

PEN CITY CURRENT

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

Thursday, September 2, 2021 | 10 pages | Volume 5 • Issue 160



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Visiting Teacher program opens eyes at HTC

Spanish teacher on five-year program, but would like more

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – A visiting teacher program has opened the eyes of a Spanish nationalist to more than just the educational system of the United States.

Eva Piquer, the new Spanish teacher at Holy Trinity Catholic is currently on a J-1 Visa as part of the Visiting Teachers From Spain program.



PIQUER

The program works in conjunction with the Spanish Department of Education and the Iowa Department of Education.

The IDOE sponsors the visas for the teachers who are allowed up to five consecutive years teaching in Iowa's private and public school systems.

Piquer said the J-1 visa is good for three years and then teachers in the exchange can apply for a J-2 and J-3 for the additional two years.

But after those extensions the teachers are required to go back to their home country and share what they've learned in the United States school systems.

"Maybe in the bottom of their hearts they think it's better here so they want us to come here and then apply it there," Piquer said.

Piquer was one of 10 families that moved to Iowa to teach through the program. The teachers applied to the state they were interested in and then the schools picked the candidates they wanted.

"They sent a list to the schools and they could choose, and they chose me," Piquer said. "We couldn't choose, but I feel very, very lucky to have come to this high school. I would like to stay here five years in the principal will have me."

She applied for the program, which has been in existence since 1978, last year,

See **TEACHER**, page 8



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg

Fort Madison firefighters, including Fire Chief Joey Herren, left, and police officers stand by as a mother tries to coax her son off a roof Wednesday morning in Fort Madison. The child was eventually brought down safely by his mother without injury.

Holtkamp, McCrabb added to LCEDG board

BY PCC STAFF

MONTROSE – The Lee County Economic Development Group has announced that Pat McCrabb and Bob



MCCRABB

Holtkamp have joined the group's board of directors.

McCrabb is the General Manager at JJ Nighting Co. in Pilot Grove, and Holtkamp is the owner of Holtkamp's Floors Decor & Furniture in Fort Madison.

McCrabb brings the rural ag sector perspective to the board, being the



HOLTKAMP

General Manager at JJ Nighting Company, a farm equipment dealer out of Pilot Grove, since 2015. "I'm happy to be part of this board," said McCrabb. "The agriculture industry is a key

part of Lee County's economy, and I am looking forward to getting more involved."

Holtkamp is actively involved in the county.

"Being born and raised in Fort Madison and now owning my own

See **LCEDG**, page 5



Art Matters

Lori Illner Greene
Fort Madison Area Arts Association

Defining art can be tricky proposition

Art takes many forms. Quite often it's the 2D variety that hangs on a wall that people most associate as fine art. Paintings or prints livening an otherwise blank space. Or a piece of sculpture displayed just so to activate the space around it.

Art beautifies our homes, offices and public spaces. It can be uplifting or thought provoking. Some can find themselves lost in a work. Others don't even give it a glance. Art is subjective. What artists choose to make, and what people choose to engage, are all dictated by a myriad of personal response. At its core, art is personal.

Art taps into the creative energy of artists to produce boundless results and it manifests in countless ways. Installations (most often displayed in Galleries or Museums), including materials, sound, or lighting the artist chooses to best convey the concept. Public art beautifies a space, or acts as a monument to signify an accomplishment or a moment in time to be remembered now by all. Artistic social practice that advocates. Artisan makers who blow glass, or potters, or fiber artists, metal or wood crafters. Jewelers. Traditional studio artists. Digital artists. Performance artists. Designers. Photographers. And the list goes on.

