

# PEN CITY CURRENT

It's Black & White and Read all over

Wednesday, August 2, 2023 | 7 pages | Volume 7 • Issue 134



www.pencitycurrent.com

## Chief unveils new FD plans

**PUBLIC WORKS, TOO:** Current estimates show both buildings at a cost of \$27M

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG  
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – Preliminary plans were unveiled Monday night in front of the Fort Madison City Council for new Fort Madison Public Works and Fort Madison Fire Department buildings.

Fort Madison Fire Chief Joey Herren opened plans for the first time in public for a \$11.9 million fire station to be located where the current public works building stands on Avenue L. He also rolled out designs

for a \$14.6 million public works building on ground owned by the city near Rodeo Park.

“In 2022, we hired a firm to put this together and see what our needs are, and then we come to the final product of this first phase of it,” Herren said.

The fire department would be a six-bay building with housing for 10 firefighters. The city has recently purchased two houses near the public works property to secure enough land for the new construction.

See COUNCIL, page 4

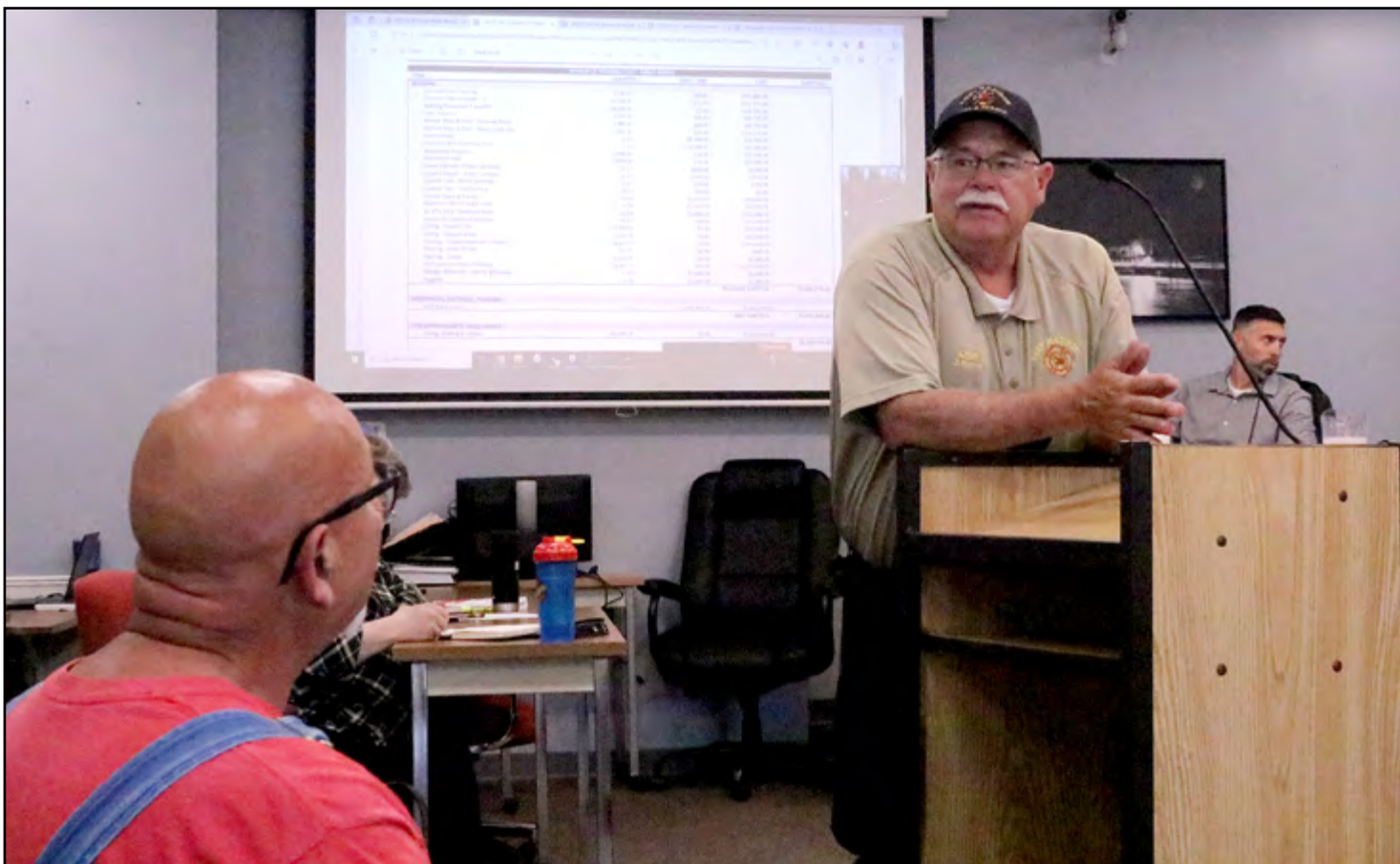


Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Fort Madison Fire Chief Joey Herren goes through a slide presentation with designs and cost estimates for a new fire department and public works department Tuesday in Fort Madison.

### NATIONALS

## Local trap shooters bring home hardware in Sparta

Submitted article

SPARTA, Ill. - Oppressive heat and humidity didn't seem to bother the Fort Madison Clay Crusher Trap Team shooters who participated in the AIM Grand National Championship event in Sparta, Illinois this past weekend.

Temperatures were in the upper 90's

with a Real Feel of 108 on Saturday as 15 of team members represented Fort Madison in three trap events: Singles, Doubles, and Handicap on Saturday, Sunday, and Monday.

