Councilman wants golf carts legal for city streets

City may put issue back on agenda after three years

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG

FORT MADISON – With Lee County and several of the smaller communities in the county opening their streets to golf carts and all-terrain vehicles this year, a Fort Madison City Councilman wants a similar ordinance considered.

At Tuesday’s regular City Council meeting, Third ward city councilman Matt Mohrfeld asked, during a discussion phase of the meeting, that city staff put a discussion of a possible ordinance on the agenda for a future meeting.

“Who doesn’t want that. There the greatest thing in the world. Have you ever gone to West Point and seen the community camaraderie around golf carts?” Mohrfeld said after the meeting.

“What doesn’t, on a nice Sunday night, want to get in their golf cart and ride up to Central Park with their wife, and their lemonade, and their sandwiches, and go listen to the concert…that’s Americana at its finest.

West Point passed it’s ordinance this month allowing all the vehicles on city streets if they are permitted with the city and the state, and properly insured. The Lee County Board of Supervisors approved a similar ordinance for secondary roads only, with allowances for use on paved streets if the vehicles are going from one secondary road to another and cross the paved road.

City Manager David Varley questioned which roadways would be allowed to have the vehicles on them. See CITY, page 8

FMAAA to bring in working artists

BY BRIAN RIGGS
Fort Madison Area Arts Association

FORT MADISON – Fort Madison Area Arts Association is pleased to announce a new program in the works to benefit member artists, the FMAAA and provide a new cultural opportunity for area residents and visitors.

“We are calling it Working Artist Wednesdays,” says director Brian Riggs. “We have been working on some ways to bring new programs to FMAAA. This is a win/win/win. The center will have a volunteer artist on hand to provide staffing on Wednesday afternoons at least twice a month. The artist will have a new avenue of exposure to promote their work. And the community will have the opportunity to engage in a cultural experience.”

On Working Artist Wednesdays, the member artist may be working on a piece of their own work. The public is invited to stop in to see a work in progress as they demonstrate their process. Or, the artist may offer classes during their hours at the Center.

The FMAAA will be extending hours on those days to 7 p.m. to match up with when the movie starts next door at the Fox Theater. This goes hand-and-hand with another new programming avenue for FMAAA, music lessons on Tuesdays and Thursday evenings.

Guitar Tuesdays feature instructors from Musicians Pro-Shop of Burlington. Equipment from the store allows students to amp-up or go acoustic. Instructors Clay Houston and Nick Knedler offer instruction at $20 per half-hour. Also piano lessons are available on the first and third Thursdays of the month featuring Teri Wellborn with more than 50 years of experience. This program is on hiatus for the summer but back in the

See FMAAA, page 4

Lee County Fair trades program keeps growing

Trades competition adds 10 students in just second year

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG

DONNELLSON – With the 2019 Lee County Fair in the mirror, the board is evaluating successes and with that must be included the second year of the trades competition.

What was just a couple of students submitting a couple projects in the events first year in 2018, has now grown to more than 12 students with 18 projects in 2019.

Fair Board member Brian Foecke, who spearheaded the creation of the program last year said this year’s numbers of submissions was a pleasant surprise.

“We went from just a couple kids with some projects last year to what has grown to has more than a dozen kids and 18 projects this year,” Foecke said.

“That was pretty phenomenal and were very thrilled with that.”

He said students turned in projects in all three classes of welding, general carpentry, and finished carpentry and thanks in part to sponsorships and a Southeastern Community College’s premiere spon-
Holy Trinity releases final 2019 honor rolls

FORT MADISON – Holy Trinity Catholic Schools has announced its fourth quarter and second semester honor roll for the 2018-2019 school year. Pen City Current joins our advertis-ers and readers in congratulating these students on their academic success. Job well done!

4.0 Honor Roll: 7th Grade: Mary Kate Bendlage, Tae根 Denning, Connor Gehling, Jenna Hellman, Natalie Randolph; 8th Grade: Alexa Ding- man, Laura Mehmet, Rachel Menke, Brianna Wright; 9th Grade: Jack Malinicki, Mitchell Pothitakis, Kassidy Randolph, Anna Sobczak; 10th Grade: Danny Carsuo, Bailey Hellweg, Ava Petz, Claire Pothitakis, Maria Rauenbuehler, Chan- dler Rung, Jason Thurman, Yvain Thurman, Emma Torgler, Tori Vincent; 11th Grade: Hollie Burford, Reagan Garrels, Nicole Pothitakis, Saman-tha Pothitakis; 12th Grade: Sam Avery, Emily Box, Maja Lawlor, Elyse Pothitakis, Kyle Schertz, Katie Scoville

