



Pen City Current

Friday, June 14, 2019 | 8 pages | Volume 3 • Issue 136

New warden wants to finish career at ISP

28-year corrections veteran returns to southeast Iowa

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – After just three weeks in his new office, tucked away in the southwest corner of Fort Madison’s maximum security prison, warden Randy Gibbs is just starting to get a feel for the four-year old facility and it’s role in the community.

Gibbs, a Burlington native and 1986 graduate of Burlington High School, is all go at the prison. His office has yet to have the look of a warden who’s been in place a while, with just the basics of a large desk and several chairs. No pictures of past homes, children or hobbies adorn the walls. Just a computer and three

open windows that look out across the southern property.

The 50-year-old started his career at Anamosa, the state’s other maximum security facility, as a corrections officer in May of 1991. From there, two years, later he moved to the North Central Correctional Facility in Rockwell City as a lieutenant and stayed there for four years before moving back to Mt. Pleasant for about 18 months as an instructor at the Corrections Training Academy.

He was then promoted to a Treatment Services Director at the Fort Dodge Correctional Facility shortly after the state opened that facility and stayed there for eight years. Then he became

“
It’s ironic that I started in maximum custody in Anamosa and I’m hopefully finishing my career here in maximum custody.”

-Randy Gibbs,
Warden,
Iowa State Penitentiary



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Newly installed ISP Warden Randy Gibbs settled into his new position about three weeks ago and is in the process of evaluating the facility and its role in the community.

security director at Iowa Medical and Classification Center in Coralville and served in that role for a decade.

Gibbs then became the assistant deputy director for institutional operations under Dan Craig in Des Moines, while still living in Mt. Pleasant.

After that tenure he was named Warden at Clarinda Correctional Facility in April 2017. Prior to being named warden, Gibbs graduated from Bellevue University in Nebraska with a bachelors

in Leadership.

Iowa State Penitentiary is no stranger to Gibbs. During former warden Nick Ludwick’s tenure, Gibbs filled in on several occasions while Ludwick battled cancer. He also

made frequent trips to the facility when he was the deputy director for operations.

But he said growing up in Burlington also gave

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Madsen leaving for Central Lee

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

DONNELLSON – Central Lee’s school board is holding a special session on Friday at noon, to vote on a contract approval that would install current Fort Madison High School Band director Tracy Madsen as the district’s new vocal music director.

The agenda was sent out on Thursday morning announcing the special sessions. There are no other agenda items listed on the notice other than to also accept the resignation of Jason Woodley as the Vocal Music Director/District Social Media Coordinator.

Central Lee Superintendent Dr. Andy Crozier, said the special meeting was set due to the late nature of the hire.

“If this was April we’d wait until the board meeting. But since it’s June we wanted to give him time to resign

his current contract and the Fort Madison district time to post the position,” Crozier said. “And most teachers won’t resign positions until they have a new contract, so because it’s already June we moved more quickly.”

Madsen was hired as the Fort Madison school’s band director in 2009. Several attempts to contact Fort Madison school officials for comment Thursday morning were unsuccessful.

Madsen declined to comment on the hiring when contacted Thursday morning.

Crozier said the move helps bring some stability to the department at Central Lee.

“We are extremely excited to bring a talented individual like Tracy Madsen to Central Lee,” Crozier said.

“We’ve had three vocal directors in three years and this provides stability in our program and provides us with an extremely talented person. This is a home run hire.”

County added to March federal disaster declaration

DES MOINES – Gov. Kim Reynolds has received word that additional assistance is now available to public and nonprofit entities in some counties impacted by severe weather between March 12 and May 16, 2019.

Thirteen counties have been added to a disaster declaration issued by President Trump on March 23, 2019, making them eligible to apply for the federal Public Assistance Program.

