ATVs absent from city agenda

**BY CHUCK VANDENBERG**

PCC EDITOR

**FORT MADISON** – An ordinance that would have allowed golf carts and ATVs on city streets is once again not listed as an action item on Tuesday’s City Council agenda.

It’s not even listed as possible items to be considered at future meetings.

City Councilman Matt Mohrfeld said Sunday that it was his understanding that the reason it’s not on the agenda is that one or more councilmen may not be present Tuesday.

“My understanding from talking with other councilmen is that there may be a councilman or possibly two not there Tuesday,” Mohrfeld said. “And several weeks ago, a couple guys commented at the meeting that if it’s voted on, it should be with the vote.

See CARTS, page 8

---

**Fun at the Games**

Four-year old Darian Ellis of Fort Madison has a lot of fun, and a bit of trouble, getting her slinky to land on her head in the Pink Elephant game Saturday afternoon at Riverview Games. The Fort Madison Partners put the games on again this year entertaining hundreds of kids with games, prizes, and lunch.

---

**Inklings of fall bring changes, adventures**

The “Mump Truck” (mums + dump truck) is now spilling over with blanket flowers. You may recall last fall the beautiful display of golden mums pouring out of the ’48 Chevy dump truck, along Highway 34, outside of New London. It was a gorgeous sight, rapidly becoming a landmark, and many people stopped to inquire about the story behind the mum display and to take pictures. Brad Heald, owner of Heald Trucking, had built the display of mums for his daughter, Coral, who was getting married at the trucking site. Nice wedding gift. The old dump truck was the original truck for the trucking company owned by Brad’s father.

---

**EMPTY NEST**

**By Curt Swarm**

Well, mums don’t winter over so well, especially in the shallow dirt of the Mump Truck. It was disappointing to motorists passing by, used to seeing

See SWARM, page 8
OBITUARIES

GEORGE EUGENE GIMBEL

George Eugene Gimbel, 56, of Keokuk, IA, died Saturday, September 14, 2019 at Blessing Hospital in Quincy, IL. He was born on August 6, 1963 in Jacksonville, IL, the son of George R. and Lela Robson Gimbel. He graduated from Jacksonville High School with the Class of 1981. He attended Quincy Technical School in Quincy, IL.

On June 11, 1999, George was united in marriage to Melinda King at the New Testament Christian Church in Keokuk. She survives. He is also survived by two daughters, Brettney Osborne of Urbana, IL and Vanessa Gimbel of Keokuk, one son, George Thomas “G.T.” Gimbel of Keokuk, his mother, Lela (Robert) Walter of Poplar Bluff, MO; two brothers, Ronald (Tracy) Gimbel of St. Peters, MO and Ernie (Leah) Gimbel of Poplar Bluff, MO; two brothers-in-law, Brent (Jesi-ca) Spoores of Hamilton, IL and Eric (Amy) Spoores of Warsaw, IL, a step-father-in-law, Gary “Joe” Stiles of Keokuk, and several aunts, uncles, nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his grandparents, Donald and Lucille Robson, Faye and Charles Crawford and George and Clara Gimbel, his sister, Janet D. Gimbel, his maternal great-grandparents, John and Florence Stark, maternal great-grandfather, John and Kathy Crowell, maternal great-grandparents, Brian and Debbie Richardson, maternal grandmother, Pam Tibtis, step-maternal grandmother, Paula Yocom, maternal great-grandmother, Virginia Lefler and many aunts, uncles and cousins.

Visitation will be held prior to the service from 10 a.m.-11a.m., Wednesday at the New Testament Christian Church in Keokuk. A Gathering of Remembrance will be held from 6 pm – 8 pm on Friday, September 20, 2019 at the Vigen Memorial Home in Keokuk. Memorials may be made to the family.

Pen City Current obituary policy
The 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.

SARAPHINA NICOLE STARK

Saraphina Nicole Stark was born on August 7, 2019 at the University of Iowa Hospital in Iowa City, IA. She was born at twenty-four weeks gestation, weighing 1 lb. 2 oz., and was 11 ½ in long. She proved to be a very strong little girl, but lost her battle on September 13, 2019 at the University of Iowa Hospital.

Saraphina is survived by her parents, Shawn and Nikki Tibbits Stark of Keokuk, her siblings, Gage, Jaiden, Sylus, Hunter and Serenity, paternal grandparents, Duke and Kathy Crowell, maternal grandparents, Brian and Debbie Richardson, maternal great-grandmother, Pam Tibtis, step-maternal grandmother, Paula Yocom, maternal great-grandmother, Virginia Lefler and many aunts, uncles and cousins.

Memorials may be made to the family.

On-line condolences may be sent to the family at www.vigenmemorialhome.com.

