



Pen City Current

Monday, Sept. 23, 2019 | 7 pages | Volume 3 • Issue 202

PORT's Boo-Athlon to run Oct. 26

BY PCC STAFF

FORT MADISON – PORT (Promoting Outdoor Recreational Trails) of Fort Madison will be holding their sixth annual Spooktakular Boo-athlon fundraiser for recreational trails in Fort Madison. The Spooktakular Boo-athlon will be held on Saturday, October 26, 2019 starting at 9 a.m. at the Baxter Sports Complex.

The 2019 route will once again include both Phase I trail that runs from Ivanhoe Park to Bluff Road and Phase II trail that intersects Phase I and connects to 48th Street. Registration and the start of each race will take place at the Baxter Sports Complex.

This multi-faceted event is sure to bring out all the ghosts and goblins who run, bike or both. Events include Kid's Race; 5K Run/Walk; 10 mile Bike Race; Duathlon (Run/Bike Event). There will be prizes, refreshments and fun. Participants are encouraged to wear costumes- prizes will be awarded for different costume categories.

Registration forms can be found online at www.fort-madison-ia.com under the Community tab/PORT; on the PORT of Fort Madison Facebook page or by calling Kathy Benda at 319-470-7848. The Spooktakular Boo-athlon is a community focused fundraising event. Matt's Greenhouse will once again be our premiere sponsor and the exclusive sponsor of the Kid's Runs.

PORT of Fort Madison received multiple grants and donations to fund the first two phases of the trail. Preparations for Phase III have been completed with construction starting Spring of 2020. Phase III will connect the Baxter Sports Complex to Fort Madison Community Hospital.

PORT of Fort Madison operates as a subcommittee under the Parks & Recreation Department of the City of Fort Madison with the mission to improve and promote the walkability, run-ability and bike-ability of Fort Madison. The committee is made up of a volunteer group of community members. For more information or to make a donation go to the PORT of Fort Madison Facebook page.



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Craig Wills, from Craig's Stained Glass, talks with Dallas City's Rita Luder at Saturday's Art-In-Central Park. The event was moved indoors to the Old Lee County Bank Building and the FMAAA center as rain dampened plans for the annual event.

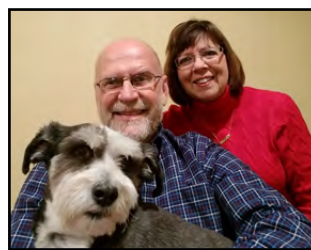
A life lived in service, is a fitting life

"The spiritual and moral will eventually overcome the material and unmoral. That is the purpose and destiny of the human race."

Learning the purpose of life through prayer and meditation. Most people, myself included, have struggled with the Big Question of, "What is the purpose of life?" For a long time, I thought man's purpose on this planet was to procreate. Then I began to believe, through organized religion, that our purpose was to worship God, that God "enjoyed" being worshipped. Then my belief became one of service to God through service to man.

EMPTY NEST

By Curt Swarm



I have a book of daily meditation that I have read faithfully, every morning, for 30 years. It is "Twen-

See **SWARM**, page 7



WIU goes into MVFC play with no excuses

MACOMB, Ill. — Tony Tate was face down on the field, if only for a moment.

But it was enough to make you wonder what could happen next to Western Illinois University's football team.

Tate, one of the Leathernecks' top wide receivers, had caught a pass across the middle in the fourth quarter of Saturday's game against Tennessee Tech at Hanson Field. When he hit the turf, he fell on top of the football, a blow that dazed for a few seconds.

Tate, with the help of the trainers, got up and headed to sidelines.

It was good news for a team that could use it. The Leathernecks fell to 0-4 after the 38-24 loss that included a 2-hour, 30-minute weather delay.

It was a day in which Western Illinois lost its starting quarterback heading into a bye week before beginning the Missouri Valley Football Conference schedule.

It's a week in which the Leathernecks have to find some answers.

"I'll be very honest with you," coach Jared Elliott said.

See **BOHNENKAMP**, page 7

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Current-Lee/For the Record

CURRENT-LEE

The following is a list of current events and happenings in Fort Madison and north Lee County as submitted to the Pen City Current.

