



# FORT MADISON DAILY DEMOCRAT

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## Benton H.S. wins Central show choir event

### Keokuk's group took 2nd

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DONNELSON — They made beautiful music throughout the day and evening Saturday at Central Lee High School.

The school's C-Force show choir hosted its annual competition, "2019 Central Connections," and Celebration Co. of Benton Community High School in Van Hornes was the overall winner for the day.

Purple Harmony of Keokuk High School came in second, followed by InMotion of Mount Pleasant in third.

Christopher Jive and the Uptown 45 of West Branch was fourth, followed by Sound Attraction of Williamsburg and Vocal Dynamics of Clear Creek-Amana High School.

Celebration Co. took the Best Vocals award and Best Choreography.

For the daytime awards, FortissiMo of Fort Madison School won for the middle schools.

In the prep division, Jubilation Inc. from Benton took



CHRIS FAULKNER/DAILY DEMOCRAT

Fort Madison High School's Swingspan Show Choir entertained the audience Saturday night in the Central Lee Connections event at the Central gym. In front, from left, are Jace Fedler, Kendra Fuget and Gage Hind. In the next row back are Reece Shannan, Macaden Rhoer, Bryce Kempker and Dalyn Wondra.

first, followed by Vibrations of Keokuk and Crimson & Black of Fort Madison High School.

EagleRock! of Keota won Class 1A. West Branch won Class 2A, with Williamsburg second and Danville third.

Celebration Co. won Class 3A, followed by InMotion, Purple Harmony, Vocal Dynamic and FMHS' Swingspan

show choir.

Star Performer awards were given to one student from each school: CLMS Adrenaline — Keating Fuger, Fortissimo — Ran Detlefsen, Crimson & Black — Olivia Puga-Voss, Vibrations — Maisy Mann, Jubilations Inc. — Tiffany Schore, EagleRock! — Justin Moeller, Sound Attraction — Spencer

Vance, UpTown 45 — Jonah Baylor, Vocal Chords — Drake Fox, Celebration Co. — Ashton Lohrer, InMotion — Livvy Ensminger, Vocal Dynamics — Avery Anderson, Purple Harmony — Jetta Tinder, Swingspan — Claire Hellman.

This Saturday is the 30th Fort Madison High School Invitational.



### ORDINANCE

Lee County Supervisors will consider the first reading of an ordinance that would allow drivers 18 and older to use ATVs or UTVs on some public gravel roads.

P5

### NOTABLE



**255th STREET** brought a crowd of concerned citizens out Friday night for a tour and a meeting. The tour included a stop at a cross marking the site of a fatal accident. Full story on Page 11.

### DEATHS

- James C. Jinkens, 58, Fort Madison
- David Seeley, 67, St. Paul
- Donald Richardson, 74, Nauvoo, Ill.
- Jack E. Perry, 87, Dallas City, Ill.
- Mary Frances Rees, 74, formerly of Dallas City, Ill.

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CHRIS FAULKNER/DAILY DEMOCRAT

Jillian and Michael Mohrfeld received the Ambassador of the Year from Fort Madison Chamber of Commerce Board Chair Eric Van Ausdall Friday at the annual Fort Madison Partners Dinner at McAleer Hall. A casino event was held afterwards, accounting for the playing card decorations in the back.



CHRIS FAULKNER/DAILY DEMOCRAT

Kumar Wickramasingha received the Citizen of the Year award Friday night at the annual Fort Madison Partners Dinner at McAleer Hall. Fort Madison Daily Democrat Advertising Manager Tony Stutzman presented Wickramasingha with the award, which the Daily Democrat sponsors.

## Kumar, Mohrfelds, Barker earn honors

### Education, housing boost FM

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On the heels of Sunday's Academy Awards, Fort Madison Partners handed out three honors at its annual dinner Friday night at McAleer Hall.

Michael and Jillian Mohrfeld were chosen Ambassadors of the Year by the Fort Madison Chamber of Commerce for their work with Green Oaks Development subdivision northwest of Fort Madison, as well as numerous other areas of support they give the community.

Kumar Wickramasingha earned the Daily Democrat's Citizen of the Year award for the continued growth of Elliott

Test Kitchen's learning center downtown.

For taking a chance to revitalizing downtown's living environment, David Barker of Iowa City-based Barker Financial Group took home the Community Development Award.

Buffalo61 catered the event, which also included a live auction and a silent auction to raise more funds for the Partners.

### MICHAEL AND JILLIAN MOHRFELD

Michael Mohrfeld owns Mohrfeld Electric but he's been responsible for more than just seeing the lights turn on in the homes of his customers.

