



Pen City Current

Wednesday, April 17, 2019 | 8 pages | Volume 3 • Issue 96



Bigfoot booked for Lee County Fair

PCC STAFF

DONNELSON - For the first time ever, the Monster Truck Racing League invades the Lee County Fair in Donnellson, Iowa for one huge night of monster truck excitement on Friday, July 12.

See the nations biggest and best Monster Truck Racing League trucks flying high on a huge outdoor course as they compete to earn points towards the 2019 national championship. The event will feature a variety of different monster truck competitions including a Tailgate Ripping Wheelie Contest, Full Throttle Racing a No Time Limit Freestyle Showdown!

The Monster Truck Racing League line-up features four fan favorite monster trucks, which is headlined

by the original monster truck, BIGFOOT! Joining this action-packed event will be some of the region's best ATV Racers.

Plus, fans will have the opportunity to get up close to the monster trucks, meet the drivers, take pictures and get autographs during the Monster Truck Racing League Pre-Show Pit Party. The Pre-Show Pit Party is included with your paid admission to the show.

Bring the whole family for a night of fun and excitement! Be sure to arrive early as BIGFOOT will be on display on the midway for Kids Day starting at 12:30 PM.

See FAIR, page 3

City mulling options to fix downtown sidewalks, curbs

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – Downtown business owners may still get new sidewalks and curbing despite the sinking of a project that would have infused \$1.5 million into Avenue G's deteriorating paving.

At Tuesday's regular meeting of the Fort Madison City Council, a representative from HR Green and Associates told the city council that the city would be able to get one full block done and a portion of another with the money available.

HR Green are the engineers that told the city they could get initially four blocks done for the \$1.5 million grant, which is money the city is paying in interest on loans secured for improvements at the waste water treatment plant.

Under the program the money can only be used for storm water improvement projects within the city. Regular city improvements like regular street and sidewalk rehabilitations or other standing city projects are not eligible

for the funding unless they target better stormwater stewardship.

Now city officials are looking at possible reconstruction of all curbs and sidewalks without the pavers, planters, and subsurface that was being planned to better handle storm water runoff.

Property Works Director Larry Driscoll said the project would carry a cost of about \$300,000 with the city paying \$150,000 to \$200,000 and property owners being assessed \$1,500 over 10 years for their share of the costs.

Driscoll also suggested a franchise fee that would help with some of the costs.

Mayor Brad Randolph said the city needed to do more investigation of the funding to get the work done to make sure the city's portion of the funding can be allocated.

Councilman Chris Greenwald said he'd heard many of the downtown businesses were relieved that the project was on thin ice.

"Another spin to this is that 50% of the business owners downtown were relieved when this project went away. They were scared to death of the construction interrupting business," said Councilman Chris Greenwald.

See COUNCIL, page 8



GREENWALD

Gabbard to visit Fort Madison's Sub Arena today

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – Congresswoman, and 2020 Presidential hopeful U.S. Rep. Tulsi Gabbard (D-Hawaii), will be stumping in southeast Iowa on Wednesday afternoon.

Gabbard, a Democrat who was first elected to Congress in 2012, will be at a meet-and-greet and Sub Arena beginning at approximately 3:30 p.m. Wednesday.

The stop is part of an eight-city swing through Iowa this week including stops in Iowa City

and Muscatine today. She spent time in the Des Moines metro area on Monday

Gabbard has served on the Homeland Security and Foreight Affairs committees in Congress and currently serves on the House Armed Services and Financial Services committees.

She is a 16-year veteran of the Army National Guard and is one of the first female combat veterans ever elected to Congress. She is currently a major in the Army National Guard.

Gabbard was also the vice-chair of the Democratic National Committee from 2013 to 2016.

Gabbard is also scheduled to be in Mt. Pleasant at 1 p.m. and Burlington at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday.



GABBARD

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Obituaries/Local News

OBITUARIES

LOIS M. CAVANAUGH

Lois M. Cavanaugh, 93, of Fort Madison, Iowa passed away Saturday, April 13, 2019 at The Madison.

