Low - 42.6° F

SUN 23 Sep —



High- 64.7° F | Low - 51.9° F

MON 24 Sep



Clear Skies High- 68.5° F | Low - 50.7° F

OpenWeatherMap



EXPERIENCE THE DIFFERENCE

From small repairs to major diagnostics...We Service All Makes & Models!

WHY CHOOSE US?

Ask Patty* Female Friendly Certified



Clean, comfortable waiting room with FREE WIFI

Free Pick Up & Delivery in Ft. Madison

Up-To-Date Equipment

Industry
Accredited, Dependale
& Friendly Staff

ASE
Certified Technicians

Honest & Reliable Service

Online Scheduling & Digitial Inspection Reports

Text reminders & updates

Customer Referral Program

Earn credit with Griffin's Gratitude Rewards Card*

6 Mos. Same As Cash



INTRODUCING:

36 months/36,000 miles PARTS & LABOR Nationwide Warranty



SPIN TO WIN

Save a little extra, earn a little more when you spin the wheel at Griffins with every visit you make now through September 30th, 2018.

Custom Exhaust Work with Over 35 Years Experience!

From 1927 Fords to 2019 Dodges & Everything in between!



Mention this coupon at time of service!

\$25 OFF

Any Repair or Maintenance Order \$250 or More

\$50 OFF

Any Repair or Maintenance Order \$500 or More

\$75 OFF

Any Repair or Maintenance

Order \$750 or More

Excludes tires and batteries. Cannot combine with any other offers. One time use. Valid for a limited time only! Mention this coupon at time of service!

\$10 OFF

OIL CHANGE

Includes FREE
Seasonal Check Up:

√Battery √Suspension
√All Fluid Levels
√Radiator & Coolant
√Tires Lights
√PLUS Road Test

*For faster service, please call ahead for an appointment. Cannot combine with any other offers. Valid for a limited time only!





319-372-2478

535 Avenue G Fort Madison, IA

Monday thru Friday 8:00am - 5:00pm



Like us on Facebook!



www.griffinmuffler.com