

PEN CITY CURRENT

It's Black & White and Read all over

Thursday, January 27, 2022 | 7 pages | Volume 6 • Issue 27



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Fire destroys FM home



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Fort Madison firefighters work on a fire in the second story of a home at 1635 Avenue L Wednesday afternoon. Two residents were home at the time of the fire but escaped the structure before FMFD arrived at the scene.

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – A fire that started as a result of a wood burning stove in a home in the 1600 block of Avenue L, has resulted in the home possibly being destroyed.

Firefighters were called to 1635 Avenue L at about 11:15 a.m. Wednesday for a home on fire. Initial reports were that two residents were trapped in the home.

However, according to Fort Madison Fire Chief Joey Herren, the two had gotten out of the structure before firefighters arrived on scene.

Herren said the fire started somewhere in the chimney from a fire burning in a wood burner in the living room.

“There was some issue in the chimney and it started in that area and then got outside of the chimney and onto the outside of the building on the second floor,” Herren said.

“I thought it was going to get away from us for a bit. We couldn’t get the aerial ladder to it because of all the wires and trees in the way.”

Firefighters initially fought the fire from the outside, blasting foam and water into the second story window and then ventilated the first floor to allow crews to get into a second floor bedroom.

Herren said the fire got up into the attic and damaged the roof and the west side of the home.

See FIRE, page 7

SCHOOL NEWS

Heat, staffing issues hinder classes at Richardson

District apologizes for not notifying families of the situations

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – A broken pipe and some staffing issues made it a tough day for Richardson Elementary School on Tuesday.

According to Superintendent Dr. Erin Slater, the district experienced a boiler issue at the elementary school causing a lack of heat in first grade classrooms and the media center.

Slater said the students were immediately relocated to other areas of the building until the issue was corrected by district maintenance staff. However, scheduled visits to the media center in the morning for book checkouts and story times were still held while students were wearing jackets and hats.

The district also experienced a staff shortage at the school the same day in food services and students were provided a field trip lunch rather than a hot lunch.

Parents weren’t notified of the changes via PowerSchool or other means and Slater said the district apologized for not getting that done.

“Fort Madison strives to be transparent. At times, we may fall short of meeting that goal in a timely fashion,” Slater wrote in an email Wednesday afternoon.

“Our priority is always the safety of our students and staff. We also strive for timely and consistent communication as much as possible with our families. We apologize that a timely notification was not sent yesterday and we appreciate the feedback and comments that have been



SLATER

See SCHOOL, page 6

FUNDRAISER

Rotary calendars feature local photography, landmarks

FORT MADISON - There is still an opportunity to purchase 2022 calendars from Fort Madison Rotary for yourself or friends/family who once called Fort Madison their home.

These are beautiful pictures taken IN Fort Madison by local photographers: Jerry Granaman, a renowned photog-

rapher and long time resident of Fort Madison. More of his featured works can be seen at the Fort Madison Area Arts Association.

Vincent Garza, a 40 plus year resident of Fort Madison, who enjoys photography as one of his many hobbies. He specializes in photography of trains.

Julie Long, who enjoys photographing her hometown, Fort Madison, Iowa, and sharing her work with others. More of her photography can also be seen at the Fort Madison Area Arts Association.

Chris Swed, a local businessman with a

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WEATHER

THU 27 Jan.....Overcast, 32° F/16° F
FRI 28 Jan.....Cloudy & Cold, 18° F/8° F
SAT 29 Jan.....Scattered Clouds, 30° F/11° F

IOWA LOTTERY

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MEGA MILLIONS 01/25.....3 12 38 53 58, Mega Ball: 13 Megaplier: 3
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PICK 4 01/25 MIDDAY.....3155
PICK 4 01/25 EVENING.....2257

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Obituaries

OBITUARIES

CAROL F. DAUGHTERS

Carol Frances Daughters, 79, of Donnellson, IA, formerly of Keokuk, died on Saturday, January 22, 2022 at the Southeast Iowa Regional Medical Center in Fort Madison, IA.



