Old Fort looking for volunteers

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - A holiday weekend gone bad has the Old Fort Commission looking for additional volunteers to step in when current staff is unable to work events.

A bout of upper respiratory flu sidelined Old Fort Director Dr. Eugene Watkins for a day during the Memorial Day holiday weekend, a typically busy day for the Old Fort and commissioners said a better plan needs to be put in place to help out when those situations arise.

At the commission’s regular meeting on Monday, the commissioners discussed ways to increase volunteer interest in the commission.

Watkins suggested the commissioners all watch a tutorial video on the Old Fort tour so the commissioners could possibly fill in as tour guides in the event that Watkins or other staff is indisposed. Also for days when attendance is so high such as Wednesday, the commissioners all watch a tutorial video on the Old Fort tour so the commissioners could possibly fill in as tour guides in the event that Watkins or other staff is indisposed. Also for days when attendance is so high such as

when the prison opened for tours. The Old Fort had more than 300 visitors that day and needed additional help but didn’t have any volunteers to help. Family members had to step in to help Old Fort employees.

Watkins said it’s tough to keep volunteers at the facility and he typically gets kids that were in trouble and they don’t like the hard work.

“They normally want to do it until they realize they’re not playing army. That seems to be what they want to do. I don’t understand that fascination, but then they realize they may have to work. It’s hard work in the summer and they don’t like to wear the costumes,” Watkins said.

Commission member Sharon Harp asked if the new school requirements of 20 hours of community service would open up any volunteer options for the fort.

“That’s double the hours from last year’s so is there a way to get the school officials to work with us on this,” she said.

Andy Andrews told See FORT, page 7

Cradle of Hope looks to assist moms

Editor’s Note: Curt Swanen’s offerings are editorials and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Pen City Current.

Peggy Knudsen walks the talk. After having over 100 foster and six adopted children with her husband, Monte, who is pastor of Faith Christian Outreach Church (FCOC) in Mt. Pleasant, she is the ideal person to be Director of Cradle of Hope.

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But as she well knew, “You can’t really save the babies unless you help the mamas.” Being a pastor’s wife, she had a lot of opportunities to speak with women who already had had an abortion and couldn’t live with it. They were so guilt ridden over their decision, and regretted it for the rest of their lives. The primary goal of Cradle of Hope, in the beginning, and still is today, is to help women make wise choices that they and their baby can live with. Cradle of Hope does this one woman, one baby at a time. It has evolved into, not only helping mothers make a life choice for their unborn baby, but helping mothers through the whole pregnancy cycle and beyond. It’s way too

See OPINION, page 7

Nothing’s raining on my parade, ‘cept maybe the IRS

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG

I’m in a really...good...mood.

This weekend was an especially beautiful couple of days with a light breeze out of the northwest that kept temperatures right at 75 or so the whole weekend.

The Autobots are back again battling the punk Deceptions with Optimus Prime in tow. I’m not scared, we got a yellow, hip, hovering Mustang wannabe in our corner. I’m a huge Transformers fan...literally...they’re making them out of BMW’s in Turkey right now. I’m not joking.

I had a wonderful Saturday at the zoo with my daughter and wife in Des Moines and stood about five feet from a 400 pound lion that was looking right into my eyes with his mouth open.

Oh...Please...

My wife wanted to bring home a red panda. She called him Sweetie. (That’s my name...freakin’ furball!)

Our 17 year old loves the zoo. Any zoo - it doesn’t matter. And she gets to run the map because I’ll get lost in those animal mazes in about 10 minutes.

We ate at Bravo Friday night in the Jordan Creek Mall. We sat outside and I had a Captain and Coke. You know it sounds funny from a man closing in on 50, but those are pretty darned good. I had it in a tall glass with ice, a double shot of the rum stuff and sat on the patio overlooking a man-made lake with ducks and fountains.

Parents and kids were walking along the boardwalk and I fancied a juggler or magician or something. Some show off college kid was doing handstands for his girlfriend on the grass across the lake. I can do that kind of stuff but my wife’s not impressed. She doesn’t like the muscular guys, so out of love for her, I’ve let mine diminish a bit. It’s dormant though - I can call it back whenever I want.

