

PEN CITY CURRENT

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

Wednesday, February 3, 2021 | 8 pages | Volume 5 • Issue 32



www.pencitycurrent.com

B.I.N.G.O. FRIDAY AT OFP

CURTAIN UP: OFP to hold limited engagement sponsored by Lee County Bank

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – Double mask and bring your dobber to the Old Fort Player's production of *The Queen of Bingo* starting Friday in Fort Madison.

The winter performance of the Jeanne Michels and Phyllis Murphy comedy is dedicated to former youth actor Zephan Abel who died last year due to complications from a vascular procedure. Abel was prominent in many past OFP productions.

The two-act play focuses on the BINGO hall conversations of two sisters. Sis, played by OFP board member Dorothy Schulte, and "Babe" played by seven-year OFP alum Richar Abel, Zephan's mother.

Sis is a widower who's found comfort and friendship in the BINGO Halls of Battle Creek, Michigan. Her frustration with her sisters manic mood swings is surpassed only by the patience she has in dealing them.

Babe is a quasi foul-mouthed, woe-is-me sister who relies on Sis for confirmation and compassion as they banter with quick humor at others in the hall.

Sis just may be addicted to the dulcet tones emanating from the soft microphones of various game halls, and is playing at a few more places than even she likes to admit. The other may be addicted to what's in the fridge.

In the end, it's not all about the Benjamins, but the bond that exists between the single sisters, complete

See **SHOW**, page 3



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg

'Sis', played by Dorothy Schulte, tries to comfort her sister "Babe" during the second act of *The Queen of Bingo* at the Old Fort Players' Monday night rehearsal. The show goes on with limited seating starting Friday.

LCHD gets 500 more vaccine doses as clinic rolls out



Lee County Health staff go over paperwork with residents in line to get COVID-19 vaccinations Tuesday at the first day of the LCHD drive-thru clinics.

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – Lee County health officials got "shot in the arm" of a different sort Tuesday morning when a FedEx truck carrying 500 additional doses of vaccines showed up at the door of LCHD during its first drive-thru vaccination clinic.

On a chilly overcast morning, LCHD officials and volunteers moved a well-spaced cavalcade of vehicles through the former Iowa State Penitentiary grounds

starting at 9 a.m., to the south parking lot where vaccinations were being given by health officials in Fort Madison.

After a brief review of paperwork for each individual with an appointment, vehicles were pulled from one tent to a second where the vaccinations were administered.

Then vehicles were pulled in to a staging area where volunteers monitored people for 15 to 30 minutes for any rare reactions to the medications.

See **SHOTS**, page 8

RENEWABLE ENERGY

SCC honored with award for solar work

FM's Mohrfeld Electric part of panel project

WEST BURLINGTON – Southeastern Community College was presented with the Renewable Energy category Best Development Award in 2020 by 1000 Friends of Iowa in a virtual ceremony on Friday.

The college installed solar panel carports in December 2019 on its West Burlington campus, along with panels on the roof of the Hall of Sciences and the Great River Health Systems Health Professions Center.

"We were excited to take on this project that is a step in the right direction for the environment," Vice President of Administrative Services Kevin Carr says. "And we estimate that the addition of solar panels will save the college \$700,000 in energy costs during the next 25 years."

1000 Friends of Iowa is a non-profit organization focused on promoting responsible land use and sustainability in community, state, and federal development decisions.

"Iowa has many great development projects, and by celebrating them and their future-minded leaders working behind the scenes, we hope to advocate for and see an increase in the use of sustainable practices," said Kari Carney, executive director of 1000 Friends of Iowa.

"All of the nominations bring hope and encouragement to their communities."

There were 10 recipients in eight categories.

The judges noted that SCC gave the addition of solar panels to the school careful thought.

"Not only did they consider the money saved by installing solar panels, but they built carports to make this possible, giving students and faculty covered parking," Carney said during the award ceremony, "This is a great example of innovation with the use of sustainable resources."

