

PEN CITY CURRENT

It's Black & White and Read all over

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FM teachers to mask up

RETURN TO LEARN: District releases more details on the 2020-21 reopening plans

BY KATIE SCOVILLE
Pen City Current

FORT MADISON – As communities prepare to go back to school, schools are releasing Return to Learn Plans, explaining possible procedures for the upcoming school year. Fort Madison Community School District has just released their plan, comprising of a Face-to-Face learning model, a Hybrid Learning model, as well as 100% Online Required Learning.

Changes will be made based on guidance from the Iowa Public Health Department and the Lee County Health Department, among



SLATER

others. The number one priority of the district is to maintain the health and safety of students and staff.

Face-to-face learning is the hope for the upcoming school year, according to release today from FMSCD Superintendent Dr. Erin Slater.

According to the release, masks will be required for all teachers and staff working with students.

Temperatures will not be taken daily, but parents are encouraged to keep a close eye on their children's temperature and

See **SCHOOL**, page 5

EMPTY NEST

By Curt Swarm



Hose water doesn't ever quench thirst

I made an uncanny observation the other day while watering our garden. Hose water tastes EXACTLY like it did 60 years ago. I 'spose it makes sense because not that much has changed in the hydro world. Oh, hose tends to be plastic or fabric now as compared to rubber, and water is treated instead of pumped from the well. On second thought, it's amazing that hose water does taste exactly like it did 60 years ago.

Another observation: hose water tastes better than any other water, but it does not quench your thirst. You drink a face full of hose water and you're back a minute later for more, and more until you get a gut ache.

Ginnie had her granddaughter, Aria, with her and was showing her the ropes of "farm life." Grandma gave her a ride in the Gator, chasing chipmunks around our 21/2 acres (Aria loved watching them dive into holes), showed her how to cut rhubarb and asparagus, and let her help water the garden. When Aria saw me drinking out of the hose, she wanted a drink also. I held the hose in a kink to slow the flow and toyed with the idea of blasting her in the face with a shot of water, like I did my sister 60 years ago. But I was a nice Grandpa. Aria loved drinking out of the hose, her little pink lips sparkling in the sun and water. And she was back a minute later for more. And a minute after that. The life lesson may be: "What tastes good does not always satisfy."

For having to replant three times, our garden is doing remarkably well. The volunteer pumpkin plant that has been there from the get go, is doing the best of all. It has completely taken over one end of the garden, maybe making up for poor performance last year. I thought that being

See **SWARM**, page 3



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg

HTC's Raquel Schneider (2) slips in under a wide throw at 2nd in the Crusaders' season-ending 11-1 loss at New London Monday night.

SCC

Transformation of CarSmart building nearly complete

BY KATIE SCOVILLE
Pen City Current

FORT MADISON – As you cruise down Avenue G, you see familiar buildings such as Fox Theater, The Colony Shop, and Under the Sun. But near the end of downtown, something unfamiliar has finally

unveiled itself: the former Car Smart building has been transformed and the SCC logo now adorns the building.

Plans to transform the former CarSmart building began about a year ago. Due to multiple grants and the Shottenkirk family gifting

the building, the plan to transform the building was put in motion and Southeastern Community College committed \$500,000 to the renovation.

Flash forward to present day and the remodeling is complete and

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WEATHER

TUE 14 Jul.....Scattered Clouds, 82.2° F/ 72.0° F
WED 15 Jul.....Very Heavy Rain, 75.0° F/ 68.9° F
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Obituaries/From the Front

Killdeer makes for fun summer bird watching

SWARM - Continued from Page 1

a volunteer, and a hybrid, it might not bear fruit. Nope. There are baby “punkins” all over the place. Life lesson #2: nature will find a way.

We always try something new each year. This year it’s acorn squash. Ginnie told me not to plant so much, that it would explode. Did I listen? Nope again. (I’m an all-or-noting type of guy.) The acorn squash is taking over the other half of the garden, engulfing the tomato plants, sweetcorn, pepper plants and anything it can get its tendrils on. A friend is raising zucchini. We told her we’d swap acorn squash for zucchini. She wholeheartedly agreed, as it would save her a trip down Mainstreet, tossing bowling pin size zucchinis in unlocked cars. Life lesson #3: Zucchini and acorn squash are a lot alike, a couple a year is plenty. (We will be offering free acorn squash, I’m sure. We may even pick’m for you.)

