



# Pen City Current

Friday, March 16, 2018 | 9 pages | Volume 2 • Issue 78

## Local couple killed in Arizona mishap

*Bob, Karen Bonta dead after SUV goes up on sidewalk*

**BY CHUCK VANDENBERG**  
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - Two local and prominent Wever residents were killed in a tragic auto/pedestrian accident in Fountain Hills, Arizona, a suburb of Phoenix, on Tuesday.

Robert, 72, and Karen Bonta, 71, were both struck and killed while waiting to cross an intersection by a motorist who allegedly lost control of his vehicle.

According to reports from the Maricopa County Sheriff's Department, at approximately 9:30 am Tuesday morning, the sheriff's police received several 911 phone calls regarding a traffic accident at the corner of Saguaro and Palisades Boulevard in the Fountain Hills community.

The Bontas were walking northbound on the east sidewalk of Saguaro Blvd. at Palisades Blvd. where they

stopped to cross Saguaro Blvd. Two other pedestrians Patti, 60, and Ronald, 60, Doornbos, husband and wife, were also walking northbound on the same sidewalk when they were all struck by a 1998 gold Ford Explorer SUV.

Deputies reported the SUV was being driven by 27-year-old Alex Bashaw. Karen and Patti were pronounced dead at the scene. Robert and Ronald were transported to a local hospital via ground ambulance,

See **TRAGEDY**, page 8

## FMHS building trades class to rebuild press box

**BY CHUCK VANDENBERG**  
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON- It's tall and wobbly and has seen better days. And aside from its part in the history of the Fort Madison High School football program, its time has passed and plans are underway to replace the visitor's press box at Richmond Stadium.

According to FMHS Activities Director Andy Mitchell, the district has paid for concept designs, and the coveted, state champion FMHS building trades program has agreed to construct the press box as part of the curriculum. Fundraisers are being planned as the district doesn't have the budget to construct the new facility.

Funds are still needed for materials for what is planned to be a wider, two-story visitor side press box. The current



Photo courtesy of FMHS

An effort is underway to fund the construction of a new press box/concession stand on the visitors' side of Richmond Stadium. FMHS students in the school's Building Trades program will be building the new facility.

structure held a concession stand with four levels of coaches and press boxes with a rooftop perch for video. The new design

will be two story with a nest for recording events, a concession area, and

See **FUNDS**, page 4

## John Luna proud of 26-year body of work with city

**BY CHUCK VANDENBERG**  
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - He moved to Fort Madison with his family when he was just 13 years old and went to work falling in the love with the community.

Now, after 26 years working for the people,

most recently as the business management analyst for the city, John Luna has stepped aside.

Luna met with well-wishers, former employees, friends, and family Thursday night at the Riverview Park Pavilion.

He found it difficult to get to the plate of food sitting in front of him

as people rotated in for hugs and handshakes... to reminisce and joke and poke a man whose impact can be seen around Fort Madison parks and recreation areas.

"We get lots of comments about how wonderful our parks are here in Fort Madison," Luna

See **RETIRED**, page 8



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

John Luna waves goodbye to a youngster visiting him at the Riverview Park Pavilion as part of Luna's retirement party Thursday night.

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# Obituaries

## OBITUARIES

### MARY ESTER ARPINO

Mary Ester Arpino, 69 of Montrose, IA died Wednesday, March 14, 2018 at Unity-Point Health in Keokuk, IA.



ARPINO

She was born April 7, 1948 in Montrose, IA the daughter of Robert and Vera Henn Whitmore. On June 30, 1973 she was united in marriage to Robert Arpino in Montrose, IA. He survives.

Other survivors include one son, Michael (Heather) Arpino of New Ulm, MN, three grandchildren, Adeleide, Pearl and Isaac Arpino, two brothers, Jim Whitmore (Joan) of Montrose and Wayne Whitmore of Montrose and numerous nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents, one grandson, Simon Arpino and one brother, Harold Whitmore.

Mary graduated from Central Lee High School in Donnellson, IA.

