

PEN CITY CURRENT

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

Monday, November 29, 2021 | 10 pages | Volume 5 • Issue 214



www.pencitycurrent.com

Floats light up downtown



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Fort Madison's downtown was lit up with the annual Lighted Christmas Parade Friday night on Avenue G. The floats are on display in Central Park through the holidays with Riverview Park under currently under construction.



City getting a different feel with upgrades

Taylor was in town for a couple days and she likes to walk through the leaves. She doesn't get to hear the crunch of crispy leaves under her boots, or pull in the smell of fall in Manhattan.

She said on our walk Wednesday that she rarely sees an expanse of the sky, but just peaks of blue and white as she walks through the megalopolis that is New York City.

I've been there. She's not wrong, but there are other things that are wonderful about New York City. I call it that, even though the residents there know that you're in Queens or the Bronx or Manhattan or Brooklyn – whichever. To me it's New York City.

I love the architecture of urban America. And I love how they try to hold onto their history with different kinds of architecture. Art is in full display there. Yeah, it smells like garbage a bit, but I can deal with that. I enjoy saying, "Hi" to people I pass on the sidewalk. It feels a bit out of place, and my daughter says as much.

I enjoy the parks and the independent grocers and restaurants. You get a full sense of the melting pot that is the eastern seaboard.

Even to a degree I like the subways and the people watching. You have to be a bit careful about that in New York City, but they're kinda used to it.

But I was walking downtown during the Wine Walk and again during the Lighted Christmas Parade and got a sense of something different.

I mentioned to Mayor Matt Mohrfeld that there's a different feel to downtown – especially when you can see the new stretch of highway and the new Amtrak

CHRISTMAS IN FORT MADISON

Santa Store at new place with new plans

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – The Santa Store that's been shuffled around Fort Madison for more than a decade has found a new home again, but this year the program is changing a bit as well.

The Santa Store serves to help prop up operating costs at PAW Animal Shelter, and Director Sandy Brown said there are some changes that are happening this year at the new location behind Aldi's in the 900 block of Avenue G.

"We're getting a lot of really nice items, and Christmas items, that children usually won't buy. Children aren't going to buy a wreath for mom, but an adult might see that and buy it and use in their

See **STORE**, page 10



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

PAW Animal Shelter Director Sandy Brown looks over the gifts and toys that are part of the annual Santa Store that benefits the shelter. The store is open each Saturday until Christmas from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

See **FEELS**, page 10

INDEX

Business Directory.....P.9	Lee County Health Department.....P.10	Rashid Pharmacy & Wellness.....P.5
CLASSIFIEDS.....Ps.8-9	LEE COUNTY NEWS.....P.7	SCENE AROUND TOWN.....P.6
Complete Rental.....P.4	LOCAL NEWS.....Ps.3,6,10	Scotts Miracle-Gro Company.....P.8
Edward Jones – Tony Fullenkamp.....P.4	Main Street Keokuk, Inc.....P.10	Sonny's Super Market.....P.2
FOR THE RECORD.....P.6	OBITUARIES.....P.2	Southeast Iowa Regional Airport.....P.6
Fort Madison YMCA.....P.3	• Vincent L. Briggs, 90	Southeast Iowa
FROM THE FRONT.....P.10	• James L. Henson, 75	Regional Medical Center.....P.3
Fullenkamp Insurance.....P.6	OPINION.....Ps.4,10	SPORTS.....Ps.5,7
Hinterland Dairy.....P.5	Pen City Current.....Ps.2,6-9	Tony Wolfe Insurance Services.....P.4
International Eyecare Center.....P.2	Pilot Grove Savings Bank.....P.6	
LCK Roofing.....P.3	Pohtitakis Dentistry.....P.7	
Lee County	Pohtitakis Law Firm, P.C.....P.4	
Economic Development Group.....P.8	Public Notices.....P.8	

WEATHER

MON 29 Nov.....Overcast, 55° F/ 32° F	
TUE 30 Nov.....Overcast, 50° F/ 38° F	
WED 01 Dec.....Scattered Clouds, 57° F/ 38° F	

IOWA LOTTERY

LOTTO AMERICA 11/27.....5 14 27 49 50, Star Ball: 9, All Star Bonus: 3
LUCKY FOR LIFE 11/27.....2 6 7 11 19, Lucky Ball: 2
MEGA MILLIONS 11/26.....7 27 37 42 59, Mega Ball: 2 Megaplier: 2
PICK 3 11/25, 11/26, 11/27 MIDDAY.....3 27, 0 71, 5 3 0
PICK 3 11/25, 11/26, 11/27 EVENING.....176, 429, 151
PICK 4 11/25, 11/26, 11/27 MIDDAY.....0 214, 5141, 45 61
PICK 4 11/25, 11/26, 11/27 EVENING.....0 671, 3 033, 13 27
POWERBALL 11/27.....8 32 55 64 66, Powerball: 10, Power Play: 2

SUBSCRIBE

Scan the code to subscribe today
Paid & Free Options Available!



Obituaries

OBITUARIES

JAMES L. HENSON

James Leo Henson, 75, of Fort Madison, IA, passed away on Friday, November 26, 2021 at his home. He was born on September 2, 1946 in Keokuk, IA to James Wilburn & Mildred Mae Bickley Henson. He married Linda Troja and she preceded him in death on May 24, 1981. He then married Pamela Taylor and she preceded him in death on March 21, 2019. He served in the U.S. Navy during the Vietnam war and enjoyed fishing, hunting, road trips and camping.



HENSON

Jim is survived by: 1-daughter: Lucianne (Patrick) Monroe of St. Paul, MN; 2-step sons: Robby (Darryl) Herdrich of Bettendorf, IA & Scott Taylor of Burlington, IA; 3-brothers: Paul (Debbie) Henson of Keokuk, IA, Gary (Cindy) Henson of Hamilton, IL & Michael (Cheryl) Henson of Topeka, KS; 3-sisters: Becky Potter of Keokuk, IA, Joyce (Greg) Glasscock of Keokuk, IA & Kris (Bill) Casey of Erie, KS. He was preceded in death by: his parents, both wives & 1-sister: Judith Ann Cruickshank.



Cremation has been entrusted to the care of King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory and no services are planned. Online condolences to Jim's family may be left at the King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory website: www.kinglynk.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.

Follow Us @pencitycurrent



OBITUARIES

VINCENT L. BRIGGS

Vincent Lionel Briggs, 90, Kahoka, Missouri, passed away at 7:40pm, on Thursday, November 25, 2021, at Blessing Hospital in Quincy, Illinois.

He was born on February 3, 1931, in Alexandria, Missouri, the son of the late John Robert and Anna Olive (Lowe) Briggs.



BRIGGS

Vincent married June Phillips on March 2, 1950, and to this union four children were born, Douglas, Glen, Vickie and Laura, June passed away in January of 1982. He later married Nancy Jo Traeger on August 18, 1984, she also precedes him in death.