Bloodhound Booster Events

The Fort Madison Bloodhound Booster Club is hosting a BINGO night on Sept. 21, at the LULAC in Fort Madison. Also the Booster Club is having organizations in the area sponsor the Bark and Bite at home football games this year. Wilson BBQ is sponsoring this Friday with pulled pork sandwiches and baked beans.

North Lee County Relay for Life

The annual Relay for Life takes place this year on September 27th from 5 p.m. to 11 p.m. and will feature Maddie Poppe in Concert. This year's theme is "idols of strength."

Weekly Book Sale

Friends of the Fort Madison Public Library is holding a weekly book sales from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Thursday's at the Public Library.

Volunteer Fair

The United Way and Fort Madison Public Library will be holding a volunteer fair Thursday, Sept. 26, from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. at the Fort Madison Public Library's Sheaffer Memorial Meeting Room Refreshments will be provided and attendees will have a chance to explore volunteer opportunities in the area.

Small Grand Things Grand Opening

The new venue south of West Point is having a Grand Opening on Sept. 28 from 6 p.m. to midnight with food, music, and fun featuring Wilson Bros. BBQ, Caleb Bootten performing from 8 p.m. to 10 p.m. and Will Stueker-jürgen DJing until midnight. For more information visit

the website at smallgrandthings.com.

Diaper Drive

Griffin Muffler & Brake Center of Fort Madison is spearheading the annual diaper drive during the month of September for families of Lee County in need. Diapers can be dropped at the center of Connection Bank.

Special Olympics Fundraiser

The Fort Madison Eagles Club will be hosting a fundraiser Oct. 12 for area Special Olympics athletes. The event will feature a Diving for Dollars from Bobby Reid and Bob Chesnut. Reid will skydive onto a field, and the number he lands on will win \$500 if present and \$250 if not present. An \$8 meal will served after the drop at the Eagles with half the proceeds going to area Special Olympics athletes. The jump takes place at 4 p.m. with the dinner at 5 p.m.

FMCH Auxiliary Shoe Sale

The Fort Madison Community Hospital Auxiliary is partnering with Brown's Shoe Fit Co. of Burlington to hold a shoe sale at FMCH on Friday, Sept. 27 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. The event is a fundraiser for the auxiliary and will feature both men's and women's shoes.

Mommy & Baby Gear

Fort Madison Community Hospital will be hosting a Mommy & Baby Gear Fair on Saturday, Sept. 28 from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. at the FMCH Conference Rooms. No registration fee or RSVP is required.

Lighted Parade Float Work Nights

Float work nights for the annual holiday lighted parade are held every Monday starting Sept. 30 from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. at 1200 Avenue I. Entrance is through the back. Call the Chamber at 319-372-5471 for more information.

For the Record

Fort Madison Police Report

09/18/19 – 11:00 a.m.
– Fort Madison Police responded to a report of vandalism in the 400 block of 34th Street.

09/18/19 – 11:30 a.m.
– Fort Madison Police arrested Hattie Viona Kemp, 33, of Fort Madison in the 1800 block of Avenue E on a charge of animal neglect and reckless use of a firearm. She was released on a promise to appear.

09/18/19 – 8:31 p.m. – Fort Madison Police arrested Kimberly Jo Huss, 43, of Fort Madison in the 700 block of 11th Street on a charge of driving while barred, and warrant for failure to appear. She was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.

09/18/19 – 8:25 p.m. – Fort Madison Police arrested Leah Yukiko Naumann, 20, of Fort Madison, in the 1100 block of Avenue F, on a Des Moines County warrant for failure to appear. She was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.

09/19/19 – 1:45 p.m. – Fort Madison Police arrested Erica Boudreau, 29, of Fort Madison in the 3100 block of Avenue J, on a warrant service. She was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.

09/19/19 – 3:27 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a shoplifter in the 2600 block of Avenue L.

09/19/19 – 4:30 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 1500 block of Avenue G.

09/19/19 – 10:49 p.m. – Fort Madison Police arrested Devlon Scott Lenz, 24, of Fort Madison in the 400 block of 21st Street on a warrant for probation violation,

carrying weapons and driving under suspension. 09/20/19 – 1:21 a.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a burglary in progress in the 300 block of 22nd Street.