He formed Green Oak Development, a group of condominiums north of the bluffs just west of the Fort Madison Middle School campus.

He and Jillian also support both the Fort Madison Community School District and Holy Trinity Catholic schools.



CHRIS FAULKNER/DAILY DEMOCRAT

Barker Financial Group owner David Barker (center) and his wife, Meg Richardson, received the Community Development award from Fort Madison Economic Development Chair Matt Morris at Friday night's annual Fort Madison Partners Dinner at McAleer Hall.

Michael took note that his father, Richard, is a two-time award-winner.

"This was an exciting award to win" therefore, Michael said.

"I watched my Dad win this award twice over the years for his involvement in the (Parade

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## OBITUARIES



## Jack E. Perry

Jack E. Perry, 87, of Dallas City, Ill., passed away at 6:31 p.m. Thursday, Feb., 2019, at the Heritage House in Carthage, Ill., surrounded by family following a courageous battle with cancer.

He was born May 19, 1931 in Keokuk, the son of Leonard and Edna Alley Perry. On Nov. 17, 1956, he married Kathryn Morrow in Keokuk.

Jack Perry enlisted in the United States Air Force and served his country proudly during the Korean War while obtaining the rank of Staff Sergeant upon his Honorable Discharge in 1954. Following the Korean War, Jack came back to his hometown of Carthage and farmed with his father until 1961. At that time he took residence in Dallas City and he began his career with the Ortho Chemical Company, a subsidiary of Chevron located in Fort Madison, and continued working in the Operations department until his retirement in 1990.

Throughout his life, Jack maintained a healthy lifestyle and his children all have fond memories of him exercising at home and bicycling around town. He and his wife both enjoyed going to the YMCA on a regular basis to swim and work out together. He and his wife operated Kay's Antiques and Things for many years after his retirement while going to auctions, flea markets and setting up in antique malls all over Southeast Iowa, Missouri and Western Illinois.

Jack spent the last 11 years providing daily loving care for his wife. He was a proud, strong man with a very kind heart and soul that would gladly help anyone out at any time, as demonstrated through the years for his wife, family and community.

Jack had been a member of the former Dallas City United Methodist Church where he was very active and held many positions within the church. He was currently a member of the Durham United Methodist Church.

He is survived by five children, Jim (Natalie) Perry of Effingham, Ill., John (Teresa) Perry of Fort Madison, Jenny Patten of St. Charles, Mo., Jeff Perry of Madison, Ala., and Jason (Cheryl) Perry of Fort Madison; 10 grandchildren, Renee (Jason) Kihne, Ashley (Mike) Janis, Jamie (Matt) Jones, Johnna (Danny) Boggess, Joshua (Natalie) Perry, Jarod (Karree) Patten, Julia (Luca) Patten, Jake Perry, Jillian Perry and Rebekah Perry; and 14 great grandchildren. Also surviving are two sisters, Judy Jahnke of Green Valley, Ariz., and Linda (Jerry) Skiles of Raleigh, NC; and several nieces, nephews and cousins.

Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 27, at Banks and Beals Funeral Home in Dallas City, with Rev. Jim Clayton officiating. Burial, with military rites, will be in the Harris Cemetery near Dallas City. The family will meet with friends, Wednesday, from noon until time of services at the funeral home.

In lieu of flowers, a memorial fund has been established for the Heritage House.

To leave a condolence, please visit Jack's obituary at [www.banksandbeals.com](http://www.banksandbeals.com).

## Mary Frances Rees

Mary Frances Rees, 74, of Ferris, Ill., formerly of Dallas City, Ill., died at 1:19 a.m. Friday, Feb. 22, 2019, at her home.

The funeral mass will be held at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, March 2, at the Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Dallas City, with Father Tony Trosley as celebrant.

Following the service cremation will be entrusted to Banks & Beals. Graveside service will be held at 1 p.m. Sunday, March 3, at the Gittings Mound Cemetery, rural Lomax, Ill.

A rosary will be recited at 5 p.m. Friday, March 1st at Banks & Beals Funeral Home in Dallas City followed by visitation with the family until 7 p.m.

## Donald Blair Richardson

Donald Blair Richardson, 74, of Nauvoo, Ill., died at 3 a.m. Thursday, Feb. 21, 2019, at Mississippi Valley Health and Rehab Center in Keokuk.

A Celebration of Life will be held at 3 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 27, at the Community of Christ in Nauvoo.

There will be a time of food and fellowship following at the church.

Burial will be at a later date in Arkansaw, Wis. Schmitz - Banks & Beals Funeral Home in Nauvoo is assisting the family with arrangements.