The point is, that when considering What is Art? it could well be beyond your first inclination. Early people started with primitive cave painting, personal adornments, and portable carvings. Original indigenous around the world included designs on baskets used to gather or store food. Pottery and everyday items became vehicles for design elements. Early forays into expressing ourselves and our ideas

See **FMAAA**, page 5

INDEX

Business Directory.....P.6
CLASSIFIEDS.....Ps.6-7
 Complete Rental.....P.5
 ConAgra Brands.....P.7
 Connection Bank.....P.3
EDUCATION NEWS.....P.8
FOR THE RECORD.....P.4
 Fort Madison Community
 Neighborhood Watch Group.....P.7
 Fort Madison Family YMCA.....P.5
 Fullenkamp Insurance.....P.5
FROM THE FRONT.....Ps.5,8

Great River Regional Waste Authority.....P.2
 LCK Roofing.....P.5
 Lee County Health Department.....P.2
LEE COUNTY NEWS.....P.5
LOCAL NEWS.....Ps.2-3
OBITUARIES.....Ps.2-3
 • Elfriede A. Harmon, 84
 • Grace M. Harris, 92
 • Milo H. Schrader, 78
 • Dorothy Sturm, 80
OPINION.....P.5
 Pen City Current.....Ps.2-3,6-8

Pothitakis Dentistry.....P.8
 Pothitakis Law Firm, P.C.....P.4
 Public Notices.....P.7
 Southeast Iowa Regional Airport.....P.8
SPORTS.....Ps.4-5
 T.O. Haas Tire & Auto.....P.7
 Toys for Tots.....P.9
 Tri-State Outdoor Products.....P.4
 Tri-State Rodeo.....P.4
 United Way of the Great River Region..P.10

WEATHER

THU 02 Sep.....Broken Clouds, 77° F/ 55° F
 FRI 03 Sep.....Light Rain, 67° F/ 62° F
 SAT 04 Sep.....Rain, 79° F/ 63° F

IOWA LOTTERY

LUCKY FOR LIFE 08/31.....6 15 27 36 37, Lucky Ball: 4
 MEGA MILLIONS 08/31.....8 13 41 58 68, Mega Ball: 15
 PICK 3 08/31 MIDDAY.....1 4 6
 PICK 3 08/31 EVENING.....4 5 8
 PICK 4 08/31 MIDDAY.....8 6 0 6
 PICK 4 08/31 EVENING.....9 6 4 7

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Obituaries



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OBITUARIES

DOROTHY STURM

Dorothy Sturm, 80, of Keokuk, IA died Saturday, August 28, 2021 at her home. She was born June 19, 1941 in Kahoka, MO the son of daughter of Avard Loxly and Katherine Margret Washburn Kober.



STURM

Dorothy graduated from CCR-1 High School in Kahoka, MO with the class of 1960.

On April 12, 1971 Dorothy was united in marriage to Bill Sturm in Carthage, IL. He preceded her in death on October 15, 1994.

Dorothy had been employed by Sheller Globe/BTR/Henniges for thirty-eight years until her retirement in 2003.

She was a member of St. Paul United Church of Christ in Kahoka.

Dorothy enjoyed puzzle books and reading romance books. She loved watching figure skating on television and when it came to NASCAR, Dale Earnhardt, Jr. was her favorite driver.

She is survived by three sons, Avard Roberts (Valerie) of Keokuk, Gary Roberts (Jeanine) of Crawfordsville, IA and Gene Roberts (Traci Sackman) of Kahoka, eight grandchildren, Jeremy, Josh, Randy, Sam, Candy, Dusty, Erin and Davy and eighteen great-grandchildren, Landon, Natty, Arie, Thaydon, Everly, Mia, Payton, Jonathan, Kaylan, Izzy, Emmy, Alex, Adilyn, Carter, Gary, Kelton, Donovan, Jasper and Zayden. She is also survived by two sisters, Shirley Asher of Navarre, FL and Nola Edens of Donnellson, IA and her close friends, Rodger and Janet Butler.

Besides her husband, she was also preceded in death by one daughter, Mary Sturm and five siblings, Aileen Blaise, Fredrick Washburn, Richard Washburn, William Washburn and Mary Washburn.

A graveside service will be held at 12:15 p.m., Wednesday, at the Kahoka Cemetery in Kahoka, MO with Pastor Larry Wallingford officiating.