She was born on June 7, 1925 in Chicago, Illinois, to Ziska and Sarah Argast. She married Thomas Cavanaugh in 1948, and he preceded her in death in 1960.

Lois lived most of her life in Nauvoo, and was a graduate of Nauvoo High School and Gem City Business College. She worked at Sheaffer Pen Company for 35 years, and was a member of Christ Lutheran Church in Nauvoo. She especially enjoyed traveling to all 50 states and Canada, and on several cruises.

She is survived by her daughter, Suzette Cavanaugh Singer of Seaside, California. She was preceded in death by her parents and husband.

No services are planned. Private burial will be at Nauvoo Cemetery. A memorial has been established for Christ Lutheran Church, and contributions may be left at the Barr Memorial Chapel. Online condolences to the Cavanaugh Family may be made at 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.

OBITUARIES

LARRY LEE DEMING

Larry Lee Deming, 76 years, of Fort Madison, Iowa died at 2:57 am Tuesday, April 16, 2019 at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics, Iowa City, Iowa. He was born June 26, 1942 in Oregon, the son of Dora Frieda (Gilbert) Deming. On October 21, 2000, he married Christine Alice "Tina" (Thomas) Ahlen in Nevada.

Larry was a Navy Seal and served during the Vietnam War. He was a Residential Advisor with Sierra Nevada Job Corp.

He is survived by his wife, Christine Alice "Tina" Deming of Fort Madison; one daughter, Mary (Lance) Kehn of Ottumwa, Iowa; John (Tami) Ahlen of Fort Madison; Don (Teresa) Ahlen of Fort Madison; and Mark Ahlen of Iowa; nine grandchildren and eight great grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents; father-in-law and mother-in-law.

No formal services are planned. A memorial has been established, and contributions may be left at the Barr Memorial Chapel. Online condolences to the Deming Family may be made at www.barrmemorialchapel.com.



Donations to Rotary's \$100k in 100 days can be done online

New online portal makes giving easier

PCC STAFF

FORT MADISON – The Fort Madison Rotary

has made it even easier to make a donation to rehab the band shell and do other Central Park Improvements.

The group announced last month that it was launching a \$100K in 100 Days campaign to fix some termite damaged support structures in the park's bandshell as well as other needed improvements to the structure. The committee is also looking at replacing lighting in the park and rehabilitating the Statue of Liberty.

Additional funding needs for the park include \$6,000 to \$8,000 for repainting the band shell, \$30,000 for new lights in the park, and at least \$12,000 to refurbish the Statue of Liberty, as well as other upkeep.

Anyone wishing to

make a tax-deductible donation online can do so at the following link:

<https://www.pencitycurrent.com/rotary/>.

Those wishing to make a tax-deductible donation to the effort can do so by sending donations to the Fort Madison Rotary Club, P.O. Box 100, Fort Madison, Iowa 52627. Checks should be made out to D6000 HEF and a tax-deduction letter will be sent to the donors.

The club's annual city-wide Picnic in the Park is scheduled for June 23, so club members decided to make the fundraising campaign a \$100,000 in 100 days to celebrate their 100th birthday. The Picnic in the Park will be the final day of the 100-day campaign, which will kick off today and run through June 23.

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Pen City Current

Founded in 2016



P.O. Box 366 | Fort Madison, IA

Member LION Publishers
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Pen City Current and www.pencitycurrent.com are products of Market Street Publishing, LLC. Pen City Current is published Sunday through Friday mornings.

Lee County News/Lottery Numbers

LCHD rolls out senior produce boxes again

Submitted article

LEE COUNTY – Last year Live Healthy Lee County (LHLC) started the Senior Produce Box Project. The goal of the project was to provide fresh produce donations at senior living and meal sites. The other goal was to have at least two participating sites. The project ended with seven sites, and over 4,400 pieces of donated produce. In 2019, LHLC hopes to see the success grow.

“All of the sites from last year have signed on again to participate, and we have a couple more we are working on getting signed on,” said Emily Biddenstadt, Lee County Health Department Community Health Program Manager and LHLC coalition facilitator. “Our biggest challenge is receiving donations. We work with several producers, but the average gardener can donate as well.”

