PEN CITY CURRENT

It's Black & White and Read all over

Thursday, May 27, 2021 | 8 pages | Volume 5 • Issue 108



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Hounds lose hearthreaker Library to



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg

Fort Madison's Jacob Pothitakis (7) fires a shot at the goal between Pella's Josh Warner (8) and Geordie Laidlaw (6) in the second half of Wednesday's substate final in Pella.

SHOOTOUT: Scoreless game settled in PK session after 2 overtimes

BY JOHN BOHNENKAMP

PCC SPORTS

PELLA — Fort Madison was an equal match for its opponent for 100 minutes, even when the Bloodhounds were one man short for the final 21 minutes.

But the final three shots of the season were smothered by a goalkeeper who made the right move every time.

The 1-0 (3-0) loss to fourth-ranked Pella in Wednesday's Class 2A substate final was proof that the ninth-ranked Bloodhounds belonged among the state's best.

It was something Fort Madison coach Kevin Wellman said

was pointed out to him by Pella coach Mark Solomon during the post-game handshake.

"He kind of raised an eyebrow and said, 'Wow. You guys are the real deal," Wellman said.

Fort Madison (16-2) lost its first match of the season and its last match — both in overtime — and in between those bookends the Bloodhounds built a culture that sustained them on this night.

They played one man short after Xander Wellman was sent off after receiving his second yellow card with 1:05 left in the sec-

See **SUBSTATE**, page 4

VACCINATION

LCHD to hold vaccination clinic for area youth June 1

BY PCC STAFF

FORT MADISON – Lee County Health Department will be hosting a COVID-19 vaccine clinic for those ages 12-18 wanting the Pfizer vaccine on Wednesday, June 2, 2021 from 8:30-4:00 at LCHD offices, #3 John Bennett Drive, Fort Madison. This is an open clinic, no appointment necessary, with

120 doses available.

"After receiving numerous inquiries about the Pfizer vaccine for this population we reached out to a neighboring public health department and the state health department for redistribution of Pfizer vaccine to hold this specialized clinic," states Michele Ross, LCHD Administrator.

Pre-registration paperwork and the

Pfizer Emergency Use Authorization Fact Sheet for the June 2nd clinic can be found at www.leecountyhd.org.

A parent or legal guardian is required to be present with a minor and sign consent for the Pfizer vaccination. Masks are requested when attending

For questions please call (319)372-5225.

color up **summer** reading

BY SARAH CLENDINENG FM Library Director

FORT MADISON - The Fort Madison Public Library Summer Reading Program kicks off on June 1. This year's theme is "Reading Colors Your World" and we have so many colorful activities planned.

First, color your world and expand your horizons by reading. Kids have three different prize levels with different prize choices at each level. Complete at least one reading level for a ticket to our end of summer pool party. In addition, if you get finished with the third prize and want

to keep reading, we have a contest to see who can read the most minutes this summer with a colorful prize for the winner.

Adults can read for the chance to win one of four prize baskets. For each



reading ticket completed, pick the prize basket you want a chance to win. Make it to the maximum of three reading tickets and you also get a coupon to a local coffee store. I am really excited about the prize baskets. "Color My Kitchen" has a Stoneware loaf pan, magnetic spice tins, measuring cups and colored towels. The "Car Care Kit" has a basket to keep in your car, wipes, cleaning putty and a 12-volt hand vacuum. "Color and Creation" is a great arts and crafts starter kit with watercolors, colored pencils, a hot glue gun and jewelry making tools. Finally, the "Movie Night" basket has all the goodies you need for a movie night, 3 DVDs and a bucket to hold your popcorn.

For kids 12 and younger we have many in-person programs. Story Hour for toddlers and pre-school age kids will continue through July 14. On Mondays,

OpenWeatherMap

See **SARAH**, page 8

INDEX

Business Directory	P.7
CLASSIFIEDS	P.7
Country Treasures	P.2
FOR THE RECORD	P.2
Fort Madison Community Hospital	P.5
Fort Madison Family YMCA	P.5
EDOM THE EDONT	D. 4 9

Great River Regional Waste Authority	.P.6
JDRF.org	.P.8
Keyway Management Company	. P.7
Lee County Health Department	.P.3
LEE COUNTY NEWS	
LOCAL NEWS	. P.8
OPINION	