These counties are now eligible to apply for funding for emergency work and protective measures, along with assistance for permanent work, including repair or replacement of disaster-damaged facilities, through the Public Assistance Program. These counties are: Buchanan, Clayton, Clinton, Des Moines, Jackson, Jones, Lee, Louisa, Mitchell, Muscatine, Ringgold, Scott, and Worth. In addition, Winnebago County, which had

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Obituaries/For the Record

For the Record

Fort Madison Police Report

06/11/19 – 10:26 a.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a personal injury accident at the intersection of Richards and Oak drives.
 06/11/19 – 11:00 a.m. – Fort Madison Police arrested Kristina Yvonne Longtine, 36, of Fort Madison in the 500 block of Avenue G, on a charge of disorderly conduct. She was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.
 06/11/19 – 2:42 p.m. – Fort Madison Police arrested Jacqueline Lee Schaller, 26, of Fort Madison in the 800 block of Avenue G, on a warrant service. She was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.
 06/12/19 – 11:19 a.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the Fort Madison Area
 06/12/19 – 2:44 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a property damage accident at 4th Street and Avenue H.
 06/12/19 – 3:09 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 200 block of 18th Street.

06/12/19 – 6:53 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 2200 block of Avenue H.
 06/12/19 – 6:57 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of vandalism in the 400 block of Avenue A.
 06/12/19 – 9:35 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 500 block of Avenue G.
 06/12/19 – 10:52 p.m. – Fort Madison Police cited Tyler Paul Johnson, 39, of Burlington at the intersection of 48th Street and River Valley Road on a charge of driving under suspension and operation with a registration. He was released upon citation.

Lee County Sheriff's Report

06/11/19 – 1:22 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Erick Michael Rudd, 37, of Fort Madison, at the sheriff's office on a judgment hold.
 06/12/19 – 5:41 a.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies responded to a two-vehicle accident on Hwy. 61. According to the report vehicle driven by Francis

Leota Antwi, 57, of Montrose crossed the median and collided with a vehicle driven by Carissa Daniell Thornton, 46, of Keokuk. Both drivers complained of injuries and Antwi was flown to University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics. Citations are pending for Antwi.
 06/12/19 – 1:52 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Derrick Parker, 44, of Burlington at the Lee County Jail on a charge of simple assault. He was held in custody.
 06/12/19 – 4:03 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Baron Evans, 45, of Burlington, at the sheriff's office on a charge of being a fugitive from justice. 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

06/11/19 – Fort Madison Firefighters responded to four medical calls and one car accident.
 06/12/19 – Fort Madison Firefighters responded to one medical call.

OBITUARIES

HARRY EDWARD PIEPER

Harry Edward Pieper, 81, of rural West Point, Iowa, passed away at 1:45 a.m. Thursday, June 13, 2019 in his home.

He was born on February 23, 1938, in rural Fort Madison, Iowa, the son of Edward and Barbara (Sherwood) Pieper. On June 13, 1992, he married Louise M. Carpenter in Nashua, Iowa.

Survivors include his wife: Louise; three children: Glenda, Lisa, and Edward; step children: Kelly Bergman and Jim Carpenter; two sisters: Emeline Holtkamp and Isabella Green; three grandchildren; four step grandchildren and five step great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents; four brothers; three sisters; and one step grandson: Eric Bergman.

Harry was a United States Navy Veteran retiring after 20 years. After his retirement, he worked at First Miss and he also farmed. He was a member of the Holtz-Geers Post #668 of West Point. He enjoyed yard work, mowing, working in his shop, traveling, and playing cards. Most of all, Harry loved his wife and taking rides on Sunday with her.

Friends may call from 12:00 noon to 5:00 p.m. Sunday, June 16, 2019 at Schmitz Funeral Home in West Point, Iowa. There will be no family visitation.

A Private Family Graveside Service will be held Monday, June 17, 2019 at Soldier's Circle of Oakland Cemetery in Fort Madison, Iowa with Full Military Rites presented by the West Point American Legion.