In her younger years, Mary had been employed by Shaffer Pen in Ft. Madison, IA. She was a member of Bel Air Baptist Church in Keokuk.

Mary enjoyed being outdoors, birdwatching and spending time planting flowers. She loved to cook and made delicious meals for her family and friends to enjoy. She had been active in Boy Scouts and was a den mother for many years. Mary loved the company of her cats.

A funeral service will be held at 2 p.m., Sunday at the Vigen Memorial Home in Keokuk, IA with Pastor Mike McMillen officiating. Burial will be in the Keokuk National Cemetery in Keokuk, IA.

Visitation will be held from 6-8 p.m., Saturday at the funeral home with family meeting with friends at that time.

A graveside service will be held at 10 a.m., Monday at the Keokuk National Cemetery.

Memorials may be made to Southeastern Renal Dialysis.

Online condolences may be left for the family at [www.vigenmemorialhome.com](http://www.vigenmemorialhome.com).

### LARRY JOSEPH MOELLER

Larry Joseph Moeller, 65, of Burlington passed away on Wednesday, March 14, 2018 at 3:54 PM at the Great River Hospice House.



MOELLER

Larry was born on December 13, 1952 in Ft. Madison to Casper and Cecelia Menke Moeller. He lived at Cottonwood facility in Burlington. Larry was a member of Holy Family Parish. He enjoyed going fishing and going on day trips.

Survivors include one brother, Darrell (Vicki) Moeller of Wilton, IA; two sisters, Linda (Bernie) Mohrfeld of West Point and Judy (Dale) Clark of Donnellson; nine nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents, grandparents and two nephews.

The funeral mass will be held at 10:30 AM on Saturday, March 17, 2018 at Sacred Heart Church with Reverend Joseph Phung officiating. The family will meet with friends from 9:30 AM until the time of the service at the church. Burial will be in Oakland Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, a memorial has been established for Cottonwood facility and online condolences may be left at [www.kinglynk.com](http://www.kinglynk.com).

### ROBERT L. AND KAREN K. BONTA

Robert L. Bonta, age 72 & Karen K. Bonta, age 71, both of Wever, IA, passed away unexpectedly from a car/pedestrian accident on Tuesday, March 13, 2018 in Arizona. Arrangements are pending at King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory. No other information is available at this time.

# Spring Cleaning

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## Local News/Current-Lee

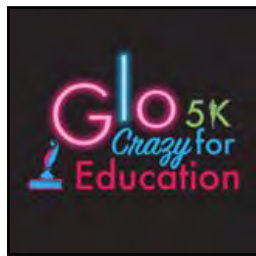
### CURRENT-LEE

# HTC TAPS 8th Annual Bunny Hop Event – March 31st, 2018



WEST POINT - HTC Bunny Hop 5K Run/Walk or 10K Run event. Saturday, March 31st beginning at the West Point Library. Registration begins at 8:00a.m. The race begins at 9 a.m. Pre-registration before March 23rd is \$20 & includes t-shirt. Registration on or after March 23rd is \$25. Drinks and light snacks will be provided for participants. Medals will be awarded to 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Place finishers in each age group. Registration forms can be found here or [www.holytrinitieschools.org](http://www.holytrinitieschools.org). [Click here](#) to download & print your registration form.

# Glo Crazy for Education run set for April 7



FORT MADISON - A 5K run/walk will be held on April 7 at Baxter Sports Complex beginning at 8 p.m. Proceeds from the event will go to the Elliott Test Kitchen in Fort Madison. The event is being put on by Fort Madison service clubs including Fort Madison Kiwanis, Lions and Rotary clubs as well as the Fort Madison High School key club. Registration can be done at [www.pencitycurrent.com/glo-crazy/](http://www.pencitycurrent.com/glo-crazy/).

Pen City Current will list your event in this highly visible CURRENT-LEE section in increments of 25 words for \$15. Add a photo for \$5. Non-profit organizations are eligible for the reduced rate of \$10 per 25 words and \$3 per photo. To place your listing, click here or call Lee at (319)371.4125.