Vincent was a lifelong member of the Wayland Methodist Church. He was a farmer his entire life, also working in previous years at Thomas Truck in Keokuk, Iowa, and Fruehauf in Ft. Madison, Iowa. He also sold seed corn on the side. He collected old style toy tractors and attended antique tractor shows in the area. Vincent was previously a member of the Lions Club.

When he got the chance, he enjoyed going to his past time hangout spots, which included Morgan's in Alexandria and Fourth St. in Keokuk. Vincent and Nancy enjoyed going on little trips round their home, visiting places in Iowa, Missouri, and Illinois.

Vincent is survived by two daughters; Vickie Nolte of Fort Madison, Laura Childers of Middletown, Indiana, two sons; Glen (Donna) Briggs of St. Francisville, Douglas Briggs of Wayland, two grandchildren; Raven Spight of St. Louis, Caitlin (Joshua) Sterling of Middletown, IN, four great grandchildren; Makia, Tatyana, Sophia, Charlotte, and one sister, Lois McCollister of Kahoka.

Vincent was preceded in death by his first wife, June, his second wife, Nancy, as well as two sisters; Vivian Briggs and Doris Miller and four brothers; Dallas Briggs, Morris Briggs, Dale Briggs, and John Jr. Briggs.

Funeral services honoring Vincent's life will be conducted at 2:00 P.M. on Friday, December 3, 2021, at the Wilson and Triplett Funeral Home in Kahoka. Pastor Franz Kinkhorst will officiate the service. Interment will follow at Oakwood Cemetery in Hamilton, IL.

A visitation will be held from 5-7 P.M. on Thursday, December 2. Memorial contributions in memory of Vincent are suggested to the Wayland Methodist Church. You are invited to share your memories of Vincent and leave a condolence at www.wilsontriplett.com.

IEC
International Eyecare Center



USE IT OR LOSE IT
benefits and flex
spending expire **DEC. 31**

Y E A R
E N D
S A V I N G S

50% OFF*
FRAMES

SCHEDULE YOUR EYE EXAM TODAY!

IEC @ Fort Madison
619 10th St., Fort Madison, IA 52627
319-372-5181 | IEC2020.com

*Restrictions apply. See practice for full details. Offer valid 11/01/2021-12/31/2021. 21IEC-236701



**CURBSIDE
PICKUP**

At this time we are offering curbside pick-up for orders over \$20. Orders can be placed via phone (319-837-6126), email (sonnymarket@hotmail.com) or Facebook messenger (@[sonnyssupermarket](https://www.facebook.com/sonnyssupermarket)). Immediate reaction to Social Media is not guaranteed.



Call for curbside pickup

319.837.6126

327 5th Street, West Point, IA



Local News

History, crafts on top at Fort Madison Public Library

BY SARAH CLENDINENG
FM Public Library Director

FORT MADISON – While the history of Iowa spans back thousands of years, on December 28, 1846, Iowa officially became the 29th state and there are many ways to explore Iowa's history online. Over the past 175 years, Iowa has made significant contributions to our country. As I learned from Rudy Daniels' talk at the beginning of October, Iowa played an important role in the development of the national railroad system. Iowans have also influenced Hollywood from its golden age with Donna Reed, John Wayne and Phil Stong (the author of State Fair) to more contemporary stars including Tom Arnold, Elijah Wood and Ashton Kutcher. Iowans have also looked at the world around them and found ways to make it better, like Norman Borlaug and Aldo Leopold. This only scratches the surface of Iowa's influence in arts, education, industry and agriculture.

If you want more information on these, or other, topics look at the State Historical Society of Iowa's series, "Iowa History 101". You can sign up to watch live webinars, or visit the archives of past programs. "Iowa Stories" is another series from the State Historical Library, highlighting scholars and historians sharing their knowledge on a wide array of Iowa topics, found online here.

If you have kids 12 or younger, they may be interested in free membership in Goldie's Kids Club, a program designed to introduce children aged 12 and under to Iowa history – starting with Goldie the eastern goldfinch, the state bird.

Finally, you can visit the State Historical Museum of Iowa's virtual "Iowa's People and Places" display. "Iowa's People & Places" invites visitors to explore the stories and artifacts of the earliest people who called this land home as well as more recent Iowans who have helped make Iowa truly unique. Journey through 13,000 years of history in this exhibition that features both common and monumental events. American Indian settlements, statehood, court rulings, legislation, immigration and elections all set the course for Iowans and still affect Iowans today.

Links:

Iowa History 101 – <https://iowaculture.gov/history/iowa-history-101-series>.

Iowa Stories – <https://iowaculture.gov/history/programs/adult-programs/iowa-stories>.

Goldie's Kids Club – <https://iowaculture.gov/goldie>.

"Iowa's People and Places" – <https://iowaculture.gov/history/museum/exhibits/IowasPeopleandPlaces>.

Fort Madison History Scavenger Hunt

Fort Madison, which has been a city longer than Iowa has been a state, has a lot of history of its own and we have created a puzzle scavenger hunt to help you explore some of that history. Pick up a scavenger hunt packet beginning December 6 and track down the locations around town that will lead you to a small prize. You can also take pictures and share on Facebook for fun, if you want.

Iowa History at the Fort Madison Library

Frontierswomen: The Iowa Experience by Glenda Riley (305.42 RIL)

Growing Up in Iowa: Reminiscences of 14 Iowa Authors edited by Clarence A. Andrews (977.7 GRO)

Prohibition in Eastern Iowa by Linda Betsinger McCann (364.132 MCC)

Answering the Call: A Tribute to Tri-State Area Veterans (355.003)

60 Years of Tri-State Rodeo (791.840977 SIX)

Outside In: African-American History in Iowa 1838-2000 (977.700496073 OUT)

Little Heathens: Hard Times and High Spirits on an Iowa Farm During the Great Depression by Mildred Armstrong Kalish (977.7 KAL)

Between Two Rivers: Iowa Year by Year 1846-1996 by Allan Carpenter and Randy Lyon (977.7 CAR)

The Fort: 177 Years of Crime & Punishment at the Iowa State Penitentiary (DVD)

The 175th Anniversary of the Catholic Church in Fort Madison (DVD)

Upcoming Events at the Fort Madison Public Library For the safety of library employees and other patrons, please do not come to library programs if you feel ill, have a fever or are waiting on the results of a coronavirus test. The

library is still offering curbside book pick-up if you need something to read, watch or listen to but want to keep your community healthy by temporarily quarantining.

The Library will be closed on Friday, December 24 and Saturday, December 25 for the Christmas holiday. The Library will be closed on Friday, December 31 and Saturday, January 1 for the New Year's holiday.

Thread Library – Check out this pop-up art installation in the library meeting room on December 3 and 4 during regular library hours. You can also register for the "Collecting as a Creative Practice" workshop on Friday at 3:45 or attend the lecture at 11 am on Saturday.