Pen City Current	Ps.4,7
Pilot Grove Savings Bank	P.8
Pothitakis Dentistry	P.4
Rashid Pharmacy & Wellness	P.6
PORTS	Ps.4,6
ri-State Outdoor Products	P.5
Velch's Insurance	P.2

WEATHER

..... Heavy Rain, 79° F/60° F **SAT 29 May....** Clear Skies, 63° F/ 43° F

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MEGA MILLIONS 05/25	14 21 31 34 54, Mega Ball: 11 Megaplier: 3
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PICK 3 05/25 EVENING	 493
PICK 4 05/25 MIDDAY	4849
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For the Record

For the Record

Fort Madison Police Report

05/21/21 - 9:20 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of vandalism in the 2600 block of Avenue H. 05/21/21 - 10:07 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a hit and run in the 1700 block of Avenue G. 05/21/21 - 10:30 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 500 block of Avenue F. 05/21/21 - 4:22 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of hit and run in the 800 block of 23rd Street. 05/21/21 - 4:55 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 1400 block of Avenue G. 05/22/21 - 11:29 p.m. - Fort Madison Police arrested Timothy Lee Kempker, 32, of Fort Madison, in the 2800 block of Avenue L, on a warrant for failure to appear. He was

taken to Lee County Jail. 05/22/21 - 2:19 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a burglary in the 1100 block of Avenue F. 05/23/21 - 2:23 a.m. - Fort Madison Police arrested Terry Marvin Stewart, Jr., 26, of Fort Madison, in the 4600 block of Avenue J, on a charge of simple domestic assault and possession of drug paraphernalia. He was taken to Lee County Jail. 05/23/21 - 2:23 a.m. - Fort Madison Police arrested Georgina Ann Gordon, 27, of Fort Madison in the 4600 block of Avenue J, on a charge of simple domestic abuse assault. She was released on a promise to appear. 05/23/21 - 1:38 p.m. - Fort Madison Police arrested Payton Wrage VanPelt, 25, of Fort Madison, in the 500 block of Avenue F, on a charge of 4th degree theft and

trespassing. She was taken to Lee County Jail and held. 05/23/21 - 4:41 p.m. - Fort Madison Police cited Denise Elaine Miller, 59, of Fort Madison, in the 1600 block of 33rd Street, on a charge of failure to provide proof of rabies vaccination. 05/24/21 - 7:10 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a burglary in the 700 block of Avenue C. 05/24/21 – 3:38 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 2000 block of Avenue B. 05/24/21 - 7:44 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 200 block of Avenue D. 05/25/21 - 5:20 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of vandalism in the 3700 block of Avenue L. 05/25/21 - 7:55 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of vandalism in the

2300 block of Avenue H. 05/25/21 - 10:26 a.m. - Fort Madison Police arrested Heather Dawn Daniels, 40, of Fort Madison in the 1500 block of Avenue H, on a warrant for failure to appear, misuse of 911 and public intoxication. She was taken to Lee County Jail and held. 05/25/21 - 1:45 p.m. - Fort Madison Police arrested Theodore Grant Marks, 37, of Fort Madison in the 4500 block of Avenue O, on a charge of trespassing. He was taken to Lee County Jail. 05/25/21 - 2:45 p.m. - Fort Madison Police arrested Lisa Marie Bell, 33, of Keokuk, in the 600 block of Avenue C, on a charge of trespassing. She was taken to Lee County Jail. 05/25/21 – 8:21 p.m. – Fort Madison Police arrested Colin Jess Brooks, 27, of West Burlington, in the 4400 block of Avenue L, on a warrant service out of Des Moines County. He was taken to Lee County Jail. 05/25/21 - 8:39 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of vandalism in the 1500 block of Avenue H.

