



# Pen City Current

Thursday, July 11, 2019 | 9 pages | Volume 3 • Issue 152

## Denning Shelterhouse dedicated

*Dedication  
highlights first  
day of 2019  
Lee County Fair*

**BY CHUCK  
VANDENBERG**  
PCC EDITOR

DONNELSON – A cooling breeze blew in from the north under the arching wooden ceilings of the Lee County Fair's newest addition and through the hair of Tricia Denning, who stood with her hands folded as a prayer was said commemorating the new structure.

Denning stood with her husband Jeff and their family as fair officials dedicated the new shelter house that was built in memory of her daughter Abigail 'Abby' Denning. Denning died as a result of an ATV accident near Pilot Grove on June 23, two weeks before the 2018 Lee



County Fair. The pedestal shelter house was built with funds donated from the sale of her brother Caleb's

steer at the 2018 Fair Jr. Auction and then donations that came pouring in from around the area. "I guess our thought

More than 50 donors are listed on the plaque mounted on a gray, brick support above a bouquet of flowers that were part of the commemoration of the Abby Denning Shelter House at the Lee County Fairgrounds Wednesday night. Denning was killed in an ATV accident on June 23, 2018 just outside of Pilot Grove at the age of 13.

Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

process was that Abby... she really liked people being around and so we

See DENNING, page 9

## Ash says SCC may have FM news soon

**BY CHUCK VANDENBERG**  
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – The president of Southeastern Community College told a group of Fort Madison business and economic development leaders today that the community college could be making an announcement on a facility in the area in the coming months.

Dr. Michael Ash addressed local officials Wednesday morning at Fort Madison Community Hospital saying the college has located some potential property that it has interest in.



ASH

"We've found a location for something related to Fort Madison," Ash said. "We're working with a piece of property now and I'm going to be making a presentation to the (SCC) board and we hope to have an announcement for you in a month or so."

Ash, who's been with the SCC for about seven years said this has been a project he's been wanting to see through.

"I know you hear a lot about the West Burlington and Keokuk campuses, but we are still interested in Fort Madison. I want to reassure you we've been working diligently and we've spent lots of time on this."

The college has been looking at possible facilities in and around Fort Madison for years. The last location was in the 1600 block of Avenue F. Ash said the building did well at the outset with good enrollment but it tapered off quickly.

He said enrollment usually dips with unemployment rates because people gravitate to the jobs from the classrooms. But he said the college is bucking that trend now.

"Our enrollment is growing, even with the area having some of the lowest unemployment rates in years," Ash said.

He said the college may have access to some Emergency Training Center funding to help defray the costs, however he didn't go into much detail about where the facility would be or what programming it might entail. He did say that local education officials would be involved in determining what courses and classes would be offered.

Ash said he was also making a trip soon to Washington D.C. for some funding assistance as well.

## Castro to visit Keokuk Labor Temple Monday

**BY COLIN MAGNESUN**  
RADIO KEOKUK News Director

KEOKUK – The Lee County Democrats have announced that another 2020 presidential hopeful will be visiting the Tri-State Area.

Julian Castro is a Texas native who served as the mayor of San Antonio from 2009 until 2014 when he was named the youngest ever Secretary of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) under then-President Barack Obama.

Castro also announced his presence as a player in the Democratic Party when he delivered a keynote speech at the 2012 Democratic National Convention.



CASTRO

The Keokuk Labor Temple will be the site of a meet-and-greet hosted by Lee County Democrats next Monday as Castro continues to push for the opportunity to carry the party nomination to run against Donald Trump in the 2020 Presidential Election.

Castro has moved up the polls in recent weeks as an ABC/Washington Post survey that concluded on July 1st placed him sixth among current candidates with 4% of Democratic-leaning voters polled favoring him. Lee County Democrats will host the Meet-and-Greet from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Monday, July 15, at the Keokuk Labor Temple at 301 Blondeau St., Keokuk.

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# Obituaries/For the Record



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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             |



**7/9**  
12 26 40 48 64  
Mega Ball: 1  
Megaplier: 2



**7/9 MID-DAY**  
7 6 1  
**7/9 EVENING**  
0 9 7



**7/9 MID-DAY**  
3 8 4 5  
**7/9 EVENING**  
1 9 5 0

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### OBITUARIES

## THOMAS “JACK” TATE

Thomas “Jack” Tate, 86, of Fort Madison, IA, passed away at 11:30 p.m. on Tuesday, July 9, 2019 at The Kensington. He was born on April 15, 1933 in Lomax, IL to Jesse & Edna Wright Tate. He married Verlie R. Cafer on January 1, 1953 in Fort Madison, IA. She preceded him in death on May 6, 1982. He then married Ursula E. Riesner on May 26, 1990 in Fort Madison, IA. He retired as a foreman with Mid American Energy Company. He served in the U.S. Army during the Korean War as a gunner and enjoyed woodworking, fishing, playing pool & being outdoors. He was a member of the Fort Madison Moose, Eagles & Elks Lodges.



