



# Pen City Current

Tuesday, October 1, 2019 | 8 pages | Volume 3 • Issue 207

## SCC looking at CarSmart property

*City council to consider zoning changes on Tuesday*

**BY CHUCK VANDENBERG**  
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – Fort Madison city officials are considering amending city code to allow schools in the downtown business district.

At Tuesday's City Council meeting a public hearing is



ASH

on the agenda to discuss listing schools as an allowable use within the district.

Southeastern Community College has requested the amendment so they can move forward with plans to rehabilitate the former Car Smart auto lot at 712 Avenue G.

Current city code has a short list of specific uses within the "Downtown" area defined as 6th to 10th streets. That list does not allow dwellings, churches and home occupations on the first floor.

SCC President Micheal Ash confirmed the request

Friday and said the college has already been in front of the city's Planning & Zoning Department and the amendment to the code was approved unanimously.

"We've been working with planning & zoning and walked through the requirements and requests we had for some changes," Ash said.

"It was my understanding others were seeking similar changes so it wasn't just the college. But we were there and presented and talked with them."

But he said he hopes the city can move quickly on

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## Cruise line cancels three visits to city

*Final stop on Oct. 16 is still on the schedule*

**BY CHUCK VANDENBERG**  
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – According to Fort Madison Chamber of Commerce coordinator Savanna Collier, American Cruise Lines has cancelled its next two stops in Fort Madison.

The news came to Collier at about 4:30 p.m. Monday afternoon and just informed Collier, who's been coordinating plans for passengers at the dockings along with Fort Madison Tourism Director Jean Peiton, that the cruise line will not be coming further north than St. Louis for the next two weeks due to rising river levels.

"That's really all it said, and to cancel our accommodations for the cruises," Collier said.

"I actually got that message via email before I



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

American Cruise Lines canceled its Saturday docking in Fort Madison and has canceled its next two stops leaving only one remaining, on Oct. 16. Pictured above passengers disembark from the inaugural stop on Aug. 6, 2019.

left work today. That they won't be traveling north of St. Louis for the next two weeks. So it isn't just us, it's the northern part of the Mississippi cruises."

Collier said the last time the boat stopped to moor with the barge in place and the water was high it did cause some problems for getting people on and

off. "With the barge out there they are hooking up to that instead of unloading from the front and the last time they had to hook the walkway up to the second level and passengers had to walk down a pretty steep plank. Some decided to stay on the boat," Collier said.

Collier said the final docking on Oct. 16th is still a go for now and there are 16 scheduled stops for 2020 from August to October and an increased number may be in the works for 2021.

The cruise line had canceled the previous docking on Saturday due to mechanical issues.

## Montrose man found guilty of 1st-degree burglary, robbery

**BY CHUCK VANDENBERG**  
PCC EDITOR

KEOKUK – A South Lee County jury has convicted a Montrose man of 1st-degree robbery and burglary charges in connection with a May incident in rural Lee County.

Skyler Dwayne Stark, 32, of Montrose was found guilty in a South Lee County Courtroom Friday on the charges in connection with a theft a white Oldsmobile from a rural county home.

He also had warrants out of Keokuk for robbery and caused a five-day search by local law enforcement to determine his whereabouts. The investigation stems from and was lead by Keokuk police with help of several other law enforcement agencies.

The large-scale search resulted in a coordinated capture of Stark at a gas station in West Point on May 14. As a result of the search and capture of Stark, authorities were able to execute search warrants and made several other arrests in connection with harboring Stark for several days.

Lee County Attorney Ross Braden said the convictions are Class B felonies and both carry a 25-year prison term. Sentencing will be held at a future date.

Lee County Assistant attorneys Jonathan Stensvaag and Kym Auge prosecuted the case. Gordon Liles represented Stark during the trial that began on Tuesday and went to the jury Thursday afternoon. Eighth District Judge Michael Schilling presided over the case.

"This man was certainly a blight on the area," Braden said. "Jonathan and Kym did a great job with this case and getting this conviction."