Lee County Sheriff's Report

09/18/19 – 8:38 a.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies responded to a two-vehicle accident at the intersection of Hwy. 2 and Bluff Road. According to the report a vehicle driven by Erica Renee Wieprecht, 25, of Ewing, Mo., entered the highway at a stop sign and struck a vehicle driven by Joe Alan Fraise, 53, of West Point causing disabling damage to both vehicles. No injuries were reported at the scene. Wieprecht was cited for failure to yield through highway.

09/19/19 – 11:37 a.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies responded to a two-vehicle accident in the 3400 block of Argyle Road. According to the report, a vehicle driven by Linda Lee Summers, 73, of Keokuk attempted to pass a farm tractor at an intersection, but the tractor driven by Neil Hubert Johnson, 73, of Keokuk, turned left and struck Summers vehicle causing it to turn over. Minor injuries were reported and Summers was cited for improper passing.

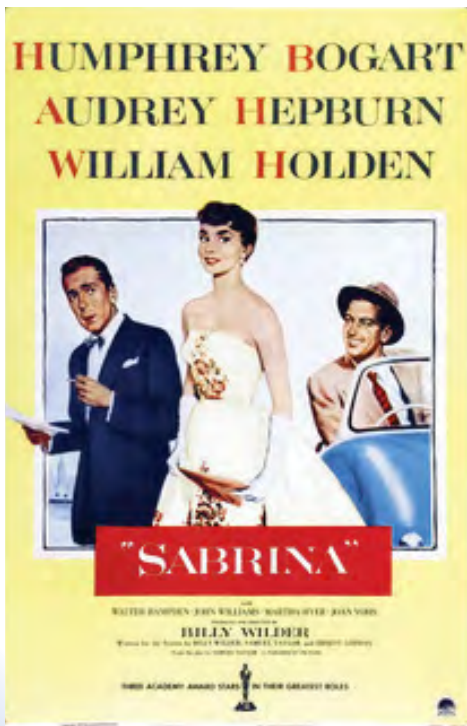
09/20/19 – 12:02 a.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested a 15-year-old male juvenile from Davenport, at the Southeast Iowa Juvenile Detention Center, on a charge of assaulting a correctional officer. He was held at the center pending a court appearance.

Those listed above are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

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5-DAY WEATHER FORECAST

MON 23 Sep

Clear
High– 72.7° F | Low – 60.9° F

TUE 24 Sep

Scattered Clouds
High– 73.7° F | Low – 69.7° F

WED 25 Sep

Partly Cloudy
High– 74.1° F | Low – 57.1° F

THU 26 Sep

Light Rain
High– 70.1° F | Low – 62.9° F

FRI 27 Sep

Heavy Rain
High– 82.5° F | Low – 66.5° F

[OpenWeatherMap](#)

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Pen City Current

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Obituaries/Lottery Numbers

OBITUARIES

ERIC GREG PARDALL

Eric Grant Pardall, 49, of Franklin, Iowa passed away at 8:55 a.m., Friday, September 20, 2019 at the Fort Madison Community Hospital.

He was born on April 30, 1970 in Burlington, Iowa, the son of Richard Earl and Georgia Anna (Walker) Pardall. On August 7, 2006 he married Stacy Ann Richardson in Keokuk, Iowa.



PARDALL

Eric is survived by his wife: Stacy Ann (Richardson) Pardall; four daughters: Courtney (Marcus) Mullin of Mount Pleasant, Iowa, Caitlin (Gordo) Johnson of Montrose, Iowa, Haylie Hirner of Donnellson, Iowa, and Brooklyn Pardall of Iowa City, Iowa; four grandchildren:

Kamryn and Oaklyn Mullin, and Emeilia and Eric Johnson; his parents: Richard and Georgia Pardall; four brothers: Todd (Lori) Pardall, Brad Pardall, Vincent (Angie) Pardall, and Tyler (Alex) Pardall. Also surviving are several beloved nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles and his beloved dog, Coco.

He was preceded in death by his grandparents: Art and Lucy Walker and Earl and Opal Pardall.

