

PEN CITY CURRENT

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Thursday, July 1, 2021 | 9 pages | Volume 5 • Issue 130



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FMCS D shuffles principals

EVERYBODY'S SHUFFLIN': District makes moves to prepare for 2023 new facilities

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – Fort Madison schools will look a little different in the fall from an administrative perspective.

Fort Madison Community School District Superintendent Dr. Erin Slater said Wednesday that plans are set to move all principals within the district, with the exception of Fort Madison High School Principal Greg Smith, into different roles to start the 2021-22 school year.

The moves are a precursor to the 2023 relocation of all district education to the Fort Madison Middle School



SLATER

campus on Bluff Road, and the Fort Madison High School.

The district voted earlier this year to move PreK to 6th grade to the campus on Bluff Road, while 7th through 12th grade will be housed at the Fort Madison High School campus.

“In order to foster the best collaboration for staff, students, and community to transition into these upgraded centers, we want to ensure that each administrator has experience with each grade level and families that

See **SCHOOLS**, page 8

DECLARATION

Gov. issues disaster order for VB, Davis counties

Proclamation opens up state assistance to those recovering from severe weather incidents

DES MOINES – Gov. Kim Reynolds issued a disaster proclamation today for Davis and Van Buren counties in response to severe weather beginning June 24 and continuing.

The governor's proclamation allows state resources to be utilized to respond to and recover from the effects of this severe weather and activates the Iowa Individual Assistance Grant Program for qualifying residents, along with the Disaster Case Management Program, for Davis and Van Buren counties.

The Iowa Individual Assistance Grant Program provides grants of up to \$5,000 for households with incomes up to 200 percent of the federal poverty level for a family of three. Grants are available for home or car repairs, replacement of clothing or food, and temporary housing expenses. Original receipts are required for those seeking reimbursement for actual expenses related to storm recovery. The grant application and instructions are available on the Iowa Department of Human Services website at <https://dhs.iowa.gov/disaster-assistance-programs>. Potential applicants have 45 days from the date of the proclamation to submit a claim.

Residents of counties impacted by the recent severe weather are asked to report damage to help local and state officials better understand the damage sustained. Damage to property, roads, utilities and other storm-related information may be reported. This information will be collected by the Iowa Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management and shared with local emergency management agencies. Damage may be reported at www.homelandsecurity.iowa.gov.



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg

Serena Vincent, far left, helps Tina Hauck, center, and her mother look through the fashions at Vincent's new women's fashion boutique, Serena Lynne Boutique at 731 Avenue G in Fort Madison.

NEW BUSINESS

Cancer opens doors to new path for Vincent

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – Serena Vincent is a cancer survivor, and now owns a business that indirectly was born out of the changes cancer brought to her life.

After being diagnosed with cervical

cancer in 2019, Vincent had surgery in January of 2020 and then began radiation treatment and chemotherapy. During the time away from her job, and because of the impact of the disease on her life, she didn't return to her job and decided to follow her passion.

Fashion.

Now the daughter of a railroad worker owns her own boutique, Serena Lynne Boutique in the former Lampe Drug building at 731 Avenue G in downtown Fort Madison.

Serena Vincent, far left, helps Tina

See **BOUTIQUE**, page 8

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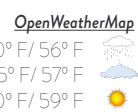
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WEATHER

THU 01 JulLight Rain, 80° F/ 56° F
FRI 02 JulOvercast, 75° F/ 57° F
SAT 03 JulSunny and Warm, 80° F/ 59° F



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PICK 3 06/29 MIDDAY.....3 8 7
PICK 3 06/29 EVENING.....9 0 7
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For the Record

Fort Madison Police Report

06/29/21 – 9:25 a.m.

– Fort Madison Police responded to a report of vandalism in the 1300 block of Avenue G.

06/29/21 – 10:39 a.m.

– Fort Madison Police responded to a report of larceny/theft in the 1900 block of Avenue J.

06/29/21 – 12:44 p.m.

– Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a burglary in the 4900 block of River Valley Rd.

06/29/21 – 2:29 p.m.

– Fort Madison Police arrested Dillan Joseph McCarty, 22, of Keokuk, at the Lee County Office building on a warrant for voluntary absence from custody. He was taken to Lee County Jail and held.

06/29/21 – 4:00 p.m.

– Fort Madison Police arrested Rhonda Rae Gonzales, 58, at the police department, on a charge of 5th-degree theft. She was released.