The yellow and green produce donation boxes will be located at Donnellson Housing, Heritage Center (Keokuk),

Hillview Village (Fort Madison), Mississippi Terrace (Keokuk), Newberry Center (Fort Madison), Park View Apartments (West Point), and River Terrace (Keokuk). Denmark Star Park will also have a community table. Anyone interested in donating fresh produce to the project can leave the donations in the produce boxes that are located in the community rooms.

“Since we are still receiving grant funds for the project we are needing to track as much donated produce as possible,” Biddenstadt said.

At each site is a binder with a tracking form. No personal information is needed, just the type of produce being donated along with the amount. If someone is unable to drop-off their donation they can call the Lee County Health Department.

Lee County Health Department received funding from the Iowa Department of Public Health and SNAP-Ed to plan and coordinate the sourcing and distribution of fresh fruits and vegeta-



bles. The project is not to take away from producers who accept Senior Farmer’s Market Nutrition Program, but to get fresh produce in the hands of those who are unable to attend a market.

“We do receive donations from some farmer’s market vendors, however we do not receive them every week. We highly encourage seniors to take advantage of the Senior Farmer’s Market Nutrition Program. That way, if they are able, they can attend a market to pick their own produce, while helping a local producer,” she said.

Last year also saw the start-up of the

LHLC Garden at the Lee County Conservation site. That project has also grown this year with the addition of a garden bed. The ISU Extension & Outreach plans on continuing their summer Youth Garden Camp where they teach kids about gardening, when produce is ready to be picked, and how delicious fresh produce can taste.

The biggest challenge of these projects is the need of volunteers. If anyone is interested in donating their time to helping deliver produce, assisting at the LHLC Garden or at the garden camp they can contact Biddenstadt at (319)372-5225.

Senate approves child mental health bill

DES MOINES - Gov. Kim Reynolds released the following statement after the Iowa Senate voted in a strong bipartisan manner to pass HF 690, legislation to create a statewide children’s mental health system:

“Today we moved closer to establishing a first of its kind statewide children’s mental health system, one of my top priorities for this year. Iowans understand this crucial effort has the potential to improve and even save lives. I commend the Iowa Legislature on their bipartisan approach to get this done and look forward to signing this bill once it reaches my desk.”

The vote in the Iowa Senate was 46-2.

Monster Trucks newest addition to fair

FAIR - Continued from Page 1

FRIDAY, JULY 12, 2019
 Pre-Show Meet & Greet - 5:30 PM to 6:30 PM
 Showtime – 7:00 PM
 TICKETS on sale the day of the event:
 Adults - \$15

Youth (Ages 4 to 12) - \$10
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 For more information on this exciting rain or shine, family friendly event, please visit www.leecountyfairiowa.com or www.monstertruckracingleague.com.

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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 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

4/15
4 10 20 24 30
Lucky Ball: 3

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Pen City Current encourages you to play responsibly.

Sports

Fairfield girls too much for Fort Madison

Trojans bring two of state's best in Gaskell, Charoenkul as Lady Hounds fall 8-1

BY ETHAN LILLARD
PCC SPORTS

FORT MADISON – For Fairfield senior Anatta Charoenkul, Tuesday's matchup with Fort Madison appeared to be much like any other. For Fort Madison's Lanie Kuntz, Tuesday was going to be the one of the toughest matches she would play all season.

With Charoenkul and No. 2 singles player Yana Gaskell, probably the best one-two punch in the state, in tow, the Trojans handed Fort Madison an 8-1 loss in Fort Madison.

Kuntz battled back multiple times during her match with two-time state champion Charoenkul, but the three-peat hopeful came away with an 8-0 victory. The Bloodhounds No. 2, Larissa Ferrill, may not have been playing a past state champion, but she was paired up with one of the best underclassman she will see this year in Yana Gaskell. Much like Kuntz, Ferrill played her best possible match, but Gaskell proved to be too much, coming away with another 8-0 sweep.