5th Annual Christmas Ornament Workshop – Join us on December 23 to make some pretty ornaments to finish up your tree.

Pre-School/Toddler Story Hour – Wednesday morning at 10:30.

Thursday Crafternoon – Thursday, 3:30-5:00, for ages 14-adult. This program is an opportunity to spend some time working on an in-depth project for the whole month. December's craft is a holiday angel.

Hang Teen – Tuesday, 3:30-5:00 (except for December 14) for ages 12-19.

Minecraft – 3:30-5:00, ages 9-18 on Mondays.

Wacky Wednesday – School is out early on December 1 and 15. Join us from 1:30-2:30 for a Christmas craft on December 1 and a Christmas gift container on December 15.

All Booked Up! – The library's book discussion group meets on the first Thursday of the month at 1:30 p.m. On Thursday, December 2, we will be discussing "Brooklyn" by Colm Toibin. On Thursday, January 6, we will be discussing "Before the Coffee Gets Cold" by Toshikazu Kawaguchi.

Cook the Book – This month's cookbook is "Brunch @ Bobby's" by Bobby Flay and is available at the library. Pick a recipe and prepare it to share with the group on December 14 at 5:30 pm. In January, we'll be picking recipes from "Do You Know the Muffin Pan?", proof that muffin pans aren't just for baking muffins and sweets.

ICK ROOFING
YOU'VE CALLED THE REST,
NOW CALL THE BEST!
Competitive Rates • Honest & Reliable • SENIOR/MILITARY DISCOUNTS
319-457-5705
email: ickroofingandrepair1@gmail.com

VETERANS MEMBERSHIP SPECIAL
\$11 /Month & \$0 Join Fee
the **Y** FORT MADISON FAMILY YMCA
220 26th St, Fort Madison, Iowa 52627
319-372-2403 • fortmadisonym.org

Get checked!
ABUS
Automated Breast Ultrasound (ABUS) has been shown to improve breast cancer detection by 35.7% in women with dense breast tissue.
Ask your primary care provider if ABUS, in addition to mammography, would be beneficial to you.

Southeast Iowa Regional MEDICAL CENTER

Charles Vandenberg, Editor

(319).371.1670
charles.v@pencitycurrent.com

Lee K. Vandenberg, Sales Manager

(319).371.4125
lee.v@pencitycurrent.com

Copyright © 2021 by Pen City Current

All published materials are property of Pen City Current and cannot be used without express written permission.

PEN CITY CURRENT
It's Black & White and Read all over

Member LION Publishers
www.lionpublishers.com



Pen City Current and www.pencitycurrent.com are products of Market Street Publishing, LLC. Pen City Current is published Sunday through Friday mornings by 6AM.

Founded in 2016
P.O. Box 366 | Fort Madison, IA

Opinion

Derecho, supply chain issues slow delivery of generator

I have a vivid memory from when I was a kid. It was the summer when I was turning from 10 to 11. We lived in a huge 2 ½ story farm house outside of Monroe. The farm house was so big and so well known, it had a name: Maple Hill.

There was a terrible hail storm. We saw it coming from miles away—all purple, green and yellow. My mother said, “That’s hail!” She was right. We were pummeled by blinding rain, high wind and hail the size of softballs! Farmers were caught out in their fields and had to get under their tractors for safety, but still got clubbed. Some seriously.

Hail knocked holes through roofs, broke windshields, and danced on yards, not like popcorn, but popcorn balls. We saved some in the freezer as proof.

But the worst damage was to the power grid. Only we didn’t call it a “grid” back then. It was just, “Electricity’s off!” Power lines were down and even those big electrical insulators high on poles, were cracked and broken. For over a week the power was off. Power crews came in from out of state to help repair the damage.

My dad, who ran a gas station, couldn’t pump

EMPTY NEST

By Curt Swarm



gas, but he could fix tires and lube cars the old fashioned way. He

walked to work (over a mile) because his truck was low on gas and there was no way to pump more, except from farmers’ gravity tanks, if they would sell it to you.

My memory is of my mother cooking food over an open fire in the yard—barbecue grills hadn’t been invented yet. It was beans and weenies and other canned goods cooked right in the cans. The local locker plant was locked up tight. They were trying to preserve as much of their cold temperature as possible.

My second vivid memory is when the power finally came back on. The big old farm house lit up like a cathedral because all the light switches had been turned on in the outage. We’d walk into a dark room, forget the electricity was off, flip the switch, and leave it on.

I’ve never forgotten that week without electricity. So, after that derecho last year in Cedar Rapids, all the violent storms we’ve been having due to climate

change, and the threat of rolling blackouts, like they had in Texas, I decided it was high time to invest in one of those standby generators. Only I didn’t reckon it would take so long. Due to shortages in the supply chain, plus all the available generators going to Cedar Rapids last year, and then to Louisiana this year after Hurricane Ida, my generator was back-ordered six months, and that wasn’t definite.

But it finally arrived, and then some unforeseen problems arose. Ginnie and I live on an acreage, the Empty Nest Farm, east of Mt. Pleasant. We’re on propane. The distance from the propane tank and where our contractor wanted to install the generator was too great. The best solution was to invest in another propane tank to be installed close to the generator. Yep, figure in a lot more cost. “Well, we’ve gone this far, let’s not back down now,” I told Ginnie. “It’ll increase our property value, too.”

We are now the proud owner of a 22 kilowatt standby generator, plus propane tank number two. The generator fires up automatically in case of power interruption, and shuts down when power is restored. Ginnie won’t be cooking outside over an open fire, unless it’s for a picnic. Let it rain, let it hail, let it storm. The Empty Nest Farm is powered.

I have a feeling that what I’ve done is shell out a bunch of money for a generator that, in all likelihood, we will never use. But that still makes it worth it.

Have a good story? Call or text Curt Swarm in Mt. Pleasant at 319-217-0526, find him on Facebook, email him at curtswarm@yahoo.com, or visit his website at www.empty-nest-words-photos-and-frames.com.

JUST IN TIME FOR THE HOLIDAYS



20% Off Tables & Chairs

Make sure you have plenty of room
for all your guests



Complete Rental
5636 Avenue O, Fort Madison
319-372-8105

www.CompleteRentalFM.com

Mention this ad at time of reservation. Not valid with any other discounts. Offer valid November 14-30, 2021.

**Leaving Your Employer?
Understand Your 401(k) Options.**

At Edward Jones, we can explain options for your 401(k), including leaving the money in your former employer’s plan, moving it to your new employer’s plan, rolling it over to an Individual Retirement Account (IRA) or cashing out the account subject to tax consequences.

To learn more, call today.

Tony Fullenkamp
Financial Advisor
1233 Ave H
Ft. Madison, IA 52627
319-372-8001

edwardjones.com
Member SIPC

Edward Jones
MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

STABLE. PREDICTABLE.

That’s what you can expect from a Wellmark Medicare supplement plan.

