

PEN CITY CURRENT

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

Thursday, September 10, 2020 | 8 pages | Volume 4 • Issue 165



www.pencitycurrent.com



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg

Gettin' there

Crews with Jones Contracting have laid concrete all the way to 6th Street as part of phase 1 of the Hwy. 61 rehabilitation through Fort Madison. Work is expected into the fall.

BLOODHOUND PREVIEW: Hounds go up against No. 5 Washington on the road

FM to climb rough side of hill at Case Field

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – Saying the Fort Madison Bloodhounds have a hill to climb Friday, might be the understatement of the COVID-shortened season.

The Bloodhounds, who received one vote from an AP sports writer for the Class 3A top 10 this week, will tangle with No. 5 Washington on the road at Case Field.

The test will certainly be the toughest of the year in the regular season. With every team in the state qualifying for the playoffs due to the coronavirus outbreak, it's tough to say who the Hounds will run up against that's better than the Demons right now.

The Demon's are led by senior quarterback Trashawn Willis, a 6'5" 230 lb senior who has four touchdowns on the year, one on an interception return, and leads the team in tackles with 11.

"He's very special. He's a talent and works hard and in our culture we talk about being a dog, and he's that dog mentality and he's had that his whole life," Doherty said.

"The first time I saw him was on ESPN when he dunked in a middle school game against Fort Madison. We've been dealing with this guy for a long time. He's a fantastic athlete and seems like a great kid."



DOHERTY

Willis has thrown for 227 yards and a score, and has rushed for 81 yards and two touchdowns. He also brought an interception back for a score, a skill not lost on Doherty, recalling a 96 yard INT for a touchdown against Fort Madison in 2018.

The Hounds (2-0) are coming off a 28-12 win over Centerville last week, capitalizing on three defensive scores.

Seniors Will Larson and Calem Maclearn both had interceptions for scores, and senior Bryce Britton picked up a fumble for another touchdown, all in the first half.

Doherty said the secondary, which has seven interceptions in just two games will need to be just as aggressive and productive come Friday.

"I'm really high on our secondary. Those kids are dogs, too. They like to compete, their smart and they're where they need to be," he said.

"It's not because these other quarterbacks aren't good, our guys are in the right spots and are doing a good job breaking on footballs, but this is a new test and that's how we have to look at each week."

See **HOUNDS**, page 8

COVID AT SCHOOLS

Districts see varied impact of virus

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – The two public schools in Lee County are seeing different impacts from the coronavirus three weeks into the school year.

Central Lee Superintendent Dr. Andy Crozier, said the Central Lee High School had to go to a hybrid learning model last week due to an increase in the COVID-19 cases within the district's students and staff.

Crozier said the move will remain in place initially for two weeks to help reduce the spread among the high school building.

"A lot of that was because we were on the front end of some cases. We had four student cases as of Friday of last week and two staff, and all were at high school," Crozier said.

"We are aware of the potential for more cases over the weekend. Obviously we have a

See **VIRUS**, page 8

GIVE UNITED

United Way kicks off 2020 campaign

BY PCC STAFF

LEE COUNTY – During the week of September 8, 2020, the United Way of the Great River Region will kick off the Fall 2020 campaign with a goal of raising \$200,000 to fund needs in the tri-county area.

The theme for this year's campaign is "Be United, Give United". When you give to United Way of the Great River Region everyone in Clark, Hancock and Lee counties will benefit. Efforts will support United Way partner agencies in our tri-county area in three priorities:

- Education: helping children and youth achieve their potential through education

See **CAMPAIGN**, page 5

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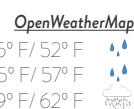
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WEATHER

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Obituaries

R. FORREST MCFERREN

R. Forrest McFerren, 83 years, of Fort Madison, Iowa died Thursday, September 3, 2020 at the Fort Madison Community Hospital, Fort Madison, Iowa. He was born March 19, 1937 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, a son of James Forrest and Grace M. (Bowers) McFerren. On March 18, 1962, he married Judith Ann Cuevas in Mississippi.

Forrest earned his Bachelors of Science Degree from Drexel Institute, and he was a member of Tau Kappa Epsilon fraternity. He was a veteran of the United States Air Force, serving during the Vietnam War. Forrest was stationed at the Itazuke Air Base where he served as a liaison to the Japanese Air Self Defense Force. He was an accountant and earned his CPA. He ended his career as the Chief Financial Officer at the Graduate Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania and Loyola Medical Center in Chicago.