The Renewable Energy Best Develop-

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WEATHER

WED 03 Feb.....Partly Cloudy, 38° F/22° F
 THU 04 Feb.....Wintry Mix, 38° F/13° F
 FRI 05 Feb.....Overcast, 17° F/9° F

OpenWeatherMap



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LUCKY FOR LIFE 02/01.....15 17 27 30 39, Lucky Ball: 2
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Obituaries/From the Front

OBITUARIES

DENNIS R. LORENCE

Dennis R. Lorence of Fort Madison passed away peacefully on Sunday January 31, 2021. He was 72 and is survived by his wife of 49 years Jane Klesner Lorence, son Richard (Jennifer) Lorence, son Andrew (Tonya) Lorence, daughter Kimberly (Keith) Czerney, brother David (Rosie) Lorence, sister Dale (Joe) Krypel, 11 adoring grandchildren, and many nieces, nephews, and dear friends.



LORENCE

At a young age, Dennis made it clear that we would live by his own rules and pave his own way. If you told Dennis he could not do something, he would persist until he proved you wrong. Dennis never seemed to be at a loss for words, was known for his ability to find humor in the most mundane of life's circumstances and always had a story to tell. Dennis was known for his quick wit, ongoing jokes, and his kind and generous spirit.

Dennis was a proud American. He served his country honorably in Vietnam. Shortly after returning home, he married the love of his life, Jane. Together they raised three children, Dennis' proudest accomplishment. For over 35 years, Dennis worked at the Case Corporation as a loyal UAW member.

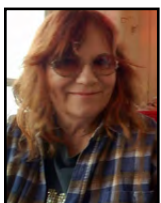
Dennis was a lover of dancing, the Los Angeles Dodgers, pyramid building while water skiing, extra-large fried tenderloins, and any music produced in the 1960s. Every Saturday in the fall, you would find him watching Hawkeye football. Dennis would re-watch the games throughout the week, quick to joke that no matter how many times he watched, the outcome was always the same. In retirement, Dennis enjoyed traveling with Jane, reuniting with his Vietnam brothers, and spending time with his grandchildren.

A mass for Dennis will be held on Thursday, February 4th, 2021, at 11:00 AM at St. Mary and Joseph Catholic Church in Fort Madison. The family will meet with friends and family beginning at 9:30 AM immediately preceding the funeral services at St. Mary and Joseph Catholic Church. Following a burial with military rights, the family will toast to Dennis at the Elks Club in Fort Madison. Per his wishes, cremation had been entrusted to King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory.

People wishing to honor Dennis can make donations to the Lorence Family who will use all gifts to support local children in sports. Contributions can be mailed to 16 Melody Terrace, Fort Madison, Iowa 52627. Online condolences may be left at www.kinglynk.com.

LAURA D. BOHNENKAMP TRAMAN

Laura D. Bohnenkamp Traman, 69, of Quincy, IL and formerly of Fort Madison, IA, passed away on Sunday, January 31, 2021 at her home. She was born on May 30, 1951 in Fort Madison, IA to Vincent & Avis Morris Bohnenkamp. She attended



TRAMAN

Aquinas High School in Fort Madison. She worked at the Sheaffer Pen Company, Gleasons and several area greenhouses. She enjoyed camping, gardening, holiday decorating, taking pictures, sending people cards, the outdoors and traveling to North Carolina, Arizona and Florida. She also enjoyed walking dogs for P.A.W. Animal Shelter in Fort Madison.

Laura is survived by: 1-daughter: Launa (Tom) Sheehan of Quincy, IL; 1-son: Matthew (Mary) Traman of Fort Madison, IA; 3-grandchildren: Sara (Greg) Boone, Ella Traman & Alexander La Velle; 6-siblings: David Bohnenkamp of Argyle, IA, Alan (Kathy) Bohnenkamp of Fort Madison, IA, Judy (John) Hawes of Cedar Rapids, IA, Linda Bohnenkamp of Fort Madison, IA, Eric (Donna) Bohnenkamp of Fort Madison, IA & Brian (Jackie) Bohnenkamp of Fort Madison, IA; 1-brother in law: Jerry Persky of Bettendorf, IA; numerous nieces, nephews & cousins and her special caregivers: Lisa Carter & Vicki Gray of Quincy, IL. She was preceded in death by: her parents, 1-sister: Donna Persky & 1-sister in law: Mary Bohnenkamp.

