

# Braden wants four full-time county attorneys

County attorney says current budget will be enough for three

> BY CHUCK VANDENBERG PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - If Lee County Attorney Ross Braden can sway Lee County Supervisors, the county will move from currently having two full-time attorneys to four full-time attorneys with one focused solely on



juvenile court cases. Two weeks ago at a regular Lee County Board of Supervisors meeting, Braden approached the board about the possibility of transitioning retiring Assistant County Attorney Bruce McDonald's position to a full-time position. McDonald is at

part-time status with the county, as is Fort

Madison Attorney Mio Santiago, because the two both hold private practices, McDonald in Keokuk and Santiago in Fort Madison. County code doesn't permit fulltime county attorneys to hold private practice positions while on county payroll.

Braden wants to convert McDonald's spot to a fulltime at the same \$81,000 salary. Santiago's assistant county attorney salary is \$65,000. Braden said Santiago is working 20 to 25 hours per week on county cases. Braden also has Jonathan Stensvaag as 1st Assistant County Attorney. By converting McDonald's position to fulltime, that would give the County Attorney's office three

See STAFF, page 4

# The Kensington marks 30th anniversary



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Standling right, former Kensington director Lynn Hoyer speaks with current Director Leia Morrison at the Kensington's 30th anniversary Business After Hours and Open House on Thursday night. At left is Jayne Clairmont, The Kensington's original director in 1988. Seated is resident Alice Horstman who said she had her children at the facility when it was a hos-

# Monday evening fire damages west-end home

Four fire departments work to extinguish chimney fire

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - A Wednesday evening fire has left a Clearview Heights home with smoke and fire damage.

LeeComm dispatched Montrose firefighters to 2648 Clearview Heights where smoke was reported in the crawl space of the home, according to Kent Brisby with the Montrose Fire Department.

Brisby said a chimney flue may have malfunctioned causing heat to build up in the chimney and then eventually caught fire.

"When we first got there there was a small tent of smoke in a crawl space. We went out to get something out of the truck and when we turned around smoke was coming from the eaves, It turned that fast," Brisby said.

#### pital.

#### BY CHUCK VANDENBERG PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - It was full-on party at The Kensington in Fort Madison Thursday evening. The management and staff at the assisted living center were on hand to welcome more than 300 visitors at a Business After Hours held in conjunction with the Fort Madison Chamber of Commerce, to celebrate the facility's 30th anniversary. One of the special guests in the building was the original director Jayne Clairmont, who chatted with residents and other former administrators including Lynn Hoyer, Rachel Benda, Linda Larkin and current administrator Leia Morrison.

Clairmont said she is very impressed with how the

See **RESIDENTS**, page 3

Said.

He said the chimney was cement and could also have been plugged up and when it broke into flames it was initially contained in the chimney itself but eventually spread inside nearby walls.

The home, owned by Jason Lampe, suffered major smoke damage and damage to walls and drywall near the chimney.

"We had to tear up some walls to get to the fire, but the flames were contained. It did suffer heavy smoke

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### From the Front/Weather

# Original director says facility filled with warmth

#### **RESIDENTS** - Continued from Page 1

facility has progressed over time. She was director for 19 months from 1988 to 1990.

"It's just got warmth and that's what I wanted," she said. "The residents are well-cared for and the leadership has done things as they should have. Memory Care has become a more prominent focus and aging and they've done just a wonderful job. What I'm motivated about is how well the people are cared for. If that's done right then the environment is the support to great care. But you've got to have great staff taking care of great people."

Clairmont said when the company first took over the property she was overwhelmed at the work that would need to be done to convert it to a residential care facility.

"What I thought about when I work first walked into this building and we had tile everywhere - I was just thinking 'How am I going to make this residential'. Hospitals are very hard to renovate. It was lot to bite off because it was so big, it was a massive undertaking."

The facility prior to 1988 was owned by the Fort Madison Community Hospital. Clairmont said the hospital had budgeted about \$300,000 to bring the building down, but they ended up selling to the company for \$1. She said the only thing she added to the building at the time was the atrium off the dining room.

She said the original open house 30 years ago had 4,000 guests come through.

"People were lined up all the way around the street and we had enough food for every single person. Lynn told me at that time I wasn't local and she said I had no idea how big that was going to be. She was right."