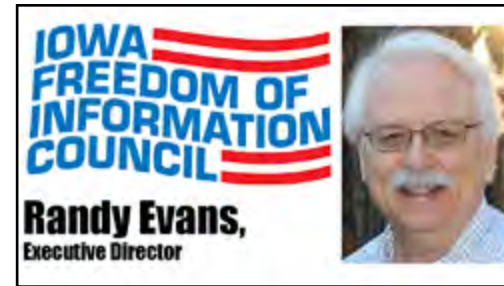
Once again the Clay Crushers were able to bring home trophies and personal bests. There were 1,662 registered youth shooters from all over the nation

who shot over the course of three days ranging from the Pre-Sub (5th grade) thru Junior Gold (College)

“When our team goes to compete at the AIM Grand Nationals, we know that we are facing some of the best competition around the country,” said

See NATIONALS, page 4

### EDITORIAL



## This one may have slipped by all of us

Silly me. I thought I had been paying attention to the issues about which Iowans feel strongly.

You know, things like inflation, taxes, government spending, the war in Ukraine, a new farm bill, water quality, immigration, the federal debt. Those sorts of issues.

But I have spaced off a vital issue in the minds of some in Congress — an issue that apparently has been flying under the radar of Iowans: That issue is aliens from another world.

While Joe and Jane Iowan were fretting last week about drought and the effect of oppressive heat on crops, livestock and humans, some members of the U.S. House of Representatives gathered in a hearing room on Capitol Hill.

The House Oversight Committee came together to get to the bottom of what a group of lawmakers see as a massive coverup by the federal government — that coverup being physical evidence of what some call non-human space vehicles, or unidentified aerial phenomena. You might know these as UFOs, unidentified flying objects.

Should we stand to applaud the members of the oversight committee for not overlooking this issue as they decide what merits their oversight?

Yes, they could spend their time digging into any number of pressing issues. But who among us has not had a recent conversation with our neighbors about unidentified aerial anomalies? Who among us has not been fretting that our government is keeping us in the dark about the scope of the malevolent activity space aliens have been involved in?

