FM may host active shooter training

ISP, Sheriff’s dept. offer local training for area groups

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - A training program is being offered locally to help people in the event of an active shooter situation. The Program, called ALICE an acronym that stands for Alert, Lock-down, Inform, Counter, Evacuate, is put on by the Alice Training Institute and will be held at the Iowa State Penitentiary in October.

Chief Deputy Will Conlee, with the Lee County Sheriff’s Department, said the program is for anyone associated with any group, facility, business or organization in the area that wants to take the course. “This is an instructor course, so once you go through this two-day training session you can go back to your high school or hospital or business and you could teach your employees what they've learned. It preps you and gives you a plan for an active shooter situation," he said.

It’s the first time the sheriff’s department has partnered with the institute, but it’s more the type of programming that the

In loss of a mother... she finds a family

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT DODGE - A wedding is an event celebrating the joining of two people in the creation of a family, but for one former Fort Madison resident, it may just have been the event to bring a family back together. Kristine Darrow, of Kirkville, Mo., was raised in Fort Madison from about 2nd grade on, graduating from Fort Madison High School in 1989 and then staying in the community for another 25 years. She was raised by her mother and step-father, Janice and Elvis Shanks. As for her biological father, the story was scarred - and distant.

"I remember it wasn't very nice, a lot of time spent sitting in the corner afraid," Darrow remembers. "Last time I remember seeing him I think I was five. My mom met another guy and I never heard from my dad - no child support, no cards - he was basically out of my life."

Darrow said her mother and her biological father were married for eight years. She said she recalls some mean things that her father had done to her mother and heard some stories - slashing of tires, sand in gas tanks those kinds of things. But her mother, who she described as "not a very open person" didn't share a lot about what was going on in her relationships other than she got remarried to Elvis.

In March 2017, Janice passed away and Darrow was reading some social media posts with condolences on her mother's death, she found one in particular that made her stop, and potentially has changed her life forever.

"Sorry for the loss of your mom. My name is Lexi Dickeys, I'm actually her half-sister. Gerald is your dad correct? Well, I'm his daughter" - the text read.

Former Fort Madison resident of more than 40 years, Kristine (Dickes) Darrow was reunited Saturday with her biological father after 40 years, as well as two-half sisters and a half-brother she didn't know she had.

"The last time I remember seeing him I think was like five. My mom met another guy and I never heard from my dad - no child support, no cards - he was basically out of my life" - Kristine Darrow reunited with father after 40 years.
SISTER MARY DINGMAN

Sister Mary Dingman, 97 years, of St. Paul, Iowa died at 1:15 am Saturday August 26, 2017 at her home. She was born November 26, 1919 in St. Paul, Iowa, a daughter of Theodore and Angela (Witte) Dingman.

She entered the School Sisters of St. Francis in 1945. She earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree from Alverno College and a Master of Arts Degree in Religious Studies from Marquette University. In the Archdiocese of Milwaukee, she served in St. Joseph Center in Milwaukee as novice assistant mistress, postulantcy assistant mistress, and novitiate assistant mistress for 20 years. In 1968 - 1970, in the Diocese of Davenport, Iowa, she taught religion at Aquinas High School in Fort Madison. In the Archdiocese of Omaha, she was provincial coordinator and formation director for the School Sisters of St. Francis Our Lady of the Angels Provincial House in Omaha for 6 years. In the Diocese of Des Moines, Iowa, she was retreat and spiritual director for the Emmaus community in Des Moines for 20 years. In 2005, she moved back to her home community in St. Paul. She was a member of St. James the Less Catholic Church, St. Paul.

She is survived by her sister, Louise Dingman, of St. Paul; several nieces and nephews: Joan (Larry) Steffensmeier, Joseph T. Bentler, Mary Ellen (Steve) Wagenecht, Mark (Cathy) Bentler, Linda Butler, and Connie Sickels; great nieces and nephews, and friends. She was preceded in death by her parents, three brothers: Mark Dingman, Bishop Maurice Dingman, and Adrian Dingman; one sister, Catherine Bentler; one nephew, Steve Dingman; and one niece, Elizabeth Ann Bentler.