## David Seeley

David Seeley, 67, of St. Paul, died at 12:41 a.m. Sunday, Feb. 24, 2019, at his home.

Arrangements are pending with the Schmitz Funeral Home in West Point.

## CALENDAR

**Domestic Violence** Intervention Program will hold a Lee County "Souper" Bowl fundraiser at the First Christian Church, 346 Main Street, Keokuk, Monday, Feb. 25, from 5:30-7:30 p.m.

**Senior Health** Clinic, compliments of LCHD, will be held 8:30-10 a.m. Tuesday, Feb. 26, at Rose Michael Gardens, Fort Madison,

**Senior Health** Clinic, compliments of LCHD, will be held 10:30 a.m. to noon Tuesday, Feb. 26, at Park View Apts., West Point.

## James Cornealius Jinkens

James Cornealius "Jimmie" Jinkens, 58, of Fort Madison, passed away at 8:11 a.m. Friday, Feb. 22, 2019, at Fort Madison Community Hospital.

He was born on June 7, 1960, in Keokuk, to James F. and Loretta M. Vickers Jinkens. He was born with Preader-Willi Syndrome and was involved in many research projects at the University of Iowa Hospitals, including some with Dr. Willi himself.

He worked at Park Ridge Workshop for 30 years, was a Boy Scout, and was very active in the First Baptist Church.

He enjoyed southern gospel music, a good cup of coffee, the St. Louis Cardinals, Iowa Hawkeyes, bowling and visiting with neighbors while walking his dogs. He was the poster child for a year for the March of Dimes. Jimmie didn't know a stranger!

Jimmie is survived by his parents, James and Loretta Jinkens of Fort Madison; two sisters, Kathleen (Kurtis) Delpierre of Bondurant and Sarah (Steve) Blodgett of Burlington; one brother, Dale (Kristie) Jinkens of Grain Valley, Mo.; 11 nieces and nephews; and 15 great nieces & nephews.

He was preceded in death by his grandparents and a sister, Sharon Cruze.

Friends may call after 2 p.m. Monday, Feb. 25, with the family to receive friends 5-7 p.m. Monday evening at King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory.

The funeral will be held at 10 a.m. Tuesday, Feb. 26, at First Baptist Church, with Rev. Dean Graber officiating. Burial will be held at Oakland Cemetery.

A memorial has been established for P.A.W. Animal Shelter.

Online condolences and a video tribute of Jimmie's life may be viewed at the King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory website: [www.kinglynk.com](http://www.kinglynk.com).

## Supervisors to eye ATV/UTV ordinance

ROBIN DELANEY

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The first reading of an ordinance to allow licensed drivers 18 and older to operate an ATV or UTV on public gravel roads, with the exception of Level C roads, and make a direct crossing on paved roads, will be considered Tuesday by Lee County Supervisors.

A previous attempt at the ordinance was defeated with a 3-2 vote, with a couple of supervisors citing concerns about the county's liability if an accident were to occur.

Supervisors were asked to reconsider the measure a few months ago after Des Moines County Supervisors passed such an ordinance. In fact, county officials used that ordinance as a model when drafting Lee County's.

The Des Moines County ordinance allows licensed drivers age 18 and older to use ATVs on public gravel roads, with the exception of Level C roads, and make a direct cross on paved roads. If there is not a public gravel road opposite an intersection, the ATVs may operate on the closest paved road.

The ordinance limits ATV use to 4 a.m. to 10 p.m. and limits them to a speed of 35 miles per hour or less. ATVs are also prohibited from being used in parks, riding trails, recreation areas, or private property without the landowner's permission.

Operators of each ATV or UTV must provide proof of ownership, including but not limited to a bill of sale, IDNR registration, and proof of liability insurance of a minimum of \$50,000 coverage for bodily injury per person, \$100,000 per accident, and \$50,000 for property damage.

Sheriff Stacy Weber and County Attorney Ross Braden have worked on the proposed ATV ordinance during the past few months. Weber told supervisors last month he wanted to "see more teeth" in Lee County's law that allows his deputies to confiscate the ATV or UTV if the ordinance is being violated.

There is no clause allowing for the confiscation of the ATV or UTV, but there are several penalty options.

The proposed ordinance calls for a \$200 fine for the first violation; \$400 for a second offense; and \$625, plus up to 30 days in jail, for the third offense. The sheriff may also suspend or revoke the county-issued permit for up to 90 days for a second offense. The operator would be allowed to purchase a new permit after the 90-day suspension/revocation period.

For a third or subsequent offense, the sheriff shall suspend or revoke the county-issued permit for at least one year and operator must have the approval of supervisors by a majority vote to have his or her permit reinstated after that one year.