06/29/21 – 4:13 p.m.

– Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a stolen vehicle in the 900 block of 4th Street.

06/29/21 – 5:28 p.m.

– Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 1900 block of Avenue H.

Lee County Sheriff's Report

06/29/21 – 6:27 p.m.

– Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Michael John Goldensoph, 53, of Fort Madison, in the 900 block of 34th Street, on charges of

trespassing, 5th-degree criminal mischief and violation of a no contact order. He was taken to Lee County Jail.

06/30/21 – 5:03 a.m.

– Lee County Sheriff's deputies responded to a report of a one-vehicle accident near exit 27 on Hwy. 61. According to the report, deputies made contact with the driver, Melody Kay Crow, 65, of Oakville, who had left the scene to continue to work. Crow advised she swerved to avoid a deer and may have struck a culvert or embankment in the median. No citations or injuries were reported. *Those listed above are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.*

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Obituaries/Iowa News

OBITUARIES

EDNA L. MEINHARDT

Edna Louise Meinhardt, 97, of Keokuk, passed away on Thursday, June 24, 2021, at Montrose Health Center in Montrose, Iowa.

Edna was born on July 26, 1923, in Powdertown, the daughter of Andrew and Mary (Ireland) Seiferheld, and graduated from Argyle High School. She was united in marriage to Edwin "Ed" Meinhardt on June 12, 1945, and he preceded her in death in 1998. She was a faithful member of St. Paul United Church of Christ for many years. During her working career she was employed at Dryden Rubber Company, Schaeffer Pen Company and retired from Baker's Rexall Pharmacy as a helper.

Edna always enjoyed and had many memories of her trips she took with her husband. They spent their winters in Florida after they both retired. Above all else, her family was her pride and joy. She enjoys going to her son's, grandchildren and great grandchildren's sports games.

Edna is survived by four grandchildren: Paul Meinhardt, Dalyn (Manny) Huizar, Shawn (Jamie) Meinhardt and Steff (Ryan) Meinhardt; 10 great-grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews.

Edna is preceded in death by her parents, her husband Ed (1998), her son Jim "Pinky" Meinhardt (2021), her son Steve Meinhardt (1976), and her sister Eunie Petry.

A private graveside service will be held at Sunset Memorial Park in Keokuk, and a celebration of life for Edna and her son Jim "Pinky" Meinhardt will be held at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be directed to St. Paul United Church of Christ.

Tributes and condolences may be left at www.dejongsfuneralhome.com.

DeJong-Greaves-Printy Funeral Home of Keokuk is in charge of arrangements.

Great River Friends donates \$142K to hospital

WEST BURLINGTON – Great River Friends has donated \$142,397.40 to Great River Medical Center in West Burlington, Iowa. The money will fund projects that enhance patient and family experiences.

The largest portions of the donation will be used to purchase waiting room chairs for the main hospital, Eastman Plaza and Mercy Plaza lobbies, and to renovate the hospital's interior courtyard, which is surrounded by patient rooms on two sides.

Other projects funded are:
Ultrasound scanning table

- MRI audio table
- Prostate biopsy system
- Interactive electronic kiosks for way-finding
- Plants and flowers for indoor and outdoor planters
- Supplies for making comfort pillows for patients
- Swaddling sleep sacks for newborns
- Donor breast milk for newborns who need it
- Life-enhancement materials for the Behavioral Health Unit, critical care areas, Hospice, Klein Center and Pediatrics Unit

OBITUARIES

SHERILEE "SHERRY" HUSTON

Sherilee "Sherry" Huston, 63, of Keokuk, IA died Tuesday, June 29, 2021 at her home.

She was born May 7, 1958 in Keokuk, IA the daughter of Jimmie Evans and Shirley Bryant Batley. Sherry graduated from Keokuk High School with the class of 1976.

On February 21, 1981 Sheri was united in marriage to Brad Huston at the New Testament Christian Church in Keokuk. He survives.

Other survivors include her children, Shawna Myers (Brendon), Christopher Huston (Autumn), Tim Huston (Deanne) all of Keokuk, Stephen Huston (Jessica), Christine Huston and Deborah Smith all of Cedar Rapids, IA, twelve grandchildren, Jacob, Kori, Oliver, Aria, Andrew, Zach, Ashley, Jenna, Xander, Ethan, Danielle and Colin. She is also survived by one sister, Teresa Evans (Roger) of Keokuk, step-father, Dennis Batley of Keokuk, two nephews, Keith Evans and Jimmie Evans (Tressa) and several great-nieces and great nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Jimmie Evans and Shirley Evans Bryant Batley, nephew, Corey Evans, mother-in-law, Ida Stamper, sister-in-law, Sandra O'Shea and several aunts and uncles.

