

Special kids win Drake's 4x100



Photo by Matthew Puntew/MP Media

Fort Madison Schools athletes compete and win the 4x100 Special Olympics race at the 115th Drake Relays Friday, April 2'5, 2025, in Des Moines, Iowa.

DRAKE RELAYS: Lorence 7th in shot put; Dear 28th in 100-meter dash

BY PCC STAFF

DES MOINES – Fort Madison's Brylie Lorence captured 7th place in the Drake Relays girls' high school shotput competition Friday.

She qualified for the Relays along with the Hounds' Julian Dear in the boys' 100 meter dash and Kenden Bowie in the high jump.

A Fort Madison squad in the special Olympics 4x100 meter dash were also on display at the Des Moines event and captured 1st place. The four-person team finished with a 56.90 with a second leg by Nathan Benge. Other runners were Wyatt Bernhardt, Caleb Carson and Trent Chamness.

Lorence got her best throw of the day on her third try of the

morning with a 41'10.75". Her first throw was 37'4.5" and her second got over 40 feet at 40'3.25". She had two more throws over 41 feet with her fourth and sixth throw with her second best being a 41'4.25". She scratched on her sixth attempt. Burlington's Kylee Hill was 4th overall with a 43'6.75" effort on her final throw of the day. She had two other attempts of 42 feet.

In the boys' 100-meter dash, Dear ran in the first heat in lane 8 and put up a time of 11.10 (28th place) Dear had been battling a nagging groin strain and wasn't sure if he would be able to run. He would've needed a 10.87 to qualify for the finals. West Des Moines Dowling's Luke Nevitt won the event with a 10.57.

Fort Madison's Kenden Bowie qualified in the high jump, but was unable to attend do to a family emergency.

COURT NEWS

Gilman gets 20 years for 2024 sexual abuse of wife

FORT MADISON - A Fort Madison man has been sentenced to two decades in prison on multiple counts of sexual abuse.

On Friday, Aaron Joseph Gilman, 46, of Fort Madison, was sentenced to a total of 20 years in prison following

convictions on two charges of sexual abuse in the 3rd degree. The sentences will be served consecutively.

In addition, Gilman was sentenced to one year each on two counts of Invasion of Privacy. These sentences will be served concurrently with each other.

On November 27, 2024, Aaron Joseph Gilman, 46, of Fort Madison was charged with Two (2) Counts of Sexual Abuse in the 3rd Degree, and with Two (2) Counts of Invasion of Privacy.

These charges resulted after a search

See ASSAULT, page 2

COMMENTARY



Antagonist pays an unwanted visit at 4 a.m.

I'm writing this early Saturday morning at about 6:30 a.m. I wanted to write it Friday night after the NFL draft, but I stared at blank screen for literally 15 minutes before slamming shut the little metallic MacBook that is my best friend and worst enemy.

I rolled over frustrated and put on the West Wing. I can put that series on, and I'm not exaggerating here, close my eyes and know every single word that comes out of my phone.

But that didn't happen, I fell quickly asleep and then woke at 4 a.m., and couldn't get back to sleep. I think it's because I was sleeping away from home at my brother's house in a bed I'm probably overstaying my use of. If we cook out and have early plans on Saturday, I usually just stay over. His house is larger than mine and, if his kids are home, I like to be close by. My brother John (that sounds Biblical as I write it) is empty nesting a bit with both kids at school, so I think he and Susie get a little bored. If you know that family, you get it.

So here I am at 4 a.m. with the ceiling fan going. It's comfortably dark and breezy, and if there was a thunderstorm happening it would be perfect for sleeping. No thunderstorm. And the weird anxiety that has enveloped me for the last five years started to creep in like the skinny antagonist of a horror movie. You know the one that always dresses a little punk, is nonsensically frail, has a tilted gaze, and a broken smile. Yeah – that dude.

It has to do with the darkness and how my mind has compartmentalized my life over the past five years.

See ANXIETY, page 8

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WEATHER

MON 28 Apr	Breezy with slight chance of thunderstorms, 84° F/ 61° F	☀
TUE 29 Apr	Slight chance of thunderstorms, partly sunny, 70° F/ 51° F	☀
WED 30 Apr	Showers, 68° F/ 58° F	☀
IOWA LOTTERY		
DOUBLE PLAY 04/26.....	12 20 26 38 40, Powerball: 5	
LOTTO AMERICA 04/26	1 9 14 31 34, Star Ball: 2 All Star Bonus: 4	
LUCKY FOR LIFE 04/26.....	15 38 40 45 48, Lucky Ball: 6	
MEGA MILLIONS 04/25.....	38 40 60 62 70, Mega Ball: 9	
PICK 3 MIDDAY 04/24, 04/25, 04/26.....	515, 732, 872	
PICK 3 EVENING 04/24, 04/25, 04/26	189, 133, 162	
PICK 4 MIDDAY 04/24, 04/25, 04/26.....	4946, 5000, 5698	
PICK 4 EVENING 04/24, 04/25, 04/26.....	2195, 1942, 6172	
POWERBALL 04/26.....	112 14 18 69, Powerball: 2 Power Play: 3	

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Obituaries/From the Front

OBITUARIES

GERALD K. WEST

Gerald “J-Dub” “Jerry” Keith West, 67 of Montrose, IA passed away Sunday, April 20, 2025 at his home.