Local services include a time for the family to greet friends from 9:30 - 10:30 am Saturday, September 2, 2017 at St. James the Less Catholic Church, St. Paul. A memorial Mass will follow and begin at 10:30 am Saturday, September 2, 2017 at the church with Reverend Bruce DeRammelaree as Celebrant. Visitation, Mass, and burial will be held in Milwaukee, Wisconsin on Friday, September 1, 2017. Barr-Holtkamp Funeral Home is in charge of the local arrangements.

A memorial has been established for the School Sisters of St. Francis.

Great River Hospice offers classes for advanced planning

BY PCC STAFF

WEST BURLINGTON – Life Is Your Art: Create Peace in Your Masterpiece, an informational series hosted by Great River Hospice, continues Thursday, Sept. 14. Great River Hospice staff will help participants complete advance directives from 6 to 7 p.m. at the Art Center of Burlington, 301 Jefferson St., Burlington.

“The goal of this series is to give people the tools they need to start making end-of-life plans, creating peace of mind for themselves and their families,” said Chris Oleson, director, Great River Hospice. Participants will listen to a short presentation, take a walk to the “Before I Die…” mural, enjoy light refreshments and have the opportunity to ask questions.

The free informational series is scheduled the second Thursday of the month through October. The final session will cover the topic of organ donation.

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For the Record

Avenue G, on a charge of pro-

Madison, in the 800 block of

Maria Johnson, 29, of Fort

08/25/17 - 2:47 p.m. - Fort

Madison police responded

to a report of larceny/theft in

Madison police responded

08/25/17 - 2:21 p.m. - Fort

the 900 block of Avenue H.

the 1000 block of Avenue D.

because he had a warrant for

at 35th Street and Avenue

a charge of driving while barred

Sheriff's report

Ronda Elaine Swearingen,

MADISON in the 400 block of

arrested Travis

Avenue A, for driving while

Lee County Jail and held.

in a court of law

Lee County Sheriff's Office

in a court of law

adicted.

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• Hicks Orchard
• Lake George, islands of the Narrows Cruise
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Fall Decor is Just Arriving!
Hounds runners take 8th at CR

BY PCC STAFF
CEDAR RAPIDS - Both FMHS boys and girls cross country teams competed in the 33rd annual Prairie Invitational at the Cedar Rapids Prairie High School Campus on Saturday.

The highest finisher for the Hounds girls was Brett Schneider who took 8th place in the Orange varsity 5K heat with a time of 20:56. That was good enough for 14th place overall in the girls varsity competition.

Aaron Steffensmeier had the top finish for Fort Madison in the boy's Orange Varsity 5K heat with a time of 18:37, also in the Orange varsity 5K heat.

Dayne Cordray was two places and three seconds behind Steffensmeier at 18:40 good enough for 23rd in the heat and 69th overall.

Other top finishers for the boys included Noah Sissel 19:06 (34th heat, 95th overall), Miguel Trejo 19:52 (50th, 120th), Owen Kruse 20:03 (55th, 126th), Elton Kruse 20:27 (61st, 134th), Shakir McClellan (63rd, 138th). The boys team finished 8th in Orange heat and 19th overall.

In the girls competition, Elizabeth Miller was second for the Bloodhounds at 22:43 (29th, 63rd overall), Maddy McVey finished at 23:20 (34th, 72nd), Ashlynn Haas 24:14 (52nd, 107th), and Lauren King 25:10 (62nd, 121st).

The girls team also finished in 8th place in the Orange 5k heat and in 15th place overall in the girls varsity run.

Young Republicans to meet Sept. 2

BY PCC STAFF
KEOKUK - Regular meeting of the Lee County Young Republicans will be held September 2, 2017 at 4:00pm at the Keokuk National Cemetery 18th and Carroll Streets Keokuk, Iowa 52632 Featuring a tour of the cemetery by local historian Terry Altheide.

It will be followed by bowling at the Arrowhead Bowl 3535 Main Street in Keokuk. Des Moines County Young Republicans will be attending and all youth ages 14-26 are welcome.

For more info contact jordean@heartbeatdistribution.com.
Kiwanis donation

The Fort Madison Kiwanis contributed $1,000 to the efforts of the Elliott Test Kitchen on Monday. The Kiwanis have contributed $2,000 over the past two years to the test kitchen. Pictured are Kiwanis Treasurer Kevin Adams of Lee County Bank and Kumar Wickramasingha, founder and operator of the Test Kitchen that helps students work on academics including ACT prep, as well as learning to prepare meals.