STARK

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## Obituaries

### OBITUARIES

## H.D. "BUCK" JONES

H.D. "Buck" Jones, 69, of Fort Madison, IA, passed away at 10:28 a.m. on Friday, September 27, 2019 at his home. He was born on September 22, 1950 in Keokuk, IA to Harry & Alice Eddleman Jones. He married Karen Hammond on May 31, 1981 in Fort Madison, IA. He worked at Tigie Motors in Keokuk, IA and in 1978, he went to work for the Lee County Sheriff's office. He held numerous positions before being elected Lee County Sheriff in 2004. He retired in 2010. He was an Eagle Scout, a member of the Fort Madison Eagles Club and enjoyed golf, having coffee at McDonalds, his dog Gizmo and spending time with his grandchildren & family. He was a Chicago Cubs and a Minnesota Vikings fan.



JONES

Buck is survived by his wife Karen Jones of Fort Madison, IA; sons Brady (Wendy) Jones of Albert Lea, MN, Gentry (Carrie) Jones of Keokuk, IA, Andy (Angela) Jones of Keokuk, IA & Matt (Jamie) Jones of Fort Madison, IA; 11-grandchildren Ben, Daniel, Claire, Emily, Jacob, Jackson, Dylan, Dalton, Cory, Max & Owen; brother-in-laws Kevin (Donna) Hammond of Fort Madison, IA & Dale (Carla) Albright of Keokuk, IA and several nieces, nephews & cousins. He was preceded in death by his parents, sister Claire, sister-in-law Kathy Holtkamp, his father-in-law Merle Hammond, mother-in-law Eunice Hammond and a nephew in infancy.

Friends may call after 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday, October 1, 2019 with the family to receive friends from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday evening at King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory. The funeral service will be held at 10:30 a.m. on Wednesday, October 2, 2019 at King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory with Ben & Daniel Jones officiating. Burial will be held at Gethsemane Cemetery. A memorial has been established for the Lee County Sheriff's Office Canine or Reserve Units or Lee County Hospice. Online condolences and a video tribute of Buck's life may be viewed at the King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory website: [www.kinglynk.com](http://www.kinglynk.com).

### OBITUARIES

## MARY BETH GILLETT

Mary Beth Gillett, 59 years, of Fort Madison, Iowa died 1:32 pm, Thursday September 26, 2019 at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics, Iowa City, Iowa. She was born October 10, 1959 in Fort Madison, a daughter of Al and Marcella (Menke) Kempker. She first married Sherwood Roe. They later divorced. On October 28, 1989, she married Scott Gillett at the St. Paul Lutheran Church in Fort Madison. He survives.



GILLETT

Mary was raised in West Point, then she moved to Arizona. In 1983, she returned to the Fort Madison area. She worked 23 years as a graphic artist for the Daily Democrat. In 1993, her health changed when she was diagnosed with Lupus. Mary took great care with her flower gardens and plants, she enjoyed her trinkets and rings, and loved her dogs. She was a member of the Community of Christ Church. Above all, Mary was family focused! She was a strong person who never complained and lived life to it's fullest despite her health issues.

She is survived by her husband, Scott Gillett of Fort Madison; two sons, Torrey Roe (Dixie Lung) of Fort Madison and Nathan Gillett of Omaha, Nebraska; step father, Francis Holmes of Fort Madison; five brothers: Jim (Brenda) Kempker of Fort Madison; Mike (Pam) Kempker of West Point; Patrick (Margaret) Kempker of San Diego, California; David (Lucy) Holmes of Mesa, Arizona; Shawn Holmes of Fort Madison; and Shane Gernhart of Fort Madison; four sisters: Betty (Jack) Finch of Sonora, California; Patricia (Frank) Eid of Fort Madison; Peggy (Mark) Hirte of Wever, Iowa; Debbie (Chuck) Thompson of Montrose, Iowa; two grandchildren, Jacob (Halie) Todd and Jessica (Josh) Damon; three great grandchildren: Harper, Braxton, and Hadley Todd; numerous aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, and great nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents, Al Kempker and Marcella Kempker Holmes; four brothers: Donny, Gary, Bill, and Tony Kempker; and two sisters, Maureen Little and MaryBeth Kempker.