He was born May 1, 1957 in Keokuk, IA the son of John “Jack” Frederick and Patricia “Pat” Ann Hopkins West. Jerry graduated from Keokuk High School with the class of 1975. He attended Southeastern Community College and received his Associate of Arts and later attended North-western Louisiana State.

Jerry was first united in marriage to Coy Six. To this union, two children were born. They later divorced. On November 11, 2000, Gerald was united in marriage to Laura S. Shankle in Las Vegas, NV. She survives.

Other survivors include one daughter, Jennifer Lipscomb (Mike) of Gainesville, FL, two sons, Jayson West of Keokuk and Jarrett West (fiancé Megan Harkin) of Waterloo, IA, and one granddaughter, Andy Lipscomb of Gainesville, FL. He is also survived by one brother, John West (Jenny) of Keokuk, one sister, Tracey West of Keokuk and several aunts, uncles, nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents.

Jerry was a member of Emmanuel United Methodist in Keokuk and taught Sunday school for a short time.

Jerry was a lifelong sports fanatic and loved all sports. When he was twelve years old he won the State Ping Pong Tournament. One of the joys of his life was coaching and umpiring his children’s youth baseball teams. He was an avid Los Angeles Lakers fan, St. Louis Cardinals fan, Kyle Bush NASCAR fan and Kansas City Chiefs fan. He also enjoyed bowling and had been on several leagues through the years.

A funeral service will be held at 1 p.m., Saturday, at the Vigen Memorial Home in Keokuk, IA. Burial will be in the Sand Cemetery in St. Francisville, MO.

Visitation will be held from 6-8 p.m., Friday, at the funeral home with family meet-ing with friends at that time.

Online condolences may be sent to the family at www.vigenmemorialhome.com.

Prison for FM man who assaulted wife

ASSAULT - Continued from Page 1

warrant was executed on Gilman’s electronics. Two videos were discovered in which Gilman is seen committing sex acts on his wife, who was physically helpless as defined by Iowa law (asleep/unconscious) at the time. The charges specifically allege Gilman committed sexual abuse upon a person who was incapacitated, precluding their ability to give consent on two occasions on or about June 8, 2015, to about Feb-ruary 12, 2022, in Fort Madison. The invasion of privacy charges are a result of his filming the acts without the knowledge or consent of the other person.

On February 19, 2025, Gilman was found Guilty on all charges by a jury of his peers. Sexual Abuse in the 3rd Degree carries an indeterminate sentence of up to ten years (on each count), with a lifetime special sentence, and sex offender registration requirements. Invasion of privacy charges are each punishable by up to one year.

OBITUARIES

ROGER W. COWLES

Roger William Cowles, 79, of Fort Madison, Iowa peacefully passed away on Tuesday, April 22, 2025 surrounded by his loving family. Roger was born on July 5, 1945 at Sacred Heart Hospital in Fort Madison, Iowa to Arthur William Cowles and Enid Frances Cowles. He had two sisters, Julie Mary and Susan Kay. At the age of 4, Roger suffered from rheumatic fever which limited any future sports activity, except of course, golf. Roger graduated as a member of the 1963 class from Fort Madison Senior High School. He then continued his education at Texas Wesleyan University where he graduated cum laude in 1968. He later received his master’s degree from Central Michigan University. Roger’s career began at the Defense Contract Audit Agency in 1967 as GS-4 at the Bell Helicopter Company office. His career then took him to Memphis, Tennessee and eventually to the Headquarters of the De-fense Contract Audit Agency in Washington, DC. While in Washington, Roger worked on Capitol Hill as a staff member for Rep. Robin Beard, R-TN. Roger continued to devote his career to the Department of Defense, in the Pentagon and was Director of Contract Audit and Analysis Division, where he was then promoted to Federal Executive Service. His career led him to being a member of the United States delegation that established the International Science and Technology Center in Moscow, Russia and the Science and Technology Center of Ukraine in Kiev, Ukraine. Roger rounded out his impressive career by being an adjunct professor at the Federal Executive Institute in Charlottesville, Vir-ginia. In January 1999, Roger retired from his government work and began to enjoy the simple things in life. July 4, 2010, he married Mary Lee Morris, who he referred to as his “smokin’ hot wife.” Together they lived a life of love, laugh-ter and made lasting memories with their family. Roger enjoyed working on the computer and playing golf year-round, which was made possible by spending the winter months in his favorite place, Cocoa Beach, FL. During months in Iowa, Roger enjoyed more time on the golf course, going to Tri-State Rodeo every fall and would always be a trooper wearing whatever wacky outfit was required for themed family get-togethers. While Roger wasn’t the best athlete, you could always find him cheering on his favorite teams/players, especially the Iowa Hawkeyes, St. Louis Cardinals, Dallas Cowboys and of course Caitlin Clark. He is preceded in death by his parents and younger sister, Julie Schell-horn. He is survived by his wife Mary Lee, older sister Susan, stepchildren Matt (Jan) Morris and Carey (Brad) Warren. His nephews Travis (Katie) Schellhorn, Aaron (Lindsay) Schellhorn and his grandchildren Jackson and Henry Morris and Charley and Savannah Warren.