A Honor Roll: 7th Grade: Michael Chapman, Sheldon Kruse, Andrew Mehmet, Seth Moeller, Brenna Peterson, Maddox Rung, Edward Schroeder, Juniper Strick- land; 8th Grade: Emily Boed-ing, Kayla Box, Brooke Mueller, Paige Wasielewski; 9th Grade: Lucy Graham, Abby Hoikamp, Raquel Schneider, Jackson Van- Hamme; 10th Grade: Taylor Crab-tree, Katherine Denning, Alison Robu, Annabelle Schertz, Hohn Simson, Roselynn Strickland; 11th Grade: Brandon Delaney, Evan Ellison, Reed Fedhoeke, Ashlyn Haas, Jacob Mohrfield, Ryan Otte, Elle Rashid, Maille Sheerin, DZeyong You; 12th Grade: Henrique Almeida, Eryn Anderson, Taylor Boeding, Brant Goldkamp, Adam Rauenbuehler, Hannah Torger, Yuli Zhang; 8th Honor Roll: 7th Grade: Dalton Boed-ing, Reagan Holvoet, Jacob Hummel, Ethan Peitz, Mary Beth Schertz; 8th Grade: Haleie Cain, Jenna DZPrima, Elliott Doutslay, Mary Helligs, Amayi Navarro, Jacob Pothi-takis, James Schetz, Riley Timmerman; 9th Grade: Claire Brock, Michael Hellman, Blake Hemann, Kelli Miereberto, Mya Schmitz; 10th Grade: Cassandra Campbell, Mia Marenberg, 11th Grade: Blake Crab-tree, Ambrosia Dustin, Matthew Hellige, Wyatt Hellman, Mason Holvoet, Avery Hopper, Quentin Schneider; 12th Grade: Sterling

See HONORS, page 8

Castro talks new age “Marshall Plan” in Keokuk

KEOKUK – “One Nation. One Destiny”

That has been Julian Castro’s campaign slogan since he announced in January of 2019 that he would be entering the crowded list of Democrats looking to oust Republican Donald Trump from the White House come next November.

That motto carried through much of Castro’s hour and a half long speech to roughly 120 Lee County Democrats who have thrown their hats in the ring while he spoke to the assembled group at the Keokuk Labor Temple.

Castro spoke at length about topics that have been prevalent early in the campaign season including: Reduced or Free Tuition for Higher Education; Medicare for All Healthcare Reform; Criminal Justice Reform; Legalizing Marijuana; Police Reform and Re-Training; Passage of the Equal Rights Amendment; Passage of the Equality Act; Investment in Infrastructure; Raising the Minimum Wage; Strengthening Union; Drafting Legislation to Combat Climate Change Including Net Zero Carbon Emissions by 2050; and Immigration Reform Including Breaking Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Into Separate Departments

The topic of Immigration Reform consumed much of Castro’s time with the microphone as he outlined a plan to invest the money that Donald Trump has looked to secure for the border wall and investing it into the countries from which immigrants are currently flooding from the border.

His “21st Century Marshall Plan” as he called it, would be combined with efforts to expedite the legal immigration process by adding more courts and judges to process applications and asylum claims.

One thing that separated Castro from previous visi-tors to Iowa is that he did not spend the majority of his time talking about Donald Trump. Through the first half hour of his speech, he only referred to the “Office of the President” as it is currently inhabited on a few occasions.

That’s not to say Castro did not voice his displeasure with the current inhabitant of the White House.

Julian Castro speaks to the those in attend-ance at the Keokuk Labor Temple on Monday.

“Let me just say that I don’t want to make our coun-try anything ‘Again’. I want to make us better than we’ve ever been,” Castro said.

“I don’t want to go backwards. I want to go into the future stronger than ever… With one exception which is that I want to return integrity and decency to the Oval Office.”

After taking questions from the crowd, Castro took time to meet with just over half of the more than 100 people in attendance before exiting the Keokuk Labor Temple.

Julian Castro currently sits in a tie for 8th place among Democratic nomination hopefuls as a NBC News/Wall Street Journal poll showed 1% of Democrat-ic-leaning voters favored the former HUD Secretary.

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EVELYN ROSE DENNING


Born on July 9, 1931 in Fort Madison, Iowa, the daughter of Herbert H. and Rose Catherine (Schoenre) Stenger. On April 7, 1951, Eileen married James Denning at the Sacred Heart Church in Fort Madison, Iowa.

Survivors include her husband: Jim of Houghton; eight children: Tim (Sharon) Denning of Houghton, Monica Gallagher of Schaumburg, Illinois, Mike (Sally) Denning of Houghton, Iowa, Patricia Sallee of Salem, Iowa, Marilyn (Glen) Starkey of Mt. Pleasant, Iowa, Linda (Sam) Baxter of Fort Madison, Iowa, Sam (Kim) Denning of Spring Hill, Kansas, and Philip (Jackie) Denning of Houghton, Iowa; thirty grandchildren, fifty-one great grandchildren and two great-great grandchildren; one sister: Annette Polpeter of Burlington, Iowa. Also surviving are several nieces and nephews.