A visitation will be held from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m. on Friday, February 5, 2021 at King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory. A memorial service will immediately follow at 11:00 a.m. with Rev. Joseph Phung officiating. Burial will be held at Oakland Cemetery. A memorial has been established for P.A.W. Animal Shelter. Online condolences to Laura's family may be left at the King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory website: www.kinglynk.com.

SCC award showcases college's commitment to reduce emissions

SCC - Continued from Page 1

ment Award is granted on measurable or anticipated impact of decreased dependence on fossil fuels and reduction of CO2 emissions, implementation of renewable energy as a primary source of energy solutions, and public education and outreach.

SCC President Dr. Michael Ash thanked Red Lion Renewables and Mohrfield Electric for making the solar panel project possible.

"On behalf of the college, I am honored and humbled to accept the award," Dr. Ash said at the ceremony. "We hope this sends a message to our students that we are serious about saving dollars and helping our environment."

For more news or to learn about Southeastern Community College, visit https://www.scciowa.edu/aboutscc/office_mktg_comm/news/archive.aspx

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Scene Around Town/From the Front

OFPP going live next two weekends

SHOW - Continued from Page 1

with magnetic chip grabbers, good luck charms and church basement gossip.

The audience is even pulled into the action with a live BINGO call just prior to the intermission where a real winner will receive a prize after filling the BINGO card in their playbill.

There will also be a raffle to help raise funds for the playhouse after COVID all but shut down production in 2020.

Performances run February 5-7 & 12-14, 2021. Evening shows begin at 7:30 p.m. and the curtain rises for Sunday matinees at 2 p.m. (Adult \$15; Senior, Military, Vet \$12; Student \$10.)

Tickets are available online now and the link to purchase is posted on www.oldfortplayers.com and the theater's Facebook page. For those wanting to pay cash or credit for tickets at the door, you can and should reserve your seat by phone or Facebook Messenger.

Seating is limited due to COVID-19 and masks will be required.



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Tuesday morning fire

Fort Madison firefighters were called to the 2200 block of Avenue C at about 6:50 a.m Tuesday morning for a garage that was engulfed in flames. No one was injured in the blaze and firefighters were on the scene for about two hours putting out hot spots. No cause for the fire was available.

Matteson Scholarship applications now available

KEOKUK - In 2020, The Matteson Scholarship was relaunched in Southeast Iowa by The Keokuk Area Community Foundation and The North Lee Community Foundation. In 2020, \$78,000.00 in Matteson Scholarships were awarded.

The 2021 Matteson Scholarship Application has now opened to accept new Matteson Scholarship recipients. The Matteson Scholarship is a renewable scholarship for 4 years. Each Matteson Scholarship is up to \$2,000.00 a year for the first two years and then up to \$4,000.00 for years three and four. The Matteson Scholarship will be awarded to high school seniors, as well

as, continuing education students pursuing studies in Agriculture, Health/Medical Sciences, Nursing, Engineering, Information Technology, or any Trade.

To be eligible for The Matteson Scholarship, students or working adults must live in the Iowa Counties of Lee, Des Moines, or Henry. The Matteson Scholarship also accepts scholarship applications from graduates of Wapello Senior High in Louisa County. The deadline to complete the online application for the Matteson Scholarship is May 4, 2021. For more information and to access the online application visit matteson scholarship.org.

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Sports/Classifieds

Holy Trinity gets emotional win over No. 13 Notre Dame

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – Emotions were high at Shottenkirk Gymnasium Tuesday night.

Holy Trinity Head Coach John Hellige said former Aquinas great John Muerhoff, who passed away suddenly Jan. 20, was in the house as Hellige's Crusaders knocked off Class 1A's No. 13 Burlington Notre Dame 67-61.