A visitation will be held from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. on Friday, May 9, 2025 at King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory. A celebration of Roger’s life will be held at 6:00 p.m. with Pastor Dave Poland officiating. A memorial has been established for his grandchildren’s education. Online condolences to Roger’s family may be left at the King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory website: www.kinglynk.com. Please come celebrate Roger with his family by toasting him with his favorite, a rum and coke. A private burial with family will be held on May 10, 2025.



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Obituaries

OBITUARIES

JOANN M. CRAMER

Joann Marie Cramer, 89 of Keokuk, IA passed away Saturday, April 19, 2025 at the University of Iowa Hospital in Iowa City, IA. She was surrounded by loved ones when she passed.



CRAMER

She was born August 9, 1935 in Keokuk, IA the daughter of Jack and Viola Norder Chambers. She attended school in Keokuk and was a lifelong resident. On March 10, 1951 Joann was united in marriage to Gerald Lee Cramer. He survives. Other survivors include five children, Vicki Briscoe (Tim) of Keokuk, Gerald Cramer, Jr. (Pam) of Largo, FL, Kim Merner of Cedar Falls, IA, Steve Cramer of Keokuk and April Crist (Jamie) of Cedar Grove, WI, eight grandchildren, eight great-grandchildren and eight great-great-grandchildren and two more on the way. She was preceded in death by her parents and her mother-in-law, Viola Cramer “Jerry’s Mom.”

In addition to building their lives together, Gerald and Joann started and built Cramer Real Estate and Auction Service into a thriving local business. They worked side by side for over thirty years until they retired. Upon her retirement she started her second career taking care of her great grandchildren. Joann was involved in many organizations during her years in business. She was a board member of the Hoerner YMCA, Questors, Keokuk Area Hospital, Keokuk Savings Bank, Rotary Club, Keokuk Board of Realtors and was the first female president of the Keokuk Chamber of Commerce among several others. What people did not know is there were countless children that had winter coats, hats, bicycles, shoes, beds and so much more through her generosity. She was truly an angel among us. She wasn’t above giving the “Joani treatment” to a local business urging them to donate items as well when a child was in need. It was her passion to help the less fortunate. Equal to her passion to help people was her desire to stay anonymous, preferring to work her magic behind the scenes.

A memorial service will be held at a later date. Memorials may be made to “IFAPA” Iowa Foster & Adoptive Parents Association, 6864 NE 14th Street, Suite 5, Ankeny, IA 50023. Online condolences may be sent to the family at www.vigenmemorialhome.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.



Lunch Specials

April 28 - May 2

11am - 1pm

Monday, April 28th
Carved Ham, Loaded Potatoes, Corn
Tuesday, April 29th
Tenderloin, Cheese Potatoes, Baked Beans
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 30TH
GOULASH, OREO FLUFF
Thursday, May 1st
Fried Chicken Dinners
Friday, May 2nd
Grilling on the Sidewalk

OBITUARIES

KELLY J. RUSSELL

Kelly James Russell, born on August 24th, 2001, left us far too soon April 19th, 2025, at the tender age of 23. At the time of his passing, Kelly was a resident of Fort Madison, Iowa, where he built a life filled with laughter,




RUSSELL

love, and the occasional playful chaos thanks to his two beloved daughters, Wrenly and Anelia, and the love of his life, Malicya. Kelly had a knack for lighting up a room with his infectious smile and lighthearted laugh. Anyone who knew him could attest that his joy was simply irresistible. His humor was unmatched, and his heart was full of kindness and generosity, always putting others first. His greatest pride, however, was being a father. Wrenly and Anelia were the center of his universe, and he embraced fatherhood with open arms and an open heart. An all-rounder, Kelly excelled in both sports and academics during his school years. His competitive spirit was only matched by his dedication to his family and friends. Whether on the field or in the classroom, Kelly’s drive and passion shone brightly.