Police remind city of parade parking rules

BY PCC STAFF

FORT MADISON - The Fort Madison Police Department would like to remind residents about the Tri-State Rodeo Parade’s “No Parking” restrictions on Saturday morning, September 9, 2017.

On Saturday, all parking will be prohibited in the following areas beginning at 7:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. and these areas will have “No Parking” signs posted.

- Avenue G from 27th Street to 2nd Street. This is the parade route and all parked cars in violation of the parking restriction will be towed at the expense of the owners.
- The parade’s staging areas, which include Richards Drive to 30th Street and adjacent side streets.
- North side of Avenue E from 15th Street to 2nd Street.
- North side of Avenue F from 5th Street to 9th Street.

The Fort Madison Police Department would also like to remind motorists about the temporary four-way stop intersections on Avenue E at 9th Street, 15th Street and 18th Street beginning Friday, September 1, 2017. These intersections will return to two-way stop intersections on Monday, September 11, 2017.
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Family almost doubles after 40-year absence

FATHER - Continued from Page 1

message read.

Darrow said she remembers just looking at the mes-
sage and a numbness came over her. That message was
sent on the April 11th and the two have been speaking
regularly ever since.

Her half-sister Lexi was engaged and a wedding was
set for this past weekend in Fort Dodge. The two stayed
in contact and Lexi invited Darrow to the wedding and
said her father, Gerald would be at the wedding. It would
be the first time she had seen her biological father in over
40 years.

“I didn’t even know if I could call him Dad, because
Elvis has been my dad since I was in third grade.”

Lexi had planned for Darrow and her husband, Joe,
and daughter Grace to sit in the second row behind the
parents. Darrow said nothing was said by either her or
her father during the ceremony. Even as Gerald, and his
wife Kelly, walked down the aisle with his daughter no
eye-contact was made. The whole ceremony took place
and everyone moved to the reception where Darrow
and her family found a table and sat. After about an hour
they got up to go the food table. Darrow was planning
on going around the tables, but Grace took them straight
through the tables to the food and Darrow decided it was
time to say, hello - in person.

“I was always nervous going to Sioux City because I
never really knew what to expect,” Darrow said. “I gave
him my phone number, but I didn’t ask him for
any personal information. I was just there to introduce
myself and let him know I was there,” Darrow said. “She
saw me and came around the table and just hugged me and
hung onto me. I thought the hug was over and went to pull
back and when I did our eyes just locked and we kind of
starred at each other. Then she just kept hugging me and
we couldn’t believe this was happening.”

After a few minutes of time with each other, Lexi asked
Darrow if she was ready to go over to her father.

“She took my hand and right there I started shaking.
I was getting nervous because it had been more than 40
years of no contact or anything. Joe was by my side and
Grace was with me. We got up to his table and Lexi said,
‘Dad, you need to turn around.’ At that first glare we just
looked at each other and shook his head and he stood up
and grabbed me and hugged me.

“He said, ‘Kristine?’, and I said, ‘Yes, this is me.’ and
he just kept a hold of me and rubbed my back and he
started full on crying and kept saying, ‘I’m sorry, I’m
sorry’. And I said there was no reason for apologies that
we were here now - together.”

With the knowledge of basically more than doubling
her family in a matter of months, Darrow said quickly
started getting to know this other side of her family. Lexi
has a sister Libby and a younger brother. It’s all new
that she didn’t even get his name.

Her biological father, who goes by Jerry, remarried to
a woman named Kelly, who Kristine said she met about
8 years ago, but didn’t develop any type of relationship or
leave any contact information.

“I was always nervous going to Sioux City because I
was afraid I would run in him. All the memories I had
were bad. But about eight years ago mom and I were up
there doing some shopping and went by one of those day
old bread stores, like Burlington used to have. Mom said
your step-mom works in there. I told her to turn around
because I wanted to go in.”

She went into the store and meandered about like a
customer until a woman came up and asked her if she
could help her find anything.

“I’m actually here for something else. Are you married
to Jerry Dickes? She said, ‘Yes’ and I told her I was his
daughter and told her to tell him I’m doing fine and he
has a granddaughter and I left it at that.”

Darrow said she never heard anything from Jerry or
her step-mother and didn’t have any further contact with
the family until her mother passed away and she got the
message from Lexi.

Jerry told Darrow that he had kept tabs on her moth-
er and he knew she had been put into a nursing home
before she died, but that’s really all he knew.

