

FORT MADISON DAILY

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Council to eye 2nd reading of fireworks ban

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The second reading of an ordinance banning the use of fireworks – except low key household ones like sparklers, black cats, snakes and those that stay on one’s own property and do not make noise – is one of the few agenda items for Tuesday’s 5:30 p.m. meeting of the Fort Madison City Council.

Commercial fireworks displays, such as the one sponsored annually for the Fourth of July by Fort Madison Partners, will continue to be allowed with a commercial permit.

State laws governing the sale and use of fireworks changed in May of 2017. The bill opened the door for licensed retailers and community groups to sell fireworks to those 18 and older between June 1 and July 8, and between Dec. 10 and Jan. 3.

State law also allows fireworks to be set off from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. from June 1 to July 3; 9 a.m. to 11 p.m. on July 4 and the Saturday and Sunday before and after July 4; 9 a.m. and 11 p.m. on the Saturday and Sunday before and after Dec. 31; and from 9 a.m. on Dec. 31 to 12:30 a.m. on Jan. 1.

Municipalities can ap-

SEE FIREWORKS, PAGE 5

Jake braking ban up for 2nd review

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The second reading of an ordinance to ban jake braking on Lee County roads is on the agenda for Tuesday’s 9 a.m. meeting of Lee County Supervisors at the Lee County Jail.

The second consideration of the ordinance was tabled last week because Supervisors Rick Larkin and Don Hunold were absent and the remaining three wanted to entree board to vote on it.

“Ordinances are basically making a law,” Supervisor Ron Fedler said on Nov. 13. “I think we should have all five board members here to vote on this.”

“Jake braking” is an engine braking mechanism on some diesel engines that, when activated, opens exhaust valves in the cylinders. This releases air trapped in the cylinders and slows the vehicle – and it makes noise. Some truck drivers will use this method when coming off a hill to slow the vehicle.

The jake braking ordinance was prompted by a petition signed by homeowners in the Clearview Heights subdivision just outside of Fort Madison.

The ordinance has met some opposition from area truck drivers that say jake braking allows them to safety slow their vehicles in

SEE COUNTY, PAGE 5

Test Kitchen’s young chefs now featured in cookbook

30 plus recipes with color photos make unique gift

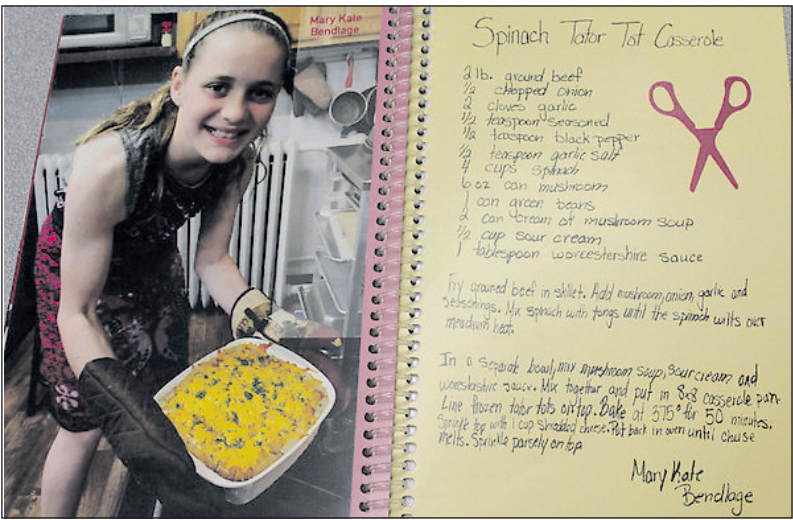
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The perfect stocking stuffer for school-age kids awaits shoppers at Elliott Test Kitchen (ETK) in downtown Fort Madison.

Hot off the press is the “Elliott Test Kitchen Young Chefs” cookbook with 31 recipes for dishes that were prepared by youngsters at the ETK.

Book-signings by the young chefs will be held 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 24, and Saturday, Dec. 1, at the Test Kitchen, 807 Ave. G. The public is invited to meet the young chefs and sample some of the featured dishes.

The book sells for \$20 and



ROBIN DELANEY/DAILY DEMOCRAT

Mary Kate Bendlage, with her Spinach Tator Tot Casserole, is one of the 30 some young chefs featured in the “Elliott Test Kitchen Young Chefs” cookbook. The book includes color photos of the chefs at work and their hand-written recipes.

includes full color photos of the chefs making their dishes as well as the recipes. Proceeds from the book sales will be used to fund Test Kitchen classes and projects.

