Region XII artists win awards
FMAAA hosts annual judging for eight county competition

BY BRIAN RIGGS
Fort Madison Area Artists Association

FORT MADISON - Fort Madison Area Artists Association is the host gallery this year for the Region XII competition.

Artists that are members of the Iowa Artists Group, founded in 1970 by Jack Olds of IA Arts Council, competed with blue ribbon winners having the opportunity to advance to the state competition in May in Ames. Participants had to be 18 years of age and all mediums were fair game except digital images and photography.

There are 12 regions in Iowa and this territory is Region XII comprised of Lee, Des Moines, Louisa, Henry, Jefferson, Muscatine, Washington, and Van Buren counties. A reception for the public will occur March 9th from 2-4pm. HyVee of Ft. Madison is the sponsor for the exhibition.

A first, second, and third place ribbons are awarded for every 10 participants in the regional. Honorable mentions were at the juror’s discretion.

The juror this year was former Ft. Madisonian, Tim Van Ginkel of Iowa City. Margaret Ertz and Cathryn Layer are the coordinators for Region XII.

There are over 60 works in the exhibition and the

See ART, page 4

Drug Task force gets two Lee County men

POC STAFF
Lee COUNTY - The Lee County Narcotics Task Force reports the arrest of Christopher Farnett of St. Paul IA, and Brett Montgomery of Fort Madison IA on felony drug charges.

Christopher Farnett, 40, of St. Paul, Iowa was arrested on February 28th, 2019 in West Point IA by the Lee County Sheriff’s Office. Farnett is charged with aiding and abetting to the delivery of more than five grams of methamphetamine within 1000 feet of a public park, class B felony. If convicted Farnett faces up to 30 years in a state correctional facility.

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Pen City Current
Tuesday, March 5, 2019 | 8 pages | Volume 3 • Issue 63

Don’t forget Social Media! Check out on the following sites @pencitycurrent:

INSIDE:
More on the Sailfish swimmers at the YMCA state meet.

See page 8

Fort Madison’s Jacob Mohrfeld prepares for a turn in one of his races Saturday at the YMCA State Swim meet. Mohrfeld won three events and set a new YMCA state record in the 50 breaststroke.

Mohrfeld sets new state YMCA swim mark

Sailfish junior wins three events; Gobble, Dixon also top 5

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – Fort Madison’s Jacob Mohrfeld took three titles and set a state YMCA record over the weekend.

Mohrfeld’s just a couple weeks out from placing at the Iowa High School Swim meet where he took 3rd place among the state’s best in the 100-yard breast-stroke.

The 16-year-old junior from Holy Trinity Catholic set the new state mark in the 50-meter breaststroke with a time of 27.93 in the 15-21 age group, a full three seconds in front of the second place swimmer.

In the 100-meter breaststroke Mohrfeld set the new state mark in the 15-21 age group with a time of 38:05 for another top finish for the Fort Madison YMCA Sailfish.

Mohrfeld said his goal was to win his three events and set a new YMCA state record in the 50 breaststroke.

"Next year, if I decide to do Y again, it will be my last year. But if I do, my goal will be to break that mark and maybe set other records in the other events.”

-Jacob Mohrfeld
YMCA state champion

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FORT MADISON – The following is a list of events and happenings going on in Fort Madison as submitted to the Pen City Current.

Community Blood Drives
A blood drive will be held at the Fort Madison Public Library from 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. on Friday March 8. Lincoln Elementary will be the site of a blood drive on Thursday, March 21, from 2:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. in the gymnasium. Call the blood center at 800-747-5401 ext. 1281 to donate.

YMCA Little Tykes Spring Soccer
Registration is currently underway for the 2019 season, which runs March 26 – May 2. Registration deadline is March 10 for regular fees of $20 for members, $40 for non-members. From March 11-17th participants can register but fees are $10 higher. Volunteer coaches are needed. Call the YMCA at 319-372-2403 for more information.