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# Wolf bringing Ivy back for fundraiser

BY PCC STAFF

FORT MADISON - Martha Wolf will be bringing the Ivy back to Fort Madison. But just for a night.

Wolf will be hosting a benefit dinner "They Ivy's Back In Town" for the 248th ASB Troops, currently serving with Matt Doty in the Middle East.

The event will be held at the St. John United Church of Christ, 501 10th Street in Fort Madison on Saturday March 24 beginning at 6 p.m.

The meal will consist of a five-course dinner prepared by the Ivy, but only 50 seats are available

at \$50 per person.

In August of 2017, Doty, with the Iowa National Guard, joined 500 other soldiers in a deployment to the Middle East. Before departing Doty expressed his concern for the soldiers going to serve and their families.

The St. John United Church has since sent care packages during the

holiday and are now looking to send money to help plug some of the holes the families are facing while other family members serve their country.

Reservations can be made by calling Cindy at 319-372-1688, or by emailing [theivy1992@hotmail.com](mailto:theivy1992@hotmail.com) or visiting [stjohnucc01@q.com](mailto:stjohnucc01@q.com).

## The Ivy's Back in Town

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## Pen City Current

Founded in 2016



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**From the Front**

# FMHS Athletic dept. looking for help funding project

**FUNDS** - Continued from Page 1

additional storage.

The first fundraiser will be a fried chicken dinner at the Charleston Board of Trade on June 24. More information about that event will be released closer to the event.

“Our building trades classes have agree to help build us a new one. What a great opportunity our talented students will have to work on a bigger project

on our own property. This will also save us a lot of money,” Mitchell said.

“But there are still a lot of costs to this. We will have to buy the materials, relocate existing electrical, put in the concrete foundation, and have someone finish off the roof.”

Mitchell said a design firm has already made the rough plans for the building that will be much

wider and safer, but he’s waiting on a final estimate for the project.

“My best guess right now is anywhere from \$30,000 to \$35,000. The cost may come in lower, but we are trying to cover all scenarios.”

School district budgeting has become an issue of late and districts across the state are facing hurdles with financing, so

the district could only put up funds for the design cost. Mitchell said, “I am grateful for the help the district is able to give. I am in complete understanding of where our buildings and maintenance budget currently stands.” But Mitchell said safety is a real issue and the Activities Department has the ability to create funds for this project. He said fundraisers will be



This the back view of the press box that FMHS is looking for funding to replace. Demolition could begin over spring break.

planned, including a chicken dinner at the Charleston Board of Trade on June 24, and he’s hoping that the community businesses and individuals will step forward to come together to help fund the much-needed project.

“A group of coaches, led by head coach Tony Shiffman, are volunteering their time to deconstruct the existing press box over spring break. Their efforts will jump start the project,” said FMHS Building Trades instructor Clint Kobelt.

“We are partnering with Mohrfeld Electric to reconfigure the electrical service/layout. Huffman Welding will reconfigure the bleachers to make room for the new much larger structure that will have a concession stand and added storage on the first floor. The second floor will provide sound proof rooms for coaches from both teams as well as a room for the radio announcers and walk up access to the crow’s nest on the third level for video coverage.”

The Building Trades program will panelize the building in the shop, including the three-story staircase, before the end of the school year where it will be staged until the start of the 2018-19 school year. Over the summer the new foundation work will be completed and when

students return in August the first order of business will be to assemble the pressbox on the new foundation.

“The students are beyond excited about this project!” Kobelt said, “To know that they are going to be responsible for the construction of such an impressive structure that will be used for decades to come is pretty awesome. The seniors in the program see it as their legacy and the underclassmen are excited to know they will get to reap the benefits of their efforts during football, track, and tennis seasons staring next fall. There is a lot of pride and school spirit going into this build. The community support has been great and we’re just getting this project started.”

Mitchell said the project is a win-win for the school and the athletic department.

