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THE SUNDAY Messenger

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A fun-filled weekend

Frontier Days is June 2-4

By **KELBY WINGERT**
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History will come alive with the 'Tall Tales of the Frontier' this June during the 2023 Frontier Days celebration at the Fort Museum and Frontier Village.

"We're bringing in things from the past," said event chairman Terry Cook. "We have a Civil War reenactment group coming in and they're actually bringing a cannon with them."

The crown jewel of the weekend, Cook said, will be the Globe of Death — a death-defying motorcycle stunt show from Texas where three riders on motorcycles race in a large metal sphere suspended 15 to 20 feet in the air.

"We're trying to make things bigger and better," Cook said. "It's something I think a lot of kids will get interest out of seeing that."

The celebration will kick off at 5 p.m. on June 2, with the opening ceremony at the Avenue of Flags on the Fort Museum grounds. Gates open at 4 p.m. Ames band Burning Sensation will perform music from the 1970s and '80s outside at 7 p.m. and there will be DJ Bingo in the Frontier Opera House from 7 p.m. to 11 p.m.

Admission wristbands for the whole weekend are \$6. The wristband admission also gives visitors access to the entire Fort Museum, including the area's tallest tale — a replica of the Cardiff Giant.

The annual Frontier Days Parade will kick off at 10 a.m. June 2 on Central Avenue. This year's grand marshals are Deb and Casey Johnson, co-owners of Fort Dodge Ford Lincoln Toyota.

Back at the museum grounds, the Buckskinner Camp will return with live demonstrations on June 3. Polkadot Entertainment



RETIRED TEACHER Cheryl Trunnell leads the spelling bee at the Border Plains School at the Fort Museum and Frontier Village in June 2022.

ment will also have a series of shows all weekend with comedy, stilt-walking, juggling, magic and more. The Hole in the Sock Gang will return this year as well.

"People love to watch them shoot it up on Main Street," Cook said.

New this year will be a silent auction all weekend inside the Opera House. Auction items include ticket packages to the Omaha and Kansas City zoos, as well as VIP casino packages. Funds raised through the

silent auction will go to supporting the Fort Museum, Cook said.

The Frontier Marketplace will feature more than 30 vendors selling one-of-a-kind specialty items, decor and gifts all weekend. A series of food vendors will also be offering snacks including root beer, kettle corn, Indian tacos, funnel cakes, ice cream, cotton candy, corndogs and more.

Though Cook does most of the organizing of the event, he said he couldn't make

this celebration happen without the help of community sponsors. The Iowa Central Community College rugby team will be putting up the fencing to surround the Fort Museum grounds on May 31 and taking it down on June 4. Banners for the sponsors will be hung on the fence for the weekend.

See **FRONTIER DAYS**, Page 3A



-Messenger photo by Kelby Wingert

CIANE SMITH, a victim of a gruesome attack in November 2021, reads her victim impact statement at a sentencing hearing for one of her attackers, Sharon Morara, on Friday morning. Morara admitted to stabbing Smith eight times during the attack, which left her paralyzed from the waist down.

'I'm still here'

Stabbing victim confronts attacker at sentencing

By **KELBY WINGERT**
kwingert@messengernews.net
Sitting in her motorized wheelchair — her only source of mobility now — and wearing a shirt with the words "I'm still here" scrawled across the chest, Ciane Smith was finally able to confront one of the people who viciously attacked her in her own home, leaving her for dead. The attacker, 21-year-old

Sharon Morara, of Brooklyn Center, Minnesota, pleaded guilty in March to attempted murder and first-degree burglary for the Nov. 2, 2021 attack. On Friday, District Court Judge Angela Doyle sentenced Morara to up to 25 years in prison, with a 70 percent minimum.

Smith was a young single mother caring for her daughter when Morara and her boy-

friend, Marcus Western, broke into Smith's home in the 2400 block of 12th Avenue South in the early morning hours of Nov. 2, 2021. According to Morara's own admission in court, the couple drove from Minnesota to Fort Dodge with the intention of ending Smith's life, and Morara used a knife from Smith's kitchen.