Eric was a 1988 graduate of Central Lee High School and received his Journeyman's Certificate from Southeastern Community College. He was a maintenance mechanic at Conagra Foods and a farmer. Eric was on the JoDee's Horseshoe Team and the River City Baggers. He was a member of the U.F.C.W. Local 617. He enjoyed hunting, fishing, wheeler riding, and arrowhead hunting. Eric especially loved spending time with his four daughters and his grandchildren.

Friends may call after noon on Thursday at Schmitz Funeral Home in Donnellson where the family will meet with friends from 4:00 P.M. to 7:00 P.M.

Funeral services will be held at 10:00 A.M. Friday September 27, 2019 at the Schmitz Funeral Home in Donnellson with Pastor Mike Bennett officiating.

Burial will be in St. Peter's Cemetery near Franklin.

On-line condolences to the family may be left at www.schmitzfuneralhomes.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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Lotto Drawings

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Powerball®	Wed & Sat	8:59 pm	9:59 pm
Lotto America SM	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



9/21
9 12 15 27 33
Star Ball: 5
All Star Bonus: 2



9/21
1 9 22 36 68
Powerball: 22
Power Play: 2



9/21 MID-DAY
5 2 6
9/21 EVENING
1 5 3



9/21 MID-DAY
5 9 1 5
9/21 EVENING
4 1 9 8

Pen City Current encourages you to play responsibly.

No Plastic Bags in the recycling bins

*When recycling, be it at one of our convenient drop off sites, or putting out your residential recycling bin for the pickup, please **DO NOT** put items in plastic bags. They are not recyclable at Great River Regional Waste Authority.*

For a complete listing of what we do recycle, contact your local City Hall, or one of our facilities for a service guide. Check with your local retail stores such as Hy-Vee or Walmart for their recycling capabilities. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation concerning this issue!!



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Classifieds/Public Notices

the classifieds

PUBLIC NOTICES

**PUBLIC NOTICE
NOTICE OF
PUBLIC HEARING**

Notice is hereby given that a public hearing will be held by the Fort Madison City Council at 5:30 P.M. on Tuesday, October 1, 2019, at the Council Chambers of City Hall at 811 Avenue E, Fort Madison regarding an amendment to the City of Fort Madison Zoning Code, Section 10, Chapter 12, B-1 Business District, Limited Retail, Section 3, Permitted Uses, to add "Schools" as a permitted use, excepting downtown.

You may appear at the hearing to express your views concerning the above. Written statements may be submitted to the Fort Madison City Clerk, P.O. Box 240, 811 Avenue E, Fort Madison, Iowa, 52627 no later than 4:30 PM on October 1, 2019 or delivered before the hearing is closed. Melinda L. Blind City Clerk

**PUBLIC NOTICE
Lee County, Iowa
Board of Supervisors
Agenda**

**DATE: TUESDAY,
September 24, 2019
MEETING
CONVENING TIME:
9:00 A.M.**

**LOCATION:
Correctional Center
2530 255th Street,
Montrose, IA**

AGENDA

- Pledge of Allegiance
- Approve Agenda
- Approve Tuesday, September 17, 2019 Board Minutes
- Consider Approval of Claims
- Public Input
- Consider Approval of Resolution Increasing Credit Card Limit for Assistant County Engineer
- Consider Approval of Resolution Setting Public Hearing Proposing the Sale of Property Located in 900 Block of 15th Street to City of Fort Madison
- Personnel Actions:
 - A. Part-time New Hire-Attorney's Office
 - B. Step Increases-Health Department (5)
 - Commission or Committee Reports
 - Adjourn
- Workshop to Follow

**PUBLIC MEETING
CITIZENS WELCOME**

Vision and hearing assistance available upon request

Contact Title VI Administrator
319-372-3705

County Website:
www.leecounty.org

**PUBLIC NOTICE
MEETING NOTICE**

The Green Bay Levee & Drainage District will hold a regular meeting at 7:00 p.m., Thursday, September 26, 2019, at Heartland Co-op, east of Wever.