Visitation will be held prior to the service on Wednesday, from 10 a.m.-12 p.m., at the Vigen Memorial Home in Kahoka, MO with family meeting with friends at that time.

Memorials may be made to the family.

Online condolences may be sent to the family at www.vigenmemorialhome.com.

MILO H. SCHRADER

Milo Henry Schrader, 78, Farmer's Branch, TX and formerly of Montrose, IA, passed away on Sunday, August 29, 2021 at T. Boone Pickens Hospice & Palliative Care Center in Dallas, TX. He was born on November 29, 1942 in Fort Madison, IA to Clifford & Margaret Mewes Schrader. He was a truck driver for many years and enjoyed model building and spending time with his grandchildren.

Milo is survived by: his companion: Janice Palmer of Farmer's Branch, TX; 1-daughter: Stephanie Essmaker of Thornton, CO; 3-sons: Terry (Debbie) Schrader of Donnellson, IA, Mike (Nikki) Schrader of Keokuk, IA & Barry (Brenda) Schrader of Donnellson, IA; 11-grandchildren; 4-step grandchildren & 7-great grandchildren. He was preceded in death by: his parents, 1-granddaughter, 2-brothers & 1-sister.

Friends may call after 2:00 p.m. on Monday, September 6, 2021 with the family to receive friends from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. on Monday evening at King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory. The funeral service will be held at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, September 7, 2021 at King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory. Burial will be held at Fairview Cemetery in rural Fort Madison, IA. A memorial has been established in Milo's memory. Condolences to the Schrader family may be left at the King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory website: www.kinglynk.com.



SCHRADER

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Obituaries

OBITUARIES

ELFRIEDE A. HARMON

Elfriede Anna (Paar) Harmon, of Keokuk, IA, passed away peacefully in her sleep on Saturday, August 28, 2021 at Montrose Health Center in Montrose, IA at the age of 84.

She was born January 9, 1937, in Zwittau, Czechoslovakia, the second child of Johan Paar and Emilie (Filipp) Paar. At fourteen years old Frieda rode her bicycle to work at a cheese factory. If it got dark, her dad would meet her and walk her home to make sure she was safe. At sixteen, Frieda worked in a factory making jewelry but had to quit because she was allergic to the materials to make the jewelry. At seventeen, Frieda went to work at a textile factory making bed linens.



HARMON

Frieda met her future husband, Roy James Harmon, at a spring fair and carnival in Augsburg, West Germany, while he was stationed there as an Army helicopter mechanic. They were united in marriage on February 12, 1960 at the German registrar in Augsburg and on February 13, 1960, in the Catholic Church in Diedorf, West Germany. After Roy's discharge from the Army, they returned to the states and made their home in Keokuk, IA. Frieda later became a U.S. citizen. She primarily was a homemaker except for a year she worked in a nursing home but had to quit because she had a tough time when a resident would pass away.

Frieda had many hobbies including knitting, exercising, dancing and home improvement. She took extreme pride in her house and yard. She loved spending time with her children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchild. She loved her many dogs throughout her life. Frieda appreciated her in-laws love and acceptance into the Harmon family being she was from Germany.

She is survived by one son, James Roy Harmon and wife Theresia of Keokuk, one daughter, Gina Maria Harmon of Keokuk, three grandchildren, Amy Kelly, Cheri Kelly and her husband Nathan and Andrew Harmon and his wife Amber all of Keokuk, eleven great-grandchildren, Brooklyn Ackley, Josh Ackley, Phoenix Harmon, Ashton Harmon, Ethan Kelly, Addison Kelly, Noah Kelly, Andreas Harmon, Gabriella Kelly, Haydrian Harmon and James Harmon and one great-great-grandchild, Brighton Ackley. Frieda was anxiously awaiting the birth of her twelfth great-grandchild. She is also survived by three sisters, Inge (Paar) Mohler and her husband Korre, Traudl Paar and Ursula (Paar) Kretschmann all of Germany, one brother-in-law Dale Harmon and his wife Betsy of Palm Coast, FL, three sisters-in-law, Gloria Harmon of Keokuk, Rose Harmon of Elburn, IL, Peggy Harmon of Alexandria, Mo and nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Roy James Harmon, her parents, her grandparents, her mother and father-in-law, James Fredrick and Wilma Alberta (Fowler) Harmon, one sister Hermie (Paar) Meek and her husband Hans, one brother Hansel Paar, and two brothers-in-law, Leslie Harmon and Walter Harmon