Public agencies may now qualify for aid

DECLARATION - Continued from Page 1

previously been included in the Presidential Disaster Declaration and eligible for assistance with debris removal and emergency protective measures under the Public Assistance Program, is now eligible to apply for funding for permanent work.

Prior to these additions, 58 counties were eligible for Public Assistance.

Additional counties may be added to the Presidential Disaster Declaration for the Public Assistance Program.

For more information visitwww.floods2019.iowa.gov.



Clean Home. Clean Planet.

Do your part during this year's Spring Cleaning activities by making sure you're choosing products safe for our planet.

Here are just a few of the ways you can help:

- Properly dispose of your household hazardous waste materials, construction debris, & electronic waste
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This year, do your part to keep our environment clean, too!



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Keokuk Transfer Station:
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 Keokuk, IA
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Lee County News/Lottery Numbers

Conservation group plans family night in WP

BY PCC STAFF

WEST POINT – The Three Rivers Conservation Foundation invites the public out to a family fun night at Pollmiller Park on Friday, June 28th from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. This event will feature free swimming at the beach, free boat rentals, music, and more. Wilson Brothers BBQ and Kim's Confections will also be on site selling food.

Three Rivers Conservation Foundation is using this event to raise awareness for their "Places to Play" campaign, which they launched last year. The goal of this campaign is to install new playgrounds at the main county parks over the next few years.

The playground at Pollmiller is the first playground the group plans to replace. The foundation will have examples of potential playground designs for Pollmiller at the event for the public to review. Donations for the playground project will also be accepted the night of the event.

The event will serve as a kickoff to the Fourth of July holiday week. Lee County Conservation is expecting a full campground at Pollmiller that weekend with the holiday festivities planned in West Point.

"We are looking forward to having a lot

of people in the park that weekend and expect a great turnout for the event. People are excited about the improvements we are making to our parks and are looking forward to helping support the playground projects," Clint Oldfield, LCC Park Ranger, said.

Lee County Conservation Director, Nathan Unsworth said the foundation hopes to have the Pollmiller project wrapped up by the end of next year.

"The foundation has set a goal of having the Pollmiller project fundraised and completed in 2020. This an ambitious goal, but the foundation has been working hard behind the scenes to set the groundwork for successful fundraising. People will be hearing more about the fundraising progress over the next few months."

To learn more about the event or the "Places to Play" campaign, the public is encouraged to contact the Lee County Conservation Office at 319-463-7673. If individuals would like to donate to the project, they can mail their donations to Three Rivers Conservation Foundation Attention: Places to Play Campaign 2652 Hwy 61 Montrose, IA 52639

Loebsack files flood center legislation again

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Congressman Dave Loebsack announced today that he has reintroduced legislation to establish a National Flood Center to conduct research on flooding, flood prevention and other flood-related issues. The National Flood Research and Education Center Act (NFRECA) will establish a consortium within the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) that includes institutes of higher education in order to advance the understanding of the causes of flooding, implement advanced flood prediction methods and promote policies that would help prevent future flood damage. Loebsack has continued to develop this legislation since the devastating Floods of 2008 in order to help communities facing the threat of flooding prepare better and smarter.

"Year after year, we see the devastating effects from historic flooding in Iowa and across the country, costing taxpayers valuable resources, time and money," said Loebsack. "This legislation to establish a National Flood Center will help communities prepare better and smarter in order to save both lives and taxpayer dollars in preparing for and recovering from floods. We can't do anything about the damage that has already occurred, but we must look ahead and test new methods and build on promising methods and techniques to better predict, prevent and recover from flooding."



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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



6/12

5 35 38 42 57
Powerball: 13
Power Play: 2



6/12

4 12 15 38 49
Star Ball: 7
All Star Bonus: 3



6/12 MID-DAY
8 4 8
6/12 EVENING
1 6 0



6/12 MID-DAY
9 6 6 3
6/12 EVENING
8 1 1 5



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Pen City Current encourages you to play responsibly.

