



Pen City Current

Monday, Nov. 5, 2018 | 11 pages | Volume 2 • Issue 251

Collier goes Sensational with Cordon Bleu for Main Street

Sheri Hawk, left, Savannah Collier, center, and Fred Knoch prepare to serve a sausage, spinach and tortellini soup at Saturday's Sensational Chef fundraiser for Fort Madison Main Street at SiP in Fort Madison.



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - For close to a decade, Fort Madison's Main Street has been serving up five-course meals as part of an award-winning fundraiser in downtown Fort Madison.

After foregoing the spring edition of Sensational Chefs, Main Street volunteers opened up SiP, who offered the space for the Saturday evening festivities to the warm smells of food prepared celebrity chef Savannah Collier of Fort Madison.

Collier, the coordinator for the Fort Madison Chamber of Commerce, didn't just fill the role. She has a couple years of formal training, a lifetime of informal training compliments of mom Sheri Hawk. Hawk was in the kitchen with Collier helping put the event together.

The night's courses consisted of an opening appetizer of cucumber hummus bites, then followed with a spinach, tortellini, and sausage soup. Then guests were treated to a salad that Collier said she found on Google

See **DINNER**, page 4

Tuesday elections should be tight races

People have been at the door knocking a couple times a week. Democrats mostly, trying to shore up votes. I'm a registered Democrat, but I would have had conversations with foot soldiers of Republican candidates.

I know who I'm voting for in the major races and I believe in the sanctity of

going to the polls. I have this huge pet-peeve with people trying to manipulate me. As consumers of all things, we're bombarded on a daily basis with manipulators, but there's something about someone trying to convince me to vote early that bugs me.

I've had the chance to sit down with each candi-



Beside The Point

Chuck Vandenberg,
Pen City Current - Editor

date in the local elections. Republicans Jim Steffen, Jeff Reichman, and Joe Mitchell, and Democrats

Rich Harlow, Jeff Kurtz, and Jason Moats. We didn't invite federal legislators to

See **ELECTIONS**, page 2

EMPTY NEST

By Curt Swarm



29 years sober... and counting

November 3rd, 1989, 2:00 a.m., all alone, and blind drunk, I fell through the glass top of my coffee table, cut myself to smithereens, and almost bled to death. Like an Iowa tornado ripping through a slum, laying the ground work for reconstruction, my whole life changed for the better. They say you have to hit bottom. I hit it real hard.

November 3rd, 2018, 10:00 a.m., happily married, age 70, I ran the Miles and Memories 5k hosted by the Great River Health System in West Burlington, like a healthy old man with 20 good years left in him, thanks to sobriety and the grace of God.

I hadn't run a race in four, maybe five years. The last race I ran, I had gotten a flu and pneumonia shot the day before. Following the race I felt sick to my stomach, and my arm swelled up like a melon, turned red, and I thought I was going to die. At 6:00 a.m. on Sunday morning the following day, I called the "Nurse Hotline" on my health insurance card to see if I should go to the emergency room. I got some cranky woman out of bed and was candidly told that the hard exercise might have interacted with the inoculation and maybe I should consider not running. I took her advice. The following day the swelling went down. No more running or pneumonia shots for me! I then proceeded to gain weight.

Last November, Ginnie and I started a self-concocted diet-and-exercise program called E-and-E—Eggs and Exercise. We have our own hens so have plenty of farm fresh eggs. We cut out the carbohydrates (bread, potatoes and sweets), concentrated on protein and 30 minutes of aerobic exercise daily and, as of race day, my sobriety birthday, I have officially lost, count'm, 45 lbs! Ginnie has lost 30. We both feel great and are enjoying being able to wear clothes we haven't been able to get into in years. It's also fun buying new, smaller-size outfits. (If my feet would only get smaller.)