I did get a letter from the IRS saying there were looking at my taxes since it’s the first year of us having our business. That’s usually enough to get the firelight lighter out. I’m pretty sure the wife and I paid plenty of taxes last year and had mostly expenses vs. very little revenue on the business. I think it’s the Russians.

I stopped by the Artist Trax Grand Opening on

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Our community has the opportunity to have the finest schools anywhere in the state. I would match our teacher and staff against any that you can find and grow the schools of the area. The FMCSD will be coming Tuesday, June 27, we hope that the Fort Madison Community School District to help make the district better. Over those years. We have seen many changes take place in the district to help make the district better. As the next change for our district rolls around this coming Tuesday, June 27, we hope that the Fort Madison community sees the need to continue to expand and grow the schools of the area. The FMCSD employees are fine and outstanding individuals. We have the finest teachers and programs that you can find anywhere in the state. I would match our teacher and programs against any in the state.

We have the opportunity on Tuesday, June 27 to make the area a more inviting place for people to live and work. It would be a huge plus for the area if the FMCSD and the surrounding areas more prosperous communities. Education can and will help a community grow. By providing new schools it will make the area a more inviting place for people to live and work. It would be a huge plus for the area if the FMCSD and Holy Trinity would have two new schools. This would provide the people of the area with a choice on where to take their kids to school. This choice would be a huge deciding factor in coming to the area. Please remember these important factors as the vote nears. Please take the time to vote on Tuesday, June 27. Let’s do this for the Kids and the communities of the area.

Timm Lamb
FMCSD Board of Education
Dear Editor:
The Slaters moved to Fort Madison because of the potential. There were many factors that went into our decision to move here from the Chicago-area after 25 years. An incredible job opportunity as the Fort Madison Superintendent, our twin daughters attending the University of Iowa, being closer to my recently widowed mother in Algona, Iowa and my husband’s parents in Quincy including my disabled veteran father-in-law. And for our 15 year-old son, a smaller town and school that were perfect fits for him.

Fort Madison needs new families. Entrepreneurs, businesses, and economic growth will follow. New residents bring their dollars with them. New families looking for a place to live or business owners searching for a new location. Now imagine one of the finest educational facilities in south-east Iowa, Fort Madison. A campus with a new elementary school next to our new middle school. A new elementary school with state-of-the-art learning and technology. A building with up-to-date safety and security features, accessibility to all with climate controlled and engaging learning spaces. And by revising the transportation policy, the FMCSD Board of Education will be able to offer busing to any PK-8 student in the district. Relocating the baseball and softball fields from the current high school location to the new campus will free up much needed space. With continued community support, potential plans could include a future music and fine arts performance auditorium and dedicated practice fields. However, we cannot look to high school improvements until a new elementary school is built.

As our veteran teachers retire, we need to attract and recruit the best and brightest candidates to instruct, lead, and coach our children. Fort Madison will need those vibrant young teachers who are drawn to high-quality environments to put down roots and raise families here. We need them to join our talented staff. We are sending our children into a highly-competitive world. Whether our students are going on to college, military service, or the trades, Fort Madison needs to provide high-quality schools to educate and prepare them. Make no mistake, it’s a tough world, and whether our students are facing off against international students in college, or competing against other school district graduates for jobs here in the tri-state area, we can give them the educational facilities they need to succeed.

See the potential for Fort Madison. Vote on Tuesday June 27th.

Erin M. Slater, Ed.S. Superintendent of Fort Madison Community Schools

IOWA LOTTERY WINNING NUMBERS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Game</th>
<th>Draw Days</th>
<th>Sales Cutoff Time</th>
<th>Approx. Drawing Time</th>
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<tr>
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<td>Mon &amp; Thu</td>
<td>8:30 pm</td>
<td>9:38 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mega Millions</td>
<td>Tues &amp; Fri</td>
<td>8:59 pm</td>
<td>10:00 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Powerball</td>
<td>Wed &amp; Sat</td>
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<td>9:59 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hot Lotto</td>
<td>Wed &amp; Sat</td>
<td>8:18 pm</td>
<td>9:40 pm</td>
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<td>Daily</td>
<td>Noon</td>
<td>12:50 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>All or Nothing</td>
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<td>Pick 3</td>
<td>Daily</td>
<td>Noon</td>
<td>12:50 pm</td>
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<td>Pick 4</td>
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<td>Pick 3 Evening</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pick 4 Evening</td>
<td>Daily</td>
<td>Noon</td>
<td>8:00 pm</td>
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Iowa Lottery
We Win for You

