

PEN CITY CURRENT

It's Black & White and Read all over

Friday, March 13, 2020 | 6 pages | Volume 4 • Issue 54



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City youth sports in transition

BASEBALL: Academy founder, complex director partner to keep local baseball going

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – Little League softball and baseball may very well be a thing of the past in rural parts of America where numbers are limited.

But Fort Madison volunteers are still working to put programs in place for anyone that still wants to play.

Jeff Woodside, of the Baxter Sports Complex said numbers for the community baseball program have been dropping for the past years, despite efforts to reduce the hurdles to kids playing.

“Years ago, the city gave the programs to the YMCA and we

took over the programming a couple years ago,” Woodside said. “The numbers have been steadily dropping throughout those years.”

Woodside said he though removing barriers such as fees would have brought the dwindling program back up to sustainable numbers.

“There’s really nothing else we could from a generating interest standpoint. My hope was to make it free and there would 200 kids that wanted to play and we could bring Little League itself back to Fort Madison, but it’s gone the opposite direction,

See BALL, page 6

CORONAVIRUS

Central Lee says school will go on

DM public schools cancel for 17 days starting Monday

The following is a letter from Central Lee School District Dr. Andy Crozier regarding planning for the district following spring break.

Central Lee Family,

As we near our Spring Break, I wanted to take a moment to update you on the coronavirus impact on the Central Lee Community School District.

At the conclusion of our school day on Thursday, our students will be dismissed for our regularly scheduled Spring Break, which lasts until Monday, March 23. I know many parents are beginning to wonder if we will hold classes after Spring Break. As of right now, our plan is to continue with school on March 23.



CROZIER

Over the next several days, we will continue to be in contact with our local partners at the Department of Health, the police department, and our health care professionals. They are providing us with guidance on how we can best maintain a safe and healthy learning environment. Over Spring Break, we are taking extra precautions to prevent illness in our school community. This includes deep cleaning and increasing our use of disinfectants on “high-touch” surfaces like doorknobs and handles.

For now, there is no recommendation to close schools in our district by the Iowa Department of Public Health or the Department of Education. As always, we must balance our need to maintain good public health with our need to provide

See CENTRAL LEE, page 4

SEISC Science fair

Holy Trinity Catholic junior John Stinson talks with a judge Thursday morning at the Southeast Iowa Superconference Science Fair. The fair was held at the John H. Witte Jr., Hall of Science on the Southeastern Community College West Burlington campus. Stinson’s project looked at morality through a series of focused questions to determine behavior.



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg

STATE NEWS

Governor signs \$85.5 million education funding bill

Allowable growth bill signed before budgets due

DES MOINES– Today Gov. Reynolds signed SF 2142 which provides \$85.5

million in new state funding for regular program budgets in the 2020-21 school year. This funding comes at a critical time for school districts looking to finalize their budgets for the coming school year.

“Iowans can be proud of the commitment we’re making to our preK-12

schools across the state, and not just with new money, but in programs and initiatives that support educators and prepare our students for a disruptive 21st century economy,” said Gov. Reynolds. “Tomorrow’s workforce is sitting in our classrooms right now and the

See FUNDING, page 2

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WEATHER

FRI 13 MarBroken Clouds, 46.1° F/ 40.0° F
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Obituaries/For the Record

For the Record

Fort Madison Police Report

03/11/20 – 10:36 a.m.
 – Fort Madison Police arrested Miguel Angel Alvarez, 27, of Fort Madison, in the 800 block of Avenue E, on a warrant service. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.
 03/11/20 – 3:09 p.m.
 – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a hit and run in the 400 block of Avenue H.

03/11/20 – 5:26 p.m.
 – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 2000 block of Avenue J.
 03/11/20 – 7:32 p.m.
 – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of vandalism in the 1700 block of 35th Street.
 03/11/20 – 9:20 p.m.
 – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a burglary in the 1100 block of Avenue F.
 03/11/20 – 8:10 p.m. –

Fort Madison Police cited Kimberly Sue Harmon, 44, of Keokuk, in the 2300 block of Hwy 61, on a charge of driving under suspension. She was released after citation.
 03/12/20 – 8:34 a.m.
 – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a burglary in the 800 block of Avenue H.
 03/12/20 – 12:59 a.m.
 – Fort Madison Police arrested John Leonard Bess, 33, of Fort Madison,

in the 2800 block of Avenue K, on a charge of serious domestic abuse assault. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.