Sherry had been employed by several businesses around the area in her younger years. She later was employed by Methode Electronics in Carthage, IL for twenty years. Most recently, she had been employed at Walmart in Keokuk.

Sherry was a member of New Testament Christian Church in Keokuk.

Sherry spent hours tending to her flower gardens. She had a green thumb and grew beautiful flowers. She took pride in her yard and enjoyed weed eating it just the way she liked to have it done. Sherry kept her home immaculate and was known to go on cleaning frenzies that would drive Brad out of the house. Sherry was the happiest when she was surrounded by her family. She adored her children and grandchildren and treasured the time she spent with them.

A graveside service will be held at 2 p.m., Friday, in the Oakland Cemetery in Keokuk, IA with Sim Tolbert officiating.

Visitation will be held prior to the service, from 1-2 p.m., Friday, at the Vigen Memorial Home in Keokuk, IA.

Memorials may be made to Lee County Hospice.

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

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Sports

FM girls take two from Keokuk at home

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – It took just nine innings, but the Fort Madison girls took two games off Keokuk Wednesday night 9-3 and 7-4.

The first game was a two-inning completion of a suspended game on June 7 when the Lady Hounds led 5-1 going into the fifth before the rain ended things in Keokuk.

The Hounds were supposed to play another doubleheader Wednesday with Keokuk, but those two were canceled and the makeup completion of the first game and the entire second game were played instead at Fort Madison.

Neeley Rehm got the win in the first game finishing up the final two innings allowing two runs, but Fort Madison tacked on two each in the bottom of the fifth and sixth to give the sophomore some breathing room.

Freshmen Lexi Whaley and Lauren Helmick led the Hounds in the win each slamming home runs. Whaley was 3-of-3 with a run scored and an RBI. Helmick went 2-for-2 with two runs scored and 2 RBI.

Emily Steffensmeier, Rehm, Logan Johnson and Kendall Beebe each had hits for Fort Madison (9-14, 5-7).

Rehm went all seven innings giving up three runs all earned on five hits and struck out eight.

In the nightcap, the two teams traded leads with Fort Madison jumping out to a 1-0 lead when Emily Steffensmeier tripled to right field and came around to score on a wild pitch.

Keokuk would put up two in the top of the third on a couple of fielding errors by the Hounds.

Fort Madison would retake the lead in the bottom when Elle Ruble and Rehm would execute steals at home. Keokuk would score two runs in the top of the fourth off Helmick, but that would be all the freshman would give up as Fort Madison put up a run in the fifth and then put the game away with three more in the bottom of the sixth for a 7-4 lead.

Steffensmeier would get a one-out single in the final frame followed by a walk to Allyson Helmick. Rehm would go down swinging on three pitches for the second out. Both base runners would advance on a wild pitch and then Logan Johnson would single scoring Steffensmeier. Whaley then ripped a double off the fence in right center to score two.

Erika Kruse then laced what looked like a true gapper to left, but Keokuk's Issabelle Evans broke on the liner and