“This is going to benefit not only football, track, and tennis, including a new storage area, but more importantly, it will benefit the young men and women who are and will be in the building trades program giving them hands-on learning experiences. It’s a win-win.”

Those interested in contributing to the project or helping in anyway can contact Mitchell in the Activities Department at 372-1862.



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Bids must be received by April 2nd by 4:00 p.m.  
It is recommended that all bidders look at the properties before submitting their bids.  
Bids shall be for mowing services, weed eating every week (Unless not recommended by GRRWA) and also spraying weeds if needed.  
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# Classifieds

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### Marketing Director

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Marketing Degree or several years of marketing experience is a plus. Necessary qualifications include excellent written, verbal, social media and interpersonal communication skills.

Send resume to:  
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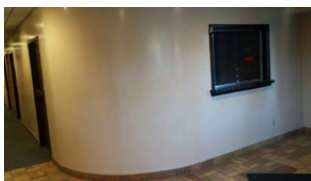
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**VEHICLE:** 2011 Chevrolet Impala LT, 106,305 miles, 4dr, V6 Flexfuel, automatic

**ANTIQUE FURNITURE:** Secretary with glass front bookcase; Glass front pie safe; Kitchen cabinet w/ flour bin; (4) Glass front sectional bookcase; 4 drawer dresser w/ mirror; 3 drawer dresser w/ mirror; Vanity w/ mirror; Accent table; 6 gal. crock; Antique pictures; Antique wall phones; Stamp collection

**TV, APPLIANCES & MODERN FURNITURE:** Samsung 55" UHD TV, 4K; GE electric dryer; Maytag washer; Entertainment center; (2) Lazy Boy recliners; Electric lift chair; End tables; Dining room table & 4 chairs; Corner cabinet; Couches; Recliners; Full bed w/ night stand; Chest of drawers; Dressers; Antique dishes; Hall's kitchenware; Glassware; Kitchen utensils; Lamps; Christmas decorations; Bookshelves; Book collection including Western's & others; Kirby vacuum; Alum ext. ladder; Bench grinder; Vice; Bolt bin; Lawn & garden tools.

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## From the Front/Weather

# Luna now shifts to volunteerism

**RETIRED** - Continued from Page 1

said. "I take that as a great compliment because we, as a city, have worked hard on the parks without the budgets some of the other communities have."

Luna and his wife Kathy own Wonder Years Learning Center in Fort Madison and he said his wife is about four years from retirement so his

plans still focus on the community.

"My initial goal, when I decided to leave in February, which turned into January because I got a month IPERS credit, I was going to take three months to relax and figure out what I want to do. By the end of April, I'll be relaxed enough to kind of put a plan

together. I've talked with a couple of different organizations about options that I'd like to pursue. I like working with people. I love the interaction," he said.

He said the projects are volunteer in nature.

Luna served nine years with the Fort Madison YMCA before joining city staff.

"That's what I really excelled in and when I came over to the city they slid me into the parks and recreation department. I loved that because I got to take care of all these beautiful parks in the city."

Luna worked for eight different city managers or administrators and about five different mayors over the past quarter century.

When Luna was at the Y, he had been on the city council for one and a half years and had to resign from that position.

He said it's a good idea

that the YMCA is now running the city pools.

"It'll be a good thing. (YMCA Executive Director) Ryan (Wilson) has been in recreation for a quite a while. He was even coming through my programs when I was at the YMCA so that's neat to see," Luna said. "But it's going to be a challenge and a learning process for the community as to the way the two systems operate."

The support of the city and its residents has made the work easy, Luna said.

"I want to thank the community for all their help and support because without them I couldn't have done the things I did with the community and the YMCA. This community's been real supportive of me and the things I've tried to implement and tried to incorporate into the community."

# Fort Madison loses couple in tragedy

**TRAGEDY** - Continued from Page 1

where Robert was pronounced dead. Ronald sustained a traumatic head injury that required multiple emergency surgeries and is currently in ICU.