**PUBLIC NOTICE
Fort Madison
Community School
District
1930 Avenue M
Minutes of the
Regular Meeting
September 16, 2019**

I. The meeting was called to order by President Wondra at 6:00 p.m. Directors Hope, DiPrima, Hotop and Ross were present. Director Menke participated via teleconference. Also present were Superintendent Slater, Director of Curriculum and Student Services Harmon and Secretary Elmore. Director Steffensmeier was absent.

II. Recognition of guests. President Wondra welcomed members of the audience in attendance and explained the procedures for the meeting.

III. Reading of Foundation documents. The Board read and reviewed the Foundation documents consisting of the Vision, Mission and Belief statements and the Goals for the Fort Madison Community School District.

IV. Monthly communications
A. Student Rep report. There was none.
B. Curriculum Corner. The Board received an update on CLC data from 2018-2019.

C. "Did You Know?" The "Did You Know?" document was accepted as presented.

D. District Presentations. The Board received a presentation on the 7/8th grade Splash Into Science trip from Kelly Hackett and a presentation on summer projects from Director of Operations and Maintenance, Nic Chiri.
E. Superintendent Goal Report. Superintendent Slater provided a recap of the Welcome Back to School presentation.

V. Approve the agenda.

It was moved by DiPrima and seconded by Hope to approve the agenda as presented. The motion passed on a 6-0 voice vote.

VI. Consent agenda. It was moved by Ross and seconded by DiPrima to approve the consent agenda as presented. The consent agenda consisted of minutes from the August 19, 2019 regular meeting and the September 9, 2019 work session; financial reports including the August balance sheet, August revenue summary, Expenditure Report and Student Activity Report, accounts payable for the August General Account Board bills for approval, September General Account Board bills for approval, Student Activity Board bills for approval and Nutrition Account Board bills for approval; resignations from Katie Coffman as associate at the middle school, Darria Doty as associate at Richardson, Michaele Davolt as associate at the middle school; employment of Jared Rehm as 8th grade volleyball coach, Travis Cullen as assistant football coach, Sarah Kohl as Key Club sponsor, Mark Cartwright as 1/2 inside concession stand manager, Kelly Knustrom as 1/2 inside concession stand manager; contract modification for David Zaccari to include ten extended days. The motion passed on a 6-0 voice vote.

VII. Action Items
A. Director of Curriculum and Student Services. Recognition of Guests Foundation Documents Curriculum Corner "DYK?" District Presentations Supt. Goal Report Agenda Approved Consent Agenda Policy Changes FFA Travel Request Splash Into Science Travel Request Approval of Fundraisers Approval of Lane Changes

es
Disposal Report FY19 CSIP Goals

B. Superintendent.
1. Consider approval of policy changes.

a. 200.1 - Organization of the Board of Directors. It was moved by Hope and seconded by DiPrima to approve policy 200.1 as presented. The motion passed on a 6-0 voice vote.

b. 200.1-R-1 - Organizational Meeting Procedures. It was moved by Ross and seconded by Hope to approve policy 200.1 as presented.

The motion passed on a 6-0 voice vote.

c. 903.5-R-1 - District Wide Logo Regulation. It was moved by DiPrima and seconded by Hope to approve policy 903.5-R-1 as presented. The motion passed on a 6-0 voice vote.

2. Consider approval of the request for travel from the Bonnie Peterson-Slee and FFA to attend the National FFA Convention from October 30th through November 2nd. The Board reviewed the trip request. It was moved by DiPrima and seconded by Ross to approve the request for travel from the Bonnie Peterson-Slee and the FFA to attend the FFA National Convention October 30th through November 2nd as presented. The motion passed on a 6-0 voice vote.

Exit Menke: 7:02 p.m.
Enter Menke: 7:03 p.m.

3. Consider approval of the request for travel from the Kelly Hackett for 7/8th grade science to travel to the Florida Keys for Splash Into Science in the spring of 2021. The Board reviewed the trip request. It was moved by Menke and seconded by Ross to approve the request for travel for 7/8th grade science to travel to the Florida Keys for Splash Into Science in the spring of 2021 as presented. The motion passed on a 6-0 voice vote.

