



# Pen City Current

Thursday, April 6, 2017 | 7 pages | Volume 1 • Issue 92

## Police, sheriff curious about injured man

**CHUCK VANDENBERG**  
BY PCC STAFF

FORT MADISON - The Fort Madison Police Department and the Lee County Sheriff's office are investigating an injury to a 19-year-old man on Wednesday afternoon. Upon arrival in the 800 block of Avenue D at about 1:10 p.m., police discovered a black male with an undetermined wound to his head. The man was stabilized by rescue personnel at the scene, including Fort Madison Fire and Rescue and Lee County EMS.



SITTIG

The man was then transferred to Fort Madison Community Hospital and then transported to the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics for further treatment for his wounds.



WEBER

Police Chief Tim Sittig wrote in a statement that it is unknown what type of wound the victim has and there are still some unknown factors in the case such as how and why the person was injured.

Lee County Sheriff Stacy Weber was at the scene and said the victim was disori-

See **INCIDENT**, page 5



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

### Looking for clues

A Fort Madison police officer looks for evidence at the end of the 800 block of Avenue D, where a man was found Wednesday afternoon with a wound to his head, but had no information as to how he got the wound. The man was taken to FMCH and then transported to University of Iowa for further treatment.

## City campground ready for visitors

*Facebook, website starting to draw visitors' interest*

**BY CHUCK VANDENBERG**  
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - Fort Madison is now officially in the campground business.

At Tuesday's regular city council meeting, John Luna, the city's management analyst said the city got their first tenant at the park this week. A person who was just traveling and stayed for eight days. Another person is coming in a couple of weeks and staying for several months while moving to the area.

Luna said the city put about \$25,000 of the city's Quality of Life

money into building the park. It was part of a larger \$250,000 bond that was aimed at improvements earmarked for Rodeo Park.

"We built it with the quality of life money that was earmarked for Rodeo Park. I think we used about \$25,000 for the campground," Luna said. "We did a lot of other improvements out there, too."

The idea came from City Man-

ager David Varley who, according to Luna, was up at Rodeo Park and noticed all the shaded area and what the rodeo had done with pedestals and said the city should develop the park for an all-year campground.

The city is promoting the new park on its [website](#) and [Facebook](#)

See **CAMPING**, page 2



## LCHD gets out in front of bond issue

**BY CHUCK VANDENBERG**  
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - The Lee County Health Department is ramping up their efforts to convince Lee County voters the time is right to get the group a new building.

Julie Schilling, administrator for the LCHD, said continuing to operate out the group's current facility is not functional to the services being provided and could be detrimental to the services going forward.

The proposed building would be just over 12,000 square feet with 9,900 square feet of staff and service area on the first floor and an additional 2,500 square feet in a basement for storage.

The Lee County Board of Supervisors approved a measure to allow the department to seek a referendum to bond for \$2.6 million to build the facility.

Tammy Wilson, Financial Operations Director, said that would amount to a maximum \$7.57 increase in annual property taxes on a home with a \$100,000 assessed valuation for home owners in Lee County.



SCHILLING

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-Sydney Ruth Knapp, 89, Fort Madison

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## Obituaries/From the Front

### OBITUARIES

# Sydney Ruth Knapp

Sydney Ruth Knapp, 89, of Ft. Madison passed away on Wednesday, April 05, 2017 at 6:59 a.m. at the West Point Care Center.



KNAPP

She was born on March 28, 1928 in Ft. Madison to Donald and Helen Bradshaw Dowell. On August 19, 1960 Sydney married James Edward Knapp in Burlington. She worked for eight years at Sheaffer Pen Co. and then was a homemaker. She enjoyed shopping, decorating, sewing and especially loved to dance. Sydney was a former member of the Santa Fe United Methodist Church. She loved her family very much and was a devoted Wife, Mother and Grandmother.