Call today to find coverage that’s right for you.

319-372-5201



Tony Wolfe
Insurance Services
Fort Madison, IA
52627
Tony@tawins.com

An Authorized
Independent
Agent for



This is a solicitation of insurance. Wellmark Medicare supplement insurance plans are not affiliated with any government agency. To be eligible, you must reside in the service area of the plan. Wellmark Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Iowa is an independent licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association.

W 2319024 1/11

**Best Lawyers
BEST
LAW FIRMS
USNews
RANKINGS**

**P
POTHITAKIS
LAW FIRM P.C.**

ACCIDENT & INJURY LAW

*Fighting to get you
the compensation you deserve.*

320 North 3rd Street, Suite 100, Burlington, Iowa 52601-0337

1603 Main Street, Keokuk, IA 52632

www.PothitakisLaw.com

Sports

Bloodhounds have solid base of returning letter winners

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – Fort Madison High School’s head wrestling coach Ryan Smith is typically pretty short on words about his Bloodhound wrestlers.

Preferring to let the Hounds make their own name on the mat, Smith says the Hounds should be the front runners in the Southeast Conference, but it’s the bigger weekend tournaments where Fort Madison will see what they’re made of.

However, there will be a good number of Hounds taking the mat this year.

“This is the most returning we’ve had in a while,” he said. “We’ve got double digit returning letter winners and that doesn’t include (Austin) Ensminger who’ll miss the season with a shoulder injury.”

Fort Madison will be looking to Henry Wiseman, Gavin Wiseman, Teague Smith, Ike Thacher, Jakob McGowan, and Daniel Sokolik for experience this year.

A couple of freshman, including Gavyn Siemens at 106 and Caleb Bolander at 138, could start to make a name for themselves, as well. The team lineup will be set initially with the teams’ intra-squad matches that will take place Saturday morning at 9:30 a.m. at the Mick Pickford Wrestling Room.

The matches are open to the public and a canned good or jar of peanut butter is encouraged for entry. The donations will be delivered to the Fort Madison Food Pantry.

After Siemens, Tateum Schelich and senior Ayshan Mammadova will battle at 113. Freshman Logan Pennock is the front runner at 120, while junior Emmett Kruse and Ace Meierotto will mix it up at 126. Kruse has put on about three inches after wrestling at 113 last year.

Henry Wiseman has the inside track at 132 with transfer Nolan Riddle pushing him after enrolling at Central Lee from Keokuk last year.

“Henry’s a lot heavier. He was 106 last year and the lowest he can go is 126, but he’s probably looking at going 132,” Smith said.

Bolander wrestles hard as a freshman, Smith said, at 138. He’ll have senior Macaden Rhoer in the hunt with several other underclassmen in the wings.

Aiden Pennock is another returning letter winner that is leading the run at 145. Austin Miller will wrestle at 152 and senior Gavin Wiseman, ranked 8th in preseason Class 3A polls at 152, will start the year at 160, but could move back into the 152 spot. Wiseman qualified for state in February, but said he was a bit too aggressive in early matches.

“I’d definitely like to place this year, at least. Last year I was really aggressive, so I gotta learn to slow down a little bit sometimes,” he said.

Wiseman, said he didn’t get a lot of mat time in during the offseason, but did put in time in the weight room and conditioning.

“I didn’t wrestle much, but I was lifting everyday and all that. Just getting stronger so I can lean out a bit,” Wiseman said.

Teague Smith will anchor the 170 weight classes, up from 152 last year. Smith said he was up to 178-180 lbs during football season, but will take a light cut to wrestle at 170.

Smith wrestled at the U.S. Marine Corp Nationals in Fargo, ND in August after qualifying in May. He went 2 and 2 against some of the best wrestlers in the nation in his weight class during that event and feels the offseason work has positioned him to make a run at state. The sophomore also led the Hounds with 57.5 tackles on the football field.

“I put on some weight during football but got back to 170 and I’m just feeling real healthy where I’m at. I’m ready for anything that comes at me,” he said. “I feel like I’ve worked hard enough to deserve to be on the podium at state.”

Jakob McGowan is back on the mat after taking his junior year off to heal up from some nagging injuries. He has the inside track going into the intra-squad matches at 182, where sophomore Hayden Segoviano is in the wings.

Another sophomore, Ike Thacher, who put in a lot of mat time with Teague Smith, helping him prep for the nationals, will likely grab the 195 lb. spot. Thacher came into his own on the football field this fall and has played both sports since elementary school.

“Over the summer I wrestled with Teague as his practice partner. We did go to Big Game in Iowa City and went to a few of those sessions on Sundays, but other than that it’s been football,” Thacher said.



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Fort Madison’s wrestling squad should be the front runner for the Southeast Conference title for the fourth year in a row, and several Hounds could be poised for a run at the state tournament.

“I have big expectations for this year. I think everybody’s going to put in the work and hopefully we can get some state qualifiers.”

Junior Daniel Sokolik is also a returning letterman and will hold down the 220 lb. spot. A couple brand new kids will push the heavyweight including freshman Cory Arnett and junior Matthew Smith, but both are relative newcomers.

Ryan Smith said the Hounds should fare well in conference wrestling, but it will be the larger tournaments where the real hay is made.

“We should be the heavy conference favorite. We’ve won the last three years and are looking to make it four in a row,” he said.

“But when we get to the bigger tournaments like Urbandale, that’s where we’ll see what we’re really made of. We’ll have a few in our lineup that are ready for that, but a lot aren’t ready because they haven’t done the extra stuff. They’re good wrestlers, but they’re not at that next level because they haven’t done anything to get ready.

“I’m a little disappointed still from last year. I wasn’t happy with our participation.”

The Bloodhounds lost state place-winner Owen Kruse, 1st team all-conference Levi Lowney, 2nd-team All-conference Mason Schau, and Brock Califf to graduation.

The roster for the 2021-22 Bloodhounds is listed below.

Do You Need Help Keeping Your Medicines Organized?



get **onePAC**

your medication made easy

free delivery or mailing

RASHID
PHARMACY & WELLNESS

2404 Avenue L, Ft. Madison, IA 52627

(319) 372-2300 | 1-800-794-2330

Weekdays - 8:00am to 8:00pm | Saturdays - 8:30am to 6:00pm | Sundays - 10:00am to 2:00pm

www.RashidDrug.com



HOLIDAY Boxes

WE CAN SHIP ANYWHERE IN THE U.S.

NO HASSLE, JUST ORDER ONLINE, CALL, OR STOP IN WE'LL TAKE CARE OF IT FROM THERE!

Farm Store Hours
Friday 12-6; Saturday 10-4
Sunday 12-4

www.hinterlanddairy.com

Choose a box we have put together, or we can custom make a box with any item or price you would like.

2149 Franklin Road | Donnellson, IA 52625 | 319.470.3919

Scene Around Town/For the Record



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

One of the newest floats in this year's downtown Lighted Christmas Parade was the CandyLand gingerbread house created for Silgan Containers. The lighted float was part of Friday's annual event downtown on Avenue G.