She is preceded in death by her parents; her twins: David and Dianne Denning; granddaughter: Darcy Denning; great granddaughter: Abby Denning; one brother Ed; four sisters: Marjorie, Genevieve, Helen and Carolyn.

Eileen graduated from Catholic Central High School in Fort Madison, Iowa. She was a member of Saint John the Baptist Catholic Church of Houghton, Iowa, the Altar and Rosary Society and a former member of the Madonna Circle Daughters of Isabella. Eileen enjoyed cleaning up around Houghton, talking to neighbors and traveling to softball games. She helped raise many kids in Houghton. She and Jerry Bentler, along with John Bentler wrote the Houghton History Book for the Houghton Centennial. Eileen especially enjoyed sitting on her front porch with her husband, Jim and family.

Friends may call after 12:00 p.m. Thursday, July 18, 2019 at Saint John the Baptist Catholic Church in Houghton, Iowa, where the family will receive friends from 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. There will be a rosary recited at 4:00 p.m. and a wake service at 7:00 p.m.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be Friday, July 19, 2019 at 10:30 a.m. at Saint John the Baptist Catholic Church in Houghton. Burial will follow at Saint John’s Cemetery in Houghton.

A memorial has been established in her memory for Holy Trinity Catholic Schools or Saint John the Baptist Church.

Online condolences may be made to the family at www.schmitzfuneralhome.com. Schmitz Funeral Home of West Point, Iowa is assisting the family with arrangements.

For the Record

Fort Madison Police Report

7/12/19 – 1:47 a.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a burglary in process in the 1500 block of 27th St. 7/12/19 – 10:34 a.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of larceny/theft in the 200 block of Ave. G. 7/12/19 – 1:01 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a hit and run in the 600 block of 9th St. 7/12/19 – 1:21 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a personal injury accident at the intersection of 58th St. and Ave. O. 7/12/19 – 2:52 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of vandalism in the 800 block of Ave. C. 7/12/19 – 3:28 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a shoplifter in the 1900 block of Ave. H. 7/12/19 – 3:56 p.m. – Fort Madison Police arrested Nicholas John Wayne Summers, 28, of Westmont, Ill. on charges of OWI – first and failure to maintain control at the Fort Madison Hospital. He was taken to Lee County Jail and held. 7/13/19 – 9:15 a.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of larceny/theft in the Fort Madison area. 7/13/19 – 11:35 a.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a burglar in process in the 1900 block of Ave. A. 7/13/19 – 1:14 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of vandalism in the 1500 block of Ave. A. 7/13/19 – 6:32 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of vandalism in the 1300 block of Ave. G. 7/13/19 – 8:46 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of vandalism in the 1700 block of Ave. L. 7/14/19 – 12:52 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a burglar in process in the 2500 block of Ave. A. 7/14/19 – 8:36 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a stolen bicycle in the 2500 block of Ave. A. 7/14/19 – 9:30 p.m. – Fort Madison Police arrested Lillian Anees Leveling, 21, of Fort Madison, on three counts of possession of controlled substances in the 2100 block of Ave. F. He was taken to Lee County Jail and held. 7/14/19 – 10:00 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of larceny/theft in the 2000 block of Ave. L. 7/14/19 – 11:11 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a burglary in process in the 2000 block of Ave. I. He was taken to Lee County Jail and held. 7/14/19 – 12:21 a.m. – The Lee County Sheriff's Department arrested Henry Lee Moorer, 22, of Keokuk on charges for failure to appear, contempt ct. He was released the same day on bond. 7/15/19 – 2:59 a.m. – The Lee County Sheriff's Department arrested Darla Jean Doss, 54, of Burlington on a charge of public intoxication at the Lee County Sheriff's Office. She was released on the same day for pg/paid fine. 7/15/19 – 4:39 p.m. – The Lee County Sheriff's Department arrested Anthony J. Casady, 55, of Bonaparte, on a warrant for failure to appear/contempt ct. He was released the same day for recognizance. Those listed above are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

Fort Madison Fire & Rescue report

7/13/19 – 10:47 p.m. – Fort Madison firefighters responded to one medical call. 7/14/19 – 11:15 p.m. – Fort Madison firefighters responded to six medical calls. 7/15/19 – 10:47 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a burglary in the 2800 block of Ave. I.