Survivors include her husband, James Knapp of Ft. Madison; two daughters, Terry Schneider and Lynn Snowden of Ft. Madison; three sons, David Knapp of Columbus, OH, Jamie (Jean) Knapp of Storm Lake, IA and Russell (Shaun) Knapp of Shawnee, KS; ten grandchildren; two great grandchildren and one brother, Russell (Colleen) Dowell of Huntley, IL. She was preceded in death by her parents.

Friends may call after 2 p. m. on Monday, April 10, 2017 at King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory where the family will meet with friends from 4-6p.m.. The funeral service will be held at 10:30 a.m. on Tuesday, April 11, 2017 at King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory with Rev. Jim Luder officiating. Burial will follow in Oakland Cemetery.

A memorial has been established in her memory and online condolences may be left at [www.kinglynk.com](http://www.kinglynk.com).

# Adolfo "Joe" Cruz Garcia

Adolfo "Joe" Cruz Garcia, 63, of Ft. Madison passed away at 6:44 PM on Tuesday, April 4, 2017 at his home.



GARCIA

He was born on February 28, 1954 in Brownsville, TX to Pedro and Elvira Cruz Garcia and was one of sixteen children born to them. Adolph was a shrimper and enjoyed going to back to Texas for several months and spending time on the shrimp boat; he also was a painter. He enjoyed gardening, tending to his plants and cooking. Adolph was very giving and would help anyone no matter what they needed. He especially loved helping people mow, paint and help them with their yardwork. Adolph loved his children and grandchildren. He also had a passion for the Blues and loved to play the harmonica.

Survivors include; two daughters, Angel (Trent) Johnson of Ft. Madison and Stacey (Jon) Taylor of Ft. Madison; two sons, Jason (Misty) DeWitt of Williamsburg, IA and Lance (Maggie) Guzman of Ft. Madison thirteen grandchildren, Amina, Analise and Riker DeWitt; Cruz, Noah, Jace and Carly Fedler and Zoe Johnson; Ciara Rascon, Trinity Wilson, Kaydence Wilson and Ava Taylor; Jackson Guzman.

He was preceded in death by his parents.

The Celebration of Life will be held on Saturday, April 8, 2017 from 3-6 PM at Shopton Park in Ft. Madison. Per his wishes, cremation has been entrusted to King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory.

In lieu of flowers, a memorial has been established for the Ft. Madison Food Pantry and online condolences may be left at [www.kinglynk.com](http://www.kinglynk.com).

# Campgrounds would be closed during events

**CAMPING** - Continued from Page 1

page and Luna said the word is starting to get out.

"We've been getting all kinds of inquiries about it on the city's Facebook page so we're hoping for a lot of business out there," Luna said.

The park is managed by the city's park department so overhead is minimal.

Luna was quick to add that there are several times during the year that grounds are not open to reservations due to events planned at the park.

He said obviously the campgrounds are not available from Sept 1-11 with the Tri State Rodeo underway.

Other dates that the campgrounds are not available in 2017 are Jun 3-4; July 14-15 and Sept 23.

The city campground at 2134 302nd Avenue has a rate of \$15 per day with electrical service and \$8 per day for tent camping. There are electric and non-electric sites and a shower facility on the grounds. The grounds have 10 lots with 20 amp service and 10 lots with 30 amp service.

The RV park at 2103 303rd Avenue has a \$20 nightly fee with the same schedule as the city campground.

Registration is done via a self-registration. Envelopes with instructions are available in registration boxes in both campgrounds.

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## For the Record

### For the Record

#### Fort Madison Police Department Report

03/31/17 - 8:41 a.m. - The Fort Madison Police Department responded to a report of a burglary in the 800 block of 29th Street.  
 03/31/17 - 10:51 a.m. - The Fort Madison Police Department responded to a report of larceny in the 344 block of Avenue G.  
 03/31/17 - 10:59 a.m. - The Fort Madison Police Department responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 2600 block of Avenue L.  
 03/31/17 - 3:26 p.m. - The Fort Madison Police Department responded to a report of larceny/theft reported at the Fort Madison Police Department  
 03/31/17 - 7:46 p.m. - The Fort Madison Police Department responded to a report of a burglary in the 2900 block of Avenue I.  
 04/01/17 - 9:15 a.m. - The Fort Madison Police Department responded to a report of a burglary in the 2400 block of Avenue I.  
 04/01/17 - 12:29 p.m. - The Fort Madison Police Department responded to a report of a gas drive off in the 5000 block of Avenue O.  
 04/01/17 - 6:28 p.m. - The Fort Madison Police Department responded to a