Follow Us @PenCityCurrent



Past. Present. Future.



Pilot Grove Savings Bank was established on May 12, 1911 when 23 investors pooled \$10,000 to meet the banking needs of the local community. Since that day, the Bank has continued to grow and prosper, serving customers in Southeast Iowa and the tri-state area as well as many other locations across the country. With customer loyalty on its side, Pilot Grove Savings Bank has prospered throughout the years. Now, with 14 offices, more than 100 employees, over \$760 million in assets and some of the most technologically advanced banking systems available, Pilot Grove Savings Bank's main goal remains as it was in 1911 - to serve the customer well.

Donnellson Fairfield Fort Madison
Houghton Keokuk Mt. Pleasant
Packwood Pilot Grove West Burlington
West Point Winfield



319-469-3951

www.PilotGroveSavingsBank.com

For the Record

Fort Madison Police report

11/22/21 - 11:54 a.m. - Fort Madison police cited Michelle Leanne Eid, 30, of Fort Madison, in the 3100 block of Avenue M, on a charge of driving under suspension.
11/22/21 - 3:03 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of larceny/theft in the 1500 block of Avenue H.
11/22/21 - 10:13 p.m. - Fort Madison police arrested Kelly Marie Calvin, 35, of Fort Madison, in the 1300 block of Avenue I, on a Henry County warrant for failure to appear and a charge of driving under suspension. She was taken to Lee County Jail.
11/23/21 - 7:52 a.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of larceny/theft in the 800 block of Avenue E.
11/23/21 - 11:20 a.m. - Fort Madison police arrested Ryne Steven Sackman, 29, of Fort Madison, in the 2600 block of Avenue L, on a warrant for failure to appear. He was taken to Lee County Jail.
11/23/21 - 12:53 p.m. - Fort Madison police cited Shelby Lynn Johnson, 30, of Fort Madison, in the 3000 block of Avenue K, on a charge of driving under suspension.
11/23/21 - 3:02 p.m. - Fort Madison police arrested Adam James Huss, 33, of Fort Madison, in the

4600 block of Avenue J, on warrants for trespass - injury/damage greater than \$300 and assault with bodily injury. He was taken to Lee County Jail.
11/23/21 - 4:18 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of a hit & run at the intersection of 17th Street and Avenue I.
11/23/21 - 10:04 p.m. - Fort Madison police arrested Larry Paul Whittemore, 52, of Fort Madison, in the 3100 block of Avenue M, on a warrant for disorderly conduct. He was taken to Lee County Jail.

Lee County Sheriff report

11/22/21 - 11:37 a.m. - Lee County sheriff deputies arrested David Michael Stephen Bloomer, 32, of Hamilton, Ill., in the 100 block of 7th Street, on a temporary hold. He was taken to Lee County Jail.
11/24/21 - 1:59 a.m. - Lee County sheriff deputies arrested Edouar Latwain Wilson, 45, of Cedar Rapids, at the North Lee County Courthouse, on a warrant for failure to appear. He was taken to Lee County Jail.

Those listed above are arrested or cited on a suspicion of a crime and are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.



DAILY FLIGHTS CHICAGO AND ST. LOUIS
SOUTHEAST IOWA REGIONAL AIRPORT



307 5th Street West Point | 319-837-6178
or 800-292-2208 | www.fullenkampins.com
Open Monday through Friday 7:30 - 5:00
& Saturday 8:30 - 11 or by appointment

Looking for Stability?

We have a long track record with the companies we represent, including:

- Nationwide - 58 years • IMT Insurance - 47 years
- Progressive - 37 years • United Fire Group - 37 years
- Continental Western Group - 27 years
- Auto Owners Insurance - 16 years

Auto • Home • Health • Business • Life • Farm • Crop

Serving Southeast Iowa, Northeast Missouri, & West-Central Illinois for 58 years

Sports/Lee County News

GIRLS BASKETBALL PREVIEW

Lady Hawks look for confidence

BY JOHN BOHNENKAMP
PCC SPORTS

DONNELSON – Central Lee’s girls basketball team lost an All-State player from last season when Mya Merschman graduated.

Merschman scored 607 points, had 195 rebounds, 56 steals, and 49 blocks, and was virtually unstoppable.

That’s a lot of production for the Hawks to make up this season.

“They’re going to have to step up, and I think they can do that,” coach Jay Baldwin said. “It’s a matter of confidence, and doing what we know they can do.”

Merschman was a dominant player, shooting 58 percent from the field and 83.5 percent in free throws. That kind of domination can lead to everyone else just letting her take over the game, Baldwin said.

“Mya was such a difference-maker,” he said. “You have a tendency to stand around and watch her, because she can do everything. Unfortunately, they did that sometimes. You can’t win with one player doing everything. Not that they were scared, but they knew if they got the ball to Mya, she would make things happen.”

There is plenty left on Central Lee’s roster, though.

“These kids, they have the ability,” Baldwin said.

“We know they can do it. They have to have confidence in themselves.”

Baldwin will get a full season of Alivia Myhre, who had to sit out part of last season because of transfer rules. She averaged 11.2 points in 10 games, adding 47 rebounds and 20 steals.

“She wanted to mesh to the point where she was being too nice, I guess,” Baldwin said. “Now she’s a lot more comfortable within the team.”

Junior Makayla Morrison is back after starting every game last season. Morrison, who averaged 8.9 points per game last season, led the Hawks with 57 assists.

“I think she is going to have another good year,”



Baldwin said. “You can see her confidence growing.”

Macy and Maura Watkins, who started last season, return for their senior season.

Macy was a key part of the Hawks’ defense, finishing second on the team with 35 steals.

“When we moved Macy to the top of our defense, it pretty much changed everything,” Baldwin said. “It made our defense more active. She looks the part this year even more.”

Maura averaged just two points per game, but had 69 rebounds, 27 assists and 26 steals.

“Maura can be a wild card, because she can do everything,” Baldwin said. “She can do a lot of things, it’s just getting her the confidence to do it.”

Abby Simmons, Karlie Pohren, Bailey Schwartz and Mya Lampe got some playing time last season as sophomores, and should play a bigger part in the rotation this season.

“All of those kids, the neat thing is they can play the same spots, which is good and bad,” Baldwin said.

“We really don’t have a big post presence. It’s going to be a lot of guards moving in and out.”

The Hawks will get to play their first season in the school’s new gym, which Baldwin thinks could have an impact.

“It’s nice to go in there and play,” Baldwin said.

“We’ve done a lot more breakdown drills — you’ve got 8 baskets you can work on.

“The kids really enjoy it. With our fan following, it’s going to be even better. I said, ‘This is our kitchen, and we’re going to do all of our cooking here.’”