A memorial service will be held at 11:00 am Saturday, October 12, 2019 at the St. Paul Lutheran Church, 1934 Ave I, Fort Madison with Pastor Pete Hagglund officiating. Her family will greet friends at the church for one hour prior to the service on Saturday. A memorial has been established, contributions may be made at the church or the Barr Memorial Chapel. Barr Memorial Chapel is honored to serve the Gillett family and an online guest book may be found at [www.barrmemorialchapel.com](http://www.barrmemorialchapel.com).

#### Pen City Current obituary policy

The Current runs obituaries one time at no charge to funeral homes and they run the day they are submitted in most cases. They are also run as submitted by the funeral homes.

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# Obituary/Lottery Numbers

## OBITUARIES

### DONNA MARIE GALBREATH ROBBINS

Donna Marie Galbreath Robbins, 73, of Warsaw, IL, departed this life on Tuesday, September 24, 2019 at Blessing Hospital in Quincy, IL, surrounded by her loving family.

She was born on August 13, 1946 in Keokuk, IA, the daughter of Elroy and Eleanor Mae Ecksteine Hampton Galbreath. She graduated from Keokuk High School with the Class of 1966. Donna met and married the love of her life, Louis Raydell Robbins on December 24, 1963 in Keokuk and they had three children.

Donna was a Physical Therapist at Keokuk Convalescent Center and retired from there after 30 years of service. She was a faithful member of the New Bethel Church in Keokuk where she helped with mission work. She enjoyed attending church functions and going on church trips. She was an excellent seamstress and enjoyed making quilts, blankets and clothing. Donna loved to sing and was a member of the Voices of Worship Choir. She also enjoyed reading and collecting dolls and figurines. Donna

and her husband loved to travel and especially enjoyed their trips to Branson, Hawaii, Jamaica and California. Her life revolved around her children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, family and friends and she will be dearly missed.

She leaves to cherish her memory, her husband Ray of Warsaw, IL, two sons, Jeffrey C. Robbins and Deon S. Robbins both of California, two sisters, Lorraine Camper of California and Gail Ann Galbreath Lewis of Keokuk, her god-sister, Patricia Derrick Townsend of California ten grandchildren, DaVanna Terry (Nicholas), Nashay Robbins, Tevin Robbins (Aundrea), Latisha Humburd, Aaron Robbins, T'onna Robbins, Armond Walker (Ciara), Shantel Walker, Dezmond Smith and Travarus Seay, twenty-three great-grandchildren, Jaydon Doran, Kaemdon LeJeune, Jahnique, Duhliela, Theodore and Eleanor, Maya Robbins, Jessanie Moore and Janiya Scott, Amiyha, Alijah and Aubryana Smith, Dylan and LaLanie Walker and Armond Jr and Avonte Walker, Kenneth McKinney, Elijah and Variah Seay, Thomas Niedermeyer, Jayson, Elisha and Dravin Walker, three nephews, Rodney and Brian Camper

and Rashaad Buckney, five nieces, Tomekia and Tia Dumas, Erika Galbreath, Monisa (Louis) Brown and Elysia Davis, several great and great-great- nephews and nieces, cousins and friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents, one daughter, Deana Smith, one brother, Elroy L. Galbreath III, one grandson, Damon Robbins, her grandparents, several Aunts and Uncles and a brother-in-law, Morris Lewis, Jr.

Funeral Services will be held at 12 Noon on Saturday at the New Bethel Church in Keokuk with Pastor Debra Letcher officiating. Visitation will be held after 1 p.m., Friday at the Vigen Memorial Home in Keokuk with the family meeting with friends from 6 - 8 p.m.

A graveside service will be held October 7th at 11 am at the Keokuk National Cemetery. The procession to the cemetery will leave at 10:45 am from the Vigen Memorial Home in Keokuk.

Memorials may be made to the American Cancer Society. On-line condolences may be sent to the family at [www.vigenmemorialhome.com](http://www.vigenmemorialhome.com).



ROBBINS



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Powerball®	Wed & Sat	8:59 pm	9:59 pm
Lotto America <sup>SM</sup>	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



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## Pen City Current

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**Sports**

# Hounds still baffled by powerhouse Solon

*4th-rated Spartans almost perfect in first half of 45-7 win over Fort Madison*

**BY CHUCK VANDENBERG**  
PCC EDITOR

SOLON – Head Coach Derek Doherty said the Bloodhounds took a back seat in the first half to one of the state’s best football programs.