The family would like to thank all the individuals that helped take care of Frieda the last few years, her granddaughter, Cheri Kelly, great-granddaughter Brooklyn Ackley, granddaughter-in-law, Amber Harmon, Janet Symonds, Jeriann Morgan, Barb Baird and especially her daughter-in-law Theresia Harmon.

Funeral services will be held at 1 p.m., Wednesday at the Vigen Memorial Home in Keokuk with Pastor John Heath officiating. Burial will be in the Oakland Cemetery in Keokuk.

Visitation will be held on Wednesday from noon- 1 p.m. at the funeral home with family meeting with friends at that time.

Online condolences may be sent to the family at www.vigenmemorialhome.com.

OBITUARIES

GRACE M. HARRIS

Grace Marie Harris, 92 years, passed away Friday, August 27, 2021, at The Kensington, Fort Madison, Iowa. She was born December 9, 1928, in Fort Madison, a daughter of Hollice Sr. and Elvia (Wilkerson) Clark. On November 6, 1971, she married Charles S Harris Sr. in Fort Madison. He preceded her in death.



HARRIS

Grace was a loving mother and exceptional role model to her children and family. She loved meeting, hugging, and holding all of her new grandbabies and they loved and cherish the memories of their many visits of spending holidays and summers at grandma's house. She worked as an inspector for Dial Corporation for 17 years. She was a grievance secretary for the USCW Union. She was a member of Joy Baptist Church, she held various executive positions with The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), and was secretary of the Democrat Party in Iowa.

She is survived by one son: Gordon Beecham of Ankeny, Iowa; six daughters: Mrs. Deborah (Peter) Humphrey of Hayward, California, Theresa Burrough of Lee's Summit, Missouri, Dr. Rosalyn Beecham-Green of Chapel Hill, North Carolina, Mrs. Ruth (John) Hairston of Cordova, Tennessee, Mrs. Janice (Julius) Cousin of Chicago, Illinois, Mrs. Stacey (Lew) Montgomery of Cedar Rapids, Iowa; one step-son; Geoff Harris of Moline, Illinois; one brother, Hollice Clark of Fort Madison; 24 grandchildren; 19 great grandchildren; nieces, nephews and cousins. She was preceded in death by her parents, husband, three sons: Richard Beecham, Clarence Steven Beecham, and Aaron Beecham; one daughter, Johanna Beecham Williams; one step-son, Gregory S. Harris; two step-daughters, Teri Harris and Traci Harris; four sisters: Ruth Webster, Blanch Bates, Kathryn Clark, and Martha Lackey; five brothers: Theodore Clark, James Hayden Clark, Russel Clark, Allen Clark, and Robert Clark; one grandson, Lucas Montgomery and one granddaughter, Valerie Burnough.

Visitation will be held from 2 - 5 pm Thursday, September 2, 2021 at Barr Memorial Chapel, Fort Madison. A private family funeral service will be held later at Joy Baptist Church, with burial at the Keokuk National Cemetery, Keokuk, Iowa. Masks and Social Distancing are required by the family. A memorial has been established for Joy Baptist Church, contributions left at or mailed to the Barr Memorial Chapel, 1919 Ave F, Fort Madison, Iowa 52627. Barr Memorial Chapel is honored to serve the Harris family and online condolences may be at 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.