The book is dedicated to the late Jean and George Alton – both longtime educators in the Fort Madison Community

SEE CHEFS, PAGE 5



BILL HELENTHAL/DAILY DEMOCRAT

Central Lee hosts ‘Grand Lunch’

Proceeds from the book sale during Central Lee’s ‘Grand Lunch’ go towards purchasing new books for the library. Typically, the school pulls in \$3,000 to \$4,000 in revenue. The total contributes to 80 percent of the libraries revenue. Pictured is Cathy McCauly from Fort Madison and her grandson Jason Longanecker perusing through an assortment of books during the event.

Winners go home with a turkey

And Bingo was its name-o

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Entering the Izaak Walton League building Saturday night, things did not look as they usually did.

It was not uncommon to see food. There is always plenty of that to be found there. Refreshments were at each table. It is a club after all. The catch was the two tables in the corner. Each was stacked almost ten inches high with Bingo cards. And granted, people do play Bingo, but this is the only group in the area that is known to play Feather Bingo.

And what is Feather Bingo?



JEFF HUNT/DAILY DEMOCRAT

Winner, winner, turkey dinner. This was the battle cry of the 100-plus people gathered Saturday night to play Feather Bingo at the Izaak Walton League. The rules to the game are the same as regular bingo. The exception is the winner of each card gets a turkey just in time for Thanksgiving. Above, Mary Hellige watches carefully over the six cards she bought as the numbers are called.

SEE BINGO, PAGE 5



PRESS BOX

The new press box at FMHS was built by 12 students in 18 school days.

P3



WINE WALK

All 1,000 commemorative glasses were sold for this year’s Wine & Beer Walk.

INSIDE TODAY

NOTABLE



DAVE CLARK

won the Golden Ladle Award at this year’s Elks Soup Supper Contest. Story on Page 2.

DEATHS

Sharolyn A. Richers, 81, Fort Madison
Maree ‘Pete’ Eveland, 99, Hamilton, Ill.

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LEE COUNTY

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Chili Supper

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OBITUARIES

Sharolyn A. Richers

Sharolyn A. Richers, 81, of Fort Madison, passed away at 10:45 a.m. Friday, Nov. 16, 2018, at The Madison.

She was born on April 27, 1937, in Fort Madison, to Charles and Lucille Boeding Bostrom. On Sept. 20, 1958, she married John Richers in Iowa City.



Sharolyn was a homemaker and enjoyed traveling, collecting statues and record albums. Her greatest enjoyment was spending time with her family, especially her grandchildren.

Survivors include her husband of 60 years, John Richers of Fort Madison; a son, Tom (Michelle)

Richers of Marion; a daughter, Carol Miner of Donnellson; five grandchildren, Brian (Rachel Zhorne) Richers, Emily (Adam) VanArkel, Nathan Miner, Nicole Richers and Sara Miner; one sister, Angela Cordray of Lake of the Ozarks, Mo.

She was preceded in death by her parents, a sister, Jocelyn and a son-in-law, David Miner.

Friends may call after 2 p.m. Monday, Nov. 19, at King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory where the family will meet with friends from 4-6 p.m.

A graveside service will be held at 10 a.m. Tuesday, Nov. 20, at Keokuk National Cemetery with Rev. Les Featheringill officiating.

A memorial service will follow burial at 11 a.m. Tuesday at King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory.

A memorial has been established for the Parkinson's Foundation and online condolences may be left at www.kinglynk.com

Maree "Pete" Eveland

Maree "Pete" Eveland, 99, of Hamilton, Ill., died Tuesday, Nov. 13, 2018 at Unity Point-Keokuk.

There will be no services.

The Vigen Memorial Home in Keokuk is assisting the family with arrangements.

POLICE BRIEFS

ARRESTS

James Christopher Grelk, 48, Avenue G, Fort Madison, was arrested at 8:30 p.m. on Thursday by Fort Madison police and charged with judgment entry (failure to serve time-OWI). He was taken to the Lee County Jail.

INCIDENT REPORTS

On Thursday Fort Madison police investigated two larceny/thefts. One was in the 300 block of Avenue E and the other was in the 1400 block of Avenue H.

On Thursday Fort Madison police investigated one burglary. It was in the 1200 block of Avenue G.