I noticed a strange bird in our farm yard. It was fanning its tail like a quail or turkey flirting with females. On closer look, it’s a shore bird, what I used to generally lump into the category of “sandpipers.” They run ahead of us when we pull in the driveway, screeching that mournful shorebird cry. After examining our “Peterson’s Field Guide to Birds,” I believe we have identified them as killdeer, and they “display near nest.” Ah, ha! They’re a sight to watch and quite entertaining. One evening we watched a group of four young ones, playing in our driveway and chasing each other like rabbits. They formed a circle, screeching the whole time, and ran at each other, with one jumping over the head of the other. What a hoot, or screech, I mean. They kept this up all evening. Life lesson #4: Pheasants and quail might be disappearing from SE Iowa, but killdeer, also known as plovers, are a close second for beauty.

Last but not least, the Japanese Beetles have attacked again, trying to level everything in sight: aronia bushes, grape vines, roses, weeping cherry, apple tree, peach tree, rhubarb, asparagus and lettuce. It’s a plague that has to be dealt with, like COVID 19. It takes its toll then moves on.

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



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OBITUARIES

DEVYN MICHAEL BROEKER

Devyn Michael Broeker, 24, of Donnellson, Iowa, passed away Saturday, July 4, 2020, in Sandusky, Iowa.

He was born on August 17, 1995, in Mt. Pleasant, Iowa, the son of Todd Broeker and Shannon King.

He is survived by his mother: Shannon (Kevin) Schneider; father: Todd (Kasey) Broeker; one brother: Garyn McLeland; one sister: Samantha Broeker; one step-sister: Chaeli Schneider; two step-brothers: Nike Phillips and Zach (Emily) Schneider; maternal grandfather: Sanford King; paternal grandmother: Paula (Ted) Mohrfeld and step-grandparents: Don and Sheila Schneider.



BROEKER

He was preceded in death by his maternal grandmother: Patricia King; paternal grandfather: Kenneth (Mel) Broeker, his beloved cat: Casper and dog: Tique.

Devyn was a 2013 graduate of Mt. Pleasant Community High School. He worked for Siemens Gamesa and Hoenig Lawn Care. He enjoyed baseball and was an avid New York Yankees fan. Devyn also enjoyed loud music, landscaping and spending time with his family and friends.

Family will receive friends from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon Thursday, July 16, 2020, at Schmitz Funeral Home in Donnellson.

A Funeral Service will be held at 12:00 noon Thursday, July 16, 2020, at Schmitz Funeral Home in Donnellson with Pastor Nancy St. Clair officiating.

Social distancing requirements will be in place. Wearing a mask is encouraged.

Burial will be at Evangelical Cemetery, Donnellson, Iowa.

In lieu of flowers, a memorial has been established in his memory.

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

Lady Tigers get big innings to end HTC's season

Hellige holds New London scoreless for three, but Tigers rally in 4th and 5th for win

BY CHUCK
VANDENBERG
PCC Editor

NEW LONDON – Holy Trinity Catholic Head Coach Loren Menke knelt with the sun setting behind the trees at the New London's softball complex and told the HTC softball team seated on the soft grass that he was quite simply... very proud of them.

The rebooted Crusader varsity softball team was the first team to take the field for HTC in eight years. They finished 1-10 and 0-6 in the Southeast Iowa Superconference South division. The lone win came against Hillcrest Academy, the former Iowa Mennonite

School in Kalona.

The season ended in an 11-1 five inning loss that fell apart in the fourth inning, when the Lady Tigers put up six runs on four hits and an error. HTC hurler, Mary Hellige, who threw every pitch this season for the Crusaders, had things in hand through three.

"I've been watching these girls since they were this high," Menke said holding a hand out at his waste. "So for me it's year-over-year growth, and I hope we have the same growth next year that we saw this year."

"These girls were doing things in the field they couldn't do last year. Catching balls, making plays, hitting balls they couldn't

hit. If you continue to see that kind of growth that's the biggest thing."

The Crusaders were doing those things the first three innings. Hellige mowed down the first three hitters, striking out all three on just twelve pitches.

Sophomore Raquel Schneider got things going in the first for the Crusaders with a hard single to center on a 1-2 pitch, but two ground outs and a strike out stranded her at second.

In the top of the second, Kayla Box doubled the second pitch from Elly Manning into the right-center gap. After Haile Cain lined out to short, Laura Mehmert would ground out to third, but Box took off for third on the throw over.

Junior Sophie Reighard fired over to third to get Box on the play, but the throw sailed high and left into left field allowing Box to come

around and score on the error.

Jenna DiPrima would single to center and Kelli Meierotto would follow with an infield single to shortstop moving DiPrima up with two outs, but Schneider would pop out to short to end the inning.

Hellige would coax three pop fly outs in the bottom of the second, but aside from a Hellige walk in the top of the third, the Crusaders could get anything going either.

Hellige would keep things in order through two outs in the bottom of the third, until Claire Jones would reach on a bunt. But Brooke Mueller would gun her down for the third out trying to swipe second.