Lee County

Sheriff's Report 05/21/21 - 9:20 a.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies cited Trevor Weston Joseph Mills, 36, of Keokuk, on Walker Lane in Keokuk, on a charge of eluding. 05/21/21 - 6:00 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Michael Allen Wagner, 37, of Keokuk, at the sheriff's office on a judgment hold. He was taken to Lee County Jail and released for serving weekends. 05/22/21 - 11:05 a.m. - Lee

County Sheriff's deputies

arrested Shana Lee Licht. 39, of East Moline, III., at the Scott County Jail, on a warrant for failure to appear. She was held in custody. 05/22/21 - 2:33 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Stephanie Jean Chaney, 38, of Cedar Rapids, no location given, on a warrant for violation of probation. She was taken to Lee County Jail. 05/23/21 - 8:23 a.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies responded to a one-vehicle accident at the intersection of 320th Street and 250th Avenue. According to reports, a vehicle driven by Emma Diane Ackerson, 17, of Farmington was traveling eastbound in the 2500 block of 320th Street lost control and entered the north ditch. No injuries were reported. Ackerson was cited for failure to maintain control. 05/23/21 - 11:03 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Charles Anthony Stewart, 35, of Keokuk, at the intersection of Hwy. 61 and 7th Street in Keokuk, on a warrant for 1st-degree burglary. 05/24/21 - 12:08 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Ambria Renee Birky, 18, of Burlington at 263rd Avenue and Hwy. 61, on a warrant for failure to appear. She was taken to Lee County Jail and released on bond. 05/24/21 - 10:35 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Randy Joe Fuller, 49, of Fredericksburg, on 255th Avenue, on a warrant for failure to appear. He was taken to Lee County Jail. 05/25/21 - 5:57 a.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies Christine Anne Clark, 61, of Keokuk, at the sheriff's office,

taken to Lee County Jail. 05/25/21 - 9:37 a.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Christopher Dean Derr, 33, of Keokuk, in the 3600 block of Argyle Road, on a charges of 5th-degree criminal mischief and domestic abuse assault. He was taken to Lee County Jail. 05/25/21 - 11:33 a.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Heather Dawn Daniels, 40. of Fort Madison, at the sheriff's office on a warrant for failure to appear. She was taken to Lee County Jail and released after paying a fine. 05/25/21 - 11:45 a.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Thomas Eugene Clark, 36, of Monmouth, at the sheriff's office, on warrants for voluntary absence of custody and a judgment hold. He was taken to Lee County Jail. 05/25/21 - 2:00 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies Stephen Matthew Wixom, 39, of Keokuk, in the 2700 block of 208th Avenue in Argyle on a charge of possession of a controlled substance. He was taken to Lee County Jail. 05/25/21 - 4:43 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Amber Nicole Axtell, 21, of Keokuk, in the 400 block of Concert in Keokuk, on a warrant for failure to appear. She was taken to Lee County Jail. 05/25/21 - 6:41 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Jason Paul Pohlmeyer, 35, of West Burlington, in Knox County, on a warrant for 1st-degree theft greater than \$10,000. He was taken to Lee County Jail. Those listed above are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.



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Sports



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Mitchell Pothitakis (3) gets tangled up with a couple Dutch in the second half Wednesday night.

We remember and celebrate all those who fought for our freedom on this day.



Pen City Current will not publish an e–Edition on Monday or Tuesday, May $31^{\rm st}$ & June $1^{\rm st}$ in observance of the Memorial Day holiday. Breaking news will continue to be published on our website 24/7 and we will resume publication of the e–Edition Wednesday, June $2^{\rm nd}$.

Please celebrate safely and responsibly. We care about all of you.

The Pen City Current Family

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Pella's Holland smothers final 3 shots by Hounds

SUBSTATE - Continued from Page 1

ond half. And yet they scrambled to fight off the Dutch (15-4) in the two overtime periods.

"And we had some chances (to score), too," Kevin Wellman said. "They're a good group of kids who know how to dig down deep and put it out there."

What it did was give the Bloodhounds the chance to win in the shootout period, but they couldn't get the ball past Pella senior goalkeeper Mason Holland.

Holland stopped shots from Mitchell Pothitakis, Jacob Pothitakis and Leif Boeding.

Pella's Austin Bone scored past Fort Madison goalkeeper Reiburn Turnbull for the first goal. Logan Solomon scored the second goal, then Will Rasmussen's goal sent the Dutch to next week's state tournament as the dejected Bloodhounds looked on.

Kevin Wellman thought back to the first loss of the season, when the Bloodhounds fell 3-2 to a Notre Dame team that is now ranked No. 1 in the state in Class 1A and has qualified for the state tournament. Fort Madison was behind 2-0 in the match, rallied to tie, and then lost on a golden goal in overtime.

