

Don't forget Social Media! Check us out on the following sites @pencitycurrent: **INSIDE:**

Local auto service center launches diaper collection drive.

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Tuesday, November 6, 2018 |7 pages | Volume 2 • Issue 252



Election 2018 Polls open from 7 a.m to 9 p.m.



Getting ready

Lee County Auditor's office staffer Sara Helenthal pushes a voting machine into a U-Haul on Monday morning behind the North Lee County Office building. The staff was setting up voting stations around Lee County in preparation for today's general election. For a complete listing of polling locations and other voter information, visit, <u>https://www.leecounty.org/electionmain.htm</u>

Council snuffs out fireworks in city limits

City to revert back to previous ordinance banning fireworks

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG PCC EDITOR





Randolph were absent from the meeting. The motion would still allow permitted fireworks displays such as the Fort Madison Partners city display and would allow the use of low-grade sparklers, smoke bombs, and snakes on residential property, but wouldn't allow anything that is explosive propelled.

Community Thanksgiving in full swing

Thanksgiving hotline number goes active Nov. 12

> BY CHUCK VANDENBERG PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – With the Thanksgiving holiday just around the corner, the Fort Madison Community Thanksgiving Dinner Committee is busy finalizing last minute details. With over 900 meals served to the community last year, efforts are being ramped up this year.

Fort Madison Chamber of Commerce Coordinator Savanna Collier, said the Nico Pothitakis family has agreed again to purchase the turkeys for the annual lunch. Last year the committee used

more than 700 pounds of turkey. "We're ticking right along," Collier said of this year's planning. "The committee has done it for so many years, pretty much everyone knows what's

going on."



"We go through 700 lbs. of turkey and COLLIER the prison will be cutting up and cooking the vegetables for us again. They enjoy that and they're also going to be providing some cookies this year."

She said the committee will be looking for volunteers to help staff two days of preparation and a day of serving. She said the Community Thanksgiving Hotline will be active beginning Nov. 12 and those looking to volunteer their time or make a donation to the event can do so by calling the hotline at 319-371-1277 beginning Nov. 12.

"We're already getting people calling but we will have the hotline ready starting that Monday," Collier said.

The dinner will take place on Thanksgiving Day, Nov.

and possible action on the use of fireworks within city limits, turned into the latter at the last minute.

At Monday's regular meeting of the Fort Madison City Council, a proposal was put on the table to limit the use of fireworks in the city to six days. Last year, residents could use fireworks for up to 60 days including the upcoming Christmas and New Years holidays.

However, a motion from Councilman Bob Morawitz to eliminate fireworks within the city limits got a second from Councilman Matt Mohrfeld and then passed unanimously, 6-0. Councilman Chad Cangas and Mayor Brad City Manager David Varley said the proposal was put in front of the council, but the council had two options, to end the use of fireworks in the city or consider the proposal and possibly amend it.

Chris Greenwald, serving as Mayor Pro Tem in Randolph's absence, started the conversation saying he would prefer a no vote on the use of the fireworks, but would consider allowing them in a place away from homes like Rodeo Park.

See COUNCIL, page 3

22, in the Fort Madison High School Multi-Purpose Room from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Volunteers will be available to assist with trays, beverages, and of course bringing a choice of homemade pies to tables.

Deliveries are available to shut-ins and those with transportation issues. Deliveries will be made on Thanksgiving Day from 10:30 a.m. – 1 p.m. To arrange for a delivery, residents can call the Thanksgiving Ho-tline phone at 319-371-1277 beginning Nov. 12th. Area

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Scan the code to

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News Index



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

For the Record

For the Record

Fort Madison Police Department report

11/2/18 - 9:12 a.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 200 block of Avenue E. 11/2/18 - 10:42 a.m. - Fort Madison Police arrested Joseph Ryan Manning, 18 of Fort Madison in the 1700 block of 35th Street on a warrant for failure to appear on 5th degree theft. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held. 11/2/18 - 6:51 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of a hit and run in the 4800 block of Avenue O. 11/3/18 - 2:20 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of a stolen vehicle in the 600 block of 8th Street. 11/4/18 - 3:22 a.m. - Fort Madison Police arrested Derek Dale Bolton, 24, of Hamilton, III., in the 1200 block of Avenue H, on a charge of OWI-1st offense. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.