Hoyer said she doesn't know of anyone who remembers every person's name in the facility, but she said

# **5-DAY WEATHER FORECAST**

#### FRI 16 Nov



SAT 17 Nov ——



#### SUN 18 Nov \_\_\_\_\_

🍎 C

MON 19 Nov ———

Clear Skies High– 22.9° F | Low – 25.3° F



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Three different directors of the Kensington got together at the 30th anniversary Thursday night. From left, former director Lynn Hoyer, current director Leia Morrison, and The Kensington's original director Jayne Clairmont spent time talking together and with residents about the assisted living center's history.

Clairmont had been reciting names from 30 years ago. Morrison said she was impressed with the number of people that had come through to see the facility, which was at about 200 at 5 p.m. The open house ran until 7 p.m.

She said the core values of the company and the facility are what keeps the community interested and supportive.

"I think the one thing that has traveled throughout time here has been the one core value of the company and that's treating people like family," she said. "That culture has been constant and we will continue to carry that on. The company is really focused on caring for everyone that not only works here, but lives here. We focus hard to make sure we have a lot of options and opportunities for people that want to live here."

Morrison is just closing in on her first full year with The Kensington, but said she can see some of the history that has taken place over three decades.

"It's great we get to offer some history here. Each floor has history on it and the majority of the people who live here, work here and visit here have some piece of history here. Whether they were born here or had loved one's born here and that's nice too," she said.

"I think it's nice the community has this interest and I think that a lot of people want to come in and see how the facility has changed," Morrison said.

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# **Pen City Current**

Founded in 2016



P.O. Box 366 | Fort Madison, IA

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

### **Obituaries/From the Front**

#### **OBITUARIES**

# ALEXANDER "ALEX" MAXIMILLIAN ALLEN EDLER

Alexander "Alex" Maximillian Allen Edler, 28 of Keokuk, IA died Saturday, November 10, 2018.

He was born November 25, 1989 in Cedar Rapids, IA the son of Mark and Barb



Edler. Alex graduated from Keokuk High School with the Class of 2008. He had been employed by Middle Creek Swine Farm in Carthage, IL. Alex loved singing to others and entertaining his family and friends. In high school Alex was active in sports, especially wrestling and football, and had many fond memories of being a starter offensive lineman for the KHS 2007 State Football Championship team. He was also active in speech and drama. Alex was a very generous, accepting person and was always willing to help others. His family will miss his loving hugs

and generous spirit. He is survived by his parents, Mark and Barb Edler of Keokuk, grandparents, Myrl & Neoma Edler of Clarence, IA, three brothers, Shane Edler (Megan) and Marcus Edler (Alexa Spier) all of Fort Collins, CO, and Nicholas (Ashley Love) of Burlington, three nieces, Chloe, Daphne and Emily, aunts and uncles, Ann and Bruce Kern, Marcy and Bill Tate, Marlece Edler (Dave Coussens), Richard and Renae Edler, Richard and Amy Moenk, Renee and Jim Corkery, Mal Conrad and Deanna Haughenbury, Nancy Moenk, Dwight Taylor and Gina Lambrecht, three great aunts and several beloved cousins.

He was preceded in death by his maternal grandparents, Richard and Elfrieda Moenk, two aunts, Pam Taylor and Marcia Conrad, one uncle, David Moenk and one cousin, Bobbi Jo.

A Celebration of Life will be held on Wednesday, from 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. at the Southside Boat Club in Keokuk. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to his family. Online condolences may be left for the family at <u>www.vigenmemorialhome.com</u>.

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# One full-time county attorney would handle juvenile cases

STAFF - Continued from Page 1

full-time attorneys. He said in the long-

term, he would also like to convert Santiago's position to full-time and then at that point use one of the four full-time attorneys to handle just the juvenile cases throughout the county. Braden said he thinks he can attract a strong attorney to the county at Santiago's \$65,000 salary.

"I've taken some initial looks at the numbers and I think I can do it within my budget for the rest of this year," Braden said. "Bruce's last day with the county is Dec. 31 and I want to have someone picked and on the ground running conflict-free on Jan. 1. The person I have in mind is a seasoned attorney, not quite a Bruce, but a very good attorney and it would be my recommendation that he come in at Bruce's current salary."

Braden said the county needs a seasoned attorney to fill Bruce's shoes.

"Bruce is a workhorse and is working almost fulltime hours. and losing him is going to be a big blow to our office as far as having to absorb that caseload," Braden said. "It only makes sense, in my opinion, if we can get a full-tme person with experience for the same amount we're paying Bruce, we should do that. It's already in the budget."