"The way we responded..." Wellman

He then thought back to a 2-1 win over Fairfield on April 15, when the Bloodhounds were short-handed and held on for the victory.

"The way we responded..." Wellman

"These guys were really good at ... being in the now," he continued. "What just happened a minute ago, or even three seconds ago, doesn't matter anymore. It's what's ahead."

It's why Wellman didn't want to think much about what happened in those 100 minutes. He was already thinking about next season — Fort Madison loses five seniors, but has the bulk of its offense returning.

"If we would have had another game after this — say, this is a tournament where we lose in PKs and have to play again — we would be laser-focused and ready to play the next game," Wellman said. "Unfortunately, we don't have that next game."

It's now about next season, with a statement left behind.

"Hopefully," Wellman said, "next year we'll be the real deal."



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PC

The third and final goal off a Pella striker in the overtime shootout sails past a diving Reiburn Turnbull to give the No. 4 Dutch a 1-0 win over Fort Madison in the Class 2A substate 5 final in Pella Wednesday.



Opinion

Lawmakers dropped the ball in not fixing recount law

The chambers of the Iowa Senate and the Iowa House of Representatives are silent after a busy 2021 session.

Lawmakers teed up bills that addressed a wide assortment of problems, real or imagined.

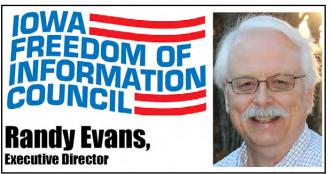
They decided against an increase in tax revenues for the three state universities. They took away authority of local governments to impose face-mask requirements to combat current or future diseases. They made significant changes in the process for creating charter schools, which will operate with state tax money but will not face many requirements public K-12 schools must follow.

And they rewrote large portions of Iowa's election laws. There are new restrictions on the use of absentee ballots. Election Day voting hours have been shortened by one hour.

But lawmakers went home without tackling a big inconsistency in how election recounts are conducted.

This issue came into focus as the outcome of the U.S. House race between Mariannette Miller-Meeks and Rita Hart dragged on for nearly two months after the November election. Miller-Meeks ultimately was declared the winner by 6 votes — 196,964 to 196,958.

In the opening days of the Legislature's 2021 session, lawmakers talked of the importance of making election procedures more consistent across Iowa's 99 counties. A lack of



consistency contributes to public doubts about the fairness and sanctity of our elections, they said.

However, there were no similar concerns voiced, nor any debate held, about inconsistencies in the multiple recounts that occurred in the race between Hart and Miller-Meeks. That's unfortunate, because 24 counties make up the 2nd Congressional District, and those 24 counties' election officials did not follow the same process for recounting the ballots cast in their counties in the House race.

University of Iowa law professor Todd Pettys was one of three members of the recount board in Johnson County. He was selected by the two other members, one of whom was chosen by Hart and one who was picked by Miller-Meeks.

Pettys provides an important analysis of the flaws in Iowa's recount law in a recent article for the Iowa Law Review.

The recount procedures rarely have a bearing on the outcome of elections, because the vote margin between candidates typically more than offsets any tabulation mistakes.

But in a close-as-awhisker race like we saw in the 2nd District, the procedures can determine who wins and who loses. That's why Iowans, regardless of their political affiliation, should be disappointed the Legislature walked away without clarifying this important statute.

One concern deals with the rapid completion Iowa law dictates for a recount. The law permits only one three-member recount board in each county — regardless of whether it is Polk County, with 479,600 residents, or Adams County, with 3,600 residents.

Another concern is the procedure each recount board decides to use to conduct its work. The current state law states, "The recount board may request that the ballots be recounted by machine, may count the ballots by hand, or may do both."

It is stunning that

lawmakers who preached about consistency in how elections are conducted would find it acceptable to leave it to each recount board to decide how to carry out its work.

"Whether human eyes in each county would indeed scrutinize the ballots, however, was a matter that each county's recount board had to decide for itself," Pettys wrote.

Based on his experience with the Johnson County recount, Pettys added: "A machine recount would do little or nothing to reveal whether the machines were failing to count humanly perceptible votes for Hart or Miller-Meeks. A hand count, in contrast, would enable a recount board to dig beneath the machines' tallies of under votes and over votes, but that approach would present drawbacks of its own."