11/4/18 - 12:52 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of a burglary in the 300 block of 23rd Street. 11/4/18 - 1:26 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 4800 block of Avenue O... 11/4/18 - 7:13 p.m. -Fort Madison police responded to a report of a larceny theft in the 800 block of Avenue F. 11/5/18 - 8:17 a.m. -Fort Madison police responded to a report of a burglary in the 3400 block of Avenue N.

Lee County Sheriff's Department report

11/02/18 - no time listed - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Michelle Leanne Eid, 27, of Fort Madison, no address provided, on a warrant for

violation of a no-contact order. She was released after paying a fine. 11/02/18 - 8:37 a.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies cited Ivan LeRoy Swearingen Jr., at the intersection of Hwy 61 and Country Club Lane on a charge of driving while barred. He was released on a promise to appear. 11/02/18 - 7:24 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Ryne Steven Sackman, 26, of Fort Madison, at the sheriff's office, on a warrant for a judgment hold. He was released for weekend time served. 11/02/18 - 7:52 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Darin Michael Bleything, 31, of Fort Madison, at the sheriff's office, on a judgment hold. He was released for weekend time served. 11/02/18 - 9:14 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Justin Dwain Britton, 35, of Wever, in the

3700 block of 185th Street, on a charge of domestic abuse assault. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and released on bond. 11/3/18 - 7:02 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies responded to a one-vehicle accident where a vehicle driven by William Edgar Sites, 58, of Waconia, Minn., was headed southbound on Hwy. 27 when a vehicle in front him dropped a large rock that bounced up and hit his windshield. No injuries or citations were issued. 11/3/18 - 9:21 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies responded to a two-vehicle accident on Hwy. 61 near 175th Street. According to the sheriff's report, a vehicle driven by Collin Reed Butler, 17, of West Burlington struck the back end of a vehicle driven by Thomas Kermit Gregg, 68 of Wever, while Gregg slowed to turn onto 175ht Street. No injuries or citations were



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reported at the scene. 11/4/18 - 12:20 a.m. -Lee County deputies responded to a report of a one-vehicle accident in the 2900 block of Hwy. 61. According to the sheriff's report, a vehicle driven by Ashten Keith Watson, 16, of Keokuk, swerve to miss a deer and came to rest in the right hand ditch. No injuries or citations were reported at the scene. 11/4/18 - 12:04 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies responded to a one vehicle accident on Argyle Road. According to the sheriff's report a vehicle driven by Ivy Lynn Fullmer, 22, of Argyle, lost control and entered a field damaging a fence. Fullmer indicatedin the report she hydroplaned and lost control. She was cited for driving with a suspended license, failure to produce insurance and failure to maintain control. No injuries were reported. 11/4/18 - 6:00 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested George Chalmer Brown, 34, Brighton, at the

Lee County Jail on a war-

rant for 4th-degree theft. 11/4/18 - 6:56 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies cited Sasha Mariah Noel, 26, of New London, in the 3400 block of Hwy. 218 on a charge of possession of drug paraphernalia. She was released upon citation. 11/5/18 - 1:12 a.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Christopher Edward Capps Guzman, 19, of Fort Madison near mile marker 27 on Hwy. 61 on a charge of escape from custody. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held. Those listed above are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law

Fort Madison Fire & Rescue report

11/2/18 - Fort Madison Firefighters responded to one false alarm and four medical calls. 11/3/18 - Fort Madison Firefighters responded to two medical calls, and a police department assist. 11/4/18 - Fort Madison Firefighters responded to one medical call, and two lift assists.