He is survived by his wife, Judith Ann McFerren of Fort Madison; three daughters: Michelle Evelyn (Richard) Koharchik of Merrillville, Indiana; Donna Grace Bratek of Fort Madison; and Judith Denise McFerren of Fort Lauderdale, Florida; and three grandchildren: Kirsten, Andrew, and Alex. He was preceded in death by his parents and two granddaughters, Stephanie Ann McFerren and Hannah Grace Bratek.

A memorial service will be held at 11:00 am Wednesday, September 9, 2020 at the First Baptist Church, Fort Madison with Pastor Dean Graber officiating. Masks are required and social distancing will be observed. Burial with full military rites will follow at the Keokuk National Cemetery, Keokuk, Iowa. In lieu of flowers the family requests memorials to the Tunnel to Towers Foundation, a group building smart homes for disabled veterans. Barr Memorial Chapel is honored to serve the McFerren family and an online guest book may be found at www.barrmemorialchapel.com.

RONALD E. KROGMEIER

Ronald Eugene Krogmeier, 79, of Fort Madison, IA, died on Thursday, September 3, 2020 at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics.



KROGMEIER

He was born on June 16, 1941 in Ft. Madison to Paul and Mary "Dorothy" Buechel Krogmeier. On June 22, 1962 he married Mary Ann Koehler in Ft. Madison. In his early years he was a meat cutter at Pete Hughes Grocery Store. He then worked at Armour Dial and he retired after thirty one years of service. He was a member of Holy Family Parish, the Knights of Columbus and the Past Time Club. Ronnie enjoyed fishing, hunting and butchering meat for his family and friends. He was an avid sports fan, especially the St. Louis Cardinals and Green Bay Packers.

Survivors include his wife, Mary Ann Krogmeier of Ft. Madison; two sons, Robert (Carrie) Krogmeier of Phoenix, AZ and Roy Krogmeier of Ft. Madison; two daughters, Rhonda (Steve) Crockett of Brashear, MO and Renee (Mark) Erespe of Glenside, PA; five grandchildren; four great grandchildren; one great great grandchild and four special grandchildren; three sisters, Wanda (Carl) Scharpman of West Point, IA, Diane (Gary) Powell of Rock Island, IL and Donna (Frank) Durand of Denmark, IA; two brothers, Larry (Rita) Krogmeier and Dale (Becky) Krogmeier of Ft. Madison; several nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents and a brother, Gerald.

The graveside service will be held on Friday, September 18, 2020 at 1:00 PM at Sacred Heart Cemetery with Rev. Joseph Phung officiating. Per his wishes, cremation has been entrusted to King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory.

A memorial has been established in his memory and online condolences may be left at www.kinglynk.com. Cards may be sent to Mary Ann at 2798 River Hills Road, Ft. Madison, IA 52627.

CLINTON J WELLMAN

Clinton J Wellman, 32 years, of West Point, Iowa died Sunday, September 6, 2020 at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics, Iowa City, Iowa. He was born March 17, 1988 in Burlington, Iowa, a son of William and Cheyrl (Kolbet) Wellman.



WELLMAN

Clinton was a 2006 graduate of Holy Trinity Catholic High School. He served 6 years in the United States Air Force, working with aircraft armament systems. He served overseas in Korea, and while in the United States he provided military rites with the active Honor Guard. He enjoyed playing cards and spending time with his family.

He is survived by his parents, Bill and Cheyrl Wellman of West Point; three siblings: Hilary (Jeff) Knapp of Franklin, Indiana, Benjamin Wellman of West Point, and Veronica Wellman (Josh Hay) of Dubuque, Iowa; his paternal grandparents, James and Mary Wellman of West Point; one nephew Kaladin, aunts, uncles, and cousins. He was preceded in death by his maternal grandparents, Art and Margaret Kolbet.

A private family committal service and burial with military rites will be held at Keokuk National Cemetery, Keokuk. Memorials for St. Jude's Children's Hospitals, as well as condolences may be mailed to the Barr-Holtkamp Funeral Home, 412 Ave C, P.O. Box 247, West Point, Iowa 52656. Sign an online guest book and send a message to his family at www.barrholtkampfuneralhome.com. Barr-Holtkamp Funeral Home is honored to serve the Wellman family.