The recount boards need to evaluate and rule on what election officials call "under votes" and "over votes". These are ballots where the voter may have marked too many candidates (an over vote) or did not mark any candidate (an under vote).

The counting machines might not have properly counted a ballot where there is a stray ink dot — called a "hesitation mark" — where the voter's pen paused momentarily while the person considered the next candidate. Or, the machines might have discarded a ballot because of where the voter marked their choice for each office.

And the tabulating machines' work can be affected by the presence of what are called "identifying marks" on some ballots. Those might be where a voter changes their mind or makes a mistake and scribbles through the incorrect vote and darkens the oval next to the candidate they prefer.

The Legislature needs to make it crystal clear how the recount process is to be carried out. There should be no room for recount officials in one county not looking at the ballots but merely running them through the tabulation machines, while recount officials in another county make a visual inspection of every ballot and count each one by hand.

Whether your vote gets counted or disqualified should not depend on where in Iowa you live. The recount process and procedures need to be the same in every county.

Pettys puts it this way:
"Even more important
than the outcome in
any particular race is
the principle that, when
elections are exceptionally
close and recount boards
are called into action,
every eligible Iowan's vote
deserves to be counted
unless there are weighty
reasons to disregard it.

"Some election rules in place in Iowa today fall short of meeting that mark."

Randy Evans is executive director of the Iowa Freedom of Information Council and can be reached at DMRevans2810@gmail.com. Pen City Current is a member of the IFOIC.





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Central Lee girls off to quick start

BY PCC STAFF

DANVILLE – Shanna Buford hit an RBI double in the top of the third for the go-ahead run as Central Lee toppled Danville in the Lady Hawks 6-2 win Tuesday night.

Sophie Turner once again handled duties in the circle for Central Lee scattering six hits over five innings while striking out four and not giving up a walk.

Buford went 4-for-4 on the night with three singles and the game-winning RBI.

Central Lee opened the scoring in the top of the second when Makayla Morrison singled, swiped second and would come around to score on Turner's oneout single up the middle.

Danville would tie things up in the bottom of the 1st when Madison Helmick doubled scoring senior Morgan Waste from 2nd base. Turner would work a strike out to the next hitter to retire the side.

Danville's only other run would come in the bottom of the seventh when Carlea Beckman scored on a fielding error after reaching on a one out single.

The Lady Hawks would put up two runs each in the fifth and seventh. Buford's one-out single to left-center scored Macy Watkins and Halo Arrowood scored off a wild pitch in the fifth. In the seventh, Buford opened the inning with a single to right and came around on Megan Hopp's triple to deep left field. Hopp would then score on a ground out to short by Morrison.



Abby Simmons when 2-for-4 on the night. Arrowood, Buford, Hopp, Turner, and Morrison all had RBIs. Morrison and Bailey Schwartz both had stolen bases. Hopp came on in relief and pitched the final two innings giving up three hits and striking out two against no walks.

Senior Haiden Molter went the distance for Danville, giving up 10 hits and six runs, five earned. Beckman, Molter and Kylie Palmer all had two hits for the Bears (0-1).

Central Lee (2-0) downed Wapello on Monday in its season-opener putting up three runs in the top of the seventh to get the win.

Arrowood led off the seventh with a double and came around to score on a 1-out single to right from Hopp. After Morrison fanned for the second out, Simmons singled to drive in Hopp and set up Turner's go-ahead single to score Simmons from 2nd.

Megan Hopp got the win coming on in relief in the fifth inning giving up just one hit and no runs, while fanning two.

The Hawks host Mt. Pleasant on Wednesday and then host Holy Trinity Catholic on Thursday and then travel to New London to wrap up a five-game first week of the season.



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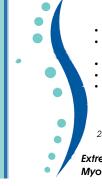
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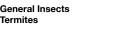
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Lee County News/From the Front

Summer full of colorful reading titles

SARAH - Continued from Page 1

we have a craft planned and will be making things like a garden in a book, tissue paper stained glass and a cotton ball rainbow. On Wednesdays, we will have a variety of different activities including Tie-Dye, STEAM opportunities with Lee County Extension, a bubble afternoon and the Iowa State Insect Zoo. Please pre-register for Tie-Dye on June 2 and the Insect Zoo on July 7 to help us with crowd control.