But out of the lockerroom, the Hounds woke up to make a respectable third period stopping a running clock, before Solon capped a lopsided 45-7 Class 3A District 6 win when Seamus Poynton hauled in a screen pass from Cam Miller and rumbled 67 yards for the game’s final score.

The Bloodhounds went into the locker room down 38-0 after Miller found AJ Coons in the back of the endzone. The Spartans were leading 32-0 at the time and had just brought a punt back to the Hound 36. After calling a timeout, Solon took the first snap, Miller rolled slightly right and fired a bullet to Coons streaking down the right sideline into the endzone.

With predicted rains leaving Solon alone, Doherty said the coaching staff challenged the Hounds to not lay down and come out in the second half and compete.

“We just told them our frustration wasn’t in the scoreboard or anything like that. It was them taking a backseat on not competing,” Doherty said.

“We knew this was an extremely good football team. They were going to be physical, and we came in and took a back seat right away. The two things we preach, attitude and effort, they didn’t bring in the first half.

“We rattled their cages maybe a little bit at halftime and challenged them to bring it. And they did a nice



Photos by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Bloodhound senior Michael Mosena tries to outwrestle Solon’s AJ Coons for a loose ball in second half action Friday night in the Hounds 45-7 loss to the 4th-ranked Class 3A Spartans.

job in the second half.”

On the Hounds first possession of the 3rd quarter, they went 63 yards in eight plays. On 1st and 10 at the Hound 40, FMHS quarterback Will Larson, slipped through the line on a read option and gained five yards before coughing the ball up in front of him, but covered it himself for another 3 yards.

After an incomplete pass to Brock Calif, and a Diego Lozano run for nil, Larson took the snap and rolled right looking for options. With a Solon lineman hanging on his jersey, Larson floated the ball behind the secondary where Parker Denning was waiting all alone and raced another 20 yards into the endzone. It was

Denning’s third touchdown reception in the last two weeks.

The Hounds then kicked off and on the Spartans’ 2nd and 10, Miller hit Jace Andregg in the right seam, but a hit from behind by Larson jarred the ball loose and Lozano covered it up, giving the ball back to Fort Madison at their own 34.

Larson would hook up with Michael Mosena for a one yard gain off an option screen, The Hounds, who had Larson looking for gaps all night, ran a similar roll on the next play and again, with Spartans hanging

See HOUNDS, page 5

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Junior quarterback Will Larson tries to get loose of a Spartan defender on a run Friday night in the Bloodhounds 45-7 loss to the No. 4 ranked Solon.

**Lee County Health Department - 2019 FLU CLINIC SCHEDULE**

<b>10/10</b> Trinity United Methodist -Keokuk 1:00pm-4:30pm	<b>10/24</b> LCHD (#3 John Bennett Drive) Ft. Madison 1:00pm-4:30pm	<b>11/12</b> Hillview Village Ft. Madison 10:30am-Noon	<b>11/21</b> Eagle Bluff Apts. Ft. Madison 9:00am-10:00am
<b>10/17</b> Heritage Center Keokuk 10:00am-Noon	<b>10/28</b> West Point Public Library 1:30pm-3:00pm	<b>11/14</b> River Terrace Keokuk 9:00am-10:00am	<p><b>Please bring Medicare card to clinic</b></p> <p><b>Private Pay cost \$25</b></p> <p>Any questions please call (319)372-5225 www.leecountyhd.org LIKE us on Facebook</p>
<b>10/22</b> Parkview Apts. West Point 11:00am-Noon	<b>11/4</b> Montrose Public Library 9:00am-10:30am	<b>11/14</b> Trinity United Methodist Church Keokuk 1:00pm-4:30pm	
<b>10/22</b> Rose Michael Gardens Ft. Madison 1:00pm-2:00pm	<b>11/5</b> Twin Oak Apts. Denmark 9:00am-10:00am	<b>11/19</b> Hoerner YMCA Keokuk 8:30am-10:00am	
<b>11/7</b> Newberry Center Ft. Madison 10:00am-Noon	<b>11/20</b> Donnellson Public Library 12:30pm-1:30pm		

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## Sports

# Hounds pick up pace to start second half

**HOUNDS** - Continued from Page 4

onto Larson he found senior Quentin Schneider up the right sideline. Schneider turned and raced 29 yards to the Bloodhound 36.