Kelly’s legacy is carried on by his partner, Malicya Bender, his daughters Wrenly and Anelia, his dad Ash Wright, his mother Airicka Grove, his siblings Chantel Grove, Gavin Grove, Jessika Williams, Fox Williams, Seth Wright, William Wright, Kathryn Ringer and Tyler Ringer, his nieces Layla and Michaela Rodrigues, Faye Alred and Prudence Ringer, his nephews Asher Wright and Zephyr Ringer, and his grandparents Paul Connerton and Sandra Hutchison, and special friends Zach Raines and Alex Lauber, and many many aunts, uncles, cousins and friends. He is greeted in death by his mom, Ekko Wright. Kelly lived a short life, but one filled with love bigger than this world. Our loss of him will be the greatest loss.

Kelly’s family will greet friends in celebration of his life from 2:00 - 4:00 pm Saturday, May 3, 2025 at the Barr Memorial Chapel, Fort Madison, Iowa. A memorial has been established for the needs of his daughters, Wrenly and Anelia, checks need to be made out to Malicya Bender. Contributions may be left at the Barr Memorial Chapel. Barr Memorial Chapel is honored to serve Kelly’s family and an online guest book may be found at www.barrmemorialchapel.com.

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Sports

Bloodhounds fall in clash with SEC front-runner MP



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Mt. Pleasant sophomore Brandon Veloz shoots a header straight up in the air off a corner kick from the Panthers in the 1st half of Thursday night’s matchup with the Fort Madison Bloodhounds.

UNCOMFORTABLE: Wellman says FM boys haven’t been pushed hard enough yet, but it’s coming

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

MOUNT PLEASANT – Fort Madison’s head boys’ soccer coach Kevin Wellman is going to make his Bloodhounds uncomfortable.

After Thursday’s 5-1 loss at the hands of host Mt. Pleasant, saddling the Hounds with their first South-east Conference loss of the year, gives the Panthers a one match lead for the conference title. The Hounds fall to 4-3-1 overall after knocking off Washington 5-0 on Monday.

Wellman said after the game that the Bloodhounds haven’t been made uncomfortable enough and have settled into some complacency.

“That’s on me, but we’re gonna get uncomfortable starting tomorrow. We’ve got two tough games in warm weather coming up against some tough teams. So they’re gonna get uncomfortable in practice, and then uncomfortable this weekend. And we’re gonna get better.”

The Hounds lone goal came on a penalty kick that senior Henry Graham slid past Panther keeper Xa-chary LeBlanc to the right for an early 1-0 lead at the

31-minute mark.
Mt. Pleasant would appear to have tied things up eight minutes later when freshman keeper Keelynd Ross got out of the net aways and deflected a ball that rolled on the goal line, but wasn’t whistled clean in the net and was pulled out by the Hounds and kept in play.

Graham would fire another shot at 15:31 that went wide left. The Hounds would get two more shots on goal in the half, but LeBlanc was up to the task as most of the shots came straight in. The Panthers would knot things up at the 9-minute mark when Dylan White followed a shot that Ross deflected to punch it in. Ross would also make a dive save on a Jacob Shottenkirk blast with four minutes left in the half. Connor Horn would get a shot off a corner kick that wouldn’t find the net as the half expired.

The Panthers came out of the break with two goals in the first six minutes, the first high off the hands of Ross that slipped over his head. White slipped a pass over to Brandon Veloz who punched it in from the left side of the net for a 2-1 lead. The Panthers scored again on the Hounds’ freshman goalie when Jonah Zimmer lifted a shot from about 35 feet out up and precisely over the extended hands of Ross in the front of the box for a 3-1 lead.

The Panthers would score two more times – one at the 23-minute mark past a diving Ross, and the final goal with 6:51 left from freshman defender Asa Rose, who got free on a side run and found the back of the center behind the Hound defense.

Wellman said he should have picked up on some things sooner with the mentality of the Bloodhounds.

“There are things I should have identified earlier and nipped in the bud,” Wellman said. “We’ve had some slow play and some slow practices, but in order to grow, you have to be a little uncomfortable and we just aren’t. We weren’t doing drills hard enough to push ourselves past our envelope and that’s totally on me.

“It’s bad timing because this was a tough game and we have two tough games coming.”

Wellman said the game was ebbing and flowing and the Hounds had some momentum in the first half. But then the momentum shifted before the Hounds even realized what had happened.

“It was a 1-1 game at the half. We had opportunities and they had opportunities. The second half we were playing hard enough, but we just made a lot of technical mistakes,” he said.

Senior Henry Graham, who had been battling some illness and a dinged ankle, said the Bloodhounds need to get back to playing their game and increase intensity.

“We need to up our intensity in practice. It hasn’t been enough. We’ve been giving minimal energy and we need to step it up,” Graham said.

“In my opinion, and that can differ from others, but if we play our game, we can threaten some teams. Today we started off well, but things just fell off. We weren’t ready, they we’re ready.”