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Softball

HTC junior varsity girls move to 8-1

BY PCC STAFF

DONNELLSON – The Holy Trinity Catholic junior varsity girls softball team moved to 8-1 with a 7-6 win over Central Lee Tuesday night on the road.

Mary Hellige got the win pitching five innings allowing six runs with four strikeouts. Hellige also had a hit and a run scored.

Kelli Meierotto went 3 for 3 with two runs scored and 2 RBI. Hannah Torgler went 2 for 2 with a double, a run scored and an RBI. Halie Cain had a double and run scored. Anna Sobczak had a single. Brooke Mueller had a single and run scored. Kayla Box had a triple and run scored. Laura Mehmert had a single.

In the junior high match, HTC lost 10-11.

Cain pitched four innings allowing seven runs and recorded eight strikeouts. Rachel Menke took the loss pitching the final two innings allowing four runs, while striking out one.

Brenna Peterson had two hits and a run scored. Mueller had a home run, 3 RBI and two runs scored. Hellige had a single and two runs scored. Laura had two singles, an RBI, and a run scored. Jenna DiPrima had a single and run scored. Menke had a single, triple, 2 RBI and a run scored.

The junior high girls are now 7-4 on the year.

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Demons set Lady Hounds back

Powers had two-hit shutout working through sixth inning of opener before giving up 3-run walk-off homer

BY PCC STAFF

WASHINGTON – The Fort Madison Bloodhound softball team suffered its first losses in six games dropping a doubleheader to Washington Thursday on the road.

The Lady Hounds fell short in the nightcap after a two-inning rally down 4-0 came up short in the top of the seventh.

Down 4-0 going into the top half of the sixth inning, Kylee Cashman delivered a one-out single down the left field line and then quickly swiped second base. Maycee Featheringill, who had been on a tear from the plate of late, popped out to second for the second out, before Ivy Geerdes followed

with a single to left scoring Cashman.

Logan Johnson would ground out to short to end the threat. Katie Dennis would set the Demons down in the bottom half and the Hounds made a game of it down 4-1 in the top half of the seventh.

Dennis would lead off with single to left and Dalyn Wondra would convert on an infield single to move Dennis to second with no outs – and Fort Madison was in business.

Vanessa Golowach was thrown out on a grounder to second base but advanced the runners to second and third. Cassie Powers, in a pinch hit role, hit a grounder that got deep enough between short and third for a hit scoring Dennis and moving Wondra to third.

Olivia Williams would ground out to second for the second out scoring Wondra to make it 4-3 Washington, and moving Powers, the tying run, to second. Cashman would then hit a 1-1 pitch back up the middle that was fielded cleanly by Washington sophomore hurler Cara Linnenkamp for the final out of the night.

Dennis went the distance for Fort Madison going six innings and giving up four runs all earned on seven hits and fanning three.

In the opener, Fort Madison carried a one run lead behind the sparkling pitching of Powers who gave up just two hits through seven innings and struck out the side in the bottom of the third.

But in the seventh, the Demons caught fire with one out. Freshman Rylee Fishback and senior Molly Parks each reached on back-to-back singles before junior Alexa Mitchell ripped a single to center and advanced to second as the throw from Golowach

came home to try and get Fishback at the plate.

Fishback reached safely to tie the game, and Parks and Mitchell stood on second and third. Senior Haylee Wilson then racked the game with a long shot over the left field fence for the walk-off three-run dinger.

Cashman scored the Hounds only run in the fifth when she led off with a double and then was driven in by Geerdes, two hitters later. Geerdes led Fort Madison in game one at the plate going 2 for 3 with an RBI. Cashman and Wondra both had a couple hits in the opener.

Powers went 6 1/3 giving up four runs on six hits and struck out eight for the Hounds who fall to .500 at 8-8 on the season. They host Mt. Pleasant on Monday in a double header.