"Be nice to yourself." That was something a friend told me years ago to celebrate my sobriety birthday. I

See **SWARM**, page 8

Advertiser Index

ClassifiedsPs.6-7	Lee County Health Department..... P.3
Fort Madison Community Hospital P.2	Pen City Current.....Ps.6-7
Great River Regional Waste Authority P.8	Professional Services..... P.6
Green Oak Development.....Ps.9-11	Public Notices..... P.7
Griffin Muffler & Brake Center P.5	Rashid Pharmacy & Wellness P.4
Harvestville Farm..... P.4	Scotts Miracle-Gro Company P.7
Lee County Bank..... P.4	Test Kitchen Education Foundation P.8

News Index

From the front.....Ps.2,4,8
Local News..... Ps.4,8
Lottery Numbers..... P.2
Opinion.....Ps.2,8
Weather..... P.8

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Opinion/Lottery Numbers

It's time to elect those politicians that aren't party driven

ELECTIONS - Continued from Page 1

sit down because we are hyper local, but we have an opinion there, as well.

For centuries print news outlets have given their opinion on candidates and it's a dicey game, unless the readership remembers that it's just an opinion, albeit, we believe, an educated opinion.

As editor/co-owner of Pen City Current, I spent close to an hour with each of the above mentioned candidates and we'll get into that shortly, but at the outset, in Iowa's 2nd Congressional District in the U.S. House of Representatives, we would support Dave Loebsock to continue to serve in that position. Dr. Christopher Peters didn't really spend a lot of time in the area, not even close to the amount of time Loebsock spent and continues to spend in our area. That's a harrowing prognostication of whether we would really be in his sights.

Loebsock has also continued to push for rural connectivity, a very important issue in rural Iowa. He's also represented well in terms of public safety, Internet safety, and has kept close tabs on economic development efforts for Iowa's smaller communities.

Locally, I would blacken the oval for Republican Joe Mitchell for Iowa's 84th District House seat. Mitchell, although just 21 and fresh out of college, brings a more middle-of-the-road approach to politics that's enticing. He said he wouldn't have voted for the Chapter 20 overhaul as presented, as he said it went too far. Mitchell also has an unexpected amount of experience in navigating the state capital and has connections, which gives him a head start.

Republicans who toe the party line aren't of interest to me, because politics is just too polarizing at all levels. Moats' concerns and efforts are real where mental health and the safety of our correctional officers are concerned, but to me he seems a bit out of touch on important issues like education, privatized health care, and small business advocacy, all crucial elements to rural Iowa. Mitchell just seems a bit more rounded and willing to do what's best for Iowans despite party affiliation. We just hope he is...who he says he is.

In the Kurtz/Reichman state's 83rd District House race, I found both men deeply concerned for local Iowans. I was concerned when Democrats Kurtz and Loebsock showed up for a rally with local duck hunters. It seemed as though they were making political hay out of a hot-button issue. Politics has to be more serious than creating opportunities to keep your face in front of voters, especially where you have no standing. It's no different than showing up at Fort Madison High School to look at the trades program. Clint Kobelt, Jim King, and the rest have a wonderful, state-recognized program there, no doubt.

But the timing seemed to be a little politically convenient. We passed on the event as our fairness doctrine would have required a Republican event to balance. Rest assured we'll continue to write on the successes of our schools and their respective programs.

However, Kurtz appears to be the candidate who will step up across lines and is willing to look and listen to his better angels and not the demons of party loyalty. He's certainly from a blue-collar background and understands the importance of collective bargaining, the hassles of privatized health care, and the importance of funding public education, among other things. He also has many years working in the capital on behalf of railroad workers.

I found Jeff Reichman to be engaging, informed, and concerned about southeast Iowa. His push for more funding for vocational programs and taking a hard look at the diminishing value of a college education are attractive stances. But he does appear to be spoon fed a bit on several important issues, like public education funding, IPERS, and privatized health care. He, and Jim Steffen, who I'll get to next, both had almost the exact same lines on college graduation rates and privatized health care. With all that being said, that race is a pick'em and I genuinely believe both men would represent this part of the state well.

The race between Steffen and Democrat Rich Harlow is one of the most puzzling, but Harlow may seem to be the best choice simply because he's been at the meetings. Steffen has declined to attend meetings because he didn't "want to get into that drama" but he said he's kept up with all the documentation and minutes. But there's something to be said about someone who doesn't want to go through the drama of the meeting, until he's elected. That's where the sausage is made. You miss a lot not being in there.