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Obituaries

GARY K. WELSH

Gary Kimball Welsh, 73, of Montrose, IA, died Monday, September 7, 2020 at his home in Montrose.

Gary was born June 4, 1947 in Keokuk, IA the middle son of Floren Richard and Marjorie Kimball Welsh. He graduated from Central Lee High School with the class of 1965. He then continued his education at the University of Iowa and graduated in 1969.



WELSH

On August 16, 1974, Gary was united in marriage to Jeanne Moehn in Ft. Madison, IA. She survives.

Other survivors include two sons, Shane Hitchcock (Judie) of Keokuk and Joshua Welsh of Cedar Rapids, IA, two grandchildren, Hannah Long and Ethan Hitchcock, two brothers, Charles Welsh (Mary) of Montrose and John Welsh (Nellie) of Argyle, IA.

He was preceded in death by his parents, one nephew, Patrick Welsh and a sister-in-law, Barb Welsh.

Gary had been employed as an accountant for Burrows Packaging (formerly Midwest Wax) in Ft. Madison, IA for thirty-seven years retiring in 2006.

He was a member of the Trinity United Methodist Church in Montrose.

Throughout the years Gary was active at the Elks Lodge, the Tri-State Gun Club, Keokuk Yacht Club, Southside Boat Club and the Smoking Gun Club.

Gary enjoyed taking two mile walks in Montrose, working in his garden, boating, trap shooting and fishing.

Visitation will be held from 1 pm – 8 pm Friday at the Vigen Memorial Home in Montrose (102 Cedar Street). The family will not be present during the visitation. Due to the COVID-19 virus, social distancing will be in place and the family requests that masks be worn out of respect of Gary's friends and family.

A private family burial will be held at the Montrose Cemetery.

Memorials may be made to the Trinity United Methodist Church or the Tri-State Gun Club Youth Trap.

On-line condolences may be sent to the family at www.vigenmemorialhome.com.

DONNA M. PERSKY

Donna Marie Persky, 70, of Bettendorf, IA, passed away at 10:44 p.m. on Tuesday, September 8, 2020 at her home after a long illness. She was born on November 1, 1949 in Fort Madison, IA to Vincent & Avis Morris Bohnenkamp. She graduated



PERSKY

from Aquinas High School in 1967 and the University of Iowa in 1973 with a triple major in psychology, sociology & social work. She married Jerrold M. Persky on May 20, 1973 in Iowa City, IA. Donna raised two children, David & Michelle. She enjoyed living in Europe and was an avid genealogist and traced her ancestors to the founding of the United States.

At the family's request, due to the current co-vid situation, a public visitation and viewing will be held on Monday, September 14, 2020 from 9:00 to 10:00 a.m. at King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory in Fort Madison without the family present. A public graveside service will be held at 11:30 a.m. on Monday at Oakland Cemetery in Fort Madison with Rev. Joseph Phung officiating. A memorial has been established for Holy Trinity High School. Online condolences to Donna's family may be left at the King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory website: www.kinglynk.com.

PHYLLIS A. POLLPETER

Phyllis Agnes Pollpeter, 79, of West Point, Iowa, passed away at 5:00 a.m. Tuesday, September 8, 2020, at the West Point Care Center in West Point, Iowa.

Phyllis was born on September 20, 1940, in West Point, Iowa, the daughter of Stephen and Clara (Bentler) Pranger. On October 18, 1959, she married Donald Pollpeter at St. Mary of the Assumption Catholic Church in West Point, Iowa.



POLLPETER

Survivors include her husband: Donald; seven children: Scott (Sandi) Pollpeter of Tampa, Florida; Diane (Joel) Thompson of Solon, Iowa; Michael (Teri) Pollpeter of Walnut Shade, Missouri; Roger Pollpeter of Anamosa, Iowa; Steven Pollpeter of Wever, Iowa; Brian (Jodi) Pollpeter of Lacey, Iowa and Dean (Amy) Pollpeter of Ankeny, Iowa; seventeen grandchildren; seven great grandchildren and one on the way; two sisters: Barb (Les) Groene of Donnellson, Iowa and Sandra (Dick) Philpott of Carlinville, Illinois; four brothers: Art (Mary Jo) Pranger of Trumbull, Connecticut, Ralph (Carol) Pranger of Clarksville, Tennessee; Norbert (Judy) Pranger of Davenport, Iowa and Maurice (Barb) Pranger of Blue Grass, Iowa. Also surviving are several nieces and nephews and cousins.

