

# PEN CITY CURRENT

It's **Black & White** and **Read** all over

Wednesday, May 26, 2021 | 8 pages | Volume 5 • Issue 107



[www.pencitycurrent.com](http://www.pencitycurrent.com)

## Effort to rehab stadium underway

**GO FUND ME:** Account set up as part of effort aimed at alumni, community

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG  
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – The community has come together to put up a new press box at Richmond Stadium overlooking Youel Field. There's also a new scoreboard courtesy of Connection Bank, Lee County Bank, Pilot Grove Savings Bank and Mohrfeld Electric.

New goal posts were put in, and Head Coach Derek Doherty is building a new-look Bloodhound football team that made the playoffs in 2020.

Now Fort Madison Football, Inc. wants to spruce up the stadium, but they need help from the community and former Bloodhounds.

Tara Johnson, a board member with the organization that provides funding and support for programs that enhance Fort Madison's football program, said the stadium just isn't in a condition that's reflective of the resurgence of the Fort Madison's athletic programs.

Fort Madison Football, Inc. is looking for support for an stadium improvement project at Richmond Stadium, home



of the Fort Madison Bloodhounds. A Go Fund Me page has been set up and the link is included in the article.

The organization isn't associated with the school district in any way, but helps prop up facility and equipment needs through it's fundraising arm. The group's annual golf outing

See **CAMPAIGN**, page 8

## IVANHOE SHOOTING FMPD seeks warrants for arrest

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG  
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – Little new information was released Tuesday regarding the shooting that took place at Ivanhoe Park Monday evening in Fort Madison.

Police officials said Tuesday the name of the victim is being withheld out of privacy to the 31-year-old man who was shot in the leg at about 6:50 p.m. Monday night.

The shooting took place while Doherty Baseball Academy was holding drills at the park's baseball diamond. Several adults with the program administered first aid until help arrived at the scene. The assailants are reported to have fled the

See **UPDATE**, page 5

## NEW PASTOR

### A Frank approach comes to city church

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG  
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – He was an atheist and a drug addict. She was an alcoholic.

After turning their lives around and finding a renewed relationship with God, Chris and Amanda Frank moved their family to Fort Madison from the burgeoning community of Ankeny, to lead a Pentacostal congregation in an inconspicuous church at 1224 26th Street.

Their intention is to make it much more conspicuous. With an energetic approach to attracting new mem-



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg

The "Our Heritage" wall in the basement of the First United Pentacostal Church outlines the church's relatively young history from 1983 to present day.

of Iowa, the two finally became residents in February after Chris was voted in as pastor in January of this year.

One of their first purchases was a sandwich board that they put at the corner of 26th and Avenue L, to remind residents of the First United Pentacostal Church.

on the Franks. Chris serves as the congregation's new pastor following Don Culp who's been pastoring to the small congregation since the late 80s.

"I personally believe this is the best kept secret in town," Chris said.

He said the church had written letters to the Pentacostal organization's headquarters in St. Louis looking for someone to lead with Culp's pending retirement.

"They had found nothing and I believe God was pre-

See **CHURCH**, page 8

## EMPTY NEST

By Curt Swarm



### Hat and bibs part of Garden 2021

I didn't get the garden in until Wednesday, May 12, this year, Hump Day. (Am I over the hump?) In a burst of energy, guilt and backache, I slammed the plants and seed into the ground all in one day. Ginnie couldn't help 'cause she was taking care of Granddaughter, Aria, while Aria's mother was having surgery. Aria is such a pretty name, it means melody sung by a single voice. So fitting.

I planted a dozen tomato plants—four Beefeater, four Early Girl, and four Sweet Cherry. (Ginnie always wants the cherry, and then is aghast at what to do with them all.) Alongside the tomato plants went six peppers—two green Bell Boys and four Big Reds. Crowding the peppers are red onions, for salsa, cha, cha, cha.