David Grusch, a retired Air Force major and career military intelligence officer, has

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### WEATHER

WED 02 Aug ..... Showers & thunderstorms likely, 79° F/ 66° F  
THU 03 Aug ..... Partly sunny & warm, 85° F/ 68° F  
FRI 04 Aug ..... Mostly sunny & warm, 89° F/ 67° F

### IOWA LOTTERY

LOTTO AMERICA 07/31..... 5 11 12 34 40, Star Ball: 9 All Star Bonus: 4  
LUCKY FOR LIFE 07/31..... 8 26 28 30 35, Lucky Ball: 1  
PICK 3 MIDDAY 07/31..... 0 8 5  
PICK 3 EVENING 07/31..... 8 7 1  
PICK 4 MIDDAY 07/31..... 2 0 7 4  
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# Obituaries

## OBITUARIES

### TERESA M. MADDEN

Teresa Marie was born July 5, 1954 in Peoria Illinois, the oldest daughter of Dorothy Casey (Bradfield).

Teresa graduated from Warsaw High School in 1972, she then went on to marry Robert Holmes in July 1975. Jessica Renae was born in June 1976 and Jennifer Diana in February 1978. Teresa and Robert were united in marriage until 1978.



MADDEN

When she met Kevin Madden, little did she know, he would become her very best friend and father of their daughter, Juel Marie, in December 1987. Kevin and Teresa were best friends for a whopping 37 years when she finally...literally finally...said YES to marrying him. They were then not only each other's soul mate but also husband and wife when they married on April 15, 2015.

Teresa had a passion and drive for work like none other and she instilled that same mentality in her children. She held several positions to help support her family through the years. Her most favorite position, other than wife, mom, and mam-ma, was working at South End Plant & Produce (A greenhouse) in Quincy Illinois. A lot of people know her for her love of plants. Her love of plants mixed with her free-spirited heart would lead her to cut "starts" from plants in others' yards and even pull over on the side of the road to grab a few to plant at home. The memories attached to those moments are everlasting and you bet she knew that. Her yard was adorned with multiple

plant beds and fruit trees as well as a decent-sized garden so she had plenty to share with the family and neighbors.

Teresa thoroughly enjoyed baking, arts and crafts, especially with the grandchildren. She loved to decorate for the holidays and not just for herself, but for all the people who would visit her home. She loved preparing a meal that would feed an army just so her family had plenty and in case extras showed up. In recent years, she would make extra plates for the neighbors who didn't have family. She absolutely loved the holidays and wanted others to share that love with her through food and decorations.

Teresa had a very free spirit and enjoyed traveling. She loved riding on the Harley with Kevin, as his Shotgun Rider, on countless road trips. Feeling the wind in her hair and the smell of fresh air was one of her favorite things to do. They shared many rides and she lit up every time she talked about it. She enjoyed music, especially The Beatles, Janis Joplin, and Tina Turner. Seeing Tina Turner in concert was one of her favorite stories to tell.

She had a passion for her family and wanted them around as often as possible. She enjoyed the constant love and teasing from her daughters', "step-in" son, Michael, and her sons-in-law. Although this would often frustrate her, she would then remember that "A child is one of the greatest gifts the world has to offer". We would all love to tell you who the "favorite" is, including the sons-in-law but we all know her love for all of us was the same.

She loved to spend time camping and would go all out with it! You can guarantee you were still getting three meals freshly cooked for you even out in the woods.

Teresa loved attending her children's and grandchildren's ball games, and man, was she proud of her family! You could hear her at any game cheering on her children and grandchildren. She also loved the nachos with jalapeños so it was always a win-win for her! There was never a time she didn't jump at the opportunity to spend time with her

family. Her grandchildren were one of the many lights in her eyes.

The Mississippi River holds a very special place in her heart. She spent many days making a lot of memories with her family there through the years. "Rolling on the River" is where you'll find her spirit these days.

To know Teresa Marie was to know love. As Tina Turner put it, she was "Simply The Best".

Teresa Marie Madden went up to the place that's the best and became "The Spirit In The Sky" on July 23, 2023 at home in the arms of her husband and best friend.