The Hounds travel to Pella on Saturday for a two-game tourney with ADM and Pella before getting back to conference play against Fairfield on the road Thursday.

Sports

Lady Hounds undefeated without allowing a goal

THURSDAY WIN: FM girls move to 5-0-2 overall and 3-0-1 in loop play with 6-0 shutout of Mt. Pleasant

BY JOHN BOHNENKAMP
PCC SPORTS

FORT MADISON - It took a few seconds for Fort Madison girls soccer coach Carrie Burken to congratulate everyone involved in the first goal of Thursday's 6-0 win over Mount Pleasant at the Baxter Sports Complex.

Even after the match, Burken tried to connect the dots on all of the passes that got Halle Menke the goal. "It went from Charley (Huebner) to Hadley (Wolfe), to Halle, to (Teagan Snaadt), and back to Halle," Burken said. "Yeah, that's it."

Burken's message to the team is always "find feet," and Menke's goal with 17:19 left in the first half was the perfect example of that.

It could have been, Burken said, the Bloodhounds' best goal of the season.

"It was perfect passing," Burken said. "It was seeing the open pass. Able to see the open pass because someone is in a good position to receive a pass, creating angles for passing. And then the correct weight on the ball, like Halle's ball to Teagan was the perfect weight. Teagan's ball back to Halle was the perfect weight for her run. And so, just getting that understanding of people's speed and how to pass the ball and who's open, that's something we've been talking about a lot. That's something we wanted to get better at, was connecting between the lines."

The connection between Snaadt and Menke on the final pass couldn't have been better.

"Halle made a perfect run-through and honestly, she set me up," said Snaadt, who had three of the Bloodhounds' goals in the match. "And I was like, 'You know what? She had that better opportunity there.' And it was all her on that play."

Fort Madison (5-0-2 overall, 3-0-1 Southeast Conference) had a lot of pressure on the Panthers (4-2-1, 2-2) in the first half, but didn't break through until Menke's goal. Snaadt had four shots on goal miss, and Kara Lake missed a scoring opportunity as well.

The Bloodhounds led 2-0 at halftime — Snaadt scored off an assist by Molly Schulte with 6:22 left — but knew they could have had more.

"I think we just really kind of broke them down in the first half," Snaadt said. "We talked at halftime about what we were doing well, and I feel like we just targeted the things we were doing well and did them even better in the second half."

"We talked about how we were getting good opportunities in the first half. We just weren't able to convert," Burken said. "So we were just talking about when we can convert, what that looks like, what is open, and we just did a little bit better job of executing in the second half. And I think once we started getting a couple goals, I think confidence just grew as a team. And then shot-making tends to increase when you're confident."

Lake gave Fort Madison a 3-0 lead with a goal while surrounded by three defenders. Then Reilynn Turnbull knocked in a deep shot with 5:44 to play for a 4-0 lead. Snaadt added her final two goals within the span of a minute to provide the final margin.

Fort Madison stayed in a tie for the conference lead with Burlington — the two teams battled to a scoreless draw last Thursday.

"It's not that we played poorly against Burlington, but

something we've been talking about the last couple days of practice is being really positive with each other, because a lot of times when we're frustrated, it's just, like, individually frustrated with yourself," Burken said. "So I challenged them this game, if you see your teammate down, give them encouragement. If your teammate encourages you, don't stay down, respect that they're saying you're good and let it go. And I think we did that really well. And to me, when we're able to do that and we're able to play as a team and play selflessly and encourage one another. I think that's when we're at our best, because that's when we're at our most confident. And I think we saw that."

Goalkeeper Ellie Hellman had four saves. The Bloodhounds still have not allowed a goal this season.

"Our defense is doing amazing," Snaadt said. "They never lay down. We've got Ellie back there in the goal, so many amazing saves. Without our defense and Ellie back there, these games would not be the score they are. We wouldn't be holding these teams to zero goals on us."

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OF SUPERVISORS
TUESDAY
April 29, 2025
MEETING CONVENING
TIME: 9:00 A.M.
933 AVE H**

-----AGENDA-----

Lee County Board of Supervisors
Apr 29, 2025, 9:00-11:30 AM (America/Chicago)
Please join my meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone.
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Chairman to address you. If you are participating by phone, please wait until everyone is done speaking before addressing the Board. Please keep your microphone muted to cut down on background noise. If you are participating by phone, press *6, this will mute your phone.
Pledge of Allegiance
Approve Agenda 9:01 a.m. Public Hearing to Approve FY26 County Budget
Consider Approval of Resolution Approving FY26 County Budget Consent Agenda
• Tuesday, April 22, 2025 Board Minutes
• Claims for Payment Public Input
Consider Approval of Second Reading of the Siting and Operation of Wind, Solar, and Battery Energy Systems Ordinance with Modification to Page 31
Consider Approval of Correction to HSA Premiums for FY2026
Consider Approval of Resolution Transferring Funds from A TEC # 1