LCC hosts reception to honor Unsworth

Farewell reception set for Tuesday at LCC center

LEE COUNTY – The Lee County Conservation (LCC) team invites everyone who has had the opportunity to meet and work with Nathan Unsworth to join them for a farewell party at the Lee County Conservation Center on Tuesday, November 30, between 4 p.m. – 6 p.m.

Unsworth recently accepted a new position with Scott County Conservation in Davenport.

Unsworth served as the Executive Director for the past 4.5 years. During Unsworth’s time with the LCC, the Conservation Board oversaw nearly \$1 million dollars in park improvements. These projects include campground improvements, the new playground at Pollmiller, the Fish Habitat Project at North Heron Bend, and the nearly completed new storage shop at the Lee County Conservation Center.

He has helped promote future conservation projects, including the Pool 19 Project that Jim Knoll is helping pursue. Unsworth worked with the Clark Family to protect the newly donated 162-acre area known as the “John H. Clark Wildlife Refuge” near Keokuk. He also served on several community working groups, and he is an active board member of the United Way of the Great River Region and the Iowa Environmental Council.

“While I’m sad to see Nathan go, I am also excited for him as he moves up in his career. I know he’ll be able to accomplish a great deal with Scott County Conservation, just like he has here. I am also confident that Nathan is leaving LCC in a better place than when he got here, and our team will keep meeting and exceeding the goals he has helped us create,” Caroline Veihl, LCC’s Administrative And Outreach Coordinator, said

Unsworth’s final day with LCC will be on December 3rd. The LCC Board is currently in the process of hiring the next Executive Director.

Subscribe to #PCC today

Free and Paid Options Available.



PEN CITY CURRENT
It's Black & White and Red all over

TEXT AND WHATEVER JUST DON'T TEXT AND



STOPTEXTSSTOPWRECKS.ORG






Pothitakis Dentistry
proudly welcomes

Dr. Ali Bassler

Dr. Bassler is now accepting patients

Fort Madison Family Dentistry West
319-372-4882
Tuesdays & Thursdays 8:30am-4:30pm

Burlington Dental Associates
319-753-2515
Mondays & Wednesdays 8:30am-4:30pm

www.DrMarkDDS.com

Classifieds/Public Notices

PEN CITY CURRENT CLASSIFIEDS

PUBLIC NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICE FINAL PUBLIC NOTICE

The City of Fort Madison, Iowa has applied for Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Public Assistance (PA) Program funding through Iowa's Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division (IHSEMD) as a sub-recipient.

Under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), federal actions must be reviewed and evaluated for feasible alternatives and for social, economic, historic, environmental, legal, and safety considerations. Under Executive Order (EO) 11988 and EO 11990, FEMA is required to consider alternatives, and to provide a public notice of any proposed actions in or affecting floodplains or wetlands. EO 12898 also requires FEMA to provide the opportunity for public participation in the planning process and to consider potential impacts to minority and low-income populations.

This notice may also fulfill requirements under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA).

Funding for the pro-

posed project will be conditional upon compliance with all applicable federal, tribal, state, and local laws, regulations, floodplain standards, permit requirements and conditions.

Sub-Applicant: City of Fort Madison

Project Title: 109615-Marina Rip Rap, PA-07-IA-4421-PW-00341

Location of Proposed Work:

•At the Fort Madison Marina and Riverview Park along the Mississippi River from approximately 40.62873, -91.299679 to 40.628423, -91.304801.

•Work area is downstream of the Fort Madison Bridge.

Special Flood Hazard Area Zone:

This project will perform work in the AE Zone, the area of 1% annual chance of flooding, and in the floodway per Lee County FIRM panel 19111C0218D, dated 7.22.2020.

Proposed Work and Purpose:

The City of Fort Madison will construct an improved project at the marina (40.628676, -91.302645), consisting of a new jetty wall that will be realigned and raised

to the 500-year elevation, which will help control the sediment that enters the marina due to overtopping at its pre-disaster elevation(s). The core trench of the new jetty will be constructed of pit run rock to just above water level. Compacted earthen embankment and pit run rock will also be utilized above water level. The relocated jetty will be approximately 15 ft wide on top with a 2ft /1ft slope using rip rap for the slope and toe of the jetty. The improved project will not change the use of the land. The improved jetty will be lengthened modestly and built to a higher elevation (level of the 500yr storm). Sediments deposited in the marina during over-topping events will be dredged and the existing jetty removed. The dredged sediments and existing materials will all be placed in Riverview Park to help raise the park area above the 100-year flood elevation.

Project Alternatives:

Alternative #1 (No Action): The no-action alternative would not be appropriate because it would leave the Fort Madison Marina jetty wall subject to future overtopping and the marina subject to future flooding and accumulation of sediment rendering it potentially unusable in the future in the event of flooding.

Alternative #2 (Repair

In-Kind): Work could restore the existing jetty wall to current location and elevation by replacing 1,666.6667 CY of rip rap 750 FT long x 40 FT wide x 1.5 FT deep. This option would not be appropriate as it would leave the Fort Madison Marina and Riverview Park susceptible to future flooding.

Alternative #3 (Jetty wall realignment and elevation): This is the option being pursued by this grant. Work will construct a new jetty wall that will be realigned and raised to the 500-year elevation, which will help control the sediment that enters the marina due to overtopping at its pre-disaster elevation(s) and will protect the marina and Riverview Park from flooding during future events.

Comment Period:

This will serve as the final public notice regarding the above-described action funded by the FEMA PA program. All comments received can be submitted online, via email, to FEMA at teri.toye@fema.dhs.gov. Please use the subject line: "IA-4421-PW-341, City of Fort Madison Marina Rip Rap".

Interested persons may also submit comments and questions in writing, or request a map of this specific project, by writing to the Federal Emergency Management Agency, Region 7, 11224

Holmes Road; Kansas City, MO 64131. Written comments should be sent with the subject line "IA-4421-PW-341, City of Fort Madison Marina Rip Rap", to the above address within 15 days of the date of posting.

All comments are due by no later than 15 days

HELP WANTED

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT POSITION

The City of Fort Madison is taking applications for a Full-Time Administrative Assistant for the Planning, Zoning, Building and Fire Departments. Duties include answering the telephone, billing for the fire department and housing and nuisance abatement programs. The position will also respond to routine questions and requests regarding the rental housing inspection program, nuisance abatement, permits and zoning regulations as well as coordinate the rental program and assist with nuisance abatement paperwork. The City of Fort Madison provides equal opportunity in employment to all persons regardless of age, race, creed, color, sex, national origin, religion or disability. A complete job description is available at www.fortmadison-ia.com. Applicants must fill out a job application (available at www.fortmadison-ia.com) and submit a resume to dkrogmeier@fortmadison-ia.com. Applications will be taken until the position is filled.

of the posted date of this notice.

POSTED ON: November 26, 2021
End of Notice

HELP WANTED

We're Not Southeast Iowa's Favorite Dental Office Without Our Great Team

APPLY TODAY TO JOIN US!