It appears the two couples did not know each other and were not together at the time of the collision. Patti and Ronald Doornbos were from Canada. The investigation is ongoing and charges are pending the outcome of the investigation.

According to reports in local newspapers including The Arizona Republic, 10 pedestrians had been killed in the Phoenix metro area in the past week.

The Bontas were both retired educators and Robert was a board member of Fort Madison Community Hospital.

A statement was released Thursday afternoon from Fort Madison Community Hospital.

"Bob has been extremely instrumental in the success of FMCH serving as a member of our Board of Directors for the past eight years, holding the position of President from 2014-2017. He has also been a driving force as a SHIIP volunteer at FMCH, helping hundreds of community members navigate their Medicare benefits. Bob was always quick with a smile and a story to share of his grandchildren - he will be greatly missed."

Kink-Lynk Funeral home is in charge of the arrangements.

## 5-DAY WEATHER FORECAST

**FRI 15 Mar**

Partly Cloudy  
High - 37.0° F | Low - 35.5° F

**SAT 16 Mar**

Clear Skies  
High - 39.2° F | Low - 36.6° F

**SUN 17 Mar**

Light Rain  
High - 44.5° F | Low - 40.3° F

**MON 18 Mar**

Clear Skies  
High - 35.5° F | Low - 31.8° F

**TUE 19 Mar**

Clear Skies  
High - 31.4° F | Low - 22.5° F

[OpenWeatherMap](#)

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**HALF HAMS \$2.68 lb.**

**Whole Lamb Legs \$5.99 lb.**

**Aged Whole Boneless Prime Rib \$9.98 lb.**

**Fresh Ground Pork \$1.99 lb. (Limit 10 lbs. Please)**

**Fresh Unbreaded Pork Tenderloins..10/\$10**

<b>Fresh Homemade Amish Rope Sausage or Brats</b> First of the Season! <b>\$3.99 lb.</b>	<b>Fresh Pork Steaks</b> 5 lbs./\$10	<b>Dave's Homemade Ham Loaf</b> <b>\$3.99 lb.</b>
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<b>Ribeye Steaks</b> 8 oz. E.A. <b>\$6.99</b>	<b>New York Strip Steaks</b> 2/\$11	<b>Filet Mignon</b> 5 oz. Ea. <b>\$7.97</b>	<b>Homemade Wieners</b> Reg. or All Beef <b>\$5.98 lb.</b>	<b>80% Lean Fresh Ground Beef</b> 10 lb. Roll <b>\$2.89</b>
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## SOUTHERN ROCK

Since 2008 Saving Abel has embodied the definition of "Southern Rock." Even before their "Self Titled" debut LP, they were barnstorming the country making fans everywhere they went, just by being themselves. Simple, down home, charming, country-boys with immeasurable talent that was destined to take them straight to the top. The band was signed by A&R wizard Jason Flom to Capitol records and their first single, "Addicted" did just that, reaching number one on several charts and the follow-up singles "18 Days" and "Drowning" helped sell over 750,000 copies of their debut album. They toured heavily in support of this album, playing with Buckcherry and Avenged Sevenfold, and later on Nickelback, in arenas across North America. Night after night, the boys would go back to the bus with their ears ringing from 15,000 fans screaming their lyrics.

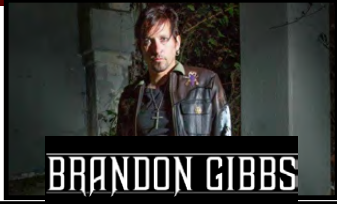
Knowing that they would need something great to follow up with, the boys set out to write their sophomore album on Capitol, "Miss America." Topping the Active Rock and Hard Rock charts yet again with "Sex is Good" and "Stupid Girl" solidified Saving Abel's place both on the radio and live. Setting out on their own tour this time, Saving Abel headlined theaters around the country for almost 2 years non-stop. They toured with several artists and made a lot of friends along the way, but always kept their focus on the fans, and their eyes toward the future.



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