Fund
Consider Approval of Resolution Transferring Funds from A TEC #2 Fund
Consider Approval of Quote for Salt Storage Building Asphalt Floor
Consider Agreement with IDOT & BNSF for Surface Crossing Repair on 190th St
Consider Approval of Secondary Roads FY26-30 Five Year Program
Consider Approval of Contract with Cessford Construction for Rock Stockpiles at Geode and Donnellson Quarries
Consider Approval of Contract with Cessford Construction for Rock Stockpile at Beach Quarry
Consider Purchase of Forestry Mulcher for Secondary Roads from Altorfer
Discussion and Possible Action on Internet Services Agreement with Mediacom
Discussion and Possible Action on Internet Services Agreement with Windstream
Discussion and Pos-

sible Action on Justice Involved Services Coordinator Position
Discussion and Possible Action on Low Voltage Cabling Quotes for New Building Reports
• Veteran's Affairs Minutes of Monthly Meeting
Personnel Actions
• Full Time New Hire - Treasurer's Office
Commission or Committee Reports
Adjourn

Possible Workshop to Follow

PUBLIC MEETING
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PUBLIC NOTICE
NOTICE OF
PUBLIC HEARING
RESOLUTION SETTING

**PUBLIC HEARING ON A
PROPOSAL TO VACATE
AND
CONVEY A CERTAIN
PLATTED COUNTY
ROAD WITHIN
WASHINGTON
TOWNSHIP,
LEE COUNTY, IOWA**

Notice is hereby provided that a public hearing will be held on the 6th day of May 2025, at 9:05 o'clock A.M. in the County Boardroom at the Lee County Office Building, 933 Avenue H, Fort Madison, Iowa 52627. That public hearing will concern whether the Board should adopt the following resolution:
BE IT RESOLVED that the Lee County Board of Supervisors pursuant to its authority under Section 354.23, Code of Iowa, 2025, hereby vacates the following described portion of the alley/roadway located in the Southeast Quarter of the Southwest Quarter of the North-east Quarter of Section 24, Township 68 North, Range 4 West in Wash-

ington Township, Lee County, Iowa and specifically legally described as follows:
1. That part of an old county road being in the Southeast quarter of the Southwest quarter of the Northeast quarter of Section twenty-four (24), Township sixty-eight (68) North, Range four (4) West of the fifth principal meridian, Lee County, Iowa and more particularly described as follows: Beginning at the Northwest corner of Walter's Acres 1st addition, being the centerline of the roadway, thence Northwesterly along the centerline of the roadway to the Southwest corner of Walter's Acres 2nd addition, thence Northeasterly along the South line of Walter's Acres 2nd addition to the Southwest corner of Lot one (1), thence Southeasterly along the East line of the roadway to the North corner of Lot five (5) in Walter's Acres 1st addition, thence Southwesterly to the point of

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Classifieds/Public Notices

PUBLIC NOTICES

beginning.;

2. That part of an old county road being in the Southeast quarter of the Southwest quarter of the Northeast quarter of Section twenty-four (24), Township sixty-eight (68) North, Range four (4) West of the fifth principal meridian, Lee County, Iowa and more particularly described as follows: Beginning at the Northwest corner of Walter's Acres 1st addition, being the centerline of the roadway, thence Northwesterly along the centerline of the roadway to the Southwest corner of Walter's Acres 2nd addition, thence Southwesterly along the South line of Walter's Acres 2nd addition, if extended, to the West line of the roadway, thence Southeasterly along the West line of the roadway to a point Southwesterly of the Northwest corner of Walter's Acres pt addition, thence Northeasterly to the point of beginning.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that pursuant to its authority under section 354.23, Code of Iowa, 2025, the Board now conveys the property so vacated to the surrounding

landowners as follows:

1. That part of an old county road being in the Southeast quarter of the Southwest quarter of the Northeast quarter of Section twenty-four (24), Township sixty-eight (68) North, Range four (4) West of the fifth principal meridian, Lee County, Iowa and more particularly described as follows: Beginning at the Northwest corner of Walter's Acres 1st addition, being the centerline of the roadway, thence Northwesterly along the centerline of the roadway to the Southwest corner of Walter's Acres 2nd addition, thence Southeasterly along the South line of Walter's Acres 2nd addition to the Southwest corner of Lot one (1), thence Southeasterly along the East line of the roadway to the North corner of Lot five (5) in Walter's Acres 1st addition, thence Southwesterly to the point of beginning.