See **SWARM**, page 5

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## WEATHER

WED 26 May.....Rain, 75° F/ 61° F  
THU 27 May.....Heavy Rain, 73° F/ 58° F  
FRI 28 May.....Light Rain, 64° F/ 45° F

OpenWeatherMap

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PICK 3 05/24 MIDDAY.....3 0 7  
PICK 3 05/24 EVENING.....1 2 2  
PICK 4 05/24 MIDDAY.....3 9 1 0  
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# For the Record

## For the Record

### Fort Madison Police Report

05/19/21 - 4:37 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a stolen vehicle in the Fort Madison area.  
 05/19/21 - 7:40 a.m. - Fort Madison Police arrested Payton Rage VanPelt, 25, of Fort Madison, in the 2300 block of Avenue E, on a charge of disorderly conduct, interference with official acts, and public intoxication. He was taken to the Lee County Jail.  
 05/19/21 - 9:38 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of vandalism on Florence Drive.  
 05/19/21 - 11:56 a.m. - Fort Madison Police arrested Lance Edward Meredith, 43, of Fort Madison, in the 1200 block of 26th Street, on a charge of possession of methamphetamine. He was released on a promise to appear.  
 05/19/21 - 12:24 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 4800 block of Avenue E.  
 05/19/21 - 1:36 p.m. - Fort Madison Police cited John Michael Overland, 52, of Mason City, in the 1000 block of Avenue G, on a charge of driving while suspended.

05/19/21 - 2:24 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of vandalism in the 400 block of Avenue E.  
 05/19/21 - 7:15 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 300 block of 24th Street.  
 05/20/21 - 5:22 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 800 block of Avenue E.  
 05/20/21 - 10:36 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 3400 block of Avenue N.  
 05/20/21 - 11:48 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a burglary in the 2600 block of Avenue L.  
 05/20/21 - 12:37 p.m. - Fort Madison Police cited Jason Edward Haynes, 44, of Fort Madison, in the 1400 block of 33rd Street on a charge of driving under suspension.  
 05/20/21 - 1:12 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 300 block of Avenue G.  
 05/20/21 - 2:00 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 500 block of Avenue F.  
 05/20/21 - 9:32 p.m. - Fort Madison Police arrested Jill Marie DeRonde, 36, of Fort Madison, in the 300 block of Avenue G, on a

charge of assaulting a peace officer. She was taken to the Lee County Jail.

### Lee County Sheriff's Report

05/19/21 - 10:29 a.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Ricky Leon Riddle, 43, of Montrose, in the 1700 block of Bank Street in Keokuk, on a warrant for parole violation. He was taken to Lee County Jail.  
 05/19/21 - 8:56 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Douglas Alan McPherson, Jr., 40, of Fort Madison, at the sheriff's office, on a warrant for probation violation. He was taken to Lee County Jail.  
 05/19/21 - 11:34 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Jessica Ann Harwood, 38, of Keokuk, in the 3600 block of 235th Ave., on a temporary hold. He was taken to Lee County Jail and released on bond.  
 05/19/21 - 12:18 a.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies cited Graham Thomas Glenn, 33, of Fort Madison, in the 2900 block of Four Season Road on charges of OWI-2nd offense and possession of a controlled substance.  
 05/20/21 - 9:29 a.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Ashley Erin Bakrow, 38, of Keokuk, at the sheriff's office on charges of failure to appear. She was taken to Lee County Jail.  
 05/20/21 - 10:29 a.m. - Lee

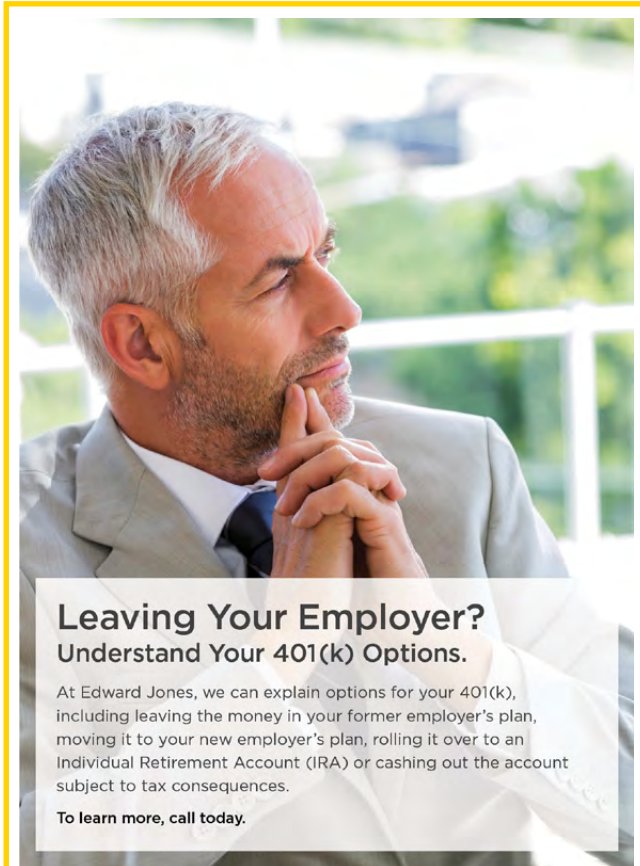
County Sheriff's deputies arrested Brandon Lee Hayes, 30, of Fort Madison, at Wilson Lake on warrants for voluntary absence from custody and a judgment hold. He was taken to Lee County Jail.  
 05/20/21 - 11:31 a.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Timothy James Huston, 51, of Keokuk, at the sheriff's office, on a warrant for simple assault. He was taken to Lee County Jail and released on bond.  
 05/20/21 - 8:40 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Jacob Matthew DaValt, 39, of Keokuk, at the sheriff's office on a charge of 5th-degree criminal mischief. He was taken to Lee County Jail and held.

