

# PEN CITY CURRENT

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

Friday, July 23, 2021 | 8 pages | Volume 5 • Issue 140



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

## Youth take over OFP stage

**WIZARD OF OZ:** This weekend features children in Old Fort Players' productions

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG  
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – The Fort Madison community theater program is being turned over to the kids this weekend.

The Old Fort Players stage goes to the kids starting Friday evening with two short plays, 'The Wizard of Oz' and 'The Rehearsal' starting at 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday July 23 and 24th and a 2 p.m. showing on Sunday, July 25.

Who knows what will happen with some seasoned and not-so-seasoned children taking over the stage at the theater

at 725 Avenue G.

A cast of about 20 takes the audience down the yellow brick road as the cowardly lion, tin woodman, scarecrow, Dorothy and Toto look to get an audience with an even-more childlike wizard to fill in "short-comings" of the cast.

The sponsor for the summer production is the United Way of the Great River Region.

When the Wicked Witch of the West, played by Aubrey Davis, can't seem to shake the sophomoric, yet heroic, group

See **KIDS**, page 8



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg

Dress rehearsals for The Wizard of Oz continued this week in preparation of the youth performances set for Friday-Sunday this weekend at Old Fort Players in Fort Madison.

## "As Long As We Both Shall Live"

### Auditions underway for next OFP's fall production

BY DOROTHY SCHULTE  
Old Fort Players

FORT MADISON – It's official. Open the curtain and hit the lights. Old Fort Players is back in the entertainment business! With our season booked for 2021/2022, auditions for the Fall play have been scheduled. The first show is ... drumroll, please ... "As Long As We

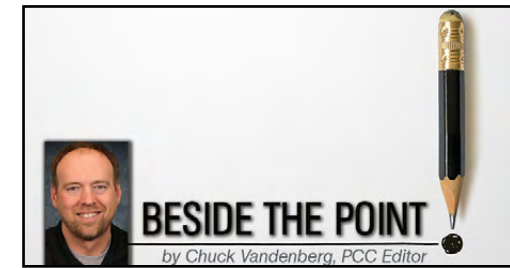
Both Shall Live" by Sean Grennan.

The show will be directed by Judy Milks, who has previously performed in "A Taffetta Christmas" for OFP. The cast list of this comedic murder mystery calls for two female and three male actors. Two men and one woman over 45. One man and one woman under 30. The characters are the Bride, the Groom, Mother of the Bride, the Wed-

ding Planner and the Reverend.

Here's the story and we're sticking to it. Quirky genius Addison Ashe has finally met a man who can keep up with her — the wealthy and charming Jamie Wilcox. But marrying Jamie means wrangling with his disapproving mother, as well as her favorite over-the-

See **SHOW**, page 8



## Smoky Mtns. a good place to wind down

I have a headache.

I think it's oxygen induced. I've spent the last four days at a cabin in the foothills of the Smoky Mountains.

It could also be the sound of young children racing through the house again, but that's always been a source of enjoyment for me. I think the older I get, the more I enjoy the peace and quiet.

I found that peace and quiet on several mornings after a cooling rain pelted the metal roof of the cabin we were staying in. There's something extremely relaxing about being the first one out of bed in a large home-away-from-home.

I would open the small jug of decaf coffee I picked up at local market on our first day. The family was a little miffed when I told them two days later they had been drinking unleaded. I sprinkle it lightly into a filter- pour a couple big bottles of water in the back of the coffee maker, push the start button and start in on a Tupperware dish full of quartered strawberries.

The warm, full smell of the coffee brewing reminds me of my great-grandmother's house on Saturdays when my mom and aunts gathered for gossip, coffee cake, and coffee. I remember being excited about the possibility of someday being part of the adult faction of the family.

Now being part of that faction, literally gives me a headache. I love being around family, I do. I spent a few hours this week repeatedly baiting hooks, taking very small bluegill off the lines of these precious nieces and nephews. The fish in this decent size pond were the craftiest devils.