See **SENTENCING**, Page 2A



-Submitted photos

FORT DODGE SENIOR HIGH senior Ryan Madden was recently named to the Iowa Governor's scholar program. Madden, center, is pictured with Lt. Gov. Adam Gregg and Gov. Kim Reynolds.

BELOW: FORT DODGE SENIOR HIGH senior Grace Casciato stands with her scholar award recently in Des Moines.

Top of their class

Madden, Casciato earn Governor's honors

By **CHRIS JOHNSON**
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On stage, Ryan Madden and Grace Casciato have been known for their achievements. Now the two Fort Dodge Senior High students have been recognized for their academic excellence.

The two Dodgers were named two of the state's top academic students as selections to the Iowa Governor's Scholar Program.

Each year, seniors are selected by their high schools as the highest academic achievers. A ceremony



See **SCHOLARS**, Page 3A

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From our files: May 2008



-Messenger file photo

GRADUATES FROM the Iowa Central Dental Hygiene Program, from left, are: Emily Abrams, Leticia Baldwin, Jennifer Cook, Angela Dudley, Selene Henke, Monica Hjelmeland, Juli Jacox, Katherine Mayer, Amy Mc-Collum, Brandy Mills, and Desiree Schulz.

Messenger poll

This week's question: Are you worried about the federal government potentially defaulting on its debt?

Vote at: www.messengernews.net

LAST WEEK'S QUESTION: Do you ride a motorcycle?

YES: 25 percent **NO:** 75 percent

The Messenger Poll is updated weekly. Answers and new questions will be published on Saturdays.

This date in history

By The Associated Press

8-year-old James Phipps Today is Sunday, May 14, the 134th day of 2023. There are 231 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight:

On May 14, 1940, the Netherlands surrendered to invading German forces during World War II.

On this date:

In 1796, English physician Edward Jenner inoculated

18-year-old James Phipps against smallpox by using cowpox matter.

In 1804, the Lewis and Clark expedition to explore the Louisiana Territory as well as the Pacific Northwest left camp near present-day Hartford, Illinois.

In 1961, Freedom Riders were attacked by violent mobs in Anniston and Birmingham, Alabama.

Sentencing

Continued from Page 1A

en to stab her several times.

Smith, who was 21 at the time, had previously been in a relationship with Western and was pregnant with his child at the time of the attack. Smith was critically injured in the stabbing and was transported to a Des Moines hospital with significant injuries. Smith's older child, who was just shy of two years old at the time, witnessed the attack, but was unharmed. Smith was paralyzed from the waist down, but she and her unborn child survived the attack and all three are now thriving.

Following an investigation, Morara and Western were apprehended in Minnesota about two weeks after the attack. Both parties were charged with attempted murder and first-degree burglary, both Class B felonies. Later, charges of conspiracy to commit murder and assault while participating in a felony, both Class C felonies, were added to both defendants. Western is also charged with domestic abuse assault causing injury, a Class D felony.

At Morara's sentencing hearing on Friday, Smith and her mother, Lexi Smith, read their victim impact statements before Doyle handed down the sentence.

"I've rewritten this a thousand times — I've had a year and six months to figure out what I want to say to you," Ciane Smith said. "But everytime I think about it, I come up short and it just doesn't feel like it's enough. My words are the only thing I have for you to feel a glimpse of the pain you've caused me and those around me."

Morara has a young daughter, also fathered by Western, who won't have her mother around to watch her grow up, Ciane Smith noted.

"Our lives come with so much hardship already and you just made it even harder for her," she said. "I still think of her and wish her the very best."

Lexi Smith said that during the attack, Morara stabbed Ciane Smith eight times with a knife.

"Maybe you don't understand the terms 'overkill' or 'excessive,'" Lexi Smith said.

Ciane Smith said the viciousness



-Messenger photo by Kelby Wingert

LEXI SMITH addresses defendant Sharon Morara, who pleaded guilty to viciously attacking Smith's daughter, Ciane, in November 2021. Morara's sentencing hearing was held Friday morning at the Webster County Courthouse.

of the attack is "something only a psychopath could do."