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Pen City Current - Wednesday, July 17, 2019 - 3
From the Front

**FMAAA - Continued from Page 1**

All of these new programming ventures align with FMAAA's desire to offer hours of operation up until 7 p.m. Since flooding onto the 800 block of Avenue G in 2008, FMAAA has seen the increase in shops offering services after 5 p.m. continue to increase. In fact we believe that foot traffic in the 5:7 p.m. time period will be the lure to 800 block of Avenue G in the future.

The Fort Madison Area Arts Association in past years received a portion of their operating funds from Hotel/Motel tax dollars. Although the FMAAA fully support the culmination of Amtrak to the Sante Fe depot, the organization lost over 10% of it's annual budget with no forewarning. And although FMAAA may be able to return to receive funding in the future, the city council and tourism commission are moving in a direction that will not allow legitimate attraction the access to that fund as in the past.

Certainly for FMAAA it is a very similar situation as with Tri-State Public Radio losing funding from their main source. However, FMAAA does not have the means to appeal to the public in the same way as the radio broadcaster. Private funding via membership is as important as ever to maintaining the structure that FMAAA has developed over years of outcome oriented achievements.

"Funding concerns continue to mount for this unit," surmises Director Brian Riggs. "It actually began when STEM launched and we lost some strong contributions from industrials that reformatted their community giving to reflect STEM bullet points. Now many realize that STEAM is the acronym as industrials in the area all benefit from creatives that monitor key achievements.

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One idea is to increase volunteer hours from members in new program opportunities. Working Artist Wednesdays is a springboard for FMAAA in this area.

"We are launching the program on Wednesday, July 17th from 2pm to 7pm with member artist Lori Illner Greene," says Riggs.

"She did a few days of demonstration work last summer during July when she was the featured artist with an exhibit called Pastels. We generated a lot of foot traffic on those days as folks and families drooped in to see what she was working on. She and I have been kicking around ideas about ways for members to get more involved and she volunteered to come in twice a month this month and next to help get this idea off the ground."

The FMAAA is currently polling members to fill out other spots for the remainder of the year. Hopefully the consistent quality of FMAAA over decades will inspire more private funding as FMAAA loses their entire public revenue for the next year.

Greene will be at FMAAA from 2pm to 7pm on July 17th and 24th, August 7th and 14th, and is likely to do two days in September as well. She is expected to be engaged in what ever work is currently on her studio easel at that time. Greene is happy to explain her process and invites you to stop by to see what she is working on.

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Three win scholarships at county fair from SCC

TRADES - Continued from Page 1

"I think we’ve overlooked the trades for too many years. This wasn’t overnight, we’ve seen a pivot and push over the last five years or so, but I certainly hope it continues.”

-Brian Foecke
Lee County Fair Board

Photos courtesy of Lee County Fair Board.

Above are some of the winners of the Lee County Fair Trades competition at this past week’s Lee County Fair. Below, a metal and wood hauling trailer is graded as part of the trades competition before the fair started last week.

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5-DAY WEATHER FORECAST

WED 17 Jul
Partly Cloudy
High – 87.2º F | Low – 79.2º F

THU 18 Jul
Clear Skies
High– 89.0º F | Low – 80.3º F

FRI 19 Jul
Clear Skies
High– 88.0º F | Low – 79.7º F

SAT 20 Jul
Moderate Rain
High – 85.5º F | Low – 74.2º F

SUN 21 Jul
Heavy Intensity Rain
High– 68.5º F | Low – 67.2º F

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Barnes, Joshua Barr, Kyle Bredemeyer, Ryder Brune, Audrey Campbell, Alec Mehmet, Carson Schroeder, Audrae Vincent

From the Front/Weather

Weather

Partly Cloudy
High – 87.2º F | Low – 79.2º F

Clear Skies
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High– 68.5º F | Low – 67.2º F

OpenWeatherMap

HONORS - Continued from Page 2

CITY - Continued from Page 1

"Most of them, " Mohrfeld said.
"So we can allow a golf cart on a street with a 50- mph speed limit?" Varley said.

Councilman Chris Greenwald, who’s a proponent of the move and owns River City Motors Plus, said there would have to be some limitations on higher speed roadways.

Sheriff Stacy Weber advised the city to be very careful to make sure any ordinance be specific as the county has had a few issues with riders.

"Ok, we will bring something forward to you, " Varley said told Mohrfeld.

"Or we can just request it be on the agenda, with possible action, " Greenwald said.

In an unrelated issue, Public Works Director Larry Driscoll said the bid for work to redo former Hwy. 61 from 2nd to 6th Street was $3.3 million, $600,000 over engineering estimates.

Driscoll said the city missed the bidding season due to archeological issues with the stretch of road. He said it was his goal to try to negotiate the bid down to $2.5 million by removing work that won’t alter the project in a major way. He said any major changes would force the project to be rebidded to be fair to other bidding contractors.