Holy Trinity ran themselves out a potential big top of the 4th. Cain started with a single and advanced to second on wild pitch.

Mehmert would then hit a ground ball to third that was bobbled by Sophie Malot just enough for Mehmert to beat the throw.

With two on and no outs, DiPrima hit into a fielder's choice force out at third, leaving two on with just one out. DiPrima would then get picked off at first. She initially was called safe on the play, but thought she was called out and stepped off the bag toward the dugout when Reighard tagged her out. Meierotto would strike out looking to end the inning.

The Tigers would blow the game open in the bottom of the fourth. Kara Krieger would single to open the frame and Hellige would hit Manning to put two on. Laney Loyd would pop out to third holding everyone in place, but a walk, an error on a grounder to second and another error

at third quickly made it 2-1 game.

Reighard would hit into a RBI ground out back to Hellige who didn't challenge Ashlyn McSurley at third instead opting for the sure out at first. Another infield error allowed a run to make it 4-1. Two singles and a walk followed and the Crusaders were in trouble down 6-1 before Manning ground out to third to end the inning.

HTC would go down in order in the fifth and New London would tack on another five runs in the bottom half. With two outs and the bases loaded Krieger would hit a pop fly to shallow left-center that Cain overran and the ball dropped over her head for two runs and a 10-1 lead.

Manning would then single to right scoring another run and invoking the 10-run rule.

"They got a couple key hits and we made some miscues and it kinda snowballed on us and we didn't recover. We had way too many times this year where we had an inning like that," Menke said.

"For me I think there was just a couple bad plays and that got in everyone's heads, Then we hung our heads and couldn't make the plays," said sophomore shortstop Anna Sobczak.

Hellige said the score Monday night, and many times this season, didn't tell the whole story.

"The way it looks, if you didn't come to the games, it looks like we did really bad, but those were actually some close games. I feel like we're gonna get better. Honestly, I'm a little disappointed, but we're just starting," she said.

"We got more experience and next year we'll come back and be stronger and more ready for these teams," Sobczak said.

"We need more energy and not let it get in our heads. Just the next pitch."

Schneider, Box, Meierotto, Cain and DiPrima all had hits for HTC. Box scored the only run for HTC. Hellige took the loss going all five and giving up 11 runs, none earned on seven hits and three walks. She struck out four.

Krieger led the Tigers going 2 for 4 with 2 RBI and a run scored. Manning went all five for New London giving up five hits and one earned run on a walk and two strikeouts.

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From the Front

School asks parents to take online survey

SCHOOL - Continued from Page 1

symptoms daily.

To help protect students, increased cleaning and sanitizing stations will be available. Masks and other personal protective equipment will be strongly encouraged, especially traveling from class to class. To reduce the flow of students to the nurse's office, minor first aid procedures will be performed in class.

Small groups of students will be allowed to go to the bathroom during breaks instead of the entire class going all at once. Assemblies and Parent's Night will be temporarily stopped. The school district hopes to reinstall them at a later date.

In the Hybrid Learning Model, students of all levels will be divided into A and B groups. Group A will learn at their respective school on Mondays and Tuesdays while group B continues online learning. Thursday and Friday, group B will attend school while group A learns online. Wednesday and weekends will be used for deep cleaning days. Every method to keep students and staff safe will be employed from the Face to Face Learning Method.

If conditions dictate full online learning, the district is ready and fully equipped to do so. The district has enough devices to allot to each student. If families are concerned about children with health issues, the option to learn online is available. Unlike last spring, these online classes will require attendance, assignments, as well as assessments.

The schools will be utilizing See Saw (for younger students) and Canvas (for older students) to teach online.

If families don't have Wi-Fi capabilities, hotspots will be allocated to them. There's also a possibility for "Wi-Fi buses" in which families can access parked buses that produce connection. If print materials are needed, they can be delivered through the postal service or pick-up services located at each school building.

In a video statement included with the release, Slater said the district is ready to help create a safe and effective learning environment.

"We know that this has been a challenging time for our families and our community. We are here to do whatever we can to make sure our students have the best and safest learning experience."

After reading through the plan, the school requests that parents complete the Parent Needs survey to gain feedback about the learning models and how they can help students. The survey can be found on the district's website at www.fmcsd.org, or at the following link: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQL-Seej-LEVObeE3F2Xl-jv56eCL7NwpkcdwwXk-f9JLUu5-c4mKOG/viewform>

New facility could be operational by Aug. 1

SCC - Continued from Page 1

currently awaiting furnishing.

SCC President Dr. Michael Ash anticipates operations beginning after August 1st and perhaps an official ribbon-cutting ceremony during September or early October (COVID-19 conditions allowing).