Also on the agenda of Tuesday's 9 a.m. meeting, which will be held at the Lee County Sheriff Office's conference room, is a contract for pavement widening on X23, J40 and W62; a contract for resurfacing on J48; and a safety consulting contract with Safety Personnel Resource, LLC.

At a recent work session, supervisors gave a tentative green light to hiring a safety consultant firm and heard a presentation from Deputy Auditor Nikki Sugars about Mark Shaffer's services.

By preventing work-related injuries and accidents, in addition to OSHA violations, Sugars said the \$1,000 to \$1,500 per month would save the county money spent on worker's compensation payments.

## HONORS: Winners give credit to support from others

(Continued from Page 1)

of Lights) and other community projects.

"Both of my parents influenced me in wanting to improve and give back to our community," he said. His mother is Peg Mohrfeld.

Michael sees plenty of improvement, not just his home-building efforts.

"We have some great projects happening in our town regarding housing, the (Baxter) Sports Complex, new events, building improvements, the list goes on," Michael said.

But there's still work to be done, he said. "I am looking forward to seeing more projects and beautification happen in the near future."

He said he and his wife are motivated to bring in the new school to go next to FMMS, and is a supporter of the RiverFest celebration in August that brings in many out-of-town attendees.

## KUMAR WICKRAMASIGNHA

"It's very humbling," Wickramasingha said about getting the award; an award he wouldn't be here to receive without the care of the late George and Jean Alton.

That's the Fort Madison couple who took Wickramasingha under their wing when he arrived in America from Sri Lanka with little money to his name and no solid plans for settling in to his new home.

Both were educators and taught this young adult well, he said.

"Everything I learned was from them," Wickramasingha said. "They took the biggest chance."

As for his award for the Test Kitchen project, now in its fourth year, "What this symbolizes is the parents who send their kids to this program.

"If they didn't believe in what I was doing, I wouldn't have gotten this award."

Wickramasingha said the program is getting "bigger and better" and took off when it went from offering a place for students to get some tutoring help to intentional six- to eight-week educational programs, such as the current robotics and chess nights, that draw students in.

Finally, he offered "kudos" to the Fort Madison Community School District. "They provide the transportation from the school to the kitchen," he said. That began last year as a support for those parents who are unable to bring their children downtown because of work.

## DAVID BARKER

Accidents do happen — that's how David Barker of Barker Financial Group described what led to his involvement with downtown Fort Madison — and this one proved to be a boon to the downtown community.

Barker Financial Group out of Iowa City was involved with the renovation of the former Catermole Library and the former Lee County Bank building, but Franz Community Investors pulled out of its portion of the project in early 2017.

"We had a decision to make: renovate or let it go," said Barker, who lives in Iowa City but whose company has been setting up apartment complexes since the early 1970s in Iowa City, the Quad Cities, the Des Moines area and even Little Rock, Arkansas.

"We did some research in Fort Madison," Barker said. "We're very happy with what we saw."

Under the "find a need and fill it" model of success, Barker said, "The real need here is for high-quality housing."

As local entities continue to try to bring in new businesses/industry, Barker said, "You can bring people here to work, but if there's nowhere to live, they won't stay here."

Barker set up 18 apartments and two commercial buildings and has all but one of the apartments filled.

The company recently acquired the Kingsley Inn/Alpha's restaurant building at the corner of Seventh Street and Avenue H. Kingsley Inn just had its grand opening two Saturdays ago, and the new River Rocks Bar & Grill began serving customers the week prior.

Barker praised the support of Connection Bank, Schickedanz Construction — one of the nominees for this award — the city of Fort Madison and Mike Norris of the Southeast Iowa Regional Planning Commission.

## Whittaker to tell of scams at Women's Connection

Area women are invited to the Tri-State Women's Connection brunch from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Thursday, March 7, at United Presbyterian Church, 102 Main, Keokuk. Cost is \$7.50.

Special feature will be Andy Whittaker with the police department in Keokuk. He will be talking to us about scams and how to be aware and protected from them.

Kris Driskill of Belton, Mo., will be the guest speaker with the theme, "Hey, Who's in Control Here? Former director of the Universe." Kris is a former worrier, and she learned to let go so you can too. She likes to decorate and work in her flower garden.

Music will be provided by Jim Austin of Keokuk.

Call for a reservation by March 5 and also for any cancellations.

For a reservation call Norma at 524-3434, Eunice at 319-838-2790, Dorothy at 217-847-3521, Sally at 217-847-2694 or send an email to [pkcoberley@yahoo.com](mailto:pkcoberley@yahoo.com).