Zoe Ramatowski nearly gave Fort Mad-



Photo by Ethan Lillard/PCC

Fort Madison's Lanie Kuntz, left, and Larissa Ferrill share a fist bump during their doubles match on Tuesday at Fort Madison High School. The two lost their doubles match 9-7 and Fort Madison lost the match 8-1. At left, Ferrill, returns a shot in her No. 1 singles match against undefeated Yana Gaskell.

ison a tally in the win column, but fell short 9-7 against Fairfield's No. 3, Nellie Higdon. The Bloodhounds No. 4, Kirklynn Nafziger, was the lone singles competitor to record a win for Fort Madison Tuesday, as Lily Cadwallader dropped her set 8-4 against Tess Paton. Alyse Schmidt pushed Fairfield's Destiny Gridley to an 8-8 tie, but Gridley shut out Schmidt in the tiebreaker 7-0 for the win.

Doubles were more successful for the Hounds in terms of total points scored, but not in terms of wins. Kuntz and Ferrill teamed up in an attempt to takedown

Charoenkul and Abby Schaefer, but fell just short 9-7. Ramatowski and Nafziger paired together to face the combo of Gaskell and Higdon, but the underclassman was too much, helping Fairfield come away with the 8-2 win. Cadwallader and Schmidt were the final pair of Hounds in doubles, dropping their set 8-5 to Paton and Gridley, giving Fairfield the 8-1 win.

"The final score does not show it, but we put up a good fight tonight," Fort Madison Head Coach Jeremy Swink said. "It's no secret how tough Yana and Anat-

ta are. There is no doubt they are the two best players in the state, props to Larissa and Lanie for being up for the challenge to take them on.

"Those two aside, our three through six matches in singles were competitive, our girls fought and didn't give up. We still have a few things we need to work on, but I am proud of our girls tonight for not giving up."

Fort Madison will have another crack on their home court Thursday as they take on Mount Pleasant in a makeup game from March 26.

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Sports

Hounds win CL boys invite

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

DONNELSON – Personal records continue to fall as the boys on the Fort Madison track team brought home another first-place finish in what was supposed to be a rebuilding year with two new co-coaches.

Fort Madison's Ethan Deacon brought home his first top finish of the year setting a new personal best for him in the shot put with a heave of 41'-3.25". Deacon also took 2nd in the discus with a spin of 121'-4".

Other top finishers for the Hounds, who won the meet overall with 129 points, included Matt Hellige in the mile run. Hellige continues to drop times in the distance runs for the Bloodhounds. Monday he finished the mile run in 4:37.43, a full five seconds faster than his Thursday time in Mt. Pleasant.

Hellige took 2nd to West Hancock's Miles Sheppard in the 3,200

meter run with a time of 10:16.86. Hellige ran a 10:01 at the Mt. Pleasant boys invitational Thursday.

In an event the Hounds have entered sporadically throughout the season, the shuttle hurdle relay team of Macaden Rhoer, Mathew Meierotto, Isaiah Miller and Jakob McGowan finished with a top time at 1:12.31.

"Those boys just stepped in and ran that, granted there were only three teams in it, but this is what we get from these kids. They just step in and do their best and are scoring points for us," said co-head coach Mike Schneider.

"We've battled injuries and absences all year and we're able to mix and match and put kids together and they have success. Sometimes we just say "Hey, we need some points so we gotta have a sixth or better, and they go get it."

Junior Quentin Schneider was tops in the 400-meter hurdles with a season best 57.89 to earn

10 points for Fort Madison. The 4x400 relay team of Brock Califf, Garrett Hannum, Andrew Schaefer and Schneider was another first-place finish for the Hounds with a time of 3:37.10.

Fort Madison got another second-place finish in the 800-sprint medley with Schaefer, Michael Mosen, Califf and Hannum running a time of 1:44.72.

Califf took third in the 400-meter dash with a time of 56.04, while the 1600-meter medley of Gavin Wiseman, Romeo Maestro, Mikey DiPrima and Rhoer came in third with a time of 4:15.29. Hannum had the other top three finishes for the Hounds with a 2:12.74 mark.