4. Consider approval of fundraisers within the athletic department. The Board reviewed the list of fundraisers within the athletic department. It was moved by Hotop and seconded by DiPrima to approve the list of fundraisers as presented. The motion passed on a 6-0 voice vote.

5. Consider approval of lane changes. The Board reviewed the lane changes. It was moved by DiPrima and seconded by Ross to approve the lane changes as submitted. The motion passed on a 6-0 voice vote.

C. Board Secretary/Business Manager.

1. Consider approval of Disposal Report FY19. The Board reviewed the Disposal Report FY19. Discussion followed. It was moved by Hope and seconded by DiPrima to approve the Disposal Report FY19 as presented. The motion passed on a 6-0 voice vote.

VIII. Discussion Items
A. Director of Curriculum and Student Services

1. CSIP Goals and preliminary enrollment count.

Kim Harmon reviewed with the Board the CSIP Goals and preliminary enrollment count. Discussion followed.

B. Superintendent.
1. Policies for 1st reading. The Board reviewed policies 201 through 210.2 and 501.5. These policies will be brought back at a later meeting for final approval.

2. Sample format for future district fundraisers. The Board reviewed and discussed a sample format for future district fundraisers.

3. Board Member Attendance. The Board reviewed and discussed the Board Member Attendance Report.

C. Board Secretary/Business Manager.

IX. Comments from the audience. There were none.

X. Legislative update. The Board received a legislative update.

XI. Announcements.
October 7, 2019, 6:00 p.m. Work Session, Board Room, Central Office

October 21, 2019, 6:00 p.m. Regular Meeting, Board Room, Central Office

November 4, 2019, 6:00 p.m. Work Session, Board Room, Central Office

November 5, 2019 School Board Elections

November 18, 2019, 6:00 p.m., Regular Meeting, Board Room, Central Office

IASB Convention - November 20-21, 2019

XII. Adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 7:57 p.m.
Tim Wondra, Board President
September 16, 2019
Sandra Elmore, Board Secretary

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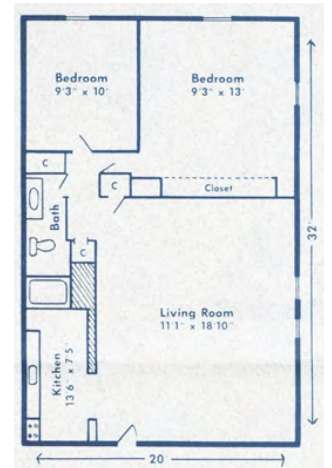
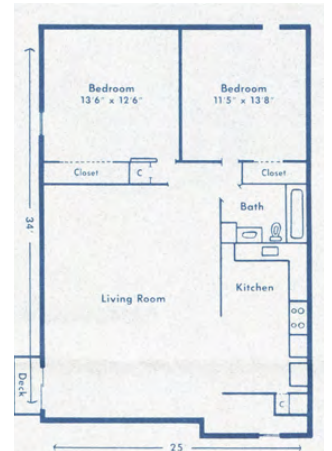
Columbus Club in Fort Madison is looking for a part-time bartender who is available to work primarily evening hours a few nights a week. We are also in search of a waitress who is available from 4:30 to 8:30 Friday evenings. Contact Mandy at 319-470-2762 for details.

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From the Front

Each existence is a training for better our better lives to come

SWARM - Continued from Page 1

ty-Four Hours a Day” by Hazelden. Each day is divided into three sections: “Thought for the Day,” “Meditation for the Day,” and “Prayer for the Day.” In the “Meditation for the Day,” I kept noticing throughout the year, a discussion of “The Purpose of Life.” I decided to go through the book and document these “Purposes.” Here are a few of the “Purposes of Life”:

“A life of service is the finest life we can live. We are here on earth to serve others.” “It is the work of a lifetime to develop to full stature spiritually. This is what I am on earth for.”

Hmm. Well, now that I have an understanding of what my, or man’s, “Purpose of Life” is, I am now ready for more information.

“God sees, as no one can see, what is within you. He sees you growing more and more like Himself. That is your reason for existence, to grow more and more like God, to develop more and more the spirit of God within you.”