### Hancock County Sheriff's Report

05/17/21 - Daren E Rife, age 36, of Shelbyville, Mo was arrested on a Hancock County Warrant charging him with Failure to Appear/ Pay on original charges of Driving While License Suspended. Rife was released after posting the required bond and given a future court date.  
 05/18/21 - Jacob W Klesner, age 36, of West Point, IA was arrested on a Hancock County Warrant charging him with Criminal Trespass to Real Property. Klesner was also arrested for Driving While License Suspended. Klesner was

released after posting the required bond and given a future court date.  
 05/18/21 - Amber A Matthews, age 38, of Hamilton, IL was arrested on a McDonough County, IL Warrant charging her with Failure to Pay on original charges of Operating an Uninsured Vehicle. Matthews was released after posting the required bond and given a future court date.  
 05/20/21 - Stephen J Wilson, age 70, of Augusta, IL was arrested and charged with Domestic Battery. Wilson was released after posting the required bond and given a future court date.  
 05/21/21 - Christopher W Avise, age 38, of Bowen, IL was arrested and charged with Driving Under the Influence of Alcohol. Avise was released after posting the required bond and given a future court date.  
 05/21/21 - Ashley N Leach, age 24, of Plymouth, IL was arrested on a McDonough County, IL Warrant charging her with Failure to Appear on original charges of Driving While License Suspended. Leach was released after posting the required bond and given a future court date.  
 05/21/21 - Jennifer I Harl, age 55, of Dallas City, IL was arrested and charged with Possession of Methamphetamine. Harl remains lodged in the Hancock

County jail awaiting her next court appearance.  
 05/22/21 - Randy G Price, age 61, of Elvaston, IL was arrested and charged with Driving While License Suspended. Price was released after posting the required bond and given a future court date.  
 05/22/21 - Kyle R Bowman, age 27, of Hamilton, IL was arrested and charged with Driving While License Suspended and Possession of Methamphetamine. Bowman remains lodged in the Hancock County jail awaiting his next court appearance.  
 05/22/21 - Mary C Richards, age 19, of Nauvoo, IL was arrested and charged with Driving Under the Influence of Alcohol. Richards was released after posting the required bond and given a future court date.  
 05/23/21 - Adolfo C Robles, age 46, of Carthage, IL was arrested and charged with Driving Under the Influence of Alcohol. Robles was released after posting the required bond and given a future court date.  
 05/23/21 - Trenton G Skees, age 24, of Hamilton, IL was arrested and charged with Violation of Order of Protection. Skees remains lodged in the Hancock County Jail in lieu of bail awaiting his initial court appearance.  
*Those listed above are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.*



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# Obituaries

## OBITUARIES

### GREGORY B. HANEY

Gregory Bell Haney, 94 years, of Wever, Iowa died Thursday, May 20, 2021 at his home. Greg was born November 1, 1926 at Sioux City, Iowa, a son of James David and Gladys (Bell) Haney. On February 19, 1949, he married Jeannine Hayes. She survives.



HANEY

Greg was a graduate of South High in South Omaha, Nebraska. He was a veteran of the United States Army, serving as a MP in Germany. After his time in the military he attended and graduated from the University of Nebraska at Omaha (UNO). In addition, he studied at the University of Chicago and at the University of Missouri in Columbia, Missouri. He went to work at Armour & Company in Omaha, before transferring to the South St. Paul, Minnesota plant. He moved to the home office in Chicago and finally to Fort Madison.