“She said her father, Gerald would be at the wedding. It
would be the first time she had seen her biological father in
over 40 years.

“It was absolutely awesome. That moment. I’m still
getting comments from the family that they’d never seen
t heir dad cry before and had never seen him that happy.”

During the reception Darrow was able to share a dance
with her father at his request. She said the DJ came down
to the dance floor and made an announcement that not
only was their a wedding to celebrate, but said Lexi had
just found out after 40 years that she has a half-sister and
Jerry wanted to share the dance floor with Kristine.

“There was a lot of emotion on both sides’, Darrow
said. “Since April, Lexi and I have talked quite a lot and
we’ll probably remain the closest out of everyone. Last
week she asked me how I was feeling about all of this and
I told her I was very nervous because I didn’t know how
he was going to react. But she said he was nervous too
and couldn’t believe that I was still coming.”

Darrow said she shared a drink with Jerry during the
reception at which point he asked if he could have her
phone number.

“I gave him my phone number, but I didn’t ask him for
his. Now the ball is in his court. Lexi and Libby and I will
continue to talk. Maybe he’s gonna take the chance but
at least, if I don’t hear from him in a month or so I can
check with them.

“I’m still shocked this has all happened. It still amaz-
es me.”
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Grand re-opening set for Oct. 20-21

now, the inventory and business plan at the store will remain the same, but he says future plans could include a change in format and possible expansion.

"At some point it’s going to change formats, but I don’t know when," he said. "Part of it depends on the building and what goes on there. We’ve talked about expanding the building, but one of the biggest things is we don’t have a loading dock here and we have to off-load everything and put it on a delivery truck and then bring it in. I’ve shown the owners how we could put a dock in so they are looking into that."

Sears has different formats for their Hometown stores as well as corporate stores, like the Quincy location. He said formats include the Sears AAE stores which are what they have in Burlington and Keokuk. The AAE stands for America’s Appliance Experts.

"They’ve been doing some studies on other formats but they don’t have all the feedback on them yet," Snyder said. "One would be more tools based. They would get rid of mattresses and exercise equipment and focus on the tools. And then at one point they were looking at more of a furniture format, but I don’t think they’re looking at that anymore."

He said Sears kind of dictates what inventory each store carries, but that’s dependent on what the community has been purchasing. He said he brought in a 0-turn radius lawn mower in Keokuk because customers down there hadn’t seen one, so Sears let him bring that in.

The couple will be holding a grand re-opening on Oct. 20th and 21st with some drawings and special promotions from Sears.

Snyder said he’s looking forward to seeing what happens in the downtown with some new businesses opening and the potential for new streets and sidewalks in the next few years.

"I don’t know how the sewer work is going to affect us, but I hear they’re looking at doing that in the next two to three years. It sounds like it’s going to be torn up for quite a while. I don’t know where that sewer runs down that street," Snyder said he hopes the city does the work in phases so people can still get downtown. But he said the new business openings in downtown help bring people into the area for shopping and entertainment and that’s a good thing.

He said his aunt has built a nice customer base, but there are still people who aren’t aware Sears is in Fort Madison.

"The good thing is that it’s been here so long that people know it’s here, but in the same breath people don’t know it’s here, too. I’ve had people tell me they didn’t know there was a Sears store down here."

The business is located at 704 Avenue G and can be reached at 319-372-0871. Hours are 9 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday and 11 to 4 on Sunday.

New FM Sears owner, Kerry Snyder, works at the checkout area Monday. Snyder and his wife, Tina, took ownership of the business effective Aug. 16 and are planning a grand re-opening for Oct. 20 and 21st.
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**5-DAY WEATHER FORECAST**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Weather Conditions</th>
<th>High Temperature</th>
<th>Low Temperature</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>TUE 29 Aug</strong></td>
<td>Scattered Clouds</td>
<td>74.9°F</td>
<td>66.3°F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>WED 30 Aug</strong></td>
<td>Partly Sunny</td>
<td>78.7°F</td>
<td>69.0°F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>THU 31 Aug</strong></td>
<td>Heavy Intensity Rain</td>
<td>67.4°F</td>
<td>59.6°F</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>FRI 01 Sep</strong></td>
<td>Clear Skies</td>
<td>73.4°F</td>
<td>57.1°F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SAT 02 Sep</strong></td>
<td>Clear Skies</td>
<td>73.5°F</td>
<td>53.9°F</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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