Harlow, despite some questionable sign placements that prompted warnings from election officials, will tell you over and over he cares about the people of Lee County and wants to help those people. Anyone running for election wants to help, but he's shown through actions his commitment. It was election time and people seize opportunities when their name is on the ballot. But it was the only real glimpse we got of the candidates in action.

Steffen's military record and stories of his tours, as well as Reichman's decades serving his country, aren't lost on those of us who live under the blankets of freedoms they helped provide. But politics is engagement, and Steffen missed an important opportunity to show the voters his engagement, despite apparent efforts behind the scenes. Politicians don't always work behind the scenes.

So cast your ballot, that's the important thing. Elections have never been more important. Don't go to the polls because of what is written here, but do some homework and cast your ballot for the person you believe will make dinner table conversations more to your liking.

In case you haven't been following along, Holy Trinity head volleyball coach Melissa Freesmeier is taking her Crusaders to their ninth straight state tournament appearance. First round starts Wednesday night against a No. 7 Montezuma squad that dismantled New London on Tuesday night. Action starts at 8 p.m. at the U.S. Cellular Center in Cedar Rapids - but that's Beside the Point.

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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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4 25 26 41 47
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Powerball: 26
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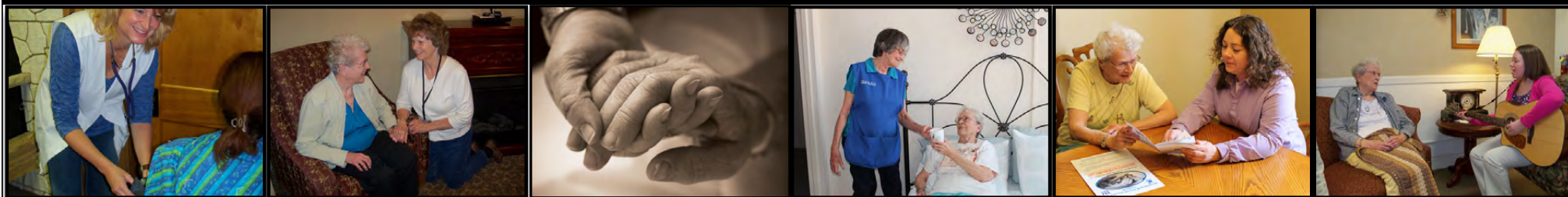


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From the Front

Collier dishes up family recipes for Main Street fundraiser

DINNER - Continued from Page 1

as something different she hadn't created before.

"It was a salad I found online and I thought it looked really good. It has pears, goat cheese, craisins, and maple balsamic dressing over spring greens," Collier said. "The dressing is very different and I was nervous about it, but it is actually very good."

A garlic butter asparagus went with the entree of Chicken Cordon Bleu and twice baked potatoes, which were followed up with caramel cheesecake bites and coffee.

"Chicken Cordon Bleu was one of my favorite meals growing up because of my mom. It's kind of a spin off hers and that was one of my favorite things of hers growing up," she said. "I knew I wanted to do the chicken, but the other things I Googled because I wanted a lighter soup due to the heavy entree. The salad I just wanted something different and this is pretty different."

Aside from hanging around her mom's apron in the kitchen growing up and then more as an adult, Collier graduated from Iowa State University with a degree in hospitality management. That degree she said focused on restaurants, but she's used the degree to foster a career in event planning with various organizations including the Amana Colonies and now the Fort Madison Chamber.

"I've kind of always been in the kitchen because of my mom. She was always cooking when I was growing up," Collier said. "And then when I went to college I took a lot of food courses at Iowa State. I did a simple food class and then a quantity food course, where we actually ran a restaurant in the bottom of our main building. We ran that and I really got into cooking then."

She said planning and preparing the meal, which she said took about 10 days to pull together, brought her back to her college experiences and she realized how tough running a restaurant can be.