To Doyle L. Schrader and Doris J. Schrader, Husband and Wife as joint tenants with Full Rights of Survivorship and not as tenants in common - 02-29-09-24-

276-0030

2. That part of an old county road being in the Southeast quarter of the Southwest quarter of the Northeast quarter of Section twenty-four (24), Township sixty-eight (68) North, Range four (4) West of the fifth principal meridian, Lee County, Iowa and more particularly described as follows: Beginning at the Northwest corner of Walter's Acres 1st addition, being the centerline of the roadway, thence Northwesterly along the centerline of the roadway to the Southwest corner of Walter's Acres 2nd addition, thence Southwesterly along the South line of Walter's Acres 2nd addition, if extended, to the West line of the roadway, thence Southeasterly along the West line of the roadway to a point Southwesterly of the Northwest corner of Walter's Acres pt addition, thence Northeasterly to the point of beginning.

To Dennis P. Pirri and Jill E. Pirri, Husband and Wife as joint tenants with Full Rights of Survivorship and not as tenants in common - 02-29-09-24-253-0010

Upon approval, pursuant to Section 354.23, Code of Iowa, 2025, this Resolution will serve as the lawful conveyance of the said vacated property.

Sherri Yasenchok
Lee County Auditor

**PUBLIC NOTICE
LEE COUNTY
TREASURER'S OFFICE**

The 2025 Iowa Property Tax Credit Claim application to be filed this year for credit on your 2024 taxes-payable Sept 2025 and March 2026 are out. They are available on our Lee County website and in the Fort Madison and Keokuk offices. Both offices are open to pick up applications Monday-Friday 830am to 430pm.

Please note who is eligible and the total household income for the year 2024 below:

- Iowa Residents.
- Total household income is less than \$26,219.00 and age 65-69 on December 31, 2024, or
- For a claimant who is at least 70 years of age and total household income for everyone living in the house is less than 250% of the federal poverty level (see last page of application for federal poverty level guidelines) on December 31, 2024.

• Totally disabled and age 18-64 and total household income is less than \$26,219.00 on December 31, 2024.

"Totally Disabled" means:

1. You are unable to engage in any substantial gainful employment.
2. The unemployment is due to a physical or mental impairment that is: Medically determined and expected to last 12 months or longer or result in death.

If you were between the ages of 18 and 64 on December 31, 2024, and totally disabled, you are

required by the State to provide currently dated proof of your disability and must be included with your claim which is:

A current statement from the Social Security Administration that in 2024 you were receiving a disability benefit due to 100% disability.

Claims without proper documentation will be denied and returned. Please make sure you have signed and dated your application, and all the required documentation is attached before returning it to our office. The deadline to apply is June 1, 2025. Contact our office at 319-372-3405 with any questions.

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Scene Around the Area/From the Front

Early morning anxiety interruption no longer a surprise

ANXIETY - Continued from Page 1

This used to completely wig me out. And I mean full on, call the ambulance....as Redd Foxx’s Fred Sanford used to say, “this is the big one”. Sweat, rapid heartbeat, chest tightening, shaky hands, constant checking of my pulse rate at the carotid, pacing, stretching, arms above my head.

I’ve kept some prescriptions close at hand for more than five years now for just this reason. I had them with me early Saturday morning, but I didn’t even think about them. Now with the help of Mike Maher at Counseling Associates, an app called HeadSpace, and conversations with my daughter Taylor I “goldberg-ed” that attack in about five minutes.

The cure before required very cool air and standing in rain. Obviously I can’t control the rain, however people usually see clouds over me. So in lieu of meteorological superpowers, I would settle for a cool cloth and high oscillating fan. Some serious square breathing exercises and a seated position with legs out just waiting for the Xanax to kick in.

Now I don’t use the Xanax unless I have to fly. Now I win.

Anxiety is something I’ve written about multiple times and I don’t do it because I want to brag about how I seem to have conquered it, although I did, and I probably am. It’s because in this world of this

mental mind grind that takes over a person’s body, sharing what works despite the embarrassment it brings, may be, at some point, worthwhile to someone. And to that end, it’s totally worth it.

It’s your instinct to panic. It’s your body saying, “Dude, something’s wrong.” Because your body senses something is wrong. The key is your mind telling the skinny antagonist , “Ok, I see you. State your business before I kick your ass.”

That may seem a bit dramatic, but it’s not. It’s in a round-about way something my daughter has taught me. Accept that it has come to visit, recognize it as something that needs your attention, but your attention in the right way.

Don’t be afraid of anxiety. That statement is absolutely impossible if you’re unfamiliar with it. But getting familiar with it is entirely important. There’s a distant connection here that comes to mind and that’s the old adage, “keep your friends close, but your enemies closer”. Anxiety can be seen as the enemy to a day-to-day normalcy, but when it creeps in, acknowledge it for what it is. Here’s what works for me, and this needs to be practiced and almost perfected. But it works for me. I prop myself up slightly in bed and place my hands on my lower abdomen, and then square breathing; five or six seconds in, hold for five or six seconds, exhale through a lazy whistle for five or six seconds, hold for the same five

or six seconds. Rinse and repeat. You may have to start with four seconds if you feel like you’re hyperventilating. Believe in it and tell yourself you are exhaling the anxiety. Stay with it. Stay with it like a book you want to read but is starting too slow.