Hellige got emotional talking about the fierce competition he and Muerhoff had on the court and how close they were as friends off. Hellige played for Fort Madison while Muerhoff played for the Dons.

"It kind of felt like he was here with us tonight," Hellige said.

Senior Vasin Thurman said the locker room was full of a bunch of senior 5-year-olds jumping up and down and yelling.

Notre Dame brought a raucous student section sporting State Volleyball Champion t-shirts. And senior Jason Thurman capped it all off saying this was what the Crusaders have been preparing for.

"We've been going to Athletic Enhancement and working out at Fort Madison and that's gotten us stronger and more prepared," Jason said.

"We're a lot more confident this year. Tonight we believe we can beat any team in the conference and any team in the state."

Thurman finished with a game 20 points scoring inside and out in the second half including three

3-balls and then backing down Notre Dame's posts in the lane.

Vasin Thurman played the same physical style inside on his way to 19 on the night, routinely swinging through the Nike interior for scoops and layups.

Holy Trinity controlled most of the first quarter building a 15-12 lead, but the Nikes would come back to tie it up at 15 when Smith converted the front end of a two-shot foul.

Tyler Snaadt would hit on a three to give the Crusaders the lead back and they would hold until Hoffman scored inside after an inbound steal to tie things up at 21.

Smith would block a Chandler Rung layup at the other end, but the Nikes would then commit three straight personal fouls. Vasin Thurman would convert two of the freebies for another 2-point lead.

Matt Johnson and Rung would exchange buckets and then Johnson would hit on 3-ball to give Notre Dame their first lead of the game 26-25 with 1:53 left in the half.

Holy Trinity junior Mikey DiPrima took over and scored eight points in the final 1:23 to give Holy Trinity a 33-29 halftime lead.

"Kinda cool a kid like Mikey DiPrima steps up and hits two 3s and a couple free throws. I know Mike can hit those in a game, but those are bonus shots that make a coach really happy."

The two teams combined for just eight offensive rebounds in the first half and then just 13 on the



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg

HTC's Jason Thurman drives past a Nike defender for one of his 20 points in Tuesday night's win over Burlington Notre Dame in Fort Madison.

See CRUSADERS, page 7

PEN CITY CURRENT CLASSIFIEDS

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Contact Tammy Hudson, AmeriCorps Seniors Director at 319-372-8043 or rsvp@unitedwaygrr.org to set up a time to talk.

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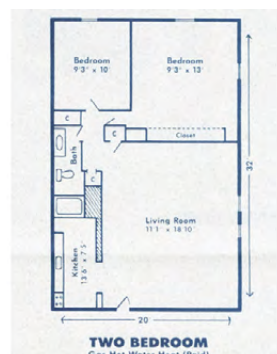
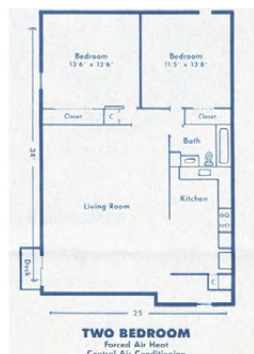


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Sports

SPORTS ROUNDUP

Central Lee 8th graders split two

DONNELSON – The Central Lee 8th grade boys split their last two games. WACO came to town on Monday and the Hawks walked away with a close 19-18 win. Brayden Wyrick had eight points to lead Central Lee. Drake Weber had five points, while Chase Johnson had four and Hunter Edlin added two points.

On Thursday, Van Buren down the Hawks 45-21 despite Wyrick's 13 points. Johnson again had four, while Weber and Edlin each scored two.

Hawks 7th graders win two in a row

DONNELSON – Owen Swan scored 25 points in two wins for the Central Lee 7th graders. Swan had 12 points and three assists in a 42-15 win over Van Buren on Thursday. Colton Taft had ten points and four rebounds in the win.