ACCIDENTS

At 5:53 a.m. Thursday, Lee County Sheriff deputies were called to investigate a traffic accident. Upon arrival deputies learned that a vehicle being driven by Callista Krogmeier, 20, Keokuk, was headed south in the 3300 block of 340 Street and lost control on gravel. The vehicle left the roadway and rolled into the ditch. The driver left the scene but reported the accident later. There were no injuries.

FORT MADISON FIRE DEPARTMENT

During the past 24 hours the Fort Madison Fire Department responded to two medical calls, one burning complaint and one sprinkler malfunction.

CALENDAR

Homemade, hand-rolled tacos and enchiladas will be served 5-7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 20, at the Fort Madison Eagles Club. Call 372-6928 for carryouts.

LCHD office will be closed Nov. 22-23 for the Thanksgiving holiday.

Lighted Parade begins at 6:30 p.m. Friday, Nov. 23, in downtown Fort Madison.

The Enchanted Forest, located in the newly remodeled Lee County Bank building, 803 Ave. G, will open Friday, Nov. 23, after the Lighted Parade.

RiverFest Black Friday will be held 7-10 p.m. Friday, Nov. 23, at the Fort Madison Elks Lodge.

BINGO: Cornish hens are used in the case of a tie

(Continued from Page 1)

According to League President Sherri Hartson, Feather Bingo is played like any other Bingo game, but like the name would imply, the prizes are based on birds. In this case, the main prizes are turkeys.

"There was a time when we would award turkeys, ducks or Cornish hens," Hartson said. "But nobody hunts ducks in this area anymore."

Hartson said the Cornish hens are used as a tie breaker prize.

"If two people get a Bingo their numbers go in a drawing and the highest number gets a turkey and the low number gets the hen," Hartson said.

Hartson said the funds raised by the game – \$5 for two cards – will be used for the club's regular conservation programs but there is something they need to focus on now.

"We have to get our heating fixed," Hartson said. "The roof needs work too."

Hartson said the Feather Bingo has been going on for over 30 years and there is no plans to stop it any time soon.

Customers greeted with variety of items

Holiday sale is a tradition at Rose Michael Garden

JEFF HUNT

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It's a tradition that started years ago.

According to Rose Michael Garden Site Director Julie Holmes, on Friday the location had its holiday sale.

"As you can see, we are selling a lot of good stuff," Holmes said. "People who are doing Christmas shopping should come by here to see what they can find. We actually do have something for everyone."

And she was right. At the sale people could buy computers, vacuums and clothes. There were Christmas decorations and jewelry. And there were movies of all types from horror classics to children's movies.

Holmes said the sale tradition began in 2004 and hasn't missed



JEFF HUNT/DAILY DEMOCRAT

Rosalie Kirchner, left, and Donna Bender help out during the holiday sale at Rose Michael Garden. The sale has become an annual event and Site Manager Julie Holmes wants it to stay that way.

a year. And, she has plenty of people to help each year.

"Between the staff and volunteers we usually have five or six people to pitch in," Holmes said.

While she spoke, Holmes was busy dicing chicken.

"I'm making chicken salad,"

Holmes said. "Volunteers work better when they aren't hungry."

Holmes said she has never kept track of the turnout for the sale but added it always gets crowded.

"People like to shop," Holmes said. "Especially when the prices are so low."

FIREWORKS: Facebook posters question enforcement

(Continued from Page 1)

prove a city ordinance that is more restrictive than a state law, but can't enact a law that is less restrictive.

Soon after the July time period, some Fort Madison residents asked the council to consider restricting the use of fireworks. They cited potential property damage from fireworks going onto another's property, and the impact from the noise on residents with PTSD (Post-traumatic Stress Disorder) and on residents' pets.

The first reading of the ordinance was approved 6-0 at the Nov. 5 meeting.

No residents have expressed opposition to the ordinance at a council meeting, however comments on Facebook in response to the Nov. 5 story about the council's first reading were about 2 to 1 in favor of the ban. Several of those against the ban expressed concerns about enforcing it.

"Banning them will only make it worse," one reader posted. "Change the restricted time. Before, when they allowed them, they were still going off all the

time."

"Why not make more rules for people to break. Not a solution," another posted.

"It's not the council's fault. They have to go with the people who show up to the meetings and are voicing their opinions," another posted. "Freaking out on Facebook does nothing. Showing up to council meetings does."

If approved on its second and third readings, the ban will be in effect prior to the December dates allowed under state law. Violating the ordinance is punishable by a fine up to \$500.

COUNTY: Truck driver questions enforcement of the ban

(Continued from Page 1)

less time and prevent accidents.