My brother tells me when he gets anxiety, he recites the alphabet backwards and sometimes he gets to A and has to restart, but that works for him. It resets his brain. That’s never worked for me, because I have something that works for me. Experimenting really isn’t my thing.

Anyway, don’t fix anxiety on your own. Get with someone you’re comfortable with. Talk with someone, because it can be scary. Of course you need to get to the root cause of the anxiety and most of us don’t know why it “shows up” when it does. But Saturday morning at 4 a.m. it’s on you, baby. Not the visitor you want at 4 a.m., if anyone wants any visitor at 4 a.m. But I would assume if someone came calling at 4 a.m.- any given morning - you would want them gone as soon as possible.

So with this freak tucked neatly away, I’ll move about my Saturday probably with a putter in my hand at some point, But that’s Beside the Point.

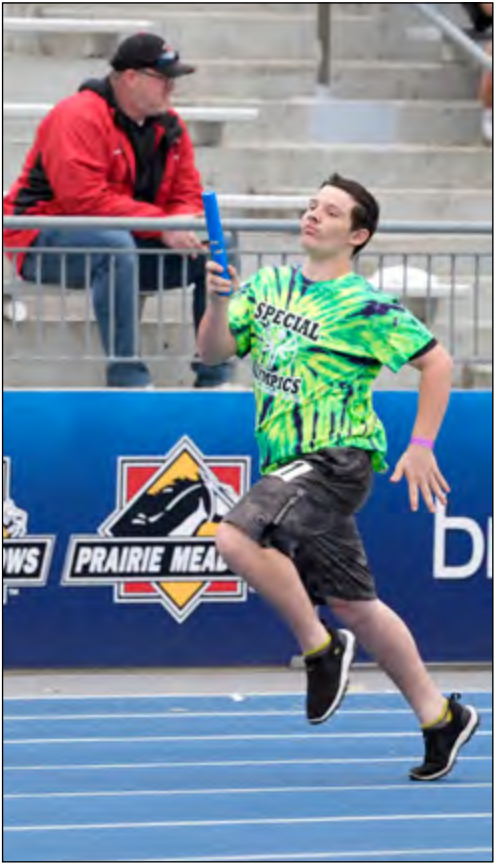
Chuck Vandenberg is editor and co-owner of Pen City Current and can be reached at Charles.V@PenCityCurrent.com.



Photos by Matthew Putney/MP Media

Drake 2025

At left, Fort Madison’s Julian Dear runs in a Boys’ High School 100m prelim at the 115th Drake Relays Friday, April 25, 2025, in Des Moines, Iowa. At right, the Special Olympics 4x100 Fort Madison squad won that event Friday night. Below right, Dear crosses the finish line in the 100 and below left, Brylie Lorence lets go with a heave in the girls’ high school shotput. Dear placed 28th in 100 and Lorence was 7th in the shot.



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JUNE 6,7,8, 2025

FRIDAY

TRACTOR/GAS ENGINE REGISTRATION 8 AM
TOWN WIDE YARD SALES 8 AM
FLEA MARKET/CRAFTS 8 AM
HISTORICAL SOCIETY MUSEUM AT BANK 9AM-3PM
LIVE MUSIC IN SHELTER HOUSE 6 PM- 9 PM
BY JIVE RADIO

SATURDAY

BISCUITS & GRAVY IN FIRE STATION 7 AM
BY FIRE DEPARTMENT AUXILLARY
TOWN WIDE YARD SALES 8 AM
FLEA MARKET/CRAFTS 8 AM
FLAG RAISING BY BOY SCOUTS 8:30 AM
STATE HISTORICAL BUS 8:30 AM
HISTORICAL SOCIETY MUSEUM AT BANK 9AM-12PM
PEDAL TRACTOR PULLS 9 AM
SIDEWALK CHALK DRAWING CONTEST 10 AM-12 PM
K9 DEMONSTRATION(SMALL DIAMOND) 10:30 AM
CUSTOM CARS & PICKUPS 10 AM - 3 PM
TRACTOR PARADE 1 PM
SILVER STEPPERS 1:30 PM
LIVE AUCTION IN SHELTER HOUSE 2:30 PM
LIVE MUSIC IN SHELTER HOUSE 6 PM - 9 PM
BY JEFFERSON CONNECTION

SUNDAY

BREAKFAST AT CHURCH 7:30 AM
FLEA MARKET/CRAFTS 8 AM
CHURCH IN THE PARK 10 AM
HAM BALL DINNER AT CHURCH 11 AM
TRACTOR PARADE 1 PM

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