See **VACATION**, page 5

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### WEATHER

FRI 23 Jul.....Sunny and Warm, 85° F/ 68° F  
SAT 24 Jul.....Light Rain, 88° F/ 70° F  
SUN 25 Jul.....Hot with Scattered Clouds, 90° F/ 72° F

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# Obituaries

## OBITUARIES

### FRANCES MERTENS

Francis Mertens, 85 years, of Sacramento, California died Wednesday, June 23, 2021 in California as a result of a pedestrian accident. He was born June 12, 1936 in Fort Madison, Iowa, a son of Christian Francis and Mary Margaret (Neuweg) Mertens.



MERTENS

Francis owned and operated Belvedere Auto Repairs for more than 50 years. He was a fun loving guy who loved to laugh. He enjoyed going to the coffee shop and made friends quickly especially with children.

He is survived by five siblings: Harriet Coster of Sacramento, California; Alfred "Ike" Mertens of New London, Iowa; Paul Mertens of Fort Madison, Iowa; John Mertens of Houghton, Iowa; and Jeanne (Gary) Kos of Washington, Iowa; numerous nieces, nephews, and cousins. He was preceded in death by his parents and one brother, Dan Mertens.

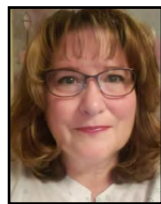
His family will greet friends from 9:30 - 10:30 am Friday, July 30, 2021 at St. John's Catholic Church, Houghton, Iowa. Mass of Christian Burial will follow and begin at 10:30 am Friday at the church with Reverend Dan Dorau as Celebrant. Burial will be at St. John's Cemetery, Houghton, Iowa.

Memorials maybe left at the church during the Mass or be mailed to Barr-Holtkamp Funeral Home, 412 Ave C, P.O. Box 247, West Point, Iowa 52656. Sign an online guest book and send a message to the Mertens family at [www.barrholtkampfuneralhome.com](http://www.barrholtkampfuneralhome.com). Barr-Holtkamp Funeral Home is honored to serve the Mertens family.

## OBITUARIES

### MARDEMA K. CORNS

Mardema Kaye Corns, 58, of Montrose, IA, passed away at 1:31 p.m. on Wednesday, July 21, 2021 at Southeast Iowa Regional Medical Center in West Burlington, IA. She was born on January 4, 1963 in Muscatine, IA to Harris & Sarah Shull Knox. She married David Lee Corns on June 2, 1990 in Burlington, IA. She was a homemaker and a member of Victory Faith Church in Fort Madison. She enjoyed gardening, kayaking and volunteering, especially at church.



CORNS

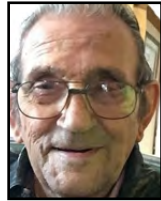
Mardema is survived by: her husband: David Corns of Montrose, IA; 1-daughter: Hannah (Nolan) Quade of Mt. Pleasant, IA; 1-son: David (Stephanie) Corns of St. Mary's GA; 1-granddaughter: Aneira Corns of St. Mary's, GA; a sister: Charlene; 2-brothers and several nieces. She was preceded in death by her parents.

Cremation has been entrusted to the care of King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory. A celebration of life will be held at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, July 24, 2021 at Victory Faith Church in Fort Madison with Pastor Anna Sadler and her husband Kyle officiating. The service will be followed by a time of food and fellowship at the church. A memorial has been established in her memory and contributions may be made at the church during the service. Online condolences to Mardema's family may be left at the King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory website: [www.kinglynk.com](http://www.kinglynk.com).

### BOBBIE D. MEAD

Bobbie Dean Mead, 89, of Ft. Madison, IA, died Saturday, July 17, 2021 at The Madison in Ft. Madison, IA.

Bobbie was born February 8, 1932 in Ethel, MO, the son of Estel "Pete" Everett and Barbara Estella Mae Speakes Mead.



MEAD

He had been employed by Abingdon Briggs Manufacturing, Fruehauf in Ft. Madison, Eagle Summit in Keokuk, and most recently for the City of Montrose until his retirement in 2011. Bobbie also was skilled in the art of making pottery.

Bobbie loved NASCAR and anything that went fast, however dirt track racing was his all-time favorite. He followed dirt track races in several different states. One thing Bobbie will be remembered for is his sense of humor.