She was preceded in death by her parents; one niece: Karen Brzostoski and one great nephew: Chris Thompson.

Phyllis was a member of St. Mary of the Assumption Catholic Church the Altar and Rosary Society of the church and a past state regent of the Daughter's of Isabella. She helped Don on the farm and was a school bus driver for over thirty years. Phyllis enjoyed playing softball, traveling, dancing and spending time with family.

Friends may call after 12:00 noon to 6:00 p.m. Thursday, September 10, 2020, at Schmitz Funeral Home in West Point.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 10:00 a.m. Friday, September 11, 2020, at St. Mary of the Assumption Catholic Church in West Point with Father Dennis Hoffman as celebrant.

Those attending are required to wear a mask and social distance.

A private family burial will follow the Mass of Christian Burial at Calvary Cemetery.

Memorials have been established in her memory to St. Mary's Catholic Church or Alzheimer's Association.

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

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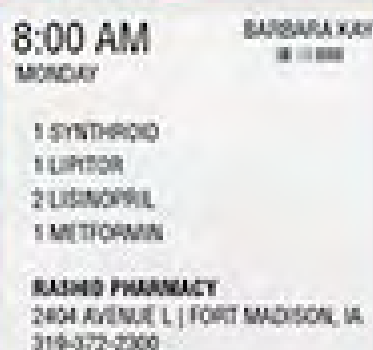
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For the Record

For the Record

Fort Madison Police Report
 09/04/20 – 6:36 a.m. – Fort Madison Police arrested Robert Dean Hunsaker, Jr., 28, of Oklahoma, in the 5100 block of Avenue O, on a warrant for a weapons violation and disorderly conduct. He was taken to Lee County Jail and held.
 09/04/20 – 6:36 a.m. – Fort Madison Police arrested Dlaton Lane Spor, 23, of Neosho, Mo., in the 5100 block of Avenue O, on a charge of disorderly conduct. He was taken to Lee County Jail and held.
 09/04/20 – 7:53 p.m. – Fort Madison Police cited Rebecca Dawn Davis, 41, of Fort Madison, in the 1900 block of Avenue L, on a charge of driving while barred.
 09/05/20 – 2:42 a.m. – Fort Madison Police arrested John Jerald McKeown, 49, of Fort Madison, in the 2600 block of Avenue J, on a charge of public intoxication. He was taken to Lee County Jail and held.
 09/05/20 – 3:32 a.m. – Fort Madison Police cited Harley Lee Vonkaenel, 26, of Keokuk, in the 4500 block of Avenue O, on a charge of driving under suspension.
 09/05/20 – 9:35 a.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a burglary in the 1900 block of Avenue G.
 09/06/20 – 12:09 a.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a burglary in the 500 block of 8th Street.
 09/06/20 – 9:11 p.m. – Fort

Madison Police responded to a report of a burglary in the 2500 block of Avenue G.
 09/06/20 – 9:29 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of vandalism in the 200 block of Avenue G.
 09/07/20 – 12:27 a.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the Fort Madison area.
 09/07/20 – 1:25 a.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 800 block of Avenue E.
 09/07/20 – 12:07 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of vandalism in the 600 block of 34th Street.
 09/07/20 – 12:22 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of vandalism in the 1500 block of Avenue B.
 09/07/20 – 2:06 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 1200 block of 38th Street.
 09/07/20 – 8:31 p.m. – Fort Madison Police arrested Zachary James Gott, 24, of Fort Madison, in the 1100 block of Avenue G, on a charge of simple domestic abuse assault. He was taken to Lee County Jail and held.
 09/08/20 – 2:11 a.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a burglary in the 4600 block of Avenue J.
 09/08/20 – 11:36 a.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the