Lee County Sheriff's Report

03/11/20 – 10:45 a.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Cory Marvin Ransdell, 51, of Fort Madison, no location given, on a warrant for failure to appear. He was taken to the Lee County Jail

and released on bond.
 03/11/20 – 10:50 a.m.
 – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Melissa Jo Bode, 50, of Mt. Pleasant at the Henry County Jail in Mt. Pleasant on a warrant for driving while barred.
 He was held in custody
 03/11/20 – 10:26 p.m.
 – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Thomas Eugene Clark, 35, of Houghton in the 300 block of Main Street in

Houghton on a charge of domestic abuse assault. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.
Those listed above are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

Fort Madison Fire & Rescue Report

03/11/20 – Fort Madison firefighters responded to one false alarm, one lift assist, and three medical calls.

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OBITUARIES

MAURICE F. KALTEFLEITER

Maurice Fred "Junior" Kaltefleiter, Jr., 76, of Franklin, Iowa, passed away at 7:55 a.m. Thursday, March 12, 2020, at his home in Franklin.

Born January 23, 1944, in Franklin, Iowa, the son of Maurice John, Sr. and Bertha Elizabeth (Kramer) Kaltefleiter. He married Marlene Mary Lampe. They later divorced.

Survivors include his three children: Roger (Elaine) Kaltefleiter of Parkville, Missouri, Lisa (Randy) Hawes of Donnellson, Iowa and Tori Abolt (Jamey Reinier) of Iowa City, Iowa; six grandchildren: Jacob Kaltefleiter, Katrina Kaltefleiter, Ty Kaltefleiter, Erin (Cody) Keefe, Eli (Martha) Hawes and Denver Abolt; three great grandchildren: Finley, Ruxin and Eliza; one sister: Dolores "Cotton" Olson of Franklin, Iowa; Junior's special friend: Marty Abolt and several nieces, nephews and cousins.

He was preceded in death by his parents and brother-in-law: Laverne Olson.

Junior was of the Catholic faith. He worked as a farmer, carpenter and retired from the Iowa State Penitentiary. He enjoyed spending time at the Donnellson Elevator and Franklin Tap visiting with friends, eating out and spending time on the farm.

His body has been entrusted to Schmitz Funeral Home for cremation.

Friends may call after 12:00 noon, Sunday, March 15, 2020, at Schmitz Funeral Home in West Point where the family will receive friends from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 10:30 a.m. Monday, March 16, 2020, at St. Mary of the Assumption Catholic Church in West Point, with Father Dennis Hoffman as celebrant.

Burial will follow at Calvary Cemetery in West Point.

A memorial has been established in his memory for Every Step Hospice. Schmitz Funeral Home of West Point is assisting the family with arrangements. On-line condolences to the family may be left at www.schmitzfuneralhomes.com.

Schools to get \$100 million in new funds for 2020-21 year

FUNDING - Continued from Page 1

investments we are making today will pay dividends long into the future."

Additionally, schools will receive \$7.7 million for transportation equity and \$5.9 million for per pupil equity with SF 2164, which has already been approved and signed into law. That brings Iowa's total investment to over \$3.3 billion for FY21, with nearly \$100 million in new money. Since 2017, Iowa has invested nearly \$13 billion into preK-12 education.

Obituaries

OBITUARIES

DONALD G. BIGELOW

Donald Gene "Biggie" Bigelow, Jr., 67, of Keokuk, IA died Wednesday, March 11, 2020 at his home.

He was born June 25, 1952 in Nevada, MO, the son of Donald Gene, Sr. and Sarah Waneta Ewverts Bigelow.

Donald graduated from the Keokuk High School with the Class of 1971.



BIGELOW

He had been employed as a drywaller and painter for over forty years. He had also been employed at BTR/Henniges in Keokuk.

Donald enjoyed playing cards at Papa's twice a week and also liked to try his luck at Terribles Casino. Donald liked to spend time outdoors, fishing and rock hunting. He liked to tinker around his house and collected everything from Hot Wheels to marbles.

He is survived by two children, Jonah Bigelow of Sunnyland, IL and Angela Gonzales and husband Johnny of Carthage, IL, six grandchildren, Ashley, Jader, Coral, Madison, Allie and Maverick, six great-grandchildren, Evie, Alyson, Phoebe, Lana, Lilly and Phoenix, one brother, Billy Dean Bigelow of Keokuk, cousins, Butchy Bigelow, Graylin Bigelow, Susie Bigelow and Liz Bigelow, niece and nephews, Josh and Jamie Mays and Heather and Tiffany Bigelow and his companion, sweet Mary Edmiston.

He was preceded in death his parents, one daughter, Tonya Lynn Bigelow and one sister, Sheryl Marie Mays.