He is survived by two sons, Bobbie Mead (Karrie) of Cozad, NE, and Terry Woolsey of Galesburg, IL, two daughters, Linda Hunt (Alan) of Zephyrhills, FL and Lisa Reed, a sister, Betty Jones of Montrose, a brother, Gerald "Hot Dog" Mead of Montrose, several grandchildren, including Shantel Sherman of Ft. Madison, Shawna Thompson (Jeff) of Sidney, NE, Bobby Joe Mead (Christine) of Codaz, NE, Matthew Mead of Holdrege, NE and several great grandchildren, including Brian Sherman, Tristen Lindsey (Shelby) of Kearney, NE, Makinzie Mead of Kimball, NE and Amanda Mead of Cozad, NE and two great great grandchildren of Nebraska.

Bobbie was preceded in death by his parents, two sisters, Darlene Jones and Rosetta Mead, a brother, Everett Mead, an infant daughter, Rosetta Maxine Mead at birth, a granddaughter, Ashley Dawn Stone to S.I.D's, and a grandson in law, Brian Sherman of Farmington, IL.

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# Obituaries

## OBITUARIES

### JANICE M. CLOUGH

Janice M. Clough, 91, formerly of Ft. Madison, Burlington, and West Point, IA, died (Tuesday), July 20, 2021, at Saint Anne Home in Greensburg, PA. Monsignor Michael Begolly, Pastor of Mother of Sorrows Catholic Church, Murrysville, PA, administered the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick to Janice as she was being called Home by Our Lord.



CLOUGH

She was born in Ft. Madison on Sept. 17, 1929, the daughter of George and Mae Flynn Temborius. On June 16, 1951, she married John (Jack) Clough and God gifted them with nearly fifty years of happy marriage. Jack preceded her in death on May 20, 2001.

In 1947, Janice graduated from Catholic Central High School, Ft. Madison, retaining friendships with many classmates throughout the years. Having studied piano music throughout elementary and high school years, she then enrolled at St. Mary-of-the-Woods College, IN, where she majored in Music Education with emphasis on piano performance, and a second major in English Literature. A proficient pianist, during her senior year she was privileged to give a full recital that included being piano soloist accompanied by orchestra, playing Schumann's Piano Concerto in A Minor. Among other college accomplishments, she was inducted into Kappa Gamma Pi National Honor Society and was also included in the 1950-51 edition of Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges. In 1973, Janice received a Master of Arts degree from Western Illinois University, and was inducted into Phi Kappa Phi National Honor Society.

Residing in Burlington for thirty-six years, Janice was a stay-at-home mother until the youngest of their six children had entered school. During those years, she taught private piano students in her home. In 1968 she began a twenty-year career at Corse School as a classroom music teacher, also teaching in the Visual and Performing Arts Program. She considered it a pleasure to share her knowledge and love of music with children.

Active in the community, Janice was a former member of the Board of Directors of the Special Needs Foundation of Des Moines County. Serving as President and also as a director in the Summer Day Camp Committee, she was always happy to give her time and talents to help children with special needs.

A lifelong, steadfast Catholic, Janice was an organist for many years at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church, also serving as Lector and Eucharistic Minister. She was appointed a member of the first Parish Council at St. John's, and of the first Burlington Catholic Community School Board. She was also a long-

time teacher of children's religious education classes. When her husband was ordained a Permanent Deacon in 1980, she joined him in Sunday ministry to Catholic residents of three care centers and in the leading of the RCIA program, among other ministries.

Janice and Jack moved to West Point, IA in 1987 and were parishioners of Sacred Heart Catholic Church. Moving to Murrysville, PA in 1997, they were parishioners of Mother of Sorrows Catholic Church.

Survivors include two sons, Christopher Clough (Deb) of Marshalltown, IA, and Craig Clough (Patty) of Oak Forest, IL; four daughters, Jacqueline Free (Doug) of Murrysville, PA, Kimberly Baker of West Des Moines, IA, Janece Clough of Macomb, IL, and Jill Krauza (Bill) of Murrysville; 14 grandchildren; 13 great grandchildren; one sister, Joyce Kutscher of Fort Madison, IA; and many beloved nephews and nieces. She was preceded in death by her husband, parents, one brother, one granddaughter, a sister-in-law and several brothers-in-law.