report of vandalism in the 1200 block of Avenue C.  
 04/01/17 - 8:20 p.m. - The Fort Madison Police Department responded to a report of a burglary in the 1900 block of Avenue M.  
 04/01/17 - 10:15 p.m. - The Fort Madison Police Department responded to a report of larceny/theft in the 3100 block of Avenue O.  
 04/02/17 - 5:28 a.m. - The Fort Madison Police Department arrested Gary Lee Swanson, Jr., 29 of Fort Madison, in the 1200 block of 19th Street on warrants for keeping premises for controlled substance and possession of drug paraphernalia. He was taken the Lee County Jail and held.  
 04/02/17 - 7:02 a.m. - The Fort Madison Police Department responded to a report of vandalism in the 1900 block of Avenue H.  
 04/02/17 - 7:40 a.m. - The Fort Madison Police Department arrested Tyler James Jenkins, 28, of Fort Madison, in the 1900 block of Avenue H, on a charge of violation of a no-contact order. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.  
 04/02/17 - 1:49 p.m. - The Fort Madison Police Department responded to a report of larceny/theft. No location given.  
 04/02/17 - 6:15 p.m. - The Fort

Madison Police Department arrested Brandi Nicole Summer, 28, of Fort Madison, in the 1900 block of Avenue H, on charge of violation of a no-contact order. She was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.  
 04/02/17 - 9:31 p.m. - The Fort Madison Police Department arrested John Brent Boyles, 47, of Fort Madison, in the 1200 block of 37th Street, on a warrant for contempt on two counts of possession of a controlled substance and a charge of driving under suspension. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.  
 04/03/17 - 8:27 a.m. - The Fort Madison Police Department responded to a report of larceny/theft in the 5400 block of Avenue O.  
 04/03/17 - 1:15 p.m. - The Fort Madison Police Department responded to a report of larceny/theft in the 1300 block of Avenue G.  
 04/03/17 - 4:03 p.m. - The Fort Madison Police Department responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 5800 block of Avenue O.  
 04/03/17 - 5:29 p.m. - The Fort Madison Police Department responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 1500 block of Avenue E.  
 04/04/17 - 6:33 a.m. - The Fort Madison Police Department

arrested Kimberly Kay Boyd, 51, of Fort Madison, in the 400 block of 15th Street, on a charge of violation of a no contact order. She was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.  
 04/04/17 - 6:33 a.m. - The Fort Madison Police Department arrested Randy Allan Akers, 45, of Fort Madison in the 400 block of 15th Street on a charge of violation of a no-contact order and a warrant service for failure to appear. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.  
 04/04/17 - 7:48 a.m. - The Fort Madison Police Department responded to a report of a personal injury accident in the 2000 block of Avenue C.  
 04/04/17 - 10:45 a.m. - The Fort Madison Police Department cited Jason Matthew Hill, 38, of Fort Madison in the 800 block of Avenue E on charge of animal running at large - a simple misdemeanor.  
 04/04/17 - 3 p.m. - The Fort Madison Police cited Johnny Nickala Rhoer, 47, of Fort Madison, in the 800 block of Avenue E on a charge of disorderly conduct. He was cited and released.  
 04/04/17 - 3:43 p.m. - The Fort Madison Police Department responded to a report of larceny/theft in the 1300 block of Avenue G.

04/04/17 - 6:03 p.m. - The Fort Madison Police Department responded to a report of a burglary in the 2200 block of Avenue F.  
 04/04/17 - 7:22 p.m. - The Fort Madison Police Department responded to a report of larceny/theft in the 1300 block of Avenue G.