Pothitakis Dentistry currently needs a Full-Time Hygienist.

Complete an application at or mail your resume to
1223 S. Gear Avenue,
Eastman Plaza, Suite 302
West Burlington, IA 52655
or email burldental@gmail.com
EOE



POTHITAKIS DENTISTRY

LINEMAN/ GROUNDMAN

The West Point Municipal Utility System has an immediate opening for a Lineman/ Groundman.

Applicant must be able to assist with electrical power line construction, maintenance, and repair. You install both aerial and underground lines and monitor transformer function. Your duties include assembling and preparing the line apparatus, digging holes, operating utility vehicles, reading and recording meters, stocking trucks, using hand and power tools, and cleaning up the area after project completion. A lineman/ groundman works regular hours, but you must also be available for any after hour call outs and emergencies.

Must be willing and capable to work on water distribution maintenance and repair and to be or become Grade 1 water distribution certified.

Must either have or be willing to obtain a CDL and comply with Iowa CDL regulations.

We offer a comprehensive benefit plan including IPERS and health and dental coverage.

Send a confidential resume. Pre-employment physical and drug screening will be required.

West Point Utility System
313 5th Street
PO Box 69
West Point, IA. 52656
cityofwestpointiowa@gmail.com

Scotts MiracleGro in Ft. Madison has new opportunities to join their team!



\$1000 SIGN-ON BONUS!

Available Positions

Machine Operators \$19.00 per hour
Forklift Operators \$21.30 per hour
Production Supervisor (Rotating 1st/2nd Shift)
Warehouse Supervisor (Nights)

Benefits Package Includes

- 13 Company Paid Holidays annually (Including 2 paid days off for Independence Day, 2 paid days off for Thanksgiving and 3 paid days off for Christmas!)
- 12 Vacation Days annually
- 401k match above associate contribution
- Medical/Dental/Vision
- And more!

We're really proud of our Total Health Programs that offer Wellness Incentives that can reduce your monthly insurance premiums by up to \$110 each for yourself and your covered Spouse/Domestic Partner, enhanced Sick Time Benefits, expanded Parental Leave and so much more.

For full job descriptions and more information on these and other opportunities visit us at www.scottsmiraclegro.com/careers

CLICK HERE TO PLACE YOUR AD NOW



WE'RE HIRING

Deadline: December 6th

Executive Administrative Assistant

Lee County Economic Development Group is offering an opportunity to join a dynamic organization and serve in a key support role as Executive Administrative Assistant to the President and CEO.

This right-hand staff person aids the President and CEO and team with clerical and project management assistance, coordinates Board and committee meetings, processes minutes, and serves as a general office administrator.

For full job description and to apply visit
www.LeeCountyEDG.com/openings

Lee County EDG is an equal opportunity employer

Classifieds

BUSINESS DIRECTORY

Call Lee at 319.371.4125 today to advertise!

Auto Detailing • Car Wash • Sign Rental

Turbo Wash

(319) 372-WASH (9274)
Fort Madison

Gift certificates available

Locally owned & operated

Patrick Profeta
General Manager

Keokuk Auto Credit

We Tote the Note

No Credit Check Low Weekly Payments

www.keokukautocredit.com

1728 Main Keokuk, IA 52632 Office: 319-524-2334 Fax: 319-524-2373

Complete Comfort. Affordable Price.

YORK®

Full Service HVAC Company

Serving Fort Madison, Burlington, and surrounding areas with over 30 Years Experience!

Ft. Madison: 319-372-4328
Burlington: 319-752-4328
All Areas: 877-380-4328

24 Hour Service • Never An Overtime Charge
FREE Estimates • Servicing All Makes

www.YourHeatAndAirGuy.com

Buying or Selling? Call Karen first!

- Real Knowledge
- Real Experience
- Real Dedication

HOPE ASSOCIATES REAL ESTATE

Karen Hope
(319) 372-4040

Real Results!

General Insects Termites Mice Bed Bugs

Cullen PEST CONTROL

(319) 372-1060

Toll Free 1-888-818-7378
Email: cullenpest@hotmail.com
www.cullenpest.com

Residential Commercial "Cause who needs bugs?"

YEAR END SAVINGS

50% OFF FRAMES

SCHEDULE YOUR EYE EXAM TODAY!

IEC2020.com

IEC International Eyecare Center

*Restrictions apply. See practice for full details. 21IEC-236701

YOUR AD HERE

Call Lee
(319) 371.4125

KEMPKER'S True Value RENTAL

Treating our customers like family since 1970

Fort Madison • Burlington • Mount Pleasant

www.kempkerstruevalue.com

WEDDING & EVENT CENTER

Small GRAND Things
Grand Things Happen Here

Danielle Neaves & Ann Newton Neaves

319.837.8132

1903 West Point Rd West Point, IA 52656
[Facebook/Instagram/Pinterest](https://www.facebook.com/smallgrandthings) smallgrandthings.com

DODD PRINTING & STATIONERY

Business Cards Photo Correction Flyers Office Supplies Vinyl Banners T-Shirt Printing

Coffee Mugs Posters Art Supplies Printing Office Furniture Trifold Brochures

621 Avenue G Fort Madison, IA doddprinting.com 319.372.2721

ENJOY FREE DELIVERY TO FORT MADISON, KEOKUK, BURLINGTON & THE SURROUNDING AREAS!

How can chiropractic therapy help you?

BENEFITS OF CHIROPRACTIC

- Improved joint mobility, function, and health
- Decreased degeneration of joints and connective tissues
- Improved circulation
- Increased energy, vitality, and improved sleep
- and many, many more

DR. ROBERT BROCKMAN
Brockman Chiropractic
2311 Avenue L, Suite 3, Fort Madison • 319-372-3800
<http://brockmanchiropracticdrbob.com/>

Extremity Adjustment Myofascial Relaxation Cranial Adjustment Muscle Facilitation

This little piggy went to market

— AND NEVER LOST MONEY! —

Banking on the market to fund your retirement can be risky. I can help you lock in solid gains and protect yourself from downside risk. Call me today.

Larry Holtkamp
1301 37th St
Fort Madison
(319) 372-9145
LARRYHOLTAMP.COM

FARM BUREAU FINANCIAL SERVICES

1Surrender of the contract may be subject to surrender charges. Withdrawals before age 59 1/2 may result in a 10% IRS penalty tax. Additionally, there is a charge for the Simple7 Income Rider once it is activated. Qualifications and restrictions apply for activation. Farm Bureau Life Insurance Company *West Des Moines, IA. *Company provider of Farm Bureau Financial Services A141 (9-17)

Nursing Rehabilitation Long-Term Care

Montrose HEALTH CENTER

319-463-5438

WHERE COMPASSION & QUALITY COME FIRST

Short-Term Rehabilitation Long-Term Care Memory Care Ventilator Care

The Madison senior living

kind • compassionate • care

NOW HIRING RN, LPN, & CNA POSITIONS

Dirty Dog Detailing & Boarding

Grooming by appointment
Monday, Wednesday, Friday & Saturday
319-371-9044

2090 250th St, Donnellson, IA 52625
Owners Barb Ball & Natalie Gauma
Family owned & operated

Over 31 Years Combined Professional Animal Experience

From the Front

PAW planning online auction Monday

STORE - Continued from Page 1

home," Brown said.