Our family would like to express our deepest gratitude to the entire staff and volunteers at St. Anne Home for their outstanding care and support, and the love shown in Janice's "Journey to New Life." Memorial contributions may be made to St. Anne Home, 685 Angela Drive, Greensburg, PA 15601.

Visitation will begin at 2:30 p.m. on Monday, July 26, 2021 at King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory in Fort Madison, IA, where the Chaplet of The Divine Mercy will be recited at 3:00 p.m. There will also be visitation from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m., with a rosary to be recited at 6:00 p.m. at King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory. The Mass of the Resurrection will be offered for Janice Clough on Tuesday, July 27, 2021 at 11:00 a.m. at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Fort Madison with Rev. Joseph Phung officiating. Burial will be in Sacred Heart Cemetery, Fort Madison. Online condolences to Janice's family may be left at the King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory website: [www.kinglynk.com](http://www.kinglynk.com).

#### Pen City Current obituary policy

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## Sports

# FMHS' Smith goes 2-2 at USA wrestling nationals

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG  
PCC EDITOR

FARGO, N.D. – Anyone watching Fort Madison freshman Teague Smith wrestle knows a few things about his approach on the mat.

Just go out and battle whomever is standing across from him.

Smith did that last weekend when he went four rounds with some of the best wrestlers in the country at the USA Marine Corp. 16U Nationals in Fargo, North Dakota.



Smith qualified for the nationals in May at the state freestyle meet at 170 pounds. He wrestled at 152 last winter for the Bloodhounds varsity squad where he finished 5th at districts.

Although Smith went 2-2 on the weekend. He quickly got to the round of 32 with wins over Arkansas' Mason Nguyen in a 10-0 tech fall in just :47, and then scored a pin in the next round over Brayden Tinchler out of Indiana at 2:41.

"I didn't know who I was going to be up against until I got on the mat. I didn't care. I just asked what color singlet I'd be wearing and just went out there and battled against everyone," Smith said.

The tournament was a freestyle tournament that Smith said provides quicker points and matches. Freestyle matches typically go two 2-minute rounds with a :30 break. Points are scored quicker depending on the execution of take downs, not just the take down itself. When there is a 10-point lead at any point, a technical fall is declared and the match is over.

"It's more like the Olympic style, like what the other



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Fort Madison's Teague Smith went 2-2 at last weekend's USA Freestyle 16U Nationals in Fargo, North Dakota. Smith is shown here wrestling at districts earlier this year.

countries do," Smith said Wednesday. "There are lots more points scored and quicker matches."

Smith ran into the top folkstyle wrestler, which is the more traditional high school/collegiate wrestling in the 16 and under group in Florida's Brian Burburija and lost by fall in the 2nd round moving him to the consolation bracket. There Oklahoma's Braden Brown ended Smith's weekend with a tech fall at 2:27.

Smith wasn't frustrated with his performance at the event and said competing at events like this helps make him a more well-rounded wrestler.

"The different styles help each other. Learning to wrestle one style, helps you with the other styles so it's good go to tournaments like this," Smith said. "It also changes things up so you don't get bored."

Wrestling is rich in Smith's family with his father, and high school coach Ryan Smith, wrestling for legendary University of Iowa coach Dan Gable. But Teague said his father takes a supporting role in his wrestling career and doesn't pilot the ship. Teague said it was his choice to wrestle in the Freestyle nationals.

"Everything is up to me and what I want to do," he said. "I go to him about things, but he doesn't force me to do what I don't want to do. He's always been willing to do whatever I need, and want, to do with wrestling."

Smith also wanted to put on some weight and wrestle a bit heavier than he did during the high school season.

"I was under a couple pounds at state to qualify so I wasn't at full 170, but when I got to nationals I was about 10 pounds heavier. I wasn't trying to cut weight, actually I hit the weights pretty harder and felt a lot stronger when I got on the mat.

"I felt a lot stronger against those kids and more confident in myself. Being bigger than the other guys helps," Smith said with a laugh.

He said he will take a break now as football season gears up with summer workouts. Smith got time as a running back and linebacker last year as a freshman with the varsity squad and is hoping to build on that success this year for the Bloodhounds.

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## Opinion

### It's good Big Ten media days in Indy

INDIANAPOLIS — “Have you stayed here before?” the woman said as she checked me into my hotel on Wednesday.