County Attorney Ross Braden said the ordinance allows for jake braking when there is a safety need or when the driver is in a dangerous situation.

A Fort Madison truck driver, Chris Sorrentino, suggested supervisors consider prohibiting jake braking during specific hours, such as between 9:30 p.m. and 6 a.m. to reduce noise during nighttime hours.

Sorrentino also questioned how the ordinance would be enforced.

"By the time a resident calls, that truck is down the road. Now you have a deputy going off after a truck that isn't in the area," Sorrentino told the board last week. "Is the county ready to support having a deputy sit there the whole time?"

Sheriff Stacy Weber has said he is satisfied with the wording

of the proposed ordinance, and was thankful it did not include a specific decimal reading for violators.

"Then we'd have to go out and buy those decimal readers," he said when the ordinance was proposed in October. "My deputies wouldn't be out sitting and waiting to see if someone is jake braking. The only way they would know is if they hear it."

RESTRUCTURING COUNTY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

Also on the agenda for Tuesday's meeting is a resolution that would allow the County Attorney's Office to have three full-time attorneys, rather than one full-time and two part-time attorneys.

This resolution was also tabled last week because Supervisor Gary Folluo wanted more fiscal information from Braden about future costs of the change.

Braden has said he can absorb the cost of the change in his budget because Assistant County Attorney Bruce McDonald, who is paid \$81,000, will retire at the end of the year.

Braden has said he wants to have an experienced attorney to take McDonald's place by Jan. 1.

"Bruce is a workhorse and is working almost full-time hours, and losing him is going to be a big blow to our office as far as having to absorb that caseload," Braden told supervisors at their Nov. 6 meeting.

But Folluo said additional funding would likely be needed in future budgets and asked Auditor Denise Fraise to see if Braden could be present at Tuesday's meeting.

"Once you've restructured it, you're stuck and have to fund it," Folluo said.

CHEFS: Kids cooked the dishes and wrote out the recipes

(Continued from Page 1)

School District.

"Jean Alton was a home economics teacher who took great pride in teaching cooking to her students. Her passion inspired me to bring that love for nutritious, great cooking to students," writes ETK founder Kumar Wickramasingha in the forward of the book. "George's compassion to provide education to less fortunate students inspired and allowed me to pursue my higher education."

The Altons took Wickramasingha into their home when he came to the U.S. many years ago from Sri Lanka.

"They supported me in every aspect to reach my goal of achieving the American dream," adds Wickramasingha. "They truly became my mother and father figures."

The cookbook has been both a

learning opportunity for students and a community project for ETK supporters.

ETK volunteer Libby Laughlin spent a year coaching the young chefs as they prepared various recipes while Wickramasingha photographed the process.

Students were then encouraged to hand-write the recipes in their own words giving it a kid-like flavor.

ETK volunteer Molly Dillon participated in the designing of the cookbook and Matt Hayes, owner of Dodd Printing and Stationery, Inc., handled its printing and distribution.

Lily Elliott, a 7th grader in the Chicago area and an ETK supporter, provided the cartoon food pictures.

Among the 30 some recipes in the cookbook are those for Ground Beef Sliders, Cherry Cobbler, Chicken Salad Croissants, Pumpkin Crunch, Homemade

Chicken Noodles, Kale Stew with Sausage, Mexican Lasagna, Sausage & Wild Rice Casserole, Cinnamon Roll Casserole, and Bruchetta and Fresh Mozzarella Bogette.

Young Chefs featured in the book are Ace Meierotto, Addison Link, Addison Rump, Allison Lamb, Anna Bendlage, Avery Rump, Ayla Richmond, Brett, Kate and Leah Azinger, Brock Scheetz, Brooklyn Scheetz, Elle Huebner, Ellie Schulte, Emma Berry, Ethan and Owen Huffman, Faye Mohrfeld, Jack Elders, Karly Plate, Kaydey Plate, Kayreena Sterling, Klaire Bohnenkamp, Kyndal Richmond, Mary Kate Bendlage, Mia and Drew Woodbury, Molly Schulte, Myrthe Van der Linden, Oliver Santiago, Olivia Bendlage, Sabrina Jennings, Victoria Peters, Zephany Abel and Zoey Fink,

SUBMIT NEWS items and photos for the weekly Bee-Star section to Robin Delaney, managing editor, Fort Madison Daily Democrat, PO Box 160, Fort Madison, IA, 52627, or email the items to editor@dailydem.com Items for the Bee-Star must be submitted by 5 p.m. Fridays to be published in the section the following Tuesday.