Lotto Drawings

6/25 MID-DAY 1 2 3 5 6 9
10 12 17 18 19 21
6/25 EVENING 1 2 3 4 5 7
8 9 10 11 14 17

The Pen City Current encourages you to play responsibly.
PUBLIC NOTICE
Completion of Five-Year Review
E.I. Du Pont de Nemours & Co., Inc.
County Road X-23 Superfund Site
Lee County, Iowa

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has completed the fifth Five-Year Review for the E.I. Du Pont de Nemours & Co., Inc. County Road X-23 Superfund Site. The review is required to assess whether the remedy continues to be protective. EPA has determined that the remedy at this site is protective of human health and the environment. This report was signed May 12, 2017.

EPA has assessed the ability of the local public to access the Five-Year review report through an internet-based repository, and has determined that the local community has this ability. As a result, the Five-Year review report for this site is available through the following website:

https://semsspub.epa.gov/src/collection/07SC35765

Questions or requests for site information and/or the five-year review process can be submitted to:

Pamela Houston
U.S. EPA Community Engagement Specialist
Toll-free: 800-223-0425
Email: houston.pamela@epa.gov

PUBLIC NOTICE
Lee County, Iowa
Board of Supervisors
Regular Meeting
Agenda
DATE: TUESDAY,
June 27, 2017
CONVENING TIME:
9:00 A.M.
LOCATION:
Correctional Center, 2530
255th St.,
Mon touched, IA 52639
AGENDA
Pledge of Allegiance
Approve Agenda
Consider Approval of
Tuesday, June 20, 2017
Board Minutes
Consider Approval of
Claims
Public Input
Review and Consider
Awards Bid for South
Lee County Courthouse
Tuck Point Project Discuss
and Consider Approval
of Statement of
Understanding with
Southeast Iowa
Link Discuss and Consider
Approval to Create
Fund in Conservation
Department Review and
Consider A wording Bid for
Fuel for Secondary Roads,
Conservation and Sheriff
Consider Approval of
Resolution Amending
Appropriations for FY17
Consider Approval of
Resolution for FY18 Appropriations
Consider Approval of FY18 Salaries
Consider Approval of Partial Self Funding Agreement, Administrative Services Agreement and Cobra Administration Services Agreement with Midwest Group Benefits
Consider Approval for Chairman to Sign Memorandum of Understanding between Des Moines County, Henry County, Lee County and Great River Health Systems for Medical Examiner
Consider Approval of Class C Liquor License for East-West Hideout, Argyle
Consider Approval of Class C Liquor License for Ridgewood Lounge, Fort Madison
Consider Approval of First Reading of Public Nuisance Tax Sale Ordinance
Consider Approval of Resolution Abating Taxes for City of Keokuk Pursuant to Consent Judgment
Personnel Actions:
A. Transfer for Community Services Employee
B. Additional Stipend for Budget Director
C. Merit Increase for Assistant County Attorney
D. Promotion for Deputy Auditor
E. Additional Stipend for IT Assistant Administrator
F. New Hire-Sheriffs Office
Reports:
A. Maturity Management Annual Update for Squeal Inn, Harrison Township
Commission or Committee Reports
Adjourn
PUBLIC MEETING - CITIZENS WELCOME
Workshop to follow
Vision and hearing assistance available upon request

Contact Title VI Administrator
319-372-3705
County Website:
www.leecounty.org

HELP WANTED

ROLL OFF DRIVERS
If Off Drivers Full time & Part time Pay based on experience. Must have a class B CDL with air brakes license.
Apply in person at Floyd’s E.Z. Way Container Service 2133 Summer St. Burlington, IA (319)752-5394

EVENT TEAM LEADER
Kempker’s True Value Rental is currently seeking a self-motivated individual to lead our Event Team. Duties consist of setting up tents, tables and chairs at customer’s requested locations throughout the Tri-State area. Starting wage for this position is $14.00 per hour. Must have a valid driver’s license and be able to move and lift heavy objects. Apply in person at 1904 Avenue H in Fort Madison, Iowa. No phone calls please.