See SWEEP, page 7

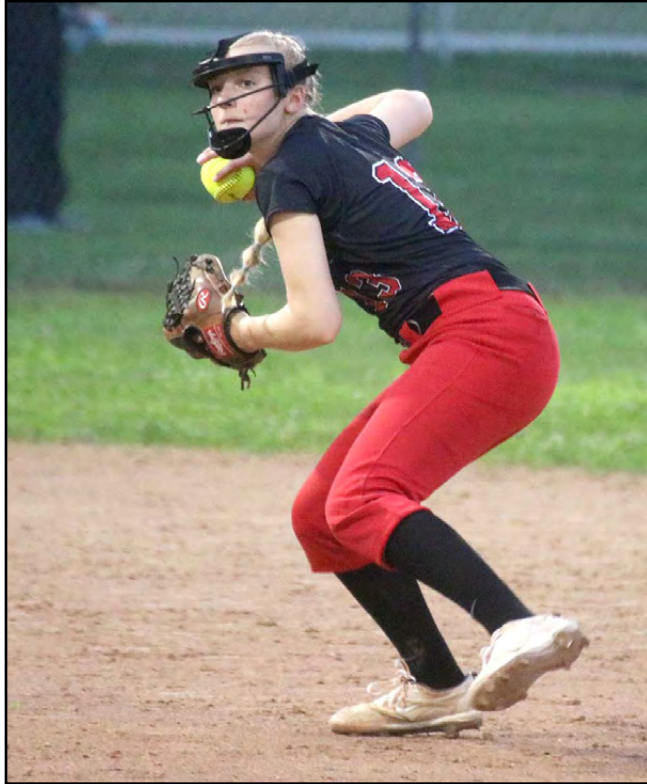


Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

The Bloodhounds' Elle Ruble (13) fields a grounder at short in the fifth inning in Fort Madison Wednesday night and gets ready to fire to first to try and catch the runner after a bobble.

No 4. Lady Falcons one-hit Crusaders

BY PCC SPORTS

WEST BURLINGTON – The Falcons lived up to the lofty reputation and one-hit Holy Trinity Catholic Tuesday night in a 12-0 shut out on the road in West Burlington.

Sophomore Mary Hellige collected the lone hit for HTC in the Southeast Iowa Superconference matchup, with a single to open the top of the second. She would be the only Crusader to reach base in the loss.

Hellige also started in the circle for Holy Trinity going 3 2/3 and surrendering 12 runs, eight earned on 13 hits. She struck out one and walked five.

Lauren Summers got the win for West Burlington striking out four in the win. She also had a lead off solo home run to left in the fourth inning.

Holy Trinity (5-13) hosts Lone Tree (8-14) with a varsity only 6 p.m. start at South Park Wednesday. The Crusaders play two games on Thursday, a 1 p.m. tilt with Hillcrest on the road and then a 7 p.m. game with Highland, also on the road.

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If you have any questions please contact Lee County Engineer, Ben Hull, at (319) 372-2541 or email him at bhull@leecounty.org.



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Post-season starts July 8

SWEEP - Continued from Page 5

caught it on a full run right above the grass robbing Kruse of a hit and an RBI.

Helmick would sit the Chiefs down in order in the top of the 7th to preserve the win.

The freshman said this year she is starting to come into her own in the circle.

"My arm has felt super loose. The spins have really been helping me lot, my curve ball mostly, and the rise," Helmick said.

She has been pitching since she was nine, but struggled as an eighth grader playing varsity last year.

"Last year was kind of tough. I didn't do my best, but this year has been way better," she said.

"But I think we're playing better as a team as we play more, and our attitudes are getting better. We're finally coming together."

Head Coach Jared Rehm said the Hounds have been playing markedly better since the Linn-Mar Tournament over the weekend.

"I think so. We went to Linn-Mar and didn't get to finish that tournament because of the rain. But we played Linn-Mar really, really tough and then it poured rain and they wouldn't call the game, and the momentum shifted," Rehm said.

"Ever since then, I don't know what sparked it, but they've been playing really

tough softball."

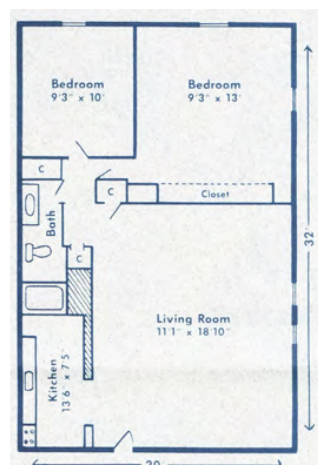
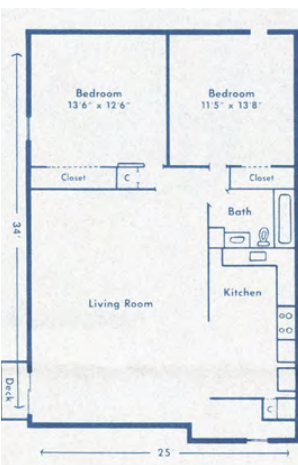
Steffensmeier and Logan Johnson each had two hits for Fort Madison in the second game. Whaley had two RBI and Steffensmeier scored two runs in the win. Helmick went all seven scattering just three hits while giving up four runs, only one earned, while fanning 11 and walking three.

The Hounds have two games with Mt. Pleasant (1-27) Thursday and then a doubleheader with Burlington on Monday. Two games with Fairfield were postponed Monday due to rain, but Class 4A Region 5 action starts Thursday, July 8 and the Bloodhounds have games every day that week.