TATE

Jack is survived by: his wife: Ursula Tate of Fort Madison, IA; 3-step daughters: Kelly (Brian Bonar) Brown of Wever, IA, Kathy (Dean) Blanchard of Denmark, IA & Kim (Duane) Deffenbaugh of Spring Hills, KS; 1-step son: Kevin (Angie) Stevenson of Winterset, IA; several grandchildren & great grandchildren & 1-son in law: Rusty Huey of Fort Madison, IA. He was preceded in death by: his parents, first wife, 2-daughters: Jackie Huey & Patty Ross, 2-sisters, 5-brothers & 1-great granddaughter.



A graveside service will be held at 1:30 p.m. on Thursday, July 11, 2019 at Oakland Cemetery with Rev. Les Featheringill officiating. Military rites will be performed by the Fort Madison Honor Guard. A memorial has been established for Primrose Path at the Kensington or Fort Madison Hospice. Online condolences to Jack's family may be left at the King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory website: [www.kinglynk.com](http://www.kinglynk.com). King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory is assisting the family with the arrangements.

### For the Record

#### Fort Madison Police Report

07/09/19 – 11:30 a.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 200 block of 21st Street.

07/09/19 – 5:54 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a property damage accident at the intersection of 18th Street and Avenue E.

07/09/19 – 7:26 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a burglary in the 200 block of 23rd Street.

07/09/19 – 7:02 a.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a burglary in

the 3000 block of Avenue N. 07/10/19 – 8:03 a.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 3400 block of Avenue L.

#### Lee County Sheriff's Report

07/09/19 – 6:13 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Elijah Joseph Burris, 25, of Keokuk, at the sheriff's office on a warrant for violation of probation. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.

07/10/19 – 7:50 a.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies

arrested Anthony LeRoy Bernard, 29, of Donnellson, at the sheriff's office on a warrant for violation of parole. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held. *Those listed above are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.*

#### Fort Madison Fire & Rescue Report

07/09/19 – Fort Madison firefighters responded to four medical calls. 07/10/19 – Fort Madison firefighters responded to one medical call and a unloader rollover.



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

## Dr. Mark C. Pothitakis Family Dentistry is proud to welcome Dr. Stephanie Heyland

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Founded in 2016



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# Lee County Fair 2019



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

2018 Lee County Fair Queen Summer Smith crowns Brooklyn Pardall as the Lee County Fair Queen Wednesday night in front of the Grandstands. 1st Runner-up was Claire Holtkamp.



Photos by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Four boys get on one of the rides at the carnival just minutes after the carnival opened for the fair Wednesday night. The Carnival opens again on Thursday at 5 p.m. with a \$20 armband special, which gives unlimited rides from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. Below, local boy scouts present the colors as Tracy Madsen plays a trumpet rendition of the national anthem.



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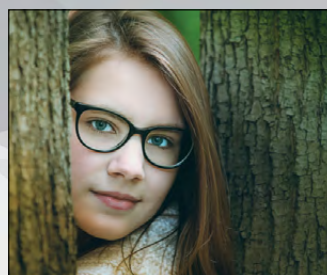


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Fort Madison senior Jordyn Gerdes gets a tag down on Central Lee's KJ Skow in the first game of a doubleheader Tuesday night in Fort Madison.



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

# Hounds split emotional doubleheader with CL

BY ETHAN LILLARD  
PCC SPORTS

FORT MADISON- The little yellow lineup card that holds Fort Madison's starting roster doesn't change much, but Tuesday night it adorned a simple message on the back that meant everything- That was 4 U pops!! I love U!

Fort Madison Head Coach Ron Walker lost his father just hours prior to the Bloodhounds' doubleheader against Central Lee at Fort Madison High School Tuesday night. Like many would have assumed, Walker didn't know for sure whether he was going to make it to the ball field that day.

Unlike many others would have, Walker made his way to the field and coached both contests, as Fort Madison went on to hand Central Lee just its second loss of the season, splitting the doubleheader with the Hawks with a 3-1 win and a 4-3 loss.

For the Hounds' first-year head coach, there was no doubt his dad had a helping hand in the outcome of the contests.

"That was the toughest National Anthem that I have been through and the most grueling seven innings I have been through, but pops was here and we pulled it out," Walker said. "He was watching every inning and loving every minute of it."