Teen activities will be on Tuesday afternoons and will include Minecraft, rock painting and found object wind chimes. For teens and adults, we will have more extended crafting opportunities on Thursday afternoon including acrylic pour painting, tie-dye and driftwood wind chimes. We also have some additional activities planned for adults and Tuesday morning and afternoons including sashiko style mending, a book tasting and a trivia contest. Ages 14 and up are welcome to join us for the return of Cook the Book on July 13 when we "Eat the Rainbow", exploring new vegetables and fun ways to prepare them

Last, but definitely not least, our escape room is back! You have 30 minutes to find a letter in the museum curator's office and escape the museum without triggering any alarms. This will be a two-room escape room so have your thinking caps on!. Pre-registration is required and begins July 1.

A full schedule of activities can be picked up at the library or found at www.FortMadisonLibrary.org. We hope everybody has a safe, colorful and well-read summer!

Colorful Reading

Blue Monday by Nicci French (MYS FRE) Black Boy by Richard Wright (YA 920 WRI)

The Peach Keeper by Sarah Addison Allen (F ALL)

The Devil in the White City by Erik Larson (364.1523 LAR)

Bluebird, Bluebird by Attica Locks (MYS LOC)

The Green Mile by Stephen King (F/PB KIN)

Bellman & Black: A Ghost Story by Diane Setterfield (LP F SET)

The Mystery of the Blue Train by Agatha Christie (MYS/PB CHR)

The Golden Compass by Philip Pullman (YA F PUL)

Orange Is the New Black by Piper Kerman (Goodreads Author) (365 KER)

Upcoming Events at the Fort Madison Public Library – (Masks or face shields will need

to be worn at all in-person library programs.)

1st Thursday @ the Library – June 3– Make the 1st Thursday of the month library day with no fines on overdue books returned that day, our book discussion group meeting at 1:30 and the launch of our monthly Take and Make craft. June's craft is a penny fidget spinner or top.

Pre-School/Toddler Story Hour – Wednesday morning at 10:30.

Make it Monday – Monday, 11:00-2:00, for children up to 12 years old, a different craft every week, stop in as your schedule allows.

Teen Tuesday – Tuesday, 3:30-5:00. A different activity each week, including Minecraft, painted rocks and found object wind chimes.

Wacky Wednesday – Times vary, depending on the schedule, this years activities include Tie-Dye, bubbles, STEAM ice cream, STEAM art and the Iowa State University Insect Zoo.

All Booked Up! – The library's book discussion group meets on the first Thursday of the month at 1:30 p.m. On Thursday, June 3 we will be discussing "The Bright Unknown" by Elizabeth Butler Younts. Copies of the book are available at the library for check out. Join us for a lively discussion. On July 1, we will be discussing "The Woman in Cabin 10" by Ruth Ware.



BY DARA SANDERS
West Point Library Director

WEST POINT – The West Point Public Library, along with the help of local businesses, will again be sponsoring a StoryWalk™ around the West Point town square this summer.

A StoryWalk[™] is a fun and unique way for children and adults to enjoy reading and the outdoors at the same time. Typically pages from a children's book are attached to wooden stakes, which are installed along an outdoor path. In our case, we have asked local businesses to place the pages of the story in their windows/ door. As you talk a stroll around the square, you'll be directed to the next page of the story.

The StoryWalk™ Project was created by Anne Ferguson of Montpelier, VT and developed in collaboration with the Vermont Bicycle & Pedestrian Coalition (VBPC) and the Kellogg Hubbard Library.

Our StoryWalk™ will begin June 1 and continue through the month featuring the story Summer Color! by Diana Murray. Keep a look out for a new story come July! Who said you couldn't walk and read at the same time!!

We would like to thank the following local businesses for their participation: West Point City Hall, Fullenkamp Insurance, Kim's Confections, Aggie's on the Square, The Blend, Harmeyer Insurance, Lee County Mutual Insurance, West Point Post Office, West Point Chiropractic Clinic, Menke & Company, Paul's Plumbing, Aspelmeier Law Firm, Sonny's, Hair Etc., and Holy Trinity Catholic School.