She was born on February 17, 1942 in Keokuk, IA, the daughter of Carl and Elaine (Moore) Daughters.

She had been employed at Park Ridge Workshop in Montrose, IA.

Carol was a member of the Riverside Baptist Church in Burlington, IA.

Carol enjoyed working on jigsaw puzzles and looking at books. She loved jewelry and wore it every day. She was an avid Elvis fan and loved to listen and sing along to his music. In her younger years, she was a people person and never knew a stranger.

She is survived by her brother, Curtis Daughters (Jana) of Burlington, IA, her sister-in-law, Linda Daughters of Keokuk, nieces and nephews, Tara Daughters of Denver, CO, Jessica Leshner of Fort Madison, Todd Daughters of Ft. Madison and Tim Daughters of Burlington, great nieces and nephews, Trenton Blint, Elic Daughters and Alivia Blint and several cousins.

She was preceded in death by her parents and two brothers, Delbert Wayne Daughters and Ronald Lee Daughters.

A funeral service will be held at 1:00 p.m., Thursday, January 27, 2022 at the Vigen Memorial Home in Keokuk, IA. Burial will be in the Keokuk National Cemetery. The service will be live-streamed on Carol's obituary page (tribute wall) at www.vigenmemorialhome.com.

Visitation will be held prior to the service from 12 noon - 1:00 p.m., Thursday, at the funeral home with the family meeting with friends at that time.

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

OBITUARIES

NANCY L. BUNNELL

Nancy Lorena Bunnell, 77, of Argyle, Iowa, passed away at 7:12 a.m. Wednesday, January 26, 2022, at her home in Argyle, Iowa.

She was born on June 27, 1944, in Keokuk, Iowa, the daughter of Riley V. and Ruth (Phillips) Bryant. On December 8, 1963, she married Paul LeRoy Bunnell, Sr. at First Christian Church in Keokuk, Iowa. He preceded her in death on January 16, 2018.



BUNNELL

She is survived by her four sons: Michael (Claudette) Bunnell of Keosauqua, Iowa, Paul, Jr. (Patty) Bunnell of Montrose, Iowa, Andrew (Teri) Bunnell, Sr. of Farmington, Iowa and David (Mescha) Bunnell of West Point, Iowa; one daughter: Marcia (Bill) DeBrackelerie of Argyle, Iowa; twenty grandchildren: Evan, Jessica, Cheyenne, Matthew, Dakota, Josh, Dakota, Jacki, Andy, Jr., Michael, Noah, Cory, Elijah, Abigail, Kelsie, Kimberly, Tanner, Bethany, Hope, James and Cassidy; twenty-five great grandchildren and one sister: Martha "Susie" Fuller of Quincy, Illinois. Also surviving are several nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband: Paul, Sr.; brother: Ed Bryant and sister: Ruth "Fuff" Gosnell.

Nancy received her Bachelor of Science in Nursing. She retired from Fort Madison Community Hospital. She was a member of Living Waters Assembly of God Church in Keokuk and the Red Hatters. She was active in women's ministry. Nancy enjoyed watching birds and animals, word searches, knick knacks (especially Ty Beanie Babies), watching classic television shows, her family, especially her grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Friends may call from 12:00 noon to 5:00 p.m. Sunday, January 30, 2022, at Schmitz Funeral Home in Donnellson, where the family will receive friends from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. that afternoon.

A funeral service will be held at 10:00 a.m. Monday, January 31, 2022, at Schmitz Funeral Home in Donnellson with Andy Bunnell officiating.

Burial will be at Argyle Memorial Gardens, rural Argyle, Iowa.

A memorial has been established in her memory to the Central Lee Foundation for a nursing scholarship.

Online condolences may be made to the family at www.schmitzfuneralhomes.com. Schmitz Funeral Home of Donnellson is assisting the family with arrangements.

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Pen City Current obituary policy

Pen City Current runs obituaries one time at no charge to funeral homes and they run the day they are submitted in most cases. They are also run as submitted by the funeral homes. Reposting of obituaries due to changes can only be requested by the submitting funeral home and will be assessed a \$15 reposting fee.