LAUNDRY ASSISTANT
LAUNDRY ASSISTANT. Full or Part Time, Days, Alternate Saturdays. Phone for Appointment 319-372-7607

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Leadership AND maintenance and/or machine operator experience
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Positive attitude and excellent attendance demonstrated by a solid work history
Pay: $11.50 per hour plus $0.30 shift differential

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Beautiful Victorian home on a quiet street with an amazing wrap-around porch. All the modern conveniences.
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403 10th Street
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A
11 Harmony Court
35 Oak Drive
1236 Avenue B
56 Oak Drive

B
2723 Avenue C
2508 Avenue G
4:30-5:30PM
Jill Kruse, Host
Judy Holterhaus, Host
Nicole Panther, Host
Lori Sproul, Host

B
301 10th Street
2221 Avenue A
3023 Avenue K
6 Oak Drive

B
2116 290th Avenue
610 Avenue G
5:40-6:40PM
Jill Kruse, Host
Kara Morrow, Host
Kara Morrow, Host

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FORT MADISON SCHOOL
BOND ELECTION
Tuesday, June 27th, 2017

TRANSPORTATION PROVIDED
All PreK-8 students will be offered the option to be bussed to the new school.

VOTE YES ON JUNE 27TH

Paid for by the K.I.D.S. Committee of Fort Madison. No tax dollars used in the creation of this ad.
Commission looking at training to help attract volunteers

FORT - Continued from Page 1
the board he had an hour long conversation with Fort Madison Community School District Superintendent Erin Slater about the volunteer hours and said the con
vention was very encouraging.
“We had an hour long conversation. We talked about the students who got to do their 20 hours and Erin’s going to get with counselors to put emphasis on not just walking dogs but come down to the fort. It’s more educational to do some work here,” Andrews said.
Harp said the commission needs a firmer plan of what will happen in the event staff can’t get to the fort.
“We need to have a discussion of what to do in the event that happens again. I know I’m singing to the choir about volunteers, but we need to have a written plan so that if Dr. Watkins is gone we know what to do,” Harp said.
Watkins said he has some information prepared for any volunteers that would be able to fill in. But to do it right, they should take the tour.
“I have a brief history of the fort that I’ve done but the big things is going out and doing the tour but it takes about an hour and half, but then you would be able to have the basic stuff and could talk a little about. And if everybody wants I could do a full on training course on it,” Watkins said.
“Who I am supposed to call when I have something like that. We also need people watching the other buildings for theft, so it’s going to take more than one volunteer. Someone to talk and take people through the tours and someone to watch the other buildings,” Joe Thurman suggested creating an internal Face
book page to help with the communications.
“Right now the communications stop when we leave this room,” Thurman said.
Attendance numbers through June 1 the Fort has had visitors from 12 foreign countries, 36 states, and 56 communities of Iowa.
Watkins said the Fourth of July events will include our standard living history things. Tuesday at 1 p.m. we’ll do our national salute and we will fire the gun 18 times in a row. Starts at 1 unless it’s raining and then there will be the fireworks by the city afterward.

FM hopping this weekend

WEKEND - Continued from Page 1
Saturday when I got back from Des Moines. We went about 75 mph on the way home so I could get there and see what Rebecca Bowker and Jan Flautz have put together across from the future Amtrak Rail Depot on Avenue H. There’s some neat art in there and some neat spaces for artists. Some of those spaces go for as low as $50/month. Right now they’ve got some metal works and paintings and sculpture in there. It’s a nice place to practice your craft and showcase art for sale. They’re even donating a portion of sales back to the the Fort Madison Area Artist Association. You should stop in and take a look. Ian’s a real talent. (They usually have some wine on hand, too.)

Sunday afternoon, after watching cars turn into aliens and vice versa, my wife and I made our way out back to the garden I planted...oh...about two months too late for most people I talk to. But you know what...I can’t grow hair on my head but I got some stuff coming up from the dirt. I’ve been using some Scotts Miracle Gro fertilizer packets. You just dump these in the water like a Hydroxycut or something and then just water the plants. I got radishes, beans, corn, cucumbers, a single mound of watermelon, some strawberries (I hear it takes three years to get a good crop - that’s bumrkis!) tomatoes and peppers all coming up. The tomatoes and peppers I headed advice on and planted plants, but everything else was seeds gosh darnit. I’ll have vegeta
bles in the fall, and I’ll have already eaten yours. Don’t come knuckling me fresh vegetables.