He was the Process Engineering Manger and was significant in building the Armour Dial meat canning plant here. He made several trips to Europe to buy machinery for the plant. Greg retired in 1989. He is a member of the National Meat Cannery Association. Greg loved living in Fort Madison and spent his free time playing golf. His friends called him "Long Ball." He and Jeannine traveled by motor home to South Padre Island for seven years.

He is survived by his wife, Jeannine; three children: Derelle Haney (Kyle Crocker) of Bemidji, Minnesota; Curt Haney (Kathleen Nelson) of Seattle, Washington; and Jeff (Therese) Haney of Hudson, Wisconsin; two siblings, Sharon Winther of Norfolk, Nebraska and David (Jayne) Haney of Pappillion, Nebraska; six granddaughters: Katie Haney (Kamee Mam), Kimmy (Michael) Barrie, Holly Haney, Jenny (Jared) Haan, Megan Haney and Rita Haney; one great grandson Miles; Mia and Marika Nelson; several nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents and two siblings, James and Joan.

Greg's family will greet friends from 10:00 - 11:00 am Wednesday, May 26, 2021 at the Barr Memorial Chapel, Fort Madison. A memorial service will follow and begin at 11:00 am Wednesday, May 26, 2021 at the funeral home with Pastor Dave Poland officiating. Burial and military rites will be at Oakland Cemetery, Fort Madison. A memorial has been established, contributions may be made directly to Barr Memorial Chapel, 1919 Avenue F, Fort Madison, Iowa 52627. Barr Memorial Chapel is honored to serve the Haney family and an online guest book may be found at [www.barrmemorialchapel.com](http://www.barrmemorialchapel.com).

### Pen City Current obituary policy

Pen City 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. Reposting of obituaries due to changes can only be requested by the submitting funeral home and will be assessed a \$15 reposting fee.

## OBITUARIES

### INA G. ANDERSON CAMBRE

A committal service for Ina Grace Anderson Cambre is scheduled for Saturday, May 29, 2021 at 10:30 a.m. at the Nauvoo City Cemetery in Nauvoo, Hancock, Illinois, officiated by Mr. Mark Anderson, Certified Lay Minister of the United Methodist Church. Schmitz-



CAMBRE

Banks & Beals Funeral Home, Nauvoo, is assisting the family. To leave a tribute for the family, please visit Ina's obituary at [sbbfuneralhome.com](http://sbbfuneralhome.com).

She was the youngest child born to the late Charles Edward Anderson and Blanche Emily Taylor Anderson on December 10, 1921 at Henry, Marshall, Illinois, and her physical body died on February 21, 2021 in Grand Saline, Van Zandt, Texas. Before the age of 10, her family moved to Clarinda, Page, Iowa. After graduating as an honor graduate from Clarinda High School in 1940, she worked for the Hon. Carl O. Sjulín, Iowa State Senator of Fremont County, Iowa; Lisle Corp. of Clarinda; and the Page County Courthouse in Clarinda.

She married Arden Adrain Cambre on August 25, 1946 at Clarinda, Page, Iowa. To that union there were born five children. In addition to being active with the League of Women voters, she was a lifelong member, and having served on many committees, including the United Methodist Women, and was the former secretary to the Beaumont District of the Texas Annual Conference, of the United Methodist Church. At Trinity United Methodist Church at Beaumont, Texas she was awarded the Woman of the Year award. She took pleasure in gardening, taking care of birds, and her children's dogs. She really liked playing pinochle and bridge. As far as traveling goes, she had been in all 50 states, as well as Canada and Mexico.

She was never more happy than when she was toiling like a drudge in the kitchen preparing meals and desserts for her family and the pastors of her district. She would often converse with her pastors, make them feel welcome in the district office, and feed them cookies and rhubarb pie she had made, often to the neglect of her work, that she would go back to the office after supper to finish what needed to have been done during the day.

She was predeceased by her husband, parents, and siblings Charlotte Rachel Anderson Goff, Zola June Arlene Anderson Pearson, and Seneca Eugene Anderson. She is survived by her five children—the Rev. Dr. August Allison Cambre, John and Laura Elaine Cambre Henry, Terry and Eugene Louis Cambre, Penni and Lee Adrian Cambre, and Jim and Patricia Ann Cambre McAdams; by eight grandchildren—Jena Kae Siedler, Aren Adrian Cambre, Micah Searle Cambre, Leigh Alexander Cambre, Tyler Ross Cambre, Hayley Renae Cambre, Taylor Morgan Cambre, and Emily Grace McAdams; and by four great grandchildren—Alec Adrian Cambre, Ethan James Cambre, Maxwell Stanford Siedler, and Marielle Lee Siedler; in addition to three nieces, and two nephews.