"I'm excited for the completion of the building and hopeful that citizens will take advantage of the building, learning different skills. I hope people see this as a benefit to the community," Dr. Ash said.

Equipped with 3 large classroom-sized spaces and a spacious conference room, the new building will offer functions to tailor to many citizens' needs.

"High school equivalency tests can be taken here. It'll also be a center of business and industry for non-credit courses as well as training in those fields," Dr. Ash said.

"The building also offers nursing students a more convenient location to meet with clinical providers instead of traveling to Burlington or Keokuk."

The building may also offer classes that citizens can take advantage of.

"We hope to offer life-long learning classes such as bird watching, painting, or computer science," Ash said.

Other parties are also looking to offer classes and other programs.

"There is a potential to offer counseling programs in the evening," Ash said. "We're also open

to other area schools and businesses that might want to do classes or training."

The building's opening comes just as local business, education and industry leaders begin to put together plans for a Joint Education Center in the former KL Megla building on the west side of Hwy. 61 near Montrose.

The education center will share similar functions. "We've already begun working with schools and businesses for how that building will be utilized," Ash said.

"It will be primarily focused on high school students who are going into the technical field."

SCC has applied for two grants and is hoping to hear back in mid-August, but other timelines on the project are still up in the air.

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Tue, Jul 14, 2020 4:00 PM - 5:30 PM (CDT)

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pating by phone, please wait until everyone is done speaking before addressing the Board. Please keep your microphone muted to cut down the background noise. If you are participating by phone, press *6, this will mute your phone.

1. Call to order
2. Approval of minutes from June 19, 2020
3. Public Input
This is the time of the meeting that a citizen may address the Board on any matters pertaining to the Lee County Conservation Board. The Board cannot take formal action at the meeting on matters not included on the regular agenda, but may ask the staff to research the matter or have the matter placed on a subsequent agenda.
4. Approval of Bills

5. Approval of Financial Report
6. Review and Take Possible Action on Letter of Intent for Non-Disturbance Agreement with Climax Molybdenum Company Regarding Approximately 57.85 Acres of Land for Force Main Project.
7. Review and Approve Bids for Ford F350 Purchase
8. Denning Conservation Area Update
9. Staff Reports
10. Board Member Comments
11. Adjournment Workshop to Follow Regular Meeting
Next regular meeting will be August 11, 2020
Hearing and vision assistance available upon request. Citizens are welcome to all LCCB meetings.

HELP WANTED

REGISTERED DENTAL ASSISTANT

Mark C. Pothitakis Family Dentistry currently has a position available for a Full-Time Registered Dental Assistant in their Fort Madison and Burlington locations. Complete an application or mail your resume to 1223 S. Gear Avenue, Eastman Plaza, Suite 302, West Burlington, IA 52655 or email burlidental@gmail.com. EOE.



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Or email:
mobnurse@mobilenursingservices.com
EOE

LEE CHD

Community Outreach & Development Project Coordinator

Lee County Health Department is seeking a full-time Community Outreach & Development Project Coordinator. The successful applicant will assist in organizing a community coalition to complete a community needs assessment and long-term strategic plan to address child maltreatment issues in Lee County. This position also involves linking families/children to needed community resources in the agency's service area. Applicants must have strong organizational, communication skills, and the ability to prioritize activities to meet project timelines and deliverables. Competitive salary and benefits. Please send resumes to Michele Ross, LCHD Administrator, at mross@leecountyhd.org or to LCHD, PO Box 1426, Fort Madison, IA 52627 by July 14, 2020. LCHD is an EOE.

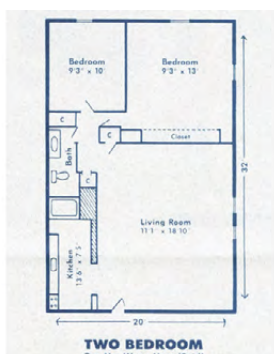
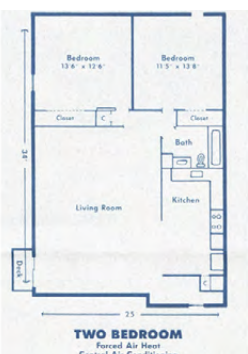
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backyard with picnic tables & glider swing in very nice, quiet neighborhood. Rents range from \$585-\$635. Lease required. 850 sq. ft. units. All electric. Water, sewer, trash furnished. 650 sq. ft. units. Water, heat, sewer, gas, trash furnished. Laundry rooms have new coin-operated washers & dryers (located in all buildings). On-site manager. Call 319-372-9409 or 319-750-3115 for appointment to view. Owned by Alliance Realty Co.



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