On Monday, Swan had 13 points and six boards to lead the Hawks in a closer 36-33 win over WACO. Will Hayes had seven points and six rebounds in the win.

FM 8th graders down Fairfield Monday

FORT MADISON – In the A game Fort Madison defeated Fairfield 51-31. Dayton Lamar had 13 points and Julian Dear had 11 in the win for the 3-0 Little Hounds. Aiden Mitchell added eight, Brody Cashman and Jackson Guzman each scored six for Fort Madison.

In the B game, Fairfield won 21-15. Kaleb Heidbreder had five points to lead the Hounds.

Rudd takes 1st at JV Classic

FAIRFIELD – Luke Rudd took first place in the 178-182 division at the Junior Varsity Southern Iowa Classic Fairfield Friday. Other FMHS wrestlers competing included: 120-121 lbs. – Ace Meierotto's place is 3rd and has scored 7.0 team points; 130-134 lbs. – Macaden Rhoer's place is 3rd and has scored 9.0 team points.; 130-136 lbs – Chaz Fullenkamp's place is 2nd and has scored 14.0 team points; 145-157 lbs. – Erik Millard's place is 2nd and has scored 12.0 team points; 157-162 lbs. – Christian Vincent's place is 2nd and has scored 14.0 team points; 178-182 lbs. – Landon Rudd's place is 1st and has scored 20.0 team points

FMMS 7th grade girls down Keokuk

FORT MADISON – Mara Smith scored 11 points and Dayonna Davis had 10 as Fort Madison's 7th grade girls downed Keokuk 39-9. Dynasty Bell-Washington and Halle Menke each had eight in the win. Avery Rump had 2.

Last Thursday the girls A team lost to Washington 29-23. Davis lead the Little Hounds with 16 points and eight rebounds. Fort Madison won the B game 22-2. Ellie Huebner and Addison Rum each had eight points in the win. The A team is 1-1 and the B team is 1-0.

Hellige goes for 27 in HTC win

WEST POINT – Luke Hellige exploded for 27 at Holy Trinity's 8th grade boys routed Notre Dame 53-36 Monday night. Adam Sobczak had 11 in the win.

Holy Trinity lost the 7th grade game by a bucket 38-36. Nathan Box had a game-high 14 for the Crusaders. Layne Rung added 11. Shay Stephens led Notre Dame with 13.

Holy Trinity takes on No. 16 New London Tuesday

CRUSADERS - Continued from Page 5

night resulting in a fast-paced game that the Crusaders didn't shy away from.

Out of the break, the Crusaders would build a six-point lead with a Thurman bucket inside at 42-36. But Notre Dame came back again with a 8-2 run and tied the game at 44 on a Sam Brueck floater in the lane.

Holy Trinity would pull away again and build an eight-point lead when Snaadt scored inside with 6:35 left in the game for a 52-44 advantage. Smith, playing with four fouls, would answer for the Nikes inside.

Jason Thurman

would miss on a cut to the basket in the next possession, but DiPrima grabbed up a rare offensive board and was bumped by Smith on the way in, sending the 6-5 senior to the bench for the night.

DiPrima would make the front end of the bonus for a 53-46 lead, but Notre Dame had one more run in them led by senior Brady Oleson. Olsen fired in a 3-ball from the top of the key and then a 10-footer in transition after a defensive stop to tie things up at 55.

On the next trip down, Snaadt would drive from the left baseline and throw up

a shot that banked in after he was knocked to the floor. He would complete the 3-point play, and Jason Thurman would score twice after two defensive stops to put HTC up by six again.

Notre Dame would get within two one more time when Johnson would score after the Nikes knocked the ball away from Jason Thurman at the half court to make it 63-61, but the Crusaders would hold them scoreless the rest of the way.

"We've been knocking at the door.. West Burlington, Fort Madison, Danville, and the kids have been working


hard. We talked about making memories and it being senior night. Tonight we just got over that mountain."

Vasin Thurman said the win will give HTC energy going into Tuesday's matchup with Class 1A No. 16 New London on the road.