He said the board has the authority to determine what staffing looks like in the county as well, as the budget for the department.

"Ultimately they get the say in the number of staff we have and it rests solely with them as far as "

restructuring the office

to how many deputies I

get and what amount of

money they're willing to

allocate in the budget for

that," Braden said. "Our

case load, in my opinion, is

such that it really justifies

needing the full-time help

and that will make for a

stronger, more balanced,

cohesive office. That would

mean these full-time attor-

neys' sole focus would be

county work and prose-

possibility for running a

be time demanding, as

He said if the board

does allow him to transi-

tion Santiago's part-time

position to full-time, he

would open that position

to applicants. If the board

approves Braden's plans,

there would no longer be

any part-time county at-

torneys on county payroll.

Supervisors indicated

on Tuesday that they

weren't sure how the

budget would look for

the 2019-20 fiscal year.

Since two of the super-

visors, Don Hunold and

Rick Larkin, were absent,

Supervisor Ron Fedler

well."

cution and it takes out the

private practice which can

It only makes sense, in my opinion, if we can get a full-time person with experience for the same amount we're paying Bruce, we should do that. It's already in the budget."

#### -Ross Braden Lee County Attorney

cussion until all five board members could be part of the discussion.

Supervisor Gary Folluo was concerned that making the move would require additional funding in the next fiscal year and wanted Lee County Auditor Denise Fraise to see if Braden could be available at the next meeting to answer some more questions about the move.

Braden said he may make a request for additional funding in the next fiscal year, but it wouldn't be a large request.

"I don't think I would be asking for any more than \$5,000 as it really depends on who I would get. If I ask for another \$5,000 it might be to add on \$2,500 each because I want to pay them well enough to stay in Lee County. We pay our parttime better than full-time assistant attorneys in other counties," Braden said.

Des Moines County currently has six full-time attorneys in that county attorney's office with a county population of 39,400. Lee County currently has one full-time attorney and two part-time attorneys for a population of 34,200.

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### **Sports/From the Front**

# **Pothitakis**, Williams earn Academic All-State

Box playing in All-Star Classic at Carroll over weekend

PCC STAFF

FORT MADISON - Post season volleyball accolades keep coming in for area

athletes.



WILLIAMS

Holy Trinity Catholic's senior Emily Box is was selected for, and is competing in, this weekend's Senior All-Star Classic in Carroll, Iowa. Box and

the Crusaders finished as state runner-up champions at the State Class 1A Volleyball tournament last weekend in Cedar Rapids.

Also receiving honors for Holy Trinity Catholic was Elyse Pothitakis who was chosen as an Academic All-State recipient. Pothitakis was a senior libero for the Crusaders this year.

Fort Madison's Olivia Williams was also a recipient of the Academic All-State honor. She was an outside hitter on the Bloodhounds volleyball



To qualify for Academic All-State athletes must achieve a 3.75 grade point average and a minimum score on the ACT of a 27. Box and fellow senior

squad.

Crusader Eryn Anderson BOX were named to the Class 1A All-Tournament team.

The Pen City Current congratulates these athletes on their accomplishments and their academic achievements.

### Monday fire damage estimates unknown

#### FIRE - Continued from Page 1

damage throughout the house. Brisby said there were no estimates of the damage available and didn't know if the home was still inhabitable.

Three other area fire departments were called in for mutual aid including Donnellson, Des Moines Township and Fort Madison. Montrose had three trucks on scene and each of the other fire departments brought engines as well.

Brisby said firefighters were on the scene until about 10 p.m.

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Lotto America <sup>™</sup>	Wed & Sat	8:59 pm	10:00 pm
Pick 3 - Midday Pick 3 - Evening	Daily Daily	Noon 9:40 pm	12:20 pm 10:00 pm

**FMMS 8th grade girls** sweep Fairfield

#### PCC STAFF

The Fort Madison Middle School 8th grade girls took two games from Fairfield in Fort Madison on Monday.

Fort Madison A and B teams both won their games. The 'A' team won 52-34 with Isabella Boeding scoring 24 points on 9 of 14 shooting, including four 3-pointers. Molly Knipe was also in double figures with 11 points, Camille Kruse had 10 and McKenna Cashman had seven points. Leading rebounders were Knipe with 11, Cashman with five, and Kruse with two. Leading Fort Madison

in assists was Kruse with seven, Isabella Boeding four, Knipe 3 and Ivy Arnold with one.