"And I don't know that I could do this all the time. It's a lot of work. It's intense. Events are too, but my gosh this is really tough," she said.

Denicia Wright, the coordinator of Fort Madison Main Street, said information about the event went out about three weeks ago and the meal sold out quickly.

Several local businesses jumped in to help the event as well. Lee County Bank was the premier sponsor of the night. Fareway and Hy-Vee donated red and white wines and Swed Coffee provided after dinner coffees for the patrons.

Members of the Fort Madison Main Street board served the courses and worked the rooms, talking about the downtown program.

Main Street Coordinator Denicia Wright said the event will raise about \$1,500 outside of the sponsorships.

"This sold out in less than a week and, in fact, we oversold. We were only supposed to sell 25 but we end up selling 30, which was fantastic. It made it a little tight in there than we expected," Wright said.

She said plans are in the works to bring some different ideas to the fundraiser in order to freshen up the event.

"We usually do two a year, we had to cancel the spring and just did the fall one. But next year we've got some new things geared up to breathe some new life into it and hopefully we'll have a really great chef in the spring. We're waiting to hear back from him."



Fort Madison Chamber of Commerce Coordinator Savanna Collier put on a feast for about 30 at SiP bistro on Saturday night as part of the Fort Madison Main Street Sensational Chef series. At right, Collier adds craisins to her spring salad.



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

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Classifieds/Public Notices

the classifieds

PUBLIC NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICE
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Board of Supervisors
Regular Meeting
Agenda
DATE: TUESDAY,
November 6, 2018
MEETING
CONVENING TIME:
9:00 A.M.
LOCATION:
Correctional Center
2530 255th Street,
Montrose, IA
AGENDA

Pledge of Allegiance
 Approve Agenda
 9:01 a.m. Public Hearing for Amendment of FY19 County Budget
 Consider Approval of Resolution Amending FYI 9 County Budget
 Consider Approval of Amended Appropriations Resolution
 Consider Approval of Contract with Maximus for Cost Allocation Plan
 Consider Approval of October 23, 2018 Board Minutes
 Consider Approval of Claims
 Public Input
 Discussion on Powdertown Sanitary Sewer Systems
 Discussion on Restructuring County Attorney's Office
 Consider First Reading of Engine Braking Ordinance
 Consider Approval of Letting Date for Pavement Markings on County Roads
 Review and Consider Bids for Steps at North Court-house
 Consider Approval of Resolution Temporarily Raising Credit Card Limit for Ryanne Wood Consider Approval of Resolution Raising Credit Card Limit for Ross Braden
 Consider Approval of 2018 Weed Commissioner Report
 Consider Approval of Class C Beer Permit for Dollar General, West Point
 Consider Approval of Cigarette Permit for Dollar General, West Point
 Consider Approval of Tax Abatement Resolution
 Consider Approval of Military, Homestead and Disabled Vet Tax Credits for FY18
 Personnel Actions:
 A. Step Increase-Health Department (3)
 B. Promotion-Health Department (2)
 Reports:
 A. Recorder's Report of Fees Collected
 B. Manure Management Annual Update for

Sandy Bottom Swine in Des Moines Township
 C. Manure Management Annual Update for Mehmert Farms in Pleasant Ridge Township
 D. Manure Management Annual Update for Newberry Site #64887 in Des Moines Township
 Commission or Committee Reports
 Adjourn

PUBLIC MEETING -
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PUBLIC NOTICE
FORT MADISON
COMMUNITY SCHOOL
DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
WORK SESSION
November 5, 2018
6:00 P.M.
Media Center - High School
AGENDA

Call meeting to order and determination of a quorum
 Recognition of guests
 Approve the agenda
 High School Guiding Coalition Discussion
 Announcements
 November 13, 2018, American Education Week Breakfast, All Buildings, 7:30 - 8:15 a.m. (Central Office 8:00 - 9:00)
 Adjourn

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Please include photo (color or black & white), veteran's name, branch of service, tour(s) of duty, your name and contact information in case of questions. A brief personal message is also welcome.

Submissions are due by the end of the day Thursday, November 8th.