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Sports

Ross goes for 37 as Lady Hounds roll Clark County

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

KAHOKA – If Head Coach Tony Sargent had known senior Malarie Ross was one point away from setting the school record for single-game scoring, he would have left her in to chase it down.



ROSS

But the Bloodhound came away with a game-high 37 points, the second time in her career at Fort Madison that she's hit the mark, as Fort Madison downed Clark County 63-40 in Kahoka Tuesday night.

The Lady Hounds traded buckets with Clark County's Alexis Ellison, who surpassed 1,000 points in her career last week, as the two squads racked up 33 first-quarter points in a fast-paced up-and-down the court as Ross put in 12 of Fort Madison's first 18.

Aija Jenkins opened the scoring for Fort Madison and then Anna Lynk converted a 3-pointer before Ross rattled off 12 straight points, the last coming on an almost-patented drive and scoop shot in the lane to give Fort Madison a 17-15 lead.

Molly Knipe added a free throw for an 18-15 first quarter lead. The Hounds would miss their last three shots of the first period while holding Clark County from getting off a shot for three straight possessions.

Clark County's Hope Ross would convert a 3-point play to cut the lead to four at 22-18, but Fort Madison would pull away from that point, opening up a 12-point halftime lead at 35-23.

Head Coach Tony Sargent said Missouri has a little different style of officiating which works well for the Lady Hounds style.

"They let you play down here. The referees do a good job. I like it when they let you play through a little bit," he said.

Fort Madison stretched the lead in the third period and



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Fort Madison junior Camille Kruse drives in the second half of Tuesday's 63-40 win over Clark County. Senior Malarie Ross was one point from the school single-game scoring mark with 37 points on the night.

went up by 22 when Camille Kruse slid a nice bounce pass under her defender to streaking Ross who finished the play to put the Hounds up 49-27.

Ellison would bury her fourth 3-pointer of the game on her way to a team-high 23 points with about 4 minutes left in the game to cut the lead to 17 at 55-38, but the Indians would get no closer as Fort Madison put the game away.

Sargent said more girls got involved in the game in oth-

er roles and that will be needed as the Hounds hit a heavy part of the schedule.

"I thought we got more people involved in the offense. We still need to do a better job of that. Camille didn't hit much tonight, but her presence was important," he said.

"Malarie didn't miss much tonight I don't think, and had a handful of and-1s, and she had some nice passes tonight, too."

Sargent said Molly Knipe and Taylor Johnson both had good nights rebounding and he'll need that play for the upcoming stretch.

"We play Thursday and Saturday, and then play the 1st, 3rd, 4th, 5th, and 7th. So we got a lot of games in a short period of time," he said.

"It doesn't concern me a lot. We got two against Burlington, and one against Washington so those should be a little easier on us and give us some room," Sargent said.

Ross went 6 of 9 at the freethrow line. She leads the state in freethrows made with 99 on the year and is second in freethrows attempted with 132.

The Bloodhounds improve to 9-3 overall with the win. They travel to Fairfield (9-5) on Thursday in a Southeast Conference battle. The Trojans are 6-1 in the conference in second place and hold a 46-38 win over the Bloodhounds earlier this season.

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Pen City Current, www.PenCityCurrent.com, and Pen e-Saver are products of Market Street Publishing, LLC. Pen City Current is published Monday through Friday mornings by 6AM.

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Interested applicants may submit an application, or resume and cover letter, to:

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Applications will be accepted through January 28, 2022.

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Local photogs featured in Rotary fundraising calendar

CALENDARS - Continued from Page 1

penchant for photography. He owns and operates Swed & Co Coffee and the FoxTheater in Fort Madison.

These gorgeous photographs of favorite sites in Fort Madison are in a calendar format and can be purchased for \$10 from any Rotarian or stop by at the Fort Madison Partners office at 614 7th Street (the historical Cattermole Library.)

Fort Madison Rotary has spent more than 100 years in service to the community, supporting many local projects.