A funeral service will be held at 10 a.m., Tuesday, at the Vigen Memorial Home in Keokuk, IA with Derek Olsen officiating. Burial will be held in the Hickory Grove Cemetery in rural Keokuk.

Visitation will be held after 1 p.m., Monday at the funeral home with family meeting with friends from 5-7 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the family to help with final expenses.

Online condolences may be left for the family at www.vigenmemorial-home.com.

OBITUARIES

RICHARD W. BALDWIN

Richard W. Baldwin, 83, of Ft. Madison, passed away on Thursday, March 12, 2020 at 4:18 AM at the Great River Medical Center.

He was born on December 27, 1936 in Ft. Madison to Melvin and Emma Peck Baldwin. Richard was a plater at Sheaffer Pen Company and retired after forty one years of service. He was a member of the Moose Club. Richard was an avid Chicago White Sox and NASCAR fan. He loved playing cards, telling jokes and enjoyed animals. Richard was a very caring, generous person and was a friend to all that knew him.

Survivors include one brother, Kenneth (Sharon) Baldwin of Wever; several nieces and nephews and his special friends, Jenny Downing Bartlett and Janet Downing both of Ft. Madison. He was preceded in death by his parents, three sisters and two brothers.

The funeral service will be held on Monday, March 16, 2020 at 1:30 PM at King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory with Rev. Chad Savage officiating. The family will meet with friends from 12:30-1:30 PM at the funeral home. Burial will follow in Oakland Cemetery.

A memorial has been established for PAW Animal Shelter and online condolences may be left at www.kinglynk.com.

Pen City Current obituary policy

The 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.

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It's Black & White and Read all over

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Sports/Opinion

Bloodhound boys run at Dickinson Relays

CEDAR FALLS – The Fort Madison Bloodhounds opened the indoor track season by setting seven personal records at the A.D. Dickinson Relays at the University of Northern Iowa’s indoor track.

Tate Johnson, Gavin Wiseman and Joey Dodson all set personal records in the 200-meter dash. Johnson ran the half lap in 24.65 for 43rd overall, while Dodson raced to a 26.24 mark and Wiseman finished at 26.32.

Andrew Schaefer set a personal best in the 400-meter dash with a time of 55:05 coming in just behind Garrett Hannum with a 55.04. Sophomore Mikey DiPrima cleared 5’-8” in the high jump, a new personal record for him and a 48th place finish. DiPrima also set a personal record in the long jump going 18’-8” for 50th place. Senior Michael Mosena jumped 18’-7” for 59th. Jake Perry threw the shot 30’-4.5” for a personal



best. The Bloodhounds were led by Ethan Deacon who threw 41’-5.5” for 62nd overall. Sophomore Cuyrin Ross through 34’-5” for the Hounds.

The Hounds 4x200 team of DiPrima, Johnson, Gage

Fullenkamp and Bryce Britton placed 59th out of 78 teams with a time of 1:43.10. The 4x800 team of Austin Miller, Macaden Rhoer, Seth Mendez and Mathew Meierotto finished 60th of 72 teams with a mark of 9:48.84. In the 4x400 relay, Califf, Hannum, Schaefer and Mosena had the highest finish of the day with a 24th of 49 teams entered running the relay at 3:45.76.

In the 60 hurdles, Fullenkamp ran the event in 9.88 seconds, followed by Isaiah Miller who finished at 11.4. In the 60-meter dash, senior Brock Califf, finished at 7.69, followed by Calem Maclearn at 7.85 and Quentin Schneider at 7.80.

Senior Matt Hellige finished 36th in the 1600-meter run at 5:08.56.

Rhoer finished 133rd out of 176 runners in the 800-meter run with a time of 2:28.15

CL school officials to monitor state public health advice

CENTRAL LEE - Continued from Page 1

students with the required number of instructional days. If we need to close schools, we will notify our families through a text alert, email, social media, and a press release sent to our local news media. We will use a variety of channels to ensure everyone is completely informed.

We all have a role to play in preventing the spread of disease, including coronavirus. Here are some tips from the CDC:

* If children are sick, they should not be at school. Students should be fever-free for 24 hours before returning to class after any illness. Keeping children home when they are sick is critical to prevention.

* Wash your hands regularly, especially after using the restroom and before preparing or consuming food. Using soap and hot water, wash for about 20 seconds.

* Avoid coughing or sneezing into your hands or in the air. Always try to cough or sneeze into a tissue, and then throw the tissue away.

* As much as you can, avoid touching your eyes, mouth, and nose.