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**Pen City Current will not publish an e-Edition
Monday & Tuesday, September 6 & 7
due to the Labor Day holiday**

Breaking news will continue to be published to our website
www.PenCityCurrent.com
and through our social media channels as it happens.

The e-Edition will resume publication
on Wednesday, September 8.

Please celebrate safely.

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For the Record/Sports

For the Record

Fort Madison Police Report

08/30/21 - 4:58 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 800 block of Avenue E.
 08/30/21 - 8:06 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of vandalism in the 1700 block of Avenue B.
 08/30/21 - 9:46 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of vandalism in the 1700 block of Avenue H.
 08/30/21 - 12:15 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of vandalism in the 600 block of Avenue E.
 08/30/21 - 1:18 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a personal injury accident in the 1900 block of Avenue H.
 08/30/21 - 3:59 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 700 block of Avenue G.
 08/30/21 - 4:19 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of vandalism in the 900 block of Avenue E.
 08/30/21 - 5:38 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a stolen vehicle in the 6000 block of Reve Court.
 08/30/21 - 7:11 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of vandalism in the 3400 block of Avenue L.
 08/30/21 - 11:03 p.m.

- Fort Madison Police arrested Scott Edward Graham, 56, of Fort Madison, in the 100 block of 18th Street on a charge of public intoxication. He was taken to Lee County Jail.
 08/31/21 - 6:37 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a stolen vehicle in the 100 block of Avenue G.
 08/31/21 - 4:23 p.m. - Fort Madison Police cited Anthony Steven Paul Brown, 19, of Fort Madison, at the police station on a charge of disorderly conduct.
 08/31/21 - 4:48 p.m. - Fort Madison Police cited Joshua Edwin James Hartman, 36, of Fort Madison, in the 4500 block of Avenue O, on a charge of driving while suspended.
 09/01/21 - 4:20 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a burglary in the 1200 block of 23rd Street.

Lee County Sheriff's Report

08/30/21 - 11:07 a.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Desiree Kristina Trent, 28, of Keokuk, at the Keokuk Police Department on a warrant for violation of parole. She was taken to Lee County Jail.
 08/30/21 - 10:26 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Nicholas Louis

Hocker, 39, of Montrose, at the sheriff's office, on a charge of 4th degree criminal mischief. He was taken to the Lee County Jail.
 08/31/21 - 9:58 a.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Teresa Oleta Michelle Weldon, 27, of Keokuk, at the sheriff's office on a warrant for 2nd-degree criminal mischief. She was taken to Lee County Jail and released on bond.
 08/31/21 - 4:07 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies responded to a report of a two-vehicle accident in the 1300 block of Hwy. 218. According to the report a vehicle driven by Terry Ray Parsons, 61, of Kahoka, Mo., was traveling south and swerved into the inside lane striking a vehicle driven by Thomas McKenna, 62, of Florida. No injuries were reported and Parsons was cited for failure to maintain control.
 08/31/21 - 6:53 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested James Eugene Martindale, 56, of Donnellson, no location given, on warrants for voluntary absence from custody, and judgment holds. He was taken to Lee County Jail. Those listed above are charged on a suspicion of a crime and are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law

Hounds, HTC open season with Bondurant tourney

No. 9 Crusaders go 4-2, while Fort Madison finishes Skip Anderson Tournament 1-5

BY PCC STAFF

FORT MADISON - Fort Madison High School first-year coach Kelly Knus-trom and Holy Trinity Coach Melissa Freesmeier took their respective squads to the annual Skip Anderson Tournament at Bondurant-Farrar over the weekend.

Despite going 1-5 in the season opener, the Bloodhounds got solid performances from some girls seeing their first varsity action.

Fort Madison went 1-5 on the day recording a win over Woodward Granger in two sets. The losses came in straight sets to Class 4A No. 11 Bondurant-Farrar, Pella-Christian, Boone, and Class 5A No. 14 Des Moines Roosevelt. The Hounds lost in a tie breaker to Gilbert.