#### Lee County Sheriff's Department report

03/28/17 - 3:37 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's responded to a two-vehicle accident on Hwy 61 just south of the Hwy 16 intersection. A vehicle driven by Landon Lee McMillan, 21, of Burlington collided with a grain semi-trailer driven by Lawrence Bradley Box, 42, of West Point. No injuries were reported at the scene. McMillan was cited for following too closely.  
 04/01/17 - 13:23 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies cited Darrell Dean Burdette, Jr., 70, of Keokuk, on a charge of failure to dispose of a dead animal. He was cited and released on a promise to appear.  
 04/01/17 - 5:27 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Codey Lane Page, 40, of Montrose in the 3200 block of 220th Avenue on charges of false reporting to law enforcement and interference with

official acts. He was taken the Lee County Jail and held.  
 04/01/17 - 11:58 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Dillan Joseph McCarty, 18, of Keokuk at the Lee County Sheriff's office a judgement. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.  
 04/02/17 - 4:48 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested John Wesley Huss, 29, of Fort Madison at the Lee County Sheriff's office on a charge of assault with bodily injury. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.  
 04/02/17 - 10:50 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Samantha LaTashia Rowe, 26, of Fort Madison on a temporary hold warrant. She was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.  
 04/03/17 - 12:19 a.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Sheri Lynn Taylor, 51, of Keokuk was arrested in the 2400 block of Johnson Street Road in Keokuk, on a charge of failure to appear/contempt of court. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and released.  
 04/03/17 - 12:29 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies responded to a two-vehicle accident at the intersection of 180th Street and Hwy 2.

See RECORD, page 5

# Great River Regional Waste Authority's Earth Day Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event Saturday April 22nd, 2017 ~ 9:00am to 12:00pm Located in Central Park



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Great River Regional Waste Authority will be accepting the following Household Hazardous Waste items during the Annual Community Clean Up Event. We encourage you to call ahead and make an appointment for the collection.

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# Local News/For the Record

## Public voting on for library contest

BY PCC STAFF

FORT MADISON - Thirty-one local artists from age 5 on up have submitted bookmarks to the Friends of the Library Bookmark Contest and voting for the favorite has now begun. Submitted bookmarks are on display at the Fort Madison Public Library until April 12 for anonymous public judging. Prizes will be awarded to the winning bookmark in four different age categories from 5 years old on up. The winning

bookmark in each age group will be printed and distributed at the Library Friends and Family Fun Day on April 29.

The Friends of the Fort Madison Public Library is a nonprofit organization committed to providing services for and funds to the Fort Madison Public Library. They primarily raise funds through book sales, held three times per year in April, July/August, and November. The money they raise supports the Library's overall programming in a wide variety of ways, including

performers and guest speakers, computers and computer software, microfilm machines, literacy stations, library materials, board games, and Legos to name a few. These important assets allow the Library to offer a vast array of resources, services, and events.

For more information on the Friends of the Library bookmark contest, visit the Fort Madison Public Library at 1920 Avenue E, Fort Madison, call (319) 372-5721 or e-mail Sarah Clendineng, [SarahClen@FortMadison.lib.ia.us](mailto:SarahClen@FortMadison.lib.ia.us).



Photo courtesy of Fort Madison Public Library

### Library friends

Mayor of Fort Madison Brad Randolph, President of the Friends of the Library Pat Morrison and school librarians Michelle Bentler and Roxanne Puga are pictured with the 31 bookmark contest submissions. Photo courtesy of Fort Madison Public Library.

## For the Record

Continued from Page 1

A vehicle driven by Timothy Dean Anders, 35, of Ottumwa, slid through an intersection on a rainy surface and struck a vehicle driven by Tadd Jason Overton, 40, of Donnellson. Anders was cited for failure to maintain control an Overton was transported to a hospital by private vehicle. 04/04/17 - 7:41 p.m. Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Robert Hayden Watts, 30, of Keokuk on a charge of driving while license revoked. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held. 04/04/10:25 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested James Alexander Somers, 20, of Fort Madison on a charge

of possession of a stolen property. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.