900 block of Avenue H.
 09/08/20 – 12:14 p.m. – Fort Madison Police cited Robert John Gurzenda Blindt, 38, of Keokuk, in the 100 block of 24th Street on a warrant for failure to appear and driving under suspension.
 09/08/20 – 1:24 p.m. – Fort Madison Police arrested Jason David Start in the 900 block of Avenue H, on a warrant for violation of a no contact order. He was taken to Lee County Jail and held.
 09/08/20 – 1:39 a.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 1600 block of Avenue G.
 09/08/20 – 3:10 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 500 block of 9th Street.
 09/08/20 – 3:21 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 1500 block of Avenue H.
 09/08/20 – 8:45 p.m. – Fort Madison Police arrested Lindsey Morgan, 38, of Fort Madison, in the 2200 block of Avenue I, on a charge of driving under suspension. She was released on a promise to appear.
 09/09/20 – 1:18 a.m. – Fort Madison Police arrested Heather Michelle Hayes, 27, of Fort Madison in the 1000 block of Avenue G, on a charge of driving while barred. She was released on a promise to appear.

Lee County Sheriff's Report
 09/05/20 – 6:43 a.m. – Lee

County Sheriff's deputies responded to a one-vehicle accident on Hwy. 61 near the Chalkridge overpass. According to reports, the vehicle driven by Charles Edward Coffman, 29, of Kahoka, Mo. reported he swerved to miss a deer and collided with a guard rail and was not with vehicle when deputies arrived. No injuries were reported. Coffman was cited for failure to maintain control.
 09/06/20 – 6:45 a.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Richard Daniel Moore, 37, of Keokuk, in the 3100 block of 270th Avenue, on a charge of reckless use of a firearm. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and released on bond.
 09/08/20 – 3:28 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Cyrus Keith Folker, 20, of Moravia, at the sheriff's department on a warrant for violation of probation.

Hancock County Sheriff's Report

08/31/20 – Brandon J Smith, age 38, of Macomb, IL was arrested and charged with Driving Under the Influence. Smith was released after posting the required bond and given a future court date.
 09/02/20 – Drake J Fosdyck, age 20, of Basco, IL was arrested and charged with Battery. Fosdyck was released after posting the required bond and given a future court date.
 09/02/20 – Dallas G Chapin,

age 36, of LaHarpe, IL was arrested on a Hancock County Warrant charging him with Failure to Appear I Failure to Pay on original charges of Failure to Give Information after Striking an Unattended Vehicle. Chapin was released after posting the required bond and given a future court date.
 09/02/20 – Emma L Burkholder, age 18, of Keokuk, IA was arrested and charged with Possession of Methamphetamine. Burkholder was released on her own recognizances and given a future court date.
 09/03/20 – Natasha A Young, age 33, of Fort Madison, IA was arrested and charged with Violation of Bail Bond. Young remains lodged in the Hancock County Jail in lieu of bail awaiting her next court appearance.
 09/03/20 – Michael J Miller, age 29, of Plymouth, IL was arrested on a Hancock County Warrant charging him with Aggravated Battery. Miller remains lodged in the Hancock County Jail in lieu of bail awaiting his next court appearance.
 09/04/20 – Gregor A Shoup, age 37, of Carthage, IL was arrested on a Hancock County Warrant charging him with Failure to Appear on original charges of Aggravated Battery. Shoup remains lodged in the Hancock County Jail in lieu of bail awaiting his next court appearance.
 09/04/20 – Frank D Hoewing, age 47, of Carthage, IL was

arrested on a Hancock County Warrant charging him with Failure to Appear on original charges of Leaving the Scene of an Accident and Failure to Reduce Speed to Avoid an Accident. Hoewing was released after posting the required bond and given a future court date.
 09/05/20 – Isaac A Deshong, age 22, of Carthage, IL was arrested and charged with Driving While License Suspended. Deshong was also arrested on a Schuyler County Warrant charging him with Failure to Appear/ Failure to Pay on original charges a Traffic Offense. Deshong was released after posting the required bond and given a future court date.
 09/05/20 – Shelli R East, age 49, of Augusta, IL was arrested on an Adams County Warrant charging her with Failure to Appear/ Failure to Pay on original charges of Driving While License Suspended and No Insurance. East was given a Notice to Appear on a future court date.
Those listed above are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

Fort Madison Fire & Rescue Report

09/06/20 – Fort Madison Firefighters responded to one medical call.
 09/07/20 – Fort Madison Firefighters responded to one medical call.
 09/08/20 – Fort Madison Firefighters had no activity recorded.