But the drive would stall out after a holding penalty and couple of short gains forced a punt the Spartans would return to the Hounds 38.

Three plays later Solon Coach Kevin Miller caught the Bloodhounds in a blitz and with four Hounds sucked into the pocket Cam Miller floated the ball over their heads to Poynton who had a about three Solon lineman in front of him until he outraced them to the left sideline and blew into the endzone to set the final at 45-7.

Doherty was much happier with the effort... and attitude... of the Bloodhounds in the second half.

"We came back in the second half and they still had some of their firebreathers out there and we started having some success with the (run-pass option)," he said.

"It's a lot of fun when you run this offense the way that it's supposed to be ran. Hopefully it builds confidence that we can do this against really good

football players."

He said the Hounds are still very young and new to the offense, but success is coming as they learn.

"We're still young in it and we're working with it and trying to get better at it every single day and - you know - when you get faced with a team like this it throws a kink in what you've been working on," he said.

"Tonight they just had a lot of pressure in our face and until we started wanting to deal with it, it was hard for Will to see anything.

The Hounds held the Spartans in check most of the night on the ground, but Miller, Coons and Andregg had success making Hounds miss tackles, including a play where Miller moved from left to right out of the pocket, and after scrambling for about six seconds found Cole Arduser on the left side of the endzone for a 4-yard score.

"Defensively they played...they played hard - and offensively, too. We're not going to make excuses, but that's a D1 quarterback and they've got a lot of guys that are going to go on and play at the next level and that's the difference



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Senior Romeo Maestro hangs onto the jersey of Solon quarterback Cam Miller in the third quarter of Friday's 45-7 loss on the road to the Spartans. Maestro had 5.5 tackles on the night, including the sack.

in where they're at versus where we're at right now.

Larson was 10-29 through the air for 93 yards and a touchdown, his sixth of the year. Denning led the Hounds in receiving with 49 yards on four catches and a score.

The Hounds struggled to open holes on the ground game with Larson leading the way with just 15 yards off the option on 17 carries.

Romeo Maestro led the Hounds in tackles with 5.5 including a sack of Miller. Levy Lowney and Lozano each had 4.5 tackles and Schneider added three.

The Hounds (3-2) travel to Fairfield next week before returning home the following week for matchup with Washington (4-1). Washington is coming off of ending Keokuk's unblemished season with a win at Keokuk.

# Hellige runs at Wartburg's Steve Johnson Invite

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG  
PCC EDITOR

WAVERLY - Holy Trinity Catholic's Matt Hellige continues his stellar final high school cross-country year at the Wartburg College Steve Johnson Invitational Saturday.

The 28-team, 186-runner event featured some of the best 5K high school runners in Iowa and Wisconsin.

Hellige finished 37th in the field with

a time of 17:06.5 which was fourth best among 1A runners.

The meet was won by Sioux City North junior Jaysen Bouwers, who motored to a 15:45.7 a full 24 seconds ahead of the rest of the field. The rest of the top 36, up to and including Hellige, all came across within 57 seconds of each other.

Of those 14 were state-ranked runners and the rest were were from Class 4A.

Holy Trinity boys run again on Tuesday at Indian Lake Park in Farmington.

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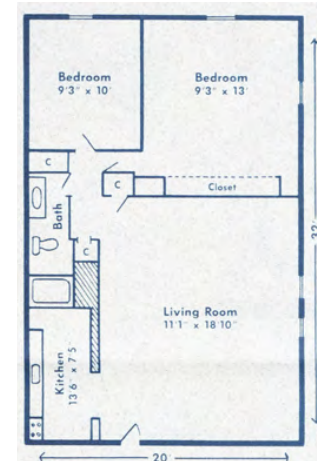
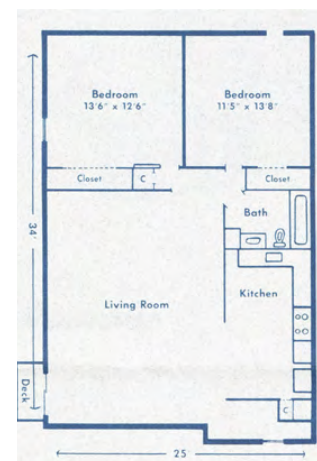
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## Local News/Weather