SAMPLE LISTINGS



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Local News/From the Front

Gulberg featured FMAAA November artist

BY BRIAN RIGGS
FMAAA Director

Annie Swarm Gulberg is the feature artist at Ft. Madison Area Arts Association this November bringing "Dreamlands and More" with her. This vibrant world of oil color and texture welcomes you in from the crisp cold, warming you with a style to cozy up to like a warm cup. Reception for Annie occurs November 9th from 5-7pm at 825 Avenue G. Sunnybrook of Ft. Madison is the sponsor for the exhibition. Annie will finalize the Lunch-ala-Art program year with a talk on November 30th at noon.

Annie has returned to her hometown of Mt. Pleasant after 16 years in Milwaukee. She graduated with a BA in Art from Wisconsin Lutheran College and worked in the printing/publishing industry. Like many from small rural towns, she gravitated back to her initial roots to

raise her two sons with husband Nils. She offers art lessons in her studio in Mt. Pleasant. She loves the rich, vibrant color of oil, and Her love of painting, as well as encouragement from a wonderful art teacher, sent her to college for that source in the first place.

Annie has created her own wonderland environments based on Dreamlands, "Those places in our minds, dreams and hearts that are connected to reality or based on a real place, but filled with our interpretation. Adding vibrancy and fantasy with thick paint and bright colors, these are the landscapes we remember when we close our eyes." For Annie the business always begins with the color, than texture, than subject matter. She reflects, "I always simplify shapes...it adds to the mystery, not just as you see it. It leads one to more interpretation."

. Viewing available all month Tuesday-Saturday from 10am-5pm.

A run to celebrate sobriety

SWARM - Continued from Page 1

did then, and I did this time, too. Wanting to look my best on race day, I went out and bought a new warm-up suit. With temps in the 40's at the start of the race, the warm-up suit felt great. For running the race, I had selected a long-sleeved Iowa State shirt, which is taking a risk in Hawkeye country, Burlington. However, with both Iowa and Iowa State ranked nationally, no one gave me grief.

At the Miles and Memories 5k (3.1 miles), I failed to place in my age group since runners 60 and over are all lumped together. But, hey, I ran my first race in years, on my sobriety birthday. I'll take that to the bank any day. My plans are to run a few more 5k's, get my time down to a respectable pace, then try some 10k's, then half-marathons, then...oh forget it.

Ginnie and I went out for dinner and a movie with some friends after the race. I won't mention any names, but there's a restaurant in Yarmouth that has some mouth-watering food and classic atmosphere. The movie we selected was "Bohemian Rhapsody", about rock group, Queen. It's an outstanding movie, and one of Queen's signature songs I thought quite appropriate for my sobriety celebration. "We are the champions, my friends. And we'll keep on fighting 'til the end." The tune is still in my head. Here's to 20 more years of sobriety and happiness!

Have a good story? Call or text Curt Swarm in Mt. Pleasant at 319-217-0526, email him at curtswarm@yahoo.com or find him on Facebook. Curt's stories are also read at 106.3 FM in Farmington.

National Recycling Day is November 15th

Now is the time to start preparing our world for a better future!

JOIN THE MOVEMENT!

Implement these simple steps to create a healthy footprint!

Reuse
Instill new life into items you would normally throw away.

Go Paperless
Decrease your need for paper products. Choose paperless statements, use digital shopping lists & other documents.

Go Waste Free
Make a conscious effort to stop using your waste bin. Recycle or compost any items that have an end-of-life solution.

Compost
Build or purchase a composting bin for food & yard waste. Use your composted goods to build a healthy garden in the spring.

Buy Recyclables
Only purchase what's made to be recycled. Look for the recycling symbol on the packaging.

Create Space
Create an indoor space for all your recyclables. Recycling bins available at our Fort Madison & Keokuk facilities.

Backyard composting improves soil quality & makes for healthier plants!