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– Abraham Lincoln

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From the Front

United Way still met goals despite 2020 hurdles

CAMPAIGN - Continued from Page 1

- Health: improving people’s health and access to services
- Income: helping families become financially stable and independent (learn more about our mission and partnering agencies at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l-RV9fxAvgM>)

“It is easy to say that we have faced new challenges in 2020 that we were not expecting,” said UWGRR Board President Emily Biddenstadt. “However, the United Way of the Great River Region continues to be committed to our partnering agencies. The 2020 UWGRR Campaign goal is \$200,000. We want to encourage people to consider participating in the 2020 campaign because now is the time for the tri-state region to ‘Be United, Give United.’”

Some of this year’s highlights include:

- Grant funding to 24 funded partnering agencies in the tri-county area; Literacy Projects in four elementary schools use volunteers to help students reading below grade level
- Volunteers enrolled in the 55+ Initiative/Retired Senior Volunteer Program provided services to over 20 community organizations
- Volunteer Tax Assistance Program in partnership with the IRS helped 230 taxpayers
- Back to School Festival with Trinity United Methodist Church distributed over 650 backpacks filled with school supplies

The United Way of the Great River Region will also soon be accepting grant applications for funding in 2021. UWGRR partners with not-for-profit, 501(c)(3) organizations in Clark County, Missouri, Hancock County, Illinois and Lee

County, Iowa. Priority consideration is given to those agencies/organizations that provide programs that improve health, education, and financial stability.

Applications will be available beginning Monday, September 14, 2020. Please contact Karen Siefken, Executive Director at director@united-waygrr.org or at 319-524-4504 or any current UWGRR Board member to receive a grant application packet. No packets will be distributed prior to Monday, September 14, 2020.

Applications and all required paperwork are due to the United Way of the Great River Region office in Keokuk, or must be postmarked no later than Friday, October 23, 2020 at 4:00 pm.

United Way of the Great River Region serves all of Lee, Hancock, and Clark Counties. All donations are tax-deductible.

Do Your Part!

Great River Regional Waste Authority encourages you to wear gloves when moving bins for residential trash pick-up.

Those workers can touch over 2000 bins a day before even touching your bin. Don't forget to wash your hands after bringing in your bin!!



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The qualified applicant should possess a wide range of skills in public housing operations, office management, accounting, customer service; computer proficiency and the ability to function courteously with residents and employees. The applicant must be PHA certified or certifiable within one year of employment.

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Interested applicants must submit a resume and cover letter marked Confidential to:

Chairman of the Board, Fort Madison Housing Authority, 1102 48th Street, Suite #1, Fort Madison, IA 52627. Or email to: fortmadisonha@mchsi.com.

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Resumes and applications will be received until 4:00p.m. September 14th, 2020.

Applications and resumes can be e-mailed to whamm@grwa.com.



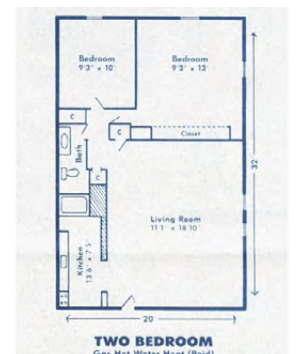
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From the Front

FMCS D faring well in hybrid model

VIRUS - Continued from Page 1

number of students in quarantine.”

Crozier said a group of students road together to the Central Lee football game in Van Buren last week. He said one person was positive and the whole vehicle was infected.

But he said the decision to move to hybrid learning was a blessing all things considered.

“Half of our kids can now space out and social distance in the classroom. If we do have additional positive cases, we shouldn’t have to quarantine because we can avoid the six feet for 15 minutes tracing requirement,” he said.

Crozier said currently there are six positive cases at the high school and all of the students are experiencing mild symptoms and doing very well. He said one teacher and an associate in the K-8 building have tested positive.

“We made the decision to move that specific classroom to online. We couldn’t make a determination who was truly in contact, but beyond that that we have not heard of any other students infected in that class,” Crozier said.

The district’s decision to start the year with 13 classes in the K-8 building to remote learning sites seems to have helped keep the coronavirus at bay for the younger students.

Having just half the students on site in the Fort Madison Community School District is showing positive results for students and staff there.