The 'B' Team was led in scoring by Rylee Dubois with five pts, Eveonna Smutney had four points, Ran Deltetsen and Edicia Smutney each had two points and Arnold scored one. Rebounding was led by Deltetsen and Cashman with two each followed by Emily Steffensmeier, Arnold, Eveonna Smutney, Rylee Dubois, and Kayley Noble with one rebound each.

The Bloodhounds play next in Washington on November 19 at 4:30 pm.

## Rashid leads FMMS with 17 in win over Mount Pleasant

PCC STAFF

MT. PLEASANT -Carson Rashid poured in 17 points in 47-36 FMMS loss to Mt. Pleasant Tuesday night.

Hunter Cresswell had 12 points and seven

board for Fort Madison's 'A' team. Leif Boeding added three points and Henry Wiseman and Cade Denning each chipped in with two points each.

In the 'B' game, Ben Ramatowski was the only FMMS player in double figures with 10 points in the 'B' teams 30-28 win. Nathen Bowen, Aiden Benda, Willam Bennett and Oliver Santiago each scored four points. Marin Rose and Jahbari Starks scored two each.



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Vednesday-Saturday 5:00pm Stop in after the wine walk to warm up & enjoy live music at the Hill Side! Saturday, November 17 8pm-11pm







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## Local News/Current-Lee

#### **CURRENT-LEE**

#### Veteran's Breakfast at Sunnybrook

Each month on the third Tuesday of the month, Sunnybrook Assisted Living hosts a Veteran's Breakfast from 7 a.m. to 9 a.m. at 5025 River Valley Road in Fort Madison.

#### Vendor Show

Saturday, November 17th, 10am-3pm, McAleer Hall, 1111 Avenue E, Fort Madison. 12 vendors including Boy Scout Troops 7 & 19 with provide breakfast items & baked goods. Pack 19 will have BBQ pork sandwiches, chips, baked goods, and drinks. Come out and support your local Boy Scouts and shop all your favorite vendors just in time to get your holiday shopping started!

### **Community Thanksgiving**

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#### **CURRENT-LEE**

The annual Community Thanksgiving meal in Fort Madison will be held beginning at 11:30 a.m. at the Fort Madison High School on Thursday, Nov. 22 at FMHS. Volunteers and donations are needed. Email the chamber at <u>chamber@fortmadison.com</u> for details.

### **Caregivers Connection at The Kensington**

The Kensington hosts this monthly gathering to help educate attendees about all dementia types. Held at noon the 4th Tuesday of every month in The Kensington's private dining room, 2210 Avenue H in Fort Madison. Call 319-372-4233 to RSVP or for more information.

### Senior Community BINGO at The Kensington

Each month on the second Wednesday of the month, The Kensington hosts Senior Community BINGO at 2:00 p.m. in their dining room at 2210 Avenue H in Fort Madison. All seniors are welcome and cash prizes are awarded.

# P.O.R.T. wants your ugliest sweater

PCC STAFF

PORT (Promoting Outdoor Recreation Trails) of Fort Madison will host the second annual Ugly Sweater Run on Sunday, December 2, 2018. This is a fundraising event for Phase III of the PORT Trails.

The Ugly Sweater Run is a non-timed, family fun event, great for walkers and runners of all levels. It will cover both Phase I and Phase II of the PORT trails for a 3-mile course. The event will start and finish at the Baxter Sports Complex.

All participants are encouraged to wear their best or worst holiday ugly sweater. Participants will then be invited back to the Baxter Sports Complex for an afternoon of football and refreshments. Registration will start at 11 a.m. with participants taking off at 12 noon. To pre-register visit the PORT of Fort Madison Facebook page. All those who pre-register are guaranteed a PORT stocking cap – great for the cold weather.

Phase III of the PORT trails will connect the Baxter Sports Complex with Fort Madison Community Hospital and is slated to be completed by Fall of 2019.

PORT of Fort Madison operates as a subcommittee under the Parks & Recreation Department of the City of Fort Madison with the mission to improve and promote the walkability, run-ability and bike-ability of Fort Madison. For more information, contact Rachel Benda 319-371-5804.



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We wish you a very warm & wonderful Thanksgiving. From our #PCC family to yours

In observance of the Thanksgiving holiday, we will not publish an e-Edition Thursday, November 22 through Sunday, November 25. We'll resume publication on Monday, November 26. Breaking news will continue to be published on our website 24/7.



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