Yes,” I said, and just left it at that, because how do you explain that the last time you were here, you checked out on a day when it felt like the world was crashing?

The last time I was at this hotel was on March 12, 2020. I left my room in the morning to head downtown for the Big Ten Tournament with the feeling that everything was tenuous, that everything was about to be shut down. I was back a few hours later to write about how the COVID-19 pandemic had forced the cancellation of the tournament.

By the time I checked out later that afternoon, the NCAA basketball tournaments were cancelled. By the time I stopped to eat dinner, every college sport for the rest of the academic year was cancelled. By the time I got home, every professional league had either shut down or was close to making that decision.

So I'm back at the Delta Hotels near the airport, because Thursday and Friday are Big Ten football media days, and if I'm going to be here I might as well take this thing full circle.

It was my first time on Interstate 74 heading east since I drove to Indianapolis the day before everything got cancelled. Traffic was light all the way to Indianapolis, and even I-465, the behemoth expressway that circles Indy and is always jammed with cars and trucks, was an easy drive.

It was an eerie trip that day, punctuated by listening to AM radio reports of office buildings in Chicago shutting down, how the conference basketball tournaments being held that weekend were going to be played without fans, and then the news that the World Health Organization had made its pandemic declaration.

We've come a long way since then.

I still have masks in my computer bag, but I've been told I won't need them at the events the next two days because I'm fully vaccinated.

We have full football schedules of 12 games — nine Big Ten games and three nonconfer-



ence matchups. All 14 conference coaches and three players will be here to talk with us face-to-face — there is a virtual option to all of this, but I'm Zoomed out after a year of doing everything online.

Yet, COVID-19 will still be part of the questions that will be coming, if other media days around the nation are any indication.

Many conference commissioners have already hinted that if games won't be played this season because of the virus and the protocols, they're not going to be made up and likely will be declared forfeits. We have a vaccine now, and after a year of testing and masks and all of the worries, college programs should have a better idea on how to deal with all of this.

Schools, including Iowa, are planning for full stadiums this fall — you can even buy beer at Kinnick Stadium this year, because there's money that has to be made up from last year's empty arenas.

In many ways, we have come full circle. Still, there are concerns about the current uptick in COVID-19 cases around the nation. It's a sign of how far we've come, and how far we've had to go.

This felt like any other trip to Indianapolis. The pro-gun-rights Burma-Shave-type signs are still there in central Illinois. There were plenty of construction zones, because there are always construction zones on I-74. No Beef House stop in Covington, Indiana, this time for me — I'll hit it on the way home, though.

And it even was good, I guess, to roll in slow-moving traffic on 465.

I'm back where this all started. It felt like a long time ago.

*John Bohnenkamp is an award-winning sports writer and a regular contributor to Pen City Current.*

### Fishing has a way of easing the respirations

VACATION - Continued from Page 1

I told my brother the worms we got for sit-fishing seemed to be old and fragile.

I wasn't wrong. These worms were the red variety and they would seemingly dissolve off the hook with regularity. Either that, or the fish here have morning training sessions on how to nibble without snaring themselves on the barb of a golden hook. Either way, after about two to three dips of the bobber, the worms would get slurped off to the dismay of these kids with aspirations of a record-setting catch.

The window for fishing was about as small as the fish themselves. Nothing... nothing... nothing, then bam, bam, bam and I couldn't keep up, let alone find a moment to throw in my own line. Several parents found themselves lost in the joy of watching their children anxious, but laser-focused on what's happening just below the surface on a thick, summer night, with the bullfrogs bellowing along the shoreline.

The kids' faces are worth the effort... and that headache.

Scott Dilsaver and I took a group of girl scouts fishing at a local private pond about 10 years ago in a Daddy-Daughter Fishing Day. This pond was loaded and the owner was looking for a way to get some of the fish out. It was also the time my nephew, who came along for some fishing, dropped his shorts to his ankles with his back to us. There was no porta-potty. We stood in horror and told him that was a no-no...and then captured the moment in perpetuity for a photo that hung in his parents' house until he hid it — very recently, and very permanently.