Survived by her husband, Kevin Madden of Centerview MO, children, Jessica (Chris) Nemeskal of Wichita, KS, Jennifer Holmes of Centerview, MO, Juel (David) Martin of Branson, MO, and Michael (Amanda) Guthrie of Holt's Summit, MO. Grandchildren, Brendon (Fallon) Gosnell, Jaydon Gosnell, Dalton Martin, Julian Madden, Lillian-Grace Martin, and great-grandchild, to-be Kynlee Jaymes Gosnell. Her sisters, Donna Sue Skidmore, Terri Kay Guthrie, Diana Pauline Robinson, newly found sister, Martie Vacek and brother, Dewayne Edward Bradfield. Her uncle Edward and wife Lydia Casey. As well as countless cousins, nieces and nephews.

Proceeded in death by her brother, Richard Alvin Guthrie, sister, Deborah Norene Guthrie, her mother, Dorothy Bradfield, uncle, Bill Casey, uncle, James Casey, aunt, Charlotte, and grandmother Norene Gordon.

When you hear the songs "Proud Mary", "Spirit in the Sky" and "Shotgun Rider", we hope you think of Teresa Marie Madden.

~Storms never stop nor do the rainbows~

A memorial service will be held Saturday, August 5th, 2023 Vigen Memorial Home, 278 W. Main St., Kahoka, MO at 11:00 A.M. with Pastor Dean Graber officiating.

A celebration of life to follow in Alexandria, Missouri on Hanley Street at 2 pm. Bring your favorite story, side dish, and chair. All are welcome!

Online condolences may be sent to the family at [www.vigenmemorialhome.com](http://www.vigenmemorialhome.com).

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# PEN CITY CURRENT

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## Obituaries

### OBITUARIES

## EVELYN L. CALVERT

Evelyn Lucille "Peggy" Calvert, 68, of Argyle, Iowa, passed away at 4:34 a.m. Saturday, July 29, 2023, at Southeast Iowa Regional Hospice House in West Burlington, Iowa.

She was born on December 22, 1954, in Mt. Pleasant, Iowa the daughter of



CALVERT

Willard P., Sr. and Lucille (Thompson) Garmoe. On August 9, 1975, she married Gary Calvert in Fayetteville, North Carolina.

She is survived by her husband: Gary; brother: Russell (Sabine) Garmoe of Temple, Texas; two sisters: Debra Garmoe of Fort Madison, Iowa, Cheryl Baumgart of Hockley, Texas and several nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents and one brother: Willard, Jr.; nephew; Patrick.

Peggy served in the United States Army for ten years as a LPN. She enjoyed quilting, attending quilt shows, especially the International Quilt Show in Houston, Texas. She also enjoyed traveling.

Her body has been entrusted to the crematory of Schmitz Funeral Homes for cremation.

The family will receive friends from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m., Friday, August 4, 2023, at Schmitz Funeral Home in Donnellson.

A memorial service will be held at 11:00 a.m. Friday, August 4, 2023, at Schmitz Funeral Home in Donnellson with Pastor Dean Graber officiating.

Burial will be at a later date.

A memorial has been established in her memory.

Schmitz Funeral Home of Donnellson is assisting the family with arrangements. Online condolences may be made to the family at [www.schmitzfuneralhomes.com](http://www.schmitzfuneralhomes.com).



### OBITUARIES

## JOHN C. BEAUMONT

John Carl Dean Beaumont, 73, of West Point, Iowa, passed away at 8:46 p.m. Monday, July 31, 2023 at the West Point Care Center.

Born on December 25, 1949 in Bartlesville, Oklahoma, the son of Carl E. and Carma (Drake) Beaumont. He married Barbara Goerlich in Berlin, Germany, she preceded him in death on June 18, 1995.



BEAUMONT

He is survived by two brothers-in law: Raymond "Red" Wellman of West Point and Peter Goerlich of Berlin, Germany. Also surviving are several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his wife Barbara; three brothers: Alan, Roger, and Donald; one sister Carla; one sister-in-law Eva Wellman; and one brother-in-law Walter.