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## Sports

# HTC girls tie last year's win mark in first game

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG  
PCC EDITOR

WEST POINT – Holy Trinity Catholic has already tied its season win tally from last year.

One.

The Crusaders looked crisp in a 8-3 win over Mediapolis Monday night at South Park to open the year at 1-0. They finished last year 1-10 and 0-6 in the Southeast Iowa Superconference.

“The girls have impressed me. They’re basically the same girls out there, but a year more mature and I would have been surprised if we weren’t a little better this year,” said head coach Loren Menke.

“How much better remains to be seen.”

The Crusaders got down early trailing 1-0 going into the bottom of the 1st. But Brooke Mueller doubled in a run and came around to score on a dropped third strike throw out. Mary Hellige, who got the win for the Crusaders, drew a walk and would also come around to score to open a 3-1 lead that Holy Trinity wouldn’t relinquish.

The Lady Bulldogs went three-up, three-down in the top of the 2nd on back-to-back groundouts to first baseman Rachel Menke and a ground out to second baseman Laura Mehmert.

Mehmert would get off to a solid start of the season with 2-run double to right center in the bottom of the third to score Hellige and Kayla Box and give the Crusaders a 5-2 lead.

Mehmert also recorded four outs in the game, including two sharp line drives she snared on a step.

“She played a great game defensively, but that hit drove in two runs and that was a huge hit at that point in the game. She gave us a bit of breathing room and when you haven’t been winning if you can get some breathing room that helps a lot,” Menke said.

Hellige would give up a single in the top of the 4th but a come-backer to the mound and fly out to Anna Sobczak in right field would end the threat.

Holy Trinity wouldn’t score in the fourth despite a lead-off single. Mueller looked to keep things going with what appeared to be a two-out grounder to third. The throw pulled Mediapolis’ 1st baseman off the bag, and Mueller was initially called safe. But the call was overturned by the home plate umpire who said Mediapolis reestablished at the base to retire the side.

Hellige would strike out the side in the top of the 5th,



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Above, HTC’s Teegan Snaadt slides safely into second Monday night as the Crusaders opened the year with an 8-3 win over visiting Mediapolis. Below, Laura Mehmert makes a play at 2nd.

but HTC would also go scoreless in the bottom half of the frame.

Hellige would again give up a single with two outs and then worked a groundout to short to end the top of the 6th.

A single by Mueller, who went 2 for 4 with 2 runs and an RBI, loaded the bases with two out in the bottom of the sixth. A wild pitch plated a run. A walk and another wild pitch would give the Crusaders three unearned insurance runs in the bottom half of the sixth for an 8-2 lead.

Hellige would get the first two hitters out in the top of the 7th, but then give up a single and a walk and then another long single to sophomore Hannah Russell before Jayde Eberhardt slapped a ball down the first base line where Rachel Menke gobbled it up for the final out.

Mueller and Kayla Box led the way with two hits each. Box had a double and two RBI, Mueller had a double and an RBI. Haile Cain, Sobczak, Mehmert and Teegan Snaadt all had hits for HTC.

Hellige stands at 1-0 on the year and record four strikeouts against one walk and scattered seven hits.

“Mary pitched well. She’ll eat up most of our varsity innings. We’ve got a 20-game schedule so if her arm holds out, she’ll see most of the action.” Menke said.

“I expect us to be pretty decent up and down the batting order. I’m excited and I think we’ll be better all the way around.”



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Opinion/From the front

# Summer's bounty awaits from the Empty Nest garden

**SWARM** - Continued from Page 1

I'm gonna "Give peas a chance" this year (Green Arrow), although rabbits eat them right off, but leave the lettuce (Butter Crunch and Baby Romaine) alone. Strange.

What's lettuce without radishes?—Cherry Bell.

We've had good luck with Blue Lake bush beans in the past, so I planted two long rows of green beans. (We may need help.) Cousin Rick from Arizona comes to our house each summer just to eat green beans and sweetcorn. I personally love beans-and-bacon, along with sliced tomatoes, cucumbers and onions, sweetcorn, and wilted lettuce. I could turn into a vegetarian in the summer, although grilled burgers or steaks go good with garden veggies.