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2nd Annual Franklin Car Show

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June 15th, 2019, 9 a.m to 2 p.m

Registration for car & tractor show 9 to 11 a.m

Judging done by 1 p.m • Awards at 1:30 p.m

Food available to purchase starting at 10 a.m

Craft & Vendor Show 9 a.m to 2 p.m

50/50 Sales \$1 each or 6/\$5

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Any questions, please feel free to reach out to:

Angie Bell
(car & tractor show)
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OR Lori Gallerick
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319-470-0529

Sports

Water clearing up and area fishing improving

Big Hollow Lake

Water clarity continues to improve, but is still cloudy. Largemouth Bass – Fair: Anglers are picking up a few bass in 5 to 6 feet of water around the flooded timber. Bluegill – Good: Anglers had been picking up pretty good numbers of bluegills before last week's heavy rains; a few nice dry days of weather should bring that fishing back. Black Crappie – Fair: Look for crappies out in the trees and brush piles in 6 to 7 feet of water.

Iowa River (Columbus Junction to Mississippi River)

The Iowa River has finally gotten back in its bank, but only by a foot or two.

Lake Belva Deer

Water remains cloudy, especially by Belva Deer standards. Cool nights have dropped water temperature into the mid-70's. Largemouth Bass – Fair: Look for bass around the mounds in the deeper water at the upper end and back in the flooded timber in the lower half of the lake. Bluegill – Fair: Work your way into the openings in the weed beds to find some nice bluegills.

Lake Darling

Water continues to clear up; water clarity is about 2.5 feet, but is still cloudy. Water temperature is right around 74 degrees. Largemouth Bass – Fair: Find bass in the post-spawn hideout around the thicker cover in 3-5 feet of water around the rock piles. Bluegill – Good: Find bluegills on the beds, as well as in around 4-6 feet of water around brush and rock piles. Channel Catfish – Fair: Catfish are spawning; can find them along the shorelines in the rip-rap.

Lost Grove Lake

Water conditions are returning to normal clarity and level. Largemouth Bass – Fair: Anglers continue to catch bass; work them out along the edges of the weed beds and around the trees and brush piles in 4-6 feet of water. Black Crappie – Fair: Anglers are starting to pick up a few more crappies around edges of the flooded timber in 8 to 10 feet of water. Bluegill – Good: Bluegills continue to spawn. Look for them in the openings in the weed beds and in small clearings in shallow water in the brush.

Skunk River (Rose Hill to Coppock)

The Skunk River continued to drop this week and is now half bank full. Channel Catfish – Fair: Little angler activity this week, but channel catfish are spawning; work the high cut banks and around the root wads of the trees in the water.

For more information on the above lake, call the Lake



Darling Fisheries Office at 319-694-2430.

Coralville Reservoir

The lake level as of June 13 is 701 feet (normal summer pool is 683 feet) and is slowly falling. Mehaffey Bridge is the only ramp open.

Diamond Lake

Channel Catfish – Good: Stink bait works best. Black Crappie – Fair: Try deeper brush with worms or small jigs. Black Crappie – Fair: Try deeper brush or drift the basin with jigs for suspended fish.

Hannen Lake

Bluegill – Fair: Bluegills are spawning. Nice sized fish can be caught in the shallows. Largemouth Bass – Fair. Black Crappie – Slow: Look for suspended fish around deeper brush. Numbers are low, but size is good.

Lake Macbride

Only outboards 10 hp or less may be operated on the lake. Water temperatures are in the upper 70's. Walleye – Fair: Troll or cast in 8-10 feet of water. Black Crappie – Slow: Try minnows or jigs in deeper brush piles or stumps. Wiper (Hybrid Striped Bass) – Fair: Cast crankbaits or swimbaits along windblown rock or rock breaks. Topwaters can work early and late in the day. Largemouth Bass – Fair: Fish around shallow wood or rock. Channel Catfish – Fair: Fish around shallow rock for spawning fish.