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As we remember and celebrate all who fought for our independence, Pen City Current will not publish an e-Edition Monday, July 5th. The e-Edition will resume Tuesday, July 6th.

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From the Front

Superintendent rolls out new administrative structure

SCHOOLS - Continued from Page 1

will be functioning as a collaborative group in 2023," Slater wrote in an email to Pen City Current.

"We are a district focused on instructional leadership and collaboration."

She said that Christina Schelich, who has been the associate principal at Fort Madison Middle School will move to Lincoln Elementary as Principal. Former Fort Madison Middle School Principal Todd Dirth will move over to Richardson Elementary as the principal.

Tracy King will be the co-principal at the middle school for grades 4-6. She was the former principal at Lincoln. Patrick Lamb will be the co-principal at Fort Madison Middle School for grades 7 and 8, moving over from his associate principal spot at Fort Madison High School.

Adrian McKay, the former principal at Richardson Elementary will now be the co-principal at Fort Madison High School overseeing 9th and 10th grades, while Greg Smith will stay at the high school as co-principal overseeing 11th and 12 grades.

"Each of our administrators have leadership styles that match the role of instructional leader for the FMCS. These shifts will allow for all of our buildings and teams to grow and learn together as we continue to do what's best for kids as we transition to our upgraded facilities."

Slater said facility preparation and planning has begun with teacher input groups working with the architect and construction management team.

"Community input will take place in early fall of 2021 regarding design," Slater wrote.

The Fort Madison school board voted in May to contract with DLR Group out of Des Moines for architectural services on the \$25 million Phase 1 of the facilities upgrade at a cost of \$1.56 million. The board also voted to award Carl A. Nelson Co. the contract for construction management for the project at \$666,000.

Boutique offers after-hours group party shopping

BOUTIQUE - Continued from Page 1

The shop is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Friday, and from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday.

Vincent said she's also open to after-hours shopping parties for those who want to have the store to themselves and can't get there during regular business hours. She's even sweetening the deal by offering the host of the parties \$5 off for every \$100 the party spends in the store.

Vincent moved to the area in 1990 when her father was transferred to the area with the BNSF rail line. She grew up in West Point and lived there until she graduated high school and then moved to Fort Madison.

As a child she was always playing dress up and enjoyed fashion. Vincent even tried to make a career out of it by becoming a cosmetologist.

Before opening the retail store front downtown, Vincent was doing online sales out of her home.

"I really enjoyed doing the online sales, but the only bad part was that my



inventory started taking over the house and my husband was like, "you're taking over my man cave," she said with a laugh.

"Then I started having to store stuff in our garage, too. So I decided at that point that I should start looking for a new place."

Serena and her husband looked at renting or leasing downtown, but instead decided to purchase the Lampe building. Now they plan to renovate the upstairs, sell their current home and move into the downtown building.

She said she never imagined she would have her own business, but having to leave her other job made her realize that she could put her foot forward and do something on her own.

"Life is too short some-

times, you know. Do what you enjoy and be happy. Everything happens for a reason and I'm hear today doing this because this is the path I'm supposed to be on."

Vincent has been open since Monday and she's holding a grand opening Saturday during normal business hours.

Those looking to have an after-hour shopping party can do so by contact Vincent over her Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/serenavincen10> or by text at 319-371-8320.

Her inventory includes women's fashion clothing with sizes up to 3X and she's looking to add men's clothing at some point. She's also thinking about having local wines for sale if she can obtain a liquor permit.

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\$5	Parthenon Pizza	Rev Fitness	Under the Sun	\$5

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1. Stop by any participating business and pick up a BINGO card.
2. Pick a card out of the basket. The game piece has a business name on it. Match it to the bingo card. Head on over to another business, repeat. (Only 1 card per day from each business).
3. \$5 space of your choice can be filled by spending at least \$5 at a participating business.
4. Try to match and get a BINGO. Bingo consists of horizontal, vertical and diagonal. Play for as long as you like to get as many Bingo's as you can. At the end of the game, your name will be entered into a grand prize drawing consisting of goodies from each business.

1 Bingo = 1 Chance **3 Bingo's = 3 Chances**
2 Bingo's = 2 Chances **4 Bingo's = 4 Chances**
Blackout = 5 Chances

5. Return your card with the game pieces to: Under the Sun, Griffin Muffler & Brake Center, the YMCA or the Fort Madison Chamber of Commerce.

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Cards must be returned no later than July 7, 2021

Winner will be drawn by July 9, 2021