But the derby was on. Dilsaver was working on taking fish off the lines of youngsters with names like Fehseke, Vandenberg, Bailey, LeMoyné, Altman and so forth, at a feverish pace. I think he got the better part of the gig, as I handled the worms and hooks. The elder Richard Fehseke stood with a smile as his granddaughter cast and reeled.

We had a lot of smiles this week as well.

But between the games of Rummy Royal, Euchre, pool and even shooting marshmallows with a high-powered BB gun, we built more memories. Mom is getting older, but still way viable and a wicked Canasta player. She holds her own into her late 70s...and most of the time insists on paying the bills.

...so there's that.

But she's getting to be more adamant that we make the annual summer treks. It's getting harder and harder to get the whole family together. But we manage and the connections get better and better every year. We talk about life, business, ideas, and future plans. We catch up and drink up and ignore the entire rest of the world.

Except for this weekly unrobing of my psyche, I was doing alright with just the memory of Kelsey who also loved to fish.

It's funny.... I never had a headache fishing with her, but that's Beside the Point.

*Chuck Vandenberg is the editor and co-owner of Pen City Current and can be reached at [editor@pencitycurrent.com](mailto:editor@pencitycurrent.com).*

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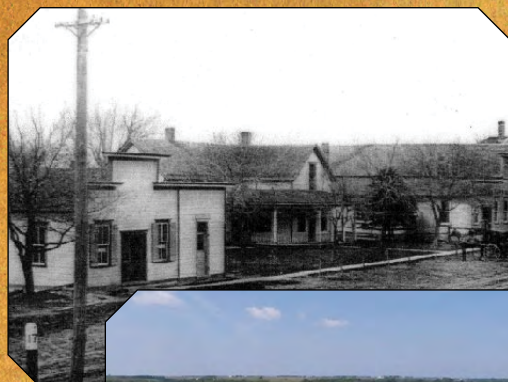


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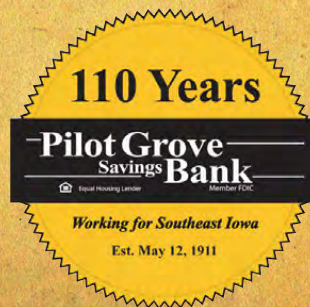
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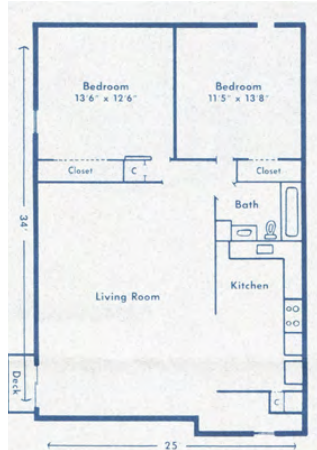
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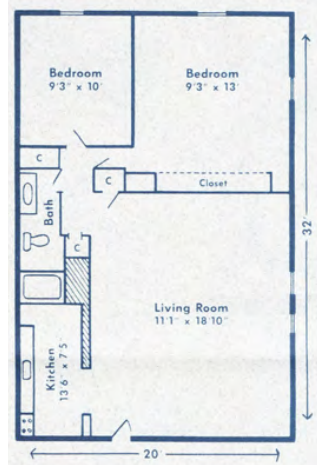
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## Lee County News

# Volunteers spruce up WP's South Park

BY PCC STAFF

WEST POINT – The youth of Holy Trinity, organized by the West Point Saint Mary's Youth Minister Nathan Clark and his wife Kristine, staged a revitalization of the South Park Playground located near the Jim Bethurem Field.

Approximately fifteen youth with a few neighbors in the area came together to spread a new layer of playground safe wood chips over the older layer last set in place in 1990 according to the West Point City Public Works Superintendent, Flavian Boeding.

More than 4800 cubic yards of the wood chips (1/2 of a semi-truck load) were delivered two weeks ago but a date was difficult to schedule due to the huge rain falls over this period. This past Wednesday was a perfect afternoon to bring in some small equipment provided by Luke Boylan of West Point and many rakes and shovels to evenly spread the wood chips.

Some of the border timbers surrounding the playground also required replacing. A total of seven timbers were dug out of the ground and replaced with newer timbers to secure the wood chips and add some additional safety to the playground area.