# Deen brings copper artwork to FMAAA for October exhibit

BY BRIAN RIGGS

Fort Madison Area Arts Association Director

FORT MADISON - As the season change will turn the leaves to rust, Ron Deen of West Burlington brings his own metallic sheen to FMAAA gallery in October with his copper patina art. A reception for the artist occurs October 4th from 5-7pm. DUPONT is the show sponsor for the exhibit this month. Ron will also speak to how the colorization techniques are performed to bring the differing glows to his metal work at Lunch-ala-Art on October 25th from noon-2pm. Call 372-3996 to reserve a slot for this cultural culinary gem.

Ron had some interesting careers before turning to the arts. He left college for the 82nd Airborne, completing 32 static line combat jumps in two years. Airborne training is a tough crash course. His class started with 600 soldiers and graduated 300. In 1985 he joined Iowa State Peniten-

tiary in Ft. Madison. He stayed 28 years before retiring in 2013. He worked as a correctional officer on all three shifts. It took him 15 years to break into the coveted first shift. His last 10 years was spent in the newer CCU building. This unit housed inmates with a mentally ill diagnosis. Needless to say he saw many strange incidents over his years. Thanks for your service, Ron, on all counts.

In 2012 Ron began woodworking with a scroll saw and other tools, fabricating cutting boards and coaster sets that he sold at Farmer's Market in Burlington. He began feeling the desire to find a new medium and had always been attracted to copper so began researching the topic. In 2015 he made the medium change. There is an older work in the middle of the show that juxtaposes the end of his woodworking pieces with the first of his copper wares. His main tools of the trade are salt, ammonia, and mustard. Salt and ammonia create the patina when the copper

is "cooked" in his fume box. Mustard, as in the French's brand, is used as a paint brush to create colorization in the copper. Ron states, "It reminds me of baking in an oven. The power of the ammonia etches or burns into the copper for the effects. When the lid is on the fume box the vapors will smoke. My wife complains about the smell. Every fifteen minutes he adds more salt and ammonia which helps etch into the copper." The longer the "baking", the more patina can be created. A final rinse and shellac spray finishes the piece. Sometimes he will use acrylic paint as an overglaze to finish a piece. Sometimes "bleeding" will occur to create unplanned colorization that provides a spontaneity to this medium. See the ruddy glow for yourself all month at 825 Avenue G open Tuesday&Thursday 12-7pm and Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday 10am-5pm. Also look for Ron at the November Arts&Crafts Holiday Show at the Port of Burlington in November.

## New facility would house HSET and ER training

SCC - Continued from Page 1

the approval as his timelines are contingent upon city approval Tuesday.

"We let P & Z folks as well as City Council know we have a bit of a timeline situation. I've got to have a certain things completed by certain deadlines. I plan to run our legal stuff to be contingent on city council approval," Ash said.

"But if the City Council comes back and says something like, 'Wait a minute we we're not sure we want to do this,' we would have to pull back on the project."

He said the college is looking at a \$500,000 investment in the property and will be looking at both internal and external construction to get the facility ready.

Engineering plans include three classrooms, a couple of offices, lobby space, restrooms and small kitchenette and the appropriate high technology outfitting.

Ash said programs could include adult education learning in conjunction with High School Equivalency Testing (HSET), and classrooms for Emergency Responder training.

He said other options are being researched including lifelong learning classes that go with the college's Options program.

"We're exploring other programming and offerings and certainly hope we can offer lifelong learning that citizens of Fort Madison can utilize."

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TUE 01 Oct



Light Rain  
High- 83.7° F | Low - 74.1° F

WED 02 Oct



Heavy Intensity Rain  
High- 67.0° F | Low - 65.0° F

THU 03 Oct



Scattered Clouds  
High- 60.5° F | Low - 49.0° F

FRI 04 Oct



Light Rain  
High- 58.2° F | Low - 55.4° F

SAT 05 Oct



Heavy Intensity Rain  
High- 58.2° F | Low - 56.6° F

[OpenWeatherMap](#)