For more information about this hot deal please call Victoria at (319) 372·4233, or send an email to: VMatlock@Kensington-Evergreen.com.



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Local News/Lottery Numbers

Muscatine woman's autopsy shows accidental death

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - Autopsy results on a 20-year-old woman who was found dead south of West Point on Aug. 2 show the woman died from blunt force trauma.

Damain Hamann, 28, of Morning Sun has been charged in the case with leaving the scene of a fatality accident, which is a class D felony in Iowa.

Sadie Alvarado, 20, of Muscatine was found alongside 235th Avenue, south of West Point, in Lee County on the morning of August 5th. Lee County Attorney Ross Braden said the case is proceeding with the initial charges but no additional charges are expected to be filed.



"We looked into this case very closely considering circumstances and had a thorough investigation by the Lee County Sheriff's Department and the state DCI," Braden said. "We got autopsy results recently and given everything we discovered in the investigation considering the autopsy and manner

considering the autopsy and manner of death, we've ruled this accidental.

There's nothing at this time that's inconsistent with Mr. Hamann's story."

Braden said Hamann will still be charged, however, with leaving the scene.

"That being said, we still have charges on him regard-

ing the Class D felony. We still allege he violated the law. He was required by law to remain on scene and contact the authorities and the emergency response personnel. He didn't do that and drove back to Morning Sun that early morning and didn't return until the following day and then turned himself in. We still maintain that he violated law."

On Sunday at approximately 10:42 a.m., Aug. 5th, the Lee County Sheriff's Office was contacted in reference to a deceased female found on a gravel road located on 235th Avenue, south of West Point, Iowa, in Lee County.

A pretrial hearing in the case has been tentatively set for Nov. 16, with a jury trial set for Dec. 4 in North Lee County Court.

City approves new contract with RRWA

COUNCIL - Continued from Page 1

"For me it's gonna be real simple - No," Greenwald said. "These have no place being in residential areas. I'm concerned about the public, especially the military people who have come forward. I run a place down there on the highway and I never served. And I get to do that because of those that have. So if they don't want it, I don't want it."

Morawitz, who revealed at the meeting that's he's battling stage 4 cancer, pushed the motion because there was concern from members of the audience that the measure wouldn't be passed in time to be on the books before the December window that would allow more fireworks to be used within the city. Morawitz said he was going to go through chemotherapy and would continue to represent the voters to his fullest ability. The council then offered their full support for his battle.

"We're talking about banning everything and I don't agree with that," Mohrfeld said. "Kids should be able to do sparklers, snakes, and that kind of thing. But there's concern here that this wouldn't be passed in time for these people."

The measure will now be put into an ordinance that will be the same language the city had two years ago, which carries a \$500 fine for use of non-approved fireworks. Police will have authority to confiscate any fireworks not allowed if a citation is issued for illegal use. The citation will also transfer to the parents of any juvenile found using or discharging non-approved fireworks.

In an unrelated issue, the council approved a new contract with Rathbun Regional Water Association with an increase in the charge to the water association of about 19 cents per 1,000 gallons. City Public Works director Larry Driscoll said it costs the city about \$1.60 to produce a thousand gallons so the city was making about 10 cents per 1,000 gallons last year. The increased rate will be \$1.89 with a minimum purchase of 22 million gallons per month.

The RRWA also purchases water from Burlington, Mount Pleasant, and Keokuk and Mohrfeld, who voted against the new service contract, asked what other communities were getting paid for their water. Driscoll said he didn't have actual figures in front of him, but said Burlington was charging about \$1.60/1,000 gallons, Mt. Pleasant was getting \$2.40/1,000, and Keokuk was approximately \$2.13/1,000. He said, however, that both Keokuk and Mount Pleasant were supplying far less water than Fort Madison.

The motion to approve the new contract passed with a 5-1 vote.