Lee County Health Department
Hospice Volunteer Training
April 2 - April 23, 2019
4 Tuesday Evenings
6:00pm-9:00pm
at LCHD office
No fee, Open to the public
To register call (319)372-5225 or visit www.leecountyhd.org
You can make a difference!
206 John Bennett Drive, PO Box 1426, Fort Madison

Welcome Winter
Winter is the time for comfort, for good food and warmth, for the touch of a friendly hand and for a talk beside the fire: it is time for home.
- Edith Sitwell
Farmhouse Style Decor, Silks, Gift Items, Soaps, Lotions, Jams & Salsas, Milton Creamery Cheeses, Swed & Co. Coffee and Fancy Favor Cookies
Winter Hours:
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618 7th Street | Fort Madison, Iowa | 319-470-7375
Visit us online www.harvestvillefarm.com/mercantile

Senior Community BINGO at The Kensington
Each month on the second Wednesday of the month, The Kensington hosts Senior Community BINGO at 2 p.m. in their dining room at 2210 Avenue H in Fort Madison. All seniors are welcome and cash prizes are awarded.

St. Patrick’s Day celebration
The Fort Madison Chamber of Commerce will be holding a St. Patrick’s Day celebration on March 16 including a parade, games, music and fun. Parade entry forms are available by contact the Chamber at 319-372-5471.

Fort Madison YMCA’s Shamrocked 2019
The 2nd annual Shamrocked will be held on March 16 starting at 8 a.m. with a free-will donation pancake breakfast, followed by a Bike & Brew after the St. Patrick’s Holiday Parade. For more information, contact the YMCA at 372-2403.

ISU Extension Estate Planning
Iowa State University Outreach and Extension will hold an estate planning session on March 19th at 6 p.m. at the extension office in Donnellson. The session is $20 per person and registration can be done by contact Whitney Weisinger at 319-835-5116. Deadline is March 15.

MURDER MYSTERY DINNER THEATER
The Fort Madison High School Music Department will be presenting its annual Dinner Theater on March 22-23. Doors open at 6 p.m with the show beginning at 7 p.m. Tickets available at Dana Bushong’s at 805 Avenue G.

Step into Iowa History
A presentation on prisoner of war camps in Iowa during World War II will be held on Tuesday, March 26, from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. at the Fort Madison Public Library. Linda McCann will be presenting.

Pen City Current will list your event in this highly visible CURRENT-LEE section in increments of 25 words for $15. Add a photo for $5. Non-profit organizations are eligible for the reduced rate of $10 per 25 words and $3 per photo. To place your listing, click here or call Lee at (319)371.4125.
Lending a hand

Jeremy Swink judged Iowa DECA’s Sports and Entertainment Marketing Team Decision Making event videos to help the Fort Madison DECA chapter due to the State Career Development Conference cancellation. DECA members were allowed to videotape their role-play presentations to Iowa DECA for judging.

Fort Madison man charged with delivery of MDMA

In an unrelated case, Brett A. Montgomery was arrested on March 3rd, 2019 by the Keokuk Police Department. Montgomery is charged with delivery of less than 5 grams of MDMA (methyleneoxy-methamphetamine, a class C felony. If convicted Montgomery faces up to 10 years in a state correctional facility.

The arrest of Montgomery and Farnett stems from an investigation by the Lee County Narcotics Task Force into allegations that they were involved in the distribution of illegal drugs in the Lee County area.

The Lee County Attorney’s Office, Lee County Sheriff’s Office, Iowa Division of Narcotics Enforcement, and the Keokuk Police Department assisted the Lee County Narcotics Task Force in this investigation.

The defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.

OTBURIES

DEBORAH LEE (HOVIS) HELLMAN

Deborah Lee (Hovis) Hellman, 64 years, of West Burlington and formerly of Houghton, Iowa died at 8:03 pm Sunday, March 3, 2019 at the Klein Center, West Burlington. She was born May 23, 1954 in Missouri, a daughter of Clifford and Wanda (Pierce) Hovis. She married Fred Hellman. They later divorced.

Deb was a 1972 graduate of Bloomfield High School in Bloomfield, Missouri. She worked in advertising for the Daily Democrat, West Point Bee, Donnellson Star, and KOKX radio. She enjoyed doing crafts. She was of the Catholic Faith. She loved her family, especially her grandchildren.

She is survived by three sons: James Birker of O’Fallon, Missouri; Andrew (Angela) Hollarman of Houghton, Iowa; and Adam (Lisa) Hellman of Holts Summit, Missouri; one daughter, Ashley (Jeremy) Norris of Iowa City, Iowa; six grandchildren: Erin, Alesha, Alex, Ayden, Sophia, and Sawyer; one great grandson, Oliver; her step father, Clinton (Laverne) Kelly of Dexter, Missouri; cousins and friends. She was preceded in death by her parents and grandparents.