### Fort Madison Fire Department report

04/03/17 - Fort Madison firefighters responded to 2 medical calls, and a two-vehicle accident  
04/04/17 - Fort Madison Firefighters responded to one assist, two medical calls, one dead-on-arrival and a one-vehicle accident. *It should be noted that a charge is only an accusation and those listed above are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.*

## Police asking public for help with incident

INCIDENT - Continued from Page 1

ented and couldn't provide information at that time to the cause of his wounds.

Fort Madison Police and the Sheriff's department are currently conducting a joint investigation and anyone with information is asked to contact the Fort Madison Police Department at 319-372-2525.

## Citywide egg hunt Saturday

BY PCC STAFF

FORT MADISON - The annual citywide Easter Egg Hunt will be held this Saturday at Rodeo Park.

The event will take place north of the Lion's Club Shelter House, just north of the Tri-State Rodeo Arena beginning at noon.

The hunt will take place in four divisions, ages 0-3, 4-6, 7-9 and 10 to 12.

Drawing two bicycles in each age group (one boy and one girl) will be held during the event.

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Lee Vandenberg, Sales manager  
319-371-4125  
[sales@pencitycurrent.com](mailto:sales@pencitycurrent.com)

Charles Vandenberg, Editor  
319-371-1670  
[editor@pencitycurrent.com](mailto:editor@pencitycurrent.com)



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**From the Front/Area News**

**Schilling: New building will make LCHD more efficient**

**BUILDING** - Continued from Page 1

“All five supervisors approved up to \$2.6 million to pay for the county owned building for the LCHD,” Schilling said. “It was also decided to have it on land that is already county owned.”

The construction is being proposed for the eastern portion of property where the county currently houses the sheriff’s department and jail. The building will be built on the east part of the lot to allow for any future expansion of the jail facilities.

To pass the referendum, Schilling said 60% of voters on May 2 will need to vote in favor of the referendum. The bond would be paid back in 20 years.

But Wilson said there will be savings immediately that could help reduce the \$7.57 annual increase.

“When we go back to evaluations that \$7.57 could be a little less because we have now

budgeted for our rent and maintenance. We’ve already got some expenses in there that we wouldn’t have with the new building, specifically the rent,” Wilson said.

When we make our presentations to people we talk about what we are currently paying into a building that isn’t owned by the county. And, if we stay how much more we’re going to have to put in. In the long run this will save the county money.”

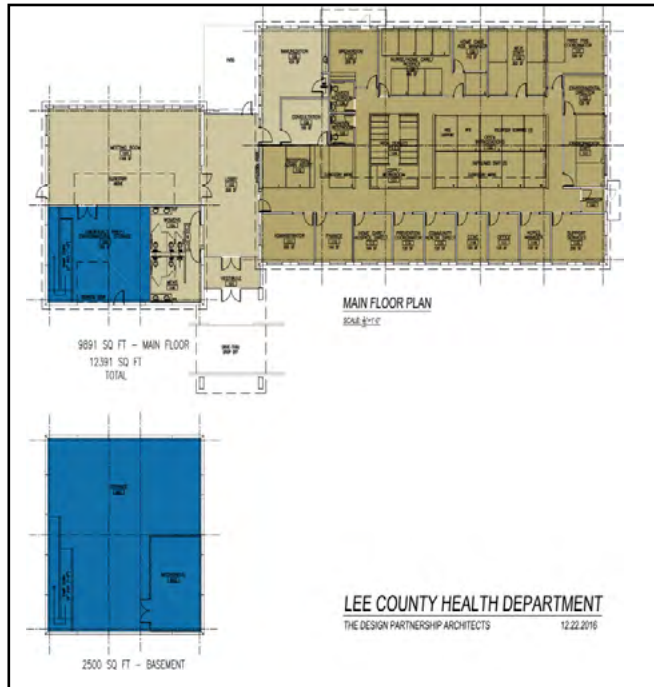
Since 1989, the county has spent \$900,000 on a the building, according to Wilson. She said when looking at the increases in the rent and maintenance that will be needed, the county is staring at an additional \$1.4 million in expenses in the same timeframe that would be used to pay back the \$2.6 million bond.