Along with the Peaches and Cream sweetcorn, and a good distance away so as to prevent cross pollination, I threw in what I call Indian Corn, although the politically correct term is Decorative Corn. Within the rows of Indian Corn went three hills of Connecticut Field "punkins"—the jack-o-lantern size. (I don't like having to get the forklift to move monster "punkins.") What's fall decoration without orange "punkins" and colorful Indian Corn?

I may have messed up and planted the cucumbers (Green Dragon Burpless) too close to the "punkins." Last year the "punkins" and cucumbers cross pollinated and created a strange gourd that was next to worthless, although sort of attractive for fall decoration.

Each year I like to plant something different. This year it's sunflowers! "Our Iowa" Magazine has a competition to see who can grow the tallest sunflowers from their heirloom seeds—Russian Mammoth, 12" or taller, heads as big as dinner plates. Ginnie bit, so along the north edge of the garden will be sunflowers. We may have to erect a scarecrow to keep the birds away.

That rounds out the garden for '21, a hefty undertaking that always gets the better of us, trying to keep up with weeds and harvesting. But then I overdo most everything. I did major battle with chipmunks last year. They like to dig up seed and stuff their cheeks. Hopefully, I've erad-

icated them, although I did see some dirt mounds when tilling. Hmm.

While I was working in the garden, I noticed our McIntosh Apple tree, loaded again with blooms and tiny apples. Amazing. Rabbits literally stripped the bark off the tree trunk and high up into the branches. But the tree rebounded, seemingly unfazed. Nature never fails to amaze me.

While working in the garden I cut some tender young rhubarb stalks for Ginnie. She tried out a new recipe on me: rhubarb-pudding crisp. Man-o-man, with vanilla "i-scream"—melt in your mouth. Does Ginnie spoil me? Yup.

I may have made a major blunder last fall. Thinking we had Purple Martins swooping our yard for insects, I spent a lot of money with the Amish and bought a rather expensive Martin House and erected it (another story). We waited and waited impatiently this spring for the Martins to return and take up housekeeping in their new "hotel." It was also a lot of work keeping the sparrows and grackles from nesting in it. Finally the big day arrived when we saw our first "Purple Martins." However, they nested in one of our sheds, building a nest of mud and sticks, instead of using the fancy Martin House. Come to find out we have Barn Swallows instead of Purple Martins. Dang it!

But the finches have returned in full regalia, both the Gold Finches (Iowa's State Bird) and the reddish House Finches. They like to hang upside down from the perches on our window feeders (so cute). So we'll make do with the birds we have. I dunno what will become of the Martin House.

Due to a recent skirmish with skin cancer on the top of my head, I was real careful to keep a hat on while working in the garden. I used to laugh at "old people" who kept themselves covered when out in the sun. Now I am one. My, my, how things change as we age, I mean, mature.

I spent \$33 on seed and plants for the garden this year. Not bad. As I was working in the garden, a pick-up truck pulled in the driveway. It happens quite often: I'm work-

ing outside, someone drives by and sees me and decides to stop. Anywho, I'm feeling rather sheepish about what I look like in my "pith helmet" and bib overalls. But the guy doesn't seem to pay any attention, like this is my normal look, and wants to buy one of my metal pheasants. I accommodate, \$40. Ka-ching. Holy moly, guacamole, I made money planting the garden!

One week after putting the garden in, May 19th, Hump Day again, I notice the lettuce and radishes are up. To celebrate, I cut some more rhubarb. Ginnie asks me how I'd like it fixed. I order up strawberry-rhubarb pie, my, oh, my.

Fun in the sun for '21!

Have a good story? Call or text Curt Swarm in Mt. Pleasant at 319-217-0526, email him at [curtswarm@yahoo.com](mailto:curtswarm@yahoo.com) or visit his website at [www.empty-nest-words-photos-and-frames.com](http://www.empty-nest-words-photos-and-frames.com).

## Police withholding shooting victim's name

**UPDATE** - Continued from Page 1

scene in a vehicle.

Fort Madison Police are seeking arrest warrants for the suspect in the case. The investigation has revealed that there was a connection between the victim of the shooting and the assailant. But the name of the suspect is being withheld until an arrest has been made.