"To be honest, I'm so sad for you," Ciane Smith said to Morara. "I hurt for you, because we are all so young and had so much life to live. You ruined your life for no reason at all. You stabbed me and broke into my house for no reason at all other than your own insecurities and jealousy, but I wasn't responsible for that and it's not fair that I'm included in paying the price."

The notion of Morara being free is a "scary thought," Lexi Smith said.

"I am not capable of understanding the type of anger that it takes to drive three hours, break into someone's home, casually let their dog outside and stab them once, let alone eight times, knowing that that person is pregnant with your child's sister and has a one-year-old child sitting next to them," she said. "Then you casually drive three hours back to try to resume your life — that takes a different type of animal and I will never understand that type of person."

Lexi Smith said Morara had "so many other options" the day of the attack, and still chose to try to end Ciane's life. Lexi Smith said she

doesn't believe Morara is capable of regret, remorse or change.

"Not once have I heard you say 'I'm sorry,'" Lexi Smith said. "Not once have I ever heard you say 'I wish I didn't do this.' And they just gave you the opportunity today, and you still didn't."

Though Ciane Smith's life is forever scarred by this nightmare, she still found it within herself to show grace on Friday.

"I pray that your time in here brings healing for you," she told Morara. "I pray that it changes you into a better woman who loves herself. I hope you become stronger and see the power of real love that lies within you. Because although you didn't know, I was a good person and wishing anything negative on you only reflects on my character and I refuse to let you ruin one of the last things I have left of myself. Good luck with life."

As part of the plea agreement with the state, the two remaining charges against Morara were dismissed.

Western's case remains pending in the courts. Currently, a jury trial is tentatively scheduled for June 13.

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2022 Iowa Newspaper Association award winning newspaper

Junk Days pick-ups to resume in Fort Dodge

Junk Days On Demand is back. Set up your junk day on your schedule. Need more than one? No problem. Use Junk Days On Demand as many times as you'd like. Just make sure that what you put out complies with the rules of the program.

On Tuesday, you'll be able to start scheduling a bulk pick-up request on your garbage pick-up day. It's simple. Just text the word "JUNK" to 515-408-9888 and follow the prompts. Once you get confirmation your request has been submitted, have your items out no later than 5 a.m. on your garbage day, but not more than 24 hours in advance. We'll start collecting on May 22. Here are the full details:

Junk Days On Demand is a city program designed to help Fort Dodge sanitation customers get rid of larger items that do not fit into the garbage carts. Collection happens on the same day we pick up your garbage. If we're super busy with pick-ups, it may get moved back a day, but we'll let you know.

Examples of items accepted

through Junk Days On Demand at no cost

Furniture (couch, sectional, chair, recliner, table)

Mattresses (limit two per pick-up)

Carpet (no longer than 4 feet, rolled and secured)

Dismantled swing sets

Minimal building material/construction material (must be bundled and weigh under 50 pounds per bundle)

Bicycles, scooters, large toys

Any items placed at the curb must be able to be lifted safely by a two-person crew. Small, loose items and those that fit in your garbage cart will not be collected. Please separate scrap metal (bikes, fences, swing sets, grills, etc.) from the rest of the items.

Items Accepted for a Fee

\$5 — passenger car tires

\$15 — TVs and electronics

\$15 — Appliances (Refrigerator (doors removed), washer, dryer, microwave, stove or dishwasher)

Items accepted for a fee must be paid for before collection. Stickers

are available for purchase in City Hall at the billing windows. The City is not responsible for lost or stolen stickers.

Items that will not be accepted through Junk Days On Demand

Household Hazardous Materials

Vehicle batteries

Sharps

Liquid waste (paint, varnish, motor oil, etc.)

If you have any household hazardous materials to dispose of, please call 515-576-5866 to make an appointment to drop them off at the North Central Iowa Regional Solid Waste Agency Household Hazardous Materials site.

Sheds, garages and excessive building materials

Concrete or brick

Recyclable materials (cardboard, etc.)

Don't forget — when it's time to schedule your Junk Days On Demand, just text the word "JUNK" to 515-408-9888 and follow the prompts.

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