John retired from the United States Army after 25 years of service. After retirement he moved to West Point and worked security for Securitas.

His body has been entrusted to Schmitz Funeral Home for cremation.

A graveside service will be held at 1:30 p.m. Friday, August 4, 2023 at Calvary Cemetery in West Point with full Military Rites by the Holtz-Geers American Legion Post #668.

Memorials may be made to the West Point Fire and Rescue and can be mailed to Schmitz Funeral Home P.O. Box 22, West Point, Iowa 52656.

Schmitz Funeral Home of West Point is assisting the family with arrangements. Online condolences may be made to the family at [www.schmitzfuneralhomes.com](http://www.schmitzfuneralhomes.com).



### Pen City Current obituary policy

Pen City 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. Reposting of obituaries due to changes can only be requested by the submitting funeral home and will be assessed a \$15 reposting fee.

we'll be back soon!

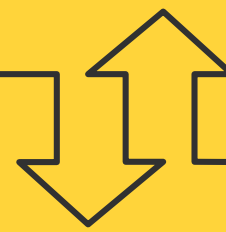
Pen City Current will not publish an e-Edition Wednesday, August 9 through Thursday, August 24 for our annual summer break. The e-Edition will resume Friday, August 25. The news will still be published on our website.

Thank for reading!

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## From the Front

# City may be done kicking can

**COUNCIL** - Continued from Page 1

The building would have living quarters in the back and public space in the front. It would have administration offices for the fire department. Herren said it would be the city's central station and there could possibly be smaller fire houses on the edge of town as it grows.

The two buildings would cost the city nearly \$26 million and Herren said there would very likely be a bond to cover the cost of the construction.

"I know it's a scary number, but we're going to have to do it sooner or later," Herren said.

Two city councilmembers have toured the current facility.

"It's very eye-opening," said Councilwoman Angela Roller.

Herren said the building wasn't going to be cheap and he understood that.

"We're going to have to sit down and look at how we're going to pay for it," Herren said.

Fort Madison Mayor Matt Mohrfeld said the city will obviously look for any grants that might be available, but he cautioned that a good-size bond will likely be required to get the construction done.

"Even if they find some money, there's going to be a substantial bond," Mohrfeld said.

Herren said the city may have to look beyond the typical 10-18 year bond to be able to afford the new structures.

"We have to figure how far to stretch it out. May not be able to pay for it in 20 years, may have to be 30 years or 40 years to get it where it's manageable," Herren said. "We may have to spread that cost out."

He said both buildings are in very bad repair, and probably they are both at end-of-life.

One resident at the meeting said the large public works building will take up a lot of open space where deer roam and wildlife play near Rodeo Park. Herren said he realized that, but said the city owns the property where the public works building will be expanded, so they won't have to buy land for the new construction.

The Parks building already has a building back there so Herren said the city will be expanding that property. He said the city has been pushing these projects for years.

"We're going to have to do it sooner or later. We can't just keep kicking this can down the road. "We tried to do this 10 years or 15 years ago and it was \$4 million," Herren said.

Mohrfeld recommended that the city council vote to keep moving forward on the project. He said Herren has been telling him the city keeps pushing the project off.

"I said, 'Well, Joey, quit kicking the can. You got something you want to say, stand up and say it,'" Mohrfeld said. "I said if you don't put something in front of us, we have nothing to react to."

Mohrfeld said the process hasn't been a quick one and applauded the effort to set up some public meetings to get comments back on the projects.

Roller said everyone did a good job at the fire station explaining what the issues with the structure were and what the needs were.

"I think if the public sees it to, they'll be on board with it," she said.

In other action, the council:

- held a closed session to negotiate a land purchase agreement. Action was taken out of the meeting to continue negotiations with the respective property owner.
- voted 6-0 to approve applying for a REAP grant from the Department of Natural Resources to help fund Phase IV of the P.O.R.T trail.