OBITUARIES

OBITUARIES

USDA taking WHIP+ applications

DES MOINES, IOWA, Sept. 13, 2019 — Agricultural producers affected by natural disasters in 2018 and 2019 can apply through the Wildfire and Hurricane Indemnity Program Plus (WHIP+). Sign-up for this U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) program began Sept. 11. “There is no doubt that extreme weather has greatly impacted Iowa’s agricultural producers over the last several years, and 2019 is no exception,” said Amanda De Jong, Executive Director for Farm Service Agency (FSA) in Iowa. “With record amounts of crops prevented from planting nationwide and other devastation, more than $3 billion is available through this disaster relief package passed by Congress and signed by President Trump in early June.”

WHIP+ Eligibility
WHIP+ will be available for eligible producers who have suffered eligible losses of certain crops, trees, bushes or vines in counties with a Presidential Emergency Disaster Declaration or a Secreta ry of Agriculture Declaration (primary counties only). Disaster losses must have been a result of hurricanes, floods, tornadoes, typhoons, volcanic activity, snowstorms or wildfires that occurred in 2018 or 2019. Also, producers in counties that did not receive a disaster declaration or designation may still apply for WHIP+ but must provide supporting documentation to establish that the crops were directly affected by a qualifying disaster loss.

The WHIP+ payment is available through the WHIP+ browser. A list of counties that received qualifying disaster declarations and designations is available at farmers.gov/recover/yilp. Because grazing and livestock losses, other than milk losses, are covered by other disaster recovery programs offered through FSA, those losses are not eligible for WHIP+.

Eligible crops include those for which federal crop insurance or Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage is available, excluding crops intended for grazing. A list of crops covered by crop insurance is available through USDA’s Risk Management Agency (RMA) Actuarial Information Browser at webapp.rma.usda.gov/apps/actuarialinformationbrowser.

The WHIP+ payment factor ranges from 75 percent to 95 percent, depending on the level of crop insurance coverage or NAP coverage that a producer obtained for the crop. Producers who did See CROPS, page 8

Pen City Current and www.penCityCurrent.com are products of Market Street Publishing, LLC. Pen City Current is published Sunday through Friday mornings. Copyright © 2016 by Pen City Current. All published materials are property of Pen City Current and cannot be used without express written permission.
LEE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT HOSPICE

Ask for us by name...

“Lee County Health Department Hospice”

...the most experienced Hospice in Lee County

Our Hospice Services Include:

24/7 on-call nursing staff • Skilled Nursing Services • Social Worker Visits
Music/Massage Therapy • Homecare Aide Assistance • Spiritual & Grief Support
Volunteer Services

We are proud to provide our Hospice Services in
Lee, Des Moines, Van Buren & Henry counties in Iowa
and Hancock & Henderson counties in Illinois

Touching the Community with Care

#3 John Bennett Drive • PO Box 1426
Fort Madison, IA 52627
(319)372-5225 or (800)458-6672

www.leecountyhd.org
No Plastic Bags in the Recycling Bins

When recycling, be it at one of our convenient drop off sites, or putting out your residential recycling bin for the pickup, please **DO NOT** put items in plastic bags. They are not recyclable at Great River Regional Waste Authority.

For a complete listing of what we do recycle, contact your local City Hall, or one of our facilities for a service guide. Check with your local retail stores such as Hy-Vee or Walmart for their recycling capabilities. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation concerning this issue!!

LULAC Club donates to school meal programs

Ft. Madison - The LULAC Club has been busy raising money for the community through Bingo Nights on the 1st Friday of every month, and Taco Dinners on the 3rd Sunday of every month.

They also raise money by renting out their building. Volunteers carry out the fundraisers so all of the proceeds can be given back to the community. The LULAC Club has decided to donate some of the proceeds to the Fort Madison Community School District’s Lunch Program. They also have three college scholarships they provide for area students.