Several other Hounds had personal bests at the meet including senior Alec Craft through his season's best in the discus with a throw of 102'-8" good enough for sixth place. Schaefer had a personal best in the 200-meter dash, when he pulled a 24.18 good for fifth place.

Meierotto ran the 800 in 2:17.78, his best time ever and finished 6th overall.

Freshman Hayden Wolfe ran his best 1600 with a time of 5:21.67 which was good enough for fourth place. Miller placed fourth in the 110 hurdles in 19.31, his best time of the year.

"It was a great team effort tonight. Lots of guys PR'ed and everybody contributed in some way," said co-head coach Chad Hannum.

Hawks finish 6th

Hosts Central Lee got 2nd-place finishes from sophomore Chance Hocker in the 200-meter dash and 100-meter dashes enroute to 51 points and a 6th place finish in the eight team field.

The Hawks 4x100 team garnered a 3rd place finish with a time of 45.74. Wyatt Schulte earned a 3rd place mark in the 400-meter hurdles, while Tyler Hopp took 3rd in the 100-meter dash with an 11:95 mark and the 4x200 relay team took 3rd with a mark of 1:36.41.

Fort Madison takes down Fairfield on the road

FAIRFIELD – The Fort Madison Bloodhound boys tennis team continues to plow through opponents with a 7-2 win Tuesday night in Fairfield.

The Bloodhounds top five players have not lost in singles or doubles action all year.

At No. 1 singles, senior Sam Avery dispatched AJ Greiner with 6-0, 6-0 shutout. Jason Thurman, playing at No. 2 singles downed the Trojans' Noel Peterson 6-4, 6-1 and Vasin Thurman downed Will Sheppard 6-2, 6-3 in the No. 3 spot.

At No. 4, junior Reed Fehseke knocked off Blake Holden 6-4, 6-3. Fehseke is in his first year of high school tennis and has not lost a match in singles or doubles play.

The Trojans got their two wins at Nos. 5 and 6 singles, when Brian Parcel defeated Bryce Workman 6-4, 6-3 and then Michael Holt downed Fort Madison's Levi Sissel 6-2, 6-0.

Fort Madison then swept the doubles action with the Thurman brothers playing Greiner and Sheppard to a 6-1, 6-0 loss. Avery and Fehseke knocked off Peterson and Holden by the same 6-3, 6-3 scores.

Workman and Sissel teamed up to down Fairfield's Dylan Barras and Sam Mattson 6-3, 6-4.

Fort Madison will test their undefeated season when the Hounds travel to Burlington to take on the Grayhounds at Dankwardt Park on Thursday afternoon.

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This year, do your part to keep our environment clean, too!



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Qualifications include: Bachelor's degree in the natural or physical sciences or related field; OR an equivalent combination of experience and education which provides the required knowledge, skills and abilities. One (1) year of experience in public health or related field preferred.

Please send or email cover letter and resume to Michele Ross, Administrator at mross@leecountyhd.org or to PO Box 1426, Fort Madison, IA 52627 by April 29, 2019. LCHD is an EOE

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RSVP/United Way of the Great River Region is seeking a Community Garden Coordinator

Do you like to garden and work outdoors?
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If interested and for more information, please call – Tammy at 319-372-8043.

United Way of the Great River Region supports non-profit organizations and agencies that provide programs addressing needs in health, education and financial stability to residents in Clark, Hancock, and Lee Counties.

United Way of the Great River Region serves all of Lee, Hancock, and Clark Counties. All donations are tax-deductible.

Administrative Assistant
for Homecare, Hospice, and Environmental Programs

Lee County Health Department is seeking a full-time Administrative Assistant for Homecare, Hospice, and Environmental programs. This position will be responsible for scheduling, data entry into various computer programs, and other general office duties. The applicant must have knowledge/experience in Microsoft office programs and general office procedures. Must have organizational and communication skills and an ability to work efficiently in a team environment. If interested send resume to Tammy Wilson at twilson@leecountyhd.org by April 26, 2019. Lee County Health Department is an EOE.