# Locals give strong showing at nationals

**NATIONALS** - Continued from Page 1

Coach Chris Azinger. "Shooters and their teams do not make this journey to Sparta, Illinois to compete for three days if they don't believe they are not one of the best shooters in the country".

The AIM Grand Nationals started on Saturday with the Handicap competition. Teammates Landon Leenerts and Brett Azinger were each awarded one yard punches by shooting 98 & 97 scores, while Edward Schroeder earned a ½ yard punch for his 96 score. These "punches" increase each shooters yardage that they shoot from making it more difficult in future Handicap events.

For the Doubles Event: former Fort Madison Clay Crusher team members Anna Schroeder and Abram Lorence, who both now shoot for South-Eastern Community College (SCC), brought home trophies. Anna Schroeder won Junior Gold Class C Runner-Up while Abram Lorence finished as Junior Gold Overall Runner-Up in Doubles.

Finally, the Singles Event was held over 2 days (Sunday & Monday), whereas AIM shooters shot at 100 targets each day. Top scores included Edward Schroeder running 200 straight. Byron DiPrima and Arren Harrington both hit their first 100 straights. DiPrima, Anna Schroeder, Landon Leenerts, and Trevor Edwards also hit a 99/100 in Singles.

Edward Schroeder was one of 11 competitors in a shoot off for Overall Singles Event Champion, who each shot a perfect 200/200 in Singles. During the shoot-off between these 11 competitors, Schroeder was able to make it as one of the last two shooters. Edward shot an amazing 272 consecutive targets during the shoot off before missing a target (Note: with the 200 in the competition and the shoot off run of 272, Edwards shot a total of 472 straight Singles targets before missing). Edward finished the night earning the title of Singles Junior Champion. "After the first day, there were 41 shooters that had shot perfect scores of 100/100. That just shows the level of competition that's there at Sparta," added Azinger.

Also, in the Singles event: Byron DiPrima, who competed in the Junior class "A" division, also won Junior Class A Champion after also having to compete in a shoot off. DiPrima shot his first ever 100 straight in Singles after posting a 99 the day before for a combined score of 199/200. "Byron shot personal best scores at Nationals in all events he competed in. He was on fire all week" praised Azinger.

Abram Lorence also won a trophy as a Squad - Singles Class B Champions with squad-mates from his SCC team.

Azinger added, "I couldn't be more proud of these young shooters. Trap shooting is a tough mental game, and you add the heat that we've had down here... it's just tough. It's been fun watching them improve through the years; and I'm proud of all of them."

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Iowa News/From the Front

# USDA grants use for CRP land

DES MOINES -- The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA) State Executive Director Matt Russell, today announced that 46 Iowa counties are now authorized for emergency haying or grazing use of Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) acres for fiscal year 2023. The 26 counties approved for emergency haying or grazing include: Allamakee, Audubon, Benton, Buena Vista, Carroll, Cedar, Calhoun, Cherokee, Clarke, Clayton, Crawford, Decatur, Des Moines, Fremont, Henry, Humboldt, Ida, Jones, Louisa, Marion, Muscatine, Page, Pocahontas, Sac, Shelby, and Washington. With 20 Iowa Counties restricted under Emergency Haying Criteria Based on Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP) authorization: Appanoose, Cass, Davis, Harrison, Jefferson, Keokuk, Lee, Lucas, Lyon, Mahaska, Mills, Monona, Monroe, Montgomery, Plymouth, Pottawattamie, Van Buren, Wapello, Wayne, Woodbury.

Counties are automatically approved for CRP emergency haying and grazing when they reach the D2 (severe drought) level on the U.S. Drought Monitor and are outside of the primary nesting season (May 15th through August 1st). Additionally, the 2018 farm bill also authorized counties with a documented 40-percent loss of forage production to be eligible for emergency haying and grazing. Local FSA County Committees can review forage loss data and make a recommendation to the Iowa FSA State Committee to authorize emergency haying and grazing.