### GAME ONE

With it being Senior Night for three Bloodhounds (Dayne Cordray, Jordyn Gerdes and Logan Rashid), it only made sense that Cordray would draw the start for Fort Madison in game one.

Tyler Hopp started the game with a single, but Cordray immediately made up for the allowed hit, catching Hopp trying to steal second before he delivered to the plate. Cordray was able to make the pickoff move as Hopp was tagged out for out No. 1.

Singles were the theme in the first, as Sam Hirner and KJ Skow followed with singles of their own to collect the 1-0 lead for Central Lee.

Fort Madison was able to load the bases in the home half of the first, but a line out to right field put an end to the two-out rally.

It took until the bottom of the fourth inning for the Bloodhounds to score their first run. Brandon Reichelt

See **WALKER**, page 5

# No Plastic Bags in the recycling bins

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## 5-DAY WEATHER FORECAST

THU 11 Jul



Light Rain  
High - 76.0° F | Low - 63.9° F

FRI 12 Jul



Clear Skies  
High - 79.7° F | Low - 68.3° F

SAT 13 Jul



Partly Cloudy  
High - 82.7° F | Low - 72.2° F

SUN 14 Jul



Clear Skies  
High - 84.0° F | Low - 72.6° F

MON 15 Jul



Clear Skies  
High - 83.4° F | Low - 69.4° F

[OpenWeatherMap](#)

**Sports**

# Cordray gets 3-1 Game 1 win on Senior Night

**WALKER** - Continued from Page 4

led off with a walk, before Vasin Thurman singled. Two-straight outs ensued, but Landes Williams kept the inning alive by hitting a ball to short that was mishandled on the throw to first base. The ball got away and pinch runner Logan Rashid came in to score to tie the game at one.

It looked like Central Lee was going to take back the lead in the top of the fifth, as they had the bases loaded and the No. 2 batter in the order at the plate. Cordray was able to force Hirner into a groundout to Jason Thurman at shortstop, putting an end to the threat and keeping the game tied at one.

"Dayne did a great job on the mound and executing pitches when he had to," Walker said. "He ran a couple fastballs in on the hands and got a couple of infield popups to be able to hold the runners at bay.

"We had a 6-3 ground ball that Vasin Thurman

had a good pick on at first base to get us out of the inning. That gave us a lot of momentum and that's winning baseball."

After retiring the Hawks in three-up, three-down fashion in the top of the seventh inning, the Bloodhounds' destiny was in their own hands with the game still knotted at one and one final chance at the plate.

It looked like game one was heading for extra innings until Reed Fehseke drew a walk, Jason Thurman singled and Jordryn Gerdes was hit by a pitch to load the bases with two outs. Reichelt stepped to the dish in the cleanup spot and worked a full count before taking ball four to walk in Fehseke for the walk-off win.

Cordray pitched all seven innings on 77 pitches, allowing five hits and one earned run. For the Hounds' senior captain, he knew he had to come out and give it everything he had for his head coach

who was giving it everything he had making it to the game the same day of his father's passing.

"It's amazing," Cordray said about being able to pick up the win for his head coach. "You love baseball because of stuff like that. It's crazy what can happen."

**GAME TWO**

Once again it was Central Lee that plated the first run of the game in the second contest thanks to a Fort Madison fielding error.

The Hawks' momentum was short lived however, as Fort Madison responded with a three-run bottom of the fourth. Again the runs came with two outs.

After a ground out and a line out, Reichelt kept the home-half of the fourth alive with a walk. Vasin Thurman and Cordray then followed with walks of their own to load the bases. Tate Johnson came through with a full count blooper over the head of the Hawks' first

basemen, plating Rashid and Thurman. Central Lee attempted to throw Cordray out at third, but the throw got away and allowed the senior to score as well and give the Bloodhounds a 3-1 advantage.

Central Lee used a walk, a Hound fielding error and a single to load the bases in the top of the fifth, before tying the game at three.

Again Central Lee was put down in three-up, three-down fashion to end the top of the seventh inning, allowing the Bloodhounds to again control their own destiny.

Unlike game one, Fort Madison wasn't able to

answer in the home half of the seventh, as they were retired after just four batters, forcing extra innings.

KJ Skow started the top of the eighth with a triple before a Simmons sacrifice fly gave Central Lee the go-ahead run with the 4-3 lead.