If you are interested in using their building at 1424 36th St, Ft. Madison, please call Dave at 319-316-3931. You can also follow them on their Facebook page: Latin American Club-LULAC 304. The LULAC club thanks you for your support and hopes you will continue to join them for their Bingo and Taco nights!
I didn’t have a sandwich, “Stansley said.
I didn’t get one,” center Tyler Linderbaum said. “I had an apple and some
snacks.”
Wide receiver Ihmir Smith-Marsette wasn’t sure he wanted to tell what he was
doing.
“I don’t know if I’m supposed to say this, but I took a nap,” Smith-Marsette said.
“Yeah, I took a nap. I just let the storm pass by.”
“It really wasn’t all that difficult,” Epenesa said of getting through the delays. “You
just get off your feet, relax, keep going over the game plan. Put your headphones
in, stay locked in, don’t lose your grip on that focus. When we got back out there, it
was just second nature."
There was an eruption of applause outside when the sun came out. Day was
creeping into night, and the weirdness was just beginning.
The Hawkeyes won because they survived. The Cyclones were making big plays
until they didn’t.
Iowa was steady — when the Cyclones’ 14-6 second-half lead seemed to be the
beginning of the end, the Hawkeyes started getting stops, helped by the occasional
Iowa State penalty or a slip on the wet grass.
Keith Duncan’s field goal with 4:51 left was the ultimate game-winner, capping
Iowa’s survival.
“Games like this come down to mental toughness, physical toughness,” Ferentz said.
“Nobody got discouraged. Even though we had discouraging plays, no one
got discouraged."
“We kept swinging the bat, kept playing."
“We stay together in sticky situations,” Smith-Marsette said.
Stanley was the steadiest, not quite the sharpest.
Stanley completed 22-of-35 passes for 201 yards. Iowa was 10-of-19 on third
down, and three of those conversions came on big Stanley plays. He had a 27-yard
pass to Mekhi Sargent on third-and-4 from the Iowa 31 later in the fourth on the
drive that ended with the last of Duncan’s four field goals.
“Obviously, when we win, I don’t care how I did,” Stanley said. “Yeah, I made
some throws, some throws I could have had, some decisions I could have made a
little better."
“But we won, and I’m just happy to able to say we won.”
It felt like, as the lights blazed through the damp night, as if something weird
wasn’t possible until they didn’t.
The Hawkeyes won because they survived. The Cyclones were making big plays
until they didn’t.
Iowa was steady — when the Cyclones’ 14-6 second-half lead seemed to be the
beginning of the end, the Hawkeyes started getting stops, helped by the occasional
Iowa State penalty or a slip on the wet grass.
Keith Duncan’s field goal with 4:51 left was the ultimate game-winner, capping
Iowa’s survival.
“Games like this come down to mental toughness, physical toughness,” Ferentz said.
“Nobody got discouraged. Even though we had discouraging plays, no one
got discouraged."
“We kept swinging the bat, kept playing."
“We stay together in sticky situations,” Smith-Marsette said.
Stanley was the steadiest, not quite the sharpest.
Stanley completed 22-of-35 passes for 201 yards. Iowa was 10-of-19 on third
down, and three of those conversions came on big Stanley plays. He had a 27-yard
pass to Mekhi Sargent on third-and-4 from the Iowa 31 later in the fourth on the
drive that ended with the last of Duncan’s four field goals.
The Hawkeyes’ lone touchdown of the day came on Stanley’s 1-yard burrow into
the end zone in the fourth quarter.
“That’s the value of having a veteran quarterback,” Ferentz said.
“Obviously, when we win, I don’t care how I did,” Stanley said. “Yeah, I made
some throws, some throws I could have had, some decisions I could have made a
little better."
“But we won, and I’m just happy to able to say we won.”
It felt like, as the lights blazed through the damp night, as if something weird
wasn’t possible until they didn’t.
The Hawkeyes won because they survived. The Cyclones were making big plays
until they didn’t.
Van Buren lunch picnic turns into dinner invite

Federal aid available for crop relief

not insure their crops in 2018 or 2019 will receive 95-percent of the expected value. Additional information about WHIP+ program eligibility and payment limitations can be found at farmers.gov/recover or by contacting your local USDA Service Center.

Final vote on ordinance could come Oct. 1

of the full council.” The ordinance that was presented to the council would have allowed golf carts, ATVs, and UTVs on most city streets. 15th Street, 18th Street, and Business 61 were exempted from the permissible streets. Riders would be required to be 18 and all vehicles would need proper state and county permitting. The idea was in front of the council about three years ago, but Mohrfield brought the issue back in front of the council in July calling it “Americana” and said both smaller and larger cities than Fort Madison are allowing the vehicles. Lee County Supervisors and the West Point City Council both voted this year to allow expanded use of the vehicles.

With the mayor’s seat and four council seats – 1st, 3rd, 5th, and one at large, up for election in November, Mohrfield said he doesn’t think the delay has anything to do with the upcoming elections. “There is an absence for the upcoming council meeting, so the proposed ordinance will not be addressed until all council members will be present,” he wrote. “With the proposed ordinance being the third time brought before the council, I don’t feel the ordinance should survive or die due to council members being absent. Also on the agenda, the council:

• will consider setting a public hearing for Oct. 1 prior to moving forward with construction of the Amtrak station platform. Bids for the work are being opened at Iowa Department of Transportation offices on Tuesday.

• will consider applying for a federal recreational trails grant for reimbursement of costs associated with the 48th Street extension of P.O.R.T. Trail project’s Phase IV.

Call Dr. Mark C. Pothitakis Family Dentistry now to schedule your 6-month checkup or click anywhere on this ad.

Dr. Mark C. Pothitakis Family Dentistry
www.drmarkdds.com

Class Schedule

Monday 9:10-10:30 – Beginners
Wednesday 9:10-10:30 – Advanced Beginners
Wednesday 6:30-7:30 – Intermediate
Tuesday 5:30-6:30 – Restorative and Slow Stretching
Friday 9:10-10:30 – Beginners

Fees:
• $40 per month 1x a week • $65 per month 3xs a week
• $75 per month 3xs a week • $115 drop in fee

Private Classes Available by Appointment

Sylvia Thomas, Certified SIYI • 617 Avenue G, Fort Madison
319-470-1082 • www.seiowayoga.com

Tell Dr. Mark C. Pothitakis you saw this ad!