Eve Ruble and Anna Lynk combined for 25 kills and couple blocks during the tournament. Madison Pirri led the Hounds defensively with 40 digs. Taylor Johnson had 10 blocks on the weekend and Molly Knipe led from the setters spot with 39 assists.

Holy Trinity Catholic (No. 9 Class 1A) went 4-2 at the weekend tourney and got a good look at some heavy hitters around the state.

The Crusaders opened with a win over Boone (21-3, 21-11) and then were knocked off by Class 4A No. 2 Waverly-Shellrock 9-21, 14-21.

In the third round of play, HTC got by Williamsburg in two sets needing a couple extra points in the first set to win 23-21 and then won 21-17 to get the match.

Class 4A No. 9 Pella was up next and gave the Lady Crusaders their only other loss on the weekend 12-21, 18-21.

HTC won the final two matches with a 21-9, 22-20 win over Carroll, and a 21-10, 21-15 win over Gilbert.

Sophomore Natalie Randolph led the Crusaders offensively with 23 kills on 67 attacks. She also has 25 digs and 4 blocks. Senior Kassi Randolph and Mary Kate Bendlage each had 16 kills. Kassi Randolph helped out with 36 assists and had 27 digs covering a lot of the court for the Crusaders.

Brooke Mueller coming off an injured thumb she suffered during the final weeks of softball, had 10 kills on 48 attempts and was 35 of 38 serving with three aces. Anna Sobczak led the Crusaders defensively with 45 digs from her libero spot.

The Crusaders open the home season Thursday against Danville at Shottenkirk Gym.

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From the Front/Sports

Digital avenues give artists more chances to monetize work

FMAAA - Continued from Page 1

recorded in some form to be able to interact with again and again.

Today, we see the rise of NFTs – non fungible tokens – art that most often exists only in digital form. Occasionally it is a reproduced image of an original 2D or 3D work, but usually it is art originated in digital form. As a computer file, an NFT can just as readily be the winning shot of a game as it is a painstakingly designed image.

To become an NFT involves a few more steps than just posting the image for sale. Because images are so readily copied and reshared soon there is nothing of value to point to. You may capture the lucky moment and are the first to post, but if the image or clip gets copied and reshared, then you only are left with bragging rights. To monetize it, that original “version” of the image is ascribed into a blockchain. It can be sold with sale details recorded for posterity for someone to look at in a digital wallet over and over along with the actual bragging rights of ownership.

Like all art, NFTs do not disappoint in their personally subjective variety. From 8bit (highly pixelated) and poorly designed kitsch, to exceptionally conceived 4D works of animation and sound, there is an NFT for every taste and price point. And now, this form of visual art is evolving the transactional nature of art as well.

Artists can embed future income in the sales process much like a recording artist or an actor. What has generally held true through all of history is that the visual artist is compensated just once for the artwork. Their name splashed across the canvas may drive the resale value higher, but the artist rarely benefits. Now if the work trades again, the artist may be able to receive a royalty should the recorded contract define a residual payment or a retained percentage of ownership. Paying royalties on the sale of physical art where the value of the work has appreciated has become a rather standard practice in Europe in recent decades. Now making its way into a global phenomenon via the NFT craze. Artist may find themselves not starving (as much anyway) if art sales contracts can provide a residual income stream from a body of work like actors and recording artists.

So... What is Art? It continues to evolve and artists along with it.

Lori Illner Greene is director of Fort Madison Area Arts Association and a monthly contributor to Pen City Current.

Central Lee girls open year with sweep

BY PCC STAFF

DONNELSON – The Central Lee Lady Hawks opened play Monday night with a sweep of Keokuk in three sets.

The Hawks won 25-21, 25-22, 25-16 behind the net play of Makayla Morrison who went 14 of 17 attacking with 14 kills. She also served 10 of 11 with an ace and had a couple digs, defensively.

Meghan Hopp was a perfect 12 of 12 hitting with 11 kills and an assist. She also served 8 for 10 with three

aces. Hopp had eight blocks on the night. Alivia Myhre, playing in her first season with the Hawks had three kills and three blocks.