IOWA LOTTERY WINNING NUMBERS

Lotto Drawings



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Group Benefit Partners' Justin Pieper addresses the Fort Madison City Council Monday night about city health insurance rates, which took a 2.8% bump for next year.

FMCH Welcomes Dr. Josh Sirucek



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Powerball [®]	Wed & Sat	8:59 pm	9:59 pm
Lotto America [™]	Wed & Sat	8:59 pm	10:00 pm
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Pick 4 - Midday Pick 4 - Evening	Daily Daily	Noon 9:40 pm	12:20 pm 10:00 pm
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Current-Lee/Weather

CURRENT-LEE

American Legion Post 82

The American Legion Post 82 will meet 7 P.M. Tuesday, November 6, 2018, at the Eagles Club , 4821 Avenue O. All members and those interested in The American Legion are encouraged to attend. For more information contact, Dan Vice, Commander at 319-470-7377 or George Shields, Adjutant at 319-371-5755

Main Street Wine Walk glass pre-sale

Wine Walk glass presale at SiP (n) a coffee and wine bistro, from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Nov. 9

Veteran's Breakfast at Sunnybrook

Each month on the third Tuesday of the month, Sunnybrook Assisted Living hosts a Veteran's Breakfast from 7 a.m. to 9 a.m. at 5025 River Valley Road in Fort

Madison.

Community Blood Drives

The following are November Fort Madison blood drives; Fort Madison Housing Authority Blood Drive from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. Nov. 12 in the Hillview Community Room at 1102 48th Street. Contact Pati Toops to donate. Nov. 13 at the Madison from 2:30 to 5:30 p.m. in the Activities center. Contact Janelle Case at 470-4011. Lincoln Elementary gymnasium on Nov. 15 from 2:30 to 5:30 p.m. - contact LeAnn Cashman at 372-2896; Fort Madison Public Library, 1920 Avenue F.contact Blood center at 800-747-5401 ext. 1281.

Thanksgiving 101

The Fort Madison Public Library will host author Rick Rodgers

National Recycling Day is November 15th

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

Create Space

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

Compost

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

> Backyard composting improves soil quality & makes for healthier plants!

"Thanksgiving 101", in a discussion Thanksgiving recipes Nov. 13 at 5:30 p.m.

RSVP Nutrition Class

RSVP/United Way of the Great River Region is hosting a free-nutrition class at the Resource Center, 3421 Avenue L in Fort Madison on Nov. 14 from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. To sign up call 319-372-8043 or stop by the center.

Business After Hours

The Kensington and the Fort Madison Chamber are hosting a Business After Hours on Nov. 15 from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the Kensington 2210 Avenue H in Fort Madison, to celebrate the Kensington's 15th year in business in Fort Madison.

giving

The annual Community Thanksgiving meal in Fort Madison will be held beginning at 11:30 a.m. at the Fort Madison High School on Thursday, Nov. 22 at FMHS. Volunteers and donations are needed. Email the chamber at chamber@fortmadison. com for details.

Coats for Hope 5K

The annual Coats for Hope 5K Fun Run will take place at the St. Paul Shelter House 2020 Locust St. on Dec. 1 beginning at 9 a.m. rain or shine. \$20 entry fee or donating a children's coat in good shape. Click here for registration and additional details https:// www.pencitycurrent. com/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/Coats-4-Hope-2018.pdf.

Community Thanks-

5-DAY WEATHER FORECAST

TUE 06 Nov —



Clear Skies High – 45.1° F | Low – 32.8° F

WED 07 Nov



Cloudy High– 37.4° F | Low – 21.6° F

THU 08 Nov



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FRI 09 Nov



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Local News/Classifieds

Griffin's combining diapers with diagnostics

New donation seeks 10,000 packages of diapers for local Community Action

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - Griffin Muffler & Brake Center is spearheading a Diaper Drive for the month of November for the families of Lee County in need of an adequate amount of diapers.