5-DAY WEATHER FORECAST

MON 05 Nov	Moderate Rain High - 47.9° F Low - 46.7° F
TUE 06 Nov	Partly Cloudy High - 45.6° F Low - 32.6° F
WED 07 Nov	Light Rain High - 39.6° F Low - 26.0° F
THU 08 Nov	Light Rain High - 36.7° F Low - 36.0° F
FRI 09 Nov	Moderate Rain High - 49.5° F Low - 46.3° F

[OpenWeatherMap](#)



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WOODLAND HEIGHTS

E S T A T E S
FORT MADISON, IOWA



— OPEN HOUSE —

November 3rd, 4th, & 5th

11am—4pm

Fort Madison, Iowa



P: 319-470-2540

FB: Green Oak Development—Fort Madison, IA

E: jillian@greenoakdevelopment-ia.com

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Price: \$315,000



Pond View Condo



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3 –4 Bedrooms—3 Full Baths—
2 Car Garage
Finished 9ft Walk-out Basement
2,900 sqft Finished
500 sqft Storage
Price:\$330,000



Woodland View Condo



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2 Car Garage
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1,680 sqft Finished
Price: \$245,000



Woodland View Condo



Move in Ready
4 Bedrooms—3 Full Baths—
3 Car Garage
Finished 9ft Walk-out Basement
2,800 sqft Finished
500 sqft Storage
Price: \$330,000



Phone: 319-470-2540 Email: jillian@greenoakdevelopment-ia.com

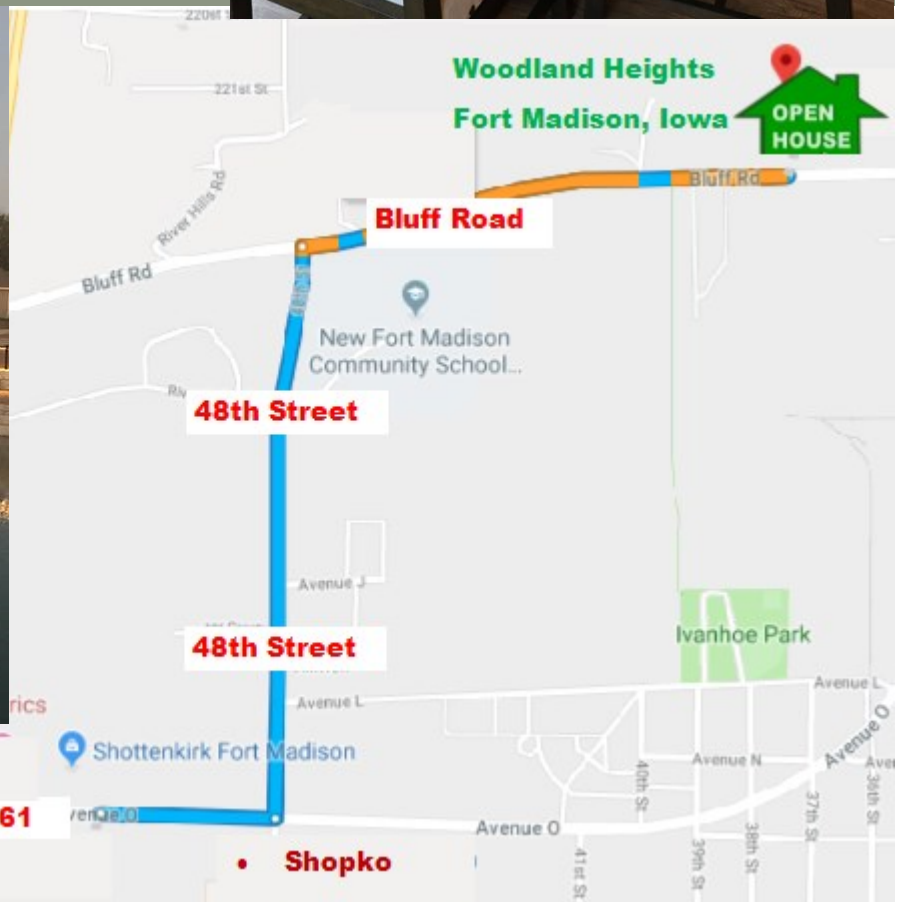
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