Macy Watkins had 31 assists and served 9 of 10 with an ace. Alix Congdon was a perfect 11 of 11 from the service line with two aces and seven digs. Sophie Turner was 11 for 13 serving with two aces and a couple digs.

The Hawks get right into things on Thursday with a trip to Class 1A No. 3 New London on Thursday night.

Keokuk takes three from Lady Hounds

KEOKUK – The Keokuk Chiefs took three sets from Fort Madison Tuesday night in Keokuk

The Lady Hounds lost 17-25, 13-25, 18-25 behind 11 of 12 hitting from Eve Ruble and 13 of 18 hitting from Anna Lynk. Lynk led Fort Madison with six kills, while Ruble added two and two solo blocks.

Molly Knipe was 7 of 9 serving with two aces. She also had a couple digs and eight assists covering the floor for Fort Madison. Alana Simpson and Madison Pirri combined to go a perfect 10 of 10 serving. Pirri had seven digs defensively.

The Hounds next game is the home opener against Fairfield on Tuesday at the Hound Dome.

Fort Madison won the junior varsity and freshman

matches.

In the jayvee contest, Lauryn Helmick was 5-5 hitting and had 2 kills. She was also 13-16 serving with two aces. Taylor Johnson added two blocks and Aija Jenkins had a couple kills and was 6-6 serving with two aces in the 25-17, 25-14 sweep.

Mazie Hotop was 14-14 serving and had four ace, while Dalaney Walker was 11-12 serving with four aces. Elle Ruble was 10-12 serving with a couple aces and Amy Yasenchock went 8-8 serving with three aces.

In the freshman games, Fort Madison won 25-7, 25-16. Ava Barnes was 14 of 15 serving with three aces. Dacey Marshall went 12 of 13 at the line with five aces.

LCEDG seats new board members, officers

LCEDG - Continued from Page 1

business here, I want what is best for Lee County as a whole,” said Holtkamp. “I’ve been an investor and have been watching what they do the past few years, which sparked my interest in getting involved. Being able to join this board is an honor, and I look forward to helping out as much as I can.”

Effective July 1st, the new executive board was voted in, consisting of Scott Smith as Immediate Past Chair, Jenny Steffensmeier Board Chair, Michael Mohrfeld as Vice-Chair, Bob Huffman Jr. as Treasurer.

The executive board serves one-year terms in their

position. However, board members serve three-year terms with the opportunity for reelection when their time is complete.

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PUBLIC NOTICES

**PUBLIC NOTICE
FORT MADISON
COMMUNITY SCHOOL
DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
WORK SESSION
September 7, 2021
6:00 P.M.
AGENDA**

I. Call meeting to order and determination of a quorum

II. Recognition of Guests

III. Approve the agenda

IV. Harry Heiligenthal & Tammi Drawbaugh: Professional Learning with Iowa Association of School Boards

V. Announcements
September 20, 2021, 6:00 p.m. Public Hearing, Board Room, Central Office

September 20, 2021, 6:05 p.m. Regular Meeting, Board Room, Central Office

October 4, 2021, 6:00 p.m. Work Session, Board Room, Central Office

November 17-18, 2021 Iowa Association of School Boards Annual Convention, Des Moines
VI. Adjourn

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TEACHER - Continued from Page 1

but because of COVID that year's program was canceled. In the past the U.S. education officials would go to Spain and conduct interviews.

After the initial three years at the school, the teachers in the program have to apply for a J-2 visa through the program for the fourth year, and then a J-3 visa for the fifth year. After that they must go back to Spain.

"We don't have an opportunity to stay for longer. We can stay a maximum of five years and then we have to go back to Spain for two years to apply all we've learned here to the Spanish school system. Then we can apply after two years to come back for five years, and do that for your whole career if you want," Piquer said.

The only way for Piquer to teach in the United States is through a state-sponsored visa under the program. She couldn't come to teach last year due to the virus, and no other group being able to sponsor her visa.