Members of the Lee County Sheriff's Department and the Fort Madison Police Department were searching for the suspect Monday night and had several leads on vehicles, but no arrests were made.

Lee County EMS and Fort Madison Fire & Rescue assisted at the scene Monday.

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Pen City Current will not publish an e-Edition on Monday or Tuesday, May 31<sup>st</sup> & June 1<sup>st</sup> 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<sup>nd</sup>.

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## From the Front

# Pentacostal Church resets with young family at helm

**CHURCH** - Continued from Page 1

serving this because we were supposed to be here," Chris said.

Amanda said the two started praying about the move and then a pastor friend let them know the bishop, Culp, was getting ready to retire and the timing was perfect.

The two went to work first putting together a nursery to encourage younger families to attend and have Sunday school.

"We represent the youth in our organization in this district of Iowa. There is all sorts of stuff that we do and we believe if you put positive things into children's minds when they are young and speak life into them, they have a better chance of staying focused and doing good things in life," Amanda

said.

"We had people who believed in us and if hadn't been for them..."

The two both are recovered from addictions and speak that truth to members of the congregation, which can number anywhere from 20 to 35 depending on the week.

"About a month ago I was standing with a couple people and it was their first time in church. And I said to them the first time I was in church I had drugs in my pocket. I was a drug addict. And they were like, 'Can you say that in here' and I said 'Yeah, because it's honest,'" Chris said.

Amanda said they welcome anyone who is looking for a conversation about God and his role

in their life. Amanda is just 33 and Chris is 30, so being able to relate to younger families is part of the rebranding of the church underway.

They have also been working diligently on the physical aspect of pastoring as well as the social aspect.

The two have freshened up the church with new ceilings and lights, classrooms in the basement with a brand new kitchen and improved lighting. A keyboard and drum set sit on both sides of the podium in front of the pews.

The church also sits adjacent to several lots that have been donated to the church and Chris said they are currently getting an engineering survey done to see what the exact boundaries of the property are, to plan for addi-



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Chris and Amanda Franks pose outside the First United Pentacostal Church Tuesday afternoon. Chris was installed as the church's new pastor in January. The family moved here from Ankeny after driving to the church Sundays since 2019.

tional improvements.

A shelter house on the property for outdoor services and picnics is in the works.

Service hours are 9:30

a.m. for adults worship on Sunday's with a 10:30 hour of music and message. There is also a Wednesday "Midweek refresh" at 6:30 p.m. weekly.

The couple have two daughters Jayden and Madison, 14 and 11, who are both enrolled in Fort Madison's public school system.

# Fort Madison Football Inc. launches effort to clean up stadium

**CAMPAIGN** - Continued from Page 1

is this Friday.

"We do all the fundraising for the football and we put everything back into it. We're just kinda looking for some outside help," Johnson said.

"Typically, you keep going back to the same people and I guess that's the way it is, but we're really trying to reach some former Fort Madison stu-

dents and alumni to help support this effort."

So the group set up a Go Fund Me page at <https://gofund.me/51705544>. All donations are tax deductible and Fort Madison Football Inc. is a non-profit organization.

Johnson said the home side grand stands need to be cleaned and repainted,

fencing needs to be repaired and cement needs to be cleaned, painted and resealed. She said they would also like to have all the railings repainted depending on the amount of funds that can be raised.

"It just looks bad and it's not a good representation of our town," she said. "Even the kids not playing shouldn't have to sit in stands that are in that bad of shape, nor should the community."

According to the Go Fund Me page, "Fort Madison Football Inc, is looking to start a stadium improvement campaign to help get our facility back to something our student athletes, and our community can be proud of. Fort Madison Football, and many other organizations utilize the High School facility such as, Relay for Life, FMCS Band competitions, and FMCS track meets, to

name a few.

"We come to you, humbly, asking for your generosity as we continue to strive for excellence within our organization. Your donations will go directly back into our program to work on projects such as, removing the old paint and providing fresh paint on the bleachers, railings, and exteriors. We will also be repairing crumbling cement, as well as replacing

the old fencing with new, at the Fort Madison High School's Richmond Stadium. These are just a few projects we are trying to tackle to get our stadium to a more cosmetically appealing and structurally sound facility."

For those who would rather donate via the postal service, donations can be sent to Fort Madison Football Inc., P.O. Box 342, Fort Madison, IA 52627.

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