This created a huge positive impact on the integrity of the playground area, gave the park some curb appeal, plus provided area youth with an afternoon

of learning about volunteerism. The youth from the Holy Trinity Youth Ministry was instrumental in the success of this project while giving them an extremely valuable experience through Community involvement.

The City of West Point is grateful for this project and grateful for our youth that support our community and work hard to maintain the City's best features.



Volunteers work with West Point Public Works Director Flavian Boeding to add wood chips and timbers to the South Park playground equipment last week.



A volunteer works power washing playground equipment in West Point's South Park last week.

## Outage disrupts 9-1-1 service to more than 300 in Keokuk

LEE COUNTY – According to county officials, 9-1-1 service from some land lines in Keokuk may be interrupted for an undetermined amount of time.

Travis Solem, LeeComm director, said he was informed by CenturyLink that several outages across the state may hinder 9-1-1 service to customers.

"They called me and said 322 customers in the Keokuk area may not have 9-1-1 service for an undetermined amount of time," Solem said.

"They didn't tell which parts of the city, why, or how long it will last. But the outages aren't just here, they are across the state."

Solem said cellphone 9-1-1 service is still functioning. Residents who can't access 9-1-1 through their land lines and don't have cell phone service can still call the non-emergency numbers at the sheriff's department for assistance. That number is 319-372-1152. Keokuk Police can be reached at 524-2741.



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## From the Front

# Cast being sought for OFP fall play

**SHOW** - Continued from Page 1

top wedding planner, Raul.

When Raul is poisoned at the rehearsal dinner, tensions between the clever bride and her mother-in-law-to-be go from heated to full-on inferno when Mrs. Wilcox points to Addison as the killer. Can Addison solve the case before sashaying down the aisle, or is she in for a honeymoon behind bars?

Drop by the OFP downtown location Tuesday, July 27 or Thursday, July 29 from 6-8 pm or Sunday August 1 from 5-8 pm. Auditions will consist of cold readings from the script. No experience or preparation is necessary. Also needed are volunteers to fill in as Stage Manager and as a Sound and Lights Technician. Experience is preferred but not required for either of these and training will be provided.

Performances for "As Long As We Both Shall Live" run October 8-10 and 15-17, 2021. Evening shows begin at 7:30 and Sundays at 2 pm. The show is Produced by Special Arrangement with Playscripts, Inc ([www.playscripts.com](http://www.playscripts.com)).

Last season would have been Old Fort Players' 40th anniversary but the celebration was postponed due to CoVid. So this will be the "40+1 Anniversary Season." Join OFP directors, actors, crew and volunteers at the Season Launch Party on Sunday, September 26th at 6 pm to officially cut the ribbon and roll out the red carpet.

The theater is located in downtown Fort Madison at 725 Avenue G. Send a Facebook message, send an email to [oldfortplayersfm@gmail.com](mailto:oldfortplayersfm@gmail.com) or call 319-372-9559 for more information. Like them on Facebook (Fb@oldfortplayers) or visit [www.oldfortplayers.com](http://www.oldfortplayers.com) to keep up with everything that's going on at the theater.

# Young actors put on two shows this weekend

**KIDS** - Continued from Page 1

of misfits, she brings in the dreaded winged monkeys, played hilariously by Chloe and Cassidy Smith, with some creepy winged costumes.

But all 'may' go according to script with the melting of the witch and the reuniting of Dorothy and her Auntie Em.

After a 15-minute intermission, Mallory Troutman and Sydney Amberger lead a troupe of actors through a rehearsal for an upcoming musical.

As the two deal with all the egos and posturing of each cast member to take the lead of the musical, a

compromise rules the day.

Rosie Strickland plays a hip and funky Darrel, and then quietly slips into the role of Jessie, while Juniper Strickland battles her for the top spot in the dance musical.

Olivia Shields and Oscar Bauswell appear as Guy and Morgan to lead other cast members vying to seize control of the ad hoc production.

Richar Abel is the director while Kim Albers tries to wrangle the stage with actors as young as four years old.



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

A full cast works up a musical and dance number during "The Rehearsal" which is the second show of the OFP youth actors Wednesday afternoon. Live shows begin Friday at 7:30 p.m.

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