The LCHD is currently located at 2218 Avenue H and is owned by Age-Mark, a corporation that owns and operates senior

and assisted living centers, including the Kensington in Fort Madison. Wilson said the LCHD is responsible for the majority of the maintenance as that’s how the lease was written.

When the LCHD moved into the the current location in 1989, the department employed 22 staff and administered six programs. Schilling said currently the department employes 36 employees, four contracted employees and handles 19 different programs.

“We can’t expand and we can’t continue to operate properly in our current facility,” she said. “So our building committee and board of health began looking at building our own facility,” Schilling said. “We’re not able to go into the upper floors because people are not allowed into the upper floors. It has been deemed to be unoccupiable. The Kensington is currently using the space for storage. We have several



newborns. We received additional grant funds because there was a need here due to the economy and we span the lifetime in terms of services. From prenatal to early child health services, up to all ages and the elderly. We touch so many lives of the people of this county.

The LCHD is also a player in Emergency Preparedness standards that were set after Sept. 11, 2001.

“If something major would happen we are a major player in emergency response,” Wilson said. “People don’t always think of us in that way but we may have we have to vaccinate or dispense medications. Our protocol now would be to take all our supplies and pack them to somewhere else. The new building would provide adequate storage for those and make it easy to set up.”

Absentee ballots for the referendum would be available beginning April 14 and the LCHD is promoting getting those ballots out to people that won’t be able to make it to the polls on May 2. Schilling and her staff have been making the rounds to local clubs and organizations and are continuing to do so to help get the message out the county residents. She said they are also planning three or four public meetings throughout the county in the next four weeks, but those dates haven’t been set and that information will be forthcoming.

looked at different sites to rent. But some were too small, some too large, some not ADA accessible and needed extensive remodeling. So we decided the best thing for the county was to look at building new.”

The new facility would be easily accessible and more efficient in terms of operations. Wilson added that the new facility helps the county meet HIPPA privacy guidelines because it separates the departments so staff can’t

easily be heard throughout the building, which is something the federal government looks at closely.

Schilling said the department is also looking for an accreditation from the National Public Health Accreditation Board which will help the staff continue to expand programming and enhance coverage for all residents of Lee County.

“We’ve expanded our home visiting programs for young families with

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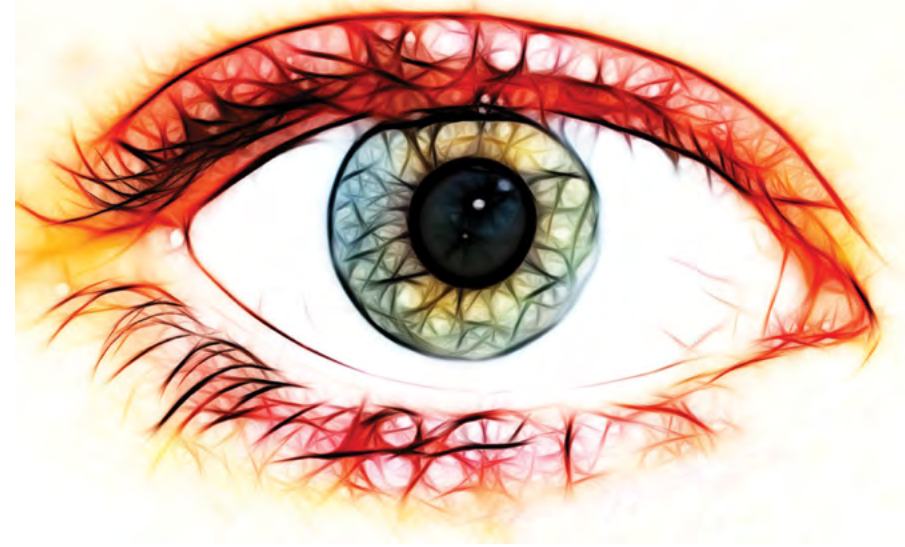
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