Pleasant Creek Lake

Walleye – Fair: Evenings are best. Bluegill – Good: Use small jigs or worms in shallow pockets. Black Crappie – Slow. Muskellunge – Fair.

For more information, contact the Lake Macbride Fisheries Station at 319-624-3615.

Hawthorn Lake

Largemouth Bass – Fair: Try rubber worms or spinnerbaits around the rock jetties and the face of the dam. Channel Catfish – Fair: Try dead chubs or nightcrawlers. Bluegill – Fair: Use small jigs tipped with a wax-worm. Sorting is needed for larger fish.

Lake Miami

Black Crappie – Fair: Try jigs tipped with a minnow around the submerged trees. Bluegill – Fair: Try small jigs around the rock jetties and shorelines. Largemouth Bass – Fair: Use rubber worms or spinnerbaits around the fishing jetties and along the face of the dam.

Lake Sugema

Largemouth Bass – Good: Try spinnerbaits or crankbaits in areas with rip-rap. Black Crappie – Fair: Use jigs tipped with a minnow around the flooded timber and submerged structure. Keep moving until you find active fish. Bluegill – Fair: Try small jigs tipped with a wax-worm or chunk of nightcrawler around the shoreline.

Lake Wapello

Bluegill – Fair: Try small jigs along the shorelines. Channel Catfish – Fair: Use cut bait or dead chubs. Largemouth Bass – Fair: Try rubber worms or spinnerbaits around rock jetties and submerged cedar trees.

Rathbun Reservoir

The current lake level is 915.22 msl. Normal operating elevation is 904.0 msl. The lake's water level has dropped about 2 feet in the last week. Lake Rathbun has zebra mussels, so make sure to properly drain, clean, and dry equipment before transporting to another water body. Channel Catfish – Good: Try cut bait or shad sides in areas with flowing water. Black Crappie – Slow: Crappie fishing has slowed with recent rains; it has been very hit and miss. Try jigs and minnows along rocky shores and around structure. Sorting is needed for larger fish. Wiper (Hybrid Striped Bass) – Good: Anglers have been successful trolling crankbaits along rocky shores. Walleye – Slow: Try trolling over submerged points or along rocky shores.

Red Haw Lake

Channel Catfish – Fair: Use cut bait or dead chubs. Bluegill – Fair: Try small jigs fished around the shores and submerged structure. Tip your jig with a wax-worm. Largemouth Bass – Good: Try rubber worms or spinnerbaits around brush piles and other submerged structure.

The district includes Mahaska, Lucas, Wayne, Monroe, Appanoose, Wapello, Davis and Van Buren counties. Contact the Rathbun Fish Hatchery at 641-647-2406 with questions about fishing in south central Iowa.

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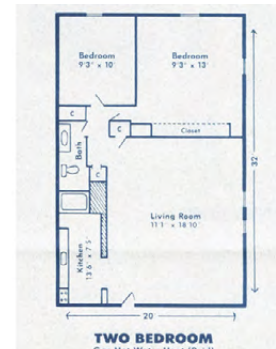
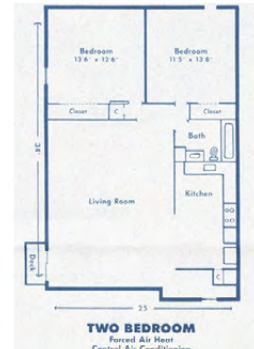
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From the Front/Weather

Warden wants to strengthen partnerships

GIBBS - Continued from Page 1

him familiarity with the former ISP facility.

“Growing up 20 minutes from here in Burlington. I knew lots of people who worked here, my parents knew people that worked here, I had friends and friends’ parents who worked here so I have a history with this facility in that respect as well,” he said.

“It’s ironic that I started in maximum custody in Anamosa and I’m hopefully finishing my career here in maximum custody.”