A CRP participant must receive approval for emergency haying from their county FSA Office before any action is taken. The emergency haying authorizations end on August 31, 2023.

A CRP participant must receive approval for emergency grazing from their local FSA office before any action is taken. The emergency grazing period for these counties will end Sept. 30, 2023.

CRP participants are eligible to seek approval for either emergency haying or emergency grazing but cannot do both on the same acres.

The U.S. Drought Monitor is updated every Thursday and new counties may become eligible for emergency haying and grazing. Participants in newly approved counties will need to sign up at their local FSA offices and get approval prior to completing any haying or grazing activity.

# Congress entertains alien chatter

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been one of those worriers. He was a star witness before the oversight committee last week — and some committee members were eager to hear his out-of-this-world claims.

Rep. Nancy Mace, a Republican from South Carolina, asked with a straight face, “Do we have the bodies of the pilots?”

Grusch replied that yes, non-human “biologics” have been recovered.

“You’ve said that the U.S. has intact spacecraft,” said Rep. Eric Burlison, a Missouri Republican. “You’ve said that the government has alien bodies or alien species. Have you seen the spacecraft?”

Because the committee hearing was open to the public, Grusch said he could not disclose “what I’ve seen firsthand.”

Grusch’s testimony did not surprise the committee. He has made statements previously that the federal government has “quite a number” of non-human space vehicles, that one is as large as a football field, that Pope Pius XII tipped the U.S. in 1933 about one such vehicle in the possession of Italian dictator Benito Mussolini, that space aliens have harmed or killed humans here on Earth, that the U.S. government has possession of dead alien pilots, and that the government has hidden the truth about these other-worldly visitors for nearly 100 years through disinformation and assaults.

Sean Kirkpatrick, a career intelligence official, now heads the Pentagon’s Anomaly Resolution Office, where Grusch once worked. Kirkpatrick and his staff are responsible for investigating reports of devices that fly at unusual speeds or trajectories. He told Congress last year that his office has found “no credible evidence of extraterrestrial activity, off-world technology or objects that defy the known laws of physics.”

He said in a statement last week that Grusch’s claims were insulting to government employees who investigate reports submitted by airplane pilots who have had aerial encounters with what they believe are objects moving faster and with more maneuverability than any planes known to exist.

The House Oversight Committee did not call Kirkpatrick as a witness last week. That was not an oversight. Some on the committee have shown themselves to be more interest-

ed in feeding conspiracy theories rather than debunking them.

The hearing last week was portrayed by some as more evidence of the federal government lying to the American people and covering up what the government supposedly has found. Even members who do not buy into the conspiracy theories believe the Pentagon and intelligence agencies need to be aggressive in investigating these reports of unexplained aerial phenomena — to protect airplane pilots and guard against U.S. adversaries developing weapons with never-before-seen capabilities.

Witnesses in a House intelligence subcommittee hearing in 2022 tried to tamp down conspiracy theories and assured members of Congress there was no confirmed extraterrestrial evidence. But there was no tamping down last week by the oversight committee.

Rep. Tim Burchett, a Tennessee Republican, asked Grusch whether people have been harmed or murdered in the government’s attempts to conceal extraterrestrial evidence. Grusch said he knew people who were harmed but had to be careful answering about any murders. Grusch could not provide any corroboration, he said, because that is classified.

Burchett said he wants the oversight committee to visit the locations where he believes alien space vehicles are being stored. “As soon as we announce it, I’m sure the moving vans pull up,” Burchett said.

Even without moving vans loaded with evidence, the House Oversight Committee accomplished its goals with the hearing last week: The committee distracted ordinary Americans for a few days from the issues they really want their elected representatives to tackle, and some on the committee tried to stoke doubt about whether the government can be trusted.

One of those ordinary Americans, a farmer friend in northern Iowa, summed up his feelings of frustration with this Facebook post: “We need to quit looking for intelligent life on Mars and start looking for intelligent life in Washington, D.C.”

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