Her family will greet friends from 9:00 – 10:00 am Saturday, March 9, 2019 at the Klein Center, West Burlington, Iowa. Mass of Christian Burial will follow and begin at 10:00 am Saturday at the Klein Center, Iowa with Reverend Marty Goetz as Celebrant. Burial will be at a later date. A memorial has been established, contributions may be left at the Bare Memorial Chapel. Online condolences to the family may be made at www.barmemorialschand.com.

TONY MIENSMA

Tony Miensma, 62, of Wever passed away at 3:01 PM on Sunday, March 3, 2019 at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics. He was born on July 26, 1956 in Morrison, IL to Harvey and Clara Rus Miensma. Tony owned and operated Teledig. He was a state champion barrel racer and bull rider. Tony loved football, fishing and all types of cars.

Survivors include his companion, Dallas Chaplin of Wever; three step daughters, Deedra (Daniel) Linnenbrink of New London, Manitoba; Liz Vroom of Wever; one brother, Dennis Miensma of Gothic, IL and Tami (Joey) Hornick of Tennessee; one sister, Judy (Larry) Tiesman of Albany, IL, Linda (Richard) Schipper of Fulton, IL and Tami (Joey) Hornick of Tennessee; one brother, Dennis Miensma of Albany, IL; several nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents.

A memorial service will be held at 11 AM on Friday, March 8, 2019 at the First Christian Church with Jeff Metcalf officiating. The family will meet with friends from 10-11 AM at the church. Burial will follow at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, a memorial has been established in his memory and online condolences may be left at www.kindlynk.com.

Pen City Current encourages you to play responsibly.
Celebhrations/From the Front

OLIVER MORRIS

CAMP LEJEUNE, N.C. – Mr. and Mrs. Devin and Kayla Morris are proud to announce the birth of their son Oliver Morris on Feb. 19, 2019 at Naval Hospital Camp Lejeune in Jacksonville, N.C. Grandparents are Chris and Connie Hudson of Montrose; Charity Belding, Mich.; and Daron and Karen Morris of Blanding, Mich.

Pen City Current congratulates the family on this wonderful news.

MADALINE KATE MENKE

SALEM – Mr. and Mrs. Alan and Jessica Menke, of Salem, are proud to announce the birth of their daughter Madaline Kate Menke, on Feb. 28, 2019 at Fort Madison Community Hospital. Madaline is joined at home by Emma, Nicholas, Addison, and Jillian. Grandparents are Dorn Luder of Dallas City and Sally Luder (deceased); and Al-bert and Mary Menke of Salem. Great-grandparent is Delores Shoemate (deceased).

Pen City Current congratulates the family on this wonderful news.

Pen City Current Celebrations policy

The Current runs birth announcements, wedding anniversary announcements, and other milestones at no charge to individuals and they run the day they are submitted in most cases. Announcements can be submitted online here: https://www.pencitycurrent.com/sub-missions/ or by email to editor@pencitycurrent.com.

FM’s Kirby, Scott earn art ribbons

ART - Continued from Page 1

first task was to hang works while more were coming into the scene. This hanger was thankful for assist by Carlene Atwater to set the stage. As the region held their meeting on the Mem- ber Artist Gallery side, the juror was able to get acclimated to the envi- ronment. Then Tim Van Ginkel gave a demon- stration of book binding for the Region XII artists, which was a very cool presentation. When the artists broke for lunch the ribbons were award- ed. Upon their return Tim gave a critique of the ribbon winners and individual critique for any artist wishing feedback on their work.