Heavy stuff. As I was undertaking this project of documenting “The Purposes of Life” in the pre-dawn hours, (my usual time for reading, writing and meditation), I became spiritually high. Putting all these thoughts together at one time was a transformational process. Or was it the coffee?

“All your existence in this world is a training for a better life to come.” “The gradual elimination of selfishness in the growth of love for God and your fellow human beings is the goal of life.” “Your real work in life is to grow spiritually.”

Okay, now that we have all that settled, I was ready for even more. “This life on earth should be largely a preparation for the eternal life to come.” I can dig it.

“Faith in God can give an objective and purpose to life. Many of us are at least subconsciously seeking for a Power greater than ourselves because that would give a meaning to our existence.”

In addition to “The Purpose of Life,” here are a couple of other tidbits I gleaned from the “Meditation for the Day” section of “Twenty-Four Hours a Day” that I think worthy of passing along: “God can use you as a tool to accomplish miracles in people’s lives” and “Claim the power to work miracles in human lives!”

Far out, man! Call me a Jesus Freak if you like. I consider it a compliment. There is more to life than just living and dying. The soul is immortal, I believe. (“Your life has been given to you mainly for the purpose of training your soul.”) We are here for a reason. “I will try to be at one with God. No human aspiration can reach higher than this.” “Our chief ambition should be to be used by God.”

“Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee, How great Thou art.” It wasn’t the coffee, man.

Next week: Happiness.

Have a good story? Call or text Curt Swarm in Mt. Pleasant at 319-217-0526, email him at curtswarm@yahoo.com or visit his website at www.empty-nest-words-photos-and-frames.com.



Back-up QB almost leads WIU to comeback

BOHNENKAMP - Continued from Page 1

“I told the team, we have a choice to make. I think there’s a lot of excuses to explain why we are where we are. I refuse to ... injury situations, young guys, older guys, it doesn’t matter. We have to really self-evaluate what we’re doing, as players and as coaches. What our weaknesses are.”

“I’d say we’re hurting, for sure,” said running back Clint Ratkovich, who had 45 rushing yards and 42 receiving yards in the game. “But we’re still up. The whole team is staying together. Everybody believes, everybody is working their ass off.”

It was on the fifth offensive play of the day when Western Illinois quarterback Connor Sampson ran to the right and began limping before he was tackled for a 5-yard gain. A few minutes later, the teams were told to leave the field as thunderstorms approached.

That delay gave Sampson a chance to get back in the game once play resumed, but he didn’t last long. By the end of the day, he was on crutches as he stood on the sideline.

“It was serious enough he couldn’t play, I know that,” said Elliott, who revealed that Sampson would need X-rays to determine the extent of the injury.

Kevin Johnson, a transfer from Richmond, stepped in and threw for 159 yards and three touchdowns as the Leathernecks tried to rally from a 24-3 deficit.

“Kevin did a great job for us,” Elliott said. “Next man up, his number was called. He’s played football, he’s got experience.”

“I know how to step in and do my job,” said Johnson, who took over late during his freshman season at Richmond and started two games for the Spiders in the FCS playoffs. Johnson threw two touchdown passes in the span of 48 seconds in the fourth quarter as the Leathernecks closed to within 31-24 before Tennessee Tech answered with a touchdown drive to finish the win.

Johnson was sacked three times and threw two interceptions.

“I had two turnovers, so that’s not good,” he said. “I didn’t help my team.”

This may become Johnson’s offense to run if Sampson is out for a while.

It’s just the latest sea change for the Leathernecks, who have to figure out a way to weather the waves.

It’s a week off, then the rest-of-the-season journey through arguably the most difficult FCS conference.

“It sucks losing,” Ratkovich said. “I hate losing.”

That’s something Elliott can sense in his team. “This team fights,” he said. “We’re not playing consistent enough, we’re just not playing well enough. We know we have to get a lot of things cleaned up.”

“We’re 0-0 going into the Missouri Valley Conference. Let’s go do it.”

John Bohnenkamp is a columnist and sports reporter for en City Current.

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we'll be right back!

Pen City Current will not publish an e-Edition Sunday, September 29 and Monday, September 30 so we can attend the wedding of a family member. The e-Edition will resume on Tuesday, October 1.

Thank for reading!

love