"We know now we can play with and beat any team in the conference," he said.

Chandler Rung had 11 points, while DiPrima finished with nine and Snaadt had eight to round out the Crusader scoring.

Smith led the Nikes with 14 points on the night, tied with Anthony Hoffman.



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From the Front

LCHD hopes for extra clinic Friday

SHOTS - Continued from Page 1

As of 10:15, volunteer Amy Cook, said there hadn't been any problems.

"Nothing that I'm aware of," a bundled up Cook said. "It's really been very smooth so far."

Cars had magnetic timers put on them to keep track of the monitoring process and then those vaccinated just pulled out of the parking lot and headed on their way.

During the first hour of vaccinations a FedEx truck pulled onto the grounds.

LCHD Administrator Michele Ross said the truck carried 500 more doses of vaccines. She said the county can now start scheduling more appointments in Phase 1b, which includes teachers, social workers and first responders in the first tier.

The staff scheduled five to seven appointments every half hour on Tuesday to make sure the system ran efficiently. They have already started adding appointments

to Thursday with a possible extra day of vaccinations on Friday if the system can be put in place quickly enough.

"We had a few kinks early in the morning, but today was a test day to work out those kinks, so when we start having large clinic days will have a smoothly operating clinic flow," Ross said.

"We'll add more for our Thursday clinic and then any future clinics we'll know about how many we can fit in a day and as things progress we can adjust."

Ross said Friday is still an option.

"We're talking about a Friday clinic. We're looking to see how this works, and of course you have to have manpower and womanpower to operate," she said. "We'll have a 'hotwash' after this and evaluate the process and clinic flow and talk about improvements that need to be done, and we'll use those for future clinics."

Ross said they decided to use a drive-thru clinic because of the older population.

"This way they wouldn't have to get out of their cars and walk all over, especially in these wintry conditions. And we can also maintain that social distance. The lobby is set up by chairs, but we wouldn't be able to have several people at once," Ross said.

"We're trying to keep people socially distanced in their car and therefore less amount of people gathering."

She said prior to the uptick in vaccinations and the state moving to the 65+ and over group, vaccinations were done inside the LCHD offices.

Mary Russell, of Fort Madison, said she just got a call back yesterday with an appointment. She said she believes everyone is doing the best they can under the circumstances.

"I think it's been great," Russell said. "As bad as this pandemic has been, I'm not sure they could have done anything different. I just think they are doing all they



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

LCHD volunteer Amy Cook checks on two Lee County seniors who had just received their vaccinations Tuesday morning at the former Iowa State Penitentiary south parking lot. Tuesday was the first day for LCHD's drive-thru vaccination clinics.

can."

Pat Morrison, an 81-year-old from Fort Madison, said she called into LCHD several weeks ago and then was called with an appointment for today.

She said the process was very easy and had no problems with the injection. She said the funniest part was the arrival.

"It was kind of funny we started clear back by the dairy place and then they wound us all they way through to here," Morrison said.

"But all we had to do was go over some paperwork at

the first tent and then they moved us up for the shot and then over here. It's really been very smooth."

Ross said they heard additional vaccines might have been coming Tuesday, but said there is no certainty in the doses being sent so people 65 and over just need to make sure they are on the county's list by calling 319-376-1077.

She said conversations are taking place with other groups in the Phase 1b Tier system about possibly setting up vaccinations based on supplies.

"We're operating under the advisement that 50% are for the tiers and 50% are for those in the senior groups," Ross said.

Booster vaccination ap-

pointments are being given to each person being vaccinated so that individual will come back at the same time and place 28 days later.

Once individuals call and are placed on the list there is no need to call back to check-in. Health officials will call individuals in the order they were added to the list, with appointments for vaccinations. Ross said staff cannot provide any estimates of when appointments might be scheduled.

Ross said a big thank you needed to go to the ISP staff for helping get the parking lot set up including ice and snow removal, and to the Lee County Sheriff's Department for having deputies on scene to help mitigate traffic flow in and out of the clinic.

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