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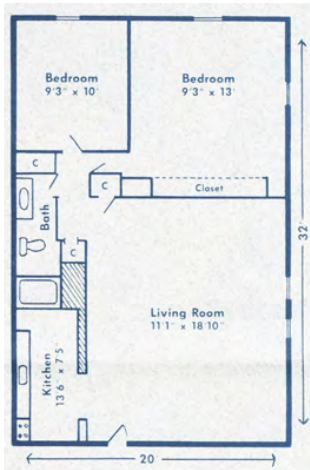
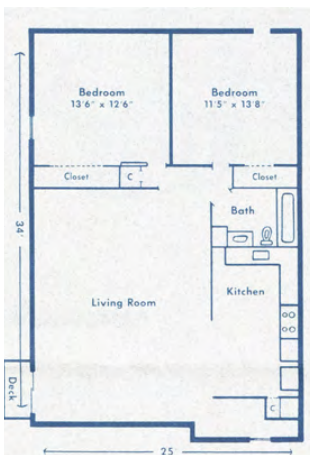
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City may take storm water funding to parking lots

COUNCIL - Continued from Page 1

“It would be interesting to get that organized and get their input, especially if we’re talking about special assessments.”

The project garnered just one bidder at \$3.4 million coming in \$1.9 million over HR Green’s projected estimate of \$1.5 million to redo Avenue G’s curbs and sidewalks from 6th to 10th Street. With the city not having the funds to make up the difference, the city is moving to redoing two city-owned parking lots with storm water improvements at an estimated cost of \$850,000.

The two lots would be the parking lot directly behind city hall and the city lot on the southeast corner of Avenue F and 8th Street.

Greenwald asked Driscoll if he thought parking lots were the best use of the money.

“I do now,” Driscoll said.

Councilman Matt Mohrfeld asked if the \$850,000 was a legitimate estimate.

“With all due respect, is that going to come in at \$2.5 million?” Mohrfeld asked.

Driscoll said the first step would be to do soil borings to see what was under the lots and, if it didn’t make sense, they could pull back before spending too much money.

CURRENT-LEE

Fort Madison Community Clean up

The Fort Madison Chamber will be holding it’s annual Community Clean up on Saturday, April 20, from 10 a.m. to noon. with registration at Central Park. Free lunch will follow in the park. Call the Chamber at 372-5471 to register and for details.

Holy Family Parish breakfast

Rolling Hall will be the site for a Easter Sunday, April 21, pancake breakfast beginning at 9:30 a.m. A free-will donation will help defray costs of the HFP youth attending the National Catholic Youth Conference in Indianapolis.

FM Partners Paint-A-Thon

Volunteers are need for the annual Paint-A-Thon taking place April 22-27 in Fort Madison. Contact Fort Madison Partners at 372-5471 to volunteer.

BSC Auction, Social Tour

The 2nd annual event will be held on April 27, 2019 beginning at 1 p.m. at the Baxter Sports Complex with transportation by SEIBUS. Dinner will follow by Fat Jimmy’s Smokehouse and the auction begins at 7 p.m.

Salute to Small Business Breakfast

The Fort Madison Chamber will be holding it’s annual Salute to Small Business Breakfast on Thursday, May 9 beginning at 7:30 a.m at Quality Inn & Suites.


Soroptomist Princess Tea Party

The annual Princess Tea Party is set for Saturday, May 11th at Quality Inn & Suites in Fort Madison. Ages 3-5 will attend from 10 a.m. to noon, while 6 and up will attend from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Registration deadline is April 5. For more information email Dr. Lauri Wondra at laurisorop@gmail.com.

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5-DAY WEATHER FORECAST


WED 17 Apr

 Moderate Rain
High– 72.5° F | Low – 62.2° F

THU 18 Apr

 Light Rain
High– 56.5° F | Low – 46.9° F


FRI 19 Apr

 Partly Cloudy
High– 54.4° F | Low – 45.5° F

SAT 20 Apr


 Clear
High– 61.8° F | Low – 50.6° F

SUN 21 Apr

 Light Rain
High– 69.9° F | Low – 56.9° F

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