"I'm enjoying it very much. I think the main difference in the school system between here and in Spain is the relationship (you) have with your students. I think education works better if you have strong bond with your student. Teachers don't usually get that bond in Spain. Here I've been told its normal and the thing to do," she said.

"Here you do a lot of hands-on teaching and activities. In Spain we won't do that. We are still old school. Read, do exercises, and read again, then do more exercises.

"Here I can have them stand in the room and go around and look for clues I've created and it doesn't get really loud or anything. They have self control. But in Spain you would never do that, because they would go crazy. They're not used to having that freedom."

She said in Spain the students stay seated throughout the class period, and they also stay in the same classroom all day.

"They do not change classrooms. They have the same chair for eight hours sitting down. So if you gave them the chance to get up and move about in an activity you would lose control," Piquer said.

To that end she's created a Spanish decorated room, which again is not permitted in Spain. She's also created games and activities to allow her to use her creativity in setting the curriculum.



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg

Holy Trinity Catholic Spanish teacher Eva Piquer is part of a Visiting Teachers from Spain program through the Spanish and Iowa Departments of Education.

"I created a scavenger hunt and we are labeling the classroom. I had the students understand those words first and I would get them the cards and they would run around and label the parts of the classroom. And that's something you would never do in Spain unless you wanted to be called out by the principal," she said with a chuckle.

She said Spanish education officials may be looking for a modernized teaching system by sending teachers to America.

Piquer, who taught English in Spain, said another contrast is the grateful nature of students.

"In Spain they (take) for granted that you have to be there for them and teach them, but here once you get to the classroom they say 'hello' and when they leave they say 'Thank You' and we're not used to that," Piquer said.

"They don't say 'Thank You' there for teaching them, and here they have more self control."

She said the other families that came to Iowa have to turn in lesson plans every week and write so many things down about what they were doing and justify learning objectives, strategies, and methodology. But because Holy Trinity Catholic is a private school she doesn't have all that added responsibility.

"I don't have to do some of that and they give me the freedom to teach my way."

One of the biggest hurdles for Piquer was obtaining a social security number with the visa. She said she has to have

that to conduct personal business like opening a checking account, signing leases, and getting a driver's license.

Currently she is using Spanish financial cards and she has to pay extra in fees for the currency exchange.

"A way to improve this would be for the program to give us a social security number right when we enter the country."

Piquer had been to the U.S. before for about four months when her husband, who was just her friend at that time, came to Seattle to work on his doctoral degree. They were able to get a visiting visa at that time and that's when she said her eyes were opened to many things.

"Over those four months I fell in love with him, and I fell in love with America."

One of the things she loves most about southeast Iowa is the friendly nature of the community and how easy it was to be accepted.

"They integrated me. I didn't have to do much of anything. In a community way you are always helping and asking if we need anything. In Spain, I'm from Valencia and then moved to Barcelona three hours north. I lived there for four years and I still haven't met anyone who says, 'Are you OK with everything?' I was still the stranger there. But here, like I'm relating with so many people who are asking how everything is."

She said people have loaned her furniture to help fill their apartment while she and her husband jump through hoops with finances and identification.

"I would love to stay here. I already know that being in the states for just one month. But when time comes I will need to go back to Spain because that's how the program works. We cannot ask for a longer stay."

She said her husband initially found it difficult to find work because none of the corporations were able or willing to sponsor his visa. He eventually found a company founded by Spanish people in the U.S. who allowed him to come on in an advisory capacity until he gets a work permit.

Principal Craig Huebner said having Piquer join the staff has opened his eyes to things as well.

"It's been fabulous. Eva's come in with the background and experience we need and in my observations I see the kids actively learning Spanish which is something we haven't had in a while. It's exciting to see and being able to share her culture just ups the whole experience," Huebner said.

"It's been a good experience for me. Just them sharing about their lives and talking about our communities and culture makes me excited about what we have here in southeast Iowa. It's pretty cool."

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