Earning ribbons at the competition were:

First Place Ribbons: Kathleen Almelien of Washington, Jessica Kirby of Ft. Madison takes 2, Jason Davis of Burlington, Carol Gunn of Bonaparte, Care Connet of Fairfield. First Place in 3D division went to Carol Keller-Hein of Letts, IA. She also won the admiration of her peers with Peo- ple’s Choice Award with it as well. Second Place Ribbons: Kathleen Al- melien, Mary Scott of Ft. Madison, Care Connet, Ann Porter of Mt. Pleas- ant, Krysteh of Fairfield, and Christal Arthur of Columbus Junction. Ron Deen of West Burlington took 2nd in 3D. Third Place Ribbons: Christine Lass of Burlington, Carol Gunn, Jane Shank and JoAnne Worley of Washington, Barry Ross and Cindy Ballou of Fairfield. Curt Swarn of Mt. Pleasant won 3rd in 3D. Honorable Mentions went to John Carlson of Burlington, Jane Shank, and Jason Davis. View- ing available all month for another memorable feature in Ft. Madison!
Requirements to Apply:

PUBLIC NOTICES

COMMUNITY GARDEN COORDINATOR NEEDED

RSVP/United Way of the Great River Region is seeking a Community Garden Coordinator.

Do you like to garden and work outdoors? Do you like to plan, plant and harvest food?

We are seeking an individual this Spring who will plan, plant, cultivate, harvest and lead other volunteers in our Community Garden (garden is located at 2606 Avenue L, Fort Madison, Iowa behind Hy-Vee).

Must enjoy working outside, gardening and harvesting. Will direct garden activities with other volunteers and may require some bending, stooping and lifting of 10 lbs. or less. Times: 1 hour, 2 times per week.

If interested and for more information, please call Tammy at 319-372-8043.

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Personnel Action:
A. New Hire-Assessors Board of Review
Reports:
A. Commission of Veteran Affairs Minutes of Meeting
B. Commission of Veteran Affairs Quarterly Report
Commission or Committee Reports
Adjourn

Workshop to Follow

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New Years Day

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Knowledge of legal terminology, legal format, and legal forms.

Knowledge of modern office practices, procedures, and equipment.

Knowledge of Electronic Document Management System (EDMS).

Knowledge of Iowa Courts Online.

Knowledge of Iowa Department of Transportation.

Ability to prepare accurate and timely documents, correspondence, and reports.

Ability to learn and/or operate the county Attorney’s Office computer programs.

Ability to understand and follow written and oral instructions.

Ability to use Microsoft Outlook, Word, and Excel.

Ability to work in a fast-paced environment

Ability to multi-task.

Ability to communicate with others using tact and diplomacy.

Ability to establish and maintain effective working relationships with supervisors, attorneys, co-workers, and the public, as well as law enforcement personnel, Clerk of Court, Treasurer and Iowa Department of Transportation.

Ability to maintain a large filing system of current and closed files.

Must be able to travel to
the courthouse on occasion.

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the courthouse on occasion.

7:00

Collections Clerk
Lee County Attorney’s Office
Keokuk, Iowa

Lee County Attorney’s Office has an immediate opening for the collections clerk position
(40 hours per week).

The position’s successful applicant is preferred (but not required) to have the following:

1. Completion of some college-level administrative support courses or any equivalent
combination of training and experience.

2. Knowledge of legal terminology, legal format, and legal forms.

3. Knowledge of modern office practices, procedures, and equipment.


5. Knowledge of Iowa Courts Online.

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SAILFISH

Continued from Page 1

five finish in the 100 and he finished 5th.

He said his confidence is much higher at the YMCA events, but as he gets older, he prefers the competition at the high school level.

"I feel more confident at YMCA, but I like the high school competition better. I have a better feeling there. After each event, they call names individually and you get a podium," he said. "I'm not sure if he's going to continue to swim YMCA level or move to more involvement with the Eastern Iowa USA team out of Cedar Rapids."

"They have a group in Burlington that is associated with the same team out of Cedar Rapids and I've been training with them," he said.

"It's new to Burlington and it's a pretty good team. I haven't competed yet, but I've been trained with them," he said.

He's been swimming with the YMCA since he was five and has been competing at events around the state since he was six years old.

Other top finishes of note include Gobble's 5th place 100 breast with a time of 1:31.89; 5th in the 50 Breast with a time of 24.82; and placed 16th in the 25 Fly with a time of 23.21.

Kadence Gobble is in midstroke during the 50 fly at this weekend's state YMCA swim meet. Gobble took 3rd in the event and also had a fifth-place finish on the day.

"The YMCA allows you to swim until you're 21, but most kids don't swim Y after high school. Next year, if I decide to do Y again, it will be my last year, but if I do, my goal will be to break that mark and maybe set other records in the other events." He's been swimming with the YMCA since he was five and has been competing at events around the state since he was six years old.

OpenWeatherMap