Fundraisers such as this helps supports donations of coats, scarves and mittens to local school students; annually awarding three \$1000 scholarships for area students; sending several high school youth annually to a week long leadership training experience: RYLA (Rotary Youth Leadership Awards) and middle school students to YRYLA (Young RYLA); donating to MOST (Miles of Smiles), and repairs and improvements at Central Park.

School officials regret not informing parents

SCHOOL - Continued from Page 1

shared with the district and we will continue to learn and grow alongside our students."

The district attempted multiple times over the past five years to entice voters into building a new consolidated elementary building on the school district campus off Bluff Road, but district residents voted down the proposals each time, with a supermajority of 60%+1

vote required to pass bond referendums in Iowa.

The district recently announced plans to move all elementary students into the Middle School on the campus, while 7th-12th grades will be relocated to the current High School. Plans for both projects, totaling more than \$30 million, are underway with construction planned for 2023.

State's jobless rate falls to 3.5% in December

DES MOINES, IOWA – Iowa's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell to 3.5 percent in December, down from 3.7 percent in November and 3.7 percent a year ago. The U.S. unemployment rate dropped to 3.9 percent.

The total number of unemployed Iowans decreased to 57,900 in December, down 3,800 from November.

The total number of working Iowans increased to 1,604,800 in December. This figure is 5,200 higher than Novem-

ber and 45,200 higher than one year ago.

The labor force participation rate increased slightly to 66.9 percent.

"Growth and recovery continue throughout Iowa, with positive trends across many sectors of our state's economy," said Beth Townsend, Director of Iowa Workforce Development. "More than 45,000 Iowans joined the employed last year as Iowa reignited its focus on job growth and getting citizens back to work."

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Sports/From the Front

No. 7 Notre Dame runs away late from Lady Hawks

Schwartz fires in six 3-balls to lead Central Lee with 18 points in loss

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

DONNELSON – The Central Lee Lady Hawks hung around with 7th-ranked (Class 1A) Burlington Notre Dame for three quarters before the Nikes pulled away for the win.

Notre Dame outscored the Hawks 20-8 over the fourth quarter Tuesday night to remain undefeated at 15-0 overall and 12-0 in the Southeast Iowa Superconference South.



Bailey Schwartz turned things up for Central Lee with four first-half 3-pointers enroute to a game-high and season-high 18 points. She shot 46% from beyond the arc, but Central Lee shot a cooler 31% from the field as a team.

Notre Dame raced out to a 16-10 first quarter lead, but

the Hawks straightened things out in the second quarter outscoring the conference front-runners 14-12 to cut the lead to four 28-24 at the break.

The Hawks got within two points at 34-32 with three minutes left in the half, but Notre Dame would regain the momentum and run off a 29-8 rally leaving Central Lee in the wake.

Mya Lampe was in double figures with 11 points and handed out five assists for Central Lee. Makayla Morrison added five and led the Hawks with seven boards. Alivia Myhre had six rebounds.

Lauren Krieger led Notre Dame with 16 points. Gabby Deery had 13.

The Hawks go to Holy Trinity Catholic on Friday night to take on the Crusaders (10-7, 10-4). Central Lee falls to 10-6 on the year, 9-4 in the SEISC South.

Firefighters save pets from burning home

FIRE - Continued from Page 1

According to Beacon Schneider, the home is listed as being owned by Danny and Linda Reiter. The building was valued at \$10,560. Herren said the building was uninsured because of the wood burning stove.

“I would assume without it being insured and the damage that was done that it probably can’t be salvaged,” Herren said.

Herren also said the fire call was different logistically because responding firefighters on staff were all at different locations around the city and everyone arrived at different times.

LeeComm did issue an all-shift call for the fire, which is typical in structure fires to make sure extra staff is on hand to fight the fire, as well as to respond to other calls that may come in at the same time.

Lee County EMS, Fort Madison Police Department, and Alliant Energy were also on the scene to assist.

No one was injured in the fire, but firefighters were able to rescue three cats from the structure. All three survived.

“They were a little mad, but they all survived,” Herren said.

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