Gibbs said most of his career has been in medium custody where the goal was treat offenders and put them back out into society with a skill set to be successful and not return to the system. He said ISP is clearly a different situation.

“Our mission here isn’t necessarily to release large numbers of offenders back to the community. Our mission is to handle some of the most difficult cases and make sure we’re doing so in a very respectful and professional manner.

He said the history and mission of Fort Madison’s facility creates a unique opportunity for him to finish up his career. He said he plans on working at least five more years.

“The ISP is no doubt what I consider the flagship of the Iowa Department of Corrections. We’ve been



GIBBS

here since 1839 and there’s so much rich history here. I believe Jefferson City, Mo. says they’re the oldest prison west of the Mississippi, but we say we are. We’ll go with our words,” he said with a laugh.

“For decades, in my view, the Iowa State Penitentiary has handled the most difficult incarcerated individuals this state has. This staff has done that in a very professional and skillful manner. To be a part of that history and that mission is very important to me. I plan on finishing my career here.”

He said he’s still evaluating the facility and said there have been some difficulties with the physical plant and he would like to investigate some changes there that he thinks would allow the facility to run more efficiently.

But he said it’s the staff that is the keystone to the successful operations of the prison.

He said his leadership philosophy comes from former Anamosa warden John Thalacker, who was warden in that facility from 1988 to 1995.

“I’ve worked him three different times, and he told me years ago, ‘Take care of your staff, your equipment and yourself’. I’ve tried to always follow that because I believe our staff is the driving force behind our culture,” Gibbs said.

“They do all the work. I believe my job is to serve them, I really do, and provide them with the tools they need to get the job done. And then our culture is shaped through our staff and the leadership provided to them. I don’t want to sound like a cliché, because I truly believe this and always have done this – if our

staff feels valued and their needs are being taken care of, that’s going to filter down to how we manage this entire facility. You can see conversely what can happen.”

He said he also believes in transparency with the staff at the prison and not micromanaging the facility.

“I believe in transparency. We’ve already made some changes. There’s no secrecy in my leadership... no backroom meetings. It’s transparency so staff feels they are being trusted and they can trust the leadership here.”

He said staffing is always an emotional issue around prison facilities, but he has little control over what those numbers look like.

“I would take a 1,000 more people if I could get them, but that’s not realistic. Staffing analysis has been done within the last two to three years and the number of positions we have here is what we have. There’s not much I can do there.”

He said the old historical prison is something he has some control over as far as usage and touring, but he said he wants to get at tables with those in the community involved with that and see where he can help.

He also said having a strong working relationship and involvement with the community and county is another goal of his.

During his time in Clarinda the prison became a strong partner in the community and Gibbs said he hasn’t had time to evaluate that relationship in Fort Madison yet, but he wants to build on that.

“That’s very important. We’re all neighbors and we’re one of the largest employers and we need to have a seat at the table,” he said. “We need to be respectful of our neighbors and be a part of the community and help it grow,” he said.

New bill looks at high speed Internet across the country

WASHINGTON D.C. – Congressman Dave Loebsack today introduced legislation to bring high-speed broadband internet service to more than 98 percent of the country. The “Connect America Act” would authorize a reverse auction by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to help fund the deployment of high-speed internet to the largest portion of Americans at the lowest cost. This bill is also included in the LIFT

America Act, which is the comprehensive infrastructure plan that was introduced in the House Energy and Commerce Committee.

“I am pleased to introduce the Connect America Act because the future of economic development in Iowa and across the country depends on having access to high-speed broadband,” said Loebsack. “It is unacceptable that in 2019, many families, small businesses, farmers, educators and healthcare providers don’t have access to high-speed internet, which is needed to ensure our rural communities can thrive. Folks simply can’t compete in the 21st Century economy we live in without access to high-speed broadband internet.”

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 High– 82.9° F | Low – 69.5° F

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