We stopped in at the Rotary Community Picnic Sun-
day afternoon. The smell of Hy-Vee grilling hamburg-
ers, hot dogs, and brats made me put my nose in the air as I was tending to our garden Sunday evening. The cool breeze brought the smell a full two blocks east and made my stomach begin to crave meat. I watered the garden, put the cats back in the house, and loaded the family for a trip to Central Park. It was pretty packed. A nice event on a nice day with a bunch of really nice people - all to help the Rotarians raise funds for local and national charitable efforts. I gave a donation and then fed the family. Tried my hand at a raffle ticket, but Chuck Luck always looms large over this quickly build
ning head, so I know that was another donation as well.
I took my daughter and wife to Putt-A-Round and spanked ‘em. Bought ice cream and shave ice and came back from the cool evening. Some old tunes...2009 I’m sure.

Cradle of Hope offers supplies for moms

OPINION - Continued from Page 1
easy to say. “Choose life for your baby,” and then just turn the mothers loose to fend for themselves. Expectant mothers come in saying, “Oh, my goodness, I’m pregnant. What am I gonna do? My boyfriend has dumped me and I don’t have any money.” The expectant mothers are counseled by professionals such as Peggy.
They are told, “Right now, you don’t have to worry about diapers, you have some time to figure things out.” Cradle of Hope has an extensive curriculum of classes that covers everything from prenatal care, pregnancy, changes in the mother’s body, how to take care of themselves, and what not to do, to labor, delivery, and new-born care—all the way through seven years of age for the child. Cradle of Hope has a curriculum on life skills, money, finances and a new-fathers’ boot camp.
In the early days of Cradle of Hope, they never saw the dads. That has all changed with dads wanting to be involved.
Expectant mothers can earn while they learn. Every time they come in to Cradle of Hope for a class, they get “mom
’ money” or “mommy points.” Every time they bring in a signed slip that indicates they’ve been to their doctor, because prenatal care is so important, they get points. A package of diapers at Cradle of Hope is only $2, a new car seat is $20 to $25. A car seat is usually the first thing the mother works for, which is 12 classes or 12 hours. And every time they attend a class, home
work is assigned. If they bring the homework back, they get $2. Cradle of Hope even has a class on know
ing your baby’s cries, and bathing the baby. If the expectant mother is abortion minded, they are counseled about adoption. Having adopted six chil
dren, Peggy wishes that the stigma of adoption could be erased. In the 21st Century, abortion is more widely accepted than adoption, which saddens Peggy.
18 - 21 days after conception a heartbeat in the fetus can be detected. At that time, the mother does not even know she is pregnant at this early date. Over ninety percent of the time, if the expectant mother can see a pulse, she will choose life.
Cradle of Hope has their own ultrasound machine. A young woman came in who was at risk for abortion. She was just seven weeks pregnant. Cradle of Hope performed an ultrasound. Peggy sat by praying that a heart beat could be seen. The doctor showed the fetus on the screen. The young mother could see the ges
tational sack and the yolk. At that moment, the mother started beating. It was a miracle! The young mother chose life, and Cradle of Hope was there to support her all the way.
Cradle of Hope is located in Mt. Pleasant, Wash
ington, Fairfield, Ft. Madison and Burlington. Their telephone number is 319-986-5336. A 24/7 hotline number is 319-931-5759, and they can be reached on the web at www.cradleofhope.com.

Have a good story? Call or text Curt Swarn at Mt. Pleasant at 319-217-0526, email him at curtswarm@yahoo.com or find him on Facebook. Curt’s stories are also read at 107.3 FM in Farmington.

5-DAY WEATHER FORECAST

MON 26 Jun
Light Rain
Low – 50.9º F | High – 66.5º F

TUE 27 Jun
Clear Skies
Low – 67.3º F | High – 74.8º F

WED 28 Jun
Moderate Rain
Low – 72.4º F | High – 70.1º F

THU 29 Jun
Light Rain
Low – 70.0º F | High – 80.0º F

FRI 30 Jun
Moderate Rain
Low – 63.8º F | High – 70.5º F