Adults used to be able to shop the Santa Store at the end of the season to find those gifts, but Brown said they wanted to try something different this year to allow the adults to grab up some of those items for gifts in a yard sale structure, while also opening up the Santa Store to them.

Staff will also be accepting debit cards as payment during the adult shopping sessions. Adults 18 and older will be able to shop the store Saturday. They will also be given the same deal with a \$5 donation getting a pick of six different items.

The next two Saturdays, Dec 4 and 11, the Santa Store will be open to children 17 and under only. Adults will still be able to shop the yard sale room, but won't be allowed into the Santa Store where children will be shopping for family members. Children will also be able to pick out six

items for a \$5 donation.

On Saturday, Dec. 18, the store will be open from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. to the general public. Whatever is left on the adult yard sale will be able to be purchased and everyone will be allowed into traditional store as well.

Brown said she is always looking for volunteers and donations.

"We're still looking for elves to volunteer each Saturday. They would need to show up at 9:30 a.m. using the alley entrance. And any high school students volunteering will have their hours go to community service requirements for graduation," she said.

The pandemic made things difficult for the Santa Store last year, but Brown said it obviously has been difficult on families as well.

"Last year was tough, and this year is still tough and there are families out there that would like to get some

of these items and on a budget they can afford. Adults can come and buy gifts for their children and maybe even something for themselves," she said.

Anyone wishing to donate can drop items off Monday through Wednesday this coming week between 6 p.m. and 8 p.m. through the alleyway door on the far west side of the back of the Aldi's building. Donations are also accepted today until 3 p.m.

Also new this year is an on-line auction that can be accessed through the PAW Facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/PAW-Fort-Madison-Animal-Shelter-179648212052707>. The auction is set to start Monday.

"You can bid on watches, area items, Christmas items, animal items. This isn't just all dog and cat stuff. We've got hair products, Kingsley Inn stays and lots of neat items on there, too," Brown said.

New highway, depot gives warm feel to city

FEELS - Continued from Page 1

depot platform.

It just has a whole different feel and that's the best way to describe it at this point, because it's not complete.

The stretch of lighting that runs along the new passenger platform at the new train depot is extremely welcoming and warm.

Now you add to it the lights that were newly installed along the new 3-lane stretch of Avenue H from the Burlington Northern Santa Fe bridge to 10th Street, and we're getting somewhere. Our daughter smiled when she saw it and then was blown away at the site of Riverview Park.

When I explained what all was happening this girl, who all but grew up in Fort Madison after the 3rd grade, simply said, "Good."

That's not such a simple sentiment, but encapsulates the mood around the work.

"Good."

I think former Mayor Steve Ireland would be proud of what's happening, and to that end, former Mayor Brad Randolph who ran with the project to honor the late Ireland.

We're literally weeks away from the first passenger train stopping at the new depot in Riverview Park. The only thing holding it up is an Amtrak Platform sign that simply reads "Fort Madison." Until that sign is in place, Amtrak won't let the trains stop there.

I'm hoping to get on board with a VIP stretch on the train from Galesburg. I think it will be interesting to get a wide range of perspectives of those involved in the project as the train winds through the ag fields of Illinois before moving along Dallas City and Pontoo-suc with the Fort Madison shore across the Mississippi River.

We're bringing the historical significance of the railroad and the value it carries back to Fort Madison's riverfront. It might be beneficial to see the history carried forward in our downtown businesses. Black and white's and color photography, both bringing history to life in our downtown district would be another way to capitalize on the depot relocation.

A lot of skeptics make the point that not enough Amtrak traffic and short stop times make the investment in the relocation a poor investment of taxpayer dollars.

But if the city and the district seize the opportunity and make it something that rail fans would appreciate, it could provide a bigger economic factor that we think.

If you don't agree, just look at the Kingsley Inn railcam. People are very interested in the rail activity in Fort Madison. I lived in Rochelle, Illinois where there was what was called a Diamond Crossing. This crossing was where Union Pacific and BNSF lines crossed, right there in town.

The city built a park around the crossing and landscaped it so it looked like the trains were coming up off a hill almost like they were coming up from the ground. A shelter house was also built at the crossing and there were speakers added so enthusiasts could hear the engineers communicating with each other at the crossing.

Then they created a "Hobo Days" and made a Saturday event around the facility.

I'm not advocating or saying that we need to be an old-fashioned rail stop, but how cool would that be. You already have a sodajerk at Shug's downtown. You've got coffee, art, history, shopping, even a movie theater.

And now the city council and the mayor want serious talks about the sidewalks and curbing that can go with new streets along Avenue G.

I don't know. It feels different. But it feels pretty good, too.

Thanksgiving's come and gone, but I got a gift from the city and I'm thankful for the removal of the "No Parking" signs and the stop signs in my neighborhood - But that's Beside the Point.

Chuck Vandenberg is editor and co-owner of Pen City Current and can be reached at charles.v@pencitycurrent.com.

Lee County Health Department Pfizer (5-11) Vaccine Clinic

**LEE
CHD**

Tuesday, November 30, 2021

LCHD, #3 John Bennett Dr, Fort Madison

3:00pm-7:00pm

**Appointments required - to schedule
call (319)372-5225**

A parent/guardian must be present

Paperwork for the clinic can be found
at www.leecountyhd.org or on the
LCHD Facebook page.



www.leecountyhd.org ~ 319.372.5225 ~ 800.458.6672



Puttin' on the Glitz

ALL ABOARD THE EXPRESS TRAIN TO MAIN

DECEMBER • 3 • 2021 | 3:30 - 9:00 PM

TAKE THE TRIP TO DOWNTOWN KEOKUK

SHOP & DINE ON THE MOST MAGICAL NIGHT OF THE YEAR

STROLLING CAROLERS | MCNAMARA'S BAND | SANTA | GLITZ GAME
HOT COCOA AT THE MAIN STREET KEOKUK TICKET BOOTH

OVER 30 PARTICIPATING DOWNTOWN RETAILERS & RESTAURANTS



Grand Prize Chances

\$10 | AVAILABLE IN GLITZ PARTICIPATING BUSINESSES

FUNDS FROM THE SALE OF GRAND PRIZE CHANCES WILL BENEFIT OUR 2021 CHARITY OF CHOICE

KEOKUK UNION DEPOT FOUNDATION

TO MATCH THE 2020 JEFFRIS FAMILY FOUNDATION CHALLENGE GRANT CAPITAL CAMPAIGN FOR RESTORATION OF THE KEOKUK UNION DEPOT