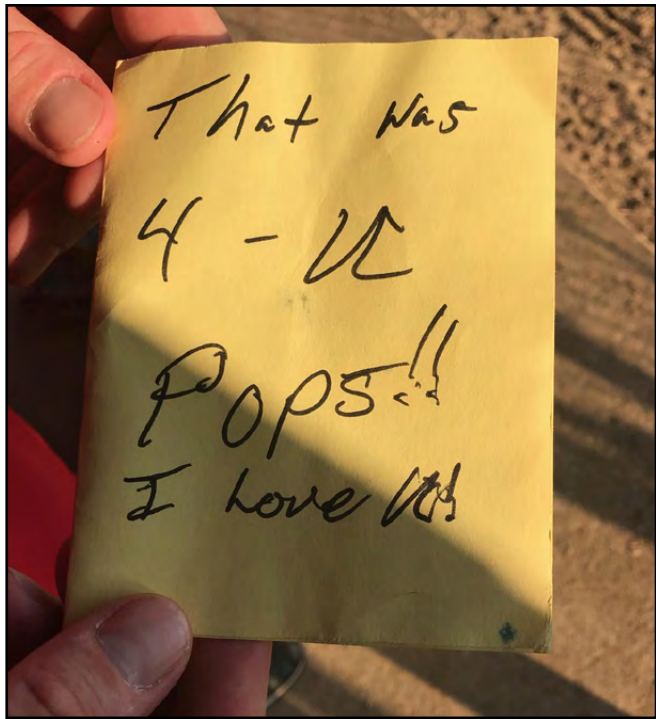
Reichelt was able to collect a two-out single in the bottom of the eighth to keep the Bloodhounds' hopes alive, but a line out in the following at-bat gave the Hawks the 4-3 win in game two.

Johnson led the way for the Hounds with two RBIs. Fehseke was hit with the loss after coming on in relief for

three innings, allowing three hits and one earned run. Gerdes tossed five innings and allowed four hits and no earned runs.

"We went toe to toe with a team that is now 18-2 for 15-straight innings," Walker said. "We had a big huddle there at the end and there was a lot of 'I love you coach,' and 'We're all family,' so it was a pretty emotional night and they are a great group of kids. They played their tail off tonight."

Fort Madison is now 14-14 on the season and will take on Denison today at the University of Iowa with a 5:00P.M. start time.



Fort Madison Head Coach Ron Walker's father died on Tuesday before the Hounds doubleheader with Central Lee. Walker wrote this on the back of his lineup card before the games began. It was also Senior Night as the Hounds split the doubleheader 3-1, 3-4.

Photo by Ethan Lillard/PCC

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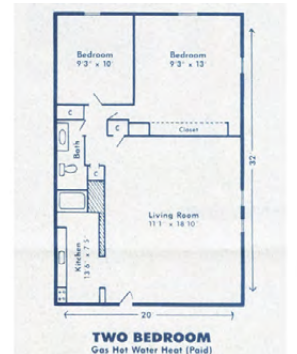
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## From the Front

# Shelter will be new focal point of County Fair

**DENNING** - Continued from Page 1

just thought we could put up a building that she could watch the people..."

"Congregate," said Tricia, finishing the sentence for her husband as he struggled with the emotions of the day.

"We wanted something really nice where people could do this... just hang out and talk," Jeff said leaning against a counter, while others milled about the shelter.

Tricia said people who knew Abby knew their daughter loved kids and loved being around people and the shelter house allows her memory to be folded into generations of people gathering together with children.

Jeff said the idea was originally to sell a steer and use the proceeds to build something small in Abby's name. He thought the steer would bring in about \$15,000, but it sold for \$40,000. He said total donations are now close to \$100,000. A memorial was set up and bracelets were sold to help raise money for the structure.

Tricia said she hopes the final plans include some playground equipment on the east side of the shelter, and then possibly a sidewalk to the learning center on the fairgrounds.

Brock Westfall, the county fair president, said the family came to the fair board and asked if they could put up a building in Denning's memory.

"We just worked closely with the family three or



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Fair volunteers and attendees enjoy some barbecue in the Abby Denning Shelter House that is now the focal point of the Lee County Fairgrounds. The shelter was built with donations that came pouring in after the family decided to set up a memorial after Denning was killed in June of 2018. Below, a prayer is recited at the dedication ceremony Tuesday night.

four times and it all just came together. The fair board put in a sidewalk and will put in some more tables and finish the landscape after the fair," Westfall said.

"It's a beautiful building... a beautiful design - gonna be maintenance free. It adds to the fairground. We have a lot of good shape buildings, but this will be the focal point of the fairgrounds from now on."

The shelter sits on a cement slab with treated wooden timbers that arch toward the center of the top where a large fan and lights adorn the timbers. Gray brick pedestals support the massive shelter that sits just south and east of the show barns. Close to 150 people were inside and around the structure that has no walls.



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