Aside from some activity prior to school starting, the district seems to be sidestepping the virus.

The district is conducting the first trimester in a hybrid model with half of the students on campus and half doing online learning on a week by week rotation.

“We have not spiked or peaked with any current issues with COVID. We did have some issues right prior to school starting,” said Superintendent Dr. Erin Slater.

“But that’s a bit different then when students are in session.”

Slater said the decision to start in the hybrid model wasn’t reached easily, but said because there was no way to tell where people were going to pick it up, the board decided to start in a safer learning environment.

“Honestly, that was not an easy decision and was complicated for scheduling for parents and families,” Slater said.

“We intentionally did it for a trimester so families could

plan for a chunk of time. We’ll get more information out to the district and community as soon as we know what were looking at as far as a learning model for the second trimester.”

She said the coronavirus has added another layer to monitoring the district does in the morning.

Slater said before she even arrives at school, she’s checked the Iowa Department of Public Health’s website for the 14-day positivity rating for Lee, Henry and Des Moines counties. The district has students from all three counties.

Then Slater said she still has to monitor the weather for heat, because two of the district’s elementary buildings still don’t have air conditioning.

Then she said there is elevated conversations electronically and over the phone to get building updates on any new activity. Only one building has had an absentee rate higher than 10% and that was just one day. She said other than that, the district has had good attendance and little activity.

Buildings with higher than 10% absentees, must be reported to the state.

The district’s website has the most up-to-date information and Slater said people should go there first when they have questions or concerns about district protocols and monitoring information. The website is located at www.fmcsd.org.

Crozier said he hasn’t spoken with nurses this much since becoming a superintendent. Now the team communicates daily monitoring numbers locally and from the state.

“I talk to my nurses more this year than I ever have in my career,” he said.

“Nurses are great people often times dealing with stomach aches and headaches and that kind of thing. Very rarely we were having conversations, and now daily were talking about this.”

He said the district hired an additional nurse this year and that has helped the district do contact tracing on their own for students and staff that may have come into contact with the disease.

“We spend a lot of time on that. The county health department doesn’t do our tracing, they handle anything outside the school. But we do not wait for them to intervene, we get right after it.

No additional athletic schedule changes are being discussed currently by either school.

FM still looking for its vibe

HOUNDS - Continued from Page 1

The Demons have wins over Bettendorf (0-1) and Solon (0-2) and have given up 28 points in the losses, but put up 52 points.

Their offense, aside from Willis, gets a lift from senior tailback Wyatt Stout who’s averaging just over five yards a carry on the year. Senior Spencer Sotelo leads the receiving corps with 53 yards and a score.

Willis has targeted seven different receivers for 227 yards.

Fort Madison has also had some success throwing the ball but offensively hasn’t put the whole thing together yet. The Hounds had just 179 yards of total offense against the Big Reds on Friday.

“Offensively, as a staff and players we went to bed really frustrated on Friday night. We woke up Saturday and started watching film right away and when we watched there was promise. There were lanes, receivers open and time to throw, we just didn’t vibe,” Doherty said.

“That’s our biggest problem right now, we’re just not vibing.”

Larson leads the Hounds through the air completing 19 of 33 attempts for 249 yards and a score, but he’s also thrown three interceptions in two games.

He also has one of two rushing touchdowns, the other coming from back-up quarterback Landon Williams. Williams has been platooning with Larson, which allows the Bloodhounds to do some different things offensively, but Larson has been taking the majority of the snaps.

Senior Keaton Poe has 91 yards on 12 carries, most of which came on a 54 yard run last week.

Junior Tate Johnson and senior Brock Califf have combined for close to 200 yards in receptions. Johnson has both touchdown catches for Fort Madison this year.

The Demons also come with senior Zane Laws on defense. Laws has 10.5 tackles from the line, including five for loss and four sacks in just two games.

Doherty said that’s how the Demons come after you.

“That’s just them. Coach Harris is fiery dude and they like to line up and say you’re gonna have to beat us. And then they bring pressure and they’ve done a dang good job of it,” he said.

Fort Madison will be without junior Gavin Wiseman who was lost last week with a broken ankle.

Doherty said when the Hounds win, they climb the rough side of the mountain and Friday’s game will be a steep hill.

“We’re not good enough ever to just show up and win. When we win we feel it’s deserved,” he said.

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