Please help the families of Lee County with a need for diapers by donating a package today. Drop off areas are at Griffin Muffler & Brake Center, 535 Ave G, all Connection Bank offices, and MidWestOne Bank at 926 Ave G.

Nannette Griffin, owner of the auto service center said the idea is unique to the area.

"I thought what a different idea that hasn't been done in our area. So I contacted Dolly Stancil with Community Action to see if they had families in need and she told me about the shortage in the county," Griffin said. Griffin said she then start-



ed doing some research and found Iowa has three diaper banks with one in Cedar Rapids. She said she wanted the efforts to directly impact the area, so all the diapers collected will go to Community Action.

She said she wanted to reach out to Human Resource directors in the county to see if they incorporate the effort with employees with maybe some sort of contest. She said she would offer to pick up the collections.

"I have been overwhelmed by not only the need in Lee County, but all across the nation. Families received help by way of groceries, but not for diapers, wipes, or basic needs like laundry soap, etc. Wouldn't it be awesome if we could get 10,000 packages of diapers collected?"

According to Community Action of Lee County, there are approximately 1,200 children ranging from infants to toddlers in need of diapers. Community Action can only give 6 diapers at a time to families asking for help. There is a huge shortage.

The National Diaper Bank states there should be up to 12 diaper changes a day to keep the child healthy and promote development. That's over 14,000 diapers a day in Lee County alone at an average cost of \$80.00 per month for one child. The number of diapers for one year per child is 2,457 according to <u>DiaperPlanner.com</u>. The break down is 0-3 Months up to 10 per day, 3-6 Months up to 7 per day, and 6-11 Months up to 5 per day.

Most working parents rely on child care. Most child care facilities require parents to provide diapers for their child. Without child care, parents can't work or attend school. 72% of Iowa mothers are in the workforce. The national average is 63%. Early Head Start provides diapers for infants and toddlers.

DataUSA statistics show there are over 16,000 workers in Lee County. 16.4% of Lee County families are below poverty rate. If 75% of the employees of Lee County would donate one package of diapers, that would total 12,000 packages of diapers.

If you have any questions or ideas on how to make November Diaper Drive Month for Lee County, please call Nannette Griffin at 319-372-2478 or email <u>griffinmuffler@gmail.com</u>.

Dinner committee looking for pies, volunteers again for 2018 meal



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Dental Assistant or Hygienist

Lee County Health Department is seeking a part time contracted dental assistant or dental hygienist to work within our school-based sealant program. Applicant must be a licensed assistant or hygienist with at least one year of clinical experience. Please send resume to Rachael Patterson-Rahn, Oral Health Program Coordinator at <u>rprahn@leecountyhd.org</u>. LCHD is an equal opportunity employer.





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DINNER- Continued from Page 1

residents are encouraged to dine at the high school, but carry outs will be available after 12:30 pm.

Collier said the committee appreciates the efforts of the greater Fort Madison business community and Fort Madison Community School District who partner with them to help make this free event happen.

"It is the goal of the group to see that no one is overlooked this Thanksgiving so getting the word out to community members in need and to those who may not have a family to share a holiday meal with is of utmost importance," she said.

Volunteers are needed to chop, mix, bake, count, greet, serve, deliver, setup, and cleanup in various shifts on Tuesday (4-8pm), Wednesday (8am-4pm), and Thursday (8am – 3pm). Volunteer slots are limited so calling the hotline starting on the 12th is encouraged.

="We are in need of pie donations, as well. Financial donations continue to allow us to bring the free meals to those in the community who otherwise may not have one. All monetary donations go to the Community Thanksgiving Fund and are used for Community Thanksgiving expenses," Collier said.



Classifieds



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Did you know that November is National Diaper Drive Month and 1,200 infants to toddlers 3 years of age in Lee County are in need of diapers. 1 in 3 American families don't have enough diapers to keep their babies (and toddlers) clean, dry, and healthy? That is a staggering number of struggling families. With your help and the help of our community, we can make a difference for our Lee County families today!

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