To be frank, we are in uncharted territory. We do not know all the answers regarding if we are forced to close schools. We have tentatively put together our crisis team and will be working with local nonprofits to help maintain essential services if we are forced to close.

Please be safe and stay healthy over the next several days. Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,
Dr. Andy Crozier, Superintendent



2020 To Do List Save Our Planet

Thank you to all our customers who worked to reduce their environmental footprint last year. We look forward to helping you continue your efforts and to educating our communities on more ways to help this year.

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From the Front/Classifieds

Academy aims to keep costs down for area families

BALL - Continued from Page 1

unfortunately," he said.

Most kids are playing in USSSA, United States Specialty Sports Association, organizations.... or what's been generically called "travel ball".

Little League baseball and softball used to be the leagues of choice, but as the prestige and excitement of travel leagues has attracted players of all ages, the numbers left for Little League and community ball associations has waned.

But Kyle Doherty, founder of the Doherty Baseball Academy, said he has yet to turn away any player that wants to play, despite reactions from some in the community who say groups like his are to blame for the end of community baseball.

Doherty started the academy as a baseball clinic and said he averaged about 50 kids of all ages so he knew there was still interest. But he said most of the kids between the ages of 10-12. He said he wants to start a softball division in the academy in the near future.

"I want this to be a program where we don't turn away anyone that wants to play baseball," Doherty said.

"With the help of the Sports Complex we're going to be holding free clinics this summer and fall each week for those families who are still on the fence to come out and see they like it," Doherty said "Those are absolutely free and we want to make them family friendly with some activities for younger kids, food and things like that.

Doherty said the knock on travel ball is the expense and he doesn't deny there is some, but he said he doesn't want his organization to be about money.

Doherty has six USSSA teams two 10 and under, one 11-year-old team, one 12-year-old team and two 13-year-old teams.

He said the initial cost is \$100 but he said the academy is working hard to raise funds to help offset some of the costs. Doherty said the \$100 also covers the cost of the uniform, which is not the case with many other area travel clubs.

Woodside said those teams will play about 16 games at the sports complex in addition to the weekend travel games. Doherty said he also trying to find more tourneys that are single day or close enough for people to drive home.

Doherty said he realizes people associate travel ball with

a dollar sign. When he and Chris Pennock started the academy last year they wanted to keep it affordable and efficient.

"I want people to think of our academy as affordable for one, and that they are going to get everything they need as a player to develop, starting with structure," Doherty said.

"I won't turn a kid down. This is how we've ended up with extra teams on the 10U and 13 division. We're not going to turn a kid away. We'll make a solution for them," Doherty said.

Woodside from the complex's perspective that works, because it brings people in like Doherty who now baseball skills and can develop it.

"If we have the clinics that don't cost anything and we get a kid who's on the fence and likes the clinic and has a good time, they can get in this significantly cheaper than other organizations. You're getting a better product for not as much money, but yeah, there's a cost tied to it."

Doherty said he prefers the one-day shootouts. A two-day tourney can run \$150 to 200.

"I want to get away from the two-days or I want to bust my hump to make sure parents don't have to deal with that stress. As you get older you travel to the bigger cities like Cedar Rapids, Bettendorf, or Peoria, but we want to make sure we're doing all we can to take that financial pressure of parents," Doherty said.

He said the backlash he's hearing is people comparing 2020 to 1995 and that mold is broken.

"We're doing what we can to hold onto that route, but it's not feasible and we have to redirect," Doherty said.

"We hear some of the parents of kids from other communities that come to clinics that say they are going through the same numbers situation. But what I like about travel ball is it is what we make it."

He said the kids looking for intense play will find it, and the kids that are just looking for a weekly local league can find that as well.

"Not a lot of groups are like that because they like to play nine or ten tournaments, but I don't believe in that."

Doherty said anyone looking for additional information or having questions about getting signed up or involved with the league can reach out to him directly at 319-470-8556.

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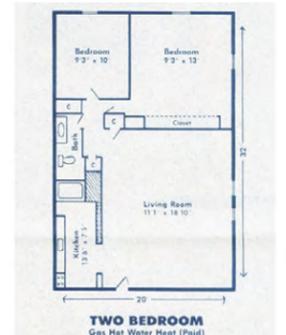
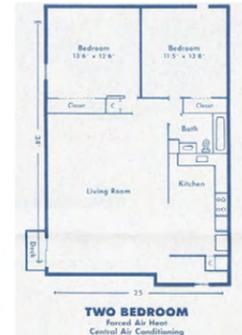
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